

9pm

Compilation

2nd to 7th May, 2022

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

General Studies - 1

1. [This is what keeps educated women out of the workforce](#)

General Studies - 2

1. [Delimitation Commission fails people of J&K, hurts democracy](#)
2. ['Obnoxious' speech does not call for heavy hand of the law](#)
3. [The school dress is in the cross hairs](#)
4. [Ed reform gone rogue](#)
5. [Distortion, imposition: Why Northeast groups are against Centre's Hindi push](#)
6. [A new track for capital punishment jurisprudence](#)
7. [The court's burden](#)
8. [Why the judiciary is failing?](#)
9. [How to vernacularise medical education in India?](#)
10. [Agri trade beyond the Ukraine war](#)
11. [Ukraine rethinks on hyper-globalisation. Nations need to de-risk against overdependence on few suppliers](#)
12. [Revisit the Seventh Schedule to improve Centre-state relations](#)
13. [The Delhi dual governance conundrum](#)
14. [In the time of war: On India's ties with Europe without upsetting Russia](#)
15. [Overcoming differences: On India's new push for stronger ties with Europe](#)
16. [India and France: A deepening friendship](#)
17. [Our two-speed ties with the US need convergence](#)
18. [The challenge for Middle Powers like India, France and Germany](#)
19. [Green partners: India must integrate with EU's renewables supply chain, with access to its technology](#)
20. [Europe is looming larger than ever in India's strategic calculus](#)
21. [A defining moment for Indo-German ties](#)
22. [Why Berlin Is A Key Partner For New Delhi](#)
23. [²India must make the most of the diplomatic attention it's receiving](#)
24. [Cowed down: On the need for strict anti-lynching laws](#)
25. [Invigorating the Ayush industry](#)

General Studies - 3

1. [How safe are India's dams?](#)
2. [The supply bottlenecks causing power shortages](#)
3. [A silicon waste alert for our creaky power sector](#)
4. [Funding woes haunts Indian Science](#)
5. [Faster, cheaper and cleaner power](#)
6. [Climate arbitrage: Cost of carbon versus capital](#)
7. [The world is short of time and not minerals for climate action](#)
8. [India must use markets to decarbonise](#)
9. [Reforming fuel taxes](#)
10. [No short circuits: On electric vehicles catching fire](#)
11. [A New CDS Is Urgently Need](#)
12. [They're locked down, we aren't: Indian manufacturing has a huge China-made opportunity but it's open for only a brief period](#)
13. [India must seize the trade opportunity opening now](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

14. [The workers hit the hardest](#)
15. [Let us not underestimate deprivation in the country](#)
16. [Inflation and what to do about it: Secure cheap Russian oil at least](#)
17. [Inflation control needs another model](#)
18. [Rising inflation cannot be fought well without global coordination](#)
19. [In rising heat, the cry of the wilting outdoor worker](#)
20. [Like Nero, we fiddle as the world burns](#)
21. [Paradise polluted: Can we save Kashmir's lakes?](#)
22. [What severe disruptions taught us about supply chain resilience](#)
23. [Let's make GST a good and simple tax](#)
24. [The status of the Naga peace talks](#)
25. [How India's new VPN rules change the status quo](#)
26. [The missing CDS](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

General

Studies

Paper – 1

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 May, (First Week) 2022

GS1 – SOCIETY – WOMEN ISSUES

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

1. **This is what keeps educated women out of the workforce**

Source: The post is based on an article “**This is what keeps educated women out of the workforce**” published in the **Indian Express** on **05th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS1 – Women issues

Relevance: Female Participation in Economic Activities

News: Recently, an **International Deloitte survey report** was released. The survey finds that there is a trend of low and declining levels of women’s workforce participation in economic activities. Further, the trend has been worsened during the pandemic years

What are the challenges in front of women to participate in economic activities?

First, there are various factors which **influence the decisions** of **non-working women**. Second, they can act as **demand and supply side drivers**. Some of them are mentioned as below:

There is a **social environment**, wherein the boys are expected to be the **breadwinners** while girls are expected to perform functions of **care and reproductive work**.

There are rigid workplace demands, lack of sustained family/social support, personal responsibility to guide children and ensure their security. This reflects absence of good-quality childcare, counselling and mentoring.

How do these factors play out in the lives of women?

The situations create a **social environment** for girls wherein they go to school and college while they are waiting to marry. In case of working women, they have to face periods of hectic work interspersed by spells of no work.

Domestic situations like concerns over the security of school-going children, and critical moments like “students being at the end of school and college entry” force the working women to give up the job.

The situations impact the **choices of women**. The women are driven out of **full-time jobs** from the workplaces. They shift to voluntary work or paid activities (often intermittent work) including teaching, home-based marketing, consulting, tutoring etc.

Way Forward

There is a requirement of providing the **stronger supportive infrastructures** to women to ensure they work consistently during pandemics or otherwise.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

General

Studies

Paper – 2

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

 ForumIAS

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

GS2 – POLITY – PARLIAMENT AND STATE LEGISLATURE

DELIMITATION COMMISSION IN INDIA

1. **Delimitation Commission fails people of J&K, hurts democracy**

Source: The post is based on an article “**Delimitation Commission fails people of J&K, hurts democracy**” published in the **Indian Express** on **07th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges and Issues Arising out of these.

Relevance: Delimitation Commission and Jammu & Kashmir Polity

News: Recently, the fifth delimitation commission chaired by **Justice Ranjana Desai**, furnished its award for Jammu and Kashmir. The Commission’s award has been severely criticized across the field.

Nature of Award of the Delimitation Commission

The recommendation of delimitation commissions cannot be **modified** or **changed** by Parliament or the concerned legislative assembly.

- The Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu division has been clubbed with Anantnag in the Kashmir division
- The Commission has allocated 47 seats to Kashmir and 43 seats to Jammu.
- The Commission recommended “at least” two seats on a nomination basis for the Kashmiri Pandit community.

What has been good in the commission’s award?

The **constituencies** have been made **coterminous** with the **district boundaries**. Hitherto, 18 assembly constituencies were grouped into each parliamentary constituency. This arithmetic formula distorted the entire system of democratic representation across areas.

What are the issues with the awards given by the fifth delimitation commission?

First, it was constituted during a **statutory freeze** on the increase or decrease of the parliamentary and legislative assembly seats up till the population Census of 2026.

Second, this is the **only** commission that has not redrawn the constituencies in accordance with the Delimitation Act of 2002. The commission instead invoked **Section 63 of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019**, which stipulated to increase the number of seats from present 83 to 90.

Third, the Commission was given the delimitation mandate for **five states**, but the mandate of **five north-eastern states** were withdrawn from its purview and its mandate was restricted to only **Jammu & Kashmir (UT)**. Finally, it will be the **first delimitation** award in the **country’s legislative history** that will not be placed before **the legislative assembly of the UT** that has been delimited. The elected legislators of J&K will not have the opportunity to approve the rules for their representation.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Fourth, It is argued that the commission's award can lead the political binary of Jammu vis a vis Kashmir to become a **divisive bipolarity**.

Fifth, **Kashmir division** having a 56% share of the population will have only a 52% seat share. On the other hand, **Jammu division** with a 44% share in the population gets a 48% share in the legislative representation. Jammu has got an **additional seat**. In the process, the **cardinal principle** of “**one man, one vote**” has been bid adieu in J&K.

Sixth, the seats allocated to sub-regions referred in Section 60(2) (b) of the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 are **unacceptably distortionary**. There are **four distinct regions**: The **Jhelum Valley** (which includes South Kashmir, Central Kashmir and North Kashmir), **Chenab Valley** (comprising Kisthwar, Doda, Ramban and Reasi), **Pir Panjal** (Rajouri and Poonch), and the **Tawi basin or the plains** (of Jammu, Kathua and Udhampur). These areas include “communities of interest” — common physical features, ethnicity, religion, and language.

Seventh. While the **two administrative divisions** of the UT, Jammu and Kashmir, may be relevant for developmental policy planning, these are not so for **democratic representation purposes**.

Eight, the **framework of legislative representation** proposed by the commission will prevent the formation of a **stable elected government** in J&K in the near future. The elections will lead to formation of **fractious patchwork coalition** and at worst a perpetually **hung assembly**.

Ninth, the award can become a precedent for award of other delimitation commissions across other states.

GS2 – POLITY – FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF SPEECH

2. **'Obnoxious' speech does not call for heavy hand of the law**

Source: The post is based on an article “**Obnoxious speech does not call for heavy hand of the law**” published in the **Indian Express** on **05th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Provisions of the Constitution of India

Relevance: Freedom of Speech and Expression and reasonable restrictions

News: Recently, the Delhi High Court conducted the bail hearing of Umar Khalid, an accused in the case related to the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act. He was booked under **the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)** for his speech delivered at Amaravati which has been seen as being part of a “larger conspiracy” to destabilise the government.

Observations made in the court

The Delhi High Court highlighted several parts of the speech that it found “**obnoxious**” or “**unacceptable**”.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

First, an accusation of “**jumla**” against the prime minister was said to have crossed the “Lakshman Rekha” of free speech.

Second, the court found the words “**krantikari**” and “**inquilab**” used by the accused unacceptable.

Thirdly, another observation made by the Court was that Khalid is an “**intelligent man**” who used indirect speech to goad his audience to violence.

What are the general exceptions to free speech?

The first is **hate speech**, which is closely linked to discrimination and violence against vulnerable and marginalised groups. For example, in history, there was a close link between antisemitic speech and the economic and social boycott of the Jewish people, which eventually led to the Holocaust.

The second is **incitement to violence**. This does not fall within the protection of free speech because it leaves neither the time nor the scope for response or reason. The incitement to violence leads an enraged mob to burn down a neighbourhood.

Further, in addition to above, there are certain forms of religious offence that are also criminalised in India.

Issues in the present case

In the present case, the speech of the accused falls **outside of the scope** of the above said **narrow exceptions**. The statements picked in the court are well within the mainstream of Indian political discourse. For example, there is a “**Revolutionary Socialist Party**” in Parliament.

Further, a person cannot deserve to be in jail for years without trial. The accused in the case has already spent more than **500 days** in jail without trial. In a civilised society, people cannot be jailed for speech as a regular matter.

In a civilized society, such kind of speech should attract **counter-speech** instead of the heavy hand of the state and the **law-enforcement machinery** to silence someone.

The general criticism of the Prime Minister in the public domain does not go against fundamental right of freedom of speech. The remarks highlighted in the case should be seen as an example of an **enthusiastic political speech** involving satire, parody etc.

The hearing of the case should be done on the **tangible record of events** i.e., things done and spoken, instead of **intangible things** like “**intelligent man**” and use of indirect speech to incite the violence.

CHILD EDUCATION

3. **The school dress is in the cross hairs**

Source: The post is based on an article “**The school dress is in the cross hairs**” published in the “**The Hindu**” on **06th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 Social Sector (Education)

Relevance: School Uniform, Karnataka Hijab Controversy

News: Recently, the Karnataka government had ordered a **school uniform code** to be followed in the classroom as well as the examination hall.

In fact, the Kendriya Vidyalayas (central schools) which are not governed by the provincial government have also fallen in line with the Karnataka order.

A historical background of school uniform

The colonial systems of education generally favoured the **strict enforcement** of the school uniform.

The idea of a school uniform has spread with **urbanisation, prosperity** and **privatisation**. In fact, rural and small-town schools seldom insisted on a daily uniform in the early years of Independence.

The supply of uniforms offered **business opportunities** for the schools, local cloth merchants, tailors and shoe stores. Therefore, the uniform business was encouraged and the private schools started demanding every day wearing of the **prescribed uniform**. It also induced **local monopolies**.

Importance of school uniform

A school uniform ensures children are uniformly dressed. It helps in the **regimentation** of the young.

Argument against Karnataka’s decision

In the long history of education, there is no evidence that a school uniform is a factor in learning. Sri Aurobindo in his “**The Ideal of Human Unity**” explained that diversity tempts for uniformity. But uniformity does not contribute to a sense of relatedness or unity.

The mandated **school uniform** can lead to curtailing the already **limited autonomy** of principals and teachers.

The Karnataka government should have focused on other education reforms. **Policy reforms** have been pending since the 1960s. **Pre-university** or **junior colleges** prevail in Karnataka. However, other states have adopted **the 10+2 model** recommended by the **Kothari Commission** nearly 60 years ago.

Key distinction between Uniform and Dress Code: (1) A **uniform** is different from a **dress code**. A uniform is more **prescriptive** than a dress code. The Dress code expects the student to

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

avoid using clothes which displays status or wealth of the student, and **(2)** On the other hand, A uniform may go as far as **prescribing** not just the **colour** but also the **material** and the **design** or **cut**.

Way Forward

There is a need for a **significant reorganisation** of the **administrative system** in education. The school principals and teachers should be given a greater say and freedom in establishing the norms that govern institutional life.

The **Kothari report** recommended a **participatory role** for the community in matters of day-to-day life at school and decline for **bureaucratic authority**, creating greater room for school autonomy.

The government should have recommended a **dress code** instead of recommending a particular uniform. If elaborated, the uniforms should be used where inequality is pervasive in a society.

The government should open **public debates**. All the stakeholders, especially teachers should be allowed to participate. They are closer to students. They are more sensitive to what makes classroom life more comfortable for all.

The **Kothari Commission** suggestion should be implemented. The recommendation intended to make classroom teaching less stereotyped, more lively and child-centred.

HIGHER EDU AND RELATED ISSUES

4. Ed reform gone rogue

Source: This post is based on the article “**Ed reform gone rogue**” published in **The Times of India** on **4th May 22**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Issues related to the development of Education

Relevance: UGC’s Draft curriculum for its Four-Year Undergraduate Programme’, or FYUGP

Context: On 17th Mar 22, the University Grants Commission (UGC) released a draft curriculum for a ‘Four-Year Undergraduate Programme’, or FYUGP, a key component of the National Education Policy.

But the curriculum is filled with confusion and contradiction.

[What is the draft curriculum released by the UGC?](#)

The curriculum demarcates **three phases** for the students’ progression.

The first stage consists of three semesters and is devoted to basic courses labelled as **Language, Common, Introductory and Vocational**.

– In the Introductory portion, the student must take courses from each of Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities. At the end of this stage, students will be allotted their Major discipline based on their grades (and not their performance in entrance tests or school).

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

During the second stage, in semesters four through six, students will complete their Major along with a significant portion of two Minors.

– At the end of the third year, the student can graduate with a plain Bachelor's degree.

Some students can stay for a **fourth year, the final stage**, and complete a Bachelor's degree called Honours or Research. These students will be eligible for direct admission to PhD programmes in India.

What are the associated issues?

The current three-year Honours degree consists of 148 credits, of which 108 are assigned to the Major discipline. A student completing all four years of the FYUGP will complete 160 credits, of which 48 are for the Major and another 18 for Research.

Due to the proliferation of breadth requirements, the **FYUGP students will study an extra year and yet emerge with much less knowledge of their main subject** than preceding batches.

One market for FYUGP is students hoping to go abroad for graduate studies, for whom it is useful to be able to show an extra year of study. However, this **benefit will not accrue once foreign universities discipline has actually decreased!**

The **first three semesters ignore achievements** in school or any predilection towards a particular discipline.

– Someone wishing to major in Mathematics may be rejected due to poor performance in the common, demonstrate aptitude for Mathematics itself.

– Having stagnated or even regressed for three semesters, students will be asked to suddenly shift gears and complete the requirements for a standard Bachelor's degree in just three semesters. This is a recipe for disaster.

There's no unified vision. For instance: Consider the statement that while students may opt for a three-year degree, the four-year option is “a preferred option since it would allow the opportunity to experience the full range of holistic and multidisciplinary education”. However, the fourth year is only available to students whose CGPA is at least 7.5 and this will restrict its benefits to, at best, only a quarter of the student population.

Further, a major part of the UGC document was directly copied from a webpage of the University of Michigan. Another significant portion was found on a webpage of the University of Arizona.

This **plagiarism** has revealed the inner workings of the committees that formulate the national policies and curricula. The curriculum has evidently been put together by a group that pooled their individual suggestions, but did not try to harmonise them in a common cause.

ONE NATION, ONE LANGUAGE ISSUE

5. **Distortion, imposition: Why Northeast groups are against Centre's Hindi push**

Source: The post is based on an article “**Distortion, imposition: Why North-East groups are against Centre's Hindi push**” published in the **Indian Express** on **04th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 Important Provisions of the Constitution of India, Govt policies and interventions

Relevance: Development of the Hindi Language and The Official Language

News: Recently, at the 37th meeting of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee, the **Union Home Minister** commented that nine tribal communities of the Northeast have converted their **dialects' scripts** to **Devanagari**. Further, all eight states of the Northeast have agreed to make Hindi compulsory in schools up to Class 10.

The comments have led to protests in the **several states of the region** because Northeast states people speak different language ranging from **Indo-Aryan** to **Tibeto-Burman** to **Austro-Asiatic families**.

What have been the reactions from the North-East Region?

(A) Tripura

Background: Kokborok has been the **official language** of Tripura since 1979. It is the **lingua franca** for most tribes of the state. The language relies upon **the Bengali and Roman scripts** which were adopted based on studies of the **Shyama Charan Tripura Commission** and **Pabitra Sarkar Commission**.

Response: The **Roman Script for Kokborok Choba (RSKC)** a conglomerate of **56 tribal organisations in Tripura** strongly opposed the forcible imposition of Hindi or Devanagari as the script for **Kokborok**.

