



9 PM

Compilation

3rd to 8th October, 2022

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General

Studies

Paper – 1

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General Studies - 1

1. [Understanding the Durga Puja economy](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Understanding the Durga Puja economy**” published in **The Hindu** on **3rd October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS1- Art and Culture. GS3- Economy

Relevance– Impact of cultural activities on economy

News– The article explains the impact of Durga Puja on overall economic prospects of the state. It also explains future prospects for the West Bengal Economy.

Durga Puja was recently included by UNESCO in its **Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.

What are some facts related to the economy of Durga Puja?

It is not easy to estimate the true size of the Durga Puja economy. It has a **multidimensional character**. A large quantity of sales happens through the unorganised retail market.

There are some estimates about the size of the Durga Puja economy. A **2013 ASSOCHAM study** estimated the size of the Durga Puja industry at ₹25,000 crore. It is around 3.7% of West Bengal’s GDP at that time.

A recent **study by the British Council** estimates the size at 32377 crores. It accounts for around 2.5% of West Bengal’s economy.

Durga Puja has been affected by socio-economic-political shocks. The 1943 famine in West Bengal had a negative impact on it. Recently the pandemic led to huge losses for the Durga Puja economy.

What are the future prospects for the Bengal economy?

K’-shaped post-pandemic economic recovery is envisaged by different experts.

The people who were well-off could not spend due to pandemic restrictions. They might spend generously. It will also help people from the lower strata of society.

It may boost the informal economy. The people from lower strata of society may avoid the formal sector due to GST related issues.

The higher Puja sales may not be an indicator of a strong economy. Better sales compared to previous years may be a sad reflection of poor income of average Bengali.

2. [Choose safe surrender over infant abandonment](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Choose ‘safe surrender’ over infant abandonment**” published in **The Hindu** on **3rd October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS1- Social empowerment. GS2- Vulnerable sections

Relevance– Child welfare

News– The article explains the difference between abandonment and surrender of children. It also gives suggestions to reduce the incidents of abandonment of children by their parents.

Recently a two-year-old girl was found alone in a government bus in Tamil Nadu.

Data by the **National Crime Records Bureau** shows that 709 criminal cases of exposure and abandonment of children under twelve years were registered in the year 2021.

What are the legal provisions for abandonment and surrender of children?

The Juvenile Justice Act provides that no first information report shall be registered against any biological parent in the process of inquiry relating to an abandoned and surrendered child.

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The purpose of this provision is to ensure that all efforts are made to trace the parents of the child without initiating any criminal action.

What is the difference between abandonment and surrender of a child?

Abandonment– An abandoned child means a child who is deserted by parents.

Surrender– It means that parents are not willing to continue to have their children with them. It is due to physical, emotional and social factors beyond their control.

Why is surrender better than abandonment?

Abandonment endangers the child's life. Surrender ensures that the Child Welfare Committee will take care of the child until he or she is matured or adopted by someone.

A child is considered eligible for surrender only after a prescribed process of enquiry and counselling

The disclosure of the identity of surrendered children is prohibited. All reports related to the child are to be treated confidentially by the CWC.

No case is registered when a child is surrendered to the Child Welfare Committee constituted under the Juvenile Justice Act.

What is the recent Supreme Court ruling on the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act?

The Court passed an interim order to allow an unmarried woman petitioner to abort her pregnancy of 24 weeks arising out of a failed live-in relationship. It should be recommended by the medical board.

What is the way forward?

ASHAs and anganwadi workers have a strong network in villages. They know about unwanted pregnancy. There is a need to educate and sensitize them.

Juvenile Justices prescribe authorities to whom a parent may approach if he wants to surrender his child. It shall be the duty of such an authority to produce the child before the CWC within 24 hours. Wide publicity needs to be given to these provisions of the JJ Act.

3. [Mahatma Gandhi, the peacemaker](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Mahatma Gandhi, the peacemaker**” published in **The Hindu** on **3rd October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 1

Relevance: **Gandhi's views on peace.**

News: Russia's invasion of Ukraine represents the biggest threat to peace in the world since the end of the Cold War. Many people believe that humanity will never attain peace.

However, Gandhi considered the problem of peace as an ethical instead of political issue.

The letter published in Harijan on December 9, 1939 explains Gandhi's psychology as a moral leader at the time of war.

What was Gandhi's strategy for peace?

The letter shows that he was a man of peace who could struggle for nonviolence and dialogue among nations even during the hard times.

Therefore, Gandhi was a consistent thinker on peace and it would be wrong to say that there were gradual changes in his opinions on war and peace.

Gandhi always had a peace strategy even when he wrote on violence over cowardice.

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Gandhi wrote: “I do believe that where there is only a choice between cowardice and violence, I would advise violence...But I believe that nonviolence is infinitely superior to violence, forgiveness is more manly than punishment... But... forgiveness only when there is the power to punish...

Gandhi never dissociated nonviolence from violence and his position is understood when he said that an action may wear the appearance of violence and yet be absolutely nonviolent.

However, there are **critics about Gandhi's non-violence strategies**. Hannah Arendt has said that if Gandhi's non-violence has met with a different enemy (Stalin's Russia, Hitler's Germany) other than British, the outcome would have been worse.

Gandhi believed that **in the absence of a concrete ethical foundation**, the politics could not function democratically and non-violently. He further believed that the essential task of the politics was to bring moral progress.

He believed that the **strategy of peacemaking leads to moral rightfulness of non-violence** whereas Hitler believed in eliminating morality from politics.

That is why **Gandhi remains an original thinker in the matter of peace building** and also a successful peace builder.

He believed that **nonviolence is a truth that follows from the unity and interdependence of humanity and life**. He said that violence damages and weakens all forms of life while nonviolence uplifts all.

Gandhi believed that awareness is required for a critical self-examination and a move from egocentricity towards a 'shared humanity'.

Therefore, in an age of increasing 'global

4. [The evolution of the Mahatma's thought and philosophy](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**The evolution of the Mahatma's thought and philosophy**” published in **The Hindu** on **4th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 1

News: The article discusses the change in the views of Gandhiji after returning to India from South Africa.

Gandhi was greatly influenced by the writings of Leo Tolstoy and John Ruskin.

He adopted the idea of hatred of violence and consumerism from the writing of Leo Tolstoy. While respect for labour and concern for the poor was adopted from the writings of John Ruskin.

Gandhi included, acquired knowledge in his book Hind Swaraj, composed in 1909.

What did Gandhi write in his book Hind Swaraj?

He wrote that once India gains swaraj it will have to stay away from the evils of western societies.

According to Gandhi, evils of the western societies were –

- Electoral democracy because Parliaments were the emblems of slavery.
- Women should not go out for work as this will lead to the movement for the voting rights as it was in the West.
- Modern industry based on machinery should be rejected.

However, he thought that some faults that Indian society had was child marriage and polyandry. However, no mention was made of polygamy or untouchability in his book.

He indirectly praised caste system for lowering market competition as it assigns a fixed occupation to everyone. He also had faith on varnashram.

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He proclaimed that India was being ruined by the three evils (railways, lawyers and doctors) brought by the British.

He said that India should continue to buy from Manchester rather than build cotton mills in India.

He believed that there was no need of compulsory education and religious education was enough. Gandhi did not present any proposal in his book for the removal or alleviation of poverty even though he was concerned for the poor. He also did not provide any guidance on how India under Swaraj was to be governed.

The only modern idea adopted by Gandhi in his book was that a nation should not be identified with any one religion.

These were the views of Gandhi when he arrived India in 1915.

