

9 PM

Compilation

5th to 10th September, 2022

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General Studies Paper – 1

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General Studies - 1

1. [Netaji at India gate: The revolutionary's due](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Netaji at Indian gate: The revolutionary's due**” published in **The Indian Express** on **8th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS1- The freedom struggle

Relevance– About Subhash Chandra Bose and Indian National Army

News: The article explains Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's contribution for Indian independence and events related to the Indian National Army. If it succeeded; India would have attained freedom and not transfer of power.

How do Britishers look at the Indian national army?

Britishers tried to black out the news related to the Indian National Army. They termed it as “**Japanese inspired force**”. When INA trials began, Indians came to know about it.

Britishers depended on armed forces to control India; so they did not want the feeling of patriotism to seep into the army.

What was Subash Bose's plan?

He wanted to capture Imphal which would have provided him with a large number of Indian soldiers for recruitment. He wanted to raise three more divisions from these soldiers. There were already three divisions. The six divisions would have made INA the single largest force in the region.

With rapid advance into India; the army would have switched sides and it could create revolutionary conditions. The military push by Bose needed to be backed by Japanese air force but it did not materialise.

How did the idea of the Rani Jhansi regiment materialise?

The idea was mooted in a three-hour conversation with Laxmi Shegal on 12th July, 1943. It was to be a fighting unit.

The Rani Jhansi Regiment started with 500 women volunteers in Singapore and 30 were selected for officer training. Those who were not combat ready were put into the Nursing Corps. After completion of the course, the recruits were moved to Rangoon in Burma. Their numbers went up to 1500. 1,000 were in the fighting unit and the rest in other roles. From Rangoon, the regiment shifted to Maymyo, Bose's advance headquarters.

What are other facts about the Indian National Army?

The provisional Government of Azad Hind was formed on October 21, 1943.

Bose did not want to be seen as collaborating with enemy forces occupying their country. So, he explained in great length that Japan has nothing to do with the formation of government in India.

The financing of Azad Hind was mainly through contribution from Indians living in South East Asia. There was no tax or levy.

It declared war against Britain and America. Bose maintained that the Congress leaders wanted freedom in their lifetime. Expecting freedom in one's lifetime was bound to lead to compromises.

2. [The stark reasons why Bengaluru is sinking](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**The stark reasons why Bengaluru is sinking**” published in **The Hindu** on **10th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 1 – Urbanization

News: This article discusses about the problems that have led to waterlogging in Bengaluru and steps that need to be taken to tackle this.

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Many social media posts are showing videos of abandoned vehicles floating or underwater, tractors and their trailers laden with software professionals commuting to work, and flooded layouts that are home to luxury villas.

What are the reasons behind the flooding of Bengaluru?

The Bengaluru's expansion swallowed nearby villages and panchayats were disbanded to create six city municipal corporations. These municipal corporations later merged into Bhruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The transition destroyed land records and nearby lakes and catchment areas were transformed into private lands. Builders soon transformed these areas into apartments, shopping malls and information-technology parks.

Bengaluru also lacks in institutional capacity to handle the problems of the future.

There is lack of coordination among the institutions like local governments, BBMP, panchayats, Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA), etc.

What can be done further to improve the present condition?

Although, Bengaluru has achieved success in rainwater harvesting, solar water heating, segregation of garbage and the stoppage of littering still there is more to be done. Reforms are needed to withstand climate change and build a better environment.

The reforms required are –

First, multiple institutions should be ended.

Multiple institutions do not improve execution but they provide troubles and complicate governance.

Therefore, outdated institutions should be replaced by a constitutionally compliant institution with local governments at the top. Therefore, 11 independent planning authorities must be merged and subordinated to the Metropolitan Planning Committee.

This constitutionally mandated institution will enable all stakeholders from largest land owners (defence, railways) to the mahanagara palika and panchayats within the metropolitan area to participate.

Second, community efforts are needed. There is a need to strengthen climate resilience that goes past flood control. Thus, the following efforts are required:

- 1. a)** curbing car travel and improving cheap public transport, **b)** preserving existing green cover and planting more trees, **c)** de-concretizing our pavements, **d)** prohibiting littering and segregating garbage.

People should enforce operational standards for sewage treatment plants and deal with illegal constructions and encroachments that harm our environment.

People also need to increase efforts to improve Rajakaluves (channels that connect water bodies).

People should ensure better working of the institutions by electing capable leaders into these institutions and making those institutions accountable.

However, any institution has its own limitations. Therefore, we should elect our politicians carefully.

Only those people should be elected who care about the environment as well as for the development and are not corrupt.

General

Studies

Paper – 2

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General Studies - 2

1. [A lot is at stake for India-Bangladesh ties](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “A lot is at stake for India-Bangladesh ties” published in **The Hindu** on **5th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – India and its neighbourhood- relations.

Relevance: About the India-Bangladesh relationship.

News: Recently Bangladesh Foreign Minister requested India to ensure that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stays in power in next year’s polls. He claimed that both India and Bangladesh would gain political stability by ensuring this. His comments came before the Bangladesh PM’s visit to India.

What are the possible outcomes of Bangladesh PM’s visit to India?

Both countries aim to sign a **Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**. CEPA comes at a time when Bangladesh is set to lose the duty-free and quota-free market-access facility to India after 2026 when it graduates to a developing country.

What is the present status of India-Bangladesh relations?

Trade: Bangladesh is India’s sixth largest trade partner with bilateral trade rising from \$2.4 billion in 2009 to \$10.8 billion in 2020-21.

According to a World Bank working paper, Bangladesh’s exports could rise 182% under a free trade agreement. This could become 300% if combined with trade facilitation measures and reduced transaction costs.

Connectivity: India and Bangladesh have implemented several projects to boost eastern India-Bangladesh connectivity. India’s connectivity projects with ASEAN and Bangladesh will open up the region to economic growth.

Bangladesh has expressed its interest in joining the India-Myanmar-Thailand highway project. India-Bangladesh bilateral waterway trade will get boosted as India can now use the Mongla and Chittagong ports.

Currently, three express trains and international bus services operate between Indian and Bangladesh.

India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission: The commission expanded the India-Bangladesh partnership to include Artificial Intelligence, Fintech, cybersecurity, startups, and connectivity.

Land Swap Agreement: In 2015, India and Bangladesh resolved the decades-long border dispute through the Land boundary Agreement.

Curb of illicit activities: Bangladesh’s government has uprooted all anti-India insurgency activities within Bangladesh by leading from the front.

Read more: [Recent Developments in India-Bangladesh Relations – Explained, pointwise](#)

What are the opportunities in India-Bangladesh relations?

1) Bangladesh could improve several manufacturing industries by leveraging Indian expertise in service sectors, 2) India is rallying Bangladesh to divert its exports through Indian ports in place of Malaysian or Singaporean ports.

What are the challenges in India-Bangladesh relations?

Teesta river water sharing: For West Bengal, Teesta is important to sustain its impoverished farming districts which comprise 12.77% of its population. For Bangladesh, the Teesta’s flood plains cover about 14% of the total cropped area of the country and provide direct livelihood opportunities to approximately 7.3% of the population.

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NRC: In 2019, India enacted the **National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act**. This created an uproar within and beyond the borders. Bangladesh government termed the move as “unnecessary”.

Role of China: China had successfully approached China for a mega project to enhance Teesta river water flow. Bangladesh also requires China’s support in resolving the Rohingya refugee crisis. Bangladesh is the second biggest arms market for China after Pakistan.

Ties with Pakistan: Although memories of 1971 remain, Bangladesh has expressed its interest in establishing peaceful relations with Pakistan.

Read more: [Improper Comments on Bangladesh will impact India Bangladesh ties](#)

What should be done to improve India-Bangladesh relations?

Long-term stable relations with its most trusted friend (Bangladesh) in the neighbourhood is the need of the hour for India. But the challenge for India is to earn the trust and confidence of Bangladeshis across the spectrum and strata. This can be done by resolving long-standing issues such as Teesta water-sharing and killings at the border.

2. [Coercion as conversion: Sexual orientation and gender identities do not require medical intervention](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Coercion as conversion: Sexual orientation and gender identities do not require medical intervention**” published in **The Hindu** on **5th September 2022**.

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

Relevance: About conversion therapy.

News: Recently, the National Medical Commission (NMC) declared conversion therapy a “professional misconduct” and empowered State Medical Councils to take disciplinary action if the guideline is breached. This is a significant and welcome move to remove another layer of discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community.

What is the reason behind NMC banning conversion therapy?

In its landmark 2021 judgment, the Madras High Court issued guidelines for the police, social welfare ministries of the State and Centre, and the medical council for the protection of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Madras High Court had directed NMC to issue an official notification listing conversion therapy as a wrong, under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002.

What is conversion therapy?

Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual or of any other orientation are often subjected to conversion or ‘reparative’ therapy, particularly when they are young, to change their sexual orientation or gender identity by force.

The therapy varies from psychiatric treatment, use of psychosomatic drugs, electroshock therapy, exorcism and violence.

Impacts: The therapy can lead to trauma, manifesting in depression, anxiety, drug use, and even suicide.

Read more: [Rainbow of Hope](#)

Basis of conversion therapy: American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry contends that the interventions offered in conversion therapy are provided under the “false premise that homosexuality and gender diverse identities are pathological”.

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Why Conversion therapy for LGBTQIA+ should be banned?

Read here: [Need to ban the Conversion therapy of the LGBTQIA+ community](#)

How to improve the life of the LGBTQIA+ community further?

Clear-cut definition: Like Canada, India should be clear on what action will be taken against quacks, psychiatrists and doctors accused of offering reparative treatment and the punishment they will face.

Change the education policy: Medical textbooks prescribed in 2018 still consider lesbianism a “perversion”, an act of “mental degenerates”. This has to be changed.

Legislative changes: Societal change has to be complemented by laws that address the needs of a diverse community higher than the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 has sought to do.

Society has to acknowledge the “variability of human beings” and accord equal respect to everyone, whatever their sexual orientation or gender identity.

3. [Bittersweet pills: A simpler drug regime should mean better TB outcomes not another missed opportunity](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “Bittersweet pills: A simpler drug regime should mean better TB outcomes not another missed opportunity” published in **The Times of India** on **5th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Issues related to health

News: The article discusses about the issues in tackling tuberculosis in India and the impact of recent drug invented.

The ZeNix phase III trial has shown that only 3-4 drugs will be needed for 6 months for tuberculosis than the other treatment which requires 13-14 drugs daily for 18-24 months.

What is the current situation of TB in India?

India has been struggling with the TB for a longer period of time.

A government survey finds that 63% of the chest symptomatic do not seek healthcare.

It shows the shortfalls of public awareness campaigns and also the broken primary care health services in India.

Lack of timely diagnosis of TB is one of the issues along with the overall gaps in proper observation of the disease.

The mortality rate in 2019-20 increased by 11% even though there was a 25% reduction in the number of cases.

The present invented drug ZeNix will have a great positive impact in India because India has the world’s highest burden of the TB disease including its multidrug-resistant strains.

4. [Japan is recasting its national security vision in face of an aggressive China](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Japan is recasting its national security vision in face of an aggressive China. India must inject strategic content into ties during 2+2 dialogue**” published in **The Indian Express** on **6th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India

News: China’s growing military capabilities and fearless attitude on territorial disputes are at the heart of the deteriorating environment of India and Japan.

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What is required by India and Japan in meeting common security challenges against China?

India has defence exchanges with Japan for nearly two decades.

They both share a common interest in keeping the Indo-Pacific “free and open” and been partners in the Quadrilateral forum but still their bilateral security cooperation remains underdeveloped. It is required that Japan and India both should involve in strategic military partnership in order to counter China.

There is deep political resistance and bureaucratic inertia against effort to recast defence policies in both countries.

The recent 2+2 dialogue will be an opportunity to get a first-hand account from the Japanese leadership on Japan’s bold new plans to transform its military strategy and build on the common interest in preventing the rise of a new leadership in the Indo-Pacific.

What is the approach of Japan in tackling the threats from China?