It was argued that the **imposition of Hindi** script might disturb the **linguistic balance** in Tripura. The brotherhood and balance of **Bengali- and Kokborok-speaking people** in the states might be upset.

(B) Mizoram

Background: The Mizo language belongs to the **Sino-Tibetan family**. It is based on **the Roman script**, introduced by the British a long ago in 1894.

Response: The imposition of the Hindi script has been opposed by the Mizo people.

(C) Manipur

Background: Manipuri is one of the 22 languages listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. Therefore, Hindi and Manipuri have the same status. Further, **Manipur's Meitei Mayek** or **Manipuri script** is recognised by the Government of Manipur. In fact, it is a 2,000 years old script.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Response: The Manipur student organization protested against the proposal of Hindi as a **compulsory subject** up to Class X in Manipur and of **Hindi script**. In fact, it would put extra pressure on students and hinder development of the local language. Therefore, they decried the imposition of Hindi as a **majoritarian policy**.

(D) Arunachal Pradesh

Background: Arunachal Pradesh is a multi-ethnic and multi-linguistic state. A UNESCO survey identified **33 languages** as **endangered** and 4 as **critically endangered**.

Response: It is argued that Hindi can act as a **bridge language** in Arunachal Pradesh. However, Hindi cannot be imposed as it would further **distort** the **language dynamics**.

(E) Assam

Background: First, **Assamese** and **Bodo** are spoken in Assam. Both are listed in the **8th Schedule**. Second, While **Assamese** uses an **ancient script** of its own, **Bodo** is written in the **Devanagari script**. Third, Assam has dozens of **other indigenous languages** either having different script or without script.

Response: **All Assam Students' Union (AASU)** opposed the proposal of compulsory Hindi up to 10th because the students are already studying Hindi till Class 8.

Further, the **Devanagari script debate** is not an issue for the **Assamese language**. However, apart from Hindi language and script, all **other tribal and ethnic languages** should also be developed in Assam.

Overall argument against the proposal

NE Students' Union

The **North East Students' Organisation (NESO)** opposed "imposition" of Hindi as a compulsory subject. It would be detrimental to the propagation of **indigenous languages**. It would add another subject to the curriculum.

In fact, **the National Education Policy** says education should be imparted in the mother language. Hindi is not the mother language of the people of the states in the North-East region.

GS2 – POLITY – JUDICIARY

DEATH PENALTY AND RELATED ISSUES

6. **A new track for capital punishment jurisprudence**

Source: The post is based on an article "**A new track for capital punishment jurisprudence**" published in the "**The Hindu**" on **07th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 – important provisions of the constitution of India

Relevance: The right to life and capital punishment

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

News: Recently, the Supreme Court of India has initiated a ***suo motu writ petition*** (criminal) to frame guidelines on the **mitigation analysis** in the cases pertaining to **death penalty sentencing** or **capital punishment**.

Procedure for capital punishment

If a sessions court (sentencing court) award a capital punishment, then it is to be confirmed by the **jurisdictional High Court** (confirming court) under Chapter 28 of the **Code of Criminal Procedure**.

Evolution of the Jurisprudence related to death penalty in India

In ***Bachan Singh vs State of Punjab (1980)***, the supreme court called for balancing the **mitigating** and **aggravating circumstances** against each other. The court laid down the principle that the **death penalty** ought not to be awarded unless the alternative of life imprisonment is “**unquestionably foreclosed**”. It should be awarded only in a **rarest of rare case**.

However, in later judgment, the **Supreme Court** has begun to inquire into **sentencing methodology** with great interest.

In ***Rajendra Pralhadrao Wasnik vs The State of Maharashtra (2018)***, the Court directed to analyse the conduct of the convict in jail, outside jail if on bail for some time, medical evidence about his mental make-up, contact with his family and so on”. The court directed to furnish reports related to these aspects. These reports are very important for the **mitigation investigation**.

In ***Mofil Khan vs State of Jharkhand (2021)***, the court held that the “the State must prove that the reformation and rehabilitation of the accused is not possible” and that “the Court will have to highlight **clear evidence** as to why the convict is not fit for any kind of **reformatory and rehabilitation scheme**.”

In ***Manoj & Ors vs State of Madhya Pradesh (2022)***, the Court issued directions that all “report(s) of all the **probation officer(s)**” relating to the accused and reports “about their conduct and nature of the work done by them” while in prison should be placed before the court. In addition, a **trained psychiatrist** and a **local professor of psychology** should also conduct a **psychiatric and psychological evaluation** of the convict

What are the issues in award of the capital punishment?

According to a report by the **National Law University Delhi’s Project 39A** titled ‘**Matters of Judgment**’ there is **no judicial uniformity** or **consistency** in awarding of the death sentence. According to the Project 39A report titled ‘**Death Penalty Sentencing in Trial Courts**’, the courts have been lax in assessing the **aspect of reformation** while undertaking the **sentencing exercise**.

Way Forward

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

There is a **new wave of thinking** in the domain of capital punishment. It was timely and necessary that the Supreme Court come up with the guidelines on the matter of **mitigation analysis**.

The court should explain what constitutes the **mitigating circumstances**, the role of a **probation officer** in assisting the Court and the **potential value addition** of a **mitigation investigator** to the sentencing exercise.

For a complete **mitigation investigation**, in addition to legal professionals, there is a requirement of **professionals** trained in **psychology, sociology** and **criminology**.

The SC's guidelines related to the **mitigation investigation** will strengthen **the doctrine of the rarest of rare**. This will ensure that the **sentencing** and **confirming courts** exercise their **capital punishment sentencing power** with greater fairness.

NATIONAL JUDICIAL INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION (NJIC)

7. **The court's burden**

Source: The post is based on an article "**The court's burden**" published in the "**The Hindu**" on **04th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Functioning of Indian Judiciary

Relevance: The National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC) and Judicial Reforms

News: Recently, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) proposed a **National Judicial Infrastructure Corporation (NJIC)** with corresponding bodies at the State level at the joint conference of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers.

Arguments in favour

The court complexes have a lot of inadequacies in India. There is a wide gulf between the **available infrastructure** and the **justice needs** of the people of India. The proposed NJIC would immensely help in augmenting facilities for the judiciary.

There are already some agreements on the idea of **state-level bodies** for the same purpose.

Arguments against

There are experiences that **funds allocated** to many states for judicial infrastructure remain unspent. The proposal did not find favour with many Chief Ministers.

There are apprehensions that a national body would usurp the powers of the executive. Therefore, the proposal did not find favour with many Chief Ministers.

Measures that can be taken in the future

The Chief Justice of India proposed to have **adequate representation** of the Union/States in the NJIC.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

The state level bodies proposal is to be implemented as a **centrally sponsored scheme** (CSS), with the Centre and States sharing the burden on a 60:40 ratio. The allocated funds for proposed **State-level bodies** should be actively spent for speeding up implementation of the scheme.

It will naturally require greater **coordination** between States and the respective High Courts for creation of required infrastructure, especially for the lower judiciary.

The Government has to contribute a lot to **reduce the burden** of the judiciary. The Government should also focus on **other challenges**: pendency, chronic shortage of judges etc.

The government should implement court orders, leaving crucial questions to be decided by the courts.

The government should ensure **broad-based consultation** before passing legislation. This would reduce the litigation burden on the part of the courts.

The judiciary and the executive at the level of Chief Justices and Chief Ministers should have a conversation. It will infuse an **atmosphere** of **cooperation** for the judicial appointments, infrastructure upgradation and downsizing pendency in Indian courts.

ISSUES WITH JUDICIAL SYSTEM

8. **Why the judiciary is failing?**

Source: This post is based on the article “**Why the judiciary is failing?**” published in **Business Standard** on **3rd May 22**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Judiciary, Rule of Law

Relevance: Issues with the Higher judiciary

Context: This article, the first in a series of three, suggests that although the rule of law is a necessary condition for the survival of civilised society, but it is not sufficient for the delivery of justice.

This first article will focus on the **judiciary**, especially the higher judiciary, the next one on **police reforms**, and the last one on **civil society**.

What are the issues associated with the higher judiciary in India?

As per the author of this article, the Supreme Court has failed to do its job, both as a constitutional court and a court of final appeals.

It has **neither been able to enforce the law satisfactorily**, nor **ensured relative uniformity** in judgments so that justice is seen to be delivered.

Public opinion on getting justice from the courts is unenthusiastic at best. This is the result of not only **endless delays**, but also a **huge variability** in verdicts. The variability can be gauged from the following instances:

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

- Last month, a three-judge bench, headed by Justice U U Lalit, reduced the sentence of a rapist-murderer of a four-year-old child.
- On the same day, a lower court in Thane sentenced another rapist-murderer of a seven-year-old to death
- In 2021, the Bombay High Court, in a similar case, upheld a death sentence.
- The convicted rapists in the Nirbhaya case were all executed.

Another issue is the **Supreme Court's apparent preference for taking up limelight-hogging public interest litigation (PILs)** compared to bread-and-butter cases of justice.

- An analysis by the *Supreme Court Observer* shows that on an average, **over 26,000 PILs were filed annually** between 1985 and 2019, totalling over 900,000 PILs in all. Such huge number of PILs is the result of a general belief among litigants that PILs make more sense than regular legal recourse.

Real constitutional issues left unaddressed: Moreover, in recent years, the Supreme Court has taken up everything from deciding whether there should be bars on highways to whether SUVs should be taxed more for entering Delhi, and whether oxygen and vaccine supplies have been managed properly during the Covid spike of 2021.

- On the other hand, real constitutional issues — on the legality of the Citizenship Amendment Act, the rights of Hindus to administer their own places of worship, article 370 abrogation, and the review of the Sabarimala judgment — are being left unaddressed for years on end.

Courts expound on how governments cannot amend some “basic features” of the constitution **without ever defining what constitutes a basic feature.**

Bail, not jail, is supposed to be the norm, but the lower courts can ratify the arrest of anyone who publicly criticizes a powerful politician.

[Has the Govt made efforts at streamlining the court process?](#)

Yes.

In 1999 and 2002, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government made **major changes to the Code of Civil Procedure** and put timelines on the number of adjournments that can be given in civil proceedings, the issue of summons and the filing of written statements.

But the **Supreme Court effectively killed these laws by suggesting that these are mere guidelines, not legal limitations.**

Now, practically no time limits apply if a judge decides to endlessly prolong a case.

In the USA, a Sentencing Commission was established in 1984, which set guidelines for sentencing in similar cases, reduced the variability in judgments. But, here too, over time, the US higher judiciary diluted these guidelines so as to give judges greater leeway to use their individual instincts to decide cases.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Way forward

For greater focus, the Law Commission has suggested that the Supreme Court should be split into two, one being a constitutional court in Delhi, and the other being a final court of appeals in non-constitutional cases.

GS2 – GOVERNANCE – ISSUES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT OF EDU

MEDICAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

9. How to vernacularise medical education in India?

Source: The post is based on an article “**How to vernacularise medical education in India**” published in the **Indian Express** on **03rd May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 Social Sector; Education Sector

Relevance: Medical Education Reforms

News: Recently, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh declared their intention to provide the MBBS course in Hindi.

Arguments in favour of using vernacular language in the medical education

This will help counter the **hegemony** of English in **professional education**. Few countries such as **Germany** and **China** have long been doing so successfully. Therefore, the Indian government can also replicate this in India.

One of the intentions of the move is to **increase access** to **medical education** beyond the **English-knowing elite**.

Arguments in favour of using vernacular language in the medical education

The measure would entail **significant costs**. The implementation would demand **regulatory** and **administrative alterations**. For example, translation of educational materials, training of trainers, etc. Further, the costs will depend on the **scale of implementation** and need not necessarily be a deterrent.

An argument advanced by critics is that this measure is fuelled by misplaced nationalistic sentiments.

This would erode the **competitive advantage** which Indian graduates have in the global scientific arena.

In contrast to Germany and China where local languages are used, English is firmly entrenched in India. Therefore, there will be two-fold challenges. First, the measure could face **considerable resistance** in assimilating local language into the existing ecosystem. Second, it is unlikely to spur **enough demand**. For example, this has already been witnessed in the case of engineering courses.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

If MBBS is taught in the regional language, then **postgraduate medical courses** and other medical courses would also need to be conceived in regional languages.

At present, the government wishes to expand the **private sector's** scope in medical education. However, the private sector is unlikely to welcome the move in the field of medical education.

There is no obvious correlation between knowledge of **English** and **socioeconomic status** in Indian society.

Today, a **considerable proportion** of medical graduates who have studied in English are employed in **allied sectors** (research, pharmaceuticals, administration etc.). There medium graduates in vernacular language are unlikely to be welcomed in these allied sectors.

It would lead to development of an **implicit hierarchy** between **non-English medium** and **English medium medical graduates**.

The **diversity** and **multiplicity of languages** across and within states thwarts the vernacularisation of medical education.

Medical doctors are **highly mobile professionals**. English medium medical graduates can find jobs across the country and the world.

English is a **mutually-intelligible option** in **technical** as well as **routine dealings** and **interactions**. Therefore, numerous local languages based medical education can lead to chaos.

Way Forward

Going for a **select few languages** with a large following could be an **optimum middle-path**. However, this is unlikely to obviate the need for **incorporating basic English skills** in the curriculum.

An **incremental approach** should be adopted in providing medical education in regional languages. For example, the government can start providing **paramedical courses** in the regional language. Such paramedical workers are often **less mobile** and **function closer** to the **patients**. Further, **vernacularisation** is one of many reforms in medical education. Many other measures require political attention.

GS2 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – EFFECTS OF POLICIES OF DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON INDIA'S INTERESTS

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

10. **Agri trade beyond the Ukraine war**

Source: This post is based on the article “**Agri trade beyond the Ukraine war**” published in **Business Standard** on **4th May 22**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy

Relevance: Export of food grains from India

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Context: The conflict in Ukraine has created an opportunity for India's agricultural exports, particularly wheat.

But, India's chances of becoming a stable supplier of wheat are limited in the absence of a long-term policy on foodgrain exports.

Out of the around 200 million tonnes (mt) of global wheat exports, **Russia and Ukraine** export 60 mt. India exported nearly 7 mt in 2021.

Is India facing a pressure on its wheat stocks this year?

Yes. Presently, India's wheat stocks are facing pressure due to the following reasons:

A possible decline in production and procurement:

- Production could be lower by more than 10 mt due to the heat wave in the second half of March.
- Due to a decline in production and private sector purchases, the government procurement of wheat this rabi season is expected to be around 20 mt or less (it was 43 mt last year). Govt needs

An increase in public distribution and the rise in exports

Can India become a stable supplier of foodgrains beyond the Russia-Ukraine conflict?

An analysis by experts shows the following –

The **prospects for sustained wheat exports by India are limited**

– India can substitute only a small part of the 60 mt of wheat exports by Russia and Ukraine.

Exporting for a year and then banning exports is bad for trade relationships.

Non-price factors like food safety, quality and the variety of wheat may also constrain exports. Similarly, **wheat may not be competitive globally** in most years for exports. Although India is competitive in the cost of production, it may not be so if we consider the minimum support price, which is 50 per cent over cost and other *mandi* charges.

What is the overall situation wrt agricultural exports by India?

India has exported more than 17 mt of **rice** both in FY21 and FY22.

Wheat exports were 2.1 mt in FY21 and 7 mt in FY22.

The country has done well in total agricultural exports in the last few years. As per data, **agricultural exports have grown by 20%** during FY22 to touch \$50 billion. This higher growth was achieved in spite of logistical challenges posed by the pandemic.

Way forward

It is possible to be a stable supplier of rice and wheat to other countries if there is a **long-term policy on exports of foodgrains**. Of course, the environmental costs of these crops must be considered, particularly in the production of rice.

Imports of edible oils and the rise in prices. India is the biggest importer of edible oils. Palm oil constitutes 60% of the imports (9 mt) followed by soyabean and sunflower.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

– The prices of sunflower oil increased due to the conflict in Ukraine, while soyabean oil prices rose because of dry weather in South America.

India will face higher food inflation in the near future. This is an opportunity for farmers to increase their incomes. But vulnerable consumers have to be protected with **safety nets like in-kind and cash transfers**.

What are the policies needed to improve edible oil production, reduce imports and prices?

Short term

– India is planning to engage with Indonesia on palm oil imports as there are limited alternatives. It is also trying to reduce cess charged on edible oil imports to soften prices.

– The government is promoting the production and productivity of oilseeds through the **national Food Security Mission: Oilseeds (NFSM-Oilseeds)** from 2018-19 onwards in all districts of India.

– In August 2021, the prime minister announced the **National Mission on Edible oils-Palm oil** to make India self-sufficient in cooking oils.

Alternative sources have to be found to reduce dependence on palm oil imports.

In the medium to long term, there is a need to have **atmanirbharta in edible oils**, as the demand for them will rise with urbanisation and increase in incomes.

Investment in R&D in oilseeds has to be increased for these crops.

Similarly, marketing infrastructure, development of value chains, price incentives, etc have to be given to farmers to **shift cropping patterns from rice and wheat to oilseeds** in several states, including Punjab and Haryana.

Hence, there is a need for a two-pronged strategy of increasing domestic production and engaging with other countries to have reliable imports.

