

**9 PM**

# **Compilation**

**16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2022**

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### General Studies - 1

---

1. [Nehruvian institutions: The temples that Jawaharlal Nehru built](#)
2. [Towards an India where women lead](#)
3. [The fragility of the Northeast's integration](#)
4. [Arctic amplification: What is causing Arctic warming?](#)
5. [Urbanisation's different strokes](#)

### General Studies - 2

---

1. [A road map for India-EU ties](#)
2. [Diplomacy for Viksit Bharat](#)
3. [Status of inequality: A probe into the Nehruvian pledge](#)
4. [First principles should guide India's privacy law](#)
5. [The Taliban factors](#)
6. [Upma Gautam writes: Supreme Court's contradictory verdicts reinforce the need for a Bail Act](#)
7. [Bureaucrats Haven't Failed. But They Can Do Better](#)
8. [India-U.S. maritime relationship: This maritime partnership is still a work in progress](#)
9. [The Centre vs State tussle over IAS postings](#)
10. [Data opportunity at the G20](#)
11. [Facilitating adoption in India: Finding a home](#)
12. [India's strides in the Gulf](#)
13. [Women's empowerment is about land ownership](#)
14. [A glimpse into India@100](#)
15. [Should there be limits on 'freebies'?](#)
16. [Chinese ship at Hambantota calls for New Delhi to look closely at its maritime strategy](#)
17. [Experts Explain: An India Blockchain Platform](#)
18. [A Story of Private Success and Public Failure](#)
19. [A red card at last](#)
20. [End this asymmetrical conflict over 'freebies'](#)
21. [Remission or premature release of convicts: The injustice of exceptionalism](#)

### General Studies - 3

---

1. [State control in the financial sector: Azadi of the financial sector](#)
2. [PLFS findings on FLFPR: More women in the labour force must not lead us to complacency](#)
3. [To Be Developed](#)
4. [The shackles of 1861 need to go](#)
5. [Sustainable environmental practices: Stepping back from an ecological abyss](#)
6. [Achievements of CSIR: High points in science, technology and innovation](#)
7. [Required fundamental policy changes in science and technology: The coming 75 years](#)

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

8. [Power, a reality check](#)
9. [The woes of power: A moderate approach to the discom sector might be the answer](#)
10. [Solutions to India's jobs problem lie in creating better regulatory conditions for private sector while protecting rights of workers](#)
11. [Soldiers, The Silent Partners of Indian Democracy](#)
12. [Hard truths about India's labour reforms](#)
13. [How free basics can help India grow rich?](#)

### General Studies - 4

---

1. [Indian philanthropy has a worthy record that could shine brighter](#)

# General Studies Paper – 1

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### General Studies - 1

#### 1. [Nehruvian institutions: The temples that Jawaharlal Nehru built](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**The temples that Jawaharlal Nehru built**” published in **The Hindu** on **16<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 1 – Modern History: significant events and personalities.

**Relevance:** About the significance of Nehruvian institutions.

**News:** As India celebrates 75 years of Independence, it is important to remember the contributions of Jawaharlal Nehru-built institutions in India’s development.

What are Nehruvian institutions?

Nehru’s vision of India was anchored in a set of ideas such as democracy, secularism, inclusive economic growth, free press and non-alignment in international affairs and also in institutions that would lay the foundation for India’s future growth. These institutions touched every kind of economic activity, ranging from agriculture to aviation and space research.

He even described them as “**the temples of modern India**”. There were around **75 of these institutions** including the Bhakra-Nangal dam, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the LIC, the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Indian Oil Corporation, the National Library of India and the National Institute of Design.

**Read more:** [Recalling India’s Antarctica activities](#)

How Nehruvian institutions cover the entire spectrum of India’s development?

Nehru’s inclusive vision ensured that these institutions spanned the entire social spectrum. For instance, **a)** When the **IITs** were planned, Nehru also established a network of **Kendriya Vidyalayas**, **b)** With large projects in steel and petroleum, Nehru saw the importance of promoting small and cottage industries and set up the **Khadi and Village Industries Commission**, **c)** When Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela were taking shape as functional townships, the Prime Minister also felt the need for a well-designed, modern city and thus was born **Chandigarh**. Chandigarh was perhaps India’s first ‘smart city’ when that term was not yet fashionable.

What are some examples of the success of Nehruvian Institutions?

**Indian Oil** became the first Indian company to be listed in the Fortune 100, in 2014. **Amul** emerged as the country’s best known consumer brand and India became the largest milk-producer in the world.

**The success of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC):** It is a Nehruvian institution established in the early years of independent India. Recently, it launched India’s largest public issue and collected ₹21,000 crore from the market.

**The success of IITs and IIMs:** The celebrated names of global CEOs and corporate leaders were educated at the iconic Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institutes of Management (IIM).

Further, the **Green Revolution** transformed India from a basket case to a grain-exporting nation, the **telephone revolution** changed the telephone from being a symbol of elite lifestyle to mass ownership, and the **digital revolution** turned India into a global technology hub all played out

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

one after another. Collectively, these shifts have lifted over 300 million Indians above the poverty line. The success of these missions owed a great deal to the Nehruvian model.

**Read more:** [Jawaharlal Nehru Port becomes first 100% Landlord Major Port of India](#)

How do the Nehruvian institutions become so successful?

**The role of the Election Commission of India and the Planning Commission:** Both of these ensured the triumph of democracy along with development.

**Management of accomplished persons:** The notable persons include Homi Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, P.C. Mahalanobis, Verghese Kurien, S.S. Bhatnagar, S.Bhagavantam and C.D. Deshmukh.

Each of them steered the fortunes of the project under them with high professional standards, laying down benchmarks for the performance of the project and identifying second layers of leadership for the project's future growth.

Hence, even today, Nehru stands out as a unique personality who combined intellectual stature with mass popularity.

### 2. [Towards an India where women lead](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “Towards an India where women lead” published in the **Indian Express** on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 1 Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

**Relevance:** Gender Disparities; Prejudices and Discrimination

**News:** Recently, the **2022 World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index** was released, which confirmed a number of gender-based inequalities in India.

#### **The Findings**

In 2021, India's overall score has improved from 0.625 to 0.629. This is the **seventh-highest score** in the last 16 years.

India will now take 132 years to reach gender parity.

#### **What are the causes of concern related to the inclusion of women in India, even after 75 years of Independence?**

The Indian women have not been able to secure for themselves **equality** and **equity** in various spheres of life.

(1) Women's leadership in higher education and education-related **decision-making bodies** at the government level is largely absent. For example, only seven of India's 54 central universities have women vice-chancellors. This is despite girls outnumbering boys in higher education admissions and women constituting more than 50% of the entry-level university teaching positions.

#### **There are several reasons for this:**

Indian women have to perform multiple tasks. For example, marriage and family are still considered responsibilities of women.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

There are various **social ills** like **entrenched patriarchy** and **male hegemony** in various spheres of life. Most women have to fight these social evils. Therefore, they choose not to fight as it can get dirty and time-consuming. For example, a **woman's assertiveness** is seen as **aggressiveness**.

In history, the valor of men who conquered cities with violence has been sung and the women's side of the story has been forgotten.

**What are the measures needed to realize the ambition?**

**(1) Making higher education more Indo-centric:** India should make an **intellectual journey** towards the **creation of knowledge** that is original and goes back to its roots. India must **emancipate** and **empower** the Indian mind by breaking the **glass ceiling** of intellectual slavery, i.e., the belief that all Western ideas are good, and anything Indian is seen as being regressive and therefore bad.

**(2)** In history, the stories have been told from the **male perspective**. Therefore, they must be re-told from a feminine perspective.

### 3. [The fragility of the Northeast's integration](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article "The fragility of the Northeast's integration" published in the "The Hindu" on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 1 Regionalism

**Relevance:** North-Eastern States

**News:** In recent years, the North-eastern states governments like **Assam, Tripura, Manipur** and **Arunachal Pradesh** are ruled by the same political party which is ruling the Union government. So, there is a debate on **mainstream** versus **sub-stream friction**.

**How the integration of Northeast India into mainstream Indian life has been on the national agenda from independence?**

The **Sixth Schedule** was introduced in the Constitution of India, for **undivided Assam's tribal belt**. It mandated the formation of Autonomous District Councils in which, among others, tribal customary laws were given legitimacy. In other words, the Northeast's tribals were encouraged to live by their own geniuses and local customs.

**State Reorganization:** Nagaland became a state in 1963. Tripura and Manipur, which were the Part-C States after the merger with India in 1949, were also upgraded to States in 1972. In 1972, Meghalaya became a State, while Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram were made UTs. The latter two were upgraded to States in 1987. These were done to meet the aspirations of the local people and tribals in the North-eastern region.

**Inclusion by accommodation:** Later, India gained confidence and shed insecurities about further **balkanization** of Northeast regions after its traumatic Partition experience. Thereafter, the focus shifted to accommodate people, rather than requiring the latter to leave their streams to join the mainstream. For example,

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

- (1) The **North Eastern Council (NEC)** which was an advisory body composed of the State's Governors as members, was amended. Later it became an infrastructure planning body, Sikkim was included and the composition expanded to include Chief Ministers.
- (2) The **Department of North-East Region (DoNER)** was created by the Union Government in 2001, and in 2004 it was upgraded to a full-fledged Ministry.
- (3) India's Look East Policy was born with the stated objective of linking the Northeast with the vibrant economies of South East Asia.
- (4) In 2010, a protected area regime that had restricted visits to Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram by foreigners was relaxed.
- (5) A judicial commission was constituted in 2004 to recommend a way to repeal or else "humanise" AFSPA.

### **Why Northeast's remained alien 75 years after Independence?**

**Historical reason:** The **British India Foreign Secretary Olaf Caroe** coined the term "Mongolian Fringe" in relation to the North-east region and proposed to leave this region from a Crown Colony. The **Governor of Assam, Robert Reid** said "Northeast people had no affinity with the rest of India racially, historically, culturally, or linguistically". Therefore, the British dropped the Crown Colony plan on grounds of administrative feasibility.

**North-east people do not believe it to be part of Mainland India:** The Naga Hills refused the Sixth Schedule. They wanted nothing less than sovereignty. This resulted in a powerful insurgency in the region.

**The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 Promulgation:** The Draconian act was promulgated and enforced in wake of the Naga insurgency. This gave sweeping powers to the armed forces. Also, a separate Nagaland State was created in 1963.

The North-eastern people are fearful of the threat of cultural and population deluge from mainstream India.

National identity questions for the Northeast people remained incompletely resolved. Therefore, insurgencies have continued to prevail in States such as Assam and Manipur.

### **New challenges**

New political dynamics in the north-eastern states do not reflect the grass-root sentiments. For example, Assam vehemently opposed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA),



## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### 4. [Arctic amplification: What is causing Arctic warming?](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**What is causing Arctic warming?**” published in **The Hindu** on **18<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 1 – geographical features and their location changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps).

**Relevance:** About the Polar and Arctic amplification.

**News:** A recent study points out that the Arctic is heating four times faster than the rest of the planet. The warming is more concentrated in the Eurasian part of the Arctic, where the **Barents Sea** north of Russia and Norway is warming at an alarming rate — seven times faster than the global average. This is affecting the monsoons and climate conditions around the world.

What is Polar and Arctic amplification?

Global warming has hastened due to anthropogenic forces or human activities since pre-industrial times and has increased the planet’s average temperature by 1.1 degrees Celsius.

**Polar amplification:** Any change in the surface air temperature and the net radiation balance tends to produce larger changes at the north and south poles. This phenomenon is known as polar amplification

**Arctic amplification:** The above changes are more pronounced in the northern latitudes than in the southern latitudes. This is known as Arctic amplification.

What are the causes of Polar and Arctic amplification?

**Primary causes:** Ice-albedo feedback, lapse rate feedback, water vapour feedback and ocean heat transport. Among these, the ice-albedo feedback and the lapse rate feedback are responsible for 40% and 15% of polar amplification respectively.

**Ice-albedo feedback:** Sea ice and snow have high albedo, implying that they are capable of reflecting most of the solar radiation compared to water and air. Global warming is resulting in diminishing sea ice. As the sea ice melts, the Arctic Ocean will be more capable of absorbing solar radiation.

**Lapse rate feedback:** The lapse rate or the rate at which the temperature drops with elevation decreases with warming.

What are the consequences of Arctic amplification?

The causes and consequences of Arctic amplification are cyclical, which means what might be a cause can be a consequence too.

**Melting of Greenland ice sheet:** Greenland’s old and thicker ice sheets are getting replaced by young and thinner ice sheets.

In 2019, the melting of this icesheet was the single biggest cause for the rise in the sea level, about 1.5 metres. If the Greenland ice sheet melts completely, the sea level would rise by seven metres.

**Note:** *The Greenlandic ice sheet holds the second-largest amount of ice, after Antarctica, and therefore it is crucial for maintaining the sea level.*

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

**Impact on biodiversity:** The warming of the Arctic Ocean results in the acidification of water by changing the salinity levels. This impacts biodiversity, including the marine species and the dependent species.

Further, it also increases the amount of rainfall. This affects the availability and accessibility of lichens to the reindeer. This is causing widespread starvation and death among the Arctic fauna.

**Impact on permafrost:** The permafrost in the Arctic is thawing and in turn releasing carbon and methane which are among the major greenhouse gases responsible for global warming.

Experts fear that the thaw and the melt will also release the long-dormant bacteria and viruses that were trapped in the permafrost and can potentially give **rise to diseases**.