Japan’s new strategy to cope with Chinese power involves three broad elements — **reorienting Japan’s diplomacy, boosting national capabilities to prevent aggression and deepening defence partnerships.**

Recently Japanese PM talked of a new “realism diplomacy”. It will allow Japan to meet the new security challenges through pragmatism and firmness. For that it has taken the following steps:

- 1) The Japanese PM has announced to increase budget on its defense from 1% to 2%.
- 2) A doubling of the defence allocation over the next few years, could make it the third-largest defence spender after the US and China.
- 3) Japan’s focus is on building “counter-strike” weapons to prevent Chinese aggression. China’s missile arsenals are growing but Japan does not have long-range missiles. Some experts in Japan are calling for the deployment of a thousand long-range missiles.
- 4) Japan is also looking to strengthen security partnerships with other like-minded countries such as Australia and India.
- 5) It is also promising to strengthen the defence capabilities of the Indo-Pacific countries, unilaterally as well as through the Quad.

5. Public health need not be led by doctors alone

Source-The post is based on the article “Public health need not be led by doctors alone” published in **The Hindu** on **6th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2-Issues related to development and management of health

News-This article discusses the issues related to the concept of public health as a separate discipline. There is underrepresentation of public health experts in health sector bodies at central and state level.

Public health professionals are not present in State and Central advisory bodies of health. During pandemic as well, doctors with no experience in public health were guiding the public health issues.

This is because it is felt that public health does not require specific competencies, and anyone can do this work.

There is a difference between public health sector and public health discipline. Providing medical care at a primary health centre does not make the person a public health professional.

It is important to understand that public health is a separate profession with a specific set of competencies.

What constitutes public health?

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4 A's i.e. academics, activism, administration and advocacy, can describe public health work.

Academics: It is the brain behind public health. It means having good understanding of epidemiology and biostatistics.

Epidemiology is the study of the distribution and determinants of health and disease in populations.

Biostatistics is the study of development and application of statistical theory, methods and techniques to public health research data. Then, planning, implementation and evaluation of public health program

Activism: It is the heart of public health. It includes a good understanding of non-health determinants, including social and commercial factors. How they influence health and how these can be addressed?

Administration: It means administering health systems from a primary health centre to the district, State, and national level. It means implementing and managing health programmes, addressing human resource issues, supply and logistical issues, etc.

Advocacy: In public health, individual can hardly make a difference. It requires proper communication and negotiation skills with key stakeholders to enable the functioning of public health at the different levels.

How is it different to the clinical approach?

Historically, public health remained a medical college-driven discipline. However, now a specific college degree is required for public health professional.

Clinical approach is focused on individuals, which divide humans into organs or systems. However, but it is not inappropriate for a broader public health approach, aimed at working with communities or health systems.

Many doctors and other health professionals work at the grassroots level and develop a good sense of public health due to their inclination. But they do not become public health professionals as they may not have the necessary skills.

What should the course of action?

The Health Ministry has recently proposed the creation of cadres for public health professionals and health management at the State, district and block levels. It is a welcome step but there is also a need to look at the quality of public health training being provided.

6. [Four years after landmark LGBT verdict: The march to full citizenship](#)

Source-The post is based on the article "Four years after landmark LGBT verdict: The march to full citizenship" published in the **Indian Express** on **6th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2-Mechanisms and laws for protection and betterment of vulnerable sections. GS1-Social empowerment

News: Exactly, 4 years ago, Supreme Court in the case Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India, struck down provisions of Section 377 and decriminalised same sex relationship. The articles highlights the major developments that took place after this judgment to recognise many non-traditional forms of relationships and families.

What are the developments that have taken place after Navtej Singh Johar case?

Madhu Bala v State of Uttarakhand (2020) held that the right of a same sex couple to live together is a constitutional and human right.

In Vanitaben Damjibhai Solanki v State of Gujarat (2020), the Gujarat High Court ordered police protection for two women police constables in a relationship. The couple was facing threats by their families, who vehemently opposed their relationship.

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In **Pramod Kumar Sharma v State of UP (2021)**, the Allahabad High Court reinstated the home guard to service whose appointment was cancelled due to a video, which displayed his affection to his same-sex partner. The Allahabad High Court order relied on Navtej Singh Johar and held that the display of affection amongst members of the LGBTQI community cannot be bogged down by any apparent disapproval by the majority.

Finally, in **S Sushma v Commissioner of Police (2021)** court banned the questionable practice of ‘conversion therapy’. The therapy attempts to cure or change the sexual orientation of queer people.

[Read more about the case](#)

The case has led to the National Medical Commission issuing directions that doctors practising conversion therapy to “cure” queer citizens will amount to professional misconduct under the Indian Medical Councils Rules.

In **Deepika Singh v the Central Administrative Tribunal (2022)**, expanded the definition of family. The case involved a government employee who married her partner, a widower with two children. She was denied maternity leave for their third child (her first biological child) since she took leave to care for her “step”-children. According to the rules, she was entitled to 730 days of leave to take care of “upto two children”.

[Read more about the case](#)

7. [The difficult path to India-Pakistan peace](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**The difficult path to India-Pakistan peace**” published in **The Hindu** on **6th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – India and its neighbourhood- relations.

Relevance: About India-Pakistan relations.

News: After the promulgation of the new Prime Minister in Pakistan, there have been signs of a thaw in India-Pakistan relations.

Read more: [Explained: What Imran Khan’s ouster as Pakistan PM means for India](#)

What is the status of Pakistan’s economy?

After the Covid-19 pandemic, Pakistan’s economy is facing **a)** Widening current account deficit and high inflation, **b)** Unprecedented floods and decades of poor planning led to issues in Pakistan’s economy, **c)** International Monetary Fund (IMF) has begun its \$6 billion Extended Fund Facility programme for Pakistan in 2019. It also increased the funding later.

What are the developments in India-Pakistan relations during Pakistan’s economic turmoil?

Earlier Pakistan thought of the economic benefit of seeking [trade in essential commodities with India](#). But due to domestic pressure, they changed their decision.

Read more: [Why Pakistan Reverses its Decision on Trade with India?](#)

India **provided essential vaccine supplies to Pakistan** during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Pakistan Army chief had permitted backchannel talks and a “limited trade resumption package” with India to improve Pakistan’s economy.

What are the challenges in engaging with Pakistan?

Pakistan’s deep securitisation of the Kashmir dispute: This makes it hard for Pakistan’s leadership to stick to one decision for long time.

Domestic issues: In 1953 when Mohammed Ali Bogra and Jawaharlal Nehru negotiated the Kashmir dispute. They got close to an agreed solution on Kashmir. But each time, Bogra’s inability to foster domestic coalitions to support the peacemaking process with India overrode the negotiations.

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The same issue of garnering the support of domestic coalitions is still present in Pakistan. This has derailed several India-Pakistan peace dialogues.

Must read: [Pakistan's National Security Policy and its Implications for India – Explained, pointwise](#)

When India can expect improvement in India-Pakistan relations?

The outcome of the next general elections might open a sustained backchannel dialogue and trade. Until there is bipartisan support in Pakistan on the need to normalise ties with India and Pakistan enters a long period of de-securitisation, there will not be any long-term improvement.

8. [Rear guard action: Car accident-related deaths can be drastically reduced by the use of seat belts](#)

Source: The post is based on the following articles

“Rear guard action: Car accident-related deaths can be drastically reduced by the use of seat belts” published in **The Hindu** on **6th September 2022**.

“Fasten rear seat belts” published in **The Times of India** on **6th September 2022**.

“Unsafe at any speed: Safety rules need to be tightened” published in the **Business Standard** on **6th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Social Issues – Road accidents.

Relevance: About car accident-related deaths.

News: The tragic death of former Tata Sons chairman in a car accident has turned the spotlight again on lax safety rules for car passengers in India.

About India's car accident-related deaths

According to the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, India is among the global top 10 in terms of road accident deaths. Some 1,50,000 people die in road accidents each year.

The road and highways ministry's **road accidents report for 2020** reveals that 15,100 drivers and passengers were killed due to the non-use of seat belts.

Almost 17,800 travellers in four-wheelers were killed that year. Hence, the majority of these deaths of drivers and passengers could have been prevented had seat belts and airbags been deployed.

Read more: [Road accidents in India — 2020 Report](#)

What are the Central Motor Vehicle Rules on seat belts?

Both front and rear seat belts have been mandatory under the **Central Motor Vehicle Rules** but the rule is rarely enforced. A study in 2019 across 11 cities revealed that only 7% of respondents said they used rear seat belts and only 27% were aware that their use was mandatory.

Why rear seat belts are essential to prevent car accident-related deaths?

A study in the US shows that rear seat occupants were eight times more likely to suffer serious injuries in a mishap if they did not wear seat belts. This is because, **a)** Rear seat belts slow down the dangerous forward momentum. **b)** A rear seat belt can act as a check against a sudden, violent force.

Safety research shows that wearing rear seat belts also reduces the risk for front passengers, who otherwise can be injured by rear passengers being thrown forward.

What does India need to tighten the Safety rules to reduce car accident-related deaths?

Indian cars are less safer: This is because,

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a) Industry reluctant to provide safety features: The car industry has been arguing that the additional safety requirements — principally the deployment of six airbags — will push up the cost of cars at a time when the industry is struggling against sluggish demand.

Note: *The introduction of mandatory front seat belts and airbags had been met with objections until car companies discovered that there was no correlation between safety features and demand.*

b) The state of the small car market: The small car market of India consists of the most unsafe vehicles on Indian roads today. The manufacturers have steadily reduced the thickness of the bodywork in the interest of cost savings is a cause of worry.

c) Double standards of car makers: The manufacturers do not add safety features to cars they make for the Indian market, though all safety features are added to export models.

Growth of highways: The proliferation of six-lane highways all over India has meant that speed limits have risen to 100 kmph. National highways constitute only 2% of the total length of roads in India, they contribute to 36% of fatalities.

Proven reports: A study by IIT-Delhi estimated that “air-bag deployment reduced mortality by 63%... lap-shoulder-belt use reduced mortality by 72%, and combined air-bag and seatbelt use reduced mortality by more than 80%.

Read more: [Role of Motor Vehicle Act, 2019 in reducing road accidents](#)

What should be done to reduce car accident-related deaths?

Role of car manufacturers: The car industry should accept the government proposal to mandate

a) The introduction of Y-belts for middle rear seat passengers **b)** The deployment of side airbags in all cars irrespective of car size.

All cars must come with **built-in warning beeps** for both front and rear seat belts.

Enforcing India-specific and effective road safety policies: These include **a)** Looking at composite factors such as poor road design, **b)** Maintenance of road and traffic infrastructure in fixing responsibility for accidents, **c)** Removal of medians on intercity highways and replacing them with steel guard rails or wire rope barriers.

9. [Shadow of 377: Doctors offering ‘conversion therapy’ must be severely disciplined. NMC must ensure this](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Shadow of 377: Doctors offering ‘conversion therapy’ must be severely disciplined. NMC must ensure this** published in **The Times of India** on **7th September 2022**.

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

Relevance: About conversion therapy.

News: Based on the Madras High Court ruling on Conversion Therapy, the National Medical Commission(NMC) has written to all State Medical Councils banning conversion therapy and calling it a “professional misconduct.”

What is Conversion Therapy?

Read here: [Coercion as conversion: Sexual orientation and gender identities do not require medical intervention](#)

What did the Madras High Court ruled on Conversion Therapy?

Read here: [Explained | The ban on conversion therapy for the LGBTQIA+ community](#)

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What are the challenges in enforcing the ban?

Prejudice among medical fraternity: A study of medical school students, interns and postgrads in India has found that only around 20% of respondents believe homosexuality is not an illness. The Indian Psychiatric Society de-pathologised homosexuality only in 2018, two years after Supreme Court decriminalised homosexuality.

Adolescents are more vulnerable: US data indicates that around half the persons receiving conversion therapy are adolescents. Their cooperation is often extracted from their desire to be a 'better' son or daughter.

What should be done to improve the life of the LGBTQIA+ community?

a) The NMC needs to practise what it has been asked to preach. For instance, NMC must ensure severe disciplinary action against such practitioners, **b)** Parents, especially the educated ones, should change their opinion on the LGBTQIA+ community.

Must read: [Four years after landmark LGBT verdict: The march to full citizenship](#)

10. [The Spirit of 1971](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**The Spirit of 1971**” published in **The Hindu** on **8th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – India and its neighborhood

Relevance: India and Bangladesh bilateral relations

News: The recent visit Bangladesh PM have seen positive outcomes and various agreements.

What are the agreements made?

The agreement includes – a) Water sharing agreement (first in 26 years), b) free trade agreement talks and c) infrastructure projects especially in the railways sector.

Kushiyara River: The water sharing agreement on the Kushiyara River is important for resolving water problems. It is one of the important issues of 54 trans-boundary rivers and for the 1st time Assam and other north-eastern States have been brought on board.