HYPERGLOBALIZATION AND RELATED ISSUES

11. Ukraine rethinks on hyper-globalisation. Nations need to de-risk against overdependence on few suppliers

Source: The post is based on the article “**Ukraine rethinks on hyper globalisation. Nations need to de-risk against overdependence on few suppliers**” published in the **Indian Express** on **2nd May 2022**. **Syllabus:** GS3 Indian Economy, Effect of liberalization on Indian Economy

Relevance: External Sector, Self-Reliant India

News: Recently, Indonesia, the **world’s largest producer** and **exporter** of the palm oil has been experiencing domestic shortages of the same. This led to spike in the domestic palm oil prices in Indonesia and the world (including India). Therefore, Indonesia has announced to ban all exports.

What is the concept of hyper-globalization?

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

In a hyper-globalised world, countries produce things in which they have **comparative advantage** and import those others can make at lower opportunity cost.

For example, Indonesia and Malaysia produce **palm oil**; and Ukraine and Russia produce **sunflower oil**. They have comparative advantages in the palm oil and sunflower oil. Therefore, Indonesia alone is the largest exporter of palm oil.

What are the issues in hyper-globalization?

It leads to **too much dependence** on supplies from one or two countries. For example, palm oil, which accounts for roughly 40% of India's annual vegetable oil consumption, is almost entirely imported from **Indonesia** and **Malaysia**.

This can lead to supply disruption in case of crisis. For example, In wake of the Russia-Ukraine war, the supply of sunflower oil has been disrupted.

In fact, **high international crude prices** have led to diversion of **palm** and **soyabean oil** for making bio-diesel.

The **disruption** in the **supply** of commodities impacts the prices of the other commodities. For example, At present, palm oil prices are causing strain in the prices of vanaspati, margarine, bread, biscuits, noodles, frozen dessert, namkeens, mithai, soap and cosmetics etc.

Way Forward

Hyper-globalisation and leveraging **comparative advantage** work well in a world without **geopolitical frictions** or **natural disasters**. For example, 2011 Thailand floods impacted the computer hard drive supply chain.

In the real world, countries need to **de-risk** against **overdependence** on few suppliers, especially of products entailing heavy foreign exchange outgo.

The Indian government needs to **reduce dependence** on import of edible oils from the current 60-65%.

Domestic producers can be given **one-time capital subsidy** and **tariff support** based on long-term import **parity pricing**.

There are **collateral benefits**, too, from some paddy and wheat acreage getting diverted to oil palm or mustard.

FEDERAL STRUCTURE AND RELATED ISSUES

Issues pertaining to Schedules

12. **Revisit the Seventh Schedule to improve Centre-state relations**

Source: The post is based on an article “**Revisit the Seventh Schedule to improve Centre-State relations**” published in the **Live Mint** on **01st May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 Issues and Challenges pertaining to the federal structure

Relevance: Issues related to the Seventh Schedule of the constitution of India

News: Recently, the Union government revoked the orders and guidelines issued under the Disaster Management Act (DMA), 2005 after covid knocked on India’s doors. The DMA has been the backbone of policy interventions to fight covid.

What are the constitutional provisions with respect to invoking the laws?

Any legislation can be passed under an enabling **constitutional provision**. Article 246 talks about the Union, state and concurrent lists which are mentioned in **the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution**.

Considering, **health** is a state subject mentioned in the **state list** and **disasters** do not find mention in any lists in **the Schedule VII**. Therefore, the union government invoked **the Disaster management Act (DMA) 2005** by relating to **Entry 23 (Social Security and Social Insurance)** in the Concurrent List of the Constitution. It was invoked to deal with covid-19.

How was the DMA 2005 used by the states?

Some states like West Bengal, Maharashtra, Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh legalized the **home delivery** of alcohol under the ambit of the DMA. Ironically, it was invoked for liquor delivery to promote **social security and social insurance**. It was also aimed to address a shortfall in tax revenues (Taxes on alcohol account for a significant share of the total revenue in many states)

However, at present the DMA has been revoked. Therefore, in the **absence** of **enabling legislation** (due to revocation of the DMA), the states will have to curtail the home delivery of alcohol.

What are the issues that plague the Seventh Schedule?

The Seventh Schedule was inherited from **the Government of India Act, 1935**. Therefore, it is a **relic** of the **colonial past**. The lists do not reflect the **complex realities** of India in its **75th year of independence**. For example, despite having health as the state subject, the Union government was in a better position to legislate on some issues related to health (vaccination, for instance)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

The states often shift their **responsibilities** upon centre. For example: (1) state highways are often classified as national highways, and (2) the states ask for the help of paramilitary forces in times of crisis despite having law and order as the state subjects.

States have also advocated the **transfer** of some subjects from the **Union** and **concurrent lists** to the state list. For instance, **entry No. 58** of the Union list is on the manufacturing, supply and distribution of salt.

States have also criticized the transfer of some subjects from the state list to the concurrent list.

Way Forward

The **Sarkaria Commission** and **the Punchi Commission**. Both advised comprehensive consultation between the Union and state governments before moving anything from the state list to the concurrent list.

N.K. Singh, chairman of the **15th Finance Commission**, has time and again argued for reforms in the Seventh Schedule.

Some have even advocated further **decentralization** of that Schedule by introducing a local government list in the light of rapid urbanization across countries.

There has to be periodic reviews of these lists—say, after every 20 years.

Administration of NCT of Delhi

13. [The Delhi dual governance conundrum](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**The Delhi dual governance conundrum**” published in **the Hindu** on **02nd May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 Issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure.

Relevance: Administration of the National Capital Territory

Context: Delhi has been experiencing a prolonged confrontation on the relative powers of the territorial administration and the Union government. However, recently, **the 2021 amendment** to the **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991** has been enacted. The aforementioned amendment is also under challenge before the Supreme Court.

Nature of Delhi in the federal scheme

Delhi is a Union Territory under Schedule 1 of the Constitution. It has the absence of statehood. However, it has been declared as the “National Capital Territory” which is governed under Article 239AA.

What are the factors that have led to power tussle in the Delhi Governance?

Dilemmas of dual governance: Delhi is governed by the elected **Council of Ministers** and the Central Government through the **Administrator of Delhi**, renamed as the **Lieutenant Governor (L-G)**. Therefore, issues in the governance of Delhi arose, with respect to who is empowered to

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

control the agencies, namely the **Anti-Corruption Bureau, the Civil Services and the Electricity Board.**

The Supreme Court's pronouncements with respect to the dual governance of Delhi

Earlier, the Delhi High Court has decided in favour of the Central Government relying on the status of Delhi as a Union Territory.

The SC decided on the **substantial questions of law** in reference to the powers of the elected government of Delhi vis-a-vis the L-G pertaining to the Administration of NCT. The observations made were:

(1) The objectives behind **the Constitution (Sixty-ninth Amendment) Act** shall guide the interpretation of **Article 239AA**. Article 239AA was interpreted from the perspective of the principles of federalism and democracy, thereby, according **a sui generis status** to Delhi in distinction from other Union Territories (UT) which were more centrally governed.

(3) The Delhi Assembly has the power to make laws over all subjects that figure in the Concurrent List, and all, except three excluded subjects, in the State List. Further, in these matters, the LG is bound by the "aid and advice" of the Council of Ministers of Delhi.

(4) The L-G ought to act on the "**aid and advice**" of the Council of Ministers, except when he refers "**a matter**" to the President for a final decision in case of a difference of opinion between L-G and the Council of Ministers. However, the SC ruled that "any matter" cannot be construed to mean "every matter". The LG should refer only in exceptional circumstances.

(5) L-G shall act as a **facilitator** rather than posing himself as an adversary to the elected Council of Ministers.

(6) The SC ruled that the National Capital Territory of Delhi **cannot** be granted the **status of a State** under the constitutional scheme.

(7) It was ruled that the **Anti-corruption Bureau (ACB)** comes under the Centre, the **Electricity Board** under the Government of NCT, **a Commission of Enquiry** under the Commissions of Enquiry Act can be constituted by the centre, the power to appoint **Public Prosecutor** is vested with Government of NCT.

What were the unresolved questions?

One Judge (In a two-judge bench of the SC) held that services should be outside the purview of the GNCTD, and the other judge held that officers below the rank of joint secretary are under the control of the Government of NCT.

Way Forward

Due to the split, the matter of services is being heard by a **three-Judge Bench** of the Supreme Court (SC). However, there are also demand to refer the matter to the Constitution Bench of the SC.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

The persons holding high office are expected to conduct themselves in faithful discharge of their duties. It would ensure smooth running of administration and protection of the rights of the stakeholders.

GS2 – INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS – INDIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURHOOD

PM's THREE NATION TOUR

14. In the time of war: On India's ties with Europe without upsetting Russia

Source: This post is based on the article “**In the time of war: On India's ties with Europe without upsetting Russia**” published in **The Hindu** on **5th May 22**.

Syllabus: GS2 – International Relations

Relevance: Prime Minister's three-nation tour to Europe

Context: Prime Minister three-nation visit to Europe comes at a time when the continent is facing its biggest security crisis since the end of the Cold War.

While bilateral issues are at the centre of these meetings, the Russian invasion of Ukraine is the major issue.

What were the key highlights of the tour?

In **Germany**, the partnership between the two countries was reiterated. Berlin has also announced €10 billion for bilateral cooperation.

– India and Germany also unveiled the contours of the next level of their partnership. Germany has said India is its “**central partner**” in Asia and that close cooperation would continue to expand.

In **Copenhagen**, the PM attended the India-Nordic summit with leaders of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Iceland.

In the last leg, the Prime Minister held talks in Paris with French President Emmanuel Macron, who was re-elected recently.

What is the context of the three-nation tour?

The trip comes a few days after the President of the European Commission, Ursula von Der Leyen, visited India.

New Delhi's neutral position on the war has triggered both criticism and engagement from the West.

India has seen **several high-profile visits from the West**, with some top officials pressing New Delhi to cut back on trade with Russia, a traditional strategic partner.

Among the Nordic five, Sweden and Finland are now considering dropping their decades-long neutrality and seeking NATO membership.

What did both countries say on the Ukraine crisis?

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Both sides showed pragmatism over the Ukraine question.

Germany, like India, has deep economic ties with Russia. For India it is about defence supplies, and for Germany, it is for almost **40% of its gas import requirements**.

While the Russian aggression has prompted **Germany to raise its defence spending and join the western sanctions regime**, it has been reluctant in sending weapons to Kyiv, compared to other NATO members in Eastern Europe.

While Germany's chancellor urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to "stop this senseless murder and withdraw your troops", the Indian PM's **response was more measured**. He said that and that dialogue was the only way out

[What is the way forward?](#)

Europe is expected to take a more securitised approach to foreign policy from now, given the direction of the Ukraine conflict

INDIA – FRANCE RELATIONS

15. [Overcoming differences: On India's new push for stronger ties with Europe](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Overcoming differences: On India's new push for stronger ties with Europe**" published in the "**The Hindu**" on **07th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 International Relations: Bilateral Relations

Relevance: India-France Relations

News: Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited **France** along with his visit to Germany, and Denmark (for the **Nordic Summit**). The visit turned out to be a comprehensive discussion on bilateral, regional and international issues with a **India-France joint statement**.

Background of India-France relations

Both have decades of an **unusually productive partnership**. Both share **six-decade-long partnership** in the field of space and strong **defence partnership**.

In 1998, France did not judge or impose sanctions on India for its nuclear tests. It was the first country to conclude a civil nuclear deal with India in 2008 after the NSG passed a waiver allowing India to access nuclear fuel and technology.

France and India worked closely for the success of the Paris climate accord. Both co-founded the **International Solar Alliance** in 2015.

What have been the major points in the India-France joint statement?

The joint statement recorded the differences on the Ukraine crisis. It included the possible ways of mitigating the war's "**knock-on**" effects.

France invited India to cooperate in **the Food and Agriculture Resilience Mission (FARM) initiative**. The initiative ensures food security in the most **vulnerable countries**, particularly in terms of **wheat exports**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Discussion to set up industrial partnerships to build integrated supply chains in solar energy production for markets in Europe and Asia.

Both started a **bilateral strategic dialogue** on space issues, a frontier area contested by China, Russia and the U.S.

Way Forward

Recently, there were some developments in the construction of **six nuclear power plants** in Maharashtra's Jaitapur after more than 12 years of original MoU with the French company, EDF. In addition to improving relationships with **individual countries**, India should also give fillip to talks on the **India-EU FTA** (suspended since 2013).

16. **India and France: A deepening friendship**

Source: The post is based on an article "**India and France: A deepening friendship**" published in the **Indian Express** on **04th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 – International Relations; Bilateral Relations

Relevance: Indo-France Relationship

News: The Prime Minister of India is going to visit France to congratulate Macron on his stunning re-election. For India, the visit is important to survey the international strategic landscape and take stock of bilateral ties.

Convergence of interest in the India-France relationship

India and France have **strategic convergence** on important aspects of international relations. Both have the **fundamental conviction** in a multipolar world and in the **concept of strategic autonomy**.

Since 1998, both countries have deepened the **strategic partnership**. For example, France supported India's Nuclear Test 1998.

India sees France as a preferred partner in **the Indo-Pacific**.

– Both countries have concluded a **Joint Strategic Vision for cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region** in 2018.

– Both share concerns of ensuring **maritime security**, ensuring respect for **international law** by all states, **freedom of navigation** and **overflight**, fight against **organised crime** and combating climate change in the IOR.

– Both have done "**Joint patrolling**" in the Indian Ocean, conducted **Varuna (Joint naval exercises)** in the IOR. Both are striving towards **maritime domain awareness** in the Indian Ocean region.

India and France share **strategic partnership** in the space domain. Both concluded a **Joint Vision for Space Cooperation** in 2018. For example, **situational awareness** in the space domain and cooperation in **satellite navigation** and related technologies.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

India and France are jointly constructing **the world's largest nuclear park** in Jaitapur, Maharashtra.

There are newer areas of cooperation such as **connectivity, climate change, cyber-security and science and technology**(S&T).

What are the challenges in bilateral ties?

Bilateral defence ties: France has largely stuck to the promised delivery of **Rafale aircrafts** to India. The challenge to move from a **buyer-seller relationship** to **an investor-investee relationship** involving making defence equipment in India accompanied by a **transfer of technology**.

In nuclear energy, the **Jaitapur nuclear project** has been stalled. It is facing a lot of domestic impediments.

What have been the measures taken by Indian leadership?

The Prime Minister of India has taken Indian diplomacy to the level of "**personalised diplomacy**". He has invested in personal relations and made a difference in relations between States. The PM has developed a close relationship with the **French President Emmanuel Macron** since 2017. Both the **Indian PM** and **the French President** are having good terms and relationship with the President of Russia. Therefore, they can jointly work to bring the horrific war in Europe to an end.

Way Forward

India is negotiating the **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** and the Investment Agreement with the EU. Therefore, PM Modi can persuade the President of France to support India on the negotiating table.

India should understand **France's assessment** of the **Sino-Russian axis** and EU's own relations with China. Further, India should put India's assessment of the situation in Ladakh and the state of Sino-Indian ties to the counterpart.

INDIA-US RELATIONS

17. Our two-speed ties with the US need convergence

Source: The post is based on an article "**Our own-speed ties with the US need convergence**" published in the **Livemint on 2nd May 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS2** – International Relations; Bilateral Relations

Relevance: Indian-the US Relations

News: The four-nation **Quad summit** is going to be held in Japan. The leaders will meet in-person. The US President and Prime Minister of India are going to meet in-person and have talks on bilateral relations.

What is the convergence of interests between India and the US?

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Both countries have acknowledged that there is a “**growing strategic convergence**” between India and the US. For example, China.

Both democracies have security concerns over **Beijing’s muscle-flexing** in the Asia theatre. Both are working to check this threat.

What are the challenges?

New Delhi’s position on Russia. Our stance has not been condemned outright by US politicians. Both nations have neglected **mutual engagement** in the critical area of economic relations. Both have not joined any **large** and **meaningful trade pact** in Asia.

The US walked out of what is now known as **the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**, and India walked out of the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**. China is a member of both. Therefore, it would help China to consolidate its position as Asia’s predominant economic and trade powerhouse.

India-US relationship is also shadowed by India’s strong relations with Russia and India’s position on Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Way Forward

India’s neighbourhood concerns and energy vulnerability should be handled through **India’s strategic autonomy** on its geopolitical position.

The US announced for the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)**, for its renewed trade thrust in the Indo-Pacific region. It would include four pillars: (1) fair and resilient trade, (2) supply-chain longevity, (3) infrastructure (including clean energy) and tax and (4) anti-corruption measures. The IPEF will involve “**fairness**” over labour issues.

The glue of cooperation for **mutual benefit** invariably lies in **economic partnerships**. Therefore, the US should come up with greater clarity on the IPEF.

INDIA-EU RELATIONS

18. The challenge for Middle Powers like India, France and Germany

Source: The post is based on an article “**Powers like India, France and Germany**” published in **the Indian Express** on **06th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 International Relations; Bilateral; Regional Grouping

Relevance: India-European Union relations, India-France relations and India-Germany relations.

News: Recently, the head of the European Union visited India, and Prime Minister of India visited the two European countries – France and Germany.

India’s relationship with the continental European Countries

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Ex-French President Charles de Gaulle famously declared, “the strength and stability of India are essential for peace and tranquillity in South Asia”.

German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer funded the establishment of the Indian Institutes of Technology.

What are the challenges?

Russia’s invasion of Ukraine seeks to tear down the **post-Cold War security structure** in Europe. The west is dissatisfied with India’s position in this regard.

There are **differences in the agenda of the EU and individual European countries**. This division has often posed a problem for India. Individual countries cannot offer **bilateral market access** in exchange for **bilateral defence deals**.