What are the impacts of Arctic amplification on India?

**Arctic ice and Indian monsoon:** A study found that the reduced sea ice in the Barents-Kara sea region can lead to extreme rainfall events in the latter half of the monsoons in India. The changes in the atmospheric circulation due to diminishing sea ice combined with the warm temperatures in the Arabian Sea contribute to enhanced moisture and drive extreme rainfall events.

**Arctic ice and sea level rise:** According to the [World Meteorological Organization](#)'s report, the sea level along the Indian coast is rising faster than the global average rate. One of the primary reasons for this rise is the melting of sea ice in the polar regions, especially the Arctic.

### 5. [Urbanisation's different strokes](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article **"urbanization's different strokes"** published in the Business Standard on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** **GS 1** – Urbanization, their problems, and their remedies.

**Relevance:** Trends of Urbanization in the world

**News:** **Recently**, the United Nations released the World Urbanisation Prospects: 2018 Revision.

#### **Trends of Urbanization**

##### **Global Trend**

Since the 1960s, Urbanization has grown from around 33% in the 1960s to 55% in 2020.

Further, as per projections, urbanization is going to accelerate in the next few decades,

The correlation between the transformation from a rural to an urban economy and an increase in the urban proportion is expected to increase in the coming period.

#### **Regional trajectories of urbanization**

##### **Developed Countries**

In 1950, approx 64% of the population was living in urban areas in North America. In 2020, North America has become the most urbanised region, with 82% of its population living in urban areas.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### Other regions

In the 1950s, around 17.5% and 14% of the population were living in Urban areas in Asia and Africa respectively.

In 2020, Asia had an urbanization rate of 50% and Africa had an urbanization rate of 43%. Further, Central Asia has higher urbanization than any other Asian region (48%). Further, East Asia has a greater urban proportion (64.8%). Moreover, in East Asia, more developed countries like China and Japan have higher urbanization rates.

In South Asia, 16% of the population was living in urban areas in 1950. This was increased to about 36.6% (2020). Further, the Indian urbanization rate was more than the South Asian average.

### What are the reasons for variation in urbanization across the world?

The presence of **sub-regional** and **inter-regional disparities** exists due to different levels of **development** and **industrialization** in different countries.

There are other reasons for the variations, which range from different rates of **natural population growth** in rural and urban areas, uneven rural-to-urban migration, international migration, and the growth of urban settlements.

Administrative changes like **reclassification** or changing the definition of what constitutes an urban area also impact the level of urbanization in a country.

Moreover, **economic change** and **spatial planning**, which includes housing, infrastructure, and service delivery, are strongly related to the extent and pace of urbanization as well as the underlying demographic dynamics.

### Importance of Urbanization

According to the World Bank's feature on urban development, almost 80% of global gross domestic product (GDP) is being generated in cities

Urbanization led to higher development, shared prosperity, and welfare, as well as a rise in formal employment and labor productivity in a country.

### What should be done?

The urbanization trajectory of developing countries like China and Nigeria must be watched. These countries contribute at least 33% to the global urban population by 2050.

To trigger urbanization, policymakers should focus on equipping our cities with infrastructure facilities to cater to the needs of a rising population. For this, the impetus should be to attract investment and opportunities in infrastructural development and a greater focus on ease of living for its people.

There should be **equitable development** to avoid the concentration of population in only a few cities, and to narrow the rural-urban disparity and the disparity among cities and megacities.

# General Studies Paper – 2

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### General Studies - 2

#### 1. [A road map for India-EU ties](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “A road map for India-EU ties” published in **The Hindu** on **16<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 – Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

**Relevance:** About India-EU ties.

**News:** Along with the 75 years of Independence, India also celebrates 60 years of diplomatic relations with the European Union (EU).

What are the recent developments in India-EU ties?

**a)** A cooperation agreement signed in 1994 took the bilateral relationship beyond trade and economic cooperation, **b)** The first India-EU Summit in 2000, marked a watershed in the evolution of the relationship. At the fifth India-EU Summit in 2004, the relationship was upgraded to a ‘Strategic Partnership’, **c)** The two sides adopted a Joint Action Plan in 2005 towards strengthening dialogue and consultation mechanisms in the political and economic spheres, enhancing trade and investment, and bringing peoples and cultures together,

**d)** The 15th India-EU Summit, 2020, provided a common road map to guide joint action and strengthen the partnership over the next five years.

The map highlights engagement across five domains: foreign policy and security cooperation; trade and economy; sustainable modernisation partnership; global governance; and people-to-people relations.

**Read more:** [India-EU: global dynamics](#)

What is the present state of India-EU ties?

**Economic partnership:** Bilateral trade between the two surpassed \$116 billion in 2021-22. The EU is India’s second largest trading partner after the U.S., and the second largest destination for Indian exports.

There are 6,000 European companies in the country that directly and indirectly create 6.7 million jobs.

**Avenues of collaboration:** **1)** The ‘**green strategic partnership**’ between India and Denmark aims to address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, **2)** The **India-Nordic Summit** focused on green technologies and industry transformation that are vital for sustainable and inclusive growth.

**Cooperation in the defence sector:** India and the EU regularly conduct joint military and naval exercises which reflects their commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

-The first maritime security dialogue in 2021 focused on cooperation in maritime domain awareness, capacity-building, and joint naval activities.

-France’s on-time delivery of 36 Rafale fighter jets and willingness to offer Barracuda nuclear attack submarines to the Indian Navy reflects the growing level of trust.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### Science and technology:

–**Science and Technology Joint Steering Committee:** It focus on areas such as healthcare, Artificial Intelligence, and earth sciences.

-In 2020, there was an agreement for research and development cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy between the European Atomic Energy Community and the Government of India.

**Read more:** [Why India-EU trade pact is still difficult to achieve?](#)

What are the challenges faced in India-EU ties?

India and the EU have differing opinions and divergent interests in some areas. For instance, **a)** India's reluctance to condemn Russia for the Ukraine crisis is not agreed upon by the EU, **b)** There is an ambiguity on the EU's strategy in tackling the rise of China. This is visible from Europe not criticising China's attack on Galwan Valley.

**Read more:** [Need for upgrading India-Europe relations](#)

What should be done to improve India-EU ties?

India's economic, political and demographic weight could be deftly leveraged by the EU to counterbalance China's influence across the region. For that, the resumption of the ambitious [India-EU free trade and investment agreement](#) in 2021 is a step in the right direction.

### 2. [Diplomacy for Viksit Bharat](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “**Diplomacy for Viksit Bharat**” published in the **Indian Express** on **16<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 International relations; Bilateral relations Multilateral relations etc.

**Relevance:** Foreign Policy

**News:** The Prime Minister of India has outlined a new ambition to make India a developed country, “**Viksit Bharat**”, by 2047.

**What are significant changes that will be needed in the Indian foreign policy tradition to become a developed country?**

- (1) There is a need to **overcome the residual legacies of Partition** that continue to undermine Delhi's geopolitical position.
  - (a) India must prioritize deterring the dangers from across the **Western frontier** until Pakistan is ready for a productive relationship with India.
  - (b) Resolve the problems left over by Partition on India's North-western frontier, like the settlement of the boundary dispute with Bangladesh.
  - (c) Push for connectivity, trade ties, and security partnerships with its neighbors.
  - (d) Work towards strengthening **regional** and **trans-regional institutions** in South Asia and beyond.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

(2) Address the **China challenge**, like the growing **power gap** with China. India-China border disputes started in 1962 and continue to happen even at present, like in 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2020. China has leveraged the divisions within the Subcontinent to constrain India, like CPEC in Pakistan. India's engagement in the extended neighborhood is being challenged by China due to its increasing presence. China has been asserting itself across Asia to make a "**unipolar Asia**".

(a) The Indian government must secure frontiers, retain India's regional position, strengthen India's manufacturing sector, improve domestic technological capabilities, and produce more weapons at home.

(b) Build **stronger partnerships** with other major powers. India's **policy of strategic autonomy** is not a hindrance to it because all countries practice strategic autonomy to the extent they can. Partnerships should be based on negotiated **mutually beneficial terms**.

(3) If India becomes a **\$3-trillion economy**, its ability to engage with the other powers will improve along with the growth of its **comprehensive national power**.

(4) India must take **global leadership** in managing the **enormous consequences** of the unfolding technological revolution, stabilizing the economic order, and addressing the challenges of climate change and pandemics.

(5) On its way to 2047, India has to continue its **pursuit of multilateralism**, at the UN, G-20, and WTO. India should make coalitions of **like-minded nations**.

(6) India must look beyond **the immediate neighborhood** to more effectively engage with Africa, Latin America, and Oceania where Delhi's footprint remains light, despite some recent initiatives.

### **Domestic Ingredients for making India a developed nation**

Promoting social justice, internal unity, economic modernisation, resilient political institutions, and deep bases of science and technology.

### 3. [Status of inequality: A probe into the Nehruvian pledge](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article "**A probe into the Nehruvian pledge**" published in **The Hindu** on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 – Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.

**Relevance:** About the status of inequality in gender, society and the practice of democracy.

**News:** On August 15, 1947, in his historic speech, Jawaharlal Nehru said, "The service of India means the service of the millions who suffer. It means the ending of poverty and ignorance and disease and inequality of opportunity." 75 years after the pledge, the inequality of opportunities which Nehru wanted to eradicate has only systematically widened.

This article reviews the pledge of ending inequality of opportunity made at the time of Independence under three broad heads: gender inequality, social inequality and the practice of democracy.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

What is the status of inequality in gender?

**Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):** According to the global Sustainable Development Goals target, all countries are expected to have an MMR below 70. But the MMR in 456 out of 640 districts of India is above 140 per lakh live births.

The [Global Gender Gap Index](#), produced by the World Economic Forum, India's position fell from 98 in 2006 to 135 in 2022. On the sub-indices, **a)** On economic participation, India fell from 110 in 2006 to 151 in 2021, **b)** In health and survival, it slipped from 103 in 2006 to 155 in 2021.

**Crime against women:** The reported Indian Penal Code (IPC) crimes against women as a proportion of total IPC crimes increased steadily between 1990 and 2019.

**Read more:** [The inequality challenge for India@75](#)

Why does the status of inequality in society still persist in India?

In India, **social disparities in gender, caste and class coexist**. Constitutional guarantees of reservation in employment and education do not expand their opportunities. This is because **1)** Historically marginalised communities have to contend with powerful groups with great initial endowments, **2)** India has failed to seriously implement land reforms. So, the landless Dalits, Adivasis and the poor have not been able to go forward,

**3)** A 2019 paper shows that the egalitarian achievements up to the early 1980s have been lost following the liberalisation turnaround. The paper estimate that the top 1% of earners captured less than 21% of the total income in the late 1930s, 6% in the early 1980s and 22% in recent times. Further, the share of the bottom 50% income group grew over 90% in the 1980-2015 period, while that of the top 10% grew 435%, **4)** The sustained gains of economic growth have not been channelled to widen the access to education, health care, social security and so on.

**Read more:** [Selfish rich inequality hypothesis: The selfishness and graft of the rich drive inequality](#)

What about the practice of democracy?

Shankkar Aiyar termed India as a "**Gated Republic**". With growing social and economic inequality, Indian democracy is emerging to fulfil the term "Gated Republic". For instance, the privileged classes do not demand key public goods such as drinking water, electricity, and law and order because they have bottled water, storage tanks, water purifiers, inverters, and private security.

On the other hand, many of the avoidable deaths, and diseases, that happen in India are due to the public failure in providing water, public hygiene, education and the rule of law. Corruption is pervasive and undermines democratic practice.

**Read more:** [State of Inequality in India Report – Explained, pointwise](#)

So, the inequality of opportunities which Nehru wanted to eradicate has only systematically widened in India.



## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### 4. [First principles should guide India's privacy law](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article **“First principles should guide India's privacy law”** published in the **Live Mint** on **17<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus: GS 2 Important Provisions of the Constitution;** Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.

**Relevance:** Fundamental Right to Privacy and the Personal Data Protection Law

**News:** Recently, the Central government withdrew its Personal Data Protection Bill after four years of deliberation, while promising to put forward a revised version of the bill.

#### **Background**

The Supreme Court 2017 judgment upheld the right to privacy as a part of fundamental rights to life and liberty.

Consequently, Justice **B.N. Sri Krishna Committee** was constituted which drew up a draft bill in 2018.

A bill was introduced in Parliament. The bill had a considerable weakening of safeguards like the Centre and its agencies were given sweeping powers to call up data at will.

Thereafter, Justice Sri Krishna flagged “Orwellian” risks in the bill introduced in the parliament.

A **Joint parliamentary committee (JPC)** scrutinized the bill. The JPC's report suggested 81 changes and 151 corrections. Critics said the state agencies were given a free pass in the law and the stiff data localization and greater regulatory burden on digital players would dent the **business environment** that might choke innovation.

#### **Why do we need a data protection law in India?**

Indians live **digital lives** in large numbers for work, leisure, creativity, and commerce. This leaves a trail of data or information, known as the **“new oil” of the digital economy**.

Out of the three stakeholders—the individual, tech platform, and the government, involved in the internet's design, **individuals have the least control over their personal detail**.

**Cybersecurity concerns** have increased in the recent past. For example, issues like data leaks and thefts, and politically motivated spying have become common.

Further, several Western jurisdictions have already enacted a **data protection law**. India cannot remain behind.