Feni Reiver: There has also been agreement on withdrawing 1.82 cusec water from the Feni River.

Teesta River: There has been still no agreement on Teesta, which is held up by the West Bengal government. The agreement will require more effort from the Central and the state government.

Special Economic Zones: Bangladesh’s PM has also mentioned of two dedicated Special Economic Zones for Indian companies in Mongla and Mirsarai in Bangladesh. It will help to attract FDI inflows from India in Bangladesh.

The visit of PM of both the countries in the past has helped in better bilateral relations between the two countries in trade, connectivity and people-to-people ties.

The present ruling government in Bangladesh took steps like; shutting down terror training camps, and hand over more than 20 wanted criminals and terror suspects to India. It has been instrumental in improving the relations.

However, some of the developments linked to Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Rohingyas issue in India has been a cause of concern to Bangladesh.

Both India and Bangladesh need to revive what is referred to as the “Spirit of 1971”.

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11. [Time for a joint space exercise](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Time for a joint space exercise**” published in **The Hindu** on **8th September 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests**

Relevance: **India and US bilateral relations**

News: India and the U.S. will undertake joint military drills in October in Auli. The location is at an altitude of 10,000 feet and some 95 km from the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

India and the US should also join hands in the space war exercises.

Why Space drill is important?

First, this drill will push India’s defense partnership into a new sphere.

Second, it will also send a strong message to the common opponents like China.

Third, it will have other positive outcome which is required for the wider Quad.

Fourth, India and US, in the Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting, identified space as a critical area of cooperation.

Fifth, China has advanced to the **Cis-Lunar space (region beyond the geosynchronous orbit)**. It is done with an ambition to establish a permanent presence on the Moon by 2024.

Sixth, Space has assets that form the bedrock of the modern economy; GPS (PNT — position navigation timing), telecom networks, early warning systems for missiles.

How has India performed in space force?

Space in India has mostly remained under the sole jurisdiction of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO).

However, the successful demonstration of anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test and first ever simulated space warfare exercise (IndSpaceX) in 2019 has changed the image of space being limited to ISRO.

The government has also set up the Defence Space Research Agency (DSRA) to help develop space-based weapons for the DSA.

Space is now equally recognised as a military domain as land, water, air and cyber.

How can India and the US join hands in space warfare programs?

Space has been an important critical area of cooperation in the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting between India and the U.S.

India and the US can cooperate in a **joint anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test** because both the countries have shown capabilities in this.

ASAT is a missile launched from the Earth’s surface to destroy a satellite passing overhead.

What are the challenges associated with space exercise?

There is a possibility of China-Pakistan collusion against India.

It will derail the ongoing Core Commanders dialogue in Ladakh.

It may lead to militarization of space.

12. [The wheat of the matter: Disruption of supply chains due to Ukraine war has implications for India’s food security](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**The wheat of the matter: Disruption of supply chains due to Ukraine war has implications for India’s food security**” published in **The Indian Express** on **8th September 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Issues related to nutrition and hunger**

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News: The pandemic and Ukraine-Russia war has increased food insecurity worldwide and it is a matter of concern for India also.

How Ukraine and Russia war has impacted food security worldwide?

Russia and Ukraine accounts for 27 per cent of the world market for wheat, 16 per cent for corn, 23 per cent for barley, and 53 per cent for sunflower.

Before the war Ukraine exported about 95 per cent of grain.

Countries mainly in Africa West Asia and Asia depend on Russia and Ukraine for more than 50 per cent of their wheat imports.

What has caused rise in the food price around the world?

According to a report by International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) **speculation on agricultural products on the future exchanges** was one of the main reasons for the rise in food prices.

The arrival of large pension funds, hedge funds and investment banks in the agriculture markets has also been the reason of excessive speculation.

Future Market: The main purpose of futures markets was that farmers could transfer the price risk to sell the produce at the current price but deliver it in the future. It acted as a safeguard for farmers due to uncertainty caused by weather failures, wars, etc. This future markets have been misused by the speculators and big financial companies.

Betting: The prices of markets do not vary with the demand supply problems but it varies due to speculation and big companies betting on the prices. This betting on the future markets leads to price volatility and endangers food security around the world.

What are the current food security issues with India?

Food inflation is a major cause for concern for food security in India.

The pandemic has reduced the income of the households which has been one of the reasons for rising hunger levels in India.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Food Price Index has increased by 30 per cent in the year 2021-22.

According to the Global Hunger Index, India ranks 101 among 116 countries.

According to the Hunger Watch Report, 45 per cent of the people reported running out of food in the month of January.

The situation is even more unpredictable now because of the rise in prices.

What can be done further?

India: The Indian government should regulate the private sectors and bring more transparency on food stocks. The restrictions should be set on the hoarding of the food stocks by the private sectors.

Internationally: A limit on the purchase can be set for the speculators but this requires a multilateral agreement.

13. [The evolving role of CSR in funding NGOs](#)

Source: The post is based on an article **“The evolving role of CSR in funding NGOs”** published in **The Hindu** on **8th September 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Development processes and the development industry**

News: Pandemic acted as a shock for everyone. NGOs also faced problems, but Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) helped. But NGOs still face problems in covering their organizational development and indirect cost.

What are the problems faced by NGOs?

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NGOs have many expenses (rent, bills, etc.) and these expenses are not often fulfilled by funding. The underfunding of the NGO impacts programs and initiatives taken by NGOs.

Organizational development cost and indirect costs combined with program expenses make up NGOs' true costs.

NGOs' indirect costs range from 5% to 55%, depending on their operating model.

CSR funders contribute very little to organizational development cost of the NGOs.

They pay for the indirect cost of the NGOs, which is often below 5%. This causes NGOs to face financial stress in paying rents, salaries, etc.

Many CSRs leave NGOs with unpaid bills and NGOs are made to look for funding from other sources.

Research says that in 2020, 54% of NGOs had less than three months in reserve funds.

How can the situation of NGOs be changed?

CSR programs can help in covering both indirect costs and organizational development.

Corporates can help NGOs by providing other assistance such as accounting facilities in addition to their fundings.

They can further help NGOs by offering volunteer financial analysis services to calculate NGOs true cost.

What are the problems associated with CSR funders?

Regulatory compliances

CSR funders mostly focus on regulatory compliances because of the amendment in CSR law 2021.

The amendment includes penalties for non-compliance of the law.

Shifting Responsibilities

90% of the CSR are small and unlisted companies and they generally leave decisions on CSR funding to board members instead of forming CSR committees.

They focus more towards risk avoidance, compliance, and cost minimization.

Some companies have given this responsibility to their HR or administration heads rather than hiring professionals.

What can be the course of action for NGOs?

First, Companies can pool their resources with other CSR or social stake holders.

Second, they can also hire top professionals who have experience of working with NGOs.

Third, CSR funders can learn from other CSR funders who view organizational development and indirect cost differently.

For example, the CSR branch of ASK Group which works to enable better livelihoods for rural communities shifted from 10% to 20% funding to NGOs.

This was done after the CSR team presented the standard which is being followed by other companies.

14. [Our urban spaces need renewal, not new names](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“Our urban spaces need renewal, not new names”** published in the **Livemint** on **9th September 2022**.

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

Relevance: About renaming Rajpath as Kartavya Path.

News: As part of the Central Vista's makeover, the Government of India has decided to rename the historic Rajpath and Central Vista lawns in the national capital as 'Kartavya Path'.

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What is the reason behind renaming Rajpath as Kartavya Path?

Read here: [NDMC passes resolution to rename Rajpath to Kartavya Path](#)

After Independence, Kingsway was named Rajpath and Queensway was renamed Janpath. Renaming is a reminder that public service is about “duties and not the right to rule”.

What are the reasons for renaming places after Independence?

1) Bombay to Mumbai, Calcutta to Kolkata and Bangalore to Bengaluru are just a few examples of name switches. Many of these were driven by a need to assert a linguistic identity, **2)** More recently, the renaming of Allahabad and Aurangabad, among others were renamed to change the nomenclature from Medieval India.

What are the concerns in renaming the Rajpath as Kartavya Path and other name changes?

1) The recent renaming of Rajpath underlines the citizen’s duty to the state, but not the state’s duty to uphold the rights of our people, **2)** All the name change costs public money, from revisions in signage to official documents and assorted data sets, **3)** It might end up dividing people also, **4)** The cost-benefit ratio of such name changes is usually dismal, **5)** The original names of places have long been enmeshed in our poetry, music and culture. Renaming them will hamper those experiences, **6)** The persistence of people’s memory makes many of these changes irrelevant. For example, Delhi’s Connaught Place was sought to be called Rajiv Chowk but is referred to as such only officially.

What should be done?

The urban landscape at present needs substantive improvement to avoid frequent urban floods that disrupt urban life, other issues associated with civic systems and better urban planning. The government has to focus on these issues.

15. [We must demand safe roads and not just more airbags](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Our urban spaces need renewal, not new names**” published in the **Livemint** on **9th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Social Issues – Road accidents.

Relevance: About car accident-related deaths and road safety in India.

News: The tragic death of former Tata Sons chairman in a car accident has turned the spotlight again on lax safety rules for car passengers in India.

What are the challenges to road safety in India?

1) Road safety advocacy group SaveLife Foundation, a non-profit organization, has consistently flagged “**fatal**” **corridors** where a disproportionately high number of crashes and fatalities occur as a result of **poor road engineering**. The recent accident also highlights dubious engineering and design.

2) Government aims to construct Highways at a speed of 50 km per day. But the government fails to focus on the quality and maintenance of these roads.

3) Driving itself is an encounter with chaos on Indian roads, with rules that exist only on paper. Airbags and seat belts are a system that works in conjunction. But many people

4) India’s automotive industry has a record of delaying safety mandates on airbags and anti-skid braking systems. This is because they are trying to keep vehicles affordably priced in India.

What can be done?

Must read: [Rear guard action: Car accident-related deaths can be drastically reduced by the use of seat belts](#)

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Indian tech-savvy consumers are grown enough to seek 5-star crash-test ratings. It shows the robustness of cars and hence their safety. But they need to strap themselves in a seat belt and encourage their family also irrespective of where they sit in the car.

16. [Mature leadership in India and Bangladesh has not let minor disagreements threaten shared interests](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Mature leadership in India and Bangladesh has not let minor disagreements threaten shared interests**” published in **The Indian Express** on **9th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – India and its neighborhood

Relevance: India and Bangladesh bilateral relations

News: Bangladesh is now central to India’s **Neighborhood First Policy**. It has become more important after economic crisis affecting Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The recent Kushiya river water agreement is an important development towards it.

Bangladesh is India’s largest trading partner in the Subcontinent, the largest development partner, the most productive connectivity partner and the largest source of foreign tourists.

What has led to the improvement in the bilateral relations between India and Bangladesh?

2008: The bilateral relation started improving with the inauguration of Maitri Express, in April 2008, the first passenger train between Dhaka and Kolkata.

2009: Bangladesh PM took action against Indian insurgent groups, operating from Bangladesh.

2010: Comprehensive Framework of Cooperation was signed by Bangladesh. This helped in the grant of duty-free access to Bangladesh’s exports to India in 2011.

Intelligence cooperation between the nations has helped both sides to tackle extremist groups.

What are the agreements made in the current visit?

There are agreements made in seven sectors between the two nations.

These include – a) connectivity, b) environment, c) water management, d) science and technology, e) railway, f) law, and g) information and broadcasting.

New **infrastructure projects** have also been announced.

Kushiya River: There has been an agreement on the water sharing method of the river. This river flows from Assam’s Silchar district into Bangladesh. It is the major agreement on water sharing treaty since the Ganga water treaty in 1996.

Feni River: India has requested to finalise the temporary water sharing agreement of Feni River. This river fulfills the water requirements of Tripura.

Teesta River: This issue of this river has not been resolved due to the unhealthy Centre-state relation. The river fulfills the water requirement of North Bengal. 80 per cent of the river’s catchment area falls in India still the river supports the livelihood of a large population in Bangladesh.

Joint Rivers Commission: It met after 12 years. It has been asked to examine the sharing of 54 Trans-Boundary River between the two nations and share the water stock data. There has also been agreement in strengthening mutual cooperation in solving pollution of common rivers and extending Ganga treaty beyond 2026.

Scholarships: Bangladesh has announced 200 scholarships to descendants of Indian military personnel who lost their lives in the 1971 War of Liberation.