– For example, the French will sell Rafale jets in the name of **strategic partnership** but they cannot offer a trade and investment deal to India.

The European Union is unlikely to settle a **free trade agreement (FTA)** for a “**tariff-only**” **trade agreement** having exclusion of labour, environment and social issues. The Europeans cannot isolate trade from some of the very relevant dimensions connected to trade. The Europeans constructed the EU as the EU Single Market project to deal with **external competition**.

– In short, even as **Europe worries about Russia**, and **India worries about China**, it is still not clear what the two can and would do for each other, despite all the talk about partnership across Eurasia and Indo-Pacific.

For India, it is not clear how much and what it can unilaterally offer Europe beyond the promise of standing up to China or reducing dependence on Russia. This alone cannot be the foundation of a new strategic partnership.

India’s relations with these **continental European powers** have been shaped by the Cold War. Therefore, the revival of old East-West tensions will cast a shadow on India’s relations with the European Union.

Way Forward

The EU and G7 can **de-risk**, if not **decouple**, from aggressively rising China in the economic space.

These middle powers like Brazil, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Africa and others can work together to combine their “**strength and stability**” to ensure “**peace and tranquillity**” in their respective neighbourhoods. It will further impose some discipline on the **three big powers** from recklessly and unilaterally setting the **global geopolitical and geo-economic agendas**.

India should continue to seek a **global environment conducive** to its own economic development. It should work to ensure the world acknowledges its **civilisational contribution** to humanity.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Individual European nations, especially Germany and France, focus on their **own strategic and business interests**, including **defence equipment** sales.

Both sides should acquire a better understanding of each other's security concerns. For example, The EU is concerned about **Russian aggressiveness** in Europe. India is equally concerned about **Chinese aggressiveness** in Asia.

The **"Middle Powers"**, countries like France, Germany and India should seek policy space for themselves and not be forced into taking positions by **the Big Powers** — the United States, China and Russia.

19. [Green partners: India must integrate with EU's renewables supply chain, with access to its technology](#)

Source: This post is based on the article **"Green partners: India must integrate with EU's renewables supply chain, with access to its technology"** published in **The Times of India** on **3rd May 22**.

Syllabus: GS2 – International Relations

Relevance: India-EU relations, Indo-German relations

Context: The Prime Minister's visit to Germany, the first leg of his three-nation European tour, has , set the stage for an essential aspect of India's development pathway.

Following talks, India's foreign secretary identified the joint declaration of intent on green and sustainable development partnership as perhaps the most important one.

– Both countries will create a **Green Hydrogen Task Force** and Germany will support **India's green growth plans** with an additional development assistance of €10 billion by 2030.

[What is the significance of these developments?](#)

These developments need to be seen in a larger context.

The urgency of mitigating climate change is critical.

IPCC's report in 2021 said that the **global surface temperature was 1.09 degrees higher in 2011-20** than the 1850-1900 baseline. Its consequences are already evident.

India has contributed of cumulative greenhouse gas emissions between 1850 and 2017. However, with a **coastline of about 7,516 km and 17% of the world's population**, it is already at the front line of the fallout of climate change. Therefore, it's in India's interest to enhance the use of non-fossil fuel sources for incremental economic growth.

Achieving Net Zero: At the Glasgow summit India outlined a net-zero commitment by 2070 as India's overarching aim. It is to be realised through two interrelated steps by 2030 – **a)** India is to reduce its projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes and **b)** 50% of its energy needs are to be sourced through renewables. This is where India's goals tie in with the EU's vision.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Having set a net-zero target by 2050, the EU is in the midst of a transition to sourcing most of its energy needs from renewables. Denmark, for example, has already sourced about 32% of its energy consumption in 2020 from renewables.

What is the long term potential of PM's three-nation tour?

Renewables represent a menu of energy options. In the EU, wind and water provide most of the renewable electricity. This is being complemented by solar.

Advances in R&D are opening up more options, which also allows countries to de-risk their sourcing of renewable energy.

It is in this context that India's PM three-nation tour holds significant long-term potential.

Way forward

India needs more than development assistance. It also has to be a part of the EU's renewables supply chain with access to technology. This trip will lay the foundation.

20. **Europe is looming larger than ever in India's strategic calculus**

Source: The post is based on an article "**Europe is looming larger than ever in India's strategic calculus**" published in the **Indian Express** on **3rd May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 – International Relations; Bilateral and Multilateral Relations

Relevance: India-Europe Relations

News: Recently, the president of the **European Commission** visited India. Further, the Prime Minister of India is scheduled to visit Berlin, Copenhagen, and Paris in Europe. He will attend the 2nd **India-Nordic summit**. These visits signal a glimpse of **India's post-Russian strategic future** in Europe.

What are the driving forces?

The Western sanctions have been imposed on Russia. Therefore, Russia is **deepening its alliance** with China.

India is also working to boost up its bilateral partnerships with key European countries—Germany and France.

India-Germany Relations

Both countries have been facing various challenges coming from the **Chinese muscular foreign policy** and **assertion**.

Germany is striving to reduce its **exposure** to **Russian** and **Chinese markets**. Therefore, India is an attractive new destination for German capital. The **full potential** of the commercial relationship is still to be realised.

In fact, **Germany** is tied far more deeply to Russia than India. Germany's annual trade with Russia is about \$60 billion while India's is at \$10 bn. Further, Germany relies heavily on Russian natural gas. Therefore, Both India and Germany have been under pressure to **disentangle** from

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

their Russian connection. In fact, both don't like the Western pressures to reduce ties with Russia.

India-Nordic Countries Relations

In the last few years, Delhi has learnt that the **Nordic Five** — Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden can contribute significantly to **India's development**. They have a combined **GDP greater** than that of Russia.

The **First India-Nordic Summit 2017** produced a **framework** for an **ambitious bilateral agenda** on **technological innovation** and **sustainable development**. It implies that India has acknowledged the Nordic region as one of the various sub-regions of Europe which is important for Indians.

India-France Relationship

Both countries laid the **foundation** for a **strong strategic partnership** in 2018. Both are concerned about the implications of the war in the **Indo-Pacific**. There is going to be the **next phase** in the **strategic partnership** between both the countries.

France is said to be **India's "new Russia"** i.e., India's most **important strategic partner** in the coming period. For example: (1) France defended **India's interests** in the **UNSC**, (2) Both are partnering in the **Indo-Pacific theatre**, and (3) France is a major supplier of advanced arms to India.

What are the challenges for India?

India's stand on the war in Ukraine and India's strategic ties to Moscow can cast shadow on India's relationship with all the European countries.

The Nordic world shares **frontiers** with **Russia** over land as well as in the waters of the Arctic. Therefore, apart from Denmark, Iceland, and Norway which are founding members of NATO, the other two members of the Nordic five Sweden and Finland are now rushing to end their long-standing neutral status and join NATO.

Way Forward

India-Europe

Indian PM's tour to Europe can give India a better appreciation of the new mood in Europe developed due to Russian aggression.

The **India-Europe Trade and Technology Council** was launched by the European Union. This is the EU's second such council after the US. It marks the new contours of **the EU's strategic partnership** with India

The PM can explore the emerging possibilities for **stronger cooperation** with key European countries.

The **Western Europe** has become an important element in **India's foreign** and **security policies**.

The crisis in Ukraine has intensified the imperatives for deeper strategic cooperation between

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

India and its European partners. This is because the crisis has shattered the regional order in Europe that emerged in 1991.

India-France

France has developed a **political framework** for the **peaceful integration** of Russia into the European order. Both India and France can expand the **defence partnership**. France is critical in expanding domestic production of weapons in India. It can promote greater participation of private and foreign capital.

India-Nordic

Indian PM interactions with the Nordic leaders might help Delhi appreciate the deeply-held fears about Russia among Moscow's smaller neighbours. India wants to build on the unique bilateral **green strategic partnership** with Denmark.

INDIA – GERMANY RELATIONS

21. [A defining moment for Indo-German ties](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**A defining moment for Indo-German ties**” published in the **Indian Express** on **04th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 International Relations; Bilateral Relations

Relevance: Indo-Germany Relations

News: The Prime Minister of India is going to attend the **sixth Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC)** in Berlin. The IGC is the only such format that India has with any country.

Important initiatives taken at the IGC

Both have signed a **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI)** for establishing the **Green and Sustainable Development Partnership**. It will fund green projects in India under public, private and PPP models.

Both have concluded the **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI)** on **Triangular Development Cooperation** for projects in third countries. This will provide avenues to work together in the Indo-Pacific, Africa and beyond.

The **JDI on migration and mobility** was an important step taken during this IGC. This will facilitate the movement of a **larger number of Indian students** and **Indian professionals** to Germany. This will lead to a larger **trade in services** and augment the efforts for **digital partnerships**.

The joint statement shows immense congruence and commonality on the UN, Afghanistan and terrorism.

What are the other areas of convergence of interest between both the countries?

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Both India and Germany are reluctant players in the **anti-Russian movement**. Both search for strategic autonomy.

The **Indo-Pacific Region** is strategically and economically important for both India and Germany. Therefore, Germany wants to engage with India as part of its fledgling **Indo-Pacific policy**.

Germans are wary of the Chinese role in world affairs. There are signs of its departure from China. This is poised to bring **business engagement** to India.

The German economy is facing the wrath of the **pandemic** and **sanctions** on Russia. Therefore, it requires new markets for trade and investment. India is an important partner in this regard due to its **sustained economic growth** and **market size**.

India and Germany have established a **green partnership** based on **trade, investment, technology, functional collaboration, skill development, and sustainability**. For example, Indo-German energy forum, environmental forum, partnership on urban mobility etc.

Convergence of Interests

Germany introduced the **Indo-German Education Partnership** in 2016. This provided a **New Passage to India**. It has provided opportunities to Indian students in Germany. For example, New IITs like IIT-Indore have engaged with several technical universities in Germany for joint programmes. The **Indo-German Science and Technology** Centre has made valuable contributions.

What are the challenges in bilateral ties?

Both **Germany** and **India** do not share relations of a **traditional strategic partnership**. It has not been established so far.

Way Forward

A **biennial ministerial forum** is being introduced under the **Indo-German Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC)**. It will provide “**high-level coordination and political direction to the Partnership**”. It will provide a **coordinated institutional mechanism**.

India and the EU have agreed to restart discussions on a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, and an **investment agreement**.

At IGC, India should focus on harnessing the **entrepreneurship** and **private sector** of both countries to take the **climate-friendly** achievement of SDGs forward.

Under the energy partnership, the **Green Hydrogen Task Force** has been established. It will develop a **Green Hydrogen Roadmap**. This will attempt to take R&D to the level of commercialisation.

A new period is reflecting **new priorities** in view of crises like the **pandemic**, the **economic downturn** and now, **Ukraine**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

22. Why Berlin Is A Key Partner For New Delhi

Source: This post is based on the article “**Why Berlin Is A Key Partner For New Delhi**” published in **The Times of India** on **2nd May 22**.

Syllabus: GS2 – International Relations

Relevance: Indo-German relations, India’s foreign policy

News: Indian PM is in Berlin for the biennial Inter-Governmental Consultations. The IGC invitation was initiated by Germany during the Ukraine crisis, indicating the importance of India as a global partner.

This follows the visits of the UK prime minister and the European Commission president to India. The **Nordic Summit** will follow.

PM’s stop by Paris to meet the French president after a crucial election would be a good sign. India’s European policy seeking a multipolar world is in full swing.

What are the main features of Indo-German partnership?

India and Germany are **strategic partners**.

- The partnership mostly deals with **climate and sustainability issues**. There are **no traditional strategic elements** like space, nuclear, or defence partnerships. Nevertheless, there is a strategic aspect related to the revival of the partnership amid the Ukraine crisis and the reordering it brings.
- Germany and India are **supporters of globalisation**. Germany is the most reluctant in Europe to impose unilateral sanctions on Russia and on curbing engagement. It will suffer immense pain with the reduction in Russian energy supplies.
- **On Russia:** Germany and India agree that **Russia cannot be isolated**, remain engaged with it and insist it must play within the rules. **Maintaining a dialogue** is common to Berlin and New Delhi and this could form the basis of a viable political understanding.
- **On China:** With the Russian policy in bad shape, the China-cautious partners of German coalition Govt seek to deal with Beijing as a systemic rival. India does not want Russian action in Ukraine to distract from Chinese transgressions. A **commonality of view on the threat from China to the international order** is another aspect of the Indo-German strategic understanding.
- **On Green finance:** The Indo-German partnership has deepened its climate friendly agenda. More than **€1 billion annually** is committed by Germany for various green ideas, including solar power, electric mobility, smart cities and Namami Gange. An enhanced partnership on climate, green infrastructure, sustainability and development for the next decade will be the mainstay of the Indo-German strategic partnership.

Way forward

Given the success of the Indo-German environmental and energy partnership, it is time for India and Germany to take this model to other developing countries. Germany through the **Compact**

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

for Africa, and India through the **India-Africa Forum Summit**, have dedicated African policies as well as an interest in Latin America.

- Replicating Indian development initiatives – some with German collaboration – in **Africa and Latin America** can be a major objective. This could initially promote green energy, training, women's empowerment and the achievement of SDGs.
- There is scope for **joint vaccine production**, for which Germany has committed funding for Africa, which is India's major market for pharmaceuticals and vaccines.
- The '**Achieving SDGs Together**' approach will perhaps be the motto of India and Germany ahead.

Germany needs to enhance its trade and investment with India. The recent visit of the German state secretary for economic cooperation and the brighter prospects for the India-EUFTA and investment agreements are encouraging.

- German companies are moving from their individual production approach to supply chain production lines. By **establishing regional or global manufacturing hubs in India**, they may utilise India's FTA with ASEAN and access to Africa to enhance exports from India.
- This could well be a **type of China +1 policy**. If this can be embedded in the German thinking, and used to wean Germany incrementally away from China, it will be a strategic boost to the Indo-German partnership.

INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

23. [2nd India must make the most of the diplomatic attention it's receiving](#)

Source: This post is based on the article "**India must make the most of the diplomatic attention it's receiving**" published in The Indian Express on **2nd May 22**.

Context: India witnessed a plethora of diplomatic activities in the past few days in light of the Raisina Dialogue, where representatives from Europe, and the West interacted with their Indian counterparts.

India's Quad partners the US, Japan, Australia, its partners in Europe and several ASEAN countries, see India as an **anchor that could help stabilise the present international situation**. They have a stake in India emerging as an influential power and are willing to contribute to that end. This is an opportunity that ought to be leveraged as part of a broader strategy to significantly advance India's long-term prospects.

It must be grasped.

[Should India downgrade its ties with Russia, and how have they developed over the years?](#)

No.

There are valid **legacy reasons for maintaining positive ties with Russia** just as some European countries have had to do.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Present India-Russia relations are **not a continuation of the old Indo-Soviet ties**. That strategic partnership that helped India cope with the Cold War and the Chinese and Pakistani threats ended with the war and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Moscow no longer sees Beijing as its main security challenge, but for India, China became a bigger challenge.

India's economic and trade relationship with Russia has become **increasingly marginal**.

Prospects of a new energy partnership failed to materialise as for Russia, China emerged as a more proximate and attractive power.

Even the **defence hardware relationship has diminished progressively** as India has rightly tried to diversify its sources of supply.

[Why India needs to rethink its Russia policy?](#)

A key assumption in India's Russia policy has been that as a great power,

– **Moscow would be unlikely to accept a junior partnership with China;**

– And that it is China that was increasing its presence and influence in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, which Russia considers its “near neighbourhood” and security perimeter.

In the long run, **Russian and Chinese interests would not be aligned** and, therefore, India should maintain a close relationship with Moscow.

This was also the reason why India argued with the US and other western partners that they needed to be more accommodative of Russian interests so that it could distance itself from Beijing.

Even if the Ukraine war had not erupted, the February 4 **Sino-Russian Joint Declaration** should have led India to question the continuing validity of these assumptions.

The Sino-Russian commitment is to dismantle the existing Western-dominated international order, and estb a new order more aligned with their interests as major continental Eurasian powers. This new order is not the alternative which would enhance India's interests.

[How India needs to shape its foreign policy engagement?](#)

In a shifting geopolitical landscape, it is in India's interest to **remain engaged with Russia and China** as two leading powers in the world. Such engagement is important to ascertain how these powers are themselves adjusting to the changing geopolitical equations across the world.

Russia is already a seriously weakened power in a European order and will not be able to prevent Finland and Sweden from joining NATO.

The domestic politics of the **US** is unpredictable, and this **calls for caution**.

Europe will likely emerge as a more coherent and cohesive entity, anchored in German power, and playing a role more independent of the US until now. All the more reason why **India must deepen its all-round partnership with Europe**, build a shared vision of an altered geopolitical landscape and encourage Europe to play a greater role in the Indo-Pacific.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Way forward

The attention being paid to India reflects not what India is. but rather what India could become as one of the key architects of a new international order.

It is time to think strategically about India's place in a world which is in the midst of a historic transformation.

GS2 – SOCIAL ISSUES – Mob LYNCHING

MOB LYNCHING AND RELATED ISSUES

24. **Cowed down: On the need for strict anti-lynching laws**

Source: The post is based on an article “**Cowed down: On the need for strict anti-lynching laws**” published in the “**The Hindu**” on **07th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Social Issues

Relevance: Mob Lynching

News: Recently, two tribal men were beaten to death in Seoni, Madhya Pradesh, on the suspicion that they were slaughtering cows.

Why mob lynching and aftermath incidents are disturbing?