However, Gopal Krishna Gokhale was his teacher and he was against his views written in Hind Swaraj. He encountered Gandhi on the idea of untouchability that was ignored in Hind Swaraj.

How did Gandhi views evolve from writings in Hind Swaraj?

He did not mention anything about untouchables in his book but **after the establishment of ashram at Ahmedabad in 1915** he admitted an untouchable couple into it.

Gandhi participated in **Champaran struggle against indigo-planters**. This made him go against his views on right of property.

Gandhi went on a **hunger-strike in favour of striking textile mill workers** which was against his views on the establishment of modern industry in India.

During the Non-Cooperation movement (1920-22), the main demand was for **protection of Khilafat** which was a purely Islamic institution under the Ottoman Empire in Turkey. This was the invocation of religion as a source of political action, while Gandhi's view in his book were against using religion as a source of political action.

Moreover, **Gandhiji formulated 'Constructive Programme' in 1924**. The Programme concentrated to work in the villages to promote the use of Khadi and reject machine-made cloth and British made cloth. It also campaigned for Hindu-Muslim unity and removal of untouchability.

Gandhi also supported **Nehru's draft resolution on Fundamental Rights** in the Karachi session of the Congress on 31 March 1931. This resolution provided many principles which Gandhi opposed earlier, such as, women should not only become voters but also appointed to public offices and exercise of trade, etc.

Gandhiji went on fast against the **separate electorates created for depressed castes** by the Government's Communal Award of August 1932.

The Poona Pact proved a signal for Gandhiji from 1932 onward to initiate a nationwide campaign against untouchability and for their upliftment.

Gandhiji later avoided giving any sanction to the caste system or any philosophical defence of varnashram.

His concerns for Hindu-Muslim unity became ever more focused. He stood firm against communal violence in the year of Independence for which he paid with his life on January 30, 1948.

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5. [Kohinoor and other quarrels over stolen artefacts](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Kohinoor and other quarrels over stolen artefacts**” published in **The Times of India** on **4th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 1 – Art and Architecture

Relevance: concerns associated with repatriation artefacts in India

News: There has been a demand to return the Kohinoor diamond to India after the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Recently Australia has also returned 29 artefacts belonging to India during the visit of PM Modi.

However, returning cultural artefacts to their country of origin will be a struggle unless both national and international laws are strengthened.

What are the arguments for repatriation?

First, artworks or artefacts belong to the cultures which produced them and are part of citizens’ identities.

Second, restorative justice prescribes that stolen or looted property should be returned to the rightful owner.

Third, colonial ideologies seem to continue if artefacts are not being returned.

Fourth, people are deprived of the opportunity to view artwork created by their ancestors as travelling to Europe or the US is beyond their capacity.

However, there has been a counter argument from the West.

What are the counter arguments from the West?

First, many objects were legally acquired while some like the Kohinoor diamond were gifted. Therefore, they cannot be returned to the previous colonies.

Second, the kingdoms these artefacts were taken from are currently spread across different countries. Their exact location of origin is not clear. Hence, it’s difficult to return them to a particular country.

Third, by returning these cultural objects one cannot end the colonial history of the countries. Imperialism is part of modern world history.

Fourth, returning artefacts may endanger them since some of the countries of origin do not have the means to protect these cultural objects and face unending conflict. Therefore, they are well-protected and secure in Western museums.

Fifth, western museums showcase art and cultures from different countries. Therefore, they reflect the common heritage of mankind.

Moreover, there are international laws meant to return the artefacts to their country of origin.

What are the international laws for repatriation of the artefacts?

1954: The **1954 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property** was signed after the destruction of cultural property during World War II. The convention commanded its signatories to safeguard and respect cultural property.

1970: **UNESCO Convention** on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property permitted return of stolen objects to rightful owners if there was proof of ownership.

1995: **UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects** advocated the return of the illegally exported artefacts to their country of origin.

These conventions led France in 2017 and Netherland in 2019 to return the artefacts acquired during the colonization to their country of origin.

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This shows that there has been some progress in repatriations. However, most repatriations need case-to-case intervention which is time consuming.

In the case of India, Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 seeks to protect our cultural properties needs urgent amendment.

What are the provisions under Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972?

Section 3 of Antiquities and Art Treasures Act, 1972 prohibits export of antiques or art treasures. It can only be exported through the central government.

Punishment for the offence under Section 3 ranges from six months to three years of simple imprisonment whereas Egypt and China have death penalty for cultural crimes.

Hence, cultural crimes are treated as minor offences in India and Indian laws are ineffective.

What can be the course of action?

First, there is a need to include art and culture in school and college syllabi as children do not have any knowledge of Indian art and culture.

Second, art and culture should not be confined to museums and its awareness should be spread within the public.

Third, NGOs trying to bring back art treasures should be encouraged. For example, India Pride Project.

Fourth, art objects and historical monuments at the local, state and national level need to be catalogued, photographed and geotagged.

Fifth, there should be strict punishment for stealing artefacts.

6. [Say no to alcohol: The case for abstinence](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Say no to alcohol: The case for abstinence**” published in the The Indian Express on 7th October 2022.

Syllabus: GS1- Social issues. GS2- Government policies and interventions

News– The article explains the challenges associated with liquor consumption in India. It also explains the need for communitarian action to reduce liquor consumption.

What is our historical legacy against liquor consumption?

Temperance movement against liquor consumption began in the 1880s. Gandhi ji made it part of the fight against the British state.

Gandhi’s objection was to the state having a role in the production and distribution of alcohol. He did not support the complete prohibition. It will lead to corrupt practices by the state. He advocated self-regulation to avoid liquor consumption.

Rajaji argued in favour of effective state intervention. The Indian culture against liquor consumption would make this process less corrupt.

What are the negative impacts of alcohol consumption?

It leads to violence against women.

It mostly impacts the poorest sections of society.

It is linked with multimorbidity, lower life expectancy, mental impairment, and loss of productivity.

WHO, have issued stronger warnings against risk-free levels of responsible drinking and claims of beneficial health effects.

A 2019 study in Science Direct estimates that alcohol-related deaths in India. It would lead to a loss of 258 million life years between 2011 and 2050, an average annual loss of 1.45% of GDP.

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A Lancet study claims that under 40 groups of people are at greatest risk due to liquor consumption.

What are the reasons behind increasing liquor consumption?

Older cultural norms against liquor consumption have weakened.

Alcohol is being glamorised and normalised by households.

State governments policies have further compounded the problem. They earn higher revenues from the alcohol industry. It disincentives them against making difficult choices against liquor consumption.

Why is there a need for action at the community level?

A study published this year by the US National Bureau of Economic Research states that it takes a village to discourage drinking and sustain abstinence.

All drinking, whether small or large, creates negative impacts that are unpredictable.

General

Studies

Paper – 2

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

General Studies - 2

1. [On abortion, Supreme Court has listened to women](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**On abortion, Supreme Court has listened to women**” published in **The Indian Express** on **3rd October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Vulnerable sections and judiciary

Relevance– Women empowerment

News– The article explains the recent Supreme Court ruling on the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act. It also explains the issues with the current legal framework for termination of pregnancy.

What are the issues faced by single women who want to terminate their pregnancy?

They are subjected to shaming, harassment and violation of their privacy by medical practitioners before being provided abortion services.

Women face stigma in Indian society on account of being single, unmarried and divorced.

What are the challenges for women in the current legal framework?

The amended provision of the **Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act** in 2021 extended the time limit for termination of pregnancy from 20 to 24 weeks. Only some categories of women like survivor of rape, women in disaster are eligible for pregnancy upto 24 weeks. It is not available to single mothers

According to **the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act of 2012**, medical practitioners, who provide for abortion, should report sexual assault of a minor. This provision stops adolescent girls from having a safe abortion. They fear that their identity will be disclosed.