What are the future areas of cooperation between the two nations?

Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)

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It is expected that Bangladesh will become a developing country by 2026 from a Less Developed Country (LDC).

India-Bangladesh CEPA will help in managing the transition and preserving the trade privileges that Bangladesh enjoys.

Energy Requirements

Indian companies are also working on fulfilling the energy requirements of Bangladesh. For example, 1320 MW thermal power plant being built at Rampal by the NTPC in a joint venture 50:50.

A 1,600 MW power plant in Godda, Jharkhand is being built by the Adani group.

“Friendship” pipeline from Assam’s Numaligarh refinery will deliver petroleum products to Parbatipur in Bangladesh.

Defense sector

India has extended around 8-billion-dollar Line of Credit (LoC) to Bangladesh. It includes 500 million dollars, especially related to defense-related procurement.

It will help Bangladesh to diversify its defense procurement as now it is highly dependent on China. It will also help in countering China’s Belt Road Initiative (BRI) and debt-trap policy.

Rohingya issue

Rohingya refugees have become a burden on Bangladesh.

Bangladesh PM has sought help from India to return the refugees to Myanmar.

What measures can be taken to solve the existing issues between the two nations?

Water is a state subject under the Constitution. Therefore, center has little power to settle issues like Teesta River dispute.

It is the time to review the constitutional status of water and declare it as a union subject under the control of the Union government.

This will help in resolving major water sharing issues internationally as well as inter-state water disputes.

17. Success of the new education policy depends on how we recruit and assess teachers

Source: The post is based on the article **“Success of new education policy depends on how we recruit and assess teachers”** published in **The Indian Express** on **9th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Issues associated with education

News: The article discusses the problems related to the recruitment of teachers and measures that can be taken to improve the recruitment process.

What are the problems present with the recruitment of teachers?

The teacher recruitment process in the country is not efficient. The recruitment process varies from regions and types of schools.

This leads to multiple criteria and processes in hiring teachers which brings inequality in teacher quality.

The process is also inadequate in measuring the candidate’s competency.

The most common and widely taken test for teachers is the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) conducted at both the state (STET) and central levels (CTET). However, this test is required only for government school teacher recruitment at the elementary stage (Class 1-8).

The test has its drawbacks such as low pass percentages, poor test quality, lengthy test papers, etc.

What steps have been taken to tackle the issues?

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NEP-2020 has recommended a revision of the existing test and supplementing it with other processes such as classroom demonstrations and interviews.

It has also recommended extending these processes to all stages of education in public and private schools.

What can be the further done to improve the teacher recruitment process?

There should be a **comprehensive competency framework** that provides details for the required skills that a teacher should possess.

There should be a **proper guideline for judging a teacher's competency** (knowledge, skills) that contributes to the teaching-learning process.

The competency can be checked by taking tests and involving others methods of assessment like classroom demonstrations and teacher interviews.

The curriculum provided by NEP can be adopted towards providing training in classroom and making learning joyful.

What will be the benefits of adopting such holistic recruitment process?

There will be multiple long-term benefits to adopting such a holistic model of teacher recruitment.

First, it will contribute to a fair education for students from diverse sections of society.

Second, it will ensure uniformity in the quality of teachers recruited across the country.

Third, the recruitment process will also become reliable.

Fourth, it will help in checking a teacher's ability in explanation of the concept and selecting appropriate study materials for the students.

Fifth, it will also help to evaluate a teacher's empathy towards students.

Sixth, this will reduce the coaching culture as the assessment processes will be non-standardised, which cannot be easily studied from coaching materials and guidebooks.

18. The outline of an essential global pandemic treaty

Source: The post is based on an article "The outline of an essential global pandemic treaty" published in **The Hindu** on **9th September 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Bilateral agreements involving India**

News: COVID-19 was one of the most severe pandemics the world has seen in the last 100 years. The impact of the pandemic can be seen even now and an effective global treaty is required to face future challenges.

What were the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic?

Health care system

Health-care systems have been utilized beyond their capacity.

There has been gross health inequality in distribution of vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics across the world.

Low-income countries

The low-income countries have faced major impact of the pandemic.

The socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic are irreversible in these countries.

Only 3% of people in low-income countries had been vaccinated with at least one dose when compared to 60.18% in high-income countries.

The international target to vaccinate 70% of the world's population by mid-2022 was missed. Because poorer countries were left behind when vaccines were rolled out.

Pharma companies

The pandemic has caused enormous increase in the wealth of pharma companies (Pfizer, BioNTech, and Moderna) because they had monopoly over the Covid vaccines.

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There have also been other reasons of increasing inequality across the world such as inadequate precautionary measures taken by countries, lack of interest in giving funds for developing coronavirus vaccines, etc.

What can be the course of action?

The **creation of Global Pandemic Treaty** has been proposed at the Special Session of the **World Health Assembly (WHASS)** to mitigate future challenges. The **declaration of monkey pox as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)** has highlighted this need.

The global treaty should include the following features:

First, a treaty should cover important aspects of data sharing and genome sequencing of emerging viruses.

Second, it should formally commit governments to implement an early warning system and a properly funded rapid response mechanism.

Third, it should ask nations to agree on a set of common measures that are related to health investments with an aim to reduce the public-private sector gap.

Fourth, a global pandemic treaty should not only reduce socioeconomic inequalities but also enhance global pandemic preparedness for future health emergencies.

What role has been played by India in the pandemic?

India has played an important role worldwide in tackling the pandemic.

First, India never restricted the shipment of vaccines even when it experienced shortage at the domestic level.

- India has shipped 594.35 lakh doses of Made in India vaccines which is an example of global cooperation.

Second, India also acted as a global leader in dealing with vaccine patent issue with major pharma companies across the world.

- It recommended World Trade Organization (WTO) to allow all countries to choose to neither grant nor enforce patents on covid-19 drugs and technologies until global herd immunity is achieved.

India currently produces 60% of the world's vaccines and is said to account for 60%-80% of the United Nations' annual vaccine procurement.

19. [Indo-Pacific Economic Framework: Challenges and Opportunities](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Indo-Pacific Economic Framework: Challenges and Opportunities**” published in The **Business Standard** on **9th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Bilateral regional and global grouping

News: The article explains challenges and opportunities presented by the **Indo-Pacific Economic framework** and what should be India negotiating strategy for **IPEF**.

The USA is hosting the first in-person meeting of the grouping on 8-9 September in Los Angeles. The formal launch of rule-setting for the group is expected at this meeting.

Indian earlier participated in its meetings as an “**observer**”.

What are specific features of IPEF when compared with mega regional trade agreements?

It is not an alternative to **RCEP** and **Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**. IPEF has a trade pillar but it is not a trade agreement.

Trans-Pacific Partnership, which seems to be a subset of CPTPP, was an economic instrument as part of the USA's “**Pivot to Asia**” strategy for containing China. Its **WTO++** provisions related to **IPR**; state-owned enterprises was to establish a **rule-based world order** that China will find difficult to abide by.

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CPTPP is a water-down provision of **TPP** with relaxed provisions related to investment, labor, and environmental standards to make it for China easier to seek its membership.

Membership of both **RCEP** and **CPTPP** will give China a dominant position in rule setting. This is the reason behind **IPEF** gaining salience by excluding China.

What are the opportunities provided by IPEF for India?

First, it has nine members from East Asia and its two pillars are focused on **trade and connectivity** and **supply chain resilience**. It provides an opportunity to integrate with **East Asian value chain hubs**.

Second, In the post-pandemic **era** and in the wake of the **Ukraine crisis**, large corporations are seeking **China plus one relocation strategy**.

Third, **ASEAN** is also looking for **supply chain resilience** through bilateral FTAs and diversification beyond **RCEP**.

Fourth, it provides a flexible framework to seek remedial action against **non-tariff barriers** in the context of the **ASEAN-India FTA**.

What are the challenges for India?

First, it does not include tariff preferences and there is less scope for India to have **enhanced market access**.

Second, it may have deliberately designed to have focus on modern day provision related to **digital trade, regulatory policies, trade facilitation, labour and environmental standards and sustainable social development** similar to **US-Mexico Canada agreement**. These rules are not in confirmation with India negotiating position on trade agreements.

Third, **trade facilitation rules** are likely to be drawn from **Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation** rules. All members of **IPEF** are also **APEC** members and they have reached consensus on modern day provision related to trade facilitation at **APEC** summit in 2017. Almost all of them have unleashed domestic reforms. India will have to overcome these challenges.

How can India deal with these challenges?

India is in the midst of advanced negotiation on a free trade agreement with the **EU** and Australia. The **EU** is providing leadership in concluding free trade agreements with emphasis on provisions like **labour and environmental standards**.

Australia is a founding and leading member of the **APEC** and **has** been acknowledged for its contribution to **trade and investment facilitation** and establishing **regulatory ease** for cross-border supply chains.

India's ability to conclude FTA with these countries will help in unleashing domestic reforms and signaling mechanisms to the world of its readiness to be part of **IPEF**.

20. [Floods in Pakistan and the pulls and pressures of India-Pakistan disaster diplomacy](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Floods in Pakistan and pulls and pressures of India-Pakistan disaster diplomacy**" published in **The Indian Express** on **9th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Indian and its neighbourhood relations.

News- The article explains the Indian-Pakistan disaster diplomacy.

Recently Pakistan has been devastated by heavy floods which led to heavy loss of life, essentials shortages. Indian Prime Minister expressed his condolences.

What are the recent developments related to India-Pakistan relations?

Modi invited Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif to his swearing- in ceremony and both leaders held the promise of a new beginning in their bilateral relationship.

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The sequence of events that followed like- red line on meeting between Hurriyat separatists and Pakistan diplomats; terror attack in Uri and Pathankot impacted relations negatively. India took a stand that **talk and terror cannot go together**.

Relations further deteriorated when India abrogated the special status of Jammu & Kashmir. It led to downsizing the officials in both High Commissions.

After Shehbaz Sharif assumed power in Pakistan, there have been some positive signals. He has urged India to resolve the Kashmir issue and focus on tackling poverty and unemployment; India's PM also congratulated the him on forming the government.

In a letter to Modi; Sharif said that Pakistan remains committed to **“regional peace and security”** and sought **“peaceful and cooperative ties”** with Pakistan.

What were earlier responses to the disasters by both countries?

In 2001, when an earthquake hit Bhuj, Pakistan sent tents and blankets. Vajpayee thanked the Pakistan General for the gesture.

In 2005, when an earthquake hit both countries, India sent aircraft with relief supplies and pledged \$ 5 million through the UN to support Pakistan.

During 2010 super flood in Pakistan, India offered \$ 5 million in help, however, the offer was declined.

What is Case for help?

PM Modi's outreach by way of the message created a potential opening for **“disaster diplomacy”**. The Pakistan ruling class is well disposed to humanitarian gestures from India.

State of Pakistan Finance Minister said that the government can consider importing vegetables and edible oils from India.

General Bajwa spoke in favour of improving ties.

India has a desire to be **“first responder”** in times of disaster and crisis in neighbouring countries.

Vaccine diplomacy has already been billed as a major achievement for India.

What are possible options for India?

The help can be at **micro level** by sending emergency essential supplies.

At **macro and medium-to-long-term**, it could help in construction of damaged properties and cultural heritage.

However, the current regime's policy of zero tolerance for terrorism and extending help, to tackle disaster, are at conflict with each other.

21. [RUPP & Tough: EC's move to weed out shady political parties should look at some funding provisions too](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“RUPP & Tough: EC's move to weed shady political parties should look at some funding provisions too”** published in **The Times of India** on **9th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Salient features of Representation of People Act

News- The article explains the issues related with registered Unrecognised Political Parties(URPP) in India.

Recently, Income tax officials recently carried out raids on URPPs in a larger clean-up process.

What are some facts about Unrecognised Political Parties(URPPs)?

EC data shows that in 2021 there were 2796 Registered unrecognised political parties. It is an increase of 300% over last two decades. In 2019, Lok Sabha elections, only 30% of these parties contested elections.

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100% tax exemptions are given to them subject to certain conditions.

Like recognised parties they need not to disclose cash donations upto Rs. 2000.

Why does the system get abused?

Combination of tax exemptions, anonymity in funding and easy registration encourages formations of such parties.

Introduction of electoral bonds is also problematic because it allows anonymity and problematic sources of funding political parties.

22. 1 Doctor Per 1,000 Isn't Healthcare's Magic Number

Source– The post is based on the article “**1 Doctor Per 1,000 Isn't Healthcare's Magic Number**” published in **The Indian Express** on **9th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Issues related to development and management of health.