These laws have led to a **stigmatisation of communities** such as Dalits, Muslims and tribals for their **dietary habits** and their **dependence** on **cattle products** for a livelihood. Therefore, the brunt of the mob violence has been borne by Muslims, Dalits and Tribal. For example, **Pehlu Khan murder** in April 2017 in Rajasthan.

The **priorities of the law enforcement agencies** are absurd. For example, the police department has stated that one of the dead men was involved in a “cow slaughter” in this case.

While implementing the cattle slaughter laws, the police fail to try and bring those involved in lynch mobs to justice.

The cattle slaughter laws seem to have been brought for **appeasement of majoritarian** impulses to garner political support instead of looking for **animal preservation**.

Judicial pronouncement related to anti-cattle slaughter laws?

In 2005, the **Supreme Court** had justified the total ban on cattle slaughter. The court interpreted the Articles 48, 48A, and 51(A) of the **directive principles of state policy** in the Constitution, that seeks to **preserve breeds** used in agriculture and **animal husbandry**, besides promoting compassion to animals.

The 1958 judgment had limited the ban only to “**useful**” **cattle** which are still engaged in **agriculture** and **husbandry**. Thus, stringent laws on cow slaughter were enacted.

Way Forward

The police should actively take action against the persons having alleged involvement.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Four States (**Rajasthan, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Manipur**) have passed laws against lynching. These laws are under various stages of implementation with the Union government because lynching is not a crime under the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**.

The society should return to the rule of law in which such murderous acts do not go unpunished. It is time for a judicial rethink on legislation around cattle slaughter.

GS2 – SOCIAL ISSUES – HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

TRADITIONAL MEDICINE AND RELATED ISSUES

25. **Invigorating the Ayush industry**

Source: This post is based on the article “**Invigorating the Ayush industry**” published in **The Hindu** on **2nd May 22**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Issues related to health

Relevance: Cost effective healthcare via Ayush Ministry, traditional and integrative medicine

Context: The Ayush industry in India can provide cost-effective healthcare to people across States. It has all the ingredients of success, to co-exist with the modern health systems, as a choice-based system of traditional medicine.

The article lists out measures that can be implemented to reinvigorate the Ayush Ministry.

China’s example wrt its traditional medicine sector

The global market for herbal medicine was valued at **\$657.5 billion in 2020**. It is expected to grow to **\$746.9 billion** in 2022.

The Healthy China 2030 plan forecasts that the value of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) market may reach **\$737.9 billion** within China and globally by 2030.

The growth of the TCM industry in China is attributed to the **immense attention** the sector has received in the country.

– In 1982, the Constitution of China gave **full recognition to TCM**.

– Since 2009, there has been **continuous support for TCM in health policies**. China has focused upon developing quality infrastructure for TCM to co-exist with modern medicine under the same roof.

What has been the progress of the Indian Ayush sector over the years?

The Indian Ayush sector has grown by 17% between 2014 and 2020.

– Related segments such as **plant derivatives** grew by 21%, **plant extracts** by 14.7%, and **herbal plants** by 14.3% during the same period.

What measures have been taken in India to promote Ayush systems?

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

In India, the **National Ayush Mission (NAM)** was launched in 2014 by the Department of Ayush, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, to promote Ayush systems and address the needs of the sector in a comprehensive way.

– **Objectives of NAM:** a) Providing cost-effective services, b) strengthening educational systems, c) quality control of drugs and d) sustainable availability of raw materials.

The industry is projected to reach **\$23.3 billion** in 2022, according to a Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), 2021, report. The Indian herbal medicine market is worth **\$18.1 billion**.

– Under the '**Medicinal Plants**' component of the NAM scheme (2015–16 to 2020–21), the cultivation of prioritised medicinal plants in identified clusters/zones is being supported. For the cultivation of plants, subsidies at 30%, 50% and 75% of the cultivation cost for 140 medicinal plants are being provided.

Further, last year it was announced that **medicinal plants will be cultivated on 75,000 hectares of land**.

The Ministry of Finance has also announced a **₹4000-crore package under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan** for the promotion of herbal cultivation.

Prime Minister laid the foundation of the **WHO-Global Centre for Traditional Medicine** in Jamnagar on April 19, 2022. This will be the first and only global outpost centre for traditional medicine across the world.

What is the way forward?

The Ayush sector requires a **multi-dimensional push**, ranging from initiatives at the institutional level, massive awareness and promotion of cultivation of medicinal plants by farmers, to trade-related interventions and quality focus measures.

Strengthen SMPBs: The National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) implements the medicinal plant component of Ayush through state bodies—State Medicinal Plant Boards (SMPBs).

– The **organisational structure of SMPBs needs to be strengthened**. They should have **experts** for conservation, cultivation, R&D, herbal garden etc.

On the trade front, **developing comprehensive databases** on Ayush trade, products and raw materials is needed.

Expansion of HS national lines to accommodate various features of traditional medicine and medicinal plant products based on existing requirements is required to provide more comprehensive trade data on Ayurvedic products. To date, most ISM (Indian System of Medicine) products, herbal products and medicinal plants products are not identified under specific HS (Harmonised system) codes.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Integrative medicine: NITI Aayog has already constituted a committee and four working groups on integrative medicine, to provide deeper insights and recommendations in the areas of education, research, clinical practice and public health and administration.

Integration of Ayush systems into mainstream systems will certainly give wider acceptance for traditional systems of the country.



9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

General

Studies

Paper – 3

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

 ForumIAS

DAM SAFETY IN INDIA

1. **How safe are India's dams?**

Source: This post is based on the article “**How safe are India's dams?**” published in **Business Standard** on **4th May 22**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy – Infrastructure

Relevance: Dam failures in India

Context: Jal Shakti Minister recently told the Rajya Sabha that since 1979, there were 42 instances of dam failures, the latest being the Annamayya reservoir in Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh that led to the death of at least 20 people in November 2021.

India has the 3rd largest number of dams in the world at 5,745, following China with 23,842 and the US with 9,261.

What are the issues with the dam infrastructure in India?

80% of the dams are more than 25 years old, and with the accumulated burden of deferred maintenance, many have huge associated risks.

– 6% are more than 100 years old and 18% are 50-100 years old.

What are the factors on which long-term safety of a dam depends?

The long-term safety of a dam depends on:

- the extent of degradation of its materials,
- weakening of the foundations
- seismological threats.

What efforts have been taken at ensuring dam safety in India?

The **Dam Safety Organisation (DSO)** was established in the **Central Water Commission (CWC)** in May 1979 to convince the states about dam safety. Issues related to dam safety have often been cited in reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General. The efficacy of the DSO has also been questioned in such reports.

The first major programme initiated was the **Dam Safety Assurance and Rehabilitation Project** implemented with support from the World Bank from 1991 to 1999 in four states (Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu).

The second programme was the World Bank funded **Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP)**, from April 2012 to March 2021 with a much larger budget outlay.

– This scheme has rehabilitated 223 dams located in seven states — Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Based on the success of DRIP, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has **initiated DRIP Phase II and Phase III**. These new schemes have 19 states, and three central agencies (Bhakra Beas Management Board, CWC and Damodar Valley Corporation) on board.

The **Dam Safety Bill, 2019**, was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 2, 2019. This legislation provides for surveillance, inspection, operation and maintenance of specified dams by the establishment of a **National Committee on Dam Safety, National Dam Safety Authority, State Committee on Dam Safety, and the State Dam Safety Organization**.

This new Act and associated rehabilitation programmes thus usher in a new era of professional management of India's dams and related safety issues.

[What needs to be done?](#)

The **physical rehabilitation of dams** involves two clear streams of activity:

- The first is "de-siltation" — to restore the original reservoir capacity.
- The second is "safety" — encompassing, structural safety, hydrologic safety and operational safety

The **issue of dam decommissioning** also needs to be brought into the action-agenda. Demands for decommissioning have already been raised for the Mullaperiyar dam in Kerala, Dumbur dam over the Gumti river in Tripura and Jayakwadi dam in Maharashtra.

GS3 – ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE – INDIA'S ENERGY SECTOR

ENERGY SECURITY AND RELATED ISSUES

2. [The supply bottlenecks causing power shortages](#)

Source: This post is based on the article **"The supply bottlenecks causing power shortages"** published in **The Indian Express on 3rd May 22**

Syllabus: GS3 – Energy and Infrastructure

Relevance: Power crisis in India, shortage of coal

Context: The power sector in India is going through a crisis. **Peak shortages** in some states have reached double digits. Coal stocks available at thermal plants are at abysmal levels, and about 106 plants out of 173 plants have reached a critical stage.

In some plants, the stocks available are just about enough to run the plant for a day or two more. Part of the problem of poor coal stock is also rumoured to be on account of the non-payment of dues of coal companies.

But this is not the major cause of the shortage.

[What is the chronology of power crisis?](#)

Firstly, with summer approaching before time, **power demand has shot up to record levels**.

Delhi's power demand crossed 6,000 MW on April 28 which is a record.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

The second reason for the rise in power demand is that the **economy is recovering, and demand from the industrial sector is going up.**

All things put together, power demand crossed 207 GW on April 29, which is about 14% higher than what it was a year ago.

[Is the increased power demand the actual reason for power crisis?](#)

No.

The increase in demand should have posed no problem since there was **enough spare capacity available** with coal-based stations operating at less than 60% capacity.

The **real problem is the availability of coal**, as many plants have less than two days worth of stock.

Moreover, **generation from gas-based plants has also fallen** due to high gas prices in the world market.

Reservoirs, too, are drying up due to intense heat which will **adversely affect hydro generation.**

[What are the reasons behind the coal shortage?](#)

Firstly, it's important to note that **this coal crisis is not because of any deficit in the supply of coal** from domestic sources.

– Coal dispatches from Coal India during 2021-22 were 23% higher than in the previous year.

There are two main reasons for coal shortage:

a) The first is that due to a **rise in the international price of coal** on account of the Ukraine crisis, all plants that were importing coal have either stopped generating completely or are generating at much lower levels. We have a sizeable generating capacity based on imported coal, estimated at about 16 GW to 17 GW. All these plants after stopping imports are now looking for domestic coal, creating pressure on domestic coal.

b) The second reason for low coal stocks is the **non-availability of rakes with Indian railways** for transporting coal.

– There is also the **issue of availability of tracks** since they are being used on a back-to-back basis.

[What is the way forward?](#)

With efforts now being made to sort out the transportation problems, stocks will begin depleting faster. Thus **production has to be enhanced** so that the replenishment rate is higher than consumption.

This is the right time to **enhance coal production and build adequate stocks** because once the monsoon sets in, production will fall.

Anticipating this, the government has asked the **power companies to import coal for blending purposes** to reduce the pressure on domestic coal.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

- The problem is that there may be no takers for this, given the high price of coal in international markets. Besides, these imports will again put pressure on the availability of rakes for domestic coal.

Hence, unless the weather relents, dark days are ahead.

3. [A silicon waste alert for our creaky power sector](#)

Source: This post is based on the article “**A silicon waste alert for our creaky power sector**” published in **Livemint** on **2nd May 22**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Energy and Infrastructure

Relevance: Power scarcity in India, coal shortage

Context: India’s power crisis is best described by a disconnect between installed capacity and availability that must be sorted out.

What are the major reasons behind the power shortage in the country?

India has an installed capacity to generate almost 400 gigawatts of electricity, and about 40% of it cleanly. But a **surge in peak demand** to nearly 205 gigawatts, amid the blistering heatwave in the April, led to frequent power outages in various parts of the country.

Shortage of coal: Coal shortage can be attributed to following two reasons: – **a)** a rise in demand from pre-covid peaks that traced a revival in the Indian economy, even as extra power was guzzled by an early AC season amid record temperatures, **b)** the Ukraine war made prices of coal spike. – As Indian coal importers looked to domestic sources, local stuff fell short.

– **Problems with the discom sector:** Most discoms in India are state-run entities that are strapped for cash and stretched out of shape by a status quo at the usage end of the market, where theft and freebies are rampant and subsidy-transfer delays from state coffers are routine.

Way forward

India needs to go for **end-to-end reforms** that could link demand and supply efficiently.

GS3 – SCIENCE AND TECH – RESEARCH AND DEV IN INDIA

SCIENTIFIC R&D IN INDIA AND RELATED ISSUES

4. [Funding woes haunts Indian Science](#)

Source: The post is based on article “**Funding woes haunts Indian Science**” published in **The Hindu** on **2nd May 2022**

Syllabus: GS3 Development in Science and Technology, Intellectual Property Rights etc.

Relevance: Research and Development (R&D)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

News: The Union Ministry of Science and Technology budgetary allocation in the **current financial year (2022-23)** has seen a drop from the last year. The 2022-2023 Union Budget has seen a drop of 3.9% from last year.

What is the significance of science and tech?

The purpose is to understand the world better. It is a highly competitive field among the nations. The funding of science and technology has often been touted as a marker of social advancement.

Status of India's R&D expenditure

The research in India is primarily sustained by **direct funding** from the government. There is little participation from the private sector.

India's share in the global R&D expenditure is at 1-3% of the global total. However, the share of the U.S. and China is around 25% and 23% respectively.

The proportion of **qualified researchers** is very low in India. In 2017, there were 255 researchers per million people in India in contrast to 8,342 per million in Israel, 7,597 in Sweden and 7,498 in South Korea.

The **budgetary allocations** have shown a consistent downward trend over a last few years. It varied between 0.6 to 0.8% of GDP over a decade. It is way below the United States, China, Japan, the European Union countries and South Korea.

There is a **skewed distribution of funds**. Most funding goes to DRDO, Department of Space and Atomic Energy. However, ICAT, CSIR, DST, DBT, MoES and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) received the rest of the 30 to 40% of the public funds.

Despite, jump in the number of universities from 752 to 1,016, and the number of students doing doctoral degrees, the funding remained frozen between 2011 and 2018.

Most of the country's scientific research is being conducted by government laboratories and a few premier institutes. The agency will lead to democratisation of the knowledge base.

Some of the measures taken to boost scientific research funding in India

In pursuance to the **National Education Policy 2020**, the government announced to establish a new funding agency called the **National Research Foundation (NRF)**. It is expected to bring thousands of colleges and universities under its ambit, therefore to boost **university science research** and work in social sciences. The 2021-22 budget announced to offer ₹10,000 crore every year to this agency starting from 2021, over the next five years,

The 2021 budget speech also expressed the intention of investing about **₹4,000 crore** over five years for **deep-ocean research** and **biodiversity conservation**.

The government has shown commitment to set up four centres for virological research and development of hydrogen energy. .

Way Forward

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

The **scientific institutions** need more **autonomous**, more participatory, and less bureaucratic functioning as well as a **vibrant** and **responsive financial system** to unleash the fullest potential of Indian science.

India must choose to break the **bureaucratic barriers** that exist in the government departments and develop innovative ways to help basic research flourish.

The government should release enough funds for scientific research. The R&D spending can be raised to at least 1% of the GDP.

It is also important for the private sector to chip in. The government should **incentivise** the private players like tax breaks, etc.

Further, the **NRF** should be set up. It should be independent of political interference, and the related financial commitment. In addition, the **SERB (Science Engineering Research Board)** can be upgraded.

India can learn a lot from China as it has become a world leader in scientific research in a short span of time.

GS3 – ENVIRONMENT – CLIMATE CHANGE

EMISSION REDUCTION AND TRANSITION TOWARDS CLEAN ENERGY

5. **Faster, cheaper and cleaner power**

Source: This post is based on the article “**Faster, cheaper and cleaner power**” published in **Business Standard** on **2nd May 22**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Environment – Renewable energy

Relevance: Transition to cleaner energy

Context: The State-owned NTPC said it plans to begin work on the construction of a new coal power plant, despite it being faster, cheaper and cleaner to build solar or wind.

Why India should transition to solar and wind energy?

Record low tariffs: India has seen record low renewable energy tariffs of Rs 1.99 (2.6 US cents) per kilowatt-hour for solar power, and Rs 2.43 per kilowatt-hour for wind power. These are quite favourable as compared to tariff of electricity produced from non-renewable sources or new hydropower projects.

Solar generation is highest during summer months, which **coincides with high power demand in India**.

Power from the sun could **also help meet the rising midday demand** as the use of air conditioning increases in India.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Moreover, unlike coal based generation, solar plants **offer a sustainable pathway** to bridge the gap between electricity demand and supply.

Coal power generation dominates India's power supply, followed by hydropower. Solar emerged as the third-largest source last year, with wind power close behind.

Why the coal consumption has increased?

Presently, the world is using a lot more coal due to the following reasons:

- Supply shock resulting from the war in Ukraine, and
- the World is speeding up its response to the energy crunch

Way forward

The \$8.5 billion commitment finalised by the governments of France, Germany, the UK, the US and the European Union for a “**Just Energy Transition Partnership**” in South Africa — aimed at accelerating the move away from coal — could be a model for other countries.

Direct Air Capture (DAC) could comprise a large share of the investment in the broader carbon capture and storage sector, if companies can bring down costs.

6. **Climate arbitrage: Cost of carbon versus capital**

Source: The post is based on an article “**Climate arbitrage: Cost of carbon versus capital**” published in the **Live Mint** on **05th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3 Indian Economy and Environment and Ecology

Relevance: Carbon market and Climate Arbitrage

News: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has hiked the main policy rate like the central bank of the western economies. Further, Holcim, MNC of cement making is rearranging its portfolio (sell in India) to fit its climate adaptation plan for 2025.

Why was the policy rate hiked?