#### **What should be the ingredient of the revised new bill?**

The bill should be based on the **1<sup>st</sup> principle**, i.e., individuals or citizens must be empowered with legal rights to their personal data. Further, **personal data** should be made **accessible** to others only for reasons that are **fair, transparent, and legitimate**.

The **1<sup>st</sup> Principle** should be adhered to because the SC directed the government to enact a **law to protect personal data** in the **2017 Judgment**, in order to safeguard the **fundamental right to privacy**.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

The government could take inspiration from the **EU's data law**. For example, provisions that offer a **strong shield** against **commercial** and **state surveillance**, provisions that commit companies to using only minimal data and for specific purposes, bar them from holding data longer than necessary, and make them accountable for lapses.

The Centre must commit itself to a clear timeline within which the new data protection law will be introduced.

### 5. [The Taliban factors](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article **"The Taliban Factor"** published in the **Business Standard** on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 International relations; Bilateral relations

**Relevance:** India-Afghanistan relations

**News:** Recently, the Taliban regime completed its one year of rule in Afghanistan. Now is the time to assess its relations with India.

India has long enjoyed a benign reputation in Afghanistan because of its traditional developmental role in that country.

#### **India's Foreign Policy Challenges**

Taliban 2.0 has imposed its vague notion of an **eighth-century Islamic state** and established its Sharia law that overrides human rights and oppresses women.

The Taliban lacks a **constructive governing system** and skill in the art of **state-building**. Therefore, the regime could not rebuild Afghanistan, which has been ruined by decades of war and lack basic institutions of governance.

India is finding it difficult to establish **diplomatic ties** with the Taliban regime. India closed its embassy and withdrew all personnel due to attacks on Indians.

Both **Taliban and Pakistan** have been **strong supporters** of each other. Further, India had supported the opposition alliance against Taliban 1.0. that ruled from 1996 to October 2001, which did not go in the interest of Taliban.

Afghanistan has become a safe haven for **terrorists and terror outfits** who want to recruit soldiers. For example, the Taliban has given shelter to **al-Zawahiri**, who was recently killed by the US. This is the reason there has been an upsurge in a terrorist activity like recruitment along the Indo-Pakistan border since the reading down of **Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution of India**.

#### **New Developments**

Recently, India became the **15<sup>th</sup> nation** that **signaled rapprochement** by reopening its embassy in Kabul. The intended objective behind it is, to closely monitor and coordinate the **humanitarian assistance** that is being given by India.

At present, India can forge more **durable ties** with the Taliban on account of **manifest tensions** between Islamabad and Kabul. For example, the Taliban refused to accede to a **Pakistani**

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

**government request** to surrender **Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan elements** sheltering across the border. As a result, Islamabad informed the whereabouts of al-Qaeda head Ayman al-Zawahiri to the US.

### 6. [Upma Gautam writes: Supreme Court's contradictory verdicts reinforce the need for a Bail Act](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “**Supreme Court's contradictory verdicts reinforce the need for a bail act**” published in the **Indian Express** on **17<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 Important Provisions of the Constitution of India

**Relevance:** Fundamental Rights

**News:** Recently, in **Satender Kumar Antil v. CBI**, the Supreme Court has given directions on undertrials and pre-trial detentions. The SC has asserted mandatory compliance with Sections 41 and 41A of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

#### **Criminal Justice Reforms**

In the first decade of the 21st century, **Section 41** was modified and **Section 41A** was incorporated into **the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)**. The objective was to reduce the number of arrests by the police for offences punishable by up to **7 years** of imprisonment. Further, these initiatives had the potential to reduce custodial violence and lower the burden on courts.

#### **The SC ruling**

The SC affirmed its 2014 verdict in **Arnesh Kumar vs State of Bihar Case**, in which it directed state governments to instruct their police officers to not arrest the accused automatically when the offence is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may be less than seven years.

The Court said that investigating agencies are accountable for compliance with Section 41 and 41A of CrPC.

It reiterated the importance of the “bail over jail” rule and issued a slew of **step-by-step procedures** to prevent unnecessary arrest and remand.

The government should enact the **Bail Act** to inject clarity into **bail-related matters**. While framing, the government should take a cue from the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand, and many other legal systems as well as the recommendations of the **268th Law Commission report**.

#### **Ongoing issues in Indian Criminal Justice System (CJS)**

As per the **Prison Statistics of India 2020**, nearly 76% of prisoners are undertrials. The large percentage of **undertrials** in prison and **pre-trial detentions** are often a result of unnecessary arrests by investigating agencies and further the **unfair application of bail provisions** by the court. This led to a violation of the **cardinal rule** of the **presumption of innocence**.

Despite direction, the investigating agencies do not judiciously apply Sections 41 and 41A of the CrPC. They continue to take a **mechanical approach** that regards detentions as the only **effective option** to complete the **investigation**. Therefore, a lot of bail applications are pending before district courts, high courts, and the Supreme Court.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### Arguments in favour of making immediate arrests and denial of bail to the undertrials

A section of commentators believes that the arrest of the wrongdoer is seen as an effective redressal mechanism by the victim.

Further, if a police officer does not go for immediate detention, it may be considered as a sign of complacency of the authorities.

Moreover, Section 41A has provisions that mandate the immediate arrest of the accused.

On the contrary, recently, In **Vijay Madanlal Chaudhary v. Union of India (PMLA case)**, the Supreme Court upheld the arbitrary conditions of bail under **Section 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act**, thus discarding the “**presumption of innocence**” principle.

### What should be done?

The Court should not give a **contradictory verdict** because the operations of investigating agencies do not go in isolation from that of courts. The conflicting and ambiguous approach of courts towards **pre-trial incarceration** and **bail** provides investigating agencies avenues to justify flouting of the due processes.

The confusion created by the two decisions of the apex court reinforces the need for a Bail Act.

Investigating agencies and police offices need to sync their approach with the **principles of natural justice**.

### 7. [Bureaucrats Haven't Failed. But They Can Do Better](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “**Bureaucrats Haven't failed, but they can do better**” published in **The Times of India** on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 Role of civil services in a democracy

**Relevance:** Civil Services Reforms

**News:** India is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence in 2022. . This is a good time to reflect on the performance of the civil services, where it has failed, and where, if at all, it has made a difference.

**Functions of the IAS:** (1) Regulatory, (2) policy-making, (3) program implementation, (4) improving ease of living, (5) ease of doing business and governance, and (6) evidence-based assessments.

### Issues in the functioning of the IAS

At present, the public perception is negative about civil servants. The number of civil servants who are involved in misdeeds has been disturbingly increasing.

**Conformity:** Conformity is preferred over **competence**, **conviction**, and **willingness** to take an **evidence-based position** in the present bureaucratic system where there are compulsions of political compliance.

**Incentives:** The civil servants including competent become conformist due to incentives of postings like foreign posting incentives.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### Some good contributions

(1) **1991 economic reforms**: The IAS has played a big role in the regulatory infrastructure, monetary and fiscal policy formulation, and in convincing the political masters to undertake liberal economic reforms, even at the cost of populism. Thus, they contributed to breaking the cycle of low growth rates and opening up the Indian economy, and allowing private sector participation with ease.

(2) Innovation in **implementation of programs**: (a) The use of technology for identification and portability in the Public Distribution System (PDS), and (b) Use of Aadhaar linked DBT and decline in leakages, the success of pro-poor public welfare was led by innovative civil servants.

(3) In **dismantling the archaic laws** in areas that were identified by the **World Bank** for reducing the **compliance burden**.

(4) The IAS officers have empowered 130 million women under the Livelihood Mission, facilitated 31 lakh elected Panchayat leaders, and contributed to poverty reduction and economic well-being like high rates of adolescent girls' participation in secondary/ higher education; etc.

(5) They have contributed to empowering the poor through means of Technology.

(6) There are many **young** and **idealist civil servants** who are struggling to improve the lives and livelihoods of people in remote regions of the country., who are making a difference. However, they often go unnoticed.

### What should be done?

The power of community organizations working with elected local governments.

There can be greater accountability through **deepening democracy** and the **voice of the poorest**.

There should be a ruthless crackdown on the **black sheep**, alongside a thrust for greater **professionalism among the IAS**.

The political democracy will have to be more tolerant to evidence-based dissent and the right person in the right place, with a lower premium on conformism.

The people should change their perception about civil servants like IAS.

### 8. [India-U.S. maritime relationship: This maritime partnership is still a work in progress](#)

**Source**: The post is based on the article **“This maritime partnership is still a work in progress”** published in **The Hindu** on **18<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus**: GS 2 – Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

**Relevance**: About repairing the US Naval Ship in India and India-US maritime relationship.

**News**: Recently, the United States cargo ship has halted for repairs at an Indian facility in Chennai. This marks an important step in the India-U.S. maritime relationship.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

Why has a US Naval Ship come to India for repair?

**Read here:** [First ever repair of a US Navy Ship in India; 'Charles Drew' arrives at L&T Kattupalli shipyard](#)

During the bilateral 2+2 dialogue held in April this year, the two countries agreed to explore the possibilities of using Indian shipyards for the repair and maintenance of ships of the U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC).

Later, the MSC carried out an exhaustive audit of Indian yards and cleared the facility at Kattupalli for the repair of U.S. military vessels.

What are the implications of repairing the US Ship in the India-U.S. maritime relationship?

Functional implications

**a)** It signals a more efficient leveraging of the [Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement \(LEMOA\)](#). With the arrival of a U.S. military vessel, the template of logistics cooperation seems to have broadened, **b)** Repairing the US Naval Ship in India is seen as a **global endorsement of Indian shipbuilding and ship-repair capabilities**, **c)** At a time when the Indian Navy has taken delivery of the INS Vikrant, the repairing the US Naval Ship will further **boost 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make-in-India'**.

Geopolitical implications

**For India:** **a)** It signals a consolidation of the India-U.S. partnership and the [Quadrilateral Security Dialogue](#), **b)** India in the past has not offered access to foreign warships to Indian facilities to prevent an impression of an anti-China alliance. But the recent move suggests **greater Indian readiness to accommodate the maritime interests** of India's partners, **c)** India recently became an associated member of [Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#). Together, the move demonstrates India's commitment towards the collective responsibility of ensuring security in the shared commons.

**For US:** **a)** Strengthen US's military presence in the Eastern Indian Ocean, **b)** Underline the increased role of the [North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\)](#) in the Asian region.

What should be done to improve the India-U.S. maritime relationship further?

The India-U.S. maritime relationship remains a work in progress. U.S. **MSC has no warships**. The MSC is charged with delivering supplies to U.S. bases, and deals only with transport vessels of the U.S. Navy. India should promote strategic cooperation further with the U.S. Navy to facilities for repair and replenishment of U.S. destroyers and frigates

### 9. [The Centre vs State tussle over IAS postings](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article **"The Centre vs State tussle over IAS postings"** published in **The Hindu** on **18<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 – Role of civil services in a democracy.

**Relevance:** About deputation of AIS officers to the Centre.

**News:** All India Services (AIS) structure is unique to India and is too delicate to handle during a crisis. The majority of AIS officers working in the States were not coming forward to opt for tenure with the Centre. At present, many officers willing to go to Delhi on deputation are those assigned to the Northeastern States.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

About All India Services(AIS) and their rules for deputation

**Must read:** [Deputation of Cadre Officers and the Proposed Amendments – Explained, pointwise](#)

What are the advantages of working on deputation with the Centre?

**1)** Psychological satisfaction of **contributing to the formulation of national policy** on many critical issues, **2)** Many **opportunities for foreign travel** and a chance to be **deputed to work for international agencies**.

Why are officers reluctant to work on deputation with the Centre?

**1)** Long hours of work and the need for extreme clinical care in the preparation and submission of reports, **2)** Officers need to operate far away from their native State or the state in which they are more comfortable.

**Read more:** [\[Yojana August Summary\] Indian Bureaucracy – Explained, pointwise](#)

What are the impacts of non-deputation with the Centre?

**a)** There is an increase in manpower demands of GOI ministries, especially at the level of Deputy Secretaries and Directors who generally come from the IAS. This is not able to be filled even with the lateral entry scheme, **b)** There are far too many vacancies in the Central Police Establishment comprising the paramilitary forces such as the CRPF, BSF and CISF, and investigating agencies like the CBI and NIA.

About the tussle between Centre and State for deputation with the Centre

There are many instances of the tussle between the State and the Centre regarding deputing an officer. Recently, in West Bengal senior officers were greatly embarrassed due to the tussle between the state and the Centre.

**Read more:** [Why central deputation to 3 Bengal police officers not right?](#)

Situations like these arise due to ignorance of prudent and mature governance. This poses a threat to the foundation of All India Services.

What should be done to improve the deputation with the Centre?

There are simpler, more effective, and less contentious solutions to the shortage of officers for central deputation than [amending the IAS \(Cadre\) Rules](#). India needs a stable system of civil services to bolster democratic and responsive public administration in the country.

### 10. [Data opportunity at the G20](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article **“Data opportunity at the G20”** published in **The Hindu** on **18<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

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

**Relevance:** About regulating data within territories.

**News:** The global politics of data is rapidly evolving. Leading and emerging digital economies like the European Union (EU), the U.S., India, Indonesia, and South Africa all strive to protect, monetise, and leverage data collected within their territories for domestic purposes.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

**Note:** With the [proposed Data Act](#), the EU hopes to become an unparalleled data power by creating a single data market, setting robust standards and deploying the EU's collective data for their own use.

Why do the nations want to regulate data within territories?