News: The article explains India's obsession with achieving **WHO recommendation of 1 doctor per 1000 population** and neglecting other aspects of the public healthcare system.

The National Medical Commission website shows 692 medical colleges with 92,793 seats.

How does India perform when compared with countries in the same economic category?

Sri Lanka-In 2000, its doctor population ratio was lower than India but health indices were better than India. It had a maternal mortality rate of 56 in 2000 compared with 370 in India.

Countries like Bangladesh, Indonesia and Vietnam have better health indices than India despite having lower doctor-population ratio. In contrast, Pakistan's case is the reverse.

What are the possible reasons for better health in other lower- and middle-income countries despite the lower doctor-population ratio?

There is a strong emphasis on public health, a conscious move away from **doctor-driven health systems**. Furthermore, they have been focusing on improving **social determinants of health** such as access to clean drinking water, sanitation, education, and food security.

Sri Lanka case: From 1980s, it worked on **maternal health surveillance** and training to midwives to improve use of antenatal and natal services. It has not allowed privatization of medical education till date.

Iran case: It has established a network of “**rural health houses**” by recruiting workers from the community and giving them proper training.

What are the challenges faced by the current healthcare setup in India?

First, there is the collapse of the three-tier healthcare system, and rampant privatization of healthcare.

Second, India's obsession with quantity has resulted in a large number of colleges without inadequate infrastructure and facilities, and inadequate, not enough faculty. Colleges for nursing and paramedical staff are in the worst condition.

Third, on paper the number of healthcare staff are increasing but in reality, in rural India, there is an acute shortage of doctors and nursing staff. They end up moving to other countries or adding to the number in cities.

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[23. How Bharat is fighting TB through Jan Bhagidari: Health minister writes about govt & citizens working together to make the country TB-free by 2025](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**How Bharat is fighting TB through Jan Bhagidari: Health minister writes about govt & citizens working together to make the country TB-free by 2025**” published in **The Times of India** on **10th September 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health**

News: The Prime Minister of India has set the goal of making India TB free by 2025 which is ahead of the global target of 2030 for eliminating the disease.

Jan Bhagidari plays an important role in achieving this target.

GoI has launched **Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana** under the aegis of the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) to achieve this target.

What is Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana?

This scheme helps patients to target their nutritional requirements.

This scheme has helped 62.71 lakh TB patients with financial support of Rs 1,651 crore between 2018 and June 2022.

This includes direct benefit transfer of Rs 500 per month into the bank account of the person with TB.

What is Ni-Kshay 2.0 portal?

GoI has recently initiated the Ni-Kshay 2.0 portal under the Pradhan Mantri TB-Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan.

This was launched by President Droupadi Murmu.

The objective of Ni-kshay 2.0 is to **end the existing social problems and discrimination against TB patients** by providing nutritional and social support.

Any individual or organization (corporates, NGOs, etc.) can register as Ni-kshay Mitra on the Ni-kshay 2.0 portal to support people affected by the disease.

TB patients can be supported for a minimum duration of **one year** and a maximum of **three years** in any block or district across the country.

What kind of support do patients need?

TB patients need three kinds of essential supports. They are:

First, a kit that contains appropriate food and supplements to take care of patient’s nutritional needs.

Second, patients’ need support for additional lab-based diagnostic requirements.

Third, support is needed to provide patients with vocational skills which will help them to join the workforce and live a prosperous and productive life.

GoI also provide free diagnosis, free medicines and other kinds of support to people who have been affected by the disease.

What role is played by Jan Bhagadari and how important is it?

Jan Bhagidari (people’s participation) plays an important role in achieving any target and making India a prosperous nation.

Swachh Bharat Mission, Covid vaccination drive and the recently Har Ghar Tiranga campaign are successful examples of Jan Bhagaidari (people’s participation).

Therefore, collective strength and people’s participation is needed to move towards a TB-free India by 2025.

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24. [End of an era](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**End of an era**” published in **The Hindu** on **10th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Issues

News: The article discusses the concern associated with the demise of longest serving monarch Queen Elizabeth II.

The time period of Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II was the longest serving monarch who reigned for over 70 years.

Her tenure started as a head of the state after the First World War.

Her era saw the changing political power from the British Empire to the Commonwealth and the emergence of post-colonial nations.

The cold war came to an end during her period.

What are the implications of the demise of the Queen?

It raises the question of monarchy.

British monarch is currently the head of the state of U.K., Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, and many others. Few countries are looking to end this monarchy.

For example, Barbados became the 18th country to remove the British monarch from the role of head of state in 2021.

Australia is also seeing the movement for making the country republic.

Six Caribbean countries have also hinted towards removing the British monarchy.

However, the position of the Commonwealth group of 56 nations remained unchanged even though there has been an increase in movements to detach from British monarchy. But it was also due to the influence of Queen Elizabeth II. Therefore, prospects of grouping might get affected.

25. [Dry Bihar to turn Liquor bottles into glass bangles](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “**Dry Bihar to turn Liquor bottles into glass bangles**” published in **The Hindu** on **10th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS-2- Social empowerment, Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of population and performance of these schemes.

Context- The article explains Bihar government plan to set up factories to make glass and bangles out of seized liquor and challenges associated with it.

What are some facts related to the Bihar government plan?

It is a social and economic empowerment program through its rural livelihood program called **JEEVIKA**. It is funded by the World Bank.

Earlier bottles seized were crushed and treated as garbage. However, now the plan is to give these bottles to JEEVIKA workers. JEEVIKA women workers will be training in bangles making in other states.

₹1 crore has been allocated to set up a glass-making factory in Patna and send JEEVIKA women for training in bangle-making to other states.

What are the challenges related to Bihar government’s new excise policy?

More than thirty thousand people and also government officials were arrested during raids against those involved in illegal liquor trade activities. Due to the large number of persons involved, jails were overcrowded and cases were clogged in courts.

Due to lack of storage, government officials had to crush large quantities of seized liquor.

What is the economic viability of the idea?

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First, In making glass bangles, other materials like limestone and soda are used. Now, who will provide these materials for factories to run?

Second, these factories will have to face competition from factories in Faizabad, Mumbai and Hyderabad which have **economies of scale**.

Third, would bottles be supplied in sufficient amount to sustain the bangle making factory in the long run?

26. [Covid's medium-term impact and India's Human Development Index loss](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Covid's medium-term impact and India's Human Development Index loss**” published in The **Business Standard** on **10th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Issues related with development and management of social sector

News- The article explains the loss in India's Human Development Index score in 2020 and 2021.

What are some facts related to the HDI report?

There are setbacks on the life expectancy and education front.

Life expectancy could recover the loss of two years, if we take into account the death toll due to COVID19, but getting back to previous level on the education front is difficult.

Slide on index depends on whether countries withstood Covid better or not.

How does India performed in comparison to other countries?

Bangladesh- Its position is better on non-economic indicators. It has lower income but better overall index score. It did not suffer any setback in HDI indicators during Covid years.

Other developing countries- Vietnam belong to the “**high**” human development category and Malaysia belongs to the “**Very high**” attainment category. For India, it will take till 2030 to move from medium to high, if it improves its indicators at pre-Covid rate.

India index is roughly where China was at the turn of the century.

What needs to be done?

There is a need to close the gap with regard to health and education. In this context, Amartya Sen approach of **development as capability building** should be followed.

There is a lack of public spending on health and education. Private spending is more in comparison to public spending and there are regional variations as Bihar states continue to languish. It needs to be corrected.

Recent initiatives of the government like health insurance should make a difference but these are not enough.

When it comes to public spending, government preference is more for physical infrastructure rather than social infrastructure. It needs to have a relook. Investment on physical infrastructure has gone up to 1% of GDP in recent years.

27. [Why sports management in India needs to include former players](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Why sports management in India needs to include former players**” published in **The Indian Express** on **10th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial bodies

Relevance-About regulatory structure.

News- The article explains the concept of regulatory capture and need for sports federation to have administrator who were sportsman themselves in past.

What is regulatory capture?

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It is a situation when independent government agencies start to uphold the interests of the companies and industries they regulate instead of serving public interest. For Example, the telecom regulator makes rules that favour Jio or Bharti.

Industry gets protected at the expense of consumers.

It is referred to as lobbying in western world and **accepted corruption** in Asia.

Integrity gets compromised because of this.

In the case of India, the role of the government becomes crucial because both public and private operate together in the same field.

What is the appointment process for regulatory agencies?

Such appointments in India and elsewhere are prerogative of government and rooted in local cultural circumstances.

Objective is to ensure that capture of agency by government or industry is reduced to minimum. When India started liberalization, western methods of appointment were admired but now there is consensus in favor of regulatory architecture of our own.

Why is the regulatory architecture of our own difficult for India?

Because we have followed the practices of shukrana and nazrana in our societal engagement. These are expressions of gratitude and anticipated benefits respectively. Some of these practices are followed in the professional sphere also.

Why have sports federations become important from the perspective of institutional appointment?

As there will be more commercialization of Indian sports, federations will have more attractive employment opportunities.

Judges and bureaucrats will have more employment opportunities in these federations after their retirement. They have learnt the methods of institutional capture, that is securing post-retirement appointments to regulatory agencies. But they should be guided by a larger public interest and resist the temptation of being beholden to the agency.

Why do we need to act quickly to have our own system of appointments?

Two events are important, that suggest having own system:

First is the International Olympic Committee ultimatum to the Indian Olympic Association to resolve its governance issue and hold elections, failing which it will ban India.

Second is **FIFA** suspension of All India Football Federation because of influence from a third party that is the Court of Inquiry by the Supreme Court.

Why do sportsmen need to be appointed to the sports federation?

The presumption that bureaucrats or judges are better placed is a self-serving argument.

Sports administration is becoming complex, demanding training and skills that are more complex. Government should begin the process by itself. There is no need for external pressure as in the case of **AIFF**.

General

Studies

Paper – 3

General Studies - 3

1. [Precision farming needs to be promoted to get more output with less exploitation of natural resources](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Precision farming needs to be promoted to get more output with less exploitation of natural resources**” published in the **Indian Express** on **5th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints.

Relevance: About India’s farming activities.

News: Humans are over-exploiting planet’s natural resource endowment. This may boomerang and threaten the very existence of humanity.

What are the challenges in current farming methods?

a) Lands are degrading, especially the topsoil that is crucial for providing us with food, animal feed and fibre, **b)** Groundwater is depleting and its quality is becoming poorer with the increasing use of chemical fertilisers and other industrial waste, **c)** Air human breathe is polluted. When stubble burning peaks in farmers’ fields in Punjab and Haryana it is difficult to even breathe in a city like Delhi.

The extreme weather events such as the recent heat waves in Europe and Asia alongside droughts and floods in other areas exacerbate these issues even more.

Why there is an imbalance between people and the planet?

In 1804, for the first time in history, the human population touched one billion. The next billion was added in 123 years with the count touching two billion by 1927. Several major breakthroughs in medical science ensured that the next billion was added in just 33 years by 1960.

Thereafter, humanity progressed even faster. For instance, it took only 12 years to reach six to seven billion in 2010, and another 12 years to touch eight billion in 2022.

This created a huge imbalance between the demands of people and the capacity of this planet to supply them in a sustainable manner.

Read more: [What is Zero Budget Natural Farming?](#)

What is the role of natural/organic farming in correcting this imbalance?

Many governments, religious organisations, and some NGOs believe that organic/natural farming is the only way to correct this imbalance. Most of the studies conducted by ICAR in India show that with the adoption of natural farming yields go down for major staple crops like wheat and rice by as much as 30 to 50%. But the yields recover back to normal levels after some time.

Organic farming in India: Sikkim was declared an organic state, etc. The Indian government has initiated a major programme on natural farming along the Ganga, five kilometres on each side of its banks. Many states like Andhra Pradesh are also scaling up natural farming.

Must read: [Natural Farming – process, advantages and challenges – Explained, pointwise](#)

Why does India need to focus on farming?

Sri Lanka wanted to get rid of chemical fertilisers but facing an economic challenge. India is going to be the most populous country on the planet in 2023. So, India needs a proper policy decision with better and more scientific evidence if India wants to avoid a Sri Lanka-like fiasco.

What should be done to improve farming activities?

Focus on precision farming: It can give India “more from less”. The innovations and developments in GIS (Geographical Information System), AIML (Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning) can use enormous data and bring about precision in farming.