The inflation has been at a higher **level**. Therefore, the central bank decided to tighten credit for the sake of price stability.

Therefore, **big investors** like Indian cement-makers like Aditya Birla group etc. would find it difficult to invest in the **Holcim's assets** due to **dearer debt**.

Impact of the policy hike

The cost of capital is going to increase. The local banks will have to pay 4.4% on funds taken from its repo window. Further, the lenders are expected to raise their own rates in response. Therefore, the cost of borrowings will increase in India.

About the Climate arbitrage

There is an ongoing global reshuffle of **carbon-heavy assets**. Till now it was visible coal mining and oil and gas sector. But, **Holcim's rearrangement** of its asset is a step in this direction in

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

the field of cement industry. The cement making business involves **dirty processes** that cause carbon emissions and pollution. Therefore, corporations are setting emission caps to go green.

What are the issues in climate arbitrage?

This would worsen the **planet's crisis**. This system will not bring emissions down. There are many buyers for **high-exhaust** and **high-return assets**. The polluting technologies remain in daily use by those companies which are under less climate pressure.

Way Forward

The basic problem behind climate arbitrage stems from **green plans** running **ahead of usage reality**.

Therefore, the **game theory** calls for collective action with a cap-and-trade system based on **carbon pricing**. A global framework should be created which stop a reshuffle of assets.

7. [The world is short of time and not minerals for climate action](#)

Source: This post is based on the article **“The world is short of time and not minerals for climate action”** published in Livemint on **2nd May 22**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Environment – Climate Change

Relevance: Transition to a green economy

Context: The overlapping effects of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, covid-related supply chain disruptions and high inflation have all led to narratives that the clean-energy transition will be highly inflationary—or that it will stall.

The worries usually centre on the implications of soaring demand for commodities such as cobalt, lithium, nickel and copper that are used for electric vehicles (EV), solar cells, wind turbines and electrical grids.

The pitfalls of emission cuts must be seen in a broader context. A rush for minerals to build the new energy infrastructure is only a temporary problem.

What are the problems cited?

The International Energy Agency (IEA), highlights that an EV uses six times as much metals as a fossil fuel car and that wind farms use nine times as much as a gas-fired plant.

Some mines for the metals and minerals used in zero emissions energy systems will take years to come online. The IEA estimates **four to seven years for lithium**, depending on whether it is in Australia or South America. Copper mines can take well over a decade. It's easy to see that this could be a problem if demand ramps up unexpectedly fast.

What is the issue with this type of analysis?

The shock value of that analysis doesn't entirely withstand scrutiny.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Firstly, it fails to acknowledge the absence of fuel from the equation. For eg: an internal combustion pickup truck will use \$25,000 of fuel in a decade, under a low gasoline price scenario.

Secondly, it fails to consider the economics of demand and supply. More demand and higher prices will engender more supply.

Thirdly, running out of commodities is a popular fear, but the past couple of hundred years have seen **humans develop ever more efficient ways of finding things** they want under the ground and pulling them out. Examples: Consider the US shale oil boom of the past decade: the country's oil output more than doubled between 2008 and 2018. Both the 'resources' and the economically recoverable 'reserves' of transition minerals have tended to grow over time, even as production continues.

Fourthly, innovation also helps on the demand side. Electric car batteries today use far less cobalt than they did a decade ago, and researchers are confident in the prospects for doing without that scarce mineral altogether.

8. **India must use markets to decarbonise**

Source: The post is based on an article "India must use markets to decarbonise" published in the Indian Express on 02nd May 2022.

Syllabus: GS3 Infrastructure (Energy Sector) and Environment and Ecology

Relevance: Market based Interventions for climate change

News: Recently, in the **Conference of Parties (CoP-26)** of the UNFCCC held at Glasgow in November 2021 several partner countries were seen committed to concrete action plans to contain global warming under the threshold of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Why should India decarbonize?

Climate change is bound to impact human lives and the global economy. This is going to be at an exceptionally **high scale** in the coming future.

After China and the United States, India is the **third-largest emitter** of the Carbon dioxide. Thus is a key player in emissions reduction.

As per the **IEA's India Energy Outlook 2021 Report**, India's energy system is highly dependent on fossil fuels i.e., coal, oil and bioenergy. Thus, Indian energy ecosystem is highly carbon-intensive.

India is a **growing economy** which would demand more **energy consumption** with time. As per the IEA's World Energy Outlook Report 2017, India will account for nearly one-fourth of the global energy demand by 2040. Therefore, **India's economic growth** should be **sustainable**. It requires carbon emissions reductions.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

What are the reasons behind high Greenhouse Gases (GHG) emissions and the climate change?

It is a feature of **market failure**. The **consumer's economic activities** like driving or air-conditioning and the **producer's economic activities** such as electricity generation and manufacturing are **inefficient** in nature.

They cause emissions, leading to pollution and global warming. These **negative externalities** are not reflected in the costs of production and consumption. This leads to an **uncontrolled rise in emissions** and also breeds apathy towards mitigation efforts.

Way Forward

There is a need to address the problem of market failure. Government intervention is required in a number of ways.

(A) The government can adopt the **command-and-control** strategy. This involves regulations for reducing emissions like setting emission levels and **fixing limits of emissions**. However, it would be good only during the initial phase of the mitigation strategy.

Further, the **Nationally Determined Contribution targets** or emission levels set by the country under the **Paris Agreement** should not be wrongly set. It could lead to **cost-inefficient outcomes**.

(B) The **carbon tax** is a better option. It would work well for regulating the **pre-fixed levels of emissions**. This option will lead to **near-efficient outcomes**. **Initially**, the firm reduces the emissions, the marginal cost of abatement rises. However, the firm will stop reducing emissions and choose to pay tax at the point when the cost of abatement becomes higher than the rate of tax.

The government can introduce an **auction-based carbon trading scheme**. It will spur higher efficiency. The price of certificates will be determined in the free market between the firms facing low and high abatement costs. It will determine the **optimal** and **cost-efficient levels** of emissions reduction. The firms will have choice to either mitigate or trade. The firms having low abatement-cost will keep reducing emissions as they would profit by trading the certificates. They will adopt **green-tech, renewable energy, electrification** and **energy efficiency measures**.

India should adopt an **effective policy framework for emissions reduction**. It should take into account the reasons for market failure.

The **market-based instruments** are the most efficient tools for the transition to a green energy economy.

The government should ensure equity in energy access. It should channel the revenues generated from **carbon pricing** to households and firms impacted by the **carbon trading** and **carbon tax**.

FUEL PRICING AND RELATED ISSUES

9. **Reforming fuel taxes**

Source: This post is based on the article “**Reforming fuel taxes**” published in **Business Standard** on 2nd May 22.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy

Relevance: Increasing fuel prices

Context: Addressing the chief ministers of the states recently, Prime Minister said that the Union government had reduced excise duty on fuel last November, but pointed out that some states had not followed this lead.

States raised **several objections** to his statement. They pointed out that the Union government has earned windfall gains on fuel production and taxation in recent years. Moreover, even without a VAT cut, fuel taxes were lower in several of the states mentioned by the PM.

What are the issues associated with the taxation of fuel?

Failure to incorporate fuel into the goods and services tax (GST) regime. Petrol and diesel have been kept out of the GST net, which means that consumers are not given the advantage of being able to set off their costs as input credits.

Further, there is **no uniformity in the tax system**. The GST has a pre-determined sharing formula built in, and therefore such disagreement about relative tax rates will no longer occur.

What is the way forward?

Bringing fuel under the GST will mean that overall taxes on petrol and diesel will have to be reduced to conform to the GST slabs. But in order to maintain revenue neutrality, an **additional levy** can be charged to the extent that current collections are higher than what they would be under the lower GST rates. This additional levy can be a **special excise duty**. It can also be defined as a carbon tax in keeping with international norms.

This will also allow India to make an even stronger case internationally that it is meeting its commitments on climate change. This may not be the best solution, but it is certainly better than the present situation.

Ideally, **revenue from the carbon tax should be directed towards decarbonisation** or sustainability projects, and shared to this end with the states. A major point of contention between the Centre and states would thus be removed.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES AND RELATED ISSUES

10. **No short circuits: On electric vehicles catching fire**

Source: The post is based on an article “**No short circuits: On electric vehicles catching fire**” published in **The Hindu** on **03rd Mar 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3 Infrastructure, Transport Sector, Science and Technology

Relevance: Electric Vehicle and Li-Ion Battery Technologies

News: Recently, the Union government announced the constitution of an expert panel to investigate the causes of the **Li-ion battery explosions** in a number of incidents of burning of the electric vehicle (EV). Further, a few manufacturers have recalled batches of electric scooters after some caught fire.

Status of EV Sector in India

EVs have increasingly become a viable transportation device. According to Vahan database, there are 11 lakh electric/battery-operated vehicles registered in India.

What are the factors that have led to increased utilisation of EVs?

The significant reduction in costs of **lithium-ion batteries**. The costs have fallen by an estimated 89% since 2010.

The governments have incentivised the shift to EVs in wake of the climate change concerns.

The manufacture of electric vehicle (EV) for **commercial use** has undergone an acceleration. In addition, a number of **indigenous companies** manufacturing EV have mushroomed in the Indian market.

What are the causes of fire in the EV?

The **Li-ion battery** in the electric vehicles (EV) may catch fire due to the **convergence of heat, oxygen and fuel**.

Way Forward

The **Li-ion battery packs** that form the **core of the technology**, are sophisticated devices and there should be no compromise on the inbuilt safeguards. The **controlled manufacturing** of batteries is specifically required to prevent such incidents.

There should be absence of “**shoddy engineering**” and “**cutting corner approaches**” in the manufacturing of Li-ion batteries and the electric vehicles.

The manufacturers can go for **long-term changes** in Li-ion batteries such as the use of **solid-state electrolytes, special safety switches, thermal management solutions** that prevent accidental shorting of the cells, etc.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

The manufacturers and regulators must ensure that **testing** and **certification standards** related to **battery management systems** are met in existing Electric Vehicle (EV) systems and supply chains.

The Union Ministry of Transport has announced to issue guidelines for EVs **which** would include **tests** for compliance with **specific safety norms**.

GS3 – INTERNAL SECURITY – VARIOUS SECURITY FORCES AND AGENCIES AND THEIR MANDATE

ARMED FORCES REFORMS

11. **A New CDS Is Urgently Need**

Source: The post is based on an article “**A New CDS Is Urgently Needed**” published in **The Times of India** on **3rd May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3 Indian security; Mandate of various forces

Relevance: Indian Armed Forces Reforms

News: Recently, the **first chief of defence staff** General Bipin Rawat died in a helicopter crash almost five months ago. The post remained in cold storage after the **1999 Kargil conflict**. The first-ever CDS was appointed in 2019. The post of the chief of defence staff is significant for reforms in the Indian Armed forces.

Armed Forces Reforms Across the World

Around 70 countries, including the US, UK, France and Germany, have a CDS-like post for integration in military planning and operations.

The US has **11 unified combatant commands**, which include **six ‘geographical’ theatre** commands to handle different parts of the globe and **five ‘functional’ commands** that handle nuclear arsenal, special operations, space, cyberspace and transport.

In 2016, China re-organised its People’s Liberation Army into **five theatre commands**. **It improves the PLA’s command-and-control structures** and boosts **offensive capabilities** against the enemy. For example, **China’s Western Theatre Command** handles the entire Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Issues in front of the Indian Military Forces

India is the world’s third-largest military spender. However, it is plagued with **haphazard planning, ineffectual policies, piecemeal reforms** and the poor **domestic defence-industrial base**. Therefore, India is the world’s largest arms importer, accounting for 11% of global imports. Indian armed forces grapple with shortages of fighters, submarines, helicopters or different kinds of ammunition.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

India is facing border disputes. For example, there is an ongoing border crisis with China in eastern Ladakh.

There are challenges of military modernisation due to pressure of the ballooning salary and pension bills.

There are the **new warfare domains** of **space** and **cyberspace** as well as **clandestine operations**. For example, China has developed **cyberweapons** to destroy an adversary's military assets, strategic networks, energy, banking, transport and communication grids even before the actual **kinetic war** kicks off.

What is the status of services/theatre commands in India?

At present, there are existing **17 single-service commands** (army 7, IAF 7 and navy 3). In addition, India currently has only two unified commands, the '**geographical**' **Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC)** and the '**functional**' **Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** to handle the nuclear arsenal.

It is proposed to subsume **17 single-service commands** under 4 **integrated commands**. This would ensure avoiding wastage of manpower, infrastructure and resources. The commands will prepare the forces for **integrated land-air-sea operations**.

Functions and Importance of the newly created position of the chief of defence staff (CDS)

The CDS is important to accomplish the task of building a **lean, mean, integrated warfighting machine** within **budgetary constraints**. The **annual defence budget** is unlikely to see a dramatic hike due to competing demands from other sectors in a developing country like India. The position is the **prime driver** behind the **far-reaching restructuring** of the Indian armed forces.

He can build **military capabilities of India** with proper **inter-service prioritisation** in tune with **India's geopolitical objectives**. Therefore, the first CDS has proposed the creation of the **four integrated commands** in India. These commands would have the assets and manpower of army, navy and IAF under a **single operational commander** in each theatre.

He can promote **synergy** among the army, navy and IAF in planning, procurements, logistics, doctrines and operations.

Recently, the CDS has been responsible for creation of the **small tri-service Defence Space Agency, Defence Cyber Agency, and the Armed Forces Special Operations Division**.

Way Forward

There is also the urgent need to **right-size the armed forces** by slashing the **non-operational flab** and **infusing cutting-edge military technologies**.

Various government initiatives are facing criticism. For example, the '**Tour of Duty**' scheme, proposal to make **Short Service Commission (SSC)** more attractive like grant of paid study leave to a golden handshake at the end of their tenures of 10-14 years etc.

INDIA'S TRADE POLICY

12. They're locked down, we aren't: Indian manufacturing has a huge China-made opportunity but it's open for only a brief period

Source: This news is based on the article “**They're locked down, we aren't: Indian manufacturing has a huge China-made opportunity but it's open for only a brief period**” published in **the Times of India** on **6th May 22**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy

Relevance: Industrial policy and growth

Context: India and China are currently facing very different scenarios wrt the COVID pandemic. Google Mobility Data, a special mobility trends dataset created for the pandemic, shows that most Indian public spaces are now just as busy as pre-Covid, if not more.

China, on the other hand, faces a very different situation. Covid cases are rising there dramatically, and severe lockdowns are back. A large city like Shanghai (population: 2.6 crore) has been locked down with people confined to their buildings for weeks.

How is China's situation impacting the world?

The situation in China is impacting business.

It has also led to a worsening of a problem the world was already suffering – **supply chain issues**. – Chinese lockdowns have meant workers can't reach factories, which means factory outputs drop, which means the world doesn't get goods. People in the US currently complain about long waits for several items – beds, closets, automobiles and appliances to name a few.

Is there an opportunity for India?

Yes. The **solution to global supply chain issues is India**.

China, with unmatched efficiency, affordability, productivity and infrastructure became the manufacturing king of the world. However, today, that same dependence on China is causing problems. Today, companies worldwide are finally willing to listen to something we have been trying to say for years – **Make in India**.

Make no mistake, the current Chinese supply chain issues are a **once-in-a-lifetime limited opportunity for India** to shine and present itself as an alternative, **diversified manufacturing hub**.

What should India do presently?

India must act and announce a **mega-plan to attract more companies** here as soon as possible. Several schemes have been announced to attract manufacturing here. Apple now makes in India. Tesla is being courted as well.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Just as we have inspectors and bureaucrats who are ready to stop operations if something is going wrong, we can have senior government officials incentivized to do the opposite.

India can have **bureaucrats who are relationship managers**, whose performance is evaluated based on how many new companies they help get up and running in India.

Attracting investments isn't always about offering monetary incentives and tax breaks (Indian corporate tax rates are already moderate). India can attract investors by offering **predictability, efficiency and peace of mind**.

Way forward

This opportunity is, however, for a limited time only. For Covid and its lockdowns will eventually leave China as well. Then the world will simply forget the Chinese manufacturing problems of the past.

13. India must seize the trade opportunity opening now

Source: The post is based on an article "India must seize the trade opportunity opening now" published in the Indian Express on 06th May 2022.

Syllabus: GS2 – Indian Economy

Relevance: Trade opportunities, Export Sector

News: The year 2021 was a record one for trade despite the pandemic. The world merchandise trade volume grew at twice the rate of world GDP at market exchange rates in the two decades before the global financial crisis.

According to the WTO, the World merchandise trade volume is expected to grow at 3% in 2022 and 3.4% in 2023.

Status of India's exports

India has had a good export run in line with global trends. India witnessed record goods exports of \$419 billion, while touching \$250 billion in services exports.

What are the new opportunities?

The exporters (including Indian) look to tap into **newer agricultural commodity export opportunities**. Ukraine and Sri Lanka which are major exporters of agricultural products are having limited presence in global trade.

The new opportunities will **spur overall exports** and will also help to support the **recovery** of the **agrarian economy** through higher realisations.

The food security in Europe and Africa depends on wheat supplies from Russia and Ukraine. Therefore, India has new opportunities for **wheat export** in these **new markets** and supplies have been disrupted.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Sri Lanka (the largest producer of tea) is a major player in the **global tea market**. Almost 98 per cent of its annual production is exported. Sri Lanka is a major player in **textile export**. However prolonged power cuts in the island nation will hurt its production and export capacity.

India has **newer export opportunities** in **tea** and **textile export**.