According to the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF), data localisation laws have more than doubled from 2017 to 2021. This is because,

**1)** Increasing privacy and security concerns coupled with economic interests, **2)** The sheer amount of data being generated and shared globally and its implications on global trade and commerce forced nations to govern and restrict cross-border data flows, **3)** States seek and want increasing levels of regulatory control over data.

**Read more:** [Data Protection Framework in India – Explained, pointwise](#)

Why is G-20 an ideal place to discuss and regulate data within territories?

The G-20 appears as a viable platform to discuss and regulate data because, **a)** Converging positions on data governance amongst major G-7 powers and emerging economies as the state finds a greater role in regulating data, **b)** G-20's track record as the apex forum to discuss global economic issues gives it legitimacy, **c)** The G-20 platform comprises of top (digital) economies, **d)** The G20 does not create binding rules but serves as a platform to catalyse and inject new thinking around critical current issues.

How does India aim to regulate data within its territory?

Since 2017, India has attempted to incubate governance of non-personal data, personal data, e-commerce regulation and artificial intelligence (AI) with a preference to harness "India's data for India's development."

Hence, one can assume that India was way ahead of the 'data sovereignty' curve.

**Read more:** [What a new data law must have?](#)

What should be done to regulate data within India's territory?

**1)** The Indian government should present a holistic agenda to G-20 which embeds data collection and sharing within a broader framework that prioritises digital security, innovation, and citizen rights, **2)** The Reserve Bank of India's data localisation directive has been in place for four years now. An empirical assessment of how this has impacted both start-ups, big technology companies, and users could serve as a useful example.

**3)** India's digital economy stewardship must transcend data localisation by highlighting best practices on data protection, competition law, etc both in India and other G20 countries, **4)** India should consider redrafting the [Personal Data Protection Bill](#) with a 'more comprehensive framework' as an urgent domestic priority.

**Read more:** [Withdrawal of Personal Data Protection Bill: Who benefits from the delay?](#)



## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### 11. [Facilitating adoption in India: Finding a home](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**Finding a home**” published in **The Hindu** on **18<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 – mechanisms, laws, institutions, and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of vulnerable sections.

**Relevance:** About facilitating adoption in India.

**News:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances and Law and Justice have tabled the report titled “Review of Guardianship and Adoption Laws” in Parliament. The report highlighted the huge mismatch between the number of people wanting to adopt children and the number of children legally available for adoption.

What are the major findings of the committee on the status of adoption in India?

There were 6,996 orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children residing in childcare institutions considered adoptable, but only 2,430 were declared legally free for adoption by Child Welfare Committees.

On the other hand, there are around 27,939 prospective parents registered with the [Child Adoption Resource Authority \(CARA\)](#) for adoption.

The total number of children adopted in 2021-22 was only 3,175.

**Must read:** [Review of Guardianship and Adoption Laws report: Explained | On guardianship and adoption of minors](#)

What are the suggestions of the committee for facilitating adoption in India?

**Read here:** [Panel moots district-level survey to bring more children into adoption](#)

What is the other challenge associated with adoption?

The process of adoption in the country was tightened — procedurally and legally — in response to rampant malpractices and inter-country adoption rackets. The government installed CARA as the nodal body for in-country and inter-country adoptions

What should be done for facilitating adoption in India?

Policy intervention without knowledge of the ground realities often results in little or no benefit for the intended target group. Hence, a ground-level study has to be conducted as suggested by the Parliamentary Committee to bring out child-centric policies in adoption.

The government has to **ensure that orphan and abandoned children** found begging on the streets are made **available for adoption at the earliest**.

The government has to **address the imbalance** in the number of children available for adoption and the number of persons seeking to adopt the children.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### 12. [India's strides in the Gulf](#)

**Source:** This post is created based on the article “**India’s strides in the Gulf**”, published in **Indian Express** on **19<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS Paper 2 – International Relations

**News:** In the centenary celebrations program of AMU, PM asked the AMU community to further strengthen India’s relations with the Islamic world.

Recently, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) proposed conferring the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammad Bin Salman, with the honorary Doctor of Letters (D.Litt) degree. It is for his exemplary services to global affairs, and to augment India’s efforts to forge deeper links with the Gulf region.

#### **How PM of India has been working to improve relations with gulf countries?**

The Prime Minister of India has been investing a good amount of time to improve relations with gulf countries. His efforts stand out on many counts:

**First**, he has put personal imprints through more than a dozen visits so far, to the region.

**Second**, he has expanded India’s relations with the gulf from simple trade-economic-energy relations to strategic relations in the spheres of space technology, defense, counter-terrorism, and cyber-security.

**Third**, India has been able to maintain its relations with Israel, along with other countries in the region. He is the first Indian PM to visit Palestine and receive its highest civilian award in recognition of his contribution to promoting relations between India and Palestine.

**Fourth**, with the reducing role of the US in the region, India is being seen as a credible player with a role in the promotion of regional peace and security in the region.

**Fifth**, India has started looking at Gulf countries as its “maritime neighbors”.

#### **How AMU has contributed to the strengthening of India’s relations with gulf countries?**

There is an **extensive network of AMU alumni in every Gulf country**, especially in Saudi Arabia and the UAE. AMU’s “soft power dividend” has been successfully leveraged in bolstering people-to-people contact.

**The political leadership of the Arab and Islamic world has duly recognized the goodwill of AMU.** For example, in 1975, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the first President and founder of the UAE, on his presidential visit to India visited AMU and gave a generous grant for establishing the department of petroleum studies in the university.

**AMU can further a key goal of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** i.e. Internationalization of education. It can collaborate with the institutions of the Gulf countries in the frontier areas of innovation, start-ups, and entrepreneurship.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### 13. [Women's empowerment is about land ownership](#)

**Source:** This post is created based on the article “**Women's empowerment is about land ownership**”, published in **Live Mint** on **19<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS Paper 2 – Social Issues – Women and related issues

**Context:** Despite legislative efforts to fix a sharp gender imbalance in inheritance, very few Indian women have any legal title to property.

Prime Minister, in his recent Independence Day speech, asked for an attitudinal shift across the country in **favor of 'Nari Shakti'—or women's power**. He further said, “Respect for women is an important pillar for India's growth.”

However, the economist Hernando de Soto, in *The Mystery of Capital* said, legal ownership of land can make all the difference between poverty and the ability to escape it. Thus, women's empowerment also requires control over assets, other than income and job opportunities. United Nations Sustainable Development Goals also require countries to track the status of women's land rights.

#### **What do the survey findings say about women's empowerment?**

In, India, especially in rural areas, women's empowerment is constrained by weak command over the farmland they till. Following are the findings of the 5<sup>th</sup> round of the National Family Health Survey 2020-21:

1. A drop has been reported in the country's women aged 15-49 saying they owned a house or land (either solely or jointly) to less than a quarter from over a third back in 2015-16.
2. About 98 million women were found to be engaged in agriculture and allied activities, with most working as labor rather than cultivators.
3. Less than 13% of Indian farmland is under female ownership.

#### **What are the laws regulating inheritance in India?**

**The Hindu Succession Act of 1956** laid down equal distribution of property among all inheritors, irrespective of gender, as the broad majority norm.

This law was amended in 2005 to specifically grant sons and daughters equal rights to joint-family property.

Among Muslims, an age-old provision often prevails by which sons get twice the share (on an avowal to provide for their sisters if need be).

In case of disputes over ancestral estates,

#### **What are the reasons behind women lacking land ownership?**

Almost a third of rural households are estimated to be headed by women. It is because of the patriarchal scenario, in which land-owning men migrate to cities, leaving their farms for womenfolk to work on.

Land possession remains largely dependent on inheritance and property rights for women.

In the cases involving disputes on ancestral estates, women were cheated of their due, by heavy family pressure.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### 14. [A glimpse into India@100](#)

**Source:** This post is created based on the article “A glimpse into India@100”, published in **Business Standard** on **19<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS Paper 2 – Polity and Constitution

**Context:** Prime Minister in 2021 said that “the journey of the next 25 years is the *Amrit Kaal* of a new India” and “the fulfillment of our resolutions in this *Amrit Kaal* will take us till 100 years of independence.”

Foreign Minister S Jaishankar in his tweet revealed, what are the expectations to be fulfilled when the Amrit Kaam ends:

1. An India, that is developed.
2. An India, free of colonial mindset.
3. An India, proud of its heritage.
4. An India, united & integrated.
5. An India, whose citizens put duty above all.

#### Are the above aims achievable?

**1) Boosting per capita income to become a developed nation:** The question here is what is the level of income, required to be declared a developed nation?

**For example,** India’s per capita income is currently at \$2,200 and according to the World Bank, the world’s average per capita income is over \$12,000. It is about \$70,000 in the United States, \$50000 in the UK, \$70000 in Singapore, \$40,000 in Japan, and \$35,000 in Korea.

It took India 12 years to double its per capita income from \$1100 in 2009. At this rate, by 2047, India will be at \$8800, which is less than where China is today (\$12,500).

Thus, high-level efforts are required to multiply per capita income.

**2) India should be free of its colonial mindset:** For achieving this objective, first, it is to be decided, what the colonial mindset is. Is it abolishing English from education, renaming roads, getting rid of the railways, replacing Macaulay’s Penal Code, or changing provisions in the constitution adopted from British time laws?

There is no clear definition or roadmap for achieving this objective.

**3) We should be proud of our heritage:** Again, what is our heritage needs to be defined. Definition of heritage can be changed as per the ideologies of the ruling parties.

**4) A united and integrated India:** Many present incidents are disturbing the unity of the nation. It has to be properly given thought; what are developments and policies that are creating disharmony among different sections and should be dealt with as soon as possible?

**5) Citizens to put duty above all:** Article 51A in the Constitution defines the duties of citizens. Government must strive to ensure all of the citizens fulfill their duties, despite ideological differences.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### 15. [Should there be limits on 'freebies'?](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the following articles

**“Should there be limits on ‘freebies’?”** published in **The Hindu** on **19<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**“Freebies In Our Bonnet”** published in **The Times of India** on **19<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 – Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.

**Relevance:** India’s freebies burden.

**News:** The Supreme Court, while hearing a petition to curb the practice of offering freebies, said that the term “freebie” should not be confused with genuine welfare measures.

What are the Supreme Court’s remarks on freebies?

**Read more:** [Voters prefer to earn a dignified earning over freebies: Supreme Court](#)

What about welfare and freebies?

Directive Principles can certainly guide state policy. But it is not easy to define welfare and freebie. This is because of the ripple effect they create on society.

But from an economic and public policy perspective, a freebie is any public policy intervention that will have a long-term impact on production as well as productivity. Hence, any public policy intervention that doesn’t support medium-term to long-term production and productivity may be termed a freebie.

**Read more:** [The ‘freebies’ debate](#)

About India’s spending on subsidies

No advanced economy spends more than 1% of GDP on subsidies across all sectors. For example, the total subsidy in Germany is 0.9% of its GDP, in France just 0.4%, but in India, agricultural subsidies alone eat up around 2.25% of our GDP.

What are the recent findings on the state’s welfare expenditure?

Welfare spending in India is woefully low. It is low in comparison to other developing countries. For instance, public spending on health and education was 4.7% in India, compared to 7% in sub-Saharan Africa. And it is also declining in many States.

According to the Reserve Bank of India’s Study on State Finances, from 2014 onwards, the social sector expenditure at the State level has been declining even after States were given more resources.

**Must read:** [State Finances: Trends and Concerns – Explained, pointwise](#)

What are the revenue expenditure side impacts of freebies?

**Revenue decline:** Though Goods and Services Tax is a game changer for indirect taxes, there is less than 6% of the people pay income tax in India. The tax exemption limit in India keeps getting raised year after year.

India is raising 0.2% of GDP through property tax, whereas the developing country average is 0.6% of GDP and in OECD countries it is 2% of GDP.

On non-tax revenues, there is a significant growth at the Central government level. But there is a substantial decline at the State government level.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

**Impact on Expenditure:** Universal health and education are not quick fix solutions and need a 10-15 year gestation period. So, the government find this wait difficult and choose an easy path to get a vote i.e., freebies and subsidies. Freebies will lead to a further decline in tax resources.

As States are not spending on productive activities, it ends up depleting the tax revenues. This again leads to a revenue decline.

**Read more:** [From freebies to welfare](#)

What should be done?

**1)** India needs to have an institutional mechanism to control wasteful expenditure, **2)** Instead of having a blanket policy — for instance, giving free electricity to all — the state needs to identify the beneficiary of a particular public policy, **3)** India needs to have a good tax framework, where the government have much better resources for more social sector expenditure while also ensuring medium-term debt sustainability, **4)** According to a private report, more than 8% of GDP actually gets spent on implicit subsidies. The government must assess and reduce them so that the state has more resources for welfare or social sector expenditure.

Most developed countries invested in universal health and education when they were poor. They cut down subsidies before they became freebies and used that resource for universal welfare. India too has to follow that approach.

### 16. [Chinese ship at Hambantota calls for New Delhi to look closely at its maritime strategy](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**Chinese ship at Hambantota calls for New Delhi to look closely at its maritime strategy**” published in the **Indian Express** on **19<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 – India and its Neighbourhood relations.

**Relevance:** Yuan Wang 5 and China’s evolving Indian Ocean strategy

**News:** Recently, Sri Lanka approved the arrival of a Chinese satellite-tracking vessel named “Yuan Wang 5” to Hambantota port. India had protested the Chinese vessel’s visit, deeming it detrimental to India’s security.