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Reduction of subsidies: In India, there is a culture of free power, free water, almost 80 to 90% subsidy on urea, and so on. These subsidy policies may have been good in the 1960s or the 1970s when the country was hugely food deficit. But now these subsidies have to be reduced.

2. [The road to energy atmanirbharta](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**The road to energy atmanirbharta**” published in **The Indian Express** on **5th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy – energy

Relevance: steps that can be taken by India to achieve Energy Atmanirbharta.

News: This article discusses about the steps that can be taken by India to achieve ‘Energy Atmanirbharta’ by 2040.

The Prime Minister has called for “Energy Atmanirbharta” by 2040 recently.

What are the requirements needed for India to achieve Energy Atmanirbharta by 2040?

First, India should be clear with the definition of Atmanirbharta. It means self-reliance not self-sufficiency. Self-sufficiency should not be our goal as energy self-sufficiency is infeasible and uneconomic.

Second, we should prioritize access to fossil fuels because the transition to a green energy system is a lengthy, time taking and costly process. There is a **low probability of finding substantive, additional domestic resources of hydrocarbons**, even if India is able to enhance domestic exploration, it may be **difficult to produce them on commercially viable terms**. Therefore, our policy must continue to emphasize affordable and secure access to oil and gas.

Third, prioritize access to the **building blocks of green energy**. We have ambitious targets for renewables. However, minerals/components (copper, cobalt, lithium, semiconductor chips etc.) required to build EVs, solar panels, wind turbines and batteries are concentrated in countries that are not on the same political page with India. For example, 38 per cent of copper is produced from Chile and Peru. China controls 47 per cent of copper smelting and 42 per cent of copper refining. Therefore, India must remove the obstacles to domestic mining and develop strategies to manage the international market dynamics.

Fourth, In a recent example of Germany, it faced the LNG supply problem because it was not connected by a pipeline built by Spain. Therefore, it became possible for Russia to weaponize the gas supply.

Thus, infrastructure development is needed. GAIL is investing in the development of a national gas pipeline grid. In addition to it India must expand its strategic petroleum reserves to cover at least 30 days of consumption.

Fifth, offering green incentives to encourage private participation. **For example,** investors response was encouraging after the government’s production-linked incentive scheme (PLI) offers benefits for investment in green energy.

Private capital can help meet net carbon zero targets of the country.

Sixth, In the face of high gas prices, Europe is enjoying the disproportionately positive benefits of demand management. This must be corrected. Energy usage norms must be standardised and tightened. Legislation should be properly enacted to ensure compliance.

Seventh, retraining and upskilling.

The nature of jobs and their location will change with the gradual transition to a green energy system. Therefore, the requirements for training/skilling should be anticipated and delivered.

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Eighth, energy diplomacy. Our diplomats should add energy to their diplomacy. This is because of our dependence on the international energy supply chains. Success in navigating economic and geopolitical uncertainties will depend greatly on skillful diplomacy.

Ninth, holistic governance. The current energy governance requires proper administration. Institutions should be created to facilitate integrated energy planning and implementation.

3. [Heavy debt burdens are the real issues in our debate over freebies](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Heavy debt burdens are the real issues in our debate over freebies**” published in **The Live Mint** on **5th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy

News: This article discusses the measures that can be adopted to achieve the fiscal deficit target.

The Centre never logged a fiscal deficit ratio of less than 3% after 2007-08 and all states combined had logged less than 3% after 2004-05.

This is because, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) rules cap the deficit at 3% of gross state domestic product. It requires special permission to go beyond this level.

What are the rules needed to be adopted to check the fiscal deficit?

There are rules needed to cap the deficit as well as ensure transparency.

First, we need a rule that is binding on both the Centre and states. The Reserve Bank of India can be made the care taker to ensure that access to the debt market for states and center closes beyond a prescribed level.

Second, Contingent liabilities must be counted as a part of the fiscal deficit—both of the Centre and states. This will deliver transparency and ensure that debt doesn’t build up outside budgets.

Third, guarantees by the government to any publicly-owned entity should be banned. Because, it creates an environment of not taking responsibility for performance and the entity will be forced to operate on commercial terms. If guarantees are gone, they will have to borrow money from the financial system based on their strength and performance.

Fourth, to ensure a certain amount is spent as a capital expenditure a certain portion of the borrowing should be set aside by a rule. This will ensure that the government is building infrastructure. The Finance Commission must strongly mandate the level of capex at 20% or 25%.

4. [A new dawn for nuclear energy](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**A new dawn for nuclear energy**” published in **The Business Standard** on **5th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3- Energy

News: This article discusses about the issues related with nuclear energy and the position of India in the nuclear power generation.

What is discouraging nuclear energy?

The accidents at Three Mile Island in the US (1979), Chernobyl in the USSR (1986), and particularly Fukushima in Japan (2011) raised a concern for the use on nuclear energy.

But researchers found that stopping nuclear energy production contributed to more deaths in Japan than the accident itself.

While conventional big nuclear plants have faced difficulties, progress has taken place with small plants.

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Submarines and aircraft carriers in the West have used numerous small nuclear plants for decades. Their safety record has been perfect.

Can costs of setting-up nuclear power become low?

It will require **assembly line manufacturing** for making it at a low cost.

Under present calculations, if 12 modules are installed giving a 600 MW plant, the cost of electricity (under first world conditions) is estimated at between \$41 and \$65 per MWh.

In India, both costs (nuclear and renewables) will be higher because of the country risk and the difficulties of the financial system.

Competition, innovation, learning that comes from scale, and manufacturing on assembly lines will all contribute to gains in the cost structure.

What is the situation in India in nuclear power generation?

In India nuclear generation has not worked out well.

The state sector faces problems and progress requires importing nuclear reactors made by private companies.

The economics of large-scale nuclear plants that can be imported from the West is unattractive. Electricity system in India has envisaged a combination of renewables and storage to get to zero emissions.

These things could change if SMR technology gets on a time trend of declining prices.

If it works well then firms in India will see these new SMRs as components that can fit in their business planning.

An SMR is just a cylinder, 23-metre-high and 4.5-metre-wide, which generates 50 MW, which could be put in the corner of a factory.

5. [We may have to recalibrate the country's decarbonization effort](#)

Source: The post is based on an article **“We may have to recalibrate the country's decarbonization effort”** published in **The Live Mint** on **6th September 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Pollution and climate change**

Relevance: **problems associated in achieving net zero emission.**

News: India faces challenge of raising economic growth, achieving decent living standards for all, and lowering carbon emissions simultaneously.

What is the current situation and challenges with India in achieving net zero emission?

Reducing emissions

Target: The latest announced NDC by India aims to increase non-fossil-fuel-based capacity to 50% of overall installed capacity by 2030.

Challenge: The emissions depend on the energy generated not on the installed capacity. Thus, the target of 50% generation might have been better, although tough because of the challenges of land and infrastructure availability and grid stability.

Target: India also pledged at CoP-26 to cut the country's emission intensity of gross domestic product (GDP) by 45% from its 2005 level. It is an increase of 40% over the earlier commitment.

Challenge: This would mean lowering emissions across all polluting sectors, especially energy (thermal power and transportation). It accounts for the highest share (about 60%) of India's total greenhouse gas emissions.

The emission from manufacturing sector is about 20% and the efficiency of our coal-based plants is way below global standards.

Renewable and Green Energy

Target: Adopting renewable (solar, hydro, and wind etc.) energies is also a challenging task.

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Challenges: 1) domestic availability of raw materials, 2) cost competitiveness, 3) access to technology and scalability, 4) increasing geopolitical conflicts and supply chain disruptions, 5) availability of green hydrogen, indigenous raw material for batteries and technology.

Solutions: 1) Having resilient, homegrown manufacturing bases with scalability and cost-competitiveness. 2) Incentivize green manufacturing which would create jobs as well, 3) A sharper focus on new sectors such as solar modules, batteries and cell manufacturing.

Decarbonizing Industries

Target: Decarbonizing conventional smoke emitting industries will also be challenging. Crisil's analysis shows that only five sectors (iron and steel, cement, refining, non-ferrous metals, and chemicals) account for about 70% of all industrial emissions.

They also emit a higher intensity of non-CO₂ gases (such as SO_x, NO_x, mercury and methane) and, hence, are hard-to-abate sectors.

Solutions: Green hydrogen-based direct reduced iron (DRI) processes along with the use of renewable energy will eliminate production of blast furnace slag and fly ash.

Recently the cement producers have announced green capital expenditure to meet 100% of their power requirement through renewables.

Challenges: Hydrogen is green only if produced from solar, wind or biofuel sources of energy. Now, the problem is that India's cumulative solar and wind capacity is about 114GW currently. It is too little to meet the goal of 5 million tonnes per annum of green hydrogen generation by 2030, which was announced in the country's Green Hydrogen Policy.

What can be further course of action?

The efforts are needed on indigenous green technology to cut cost, improve scalability and ensure faster adoption.

Financial support either from government or from private investment or negotiations with advanced economies for climate action funds is needed.

There is a crucial need for a holistic, national decarbonization vision that lays out practical goals and guides implementation especially by using our local technological skills.

6. [Fixing the quality problem of Make in India](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "Fixing the quality problem of Make in India" published in **The Business Standard** on **6th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Industries and industrial policies

News: There are lots of programmes and incentives announced by the government of India to make India a global manufacturing hub. However, there are many challenges in achieving this goal.

Production-linked incentive schemes are an attempt to make Indian an attractive global manufacturing hub. However, the question arises, would these policies be more successful compared to the previous attempts.

Why is it important for India to become a global manufacturing hub?

First, the recent geo-political tension and supply chain disruption has made compulsory to reduce its dependence on China.

Second, it is not possible to find a solution to rising unemployment without focusing on the manufacturing sector. Manufacturing sectors play an important role in job creation.

What are the challenges, in front of India, in becoming a global manufacturing hub?

First, India has tried to reduce its dependence on China but the progress made by India is not upto the mark. It has not been able to attract big global strategic manufacturing investment.

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Second, India's dependence on China for inputs and manufactured goods has also increased.

Third, there are infrastructure issues, like, the cost and ease of doing business, high taxes as well as frequent policy changes.

Fourth, there are also **regulatory failures in enforcing quality consciousness** among manufacturers. Indian government and regulators have adopted lower manufacturing standards than developed countries. But they have not been able to enforce even those low standards.

For example, Indian automobile manufacturers export products with higher safety norms and at a cheaper price than the ones they sell in the domestic market.

Indian drug makers exporting medicines build and operate manufacturing facilities that pass the US Food and Drug Administration's inspections, but the same medicines sold in the domestic market have far less regulatory scrutiny and made in factories with fewer quality controls.

The excuse often given for lower quality standards is that stricter norms could increase costs sharply, which is a baseless point.

It is often the taxes and infrastructure issues that add to the costs rather than higher quality standards.

Why don't the government and manufacturers in the country focus on producing uniformly higher quality products?

Indian manufacturers did not have to worry about quality before the liberalization.

After the economic reforms of 1991, there was a large gap between what the Indian consumer expected and what consumers in developed markets demanded.

The Indian middle-class consumer often accepted products that their counterparts in developed countries rejected.

This was one of the reasons of adopting low quality standard by Indian manufacturers but the quality is critical in becoming a major manufacturing hub.

India needs to enforce stringent quality norms for goods produced within the country for both domestic and international consumers if it wants to become a manufacturing hub.

7. [Dangerous divergence](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "**Dangerous divergence**" published in **The Business Standard** on **6th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Inequality in India

News: This article discusses the measures that can be taken to address the regional inequality in India.

Economists have been arguing for a long time that there will be a convergence "convergence", in which similar economic units such as states will eventually converge in output and related indicators, removing inequality.

However, in recent times Indian states have provided little evidence of convergence.

There is a need to address the degree of regional inequality in India else this inequality will pose a major challenge to India's unitary and federal structure.

Data suggests that the richer states, such as those in the south of India, are between 3 to 4 times as wealthy in terms of per capita income compared to populated states of north and east-central India.

Inflation also hits the citizens of poorer states more than it does those in richer states.

How can this inequality be reduced?

There can be fiscal transfers from the richer states to the poorer ones but there are political issues related to it.

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There is a hope that dynamic leadership in the poorer states will bring a business-led change but the problem is that there are other states available to investors for investing.

Public spending might focus on **building up human capital in the poorer regions** rather than on consumption subsidies. But this too will not work unless the returns to human capital in these regions are clear and demonstrable.