What are the positive aspects of Supreme Court ruling?

Unmarried women and single mothers–

According to the Supreme Court ruling, single and unmarried women would also get the benefits of abortion upto 24 weeks.

Transgender–Supreme Court ruled that abortion rights under MTP Act are also available to cis-gender women.

POCSO Act challenges– The Court held that for the limited purposes of providing medical termination of pregnancy under the MTP Act, medical practitioners need not disclose the identity and other personal details of the minor as required under the POCSO Act.

Marital rape– Supreme Court also recognized marital rape. It held that victims of marital rape are also eligible for an extended window of 24 weeks for termination of pregnancy.

The Supreme Court upheld the right of all women and girls to make reproductive choices for themselves, without undue interference from the state.

2. [Russia's prolonged confrontation with the West is putting India's strategic interests under stress](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Russia's prolonged confrontation with the West is putting India's strategic interests under stress**” published in the **Indian Express** on **3rd October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2: Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests.

Relevance: Russian war and India's stand.

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News: Recently, India once again abstained from a major United Nations resolution on Ukraine. Along with India, China, Brazil, and Gabon also abstained the resolution.

What is the present course of the Ukraine crisis?

There is a significant escalation of the conflict from Russia by ordering a general mobilisation to reverse the Russian military setbacks in Ukraine, renewing the threat to use nuclear weapons, and annexing the occupied territories.

What are the challenges faced by Russian defence production?

Read here: [Semiconductor shortage in Russia: India's Russia Problem Will Grow](#)

Why India needs to ask Russia to stop the war?

India has been signalling its growing unease with Russia's Ukraine policy in the last few weeks.

Read here: [Why telling Russia to abandon war is in India's interest](#)

Further, India's growing partnership with the US and European states is coming under stress.

What India needs to do about the Ukraine crisis?

India itself confronting territorial expansionism on its frontiers. So, India must come to terms with the essential question in Ukraine, especially about changing borders through the use of force.

3. [As India prepares to take over the G20 presidency, it can learn from Indonesia](#)

Source- The post is based on the article "**As India prepares to take over the G20 presidency, it can learn from Indonesia**" published in **The Indian Express** on **4th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- International Relations

Relevance- India multilateral engagement

News- The article explains the lessons India can learn from Indonesia on economic engagement. These will be helpful for India's presidency of G-20 nations.

G-20 is a grouping of developed and developing nations. It provides a common platform to discuss the issues related to **global economic governance**.

India is going to assume its presidency for 2022.

What can India learn from Indonesia?

Case of Indonesia- Indonesia is a trading nation. It is part of trade blocs like ASEAN FTA, RCEP and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. Indonesian institutes are relatively outward.

It has strong intra-Asian relations. Indonesia has strong educational linkages with Australia. It has a long-term investment partnership with Japan.

Case of India- India has less multilateral and regional economic engagement. It has limited government and academia expertise on these issues.

Most trade agreements are shallow and have limited coverage. Even in areas where it excels globally like pharma and IT, India has reluctance to assume leadership roles

What is the way forward for India?

India can use its **exemplary diplomacy** to build goodwill and consensus. Strong economic base will help India in its engagement with the G-20.

India can shore up engagement with the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**. It can invite **BIMSTEC** nations to G-20 summit.

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The G-20 summit should not be seen merely as a giant tourism and investment promotion opportunity. It requires **dedicated and consistent policy engagement** at every level, including the academic and business community.

India needs to assume a **leadership role in the digital sector**. India has a strong presence globally in these areas. It will be helpful for India's leadership in the developing world.

Rather than bilateral engagement, India should go for a multilateral approach for building coalitions.

4. [Every drop counts](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“Every drop counts”** published in **The Hindu** on **4th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Government schemes

News– The article explains the current status of the Jal Jeevan Scheme.

Main target of Jal Jeevan Mission is to ensure that at least 55 liters per person per day of potable water is available to every rural household.

What is the status of the Jal Jeevan Mission?

The government claims that 10.2 crore households or 53% of the population now have tap water access. This is a 37% increase from 2019.

A recent audit by a private agency found that around 62% of rural households in India had fully functional tap water connections.

A report of a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Water Resources stated that 46% of households had fully functional tap water connections.

What are the main observations from the survey?

The survey shows wide disparities in achievement. Some states like Tami Nadu and Himachal have 80% of households with fully functional connections. While some states like Rajasthan and Kerala have less than half of households with such connections.

About 75% of households received water every day of the week, and only 8% just once a week.

The report mentions a problem of chlorine contamination. Most of the anganwadi centers and schools had higher than the permissible range of residual chlorine.

Only 3% of rural households were surveyed by the agency for the updated figures. There is a possibility that the margin of error may be substantial.

5. [There are precedents to help the EC decide which is the real Shiv Sena](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“There are precedents to help the EC decide which is the real Shiv Sena”** published in **The Indian Express** on **4th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity

Relevance– Political parties in India

News– The article explains the procedure for allotting symbols in case of conflict between two rival groups of party. It also explains the Supreme Court stand in this regard.

Recently the Supreme Court allowed the Election Commission of India to decide on Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde's petition staking claim over the real Shiv Sena and the party symbol.

What is the procedure for symbol allotment in case there is a dispute between rival factions?

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EC does not take *suo motu* cognisance. It decides the matter only when a party approaches it with its claim.

The Commission then starts proceedings under **Section 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**. The proceedings are **quasi-judicial** in nature.

It goes by the “**Rule of Majority and Numerical Strength**”. Both parties are asked to produce evidence in support of their claim.

The Commission takes into account all the available facts and circumstances of the case. Then, it decides which rival section or group is that recognised party. The decision of the Commission shall be binding.

If elections are scheduled– The name of the party and the symbol both are frozen. The two factions are given a temporary name like Party A and Party B, and symbol A and symbol B.

What is the Supreme Court ruling on this matter?

In the first judicial case related to symbols, the Supreme Court gave its observation. It observed that the symbol is not a property to be divided between co-owners. The allotment of a symbol to the candidates set up by a political party is a legal right.

In case of a split, the Commission has been authorised to determine which of the rival groups or sections is the party entitled to the symbol. The Commission does not decide as to which group represents the party. It decides which group is that party.

The court upheld the constitutionality of the “**test of majority**” in the **Congress split case (Sadiq Ali v. Election Commission of India, 1971)**.

6. [Livestreaming Supreme Court proceedings: A step closer to a stronger democracy](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Livestreaming Supreme Court proceedings: A step closer to a stronger democracy**” published in **The Indian Express** on **4th October 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Functioning of Judiciary**

Relevance: **benefits of live-streaming of SC hearing.**

News: The Supreme Court has allowed the live streaming of the hearing of cases from 27th September 2022. This decision was followed by the court’s original decision of live telecast of important proceedings four years back on 27th September 2018.

It was held that the live-streaming of court proceedings is in the public interest and it will also strengthen constitutional values, democracy, and citizenship.

What are the benefits of the live-streaming of the cases by SC?

First, it will enable common people of the country to view the proceedings of the highest court. It will bring faith in the judiciary.

- It will also provide for transparency and accessibility of the process of justice delivery which in turn will strengthen the country’s democracy.

Second, it is also a step towards creating informed citizenry as people will be informed of the judicial proceedings of the court.

Third, it will enable people to understand the importance of the rule of law. The people will be able to see the efforts of judiciary in protecting the rights of the poor, marginalized and disempowered sections of society.