About Yuan Wang 5

**Must read:** [Yuan Wang 5: Why is the visit of a Chinese vessel to Sri Lanka’s Hambantota port controversial?](#)

How do Yuan Wang 5 impact India-Sri Lanka relations?

Permission by Sri Lanka might be **violative of the 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan Accord**. The accord calls upon the two countries to prevent foreign activity in their respective territories that could pose a threat to the other.

**Note:** The ship is not classified as a warship, and therefore Sri Lanka permitted it under research vessel.

**Read more:** [Chinese military vessel at Hambantota is a spectre that threatens the new equilibrium in India-Sri Lanka relations](#)

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

About China's evolving Indian Ocean strategy

The Chinese policy in the Indian Ocean is gradual and relentless encroachment that expands China's tactical space and asserts China's rights and interests in spaces outside its sphere of natural influence.

Under it, China does not want to physically dominate the region, but it is creating a permissive environment for its military activities. For instance, in the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea, China has already sent survey and research vessels, as a way of marking their presence in the region.

They deployed YW-5 because

**1)** To threaten Indian interests in the region by conducting electronic snooping by foreign ships, aircraft and satellites, **2)** To showcase Chinese support from Indian Ocean littoral states, **3)** China uses maritime militias to threaten any activity deemed inimical to Chinese sovereign interests. So in future, they might deploy warships to foreign ports.

**Read more:** [Step back from water's edge](#)

What does India need to do?

India needs to assess the following conditions and has to define them clearly to improve India's maritime policy. These include **a)** Permitting foreign activity in littoral areas if it has a noble cause, **b)** International rules that privilege user-state rights can be permitted over the security concerns of littoral nations, and **c)** Whether India required law or should it demand special rights in its near-seas to protect India's national security.

### 17. [Experts Explain: An India Blockchain Platform](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article "**Experts Explain: An India Blockchain Platform**" published in the **Indian Express** on **19<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** **GS 2** – e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential

**Relevance:** **About** public digital infrastructure

**News:** In recent years, India has made a significant effort to become a digital society by building a large citizen-scale digital public infrastructure.

With the commencement of the Digital India mission in 2015, India's payments, provident fund, passports, driving licences, crossing tolls, and checking land records all have been transformed with modular applications built on Aadhaar, UPI, and the India Stack.

**Read more:** [Blockchain technology can help alleviate global warming and climate change](#)

What are the limitations of public digital infrastructure?

**a)** Existing different digital infrastructures are not interconnected as a design. For instance, the information has to travel across multiple systems to complete the interaction, **b) Rely on private databases:** This makes the validation of data more complex as the network grows, driving up costs and creating inefficiencies.

What is Web 3.0 and how it can address the challenges in public digital infrastructure?

**Read here:** [Web 3.0: The future of internet? – Explained, pointwise](#)

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

The Web 3.0 architecture establishes a new version of the Internet protocol incorporating token-based economics, transparency, and decentralisation.

Blockchain and public digital infrastructure

According to Gartner, by 2023, 35% of enterprise blockchain applications will be integrated with decentralised applications and services. Many countries have already begun establishing their blockchain policies and infrastructure.

For instance, **a) Estonia**, the world's blockchain capital, is using blockchain infrastructure to verify and process all e-governance services offered to the general public, **b) China** launched a program in 2020 called BSN (Blockchain-based Service Network) to deploy blockchain applications in the cloud at a streamlined rate, **c) Brazil** recently launched the Brazilian Blockchain Network to bring participating institutions in governance and the technological system that facilitates blockchain adoption in solutions for the public good.

**DeFi**: There are well-established decentralised finance (DeFi) platforms that rely on blockchain infrastructure. DeFi allows users to borrow and lend cryptocurrencies on a short-term basis at algorithmically determined rates. DeFi users are rewarded with tokens that confer governance rights.

**Read more:** [Strategy to adopt blockchain into govt systems released](#)

What India should do to build a resilient public digital infrastructure?

The Indian digital community should focus on supporting research in standards, interoperability, and efficient **handling of current known issues** with the distributed technologies.

Smartphone manufacturers can be asked to deliver **blockchain-compliant devices** by adding extensions. This will enhance the last mile reach of the program.

India should build a **national platform operating at L1 that interconnects blockchains** application providers, token service providers, and infrastructure managers. This can provide a reliable and efficient network for the Indian digital economy.

India should also **work on an indigenous solution such as an India Blockchain Platform**. This will transform the digital ecosystem in India and will enable the future of digital services, platforms, applications, content, and solutions.

**Read more:** [Factors Affecting Growth of Block Chain technology in India](#)

### 18. [A Story of Private Success and Public Failure](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article "**A story of private success and public failure**" published in **The Times of India** on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 Important Provisions of the Constitution of India;

**News:** India is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Year of Independence. Therefore, it becomes important to assess India's achievements.

**Background:** In April 2011, during the **Arab Spring movement**, India was asked to answer **three important questions**. Further, India was also asked to provide the **India Model for Egypt's future**



## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

- (1) How did you keep the generals out of power?
- (2) How did you become one of the fastest growing economies in the world (and a global outsourcer of IT services)?
- (3) How did India create social harmony in the most diverse place on earth? In other words, how India had managed to have such a moderate Muslim population. The question reflected the Arab Spring's fear of radical Islam.

In other words, the three questions point to the **three key attributes of a successful nation:**

(1) Democracy, (2) Prosperity, and (3) Social harmony.

### **Building blocks of India's success**

**(1) Democracy:** Andre Malraux said that "India was lucky to have been founded by saints, i.e., liberators with clean hands. For example, **Jawaharlal Nehru** deserves the most credit for embedding democracy and the rule of law, which was an exceptional achievement among post-colonial societies. This was in stark contrast to Pakistan, which got liberated and side by side turned into 'an army with a country'.

### **(2) Unfettering the economy:**

**(a) Pre-1991:** In the early years, India became a socialist country. It resulted in a command economy that was based on a License Raj. Due to this, India missed a lot of economic opportunities prior to 1991.

**(b) Post-1991:** India undertook economic reforms in 1991. Since then, India has adopted a lot of slow reforms like cutting red tapism, license raj, etc. This resulted into

### **India's IT revolution**

Due to this, India became the world's fastest-growing major economy. Further, India's poverty decreased and the middle class has grown.

**(3) The minority question:** Even after 75 years, India has remained **united** despite so many predictions of our breaking up. This has been because **average life expectancy** has risen from 32 years to 70 years. Literacy has gone up from 12% to 78%. The extremely poor (defined by \$1.90 income per day) declined from 70% to 21% in 2011. 90% of the people have access to electricity, versus 50% in 1995. There are other areas of development. Indeed, some mishappenings have taken place in India which makes Muslims in India no longer feel secure. But these have happened at the fringe level

**The unfinished agenda:** India could have done better. There are some areas, which could have been handled better:

(1) India has been unable to provide **quality education** and **healthcare** due to **poor governance** at the Central and state level. **For example**, one in four teachers is absent illegally in a government primary school and only one of the two present is teaching. Similar statistics describe the government's primary health centers.

(2) India's greatest challenge is **bad governance** and **weak institutions**. For example, it takes around 15 years to get justice in India, 3/4th of the persons in jail are under trial; and **1/3rd of India's** MPs and MLAs have a criminal record.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### What should be the future course of action?

India has risen from below, through the energy and ingenuity of its people, almost despite the state. It is quite unlike the **top-down success** of East Asian countries, which were steered skillfully by the state.

India should fix its governance institutions as soon as possible. Otherwise, it will not become a developed country.

### 19. [A red card at last](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article **“A red card at last”** published in the **Business Standard** on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 Development Processes and the Development Industry — the Role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

**Relevance:** Issues and reforms in various sports Association functioning in India

**News:** Recently, the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) suspended the All-India Football Federation (AIFF) with retrospective effect, from August 14.

### Argument against the suspension

The action is being perceived, by many, as an arbitrary and authoritarian action.

### What are the reasons for the suspension of the All India Football Federation (AIFF)?

FIFA has cited **“third-party interference”** as the reason for the suspension of the AIFF. It means the failure to put in place a constitution and an elected administrative structure that is in consonance with **FIFA’s statutory regime**.

### Underlying Causes

Over three decades, the AIFF has been administered by only two people at the top: i.e., the late Priya Ranjan Das Munshi (1988-2008) and Praful Patel (2009-2022).

Further, the AIFF is not administered by people who have a meaningful association with the game. For example, both people mentioned above were politicians.

No head has been appointed for the past three-odd months in the AIFF. This is because Mr. Patel was removed in May.

**Problems in other sports administration bodies:** Every sports body in India is facing administrative problems. This can be seen from the following examples:

(1) Hockey India is also being run by **a committee of administrators**. The Federation Internationale de Hockey (FIH) also wants India to adopt **a new constitution**, under which elections must be held to put in place a new administration.

(2) In 2017, the Supreme Court tried to reform the cricket administration. The court appointed **a committee of administrators**. Thereafter, a constitution was framed, and a new president was elected to head a fresh committee to run the Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI). The International Cricket Council (ICC) gave India the leeway and the time needed for such a transition.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

(3) The Indian Olympic Association has been threatened with sanctions this year.

The problems are most often caused by the involvement of politicians who have no business being involved in the first place and who are in the game only to make a fast buck.

### What should be the future course of action?

Lessons should be learned from the chess federation which has revived its functioning well in time which will allow Tamil Nadu to host this **year's edition of the Olympiad**.

### 20. [End this asymmetrical conflict over 'freebies'](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article **"End this asymmetrical conflict over 'freebies'"** published in **The Hindu** on **20<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 – Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes.

**Relevance:** Distribution of freebies.

**News:** Recently, the Supreme Court recommended constituting an expert committee to study the issue of 'freebies'.

What are freebies?

**Read here:** [PM's 'revdi' remark: We need to disentangle good subsidies from bad](#)

What is the aim behind 'Trickle down economics' and Tax cuts?

Trickle-down theory along with Reagan tax cuts believes in providing maximum tax cuts to higher income earners and corporations. This is because of the expectation that any benefit provided at the top would trickle down to the poor in the form of job creation, higher output, and infrastructure development.

For example, in India, neo-liberal schemes of the post-1990s such as the [Special Economic Zones \(SEZs\)](#), [Software Technology Parks of India \(STPI\)](#), and **Bio Technology Parks (BTP)**.

What are the impacts of Trickle down policy and tax cuts?

-In reality, 'trickle down' yielded some positive results, but it also widened inequality, diminished inclusive growth. This is highlighted in the recent [World Inequality Report 2022](#) also.

-Since the government is reducing taxes for well-offs, it is **forced to rely more on indirect taxes** than direct taxes. This includes taxes on fuel and food (rice, milk, cereal) on which the poor spend a major portion of their income. This further increases the financial burden on the poor.

How the distribution of freebies are reducing inequality?

States such as Tamil Nadu address this inequality through social welfare measures (derided as freebies). For instance,

The **free bus pass provided for women** has **a)** Saved family's fuel cost, **b)** Encouraged more women to join the workforce, and **c)** Aid in the creation of economically stable families and women's empowerment.

**Free mid-day meals** have **a)** Encouraged socially backward parents to send their wards to school at least for the meals, **b)** Kept child labour under control, and **c)** imparting education.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

A paper published in Oxford University Press lauded the introduction of **free colour television in villages**. As it has **a) Reduced domestic violence, b) Enabled women's empowerment as women have been able to connect with the outside world through visual media, c) Ensured self-respect as women and children do not visit the homes of rich who own TV sets.**

What are the Supreme Court's observations on the distribution of freebies?

In **R.K. Garg vs Union of India** (1981), and **BALCO employees Union vs Union of India** (2002), the Court held that the wisdom of economic policies is not subject to judicial review.

In **S. Subramaniam Balaji vs State of Tamilnadu** (2013), the court dismissed the petition which challenged the free gifts schemes (colour television, mixer grinder, laptops) of the T.N. government. The Court observed that the distribution of gifts relates to the implementation of directive principles of state policy.

**Read more:** [The 'freebies' debate](#)

How fiscal federal setup is aiding the distribution of freebies?

India adopts 'cooperative federalism' where the Union and State cooperate to legislate and frame policies in their respective domain. So, social welfare measures (freebies) may differ from State to State or region to region.

For example, in the desert regions of Rajasthan it could be free drinking water, in Kerala, it could be something else.

Thus, it is for the respective legislature/executive to formulate the social welfare measures for that region. So, forming a central committee by the court might not address the socio-economic diversity of the nation.

### 21. [Remission or premature release of convicts: The injustice of exceptionalism](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article "**The injustice of exceptionalism**" published in **The Hindu** on **20<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 – Criminal Justice System.

**Relevance:** Remission or premature release of convicts.

**News:** Recently, the Gujarat government released 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano murder and gang rape case of 2002 under its remission and premature release policy.

What did the government release them?

Most States, including Gujarat, adopted a revised remission policy for prisoners which makes the person convicted of rape ineligible for premature release. But the Supreme Court of India has ruled that the remission would be governed by the remission policy that was in force at the time of conviction.

**Read here:** [Explained: Why the 11 convicts in Bilkis Bano gangrape case walked out of jail](#)

How does behaviour aid in the remission or premature release of convicts?

Prison is a state subject. State governments have laid down behaviour/activities that can earn prisoners a certain amount of days as remission, which is then deducted from their sentence.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

For example, if a prisoner earns two years in remission and a court has sentenced them to 10 years, they can leave prison effectively after eight years.