Another solution is to enable and protect **internal migration**.

Internal migration acts as a safety valve and equalizes the returns to labor and human capital allocation across regions.

8. [Gorbachev, macro-economics, and Gandhi](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Gorbachev, macro-economics, and Gandhi**” published in **The Hindu** on **6th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy – Growth and development.

Relevance: About the capitalist model and its alternative.

News: Recently, Mikhail Gorbachev passed away. He has been for his role in ending the ideological conflict between communism and capitalism.

About Mikhail Gorbachev’s political and economic decisions

Economic policy: Gorbachev favoured a slow transition to a “mixed economy” like the Indian model and had even approached Rajiv Gandhi for advice.

With his concepts of perestroika and glasnost, Gorbachev wanted to save common citizens from being oppressed by powerful people.

Political decisions: He also brought down the Iron Curtain and ended the Cold War between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Soviet Union.

Gorbachev also helped to bring the world back from the nuclear precipice.

Read more: [Why Rajiv Gandhi hailed Mikhail Gorbachev as ‘crusader of peace’](#)

How did Russia evolve after Mikhail Gorbachev’s Presidency?

Boris Yeltsin: He took power after Gorbachev. During his regime, “big bang” capitalisation was imposed on Russia by U.S. economists. Instead of the Indian model, the “Washington economics” model prevailed.

Note: After 1991, India itself opened up its economy to the US model.

Vladimir Putin: Under him, Russia again moves towards authoritarianism.

Is the capitalist model the best?

No, overall life expectancy is a good measure of the well-being of a nation’s citizens. This is because, when all citizens are well-nourished when public health systems function well, and when violence in society is low, an average person lives longer.

International comparisons reveal that GDP per capita is an insufficient contributor to longevity. Many countries with substantially lower incomes outperform the U.S. in life expectancy.

For example, Cuba is one place above the U.S. in longevity tables even though its income per capita is just 14% of U.S. incomes.

What is the impact on Russia due to the capitalist model?

The big bang capitalist reforms of the Russian economy in 1991 and 1994, life expectancy fell from 64 to 57 years. Many Russian deaths were caused by suicides, alcohol poisoning, homicides, and heart attacks brought upon by despair with joblessness and hopelessness, created by wholesale privatisation of the economy and disruption of social safety nets.

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What are the basis of the capitalist model, and what are the challenges?
It is founded on two fundamental ideas.

The ideology of “property rights” outdoing human rights

In this, whosoever owns more shares in a property must have a greater say. Thus, one dollar owned gives one vote in governance, and a million dollars, one million votes.

This is visible by the **a)** Creation of international tribunals which adjudicate disputes between foreign investors in countries and the governments (representing the interests of millions and billions of people) of those countries, **b)** Global trade rules, and national financial and trade regulations also favour the needs of financial investors, making it easier for them to enter and exit. But the governments stopping human migrants from searching for better opportunities across national borders.

On the other hand, the democratic principle of “human rights” requires that every human being, black or white, or whether billionaire or pauper, has an equal vote in governance.

Read more: [Humanity matters, capitalism needs an upgrade](#)

Hardin’s “Tragedy of the Commons”

It says that communities cannot manage shared resources; therefore, a common property must be privatised for its protection. When a public resource is privatised, those who already have wealth can buy it. Those with more wealth will win and become even wealthier. Thus, inequalities will increase.

What is an alternative to the capitalist model India should follow?

Follow Gandhi’s ethical economics: Concepts of free trade, financial freedom, and privatisation, promoted by macroeconomists, are not good solutions for India’s billion citizens struggling for resilience in their lives.

India’s economic governance must be guided by Mahatma Gandhi’s calculus, with principles of human rights and community management, to realise the promise of our commons, and provide “poorna swaraj” to all citizens.

Read more: [It’s time for the world to reform capitalism from within](#)

9. [Bengaluru today ... Waterlogged plush areas of India’s tech capital are another grim warning to all cities](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Bengaluru today ... Waterlogged plush areas of India’s tech capital are another grim warning to all cities**” published in **The Times of India** on **7th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Disaster and disaster management.

Relevance: About flooding in Bengaluru.

News: Two days of heavy rain in Bengaluru left many areas waterlogged in the city. This again highlights the economic boom, poor urban planning and real estate greed in Indian cities.

How did development led to flooding in Bengaluru?

Before the IT boom, Bengaluru was as much a city of lakes and tanks with interconnected channels as it was a city of parks.

An intricate ecosystem meant for irrigation underwent a rapid change in character with the pace of the city’s development. This led to rise in land prices and scarcity of land.

Many water channels have been choked by concrete from all sides. Few lakes and tanks have been filled up without dredging for years. Changing rainfall patterns aggravated this vulnerability.

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Read more: [\[Yojana October Summary\] The Himalayan Floods – Explained, pointwise](#)

What is the status of other Indian cities on flooding?

Hyderabad, another city of lakes and tanks, is regularly hit by waterlogging, including “flash floods”.

Cities with rivers flowing through them like Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi also face the risks spawned by rapidly depleted floodplains.

Read more: [Urban governance and urban floods: Storm warnings of a megacity collapse](#)

What should be done to avoid flooding in Bengaluru and other Indian cities?

Creation of stormwater drainages: In recent flooding in Bengaluru, areas which underwent stormwater drainage repair did not get waterlogged. So, other cities have to implement such systems and repair them regularly.

Decentralisation of power: Megacities like Bengaluru generating thousands of crores in revenue have not to be micromanaged by a state government. Decentralising governance and devolving powers are key to the new planning and development paradigm.

Bad/corrupt planning and political machinations should be avoided at all costs.

Read more: [Explained: What are flash floods and why they may increase in the next few years](#)

10. [Revidi culture debate: Why we need freebies in India](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Revidi culture debate: Why we need freebies in India**” published in **The Indian Express** on **7th September 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Government policies for betterment of vulnerable sections**

News: **Freebies have often been in debate for a while and there is an argument that SC (Supreme Court) and EC (Election Commission) must step in to check these. The article discusses the importance of freebies and the requirement of SC and EC intervention.**

Is judicial or SC intervention required to tackle the issue of freebies?

Promises made by the political parties can be **divided into two types:** Promises made before the elections are announced and those made after.

The government cannot announce new schemes after the declaration of poll dates because of the model code of conduct. However, the promises made in the manifestos do not attract the model code of conduct.

Thus, the **EC cannot question the manifestos as they are perfectly legal**, even if the promises are infeasible.

SC judgment: The SC in its judgment accepted that the promises in manifestos cannot be taken as corrupt practice under the RP Act. However, SC directed the EC to frame guidelines with regard to the content of manifestos in consultation with all the recognized political parties.

However, political parties argued that it is their right and duty towards the voters to make promises through their manifestos. Thus, status-quo maintained. Therefore, neither the EC nor the SC should get involved in this legal and legitimate democratic instrument.

If the promises are unrealistic and absurd it is the duty of the media and opposition to expose them.

The matters of economic policy lie in the hands of elected representatives and neither the EC nor the SC should intervene in the political domain of the legislature.

Why freebies are important?

Rising inequalities: Oxfam’s 2022 annual report on inequality in India shows –

1. The number of poor doubled to 134 million as its dollar billionaires’ wealth doubled.

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2. The richest 1 per cent have amassed 51.5 per cent of the total wealth while the bottom 60 per cent of the population a mere 5 per cent.
3. The reduced funding to local administrations due to the growing privatization in the health and education sectors has further increased inequalities.

Corporate tax cuts: The government recently reduced corporate tax rates for domestic companies resulting in a loss of 1.5 lakh crore, as per oxfam report. To compensate for the shortfall in direct taxes indirect taxes were increased during the pandemic. This led to a rise in fuel prices impacting the prices of essential commodities such as foodgrain.

Fundamental responsibility of state: According to the World Food Program, our nation is home to a quarter of the world's undernourished people. Providing its citizens with food, education and employment is the most fundamental responsibility of a democratic state.

Socio-economic benefits: Promises like cheap foodgrains and free items of utility have been useful for our society. For example, Starvation deaths haven't occurred since Rs 1-2 kg rice was introduced. The distribution of bicycles had improved enrollment and retention of girls in schools in Bihar. Employment guarantee schemes have brought visible relief to the rural poor.

11. [What our new telecom regulatory law should look like](#)

Source – The post is based on the article “**What our new telecom regulatory law should look like**” published in **the Mint** on **7th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Infrastructure

News– The article gives suggestions related to the newly proposed regulatory system by the government of India for the telecommunications sector.

What is the current regulatory structure in the telecommunication sector?

It is regulated by **Telegraph Act, 1985**. It is the colonial era legislation which has been interpreted many times. Its meaning has been extended well beyond the original intent and license has become its predominant feature.

Government has come up with a consultation paper to develop a new regulatory framework that emphasizes on **simplification, comprehensibility** and **regulatory certainty** to promote investment.

What are the suggestions that can be incorporated in the proposed regulatory structure ?

(a) Government should do away with the **license regime**. It should encode regulatory obligation into the law.

(b) Authorization to provide a service should be granted through a simple approval letter that incorporates by reference the provisions of law and specific rules that will apply.

(c) We need to do away with licenses that are redundant. It refers to the service that is no longer required or can be provided through software more efficiently. One example is Audiotex license that regulates conference call services.

(d) We need to simplify the complex set of categories and sub-categories for the services provided by the telecom sector. We need to categorize telecom companies solely based on whether they **provide carriage or access service**. For example;

Carriage service provider-They build and maintain the infrastructure of telecom networks that connects operators in different locations. They should be authorized to provide service to telecom service providers and not directly to customers.

Access service provider-They should be authorized to deal with customers. They can be further divided by function whether they provide only data service or both voice and data service.

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(e) All these regulations should be **technology neutral** by design to save them from becoming redundant on technology change. The regulatory distinction between plain voice service and voice over internet protocol should be removed so that they can be freely converted to each other.

12. Meaning of being fifth

Source – The post is based on the article “**Meaning of being fifth**” published in **The Times of India** on **7th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3-Indian economy – Growth and development

News-Article explains the growth pattern of Indian economy and other economic indicators over a three year period from 2019 to 2022.

India has overtaken the United Kingdom to become fifth largest economy. The economy has followed V-shaped recovery after COVID-19.

The growth in the Indian economy is the highest at 3.83% in three year period.

What is the impact of fiscal boost following COVID-19?

Countries across the world expanded fiscal spending enormously following Covid. It led to high increase in inflation, but prevented a major decline in GDP growth.

India is an outlier among these countries as three year growth is highest even when inflation over the last one year is almost the same. Other countries’ growth was driven exclusively by fiscal spending and India’s growth was driven both by fiscal spending as well as supply side measures.

What is the situation of various components of GDP?

Three engines of growth- These are represented by consumption, investment, and export. Over last year indicators have grown respectively at 26%, 20%, and 15%. Over a three-year period, they have grown respectively at 9%, 20%, and 3.6%. Collectively all these three have grown by 22%.

Fiscal policy must continue to be supportive of growth as all economies are still emerging from COVID shock.

Higher **capital expenditure** is the need of the day as it has multiplier effects and it does not lead to higher inflation.

The rise in imports at 37% over last year can be explained by the fact that oil contributes about a quarter of India’s imports, which doubled over the last year. Increase in oil import bill contributes about two third of 37% increase in imports over the last year.

Fears about rising current account deficit are overestimated. India has faced a macroeconomic crisis only when faced with a Current Account Deficit to GDP ratio greater than 2.5% combined with double digit inflation and very high fiscal deficit. With moderate inflation, comfortable tax revenue, there is no danger of impending macro-instability due to high CAD.

What needs to be done to boost the economy?

We need to implement completely the reforms announced as part of Atamnirbhar Bharat, labour law reforms and privatization to boost the economic efficiency.

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13. Unproductive fertiliser policy

Source– The post is based on the article “**Unproductive fertiliser policy**” published in **the Business Standard** on **7th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS-3 – Agriculture

News–The article explains about the issues related to the “one nation, one fertiliser policy”. The new policy mandates fertiliser product of different companies to be marketed under single brand name of “Bharat”.

What are the issues related to the new fertiliser policy?

Although all fertilisers carry a subsidy of almost 80 to 90%, it does not justify government claims to their brand value.

First, it denies opportunities to companies to create their own market space through brand promotion.

Second, it impinges upon farmer rights to buy the fertiliser of their choice.

Third, it is unclear whether this step conforms to provision of law concerning brands and trademarks.