Fourth, it will promote transparency in judicial decision-making. Usually, the language of the court is only understood by lawyers and judges.

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- Therefore, live proceedings will enable common people to understand the judicial proceedings.

Fifth, the decision could raise the quality and standards of the legal profession.

- It will help lawyers to prepare for the court proceedings in a proper manner and will also make them aware of irresponsible remarks.

Sixth, it will also create a level playing ground for the younger lawyers as their preparedness and intellectual skills will be visible to all.

Seventh, there has also been a concern that young lawyers are not ready to enter into the litigation field. Therefore, the live streaming could inspire law students to take up this field.

Eighth, it will motivate law faculty members and legal researchers to work on new areas of scholarship and research relating to the functioning of the judiciary and legal profession.

Therefore, SC has taken a historical decision of live-streaming the hearing of cases which bring transparency and faith in judiciary amongst the people of India.

7. [India's Ukraine destiny: A foreign policy test](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**India’s Ukraine destiny: A foreign policy test**” published in the **Business Standard** on **4th October 2022**.

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

Relevance: Russian war and India’s stand.

News: Recently, India abstained from a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Russia’s illegal referendums in four regions of Ukraine and calling for an unconditional withdrawal of troops from that country.

What is the present course of the Ukraine crisis?

Russia organised “referendums” on Ukrainian territory late last month. Russia claimed that it unilaterally claimed victory. Following that, Russia is signing decrees to declare the four eastern Ukrainian territories — Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia—part of Russia.

How do global nations view India’s abstaining from resolution?

India has consistently maintained that the global order is based on the UN charter, international law, and respect for territorial sovereignty. However, India’s abstaining raised questions **a)** About India’s global commitment to nuclear disarmament and strengthening the non-proliferation order, **b)** India’s dependence on Russian defence supplies is limiting India from taking an independent stand.

What are the challenges faced by Russian defence production?

Read here: [Semiconductor shortage in Russia: India’s Russia Problem Will Grow](#)

Why India needs to ask Russia to stop the war?

Recently, the US has indicated its disapproval of India’s position on Ukraine by excluding it from the critical Minerals Security Partnership and signing an F16 sustainment programme with Pakistan

Read here: [Why telling Russia to abandon war is in India’s interest](#)

What Russia needs to remember before escalating the Ukraine conflict?

The threat of nuclear escalation will alter the dynamics of the war in unpredictable ways. This is likely to send a political message to the US and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

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What India needs to do?

It will be critical for India to craft a nuanced and consistent position on the Russia-Ukraine crisis that would establish greater credibility with its allies.

Read more: [Russia's prolonged confrontation with the West is putting India's strategic interests under stress](#)

8. [Why Modi-Zelenskyy call is an inflection point](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Why Modi-Zelenskyy call is an inflection point**” published in **The Times of India** on **6th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- International Relations

Relevance– Russia -Ukraine war

News- The article explains the possibility of India's role in reducing the tension between Russia and Ukraine. It also explains the consequences of war.

What has been India's position on the Russia-Ukraine war?

Since the beginning, India has maintained a neutral position in the Ukraine war. It didn't criticize Russia for the Ukraine invasion.

Recently, PM Modi rebuked Putin at the SCO summit in Samarkand. He told Putin that it is not a time of war. There was a phone call between PM Modi and the Ukrainian President. They discussed the nuclear threat by Russia.

It shows that ties between India and Russia have reached an inflection point.

How can India contribute to peace efforts?

Western countries have invested heavily in war in favour of Russia. China enjoys no limits friendship with Russia and has supported Russia in the war. India due to its neutral position is better placed to reduce tensions.

India has openly said that it will contribute to peace efforts.

It may not be able to stop the war. But it could attempt to avoid a nuclear attack by Russia.

What are the consequences of war?

There is blatant violation of international laws, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Russian invasion has led to western sanctions. It has created a fuel, food and fertiliser crisis.

The world is facing a looming global economic recession.

Europe is facing an energy crisis.

The US led move to cap Russian oil prices has created confusion everywhere in the world. India and China will unlikely to agree with these price caps.

9. [Gubernatorial procrastination is unreasonable](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Gubernatorial procrastination is unreasonable**” published in **The Hindu** on **6th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Indian Polity

Relevance– Legislative processes

News- The article explains the Governor role in case of Bills passed by the state legislature.

What are the examples of the Governor withholding assent to a Bill passed by the state legislature?

In Tamil Nadu, the Governor forwarded the Bill for exemption from the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) to the President after considerable delay.

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The Kerala Governor publicly announced that he would not give assent to the Lokayukta Amendment Bill and the Kerala University Amendment Bill.

What are the constitutional provisions in this regard?

A Bill passed by the State Assembly becomes law only after the Governor gives assent.

Article 200 of the Indian constitution contains provisions related to the Governor giving assent to state bills.

He may give assent or he can send it back to the Assembly requesting it to reconsider. In this case, if the Assembly passes the Bill without making any change and sends it back to the Governor, he will have to give assent to it.

He may reserve the Bill for reconsideration by the President. Bill can be reserved for the consideration of the President only if it would endanger the position of the High Court.

He may withhold the assent. But it is not normally done by any Governor because it would be an extremely unpopular action. The legislature reflects the will of the people. It would be against the spirit of the constitution.

These provisions affirm the primacy of the legislature in the legislative exercise.

The Constitution does not fix any timeline for the Governor to give clearance to the Bill passed by the state legislature. It does not mean that the Governor can withhold assent for indefinite time. There is no such provision in Article 200. It is against the constitutional scheme.

What is international practice?

In Britain, assent by the monarch is necessary for a Bill to be passed by Parliament to become law. It has also the power to withhold the Bill. But it is a dead letter and not followed in Practice.

In the United States, the President is empowered to return a Bill to the House. But if the Houses again pass it with two third majority, the Bill becomes law.

Can Governor take action to withhold the Bill challenged before the judiciary?

Article 361 of the Constitution prohibits the court from initiating proceedings against the Governor or the President for any act done in exercise of their powers.

Governor while withholding assent, will have to disclose the reason. The Governor cannot act in an **arbitrary manner**. If the grounds for refusal have **malafide intentions**, it could be struck down as unconstitutional.

Supreme Court in **Rameshwar Prasad and Ors. vs Union Of India** held that immunity granted by Article 361 does not take away the power of the Court to examine the validity of the action including on the ground of malafides.

10. The fraying framework

Source– The post is based on the article **“The fraying framework”** published in **The Indian Express** on **6th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity

Relevance– Global politics

News- The article explains the founding framework for different political systems around the world and the crisis of legitimacy faced by these frameworks.

What is happening around the world?

There are extraordinary protests by women in Iran.

In China, state repressions are increasing to sustain the Communist Party Congress. Anxieties over the quality of liberal democracy are growing.

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There is a looming political crisis in South Africa.

These developments suggest that we might be in the midst of a global legitimisation crisis.

What are the foundational frameworks of political organisation across the world?

In the Western world and other countries like India, there is some version of liberal, representative constitutional democracy.

In Islamic world, it is modern Islamic constitutionalism. It reconciles the **sovereignty of God** with modern principles of politics.

In Africa, politics was shaped by the requirements of effective bulwark against the creation of the colour line and **imperialism**.

In China, Politics was shaped by the system of one-party rule.

These founding frameworks are embedded in different national traditions.

They are initial references to any political question.

What is the case with the Chinese framework?

Party would overcome the principal contradictions of society. All social mediation was to be carried out within the Party. The Party also represents a national identity as a whole.