This system is **enshrined in the Prisons Act, 1894**, and also rules developed by different States.

**Remission for life sentence:** The **Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)** mentions that life convicts have to undergo a minimum of 14 years of actual imprisonment before they can be considered for remission/premature release.

**Premature release rules:** State governments have also developed premature release rules that include the power to give effect to the Governor's powers of remission under Article 161 of the Constitution.

Those powers are not governed by the CrPC and are often used to bypass the minimum 14 years of actual imprisonment requirement in the CrPC.

The Supreme Court has recognised remission as an inherent part of a prisoner's right to life. Hence, remission is a right and not a privilege extended to the convict by the state.

**Read more: [The Issue of Marital Rape – Explained, pointwise](#)**

What are the concerns associated with the recent remission or premature release of convicts? Many persons convicted for the same offence after the revised remission policy are ineligible for remission, a different set of governance considerations has been applied to these 11 individuals.

The executive and the judiciary moving towards harsher sentences for those convicted of sexual offences. Rape survivors face many challenges while filing criminal complaints and navigating the justice system.

Further, a victim from caste and the religious minority has to face even more challenges when she is filing complaints against upper caste offenders.

Hence, the recent remission is exceptionalism and this exceptionalism is a grave injustice to the insurmountable difficulties endured by Bilkis Bano to pursue justice

# General

# Studies

# Paper – 3

### General Studies - 3

#### 1. [State control in the financial sector: Azadi of the financial sector](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**Azadi of the financial sector**” published in the **Business Standard** on **16<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 – Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

**Relevance:** About the state control in the financial sector.

**News:** While celebrating the 75th anniversary of India’s Independence, one needs to remember that in the field of financial economic policy, 44 of these 75 years were a period with a highly repressed financial system.

How did India achieve excessive state control in the financial sector?

Excessive state control is justified by the government through the philosophy of self-reliance,

All across the financial system, state domination was achieved through **a) A combination of bans and public sector ownership. b) most routine activities of financial markets were prohibited by law, and c) cross-border engagement was mostly banned.** For instance,

**-Banking, insurance and mutual funds** were the preserve of **public sector banks, Life Insurance Corporation of India/General Insurance Corporation of India and Unit Trust of India**, respectively.

**-Capital Issues (Control) Act of 1947:** This law is applicable to securities markets. Under this law, the government decided which company could raise capital in the public market using which instrument and at which time.

What is the outcome of excessive state control in the financial sector?

The domestic investment was clogged within the domestic savings on questions of both raw magnitudes and risk tolerance. It was a picture of low freedom in financial sector.

In 1991, the government tried to push in favour of greater economic freedom, reduced central planning, and increased regulatory capacity. These reforms have played an important role in the real sector growth of the last three decades.

**Read more:** [Strengthening financial sector](#)

What is the outcome of low state control in the financial sector?

**a) New industries like the software industry are financed by a new set of financial players, b) Activities like a loan against a car or a loan against a house, which were once relatively unusual, have become commonplace, c) The government can balance the balance sheets by tapping into the near-infinite pool of foreign investment**

**Achievements in the equity market:** **a) The emergence of the full ecosystem of finance in the equity market.** These include the initial public offering (IPO) market, the equity spot market, derivatives trading, algorithmic trading, etc. **b) Equity as a source of financing:** Between 1991-92 to 2019-20, equity as a source of capital for large private non-financial firms went up from 24% to 37%, **c) market capitalisation** of listed Indian firms rose from about 5% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1980 to about 100% of GDP at present.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

What are the challenges faced at present due to state control in the financial sector?

**1)** The present access of households and micro, small and medium enterprises to formal finance, insurance penetration and density, pension assets as a percentage of GDP is low. This shows that India continues to be **underbanked, underinsured and inadequately covered by old age income** security measures.

**2) Forward-looking speculative decision-making** is absent in large parts of the financial system, **3) The long arm of central planning** has only grown, where minute details of products and processes are controlled by the state. In many cases, there are controls on the persons appointed into leadership roles in these financial firms. All this creates subservient employees in private firms who work within the written and unwritten wishes of the regulators.

**Must read:** [Financial sector regulator in India](#)

What should be done to reduce state control in the financial sector?

Important elements of Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission (FSLRC) recommendations were implemented in 2015 and 2016, such as inflation targeting at the Reserve Bank of India and the merger of Forward Markets Commission with the [Securities and Exchange Board of India](#).

But still India needs to go further to implement the balance and unleash financial sector.

### 2. [PLFS findings on FLFPR: More women in the labour force must not lead us to complacency](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**More women in the labour force must not lead us to complacency**” published in the **Live mint** on **16<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 – Economic development: Indian Economy and issues relating to growth, development and employment.

**Relevance:** About the PLFS findings on FLFPR.

**News:** As per the [Periodic Labour Force Survey\(PLFS\)](#) released by the [National Statistical Office \(NSO\)](#) covering June 2020 to July 2021, the female labour force participation rate (FLFPR) in India has witnessed an increase.

About the PLFS findings on FLFPR

**Data on FLFPR:** The figure in the period stands at 25.1%, far better than the 17% in 2017-18.

The increase in FLFPR was mostly driven by a rise in rural FLFPR that went up from 18% in 2017-18 to about 28% in 2020-21. The increases were mostly in agriculture, where the share of rural women workers increased to 75% in this period.

**Data on the share of unpaid family workers:** The share of women working as unpaid family workers increased from 39% in 2017-18 to 43% in 2020-21; 87% of unpaid women family workers in rural India are in agriculture.

**Data on the share of own-account workers:** own account workers, i.e., individuals running enterprises without any hired help, increased by 3% over the period, almost 40% of whom were producing largely for their own consumption rather than for the market.



## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

**Data on urban women workers:** Urban areas also witnessed a marginal increase in the FLFPR, from 16% in 2017-18 to almost 19% in 2020-21. Around 38% of these women were working as own-account workers and unpaid family workers.

Almost 40% of self-employed workers in the age cohort of 26-35 years end up producing for self-consumption rather than for the market. There is also a falling share of working women in the same age cohort, from 31% in 2017-18 to 26% currently. The fall is evident across all categories of workers: self-employed, regular/salaried and casual workers.

The marginal increase in the urban FLFPR is mainly driven by a 4% rise in the share of older women workers in the age cohort 36-59 years.

**Data on women neither working nor looking for work:** Almost 82% in the 26-35 years age cohort, cited childcare and household chores as their primary reasons for not being part of the labour force.

Women aged 35-plus cited health and age-related issues, social norms and non-availability of jobs, in addition to household commitments and childcare as reasons for not seeking work.

**Read more:** [Periodic Labour Force Survey\(PLFS\) – Annual Report](#)

What are the impacts of PLFS findings on FLFPR?

1) The share of women workers engaged in agricultural activities had been in decline since the 1990s. The **reversal in trend indicates over-crowding and under-employment** in the sector. 2) The FLFPR numbers continue to remain dismal and **way below the global FLFPR** of approximately 48%, 3) The increase in rural women's LFPR **does not reflect increased demand and/or better job opportunities** beyond agriculture, 4) The employment of older women workers in urban areas highlights the **Informal job networks**, which usually lead to employment in jobs with low remuneration and below par working condition.

**Read more:** [Periodic Labour Force Survey and Unemployment in India- Explained, pointwise](#)

What should be done to improve India's FLFPR?

There is a need to **decrease the disproportionate burden** that women bear for domestic care and household work that keeps them away from the country's labour market. Hence, the government has to not only generate jobs and opportunities for women but also has to create an ecosystem of enablers that substantially reduces the care and household commitments of women.

### 3. [To Be Developed](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article **"To be developed"** published in **The Times of India** on **16<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development, and Employment.

**Relevance:** Economic Growth

**News:** The Prime Minister of India's 75<sup>th</sup> Year Independence Day speech has set an ambitious target that India must become a developed country by 2047.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

**Criteria for a country to become developed:** (1) **income, and per capita income**, and (2) **non-farm employment** must be far more than farm employment.

**Linkages between two criteria;** If the share of people in farming goes down and manufacturing and services jobs multiply, it leads to a rise in incomes. For example, the British saw an increase in income during the **Industrial Revolution** when the share of employment in agriculture began to come down in around 1760. In fact, in every country that has become rich, farm employment has radically shrunk.

### **Where does India stand today?**

In 2018-19, around 41% of the labor force was engaged in agriculture, and 12.1% were employed in manufacturing. Most of those who came out of farms are absorbed in low-paid and insecure jobs in services and real estate.

### **Challenges in giving a boost to the manufacturing sector**

The tariff rate has increased by 4.5 percentage points over the last five years to 18.3%.

The government has embarked upon **protectionism**. The PLI schemes have an overemphasis on protection. This protectionism will undermine opportunities offered by the world, to India, in the Global Value Chains.

**Lack of speedy dispute redressal process:** Indian courts' performance in contract enforcement is among the worst in the world. NCLT. There are **vacancies** and **huge backlogs** in the entire judicial system that dilute the efficacy of most reforms.

### **What should be done?**

In order to become a developed country, the Indian economy requires people to move out of farms much faster. For this, the **Indian farming sector needs to be reformed and manufacturing should flourish**.

To boost the **manufacturing sector:** (1) the Centre-state should make a joint effort to clear projects fast, and (2) the Centre should stop hiking import duties and reduce the which can be low-hanging fruit for the government.

#### 4. [The shackles of 1861 need to go](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article "**The shackles of 1861 need to go**" published in **The Hindu** on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 Various Security Forces and Agencies and their Mandate.

**Relevance:** Police Reforms

**News:** Recently, a book titled "**The Struggle for Police Reforms in India: Ruler's Police to People's Police**" authored by a former IPS officer, **Prakash Singh** was released.

**History of the reforms in the criminal justice system (CJS) during 75 years of Independence**

#### **(A) Parliament's Contributions**

The **Probation of Offenders Act, 1958** was passed to reform, rather than punish, offenders.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

The **Dowry Prohibition Act** was passed in 1961 for realizing the urgent need to check the social evil of dowry.

The **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** was amended in 1983 and 1986 to introduce sections 498A for cruelty by husband and his relatives, and Section 304B for the dowry related death.

The **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act**, was enacted in 1989.

The definition of rape has been widened and offenses related to sexual assault made tougher.

The **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015**, have been enacted.

The **Information Technology Act** of 2000 has been amended to give legal sanctity to electronic documents and signatures to facilitate online transactions and check cybercrime.

The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** was constituted in 2008 after the deadly 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai, to investigate and prosecute offences affecting national security.

### **(B) The constitutional court's contributions**

The Supreme Court granted relief to the LGBTQ+ community by reading down Section 377 of the IPC.

Custodial torture and sexual harassment of women have been held to be violations of fundamental rights.

The SC has ruled that the right to privacy is one of the fundamental rights under the Constitution of India.

The Supreme Court has acknowledged the misuse of Section 124A and has, in fact, may decide on the constitutionality of the sedition.

Attempts have been made to blend some elements of the inquisitorial system into the (prevalent) adversarial system. For example, making **judicial inquiry** has been made mandatory into custodial death and **custodial rape mandatory** to punish the guilty.

### **(C) Other Reforms**

Police power to arrest has been curtailed, the use of handcuffs restrained, the presence of a lawyer permitted during interrogation, CCTV cameras installed in the police stations, and human rights bodies allowed to keep a constant eye.

### **Problems in the functioning of the Indian Police forces**

(1) There are allegations of using brute force and a large trust deficit between the public and police.

(2) No state governments has given due attention to police reforms suggested under SC's directives in **Prakash Singh v. Union of India (2006)**. For example, even the directive of separating investigation from law and order was not implemented by States and Union Territories in the true spirit.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

- (3) In fact, no State or UT has adopted **the Model Police Act** drafted by Soli J. Sorabjee.
- (4) The State's police acts continue to live with British time provisions which have outlived their purpose long ago, like the connection between the **magistrates** and the police in the system. **For example**, the District Superintendent of Police is unable to transfer his Station House Officers (SHOs) without the approval of the District Magistrate in U.P.; the performance appraisal report of a Superintendent of Police is still written by the District Magistrate in some States
- (5) Introduction of the **police Commissionerate system** in metropolitan areas (as per the provisions of the **Criminal Procedure Code**) is always resisted.
- (6) The Criminal system is** governed by the 1861 Act, which laid the foundation for an organized police force. It's Drafting of IPC was impacted by the revolt of 1857. The main objective was to use the police as a weapon of repression and strengthen the hold the British had over India. The **prevention (and detection) of crime** was never their priority.

### What should be done?

There should be additional funding for police reforms. Further, there is a need for improvement in soft skills and ensuring investigation in an impartial manner in order to bridge the trust deficit.

More offences can be **made bailable** and more brought under the ambit of **compounding** to lighten the burden on jails.

The Police department can establish **specialised wings** to deal with newer types of crime.

Further, police must be encouraged to use **technology** and **forensic** techniques to enhance the quality of evidence.

### 5. [Sustainable environmental practices: Stepping back from an ecological abyss](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article "**Stepping back from an ecological abyss**" published in **The Hindu** on **17<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 – Environment and Bio-diversity: Conservation.

**Relevance:** About the sustainable environmental practices.

**News:** Chipko, Silent Valley, Narmada, Koel-Karo movements inspired many sustainable environmental practices. The government too responded with a series of forest, wildlife, environment-related laws and policies. It is now a time to analyse the phase of these sustainable environmental practices.

What is the status of environmental health in India?