In addition, major **global garments brands** such as Zara and H&M have been reportedly looking towards India. Chinese factories are locked up due to a Covid surge and the Asian exporters like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Cambodia lack the capacity to fill the void. Therefore, India can seize this opportunity.

What are the challenges?

The **ratio** between trade and GDP growth may fall to **1.1:1** in 2022 and 2023 due to slower **global growth**, an **adverse geopolitical environment**, the shadow of **recurring waves** of the pandemic and prolonged **supply chain issues**.

Measures to tap export opportunities in developed markets

One, the government should work on **non-tariff barriers** for agricultural trade with a special focus on harmonising the **sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS)** requirements. The government should implement **sector-specific measures** and strengthen the **traceability system** in supply chains.

Two, to support tea exports, **traditional tea boards** should be given greater role and autonomy for optimising the **development, promotion, and research** in the sector. The proposed **Tea Promotion and Development Act** should be implemented.

Three, India must **integrate** with **global supply chains**. A slew of **trade deals**, and a **new pro-trade policy** should work in this direction.

Four, **tariff rates** for **intermediate inputs** should be reduced to either **zero** or should be negligible for India. It will make India an attractive location for **assembly activities**.

Five, India should create an **enabling ecosystem** that realigns its **specialisation patterns** towards **labour-intensive processes** and **product lines**. The **labour market reforms** must be taken.

Six, a continuous and pro-active **FDI policy** is critical. The **foreign capital and technology transfer** enables entry of local firms into **global production networks**. The local firms play a role as subcontractors and suppliers of intermediate inputs to MNEs.

Seventh, the issue of **logistical bottlenecks** should be taken care of by the government. **The Economic Survey 2019** had recommended that low **levels of service link costs** (costs related to transportation, communication, etc) are prerequisites to strengthen their participation in GVCs.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

UNEMPLOYMENT IN INDIA AND RELATED ISSUES

14. The workers hit the hardest

Source: The post is based on an article “**The workers hit the hardest**” published in **The Hindu** on **05th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3 Issues in planning, mobilization of resources, employment, growth and development.

Relevance: Employment

News: Recently, the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) released the **Consumer Pyramids Household Survey**. According to the survey, employment in India fell from 408.9 million in 2019-20 to 387.2 million in 2020-21 and then recovered to 401.8 million in 2021-22.

General trends of employment in India

Firstly, employment was declining at the rate of about 0.31% per annum before the pandemic. This led to loss of **7 million** (1.7%) jobs in the pre-pandemic year of 2019-20.

Second, the declining trend continued during the pandemic. A lot of job were lost. However, most of the jobs lost during lockdowns came back when the restrictions on mobility are lifted. However, despite of recovery, **4.5 million jobs** remained lost in the **long-term** due to the shock of the pandemic.

Therefore, in 2021-22, the unemployed who were actively seeking work but were unable to find any were estimated at **33 million**. This was higher than the pre-pandemic levels.

What is the category-wise employment trends in India since the pandemic?

Women

The women suffered job losses disproportionately during economic shocks and the pandemic. For example, they accounted for less than 11% of all jobs in 2019-20, but nearly 52% of the 7 million job loser were women. It was more predominant in Urban India.

The small traders/vendors and daily wage workers

They could **enter** and **exit** the labour markets with **ease** during a crisis. For example, during the first lockdown, 79 million small traders and daily wage labourers lost employment. But most of them were back to work after the end of the first lockdown.

Entrepreneurs

The pandemic has **reversed a trend** of rising entrepreneurs. There was a fall of about 1% in sharp contrast to the 13% per annum growth in entrepreneurs before the pandemic.

Salaried employees Category

They witnessed the **biggest relative fall** in employment (6.8%). They cannot go back to work unlike daily wage labourers, small traders and entrepreneurs. Except for a few high-skill jobs, finding a new salaried job is difficult.

What were the challenges for women wrt work from home (WFH) situation?

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Working from home with the rest of the **family** at home was not easy for women. It increased their hardship.

The WFH does not help **small traders/vendors** and **daily wage labourers** who are required to go out for work for a living. Their earnings depend upon their ability to reach markets and trade their goods or services for daily earnings. In fact, they account for the largest share of employment in India.

What are going to be the challenges?

The **7 million jobs** lost over the two years since the COVID-19 outbreak is unevenly distributed. It would be difficult to recover all of them anytime soon.

Employing **women** and providing **salaried jobs** are the **two big challenges** that will be difficult to tackle soon.

In addition to generating jobs for those who have lost jobs during the pandemic, more job creations will be needed to employ those people who will enter the labour force in the coming year.

Future outlook

It is expected that entrepreneurship can rise again principally because of a lack of salaried jobs. If the Indian economy expands by about 7.5% in 2022-23, 6 million jobs can come back. However, despite this, more jobs need to be created to employ new entrants in the working age population and the labour force.

POVERTY AND RELATED ISSUES

15. Let us not underestimate deprivation in the country

Source: This post is based on the article “**Let us not underestimate deprivation in the country**” published in **Livemint** on **3rd May 22**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Issues related to poverty

Relevance: Poverty in India

Context: Status of extreme poverty in India prior to the pandemic is unclear. The most recent survey data (2017-18) was not officially released, but leaked reports showed a fall in real consumption and an unprecedented rise in poverty.

In the absence of recent official data, two studies have attempted to estimate the numbers:

- An **IMF working paper** by Bhalla, Bhasin and Virmani (BBV) uses the growth rate of private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) from the National Accounts Statistics.
- A **World Bank paper** by Sinha Roy and Van der Weide (SRW) uses consumption data from the CMIE Consumer Pyramids Household Survey.

Also, the National Sample Survey Office is planning to conduct the next round soon.

What are the key findings of the studies?

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

IMF working paper	World Bank paper
Extreme poverty rate declined to 3.4% in 2019	Extreme poverty rate (\$1.9 a day or Tendulkar line) fell from 22% in 2011 to 10% in 2019. This is a healthy decline, though not as rapid as what occurred between 2004-05 (40%) and 2011-12.
The large decline in India's poverty rate is due to strong consumption growth and a moderation of inflation.	

Way forward

It is important to keep sight of the human element and bigger picture.

The **\$1.9 poverty line is too low**. It is time India moves to a **higher line, such as \$3.2 a day** or a line derived from the recommended National Floor Minimum Wage.

The covid outbreak has undoubtedly slowed down progress, but India is moving towards eliminating extreme poverty. Timely data and pro-poor policies will help it get there sooner.

GS3 – INDIAN ECONOMY – MONETARY POLICY

INFLATION AND RELATED ISSUES

16. Inflation and what to do about it: Secure cheap Russian oil at least

Source: This post is based on the article “**Inflation and what to do about it: Secure cheap Russian oil at least**” published in Livemint on **5th May 22**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy – Inflation

Relevance: Monetary policy and Inflation management

Context: The current price rise in Indian economy is largely driven by the non-core elements in the retail consumption basket. The food element in the non-core is being driven up both by primary global supply shortages and the rise in the fuel cost of transporting food. The key, therefore, is the cost of fuel.

Core inflation = Headline inflation – Non-core elements (food and fuel)

India secured Russian crude oil in the face of sanctions, reportedly on offer at a discount of \$20-30 per barrel. This raised hopes of inflation control without having to resort to monetary contraction.

But, the impact of discounts will take time to take effect.

Why cheap Russian crude oil is not helping bring down cost of fuel?

A Bloomberg article authored by Serene Cheong and Debjit Chakraborty identifies the problem as the following:

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

– **The way Indian oil refineries source crude oil**—by a call for tenders from trader intermediaries, few enough in number to form oligarchies which collude on prices.

The deep discounts on Russian crude are reportedly **being pocketed by those traders**, while refineries continue to pay what might at best be a marginally discounted price.

There exists an oligarchic hold of intermediaries in the global market for oil. Global markets for primary commodities are characterized by **powerful price-maker intermediaries**.

Way forward

Both headline and core will benefit enormously if India can manage to secure those large discounts on Russian crude.

17. Inflation control needs another model

Source: The post is based on an article “**Inflation control needs another model**” published in **the Hindu** on **05th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3 Indian Economy

Relevance: Inflation Targeting

News: Recently, **the Monetary Policy Committee** has announced its primary focus on inflation or the” **inflation targeting**. Keeping the high inflationary pressure into consideration, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the policy repo rate in order to ensure price stability.

Status of inflation in India

The wholesale price inflation has been in the double digits for over 12 months. The consumer price index (CPI) has breached the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)’s upper target of 6%.

What is Inflation targeting?

Inflation targeting is based on the idea that inflation is the result of “**overheating**” of the economy. It reflects an **excess of output** over its ‘**natural**’ level.

Therefore, the central bank raised the **interest rate** or ‘**repo rate**’ to control inflation. It is the rate at which the central bank lends to commercial banks. It induces firms to stay their **investment plans**, and focus on **reducing inventories**, and lowering production. This ensures the contraction of the output takes to the natural level of output (i.e., optimal level). This may lead to a decline in inflation. It ensures full employment and freely functioning labour market.

What are the issues in inflation targeting in India?

India’s **official model of inflation control** is based on **unscientific** a foundation. The Indian model is based on the idea to achieve “**natural level of output**”. However, it is a **theoretical** and unobservable phenomenon. The **RBI report of 2014** did not mention any empirical validity of this model of inflation.

India’s model is based on the idea that inflation is driven by **agricultural goods prices**. Therefore, the production and supply of agricultural goods should be increased. This would

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

cause the Indian economy to expand without inflation. However, whenever there is **surplus agricultural production**, the government procures food grains at the highest price. This leads to inflation.

The growing per capita income in India has shifted the **average consumption basket** towards foods rich in minerals, such as fruits and vegetables, and protein, such as milk and meat. But the expansion of the supply of these foods has been lower than the growth in demand for them. Therefore, the RBI's present move of increasing the repo rate is not an efficient solution for an **agricultural price-driven inflation**.

Way Forward

Monetary policy can control inflation by curbing the growth of **non-agricultural output**. This would in turn lower the growth of demand for agricultural goods. As the demand for agricultural goods slows, so will inflation.

There should be a focus to increase the **supply** of food other than rice and wheat like **fruits, vegetables, milk** and **meat**.

The government should work hard towards increasing **agricultural productivity** and thereby increasing agricultural production and supply.

18. Rising inflation cannot be fought well without global coordination

Source: This post is created based on the article "**Rising inflation cannot be fought well without global coordination**" published in Live Mint on 4th May 2022.

Syllabus: GS Paper 3 – Indian Economy – Inflation

Context: Inflation has suddenly become a major global problem. However, inflation is one of the least understood phenomena within economics and requires much more research.

Many major and small countries of the world, like the US, Turkey, South Korea, EU, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka are facing the problem of inflation. However, fine-tuned management of inflation is a missing aspect of economics.

What are the reasons behind rising inflation across the world?

Supply-chain disruptions triggered initially by the covid pandemic and now by the Ukraine war are the major reasons.

The **price rise of Food and energy products** is a major reason behind eurozone inflation.

The **rise in aggregate demand** was caused by the largest government spending packages in American history.

In the case of **emerging economies**, mainly demand-driven inflation is the major cause. Furthermore, due to unevenly skewed inflation across goods and services, a mere exchange-rate correction cannot work.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Due to globalization, central banks seem relatively ineffective in tackling today's inflation. It is because of the easy flow of goods, services, and capital from one country to another country. Thus, If one country tries to control inflation by raising interest rates, money will flow into that country, causing its exchange rate to appreciate and dampen exports.

What should be done to manage inflation effectively?

We have enough **examples of preventing major hyperinflationary episodes**, like the record-breaking cases in Germany in 1923 and Hungary in 1946, and in parts of Latin America and Africa in more recent times. This knowledge can be used cautiously. Better global coordination of monetary policy is essential.

GS3 – ENVIRONMENT – CLIMATE CHANGE

HEATWAVES IN INDIA

19. **In rising heat, the cry of the wilting outdoor worker**

Source: This news is based on the article "In rising heat, the cry of the wilting outdoor worker" published in **The Hindu** on **7th May 22**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Environment

Relevance: Protecting the vulnerable sections from the impact of extreme heatwaves

Context: The intensity and frequency of heatwaves have soared in South Asia and they are set to worsen in the years ahead. The consequences for health and livelihoods are catastrophic, as a third of South Asia's population depends on outdoor work.

India must initiate safety nets — a combination of targeted transfers and insurance schemes — to improve the resilience of outdoor workers.

What is the situation wrt extreme heat in India and across the world?

Situation in India

Extreme heat conditions have hit swathes of India, not only in the northern States of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and New Delhi, but now increasingly also in the south.

– Delhi this month suffered its second warmest April in 72 years, temperatures averaging 40.2°C, and Gurgaon in neighbouring Haryana crossed 45°C for the first time.

Global situation

Over the last 100 years, global temperatures have risen by 1.5°C and, at the current rate, could reach 4°C by 2100.

So far in the year, **2022 has been the fifth-warmest year on record**.

What are the reasons behind extreme heat in India?

India's warming is the result not only of local factors but also global warming.

The culprit in the current plight from intense weather is the **anthropogenic GHG emissions**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

What are the various impacts of the heatwaves?

Heatwaves are proving to be Europe's **deadliest climate disaster**. India faces the largest heat exposure impacts in South Asia.

Loss of life: One study finds that 1,41,308 lives were claimed by acute weather in India during 1971-2019, of which the loss of 17,362 lives (12%) was due to unrelenting heat.

Economic loss: Worldwide economic losses, by one estimate, could reach **U.S.\$1.6 trillion (₹1.6 lakh crore)** annually if global warming exceeds 2°C. India, China, Pakistan, and Indonesia, where large numbers of people work outdoors, are among the most vulnerable.

– India's outdoor workers, reeling under daily temperatures of more than 40°C, are on the frontlines of the climate catastrophe.

What needs to be done?

The optimal approach

Adaptation is essential: Climate mitigation or decarbonization of economies especially of the big emitters, such as the USA, the EU, China, and India remains important. But **temperatures are set to rise regardless of mitigation**, based on the emission damage already done. That means climate adaptation is as big a priority as mitigation.

– **Better environmental care:** A crucial aspect of adaptation is better environmental care that can contribute to cooling. **For instance:** Agriculture, being water-intensive, does not do well in heat wave-prone areas. A solution is to **promote better agricultural practices** which are not water-intensive and to **support afforestation** that has a positive effect wrt warming.

Protecting the outdoor workers

Response to the current plight of outdoor workers can be linked to climate adaptation.

– **Financial transfers** can be targeted to help farmers plant trees and buy equipment better suited for the extreme weather. For example, support for drip irrigation can reduce heavy water usage.

– **Averting slash and burn agriculture and stubble burning** is not only key to cutting air pollution but also cooling temperatures.

– **Urban green** such as street trees, urban forests and green roofs can help cool urban areas.

– Workers in cities and villages can benefit from **early warning systems and better preparedness** as well as **community outreach programmes** during an episode.

Insurance for workers: Insurance against natural hazards is minimal not only in India but also Asia where less than 10% of the losses are typically covered. Government and insurers need to collaborate in providing greater coverage of losses from extreme weather events, including for calamities from brutal heat.

– For greater effectiveness, **transfers and insurance payments can be tied to investments in resilience** made at the local levels, such as restoring the urban environment that has a cooling

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

effect. Delhi's Aravali Biodiversity Park is a stand-out example that transformed a barren landscape into forest communities protecting greenery and biodiversity.

- **Transfers could also be linked with mapping of the incidence of heatwaves across locations.** The most severely affected areas are also likely to be the most poverty-prone and need stronger insurance packages, including guarantees for crop losses.
- Incentive schemes could also be tailored to annual changes in the intensity of the hazard.
- The **projections of the IMD can guide future scenarios**, which the Central government can use to develop subsidies and insurance schemes linked to State and district-level actions for building resilience to climate change

Way forward

Tying cash transfers and insurance schemes to State and local green investments will not only provide some financial cover for outdoor workers but also motivate small-scale investments in much-needed resilience to heatwaves.

INDIA AND THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

20. [Like Nero, we fiddle as the world burns](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "**Like Nero, we fiddle as the world burns**" published in the **Indian Express** on **04th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Environment and Ecology – Climate Change

Relevance: Tackling Climate Change, mitigation efforts

News: Recently, the temperature level of four to eight degrees above normal have been recorded in South Asia. Such intense heat waves have not been seen in more than a century.

Pattern of extreme weather events due to climate change

(1) Spatial Pattern: India is uniquely vulnerable to heat waves. The vulnerability will increase with climate change. But **larger heat waves** are now a possibility everywhere: From Chicago to California, from Australia to Europe.

(2) Temporal Pattern In 2019, the **global heat waves** took a toll of about 3,50,000 excess deaths world-wide. Weather events like these validate the worldwide arguments of climate catastrophism.

The recently released IPCC Synthesis Report mentions that the future is already here. The world has bypassed the point where we could have limited global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

Measures already taken to mitigate the climate change

India has taken various measures to mitigate climate change. For example, India has ramped up renewable energy capacity and kept fuel taxes high.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

Globally, **private investment** in “**green technologies**” is accelerating. For example, the growth of the **green bonds market**. The financial help is available for countries that want to get off the fossil fuel path.

What are the challenges wrt mounting an effective response against climate change?

(A) Global Level

The world has to counter the challenge of a number of climate deniers and peddlers of fake news across the world.

Further, those who do acknowledge that climate change is the reality are imprisoned by a sense of unreality. These countries **do not** take **collective action** in relation to **climate change**. They think only in terms of its **national interest**.