Challenges– It will have to manage the principal economic contradictions. It will also require more control and repression to retain its grip on power.

What is the case with Islamic constitutionalism?

Theo-democracy was shaped by Maududi, one of the most influential thinkers of the 20th century. It was to reconcile formal sovereignty of God, with modern democracy, and a theological role for clerics.

challenges– The insistence on patriarchy is bound to face resistance. Its inability to handle the contradictions that come from an allegiance to blasphemy can produce conflict.

What is the case with liberal democracies?

There was no single party. The parties were organised around interests. Social stability could be secured by orderly competition and rotation of power. It provided individual liberty and less state coercion.

Challenges– In most democracies, including the US, we can no longer be as confident about peaceful transitions of power. There is impatience with individual liberty. These democracies are being controlled by oligarchies.

11. The criterion for SC status

Source– The post is based on the article **“The criterion for SC status”** published in **The Hindu** on **6th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Vulnerable sections and Indian Judiciary. GS1- Social empowerment

Relevance– Caste system in India

News- The article explains the issues related to inclusion of Christian Dalits in category of Schedule Caste under **Article 341** of Indian constitution.

The Supreme Court of India has sought the most recent position of the Union government on a batch of petitions challenging the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order of 1950**. It allows only members of Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist religions to be recognised as SCs.

Who all are included in the Constitution Order of 1950?

In 1950, initially it included only Hindus as SCs.

The Order was amended in 1956 to include Dalits who had converted to Sikhism.

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It was amended once more in 1990 to include Dalits who had converted to Buddhism.

Both amendments were aided by the reports of the **Kaka Kalelkar Commission in 1955** and the **High Powered Panel (HPP) on Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in 1983** respectively.

Why are Dalit Christians excluded?

First, SC status is meant for communities suffering from social disabilities arising out of the practice of untouchability. It was prevalent in Hindu and Sikh communities.

Second, Christians and Muslims of Dalit origin had lost their caste identity by way of their conversion. The practice of untouchability is not prevalent in these religions.

Third, Dalits who converted to Islam or Christianity belonged to different sets of caste groups and not just one. They cannot be categorised as a “single ethnic group”, which is required by **Article 341** for inclusion.

Fourth, Practice of untouchability was a feature of Hindu religion. Inclusion of Dalit Muslims and Dalit Christians as SCs could result in being misunderstood internationally as India trying to impose its caste system upon Christians and Muslims.

What are the arguments for for inclusion oc Christians and Muslims?

First Backward Classes Commission’s report in 1953, the Report of the Committee on Untouchability Economic and Educational Development Of the Scheduled Castes in 1969, the HPP report on SCs, STs, and Minorities in 1983, the Mandal Commission Report, the report of the Prime Minister’s High-Level Committee formed in 2006, a 2008 study conducted by the National Commission for Minorities, the Ranganath Misra Commission Report have documented the existence of caste inequalities among Christian and Muslim dalits.

The Union government refuses to accept the reports of the Commissions on the basis that these reports do not have enough empirical evidence to support their claims.

12. [Election Commission’s political plunge erodes its role as a neutral watchdog](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Election Commission’s political plunge erodes its role as a neutral watchdog**” published in **The Indian Express** on **6th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Electoral Reforms in India

Relevance: freebies and the problems associated with the recent proposal of the Election Commission

News: The Election Commission has recently decided to amend the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and for this it has sent proposal to the political parties.

This new amendment will require political parties to measure the cost involved in the promises made in the manifesto and explain the funding of these promises.

It will also require to assess the impact of the promises on fiscal sustainability of the state.

What does the existing guidelines under the MCC say?

The existing guidelines under the MCC require political parties and candidates to explain the logic behind the promises made and the possible ways to finance such promises.

But parties make routine declarations and do not provide enough information. Therefore, the new proposal will bring more changes in the MCC.

What is the new amendment?

It will require political parties to declare the extent of coverage of promises in terms of individuals/households along with expected expenditure.

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Parties will be expected to provide details regarding all such promises separately.

They would also need to show the income source required to fulfil all electoral promises.

It is a welcome step as it will make more information public. However, there are many problems associated with the proposal.

What are the problems with the amendment?

Political parties: It would raise fear amongst the political parties to which expenditure to cut, or which assets to monetise or sell, or borrow for raising resources to fulfil a promise.

Demanding such detailed information would put opposition parties in a disadvantageous position as it would be easier for the party in power to get approval for the scheme.

All political parties would need to have expertise in fiscal issues to provide information in such detail which is even lacked in the government.

Election Commission: It will bring burden on the EC by bringing such disclosures a part of the Model Code of Conduct. It will also be difficult for the EC to judge on the feasibility of the promises parties make to voters. It can lead EC to dive in the politics.

Further, it is not clear how the EC will view this level of information as it does not have such capabilities.

Therefore, intervening into freebies and being a judge can lead to a negative image of the EC and it can endanger its hard-won credibility.

Why is this proposal against the previous stand of the Election Commission on freebies?

EC has stated in an affidavit to the Supreme Court that “irrational” and “freebie” are subjective and open to interpretation. A promise of one political party may be a freebie for another and vice versa.

It also declined to be part of a committee proposed by the SC to look into the issue.

It further said that it would be difficult for it to become the arbiter of what is or isn't a reasonable poll promise because of problems of definition.

Moreover, when the freebie issue was brought into the SC, the EC tried to stay away from the issue by saying that it lacks powers over state policy making.

It has also acknowledged in one of its affidavits that “freebies can have different impacts on society, economy, equity, depending upon the situation, context and time period.”

What can be the course of action?

First, the ECI should move cautiously and make sure that the level playing field in a democracy is not disturbed.

Second, it is important to have an independent fiscal body that has the expertise to evaluate Budget provisions for the Centre and the states. Finance Commissions set up in the past have recommended setting up such an institution.

Third, the judgment on freebies should be left on the people and EC should set aside itself. Moreover, FRBM Act ensure check and balances and encourage fiscal discipline in governance.

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13. [Strengthening the CSR framework is a profitable idea](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Strengthening the CSR framework is a profitable idea**” published in **The Hindu** on **7th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2

Relevance: CSR funding and problems associated with it

News: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was established under Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013.

Since its establishment CSR spending in India has risen from ₹10,065 crore in 2014-15 to ₹24,865 crore in 2020-21. However, there are other issues associated with it.

What are the present problems with the CSR funding?

Lack of data: There is no data to verify whether this increase in CSR funding is equivalent with the increase in profits of Indian and foreign companies.

Lack of adequate spending: There were 2,926 companies in 2020-21 with zero spend on CSR while companies spending less than the prescribed limit of 2% rose from 3,078 in 2015-16 to 3,290 in 2020-21.

Participation: There was also a decline in the number of companies participating in CSR from 25,103 in FY2019 to 17,007 in FY2021.

Trusts: Many private companies have registered their own trusts. They transfer the statutory CSR budgets for utilization in those trusts. However, it is not clear whether it is allowed under the Companies Act/CSR rules.

Therefore, there is a need to look at the provisions present in the Act that prevents companies from CSR spending.

What are the problems present in the provisions of Companies Act 2013 for CSR funding?

Local areas: Section 135(5) of the Act says that the company should give preference to local areas/areas around it where it operates.

However, as per the report of a committee in 2018 ‘local area’ in the Act is only directionary and a balance has to be maintained by the CSR companies.

Therefore, local area in the act has caused confusion for the companies which has led companies to use their discretion in CSR fundings.

Location of companies: A report says that that 54% of CSR companies are located in big cities such as Mumbai, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, etc. whereas, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have very little CSR companies. This leads to unequal funding of the CSR.