**Water:** According to NITI Aayog, "600 million people in India face high to extreme water stress... with nearly 70% of water being contaminated; India is placed at 120th amongst 122 countries in the water quality index".

**Air:** Four hundred and eighty million Indians face the world's most extreme air pollution levels.

**Land degradation and desertification:** According to the Indian Space Research Organisation, over 30% of India's land is facing issues such as degradation and desertification.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

Overall, the World Bank reported in 2013 that India was **losing 5.7% of its GDP due to environmental damage.**

**Read more:** [Just Fine – On amending environmental laws](#)

What is the reason for damage to sustainable environmental practices?

**Obsession with economic growth:** Despite growing evidence of GDP being a very poor indicator of human well-being exploitation of natural elements continue to be ignored or mauled.

According to the former Planning Commission, over 60 million people have been physically displaced by 'development' projects in the last few decades with very poor rehabilitation. Amongst them, a disproportionately high percentage of these are Adivasis and Dalits.

**Favour corporate access:** The government favour corporate access to land and natural resources. For instance, the latest proposals to amend forest and environment laws, and the Environment Impact Assessment notification.

**Building massive physical infrastructure:** For instance, the 2022-23 Budget has an allocation for highways alone that is 40 times greater than the Budget of the Ministry for Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

**The economic 'reforms' in 1991:** With greater integration into the global economy, the entry of multinational corporations into every sector, and increasing exports of natural materials, the issue of environmental sustainability was relegated to the background.

**Less fund for climate action:** India still provide abysmally low budgets for adaptation measures. The Climate Action Plan got a meagre ₹30 crore in the 2022-23 Budget.

**Read more:** [Can synthetic biology offer solutions to environmental challenges?](#)

What are a few innovative and successive sustainable environmental practices?

-Community-led ecotourism, such as homestays in Uttarakhand and Ladakh and Sikkim, has combined increased earnings with ecologically sensitive visitation.

-Women farmers of the Deccan Development Society have demonstrated how organic, rainfed farming with traditional seed diversity can provide full food security and sovereignty.

-Handloom weavers in Kachchh (Gujarat) have shown how dignified, creative livelihoods can be revived based on organic Kala cotton and a mix of traditional and new skills.

What can be done to improve sustainable environmental practices?

**Give priority to India's crafts:** India's crafts have sustained several hundred million people in the past. They can do so again if the traditional and new skills in textiles, footwear, cleaning agents, furniture, architecture and construction, water-related technologies, and a range of household items are given priority.

**Link programmes and environmental outcome:** As advocated by the UNEP, public transportation, organic farming, land and water regeneration, ecotourism, etc can significantly enhance job creation. Linking programmes such as the MGNREGA with such activities will boost sustainable environmental practices.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

**Fundamental restructuring of economy and governance:** This means a shift away from large infrastructure and industrialisation, replacing mega-corporations with producer cooperatives, ensuring community rights over the 'commons' (land, water, forest, coasts, knowledge), etc.

This will entail respect for both human rights and the rights of nature.

**Collective mobilisation:** Instead of relying on government action alone, collective mobilisation of industrial workers, farmers, fishers, craftspersons, pastoralists, etc is required to fulfil India's environmental objectives.

### 6. [Achievements of CSIR: High points in science, technology and innovation](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article "**High points in science, technology and innovation**" published in **The Hindu** on **17<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 – Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

**Relevance:** About the achievements of CSIR.

**News:** The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has undertaken its mission effectively since Independence.

What is the responsibility of CSIR in 1947?

CSIR had been founded in 1942. In 1947, India has a GDP of a mere ₹2.7 lakh crore and food grain production of a meagre of 50 million tonnes.

The challenges of educating the people, feeding the population, implementing democracy, promoting industry and trade, and ensuring the country's security. In this situation, the CSIR took the responsibility of

**a)** Developing the science, technology and innovation ecosystem, **b)** Establishing a number of national laboratories under its umbrella, and **c)** Promoting similar organisations independently.

What are a few major achievements of CSIR?

**1)** The CSIR started five of its own laboratories with support from the government and industry and raised resources through crowdsourcing, **2)** In collaboration with the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, the Government (through the CSIR) started the **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research**, **3)**

**The development of national calendar:** CSIR setup a committee under the Chairmanship of Meghnad Saha. Based on the committee's science and technology-based solutions a national calendar has been adopted, **4)** The CSIR's National Physical Laboratory developed the **indelible ink made up of silver nitrate** to address various challenges in voting.

**Read more:** [Year-End Review-2021- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research](#)

Achievements of CSIR in leather industry

**a)** CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) was established in 1948, it developed technologies for finished leather products, such as the first-ever indigenous manufacture of leather chemicals, making the transition from semifinished to finished leather possible, **b)** CSIR-CLRI routinely trained the next generation manpower for the leather industry. As a result, more

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

than 40% of personnel employed in the leather industry have been trained directly or indirectly in the CSIR-CLRI.

The leather industry employed less than 25,000 people at the time of Independence. Due to successful intervention by CSIR, the leather industry now has a workforce of more than 4.5 million, a large percentage of them being women. Further, Indian exports in this sector are close to \$6 billion.

What are the achievements of CSIR in other technologies?

**During the Green Revolution:** The CSIR helped in the development of agrochemicals and the mechanisation of agriculture. Two public sector companies were founded, post-Independence, based on technologies developed in the CSIR's laboratories.

Indigenous development of the Swaraj tractor at the CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), led to the formation of Punjab Tractors Ltd. in 1970.

**Development of generic pharmaceutical industry:** The production of anti-HIV drugs by processes developed in CSIR laboratories provided the necessary impetus to the growth of generic pharmaceutical companies.

**Dairy sector:** In the 1950s, when solving the infant food problem, the CSIR successfully developed technologies to convert buffalo milk into powder and commercialised it with the help of Amul Industries.

**Other missions:** The Aroma Mission of the CSIR in recent times has been transforming the lives of thousands of farmers across the country.

In upcoming years, CSIR will help in reducing dependence on natural resources, making all industrial processes circular, making technologies environmentally friendly and providing sufficient opportunities to all for living.

### 7. [Required fundamental policy changes in science and technology: The coming 75 years](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article **"The coming 75 years"** published in **The Hindu** on **17<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 – Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

**Relevance:** About the fundamental policy changes in science and technology.

**News:** At present India spends just 0.7% of its GDP on research and development (R&D). In the next 75 years, India should shift its focus to science and technology.

**Read more:** [India's Research and Development \(R&D\) activities has achieved far less than it's potential](#)

What basic fundamental policy changes in science and technology does India need?

Increase the R&D budget to 4% of the nation's GDP

Israel and South Korea are prime examples that drive their respective economies by spending nearly 5% of their GDP on R&D.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

However, an increase in R&D must proceed with

**a)** Appropriate macro-level policy changes on fund allocation, including building physical and intellectual infrastructure, especially in universities, **b)** Well-trained, globally competitive institutional administrators and processes.

Ensure individual institutions implement processes to accommodate the large budget  
This requires **a)** Standardising procedures across institutions and borrowing the best practices from some global counterparts, **b)** Each grant-receiving institution must have internal procedures to handle their scientists' requests to facilitate effective academia-industry collaboration.

**Must Read:** [Research and Development in India: Status, Challenges and Recommendations – Explained, pointwise](#)

Encourage individual entrepreneurs and Link science with society  
Encouraging individual entrepreneurs can bring the benefits of science and technology closer to the masses.

India should **a) resolve** inadequate staffing at funding agencies, lack of transparency in fund disbursement, lack of a rigorous international standard review and feedback process, excessive delay in fund disbursement, and an outdated appraisal system. To avoid these, India can take help from the IT majors, **b) Link the labs with the entrepreneurs** to execute innovative ideas, products, and solutions to our society.

**Read more:** [Ministry of Science and Technology inaugurates India's 'First Lavender Festival' in Bhaderwah](#)

All these fundamental policy changes in science and technology will be feasible only if India cuts the defence budget. India must realise that the next generation of war is economic, not military, and only a science and technology-driven economy can prepare India for that.

### 8. [Power, a reality check](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “**Power, a reality check**” published in the **Indian Express** on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 Infrastructure; Energy

**Relevance:** Power Distribution Sector Reforms

**News:** Recently, the Central government has come up with a **Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS)** in a series of attempts to tackle the challenges of the power sector.

The Central government and state governments have made impressive strides in increasing access to the **quantity** and **quality of electricity**, as well as expansion of renewable capacity in India.

#### **What are the major issues in the Power Sector?**

The financial health of the **power sector** is rapidly deteriorating. At present, the state-owned DISCOMs are debt-ridden. In fact, the problem has also worsened the fiscal situation of the state governments.



## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

As per the **RBI** and **PRS Legislative Research**, the “**true**” deficit of the state governments significantly increases in FY21, if DISCOM’s losses are incorporated. **For example**, state government deficits increased as a whole from 4.7% to 5.5% of state GSDP, putting state governments above fiscal responsibility limits. Further, the “true” aggregate debt increases from 31.0% to 34.5%. This has happened in the case of Punjab and Rajasthan, whose **deficits and debt** have exceeded the indicative targets set by the Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) due to the non-inclusion of the DISCOM losses.

The discoms are incurring huge losses, in increasing order, from “**Headline losses**”, “**losses without subsidies and grants**”, and “**losses without subsidies and grants and including the arrears of the discoms**”. **For example**, For the fiscal year 2020-21, the combined losses of the discoms are Rs 2.1 lakh crore without subsidies and grants, Rs 3.0 lakh crore when arrears to power generating companies (GENCOs) are included, and much more when the headline loss of 78,000 crores is included.

### **What are the causes of poor affairs of state-owned discoms?**

The discoms have not been able to achieve **full cost recovery** through revenues and continue to bear losses.

The financial situations of the state governments have worsened because the state governments have failed to fully integrate **DISCOM operations** in the analysis of **state government finances**.

Thus, the DISCOM losses must be added to **state government deficits**, and the DISCOM’s debt must be included in state government debt. It will show a clear picture of the fiscals of state governments.

### 9. [The woes of power: A moderate approach to the discom sector might be the answer](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “**The woes of power: A moderate approach to the discom sector might be the answer**” published in the **Indian Express** on **17<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 Infrastructure; Energy

**Relevance:** Power Sector Reforms

**News:** The Government has launched the latest **Revamped Distribution Sector scheme (RDSS)**,

#### **About the scheme**

The government has allowed the states to access some central government resources based on certain conditions like adhering to regular revision in tariffs, smart metering, and committing to a reduction in the AT&C losses.

#### **Some findings about the state of affairs of the power sector.**

(1) The problem of discoms is considerably worse than recognized because true losses of Rs 3 lakh crore exceed substantially the headline number of Rs 78,000 crore.

(2) The state government finances (due to power woes) have deteriorated, i.e., **true state government deficits** are about 5.5% of GSDP, not 4.7%, and the true debt is 34.5% of GSDP, not 31.0%.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

(3) unsustainable discom operations are increasingly financed not by public sector banks, but by the **Power Finance Corporation/Rural Electrification Corporation (PFC/REC)**.

### What are the political economy implications or issues in the power sector reforms?

(1) On the one hand, the **Ministry of Finance** is concerned about the financial situation of the discoms. Therefore, it is trying to induce state governments to make reforms through incentives. On the other hand, the Ministry of Power (MOP) has the mandate to pursue **objectives** that are **politically popular** (access and quality) and increase renewable capacity, important for international acknowledgment. **For example**, the MOP has given higher priority to **infrastructure building** over **financial sustainability**, which has become a major concern for the MOF.

(2) Discoms owe increasing amounts of money to **PFC/REC**. Further, any default by discoms will jeopardize the functioning of the PFC/REC.

(3) There are issues in the **regulation** of the **Power Finance Corporation (PFC)/ Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)**. On the one hand, these are regulated by the RBI as non-bank financial companies (NBFC). But such regulatory oversight is lighter compared to that involving the PSBs. On the other hand, these have been used to pursue the government's quantity targets on access, quality, and renewable capacity. Therefore, the MOP will be reluctant to impose **hard budget constraints** on the discoms, which creates moral hazard and disincentives for discoms reforms.

(4) The state governments are involved in **greater freebie-ism like** offering free electricity, in the power sector. Therefore, lending to discoms has become a **Ponzi dynamic** which leads to under-recovery by the discoms.

### What should be done to resolve the above issues?

(1) There should be a comprehensive attempt at **institutional changes** and financial performance. The latest RDSS scheme along with proposed changes to the electricity law steps in this direction.

Unlike the UDAY scheme, the RDSS desires frontload of the actions that discoms and state governments need to take. Further, the proposed legal provisions under the Electricity Bill may help make the RDSS provisions more effective.

(2) There should be **greater transparency**. For this, the **next finance commission** should recommend that the state government should ensure that discoms losses and debts are reflected in their **state government balance sheet**.

(3) There should be **simplicity in power tariffs** in India. **For example**, most states have more than a hundred tariff rates, which leads to large costs and zero benefits. The central government and the central regulator should nudge/persuade their respective state government counterparts to have tariff schedules with no more than say 5-6 rates. For example, one for agriculture, one for industry and commerce, and say 3-4 for households.

(4) There should be a target for smart metering of the entire system, including agriculture. This has the potential to improve **financial performance** and reduce inefficiency and corruption.

(5) **The principle of no cross-subsidization** must be accepted. The state government must eliminate rampant **cross-subsidization**. For example, Industrial and commercial consumers

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.