Fourth, it creates disincentive for fertiliser companies to take up field programmes to introduce efficient methods of nutrient application as part of their market promotion activities.

Fifth, the instructions to the fertiliser company to carry on bags the logo of the new scheme called PM Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna has political connotations.

What are the government arguments in support of policy?

Present system results in higher subsidy outgo, especially the freight subsidy by encouraging criss-cross movement of fertiliser from one state to another.

But the argument is flawed as the Fertiliser Control Order, 1985 has enough provisions to curb such practices.

What should be done?

It should provide direct subsidies to farmers. The database and infrastructure for direct benefit transfer already exist with the government. The government should not further mess up with fertiliser sector.

14. The supply side is back on policy radars across much of the world

Source– The post is based on the article “**The supply side is back on policy radars across much of the world**” published in **the Mint** on **7th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS-3 – Indian economy and issues related to growth

News– There is increased focus of central banks and economies towards the sharp increase in inflation and supply side constraints faced by economies across the world. These were the main focus areas of recently held central bankers meeting at Jackson Hole.

What was the practice followed by central bankers to conduct monetary policy in recent times?

Main focus area of monetary policy, especially in advanced economies, has been to manage aggregate demand.

It has been assumed that the supply side would easily adapt to change in aggregate demand as the rise of China expanded labor supply and productive capacity on a global scale.

Temporary supply side disruptions were ignored as steady inflationary expectation and responsive supply side would not lead to higher wages and higher prices.

The moderate level of inflation ensured that the government could provide fiscal stimulus to boost the economy.

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How has the scenario changed in the last two years?

Many of the monetary policy assumptions have been challenged due to supply side disruptions, rising energy prices and issues related to food shortage.

The situation may persist due to geopolitical tensions and rising protectionism across the world. The prominent economist and bankers are talking about rising inflationary pressure and supply side constraints.

What are the important questions raised by the current scenario?

Whether the rigid supply side situation will persist and rise of protectionist sentiment will lead to loss of resilience for the world economy as a whole.

Second is related to supply shocks as the world will learn to adapt to climate change and transition to new forms of mobility, energy and living.

Third is related to the actual micro structure of the economy. Recently the shortage of semiconductors has upset the production of car companies across the world. The complex supply chain across world is vulnerable to shocks even if one link of chain breaks

15. For a stronger economy: We need economic reforms beyond liberalisation

Source: The post is based on an article **“For a stronger economy: We need economic reforms beyond liberalisation”** published in **The Indian Express** on **7th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy – Liberalization

News: The Indian economy was expected to collapse due to the pandemic. Appropriate counter-cyclical policy enabled the recovery and it worked because reforms had reached a threshold of adequacy.

New reforms and measures are required to tackle current economic situation.

What new reforms are required from India?

Liberalization has reached a point of diminishing returns and new reforms are needed to overcome the current economic situation.

The focus should be on adopting the measures that currently favor India.

These include a) the digitization, where India has a comparative advantage, b) supply chain diversification, c) moving to a net zero economy and d) using green initiatives as a source of investment and innovation.

Attention should also be given to a) developing skills and capabilities, b) improving employability, c) improving infrastructure, d) reducing logistics and other business costs through better Centre-state coordination, e) enhancing the quality of governance and counter-cyclical regulation with good incentives, f) improve data use and privacy g) functioning of courts and police.

Why should banks not be privatized?

There is a recommendation to privatise most public sector banks (PSBs).

There is an argument that PSBs drain taxpayers' money but this argument is based on the experience of last decade. PSBs were doing better than private banks in 2000s.

NPA rose because PSBs were pushed to lend to infrastructure where there are inherent asset liability mismatches.

However, after some recent measures, like improvements in governance of PSBs and risk-based lending profiles, NPA ratios have decreased. Even social schemes are now financed through direct subsidies by the government which has benefitted PSBs.

PSBs are trusted by people throughout out the country and it is evident from the opening of 1.7 trillion Jan Dhan accounts.

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PSBs can gain advantage in low-cost deposit deposits through many co-lending opportunities and partnerships.

Private banks alone cannot increase credit when lending from PSBs has slowed.

PSBs should be allowed to compete and raise resources on their own and only those PSBs which are weak can be privatized.

Why rupee should not be made completely market determined?

There are recommendations that the rupee should be completely market-determined. Also, it should be allowed to sink under foreign outflows since this would benefit exporters.

However, the effect of exchange rate depreciation is reflected faster in Indian imports. Because, they are dominated by dollar-denominated commodities such as crude oil.

Indian exporters have little market power and they are forced to bear the cost of depreciation.

Studies show that exporters do not gain from currency volatility and the gain that is earned is usually temporary.

The fall in the exchange rate of the rupee from about Rs 8 in the 1990s to about Rs 80 currently has not brought about a sustained rise in exports.

Lower volatility in the real exchange rate helps both gainers and losers when there are changes in the value of the rupee. The positive and negative deviations from equilibrium real rates are harmful.

Only a fraction of the foreign portfolio flows (FPI) that look for trading benefits gain from volatility. Some rupee volatility is good and encourages firms to hedge currency risks.

16. Policy balance: Higher trade and fiscal deficits can create risks

Source: The post is based on the article “**Policy balance: Higher trade and fiscal deficits can create risks**” published in the **Business Standard** on **8th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.

Relevance: falling exports and rising imports.

News: Recent data shows India’s exports declined marginally in August on a year-on-year basis, while it contracted by about 9% sequentially. Indian exporters have also reported a shift in demand for low-value products.

What are the reasons for the falling exports and rising imports?

Falling Exports: **a)** Global economy is slowing rapidly, which is affecting demand, **b)** Higher energy prices are upsetting household budgets in many parts of the world, compressing demand for other goods, **c)** Higher interest rates and tightening financial conditions, particularly in the US Federal Reserve, has also affecting exports from India.

Rising imports: **a)** Imports have remained sticky, partly because of higher crude oil prices, **b)** The ongoing recovery in the Indian economy is also pushing up demand for foreign goods.

What are the impacts on the Indian economy due to falling exports and rising imports?

All this resulted in a **widening trade deficit and current account deficit (CAD)** in India. Most economists expect the current account deficit (CAD) forecasts for the year to 3.5 to 4% of gross domestic product compared to 1.2% in the last fiscal year.

What are the opportunities for the Indian economy?

A rise in Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs): FPIs have returned to Indian capital markets after aggressive selling in recent months. But, their participation is anchored on global conditions.

This is because, **a)** Sustained rate hikes by large central banks and tightening financial conditions affected FPI flows to risky assets, such as emerging market equities.

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Reduction in commodity prices: Slower global growth could soften commodity prices.

What are the challenges for the Indian economy?

Geopolitical factors and rising energy prices: Sustained disruption in gas supply from Russia could again push up energy prices.

Higher “twin deficits”: The government at present have a higher fiscal deficit. Along with the CAD, higher “twin deficits” are always a risk for macro stability. This makes the financing of CAD more difficult.

What should be done to avoid the twin deficits?

The government should use the buoyancy in tax collection to improve the fiscal position, and the RBI can focus on CAD.

Visible adjustments in both fiscal and current account positions will help strengthen macroeconomic stability, support economic activity, and boost investor confidence.

17. [The plight of India’s flooded tech capital is striking. But Bengaluru’s predicament is unfortunately not unique.](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“The plight of India’s flooded tech capital is striking. But Bengaluru’s predicament is unfortunately not unique”** published in **The Indian Express** on **8th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Disaster and disaster management

Relevance– About flooding in Indian cities

News-The article explains about the recent flooding in Bengaluru and reasons that led to the current predicament.

The official blamed extreme weather conditions and state government blamed unplanned development and maladministration for current situation.

These types of scenes were witnessed earlier in other cities of India like Kochi, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai.

What are the reasons behind these flooding events?

A large number of wetland that soaked up the rainwater has been encroached. Corrupt Civic bodies are responsible for it.

There is poor management of the **urban water drainage system**. CAG pulled up Bengaluru municipality for this poor management.

Urban local bodies complain about lack of resources and low municipal tax rates. But truth is that civic bodies are guilty of **impropriety** in the use of resources. The CAG also found that the Bengaluru municipality did not maintain proper records of the stormwater management funds allotted to it under the JNNURM. It also noted the lack of coordination between the municipality and the [Bangalore](#) Development Authority on drainage-related matters.

18. [What India could do to make progress against climate change](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“What India could do to make progress against climate change”** published in **the Mint** on **8th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environmental pollution and degradation

Relevance– About steps India should take to fight climate change

News- The article provides suggestions related to India strategy to resolve the challenges related to climate change.

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Climate change is a **global problem** that needs **global response**. The 27th climate summit in Egypt and G20 summit in Indonesia are happening when developed countries are facing challenges like the Ukraine crisis, sharp increase in gas prices in Europe and geopolitical tension between US and China.

How India could tackle the challenges related to climate change?

Two things are important- (1) Indian position on negotiation about climate strategy. (2) India's position on international financing for developing countries to manage climate change.

India current strategy of managing climate change: Major targets of our strategy announced at CoP-26 at Glasgow includes-

(1) Net zero emission by 2070 (2) Reducing emission intensity of GDP by 45% by 2045 (3) Renewable energy share of 50% in total electricity generation.

The target of 450GW renewable energy by 2030 is a **supply side element**. It needs to be supplemented by **demand side measures** like 1) reducing fossil fuels in transport through electric vehicles and electrification of railways; 2) promote green hydrogen technologies for heavy industries; 3) increase efficiency of buildings and public transport.

Suggestions related to India strategy for managing climate change:

It needs interventions in many areas and coordination across different levels of government and private sector.

A good strategy is a **10 year program** that is not part of nationally determined contributions to UNFCCC but serves as domestic targets which are the following:

(1) We need to define targets for peak coal use for power generation around 2030 by considering the commissioning of coal power plants currently built and possible phasing down of inefficient one.

(2) A date for peak economy wide emissions needs to be fixed.

(3) Poor financial health of discoms needs to be resolved. We should try to get financing from multilateral investment banks for this purpose.

(4) To increase the share of renewable energy in total power generation requires innovation in electricity regulation and grid management practices.

(5) Minimum energy efficiency targets for household appliances need to be reviewed and set periodically.

(6) Railway's entire traction network needs to be electrified by converting diesel locomotives to electric.

(7) Growth of **green hydrogen** needs to be supported by setting targets for major industries that can shift to it.

(8) State government needs to be encouraged to prepare climate action plans for cities and rural areas.

(9) Separate targets for increasing the share of electric vehicles; expanding EV charging networks and phasing out of internal combustion engines need to be fixed.

(10) There is a need to introduce **carbon tax** and the Energy conservation bill should have provisions for it.

(11) There is a need for more investment in afforestation.

Financing the transition to carbon neutral economy:

It is a major unresolved problem. UNFCCC provides that developing countries will get finance from developed ones.

Paris agreement promised assistance of 100 billion dollar per year by 2020 but it has yet to be realized. Glasgow pact recognized the failure and promised earliest delivery and continuation till 2025.

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Estimates suggest that investment needs of developing countries excluding China comes close to 4% of GDP or almost \$1 trillion per year by 2025.

Developing countries need to accept that a large portion of this amount has to be mobilized domestically. It has to be a combination of public and private flow.

G 7 countries have given no indication of their willingness to provide funding. The upcoming G20 summit will provide some clarity.



General

Studies

Paper – 4

General Studies - 4

1. [Meaning of kartavya: Our ancient texts provide the conceptual clarity](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Meaning of kartavya: Our ancient texts provide the conceptual clarity**” published in **The Times of India** on **10th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS4- Dimensions of ethics and contribution of moral thinkers

Relevance–About the concept of duty.

Context- The concept of kartavya or duty is in highlight after the renaming of Raj Path to Kartavya Path.

What is the definition of kartavya in ancient texts?

In **Bhagavad Gita**, Krishna tells Arjuna that kartavya is following your **dharma** that is **righteousness in conduct and following social order**, working without expectations of reward, **indifference to desires and possessions** and it demands **selfless service**.

Is it possible to follow the kartavya path in modern times?

Human beings never progressed without renouncing ego and developing self-control in any age. We should not think of powerful and influential personalities but we have to look at selfless work done by mothers and homemakers, artisan and scientists, doctors and teachers. They followed the kartavya path.

History does not note their individual contributions as it is biased understanding of past having top-down overview where every figure was selfish.

True satisfaction comes from doing one’s job well.