Environment: Item (iv) of Schedule VII of the Act deals with environmental issues to create a countervailing effect. However, an analysis of CSR spending reveals that most CSR spending is in education (37%) and health and sanitation (29%) and only 9% was spent on the environment.

Reduced spending: If a company spends an amount more than the prescribed minimum amount of 2%, then that excess amount will help companies to reduce spending in the succeeding three financial years.

This provision of the Act weakens the provision of minimum spending of 2%. Therefore, companies should be encouraged to spend more than this.

Expenditure Quality: The CSR funding companies submit their annual report to Corporate Affairs Ministry (MCA). The problem with the report is that it focuses on output rather than quality of the expenditure and its impact.

Lack of information: The Standing Committee on Finance had also observed that the information regarding CSR spending by companies is insufficient and difficult to access.

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Lack of authorization: An auditor can only investigate the details of spending and at most can question the board about its authenticity. However, the auditor is not authorized to check the accounts for non-compliance or inadequate CSR performance in the audit report.

What can be the course of action?

First, there is a need to curate a national-level platform by the MCA where all States could list their CSR-admissible projects. It will help companies to decide where their CSR funds would be most impactful across India.

Second, companies should spend at least 25% of their CSR funding for environment regeneration.

Third, all CSR projects should be selected and implemented with the active involvement of communities, district administration and public representatives.

Fourth, the committee in 2018 recommended to improve the existing monitoring and evaluation regime. This should be incorporated in the current CSR framework.

Fifth, CSR non-spend, underspend, and overspend should be qualified by the auditor in the audit report as a qualification to accounts and not just as a note to accounts.

Sixth, the MCA and the line departments should exercise greater direct monitoring and supervision over CSR spending instead of only hosting all information on the Ministry's website.

14. Amrit Mahotsav reflections and India's success against hunger

Source: The post is based on an article “Amrit Mahotsav reflections and India's success against hunger” published in **Live Mint** on **7th October 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Issues related to Hunger and Malnutrition**

Relevance: **benefits of food security schemes**

News: The central government has recently extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) upto the end of December 2022.

It is great step as it provides free food to poor households. However, there other steps taken by government to ensure food security amongst the poor.

What step has been taken by the government to ensure food security?

The government launched National Food Security Act (NFSA) in 2013. It provided subsidized food for 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population.

This Act made government to provide food guarantee in India with the help of farmers by providing price support incentive to farmers to grow major foodgrain like cereals, rice and wheat. However, the policy caused excessive ‘cerealization’ of the country's cropping pattern. It damaged farmlands in northern states like Punjab by promoting rice cultivation where it was not a traditional grown crop.

The NFSA also included the provision to target vulnerable groups through mid-day meals in schools and direct feeding of pre-school children and pregnant and lactating mothers through the Integrated Child Development Scheme.

However, it is not clear how well they performed in practice.

Further, the pandemic changed the scenario of food security as mid-day meals were stopped due to the closure of the schools. This led the government to launch PMGKAY in April 2020.

What is Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)?

It provided a free food supplement equal in proportion to the subsidized rations under the National Food Security Act.

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This scheme along with rations doubled the foodgrains for the households which was more than requirement.

This enabled the poor to feed household members migrating back from urban areas and feed children denied school meals.

The scheme was criticized as did not provide supplementary needs like cooking oil and salt. But these needs were fulfilled by selling the extra grains.

The scheme was even praised by Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

Therefore, this scheme was beneficial for the poor households in the pandemic as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee was also not efficient in providing wages during the pandemic.

What is Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and how does it help rural areas?

MGNREGA provides work on demand for 100 days for the rural population but it was not effective during the pandemic due to health risks.

However, it is now increasing the rural households' incomes at a time when small-scale enterprises are not active and unskilled employment has not picked up.

Moreover, the problem with MGNREGA is that there are delays between work and wage receipts and the wage is not increased with the increase in inflation.

15. [Manoj Jha writes: Election Commission's proposal on freebies and election promises raises questions of institutional overreach](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Manoj Jha writes: Election Commission's proposal on freebies and election promises raises questions of institutional overreach**” published in **The Indian Express** on **7th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Electoral Reforms

Relevance: recent proposal of the Election Commission of India and freebies.

News: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has recently issued a letter proposing mandatory disclosure of the financial implications of the promises made in manifestos by political parties.

According to the ECI, it will enable healthy debate on the financial implications and fiscal sustainability of promises made by political parties and it is also necessary for conducting the free and fair elections.

What is the recent proposal of the ECI and what are its benefits?

The proposal requires political parties to disclose the financial implications of the promises they make in their manifestos.

However, the idea of communicating electors about the fiscal rationale of promises is already the part of the Model Code of Conduct from 2015. But ECI is now proposing a form for such disclosures.

If this proposal is included in the MCC, it will require parties to explain about the target of particular promise, the extent of coverage, the number of likely beneficiaries, and the cost of implementing it.

It will provide a framework under which a manifesto can be assessed by the voter from the perspective of its financial feasibility.

It may also make parties treat manifesto preparation as a responsible exercise meant to convince rather than attract the voter.

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However, it is being argued that ECI should not get involved into the implementation of manifestos as it is the political and administrative responsibility of the party that comes to power.

What are the stands of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the Supreme Court (SC) on freebies?

Election Commission of India (ECI)

The ECI in April 2022 told the Supreme Court that it cannot de-register political parties for offering freebies to voters.

It is up to the voters to decide whether the distribution of freebies is financially feasible or such policies have an adverse effect on the economic health of the state.

But now it wants political parties to elaborate on the rationale for announcing such promises and their financing plan.

Supreme Court (SC)

SC in *S. Subramaniam Balaji vs. State of Tamil Nadu* (2013) has observed that the provisions of the Representation of the People Act (1951) place no limitation on the power of the political parties to make promises in their election manifesto.

The Court has further added that the manifesto of a political party is a statement of its policy and the question of implementing it arises only if the political party forms a government.

It upheld the right of parties to make electoral promises even if they involved distribution of consumer goods. It was held that such a promise would not lead to a corrupt practice.

Further the freebie schemes can be invalidated if they will be financed by budgetary allocations cleared by the legislature.

The court also suggested ECI to come up with guidelines to prevent useless promises and ensure a level playing field for the parties.

However, the guidelines of ECI were not successful in getting the information from the political parties as parties made only routine and ambiguous disclosures.

Moreover, the recent proposal of ECI raises many concerns.

What are the concerns with the Election Commission of India?

Article 324 of the Constitution defines role and responsibilities of the ECI. The ECI in that past has avoided in intervening any other matter other than conduction free and fair elections.

It seems that ECI is acting according to the direction given by the government which is not a good sign for the health of democracy in the country.

Further, the debate on freebies shows that there is a lack of understating on socioeconomic realities of the nation and the welfare state enshrined in the Constitution.

The ECI is considered to be the guardian of public value and democracy. However, in recent times, some of its positions have raised concerns.

The executive controls the ECI's finances and personnel appointments and it has been observed that favourable election commissioners are appointed to limit the agency's authority internally.

This damages the credibility of the institution which was supposed to ensure a level playing field for all parties.

Therefore, ECI should follow the Constitution of India and a balance between institutions should be maintained.

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16. [Domestic ideologies in external settings](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Domestic ideologies in external settings**” published in **The Hindu** on **7th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- International Relations

Relevance– Impact of domestic politics on foreign policy

News- The article explains articulation of the domestic agenda of the ruling party by the current Foreign Minister at the 77th UNGA session.

What are the main points of address that promote the domestic agenda of the ruling party?