Visit [academy.forumias.com](https://academy.forumias.com) for our mentor based courses.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

should pay tariffs close to the costs of procuring power by the discoms and not the costs that make up for losses elsewhere in the system, like **below-cost pricing** for agricultural consumers and households consumer in a state.

### 10. [Solutions to India's jobs problem lie in creating better regulatory conditions for private sector while protecting rights of workers](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “**Solutions to India's jobs problem lie in creating better regulatory conditions for the private sector while protecting rights of workers**” published in the **Indian Express** on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development, and Employment.

**Relevance:** Jobless Growth in India; Job Creation Prospects

**News:** In the recent past, the prime minister's office (PMO) had instructed that the recruitment of 10 lakh people be done by the government in a mission mode in the next year and a half. Further, the new Bihar government has also promised its people to create 10 lakh jobs within the government fold.

#### **Some findings related to job creation in the Financial Year 2021-22**

##### **Private Sector**

Most of the job creation that happened in India in the FY was in the private sector. For example, eight out of the top ten private sector firms by **market capitalisation** added to their workforce in this financial year. In terms of number, together these firms added 3 lakh new jobs in the last financial year.

##### **Public sector undertakings (PSUs)**

The **government-owned enterprises** or **public sector understanding** saw a decline in the total number of people they employed during this FY. The top 15 listed PSUs by **market capitalisation** like State Bank of India, Coal India, ONGC, NTPC, BPCL, and HAL, saw a reduction in the number of people employed.

##### **Challenges in Job Creation**

The PSUs are not able to solve India's joblessness. These firms failed to create jobs, even when India's GDP was growing at almost 9% (last year).

##### **The Way Forward**

As per analysis, the private sector has a greater role to play in the creation of jobs in the Indian Economy.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### 11. [Soldiers, The Silent Partners of Indian Democracy](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “**Soldiers, the silent Partners of Indian Democracy**” published in **The Times of India** on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 The Security forces and their mandate

**Relevance:** Role of Indian Armed Forces in Indian Democracy and reforms

**Context:** Over the last 75 years, India has acquired the tag of being a responsible military power.

#### **What are the issues facing the Indian Military?**

India has been a diffident power when it comes to the application of **military force** as an instrument of statecraft. This has held back the Indian state from deploying the military on a number of occasions.

#### **History of Indian armed forces contributions**

##### **(A) Phase of vital contribution to nation building**

(a) Soon after Independence, it helped in the restoration of peace and communal harmony in several places in northern and eastern India.

(b) It fought a land-air battle for over a year across two fronts in the **Srinagar Valley-cum Ladakh sector**, and **the Jammu and Poonch sectors**.

(c) Helped to quell a potential secessionist rebellion by the Nizam of Hyderabad.

##### **(B) Phase of declined contribution**

The political class had misplaced fear of **militarisation of Indian society**. Therefore, they gradually stopped listening to the Indian military. For example, the ruling class ignored Generals **Thimayya** and **Thorat's warnings** and assessments of Chinese intentions and were side-lined for their views which were termed, alarmist. As a result, India experienced its only major military defeat in 1962.

The military took an eternal 14 years for evicting the Portuguese from Goa.

##### **(C) Post 1962 resurgence phase**

PMs and Defence Ministers started understanding the Indian military and allowed service chiefs to speak truth to power in the nation's interest.

The political executives started focusing on an **indigenous defense manufacturing** and licensed manufacturing ecosystem.

As a result, India's military revived and won the Indo-Pak War in 1965 and 1971 conflicts. Another manifestation was India's '**fighting fire with fire**' response at Nathu La in 1967.

##### **(D) The post-1972 period**

This time Indian forces learnt new lessons as they faced challenges of '**Full Spectrum Conflict**'.

The Indian forces carried out **Operation Pawan** in Sri Lanka, **Operation Cactus** in the Maldives, and **Operation Bluestar** at Golden Temple, Amritsar.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

In the realm of 'No War and No Peace,' and strategic coercion, change was made in the strategies and structures for national security. These were aimed to allow India to **flex its military muscle**, which could act as a **credible instrument of deterrence**. India won the **Indo-Pak Kargil war of 1998**. However, it was a costly victory.

### **(E) New Paradigm- Limited military action used as a means of political signaling**

In recent years, Indian forces carried out military action along and across the Myanmar-India border against insurgents; and also had a face-off at **Doklam**.

The Special forces and IAF carried **counter-terrorist strikes** after the Uri and Pulwama attacks.

### **What is the issue in India's ongoing paradigm?**

There is a reactive approach to external security challenges at present.

### **What should be done?**

India must migrate from a **reactive approach** to a more **proactive and preventive strategy**. This can only be achieved through the following steps:

- (1) The military should be nimble in its thought and action across the spectrum
- (2) It must have cutting-edge technology and synergised joint strategies across the land, maritime, aerospace, and cyber domains.
- (3) The military is an instrument of the state and a strong pillar of democracy. It cannot rest in a complex and unpredictable global security environment with powerful adversaries
- (4) The Indian state has applied military power, ensuring it remains non-expansive and non-intrusive. This is part of a **robust and resilient democracy**.

## 12. Hard truths about India's labour reforms

**Source:** The post is based on the article "**Hard truths about India's labour reforms**" published in **The Hindu** on **19<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** **GS 3** – Indian Economy and issues relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development and Employment.

**Relevance:** About the impact of labour reforms.

**News:** While the numbers of Indian billionaires increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, hundreds of millions of Indians lost their incomes when the country was locked down during the pandemic.

The problem is not just employment but also poor quality of employment.

About employment and social and economic freedom

The dominant 'theory-in-use' to **increase employment is to improve the ease of doing business**. The **investments in businesses will improve citizens' ease of earning good livelihoods**.

According to this theory, large and formal enterprises create good jobs. But for that to happen the labour laws must be 'flexible' to attract investments.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

About India's labour reforms

The primary purpose of labour laws is to protect the rights of workers, not promote the interests of investors.

**Prior to 1991**, Indian labour laws protect labour more. But **after 1991**, labour laws' principal thrust is to improve administration by simplifying procedures and digitisation. However, the government did not make the labour laws more employer-friendly.

**Reforms post-2014:** The Government designed a framework for reforms. Since labour is a concurrent subject, it encouraged States to implement changes. The first state to do so is Rajasthan.

Labour laws cover many subjects — payment of wages, safety conditions, social security, terms of employment, and dispute resolution. The proposed national reforms aim to convert all these laws into four codes.

**Must read:** [Labour reforms in India](#)

What are the key findings on the impacts of labour reforms?

The V.V. Giri National Labour Institute released an interim report titled "Impact Assessment Study of the Labour Reforms undertaken by the States." The report has focused on the reform of the Industrial Disputes Act.

The report spans the period 2004-05 to 2018-19. The report defines "formal" employment as the grant of paid leave, a written contract, and some "social security".

**Read more:** [About the Impact Assessment Study of the Labour Reforms](#)

**Key findings:** When the emphasis was on administrative reforms, the share of employment in plants employing more than 300 people increased from 51.1% to 55.3% between 2010-11 to 2014-15. But when the emphasis was on labour reforms, the ratio increased less from 55.3% to 56.3%, in 2017-18.

The report stated the following reasons for such factors. These are,

**a)** Labour laws are only one-factor affecting business investment decisions, **b)** An enterprise must have a growing market for its products, **c)** Many things must be put together to produce for the market (such as capital, machinery, materials, land, etc.) not just labour, **d)** Investors do not hire people just because it is easy to fire them.

What one can conclude from the impact of labour reforms?

**1)** Reforms of labour laws have had little effect on increasing employment in large enterprises, **2)** Labour reforms cannot induce the creation of large enterprises. This is because the laws such as Industrial Disputes Act still apply to them.

**Must read:** [GDP growth and formal employment: Whose GDP is it anyway?](#)

What should be focused on instead of labour reforms?

The government need to understand that more GDP does not automatically produce more income at the bottom. The government has to enable **a)** The generation of better-quality livelihoods for Indian citizens, now and in the future, **b)** Fundamental reform is required in the ways policies are made, **c)** Fundamental reforms are required in the theory of economic growth.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### 13. [How free basics can help India grow rich?](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “**How free basics can help India grow rich**” published in **The Times of India** on **20<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus: GS 3 Inclusive Growth**

**Relevance:** The Universal Basic Income (UBI)

**News:** Recently, countries like South Korea, Finland, and Canada have made some Universal Basic Income (UBI) experiments, while India is witnessing the debates on the merits of free basic facilities.

#### **Why should India provide free basic facilities?**

(1) There is a **growing global consensus** about the **redistribution of wealth**. As per various leftists, the UBI can be a means to correct growing **income equality** in modern society.

(2) As per some **pro-market people**, the UBI is helpful to sustain **the level of consumption** in the economy. For example, Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg, and French economist Thomas Piketty have proposed it.

(3) There are some **historical experiences** related to the benefits of free basic facilities in western countries.

(a) Germany has provided and benefitted from free education and healthcare for years. It implemented the **Bismarckian pension model** in 1889 which arose to help the landless workers migrate to cities amid rapid industrialization.

(b) After the Great Depression, America’s social security system was implemented. This resulted in the transfer of cash which provided relief to the people and also kick-started demand in a struggling economy.

(4) Over the years, productivity has risen faster than wages in almost all economies (say the US). In India, the share of wages in total output fell from 30.3% in 1981-82 to 18.9% in 2019-2020.

#### **What are other reasons to implement UBI in India?**

(1) **Limitation of Contribution Based Models:** Unlike, the rich countries, most workers in India are working in the unorganized sector. Thus, a contribution-based model will help only salaried people, whose number was only 24% in 2019.

(2) **Evident in the existing schemes:** the contribution-based model has been implemented in old age and disability schemes. These schemes exclude a large number of people.

(3) **Make population employable:** Free education and health care reduces out-of-pocket expenditure and make the population more employable.

# General

# Studies

# Paper – 4



General Studies - 4

1. [Indian philanthropy has a worthy record that could shine brighter](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “**Indian philanthropy has a worthy record that could shine brighter**” published in the **Live Mint** on **18<sup>th</sup> August 2022**.

**Syllabus:** GS 4 Corporate Governance.

**Relevance:** Ethics in Corporate Governance; Philanthropist

**News: Recently,** the India Philanthropy Report 2022 was published by Bain and Company and Dasra.

**The Findings**

According to the report, **Indian family philanthropy** is expected to grow at a robust 26% compound annual growth rate from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

There is still substantial scope to unlock an additional corpus of ₹60,000 crores to ₹1 trillion.

Family philanthropists are willing to contribute and increase their giving over time to social causes.

**A Brief History of Family Philanthropy in India**

India has had a rich culture of giving, primarily through social networks and religious institutions.

**Pre-1920 Phase**

(1) The process of industrialization that began in the 19th century, led a number of families like the Tatas, Birlas, Hamieds, and Bajajs, to create a significant amount of wealth. These families have played an important role in India’s advancement and philanthropic projects.

(2) Sir Jamsetji Tata established the **J.N. Tata Endowment Scheme** in 1892, much before similar foundations were founded in the West. Tata pledged half his wealth to establish **the Indian Institute of Science (IISc)**, which was founded five years after his passing

**Post-1920 During Mahatma Gandhi’s leadership – The next major shift**

(1) Mahatma Gandhi inspired prominent industrialists that believed that ownership of wealth must be held primarily in trusteeship for the benefit of the poor. Therefore, industrialists like Jamnalal Bajaj, G.D. Birla, Ardeshir Godrej, and Dr. K.A. Hamied. Ardeshir Godrej contributed a sum of ₹3 lakh to the Tilak Swaraj Fund established by Mahatma Gandhi in 1920.

(2) In 1935, Dr. K.A. Hamied established Cipla to make India self-reliant in quality healthcare.

(3) Family philanthropists also supported Mahatma Gandhi’s other objectives, like non-violence and the promotion of khadi.

(4) Philanthropic families helped found educational institutes, such as the **Birla Institute of Technology in Pilani** (G.D. Birla), the Indian Institute of Management (Kasturbhai Lalbhai), and the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (Sir Dorabji Tata).

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of August, (Third Week) 2022

### Post-Independence India

(1) Many families have established foundations and trusts that work directly with non-profit organizations and local communities to address critical issues like healthcare, quality education, skill building, etc.

(2) Business families upheld social responsibility as a core value long before corporate social responsibility (CSR) was a legal mandate. For example, **Godrej's 'good and green' approach** to building a more inclusive and greener India is one such.

### Post-1991 Era

(1) **New age role models** such as Azim Premji, Shiv Nadar Rohini Nilekani, and various others who are setting an example for **strategic family giving** and inspiring others to follow suit.

(2) At present, the family philanthropists are pooling resources for collaborative efforts. For example, **Social Compact**, a multi-stakeholder platform was founded with the support of philanthropists such as Rati and Farhad Forbes, Anu Aga, and Meher Pudumjee.

### Why does India need philanthropic contributions?

The covid pandemic has shown various **unmet needs** and **systemic inequalities** in our society. For example, there was a migrant crisis; in which millions of daily-wage workers were forced to travel long distances with little to no sustenance and support. There is enormous potential for the family philanthropist to help address these issues.

### What should be done?

**The future of giving:** They should come together as a community and collaborate for the purpose of **strategic giving** to the nation.

Philanthropic families have an **opportunity** to shape the **next 75 years of India**. They should draw inspiration from **their rich tradition** of giving during India's formative years and help build an **inclusive India** where a billion thrive with dignity and equity.