Further, the **targets announced by the countries are not in terms of measures that will actually mitigate climate change**. They are actually announced only to show the upper hand in global discourse.

In reality, the developed world has failed to accept its **historical responsibility**. They put **disproportionate blame** on developing countries. For example, the US has been blaming other countries.

The will of the countries to live up to **modest Paris climate targets** has diminished. For example, (1) the Ukraine war has revived the focus on fossil fuels on a massive scale, and (2) the US has not released many funds, despite big announcements for the **climate related development finance** of developing countries.

In turn, **developing countries** like India are seeing the **global climate debate** and the IPCC's alarmism as another ruse to trap developing countries. The **climate debates** are being used as a wedge to **pressure developing countries**.

The developing countries are accusing the developed countries of **climate colonialism** instead of finding creative solutions for combating climate change.

Climate change mitigation measures like private investment are more about business opportunities.

The IPCC Synthesis Report points out that the countries are making it harder not easier to reach the 1.5-degree Celsius global warming target.

India

– Although India claims to have increased forest cover, its commitment to renewables, and electric vehicles, however, India is facing various issues. **For instance:** Indian **cities** are hotter, **water** is more precarious, health is subject to the vagaries of climate, and dependence on fossil fuels is higher than necessary.

Way Forward

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

India needs to ask whether its actions and initiatives are achieving the objective of making India more habitable.

GS3 – ENVIRONMENT – ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

SAVING KASHMIR'S LAKES

21. **Paradise polluted: Can we save Kashmir's lakes?**

Source: The post is based on an article “Paradise polluted: Can we save Kashmir's lakes?” published in the **Live Mint** on **06th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3 Environment and Conservation

Relevance: Kashmir's Lake Ecology

Context: Normalcy is gradually returning to Jammu and Kashmir after the upheaval caused by the abrogation of **Article 370** of the Constitution. Tourism has been rapidly growing.

For example, 100% hotel occupancy was seen in popular resorts of Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam in the winter months of 2021-22.

What are the problems being faced by the locals?

Almost every Kashmir Lake has been facing **degradation**, like Dal Lake, Nigeen, Khushal Sar, Gilsar and Anchar.

These lakes are the **source of livelihood** for local people. 500,000 people of Kashmir are directly and indirectly associated with tourism. But these lakes have been polluted (For example, Dal Lake). They are full of plastic bags, empty bottles and overgrown weeds. The lake's ecology has been destroyed. The dead birds floating on the water has become a common phenomenon.

What are the factors behind environmental degradation?

It is human interventions, particularly encroachments, which have ruined **water quality**. The lakes are shrinking

The lakes are being polluted by **weeds** and **ferns** like **Azolla**, increasing **silt** and **encroachments** of various kinds.

The most important cause of pollution is release of the **untreated sewage**, according to the UT's pollution control board, Srinagar generates around **201 million litres** of sewage daily, but its **sewage treatment plants** can handle only 53.8 million litres. The rest flows into Dal Lake and other lakes and the Jhelum River.

The pollution is also caused by release of **effluents** from the houseboats. The registration of new houseboats was banned in 1982. Further, the repair and renovation of registered houseboats was also banned by the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in 2009.

Rehabilitation Efforts Made So Far

(A) The Government efforts

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

(1) The **Srinagar Master Plan of 1971** has never been seriously adhered to. In 1997, the ministry of environment and forests launched a **'Save Dal' project**.

(2) In 2018, the **Indian Army** launched a 21-day **'clean Dal' mission**– uprooting weeds and removing plastic and other waste.

(3) In 2019, the Union home minister announced a package for the Dal Lake's preservation. In 2002, **'Swachha Pakhwada' drive** was launched for the lake, as part of **the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**. But even today, little evidence of all this effort is visible.

(4) In 2007, the **J&K's Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA)** launched a project to shift families living around Dal Lake to Bemina, 12 km away. But the project has failed. The land acquisition is still incomplete, and those shifted complained about joblessness and lack of basic facilities.

(B) Efforts by the Judiciary

(1) The **Jammu & Kashmir High Court** observed, "Despite public money being pumped in by the government, the authorities have proved helpless and unable to effectively ensure some meaningful outcome."

(2) In 2002, following a **public interest litigation** claiming that **the Srinagar Master Plan** was being blatantly violated, the court took over monitoring of the **Dal Lake's water quality** and directed its immediate clean up. **Later judgments** ordered all encroachments within **200 metres** of the lake be demolished.

(C) Citizens' Initiative

A social activist Manzoor Wangnoo, launched a plan to clean up **Khushal Sar** (one of the smaller lakes) following the **Article 370 abrogation** and the dissolution of the assembly, **civil society** in the spring of 2021.

A **door-to-door campaign** was launched in the catchment area to raise awareness about the socio-economic importance of the lake as a revenue earner.

Way Forward

The problem demands a **community approach** for a **comprehensive restoration of the lakes**. The houseboats are an important tourist attraction, and their dwindling number would affect tourism income. Therefore, the government is promoting **sustainable houseboats** through a **houseboat policy** in 2021.

– A new houseboat could be built on the lakes if they are equipped with a **bio-digester-a mechanised toilet system**.

– Similarly, repair of damaged houseboats would be allowed on case-by-case basis,

In addition to **sustainable houseboats**, the government should look into Kashmir's **unsustainable urbanisation**, rapid rise in the tourist's inflow since 1960 and 1970s, the **choked canals**, and **deforestation** along the streams that has caused inflow of more silt in the lake.

SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND RELATED ISSUES

22. What severe disruptions taught us about supply chain resilience

Source: This post is created based on the article “What severe disruptions taught us about supply chain resilience” published in **Live Mint** on **5th May 2022**.

Syllabus Topic – GS Paper 3 – Industries and industrial policies

Context: Events like Covid Pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war have highlighted the importance of global supply chains for economic resilience.

The global events of the last 2 years have proved that intermediate goods procurement is really important. For example, the shortage of semiconductors has upset the production schedules of automobile companies across the world.

How have companies responded to global supply Chain disruptions?

The April edition of World Economic Outlook has listed some examples:

First, General Motors has decided to reduce the use of unique semiconductor chips down to just three types of microcontrollers.

Second, Tesla rewrote the software used by its cars so that they could use available semiconductors, rather than stopping its assembly lines.

Third, following the 2011 earthquake in Japan, Toyota standardized components across models so that different units could share inventory across various factories. It regionalized its supply chain to reduce dependence on any one location and told its single-source suppliers to either produce in several locations or hold excess inventory.

How have Indian policymakers responded?

The Indian government has started holding excess stocks to deal with unexpected shocks after Food shortages in the early decades after independence and the Balance of Payments crises before 1991.

What should be done?

Protectionism or the aim to produce everything within the country are impractical ideas. For that, a country would require to reinvest everything. The International Monetary Fund has provided two useful principles for making supply chains more resilient.

First, supply chains must be diversified geographically.

Second, there should be greater ease of substitution so that a company can quickly switch input sourcing from one country to another.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

GS3 – INDIAN ECONOMY – GST AND RELATED ISSUES

GST AND RELATED ISSUES

23. [Let's make GST a good and simple tax](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article “Let's make GST a good and simple tax” published in Indian Express on 6th May 2022.

Syllabus topic: GS Paper 3 – Indian Economy – Mobilization of resources

Context: Existing GST rate structure needs to be rationalized.

The introduction of GST might be the most important tax reform. It was a unique experiment in cooperative federalism, where both the Union and the state governments gave up their tax autonomy in favor of harmonizing domestic trade taxes. However, **some negative features** have been inserted into the tax to make it acceptable.

Why single rate structure of GST is favorable?

The single rate structure has been more acceptable and beneficial globally, because,

Firstly, it **simplifies** the tax structure.

Secondly, it prevents **misclassifications and litigations** due to multiple rates.

Third, it avoids an **inverted duty structure** of taxes on inputs. India has this structure on items like electrical transformers, railway wagons, some textile products, plastic bags, and solar modules.

An inverted duty structure comes up in a situation where import duties on input goods are higher than on finished goods.

Fourth, the main argument in favor of rate differentiation is **equity**. However, it is an inefficient way of targeting benefits for the poor. Poor consume more exempted and low-rated items. Furthermore, the ideal way of targeting the benefits to the poor is on the expenditure side, through targeted cash transfers.

Fifth, it will **end the lobbying** by manufacturers for placing their products in the low tax rate category.

How the present tax collections have improved then?

GST revenues have increased significantly, with collections of over Rs 1 lakh crore in the last 10 months and touching a record of Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April 2022.

However, economic recovery or tax structure is not the reason. The **GSTN has been able to stabilize the technology platform**. Making e-invoicing mandatory for all businesses above Rs 100 crore has made the detection of fake invoices easy that were used to claim the input tax credit.

This has helped to improve tax compliance and has also enabled better enforcement.

What should be done?

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

It would be desirable to have a single rate of tax, besides exemptions on unprocessed food items, in the long run. However, in the short run, 12 percent and 18 percent categories should be merged into a 15-16 percent slab. 28 percent category should be removed altogether.

GS3 – INTERNAL SECURITY – THREATS TO INTERNAL SECURITY

NAGA PEACE TALKS

24. The status of the Naga peace talks

Source: This post is based on the article “**The status of the Naga peace talks**” published in **The Hindu** on **6th May 22**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Internal Security

Relevance: Naga insurgency issue

News: The annual report of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) released recently said that the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) was involved in 44% of insurgency-related incidents in Nagaland in 2020.

The Union government had, in 2015, signed a framework agreement with the NSCN-IM to find a solution to the Naga political issue.

The negotiations are yet to be concluded.

Why did Naga insurgency begin?

The term ‘Naga’ was **created by the British for administrative convenience** to refer to a group of tribes with similar origins but distinct cultures, dialects, and customs.

- The Naga tribes are accumulated in **Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Myanmar**.

Residing in the Naga hills of Assam during the advent of the British and the annexation of Assam in 1820, the Nagas **did not consider themselves a part of British India**.

The British adopted a way of governance over the Nagas that involved **keeping in place their traditional ways of life**, customs, and laws while putting British administrators at the top.

At the time of the withdrawal of the British, **insecurity grew among the Naga tribes** about the future of their cultural autonomy after India’s independence, which was accompanied by the **fear of the entry of “plains people” or “outsiders”** into their territory.

- These gave rise to the formation of the **Naga Hills District Tribal Council** in 1945, which was renamed the **Naga National Council (NNC)** in 1946.

Amid uncertainties over the post-independence future of the Nagas, a section of the NNC, led by **Naga leader A.Z. Phizo declared the independence** of the Nagas on August 14, 1947, a day before India’s declaration.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

– The **underground insurgency began** in the early 1950s when Mr. Phizo founded the **Naga Federal Government (NFG)** and its armed wing, the Naga Federal Army (NFA).

The Central Government sent the insurgency and imposed the contentious **Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)**, which is still in place in parts of Nagaland.

Unlike other groups in the northeast which were accepting some form of autonomy under the Constitution, Nagas rejected this in favour of sovereignty.

Some leaders among the NNC formed their own group to hold discussions with the government, leading to the **formation of the State of Nagaland in 1963**. This, however, did not satisfy many in the NNC and NFG, who, following years of negotiations with the government, eventually signed the **Shillong Accord of 1975**, agreeing to surrender arms and accept the Constitution.

When did the NSCN come into the picture?

This **signing of the Shillong Accord was not agreeable** with many top leaders of the NNC and those operating from Myanmar as the agreement did not address the issue of Naga sovereignty and coerced them to accept the Constitution.

Three NNC leaders — Thuingaleng Muivah of the Tangkhul Naga tribe of Manipur's Ukhrul district, Isak Chishi Swu of the Sema tribe, and S. S. Khaplang from Myanmar's Hemis tribe, **formed the National Socialist Council Of Nagaland (NSCN)** to continue the armed movement. The motto of the NSCN was to **create a People's Republic of Nagaland** free of Indian rule.

In 1988, after years of infighting and violent clashes, the NSC split into two groups – **a) One**, led by Mr. Muivah and Swu called the **NSCN-IM** and the other, **b) Second**, led by Mr. Khaplang called the **NSCN-K**.

The NSCN-IM demanded and continues to demand **'Greater Nagaland' or Nagalim** — it wants to extend Nagaland's borders by including Naga-dominated areas in the neighbouring States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh.

The NSCN-IM has now grown to become the most powerful insurgent group, also playing a role in the creation of smaller groups in other States.

Where do peace talks stand now?

In 1997, the Government of India got the NSCN-IM to sign a **ceasefire agreement** to begin the holding of talks with the aim of signing a Naga Peace Accord. After this ceasefire, there have been over a hundred rounds of talks.

In 2015, it signed a Framework Agreement with the NSCN (IM), the first step towards an actual Peace Accord.

In 2020, the NSCN-IM accused the Centre's interlocutor, Mr Ravi, of tweaking the agreement to mislead other Naga groups. The NSCN-IM continued to demand a **separate flag and constitution for the Nagas and the creation of Nagalim**, which it claimed was agreed upon in the Agreement.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

On 19th April 2022, AK Mishra, the newly appointed interlocutor, visited the NSCN-IM's camp in Dimapur to hold closed-door talks but **issues over the Naga flag and constitution remain to be ironed out.**

GS3 - SCIENCE AND TECH – INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK (VPN)

25. [How India's new VPN rules change the status quo](#)

Source: This post is based on the article “**How India's new VPN rules change the status quo**” published in **Livemint** on **6th May 22.**

Syllabus: GS3 – Science and Tech – Information Technology

Relevance: Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and related issues

News: On 28 April 2022, the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (Cert-In) issued new directives that require Virtual Private Network (VPN) providers to store user data for five years.

What does the directive say?

Under the new directions,

Storage of user data:

- VPN providers will need to store validated customer names, their physical addresses, email ids, phone numbers, and the reason they are using the service, along with the dates they use it and their “ownership pattern”.
- In addition, Cert is also asking VPN providers to keep a **record of the IP and email addresses** that the customer uses to register the service, along with the timestamp of registration.
- Most importantly, however, VPN providers will have to **store all IP addresses issued to a customer** and a list of IP addresses that its customers generally use.

What does this mean for VPN providers?

VPNs basically **obscure a person's internet usage** by jumping the signal off multiple servers. A log of these servers can easily **lead law enforcement agencies back to the original user.**

That is why most top VPN operators provide a “no logging” service—at least for paying users. This means they do not keep logs of the user's usage history or the IP addresses of servers involved. Such services could be in violation of Cert's rules by simply operating in India.

However, ‘no logs’ does not mean zero logs. VPN services still need to maintain some logs to run their service efficiently.

The Indian government has not banned VPNs yet, so **they can still be used to access content** that is blocked in an area, which is the most common usage of these services. However, journalists, activists, and others who use such services to hide their internet footprint will have to think twice about them.

What does it mean for users?

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

For law enforcement agencies, a move like this will make it **easier to track criminals who use VPNs** to hide their internet footprint.

Potential misuse

– Experts have pointed out that governments and their agencies can **easily misuse such a rule**, and it may actually **drive such users towards the dark and deep web, which are much tougher to police than VPN services.**

It is also unclear whether the Centre will use this to take action against users accessing content that is blocked in India using VPNs, such as the game PUBG Mobile.

GS3 – INTERNAL SECURITY – VARIOUS SECURITY FORCES AND THEIR MANDATE

ARMED FORCES REFORMS

26. **The missing CDS**

Source: The post is based on an article “**The Missing CDS**” published in the **Business Standard** on **06th May 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3 Indian Security

Relevance: Indian Armed Services Reform; Jointness and the Chief of Defence Staff

News: Recently, the **first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** of India died in a helicopter crash. The second CDS of India has not been appointed so far.

The Indian military continues to remain headless and directionless with no successor to Rawat.

Importance of the CDS

The elevation of the tri-service chief is expected to improve **interservice coordination**, cooperation and operational integration.

The CDS was responsible for creating the structures of the **geographical integrated theatre commands**, enabling cohesive and effective operations.

History of Tri-Service Command in India

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) or apex structure of **tri-service command** was first proposed by the **Kargil Review Committee in 1999**.

Thereafter, a tri-service commander was also recommended in the report furnished by a Group of Ministers (GOM). The **Naresh Chandra Committee** also recommended for a “**permanent chairman, chiefs of staff**”.

PM Modi desired for the **jointness** of the **tri-services**. On this line, the **Combined Commander’s Conference (CCC)** organized in 2017 opened up discussions about **tri-service jointness** and **theaterisation**. After the conference, the **three service chiefs** were directed to talk amongst themselves and present **six actionable points towards jointness** within one month.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May, (First Week) 2022

In 2019, the prime minister created the post of the CDS who was also supposed to be head of the **Department of Military Affairs (DMA)**. General Bipin Rawat was appointed as the first CDS of India.

What are the reasons for non-appointment of the 2nd CDS?

Unlike the post of the **army chief** which is an **operational post** that cannot be kept empty, the post of **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** is not an operational appointment.

Where is theaterisation going?

It has been proposed that a **Pakistan Land Theatre** with an air force commander; a **China Land Theatre** with an army commander; a **Maritime Theatre** with a navy commander; a **Northern Command** to deal with the insurgency-roiled areas of Kashmir; and an **Air Defence Theatre command** should be created.

Way Forward

The PM should make efforts to resolve the infighting of the three chiefs. The three chiefs should take the ownership of the CDS project. Each one of them should be given a theatre, and they should be given a **four-star appointment**.