Promoting the ideology of the ruling party– The Foreign Minister told UNGA that Indian society is rejuvenating itself from devastation caused by “**centuries of foreign invasion**” and “**colonialism**”. He made a distinction between centuries of foreign attacks and colonialism.

Century of foreign invasions is codeword for Muslim rule during the mediaval period. It represents the ideology of the current ruling party and their version of history.

Indian diplomatic tradition which has always presented **nationally unified positions** abroad, particularly at the UN and in multilateral forums. Domestic controversies should be avoided

Questioning earlier leadership– Mr. Jaishankar said that India’s rejuvenation is taking place in a democratic framework and is “reflected in more authentic voices and grounded leadership”. The statements question the choices made by choosing their representative since independence. It is clearly referring to the point that earlier representatives were less authentic and grounded

Damaging India record in decolonisation- Jaishankar recalled Modi’s pledge for Indian people to liberate them from **colonial mindset**. He added that externally it means **reformed multilateralism** and more **contemporary global governance**.

It damages India’s record as a pioneer and leader in the global decolonisation process in the 1950s and the 1960s. An entire generation of human rights workers in the United States and South Africa were also inspired by Gandhiji and his non-violent anti-colonial struggle.

17. [There are no poor people, only people in poor places](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**There are no poor people, only people in poor places**” published in **The Indian Express** on **8th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2

Relevance: **problems with different wages across India and ways to improve it.**

News: India has differences in wages for the same amount of work. For example, an electrician moving from Kanpur to Bangalore gets three times more salary.

The country’s wage differentials reflect massive productivity differences across five areas — states, cities, sectors, firms, and skills.

How will country’s wage differences create productivity differences and what needs to be done?

States

Problems: Six states in South and West India in the next 20 years will account for almost 35 per cent of GDP growth but only 5 per cent of population growth. It is also expected that due to ageing population there will be more deaths than births. This will create wage inequalities across states.

Solution: Therefore, states that provide proper labour laws will attract more high-paying jobs.

Cities

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Problems: Hyderabad has a higher GDP than Odisha and four times that of J&K. One of the reasons for low paying cities is the incapable district magistrates. They are unelected, inexperienced, and unempowered for the complex trade-offs needed for well-paying jobs.

Solutions: Cities that can create a divergence between nominal wages (what employers care about) and real wages (what employees care about) will attract high-paying jobs.

Sectors

Problems: Software sector employs only 0.8 per cent of our labour force but generates 8 per cent of GDP while agriculture has 42 per cent of our labour force but generates only 16 per cent of GDP.

Solution: States that increase manufacturing and service sector jobs and move away their labour from agriculture will have more high-paying jobs. For example, China raised its per capita income 80 times in 40 years by moving 700 million people from farm to non-farm employment.

Firms

Problems: The pre-1991 unfair labour market advantage of multinationals no longer exists as Indian firms have also come up in the competition. But the problem is that out of 6.3 crore enterprises only 23,500 are proper companies. The largest and smallest manufacturing companies have a 24 times difference in productivity.

Solution: Therefore, states that replace rules by reducing regulatory mechanism will attract high-paying jobs.

Skills

Problems: It is impossible to predict wages as people have gained different skills at a young age. Wages are higher for using minds than muscles.

Solution: Therefore, states with high populations of residents with skills in demand will attract more high-paying jobs.

What can be done to reduce wage differences across states?

First, there is a need to empower local bodies and mayors by devolution of funds, functions, and functionaries.

Second, the enrollment in government schools should be raised by 45 percent.

Third, workers should be provided with skills in advance for the upcoming technologies. This will create supply and attract demand.

Fourth, there is also a need to bring reforms in agriculture (prices and distribution), proper and affordable power generation should be provided along with reliable public transport.

Fifth, there should be formalization by employing proper HR in civil services. This will reduce the burden on the state.

Sixth, there is a need to set a 12-month target for paperless and cashless for all citizen interfaces by leveraging India's unique stack of digital public goods.

General

Studies

Paper – 3

General Studies - 3

1. [Where communities plant trees](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “Where communities plant trees” published in **The Business Standard** on 3rd October 2022.

Syllabus: GS 3- Forest Rights

Relevance: Community Forest right and benefits of forests

News: Women in Kodalpali, a village in Nayagarh district (tribal district) of Odisha have been protecting their forests for the past three decades.

They take the responsibility to walk and to ensure that nobody falls trees there. They fight with intruders and they also seize their axes and bicycles.

What are the reasons for protecting forests by the tribal community in Kodalpali?

According to villagers, forests provide all needs from firewood to building material to tubers and medicinal plants.

Even during the period of Covid-19 nobody in the village fell ill. Forest is the source of life and so they protect it.

However, the tribal community has set some rules to access the forest. For example, fuelwood is to be collected only on Sundays, green trees are not to be felled, no grazing during the monsoon, etc.

Their efforts have helped them in getting community forest rights.

What are community forest rights?

Community forest rights is a provision of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.

This gives villages the right to patches of government forests that they have been traditionally using for exclusive use of resources and protection.

According to the data of the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, community rights have been granted over some 4.5 million ha of forestland. It is approximately 8 per cent of land under forest cover under government control.

The ministry counts in this all-community rights including rights granted to the use of waterbodies or minor forest produce and not only forestland rights.

The villages of Odisha mainly Kodalpali and Sinduria now have the right to collect, process, use and sell minor forest produce.

This also includes the right to value addition, storage and transportation of products within and outside village boundaries.

What can be further course of action for those villages in Odisha?

Villages now need a plan for the management of this tree-diverse area.

It can help them to earn profit not just from timber but also from all the other richness that forest wealth provides.

Trees in forests survive only when village communities are given control in forest management. They can also help in moving India towards a wood-based economy.

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2. [The link between inflation and climate change](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**The link between inflation and climate change**” published in **The Indian Express** on **3rd October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian economy

News– The article explains the inflation scenario for the Indian economy.

What are the risks for higher inflation?

Rupee is depreciating.

Grain stocks are fast depleting.

Adverse weather conditions due to climate change.

What are the prospects for the Indian Rupee?

Increase in interest rate by the US Federal Reserve will depreciate Indian Rupee.

The depreciation will lead to imported inflation through crude oil, gas and fertilizer.

If RBI tries to keep Rupee artificially high, it will adversely affect Indian exports. It will widen the CAD. Widening of CAD will further put a pressure on Indian Rupee.

Rupee falling is going to continue for at least one year. Inflation in the USA is at a higher level. The US Federal Reserve will continue to increase interest rates for two to three years.

What is the scenario for grain stocks?

The Cabinet’s decision to extend the PM Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana by another three months will put pressure on grain stocks. It will lead to a higher fiscal deficit. Gujarat elections may further compel the government to extend it upto December.

Doubling the free ration under PM Garib Kalyan Yojana depleted the grain stocks. Wheat procurement has decreased. The Government will have to raise MSP to replenish the wheat stocks.

Rice stocks are ample. But an uneven Monsoon this year may lead to less than estimated rice crop.

What is the case with climate change?

Climate change is an increasing cause of concern. It will lead to extreme events like drought and heatwaves. It will create inflationary pressures.

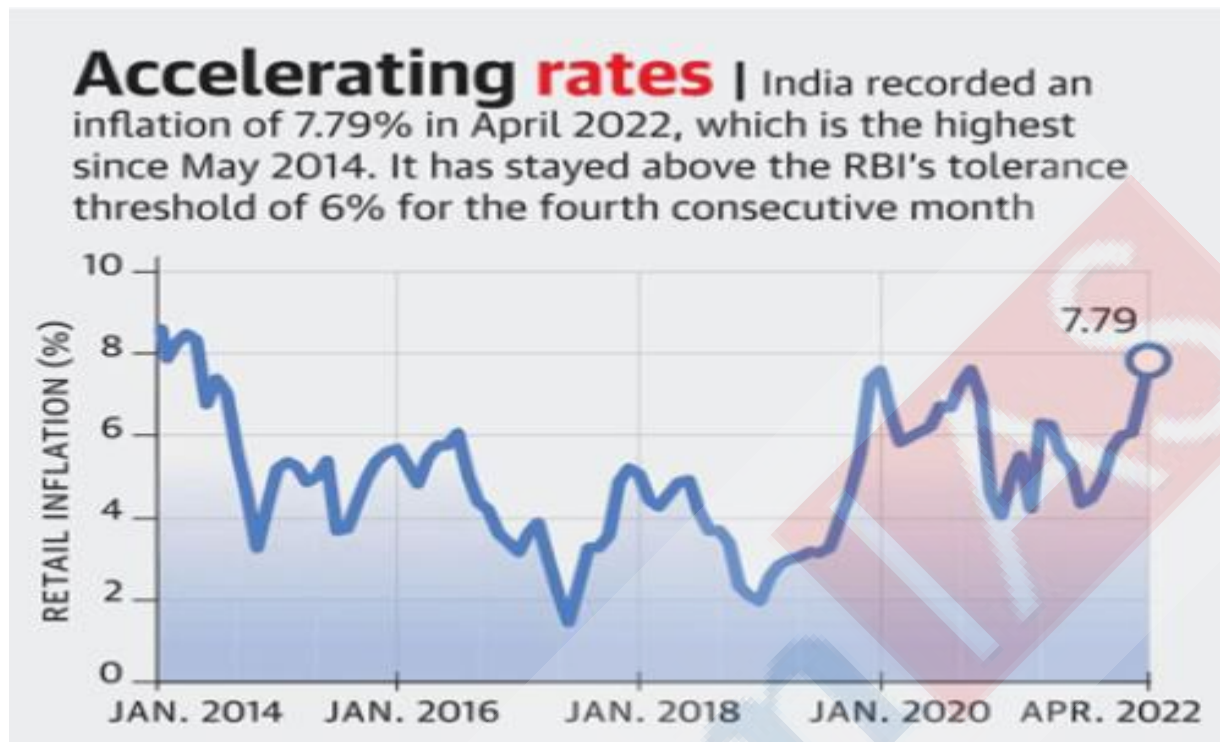
Government policy of free water, electricity and subsidised urea are further damaging the natural environment.

What is the way forward?

We will have to invest more in climate-smart agriculture, in precision farming, with high productivity and less damage to natural resources.

Right policy ecosystem needs to be created for scaling technology.

We need to fix the issue prices of PDS supplies at half the MSP. There is a need to limit the PDS coverage to 30 percent of the bottom population.



Source- <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/retail-inflation-quickens-to-an-almost-eight-year-high-less-impact-on-low-income-households-says-finance-ministry/article6540>

3. [Natural gas: The bridge on India's path to energy atmanirbharta](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Natural gas: The bridge on India's path to energy atmanirbharta**” published in **The Indian Express** on 3rd October 2022.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Infrastructure – Energy

News: The ministry of petroleum had constituted a committee recently to review the domestic natural gas pricing regime.

However, there are concerns associated with the formation of committee.

What are the concerns associated with the committee?

First, the committee was given an impossible task between “market-oriented pricing” and “administered” pricing. For that, the committee was directed:

to develop a market-oriented, transparent and reliable pricing regime.

to examine the issues related to ensuring a fair price to the end consumer.

Therefore, it is not clear how the committee will bring relations between the two.

Second, there have been several committees in the past and the recommendations made by one committee have not replaced the older ones. Therefore, it is doubtful that how will this new committee will benefit.

Third, the composition of the committee suggests the government has plans to further tighten controls over natural gas pricing as four of the six members in the committee are from the public sector.

Therefore, there might be a negative impact of the government's objective to move forward “towards a gas-based economy”.

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What are the problems associated with the India for moving towards a gas-based economy?

Harsh topography: India has natural gas reserves. IHS CERA has estimated that India has approximately 64 TCF undiscovered gas resources.

The problem is with the location of these reserves as they are located in harsh topography and complex geology.

Cost: Gas reserves are difficult to locate and even if they are located it is difficult to bring to market on economically feasible terms. This is because the cost of creating the development and production infrastructure is huge.

Administered pricing: The administered pricing is another obstacle that might end investor's interest in exploration of gas. Petroleum companies have also reduced their exploration budgets under pressure to shift away from fossil fuels

There are geologic, technical, and economic obstacles also in achieving commercial success for gas exploration.

What are the issues associated with gas pricing in India?

Initially, licenses were issued to PSUs on a nomination basis. The price of the gas produced was set by the Ministry of Petroleum on a cost-plus basis. At that time the government had the exclusive right to set prices.

However, in later years private sectors got involved and prices were linked to replace substitute fuels.

Later in 2014, a committee recommended that domestic prices of gas to be tied to the weighted average price of gas in the UK, US, Canada and Russia.

However, the problem with the recommendation was that those countries were exporters of gas whereas India had a gas deficit and was an importer.

In 2016, another committee suggested that the gas produced from deep waters to be capped to the minimum of the weighted average import price of fuel oil, naphtha and coal.

However, this suggestion did not take into account the seasonality of LNG demand /supply and LNG prices in India.

Therefore, there is a great difference between the domestic price of gas from deep waters and the price present in the Asia Pacific region.

What can be the course of action for India?

First, it should clear up the existing complexity and permit all producers of gas except producers from nomination blocks to determine prices through direct and transparent negotiations with different consumer segments.

Second, Subsidies should be given directly by the government through the exchequer and the gas producers must not be asked to bear that brunt.

Third, gas producers should be granted marketing and pricing freedom. Only then gas might provide a solid bridge.

4. [The race to provide exhaustive satellite broadband services in India](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**The race to provide exhaustive satellite broadband services in India**” published in **The Hindu** on **3rd October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indigenization of Technological Developments

Relevance: concerns associated with satellite broadband connectivity

News: There has been a growing demand for providing satellite broadband connectivity in India. Companies like Jio, Oneweb, Hughes are preparing to provide these services.

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Further, the development in satellite communication has made satellite broadband connectivity accessible even in the remote areas.

What are the developments made in global satellite communication?

There are two biggest developments in the global satellite communication space.

They are the emergence of LEO (low-earth orbit constellations) that provide global coverage and lower latency service and HTS (High Throughput Satellites Service) which offers unmatched capacity and flexibility.

Therefore, by using these developments different private companies are planning to provide satellite broadband services in India.

How satellite broadband services will change the Internet platform in India?

Satellite broadband services can connect the most remote parts of the country which are difficult to connect through fibers.

For example, Hughes India along with its partners is planning to provide high-speed satellite connectivity to 5,000 remote gram panchayats that lack terrestrial connectivity for fiber as part of BharatNet project.

Bharatnet project aims to make e-governance applications like telemedicine, access to land records, treasury, police stations, Internet access, and many other services easier in rural India.

Further, **Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) service** providers will provide internet connectivity In Flight and Maritime Connectivity (IFMC).

However, there are certain challenges associated with satellite broadband services.

What are the challenges with satellite broadband services?

Slow internet: Satellite data transfer provides very slow Internet speeds and limited satellite bandwidth because of the distances the signals have to travel.

Connectivity: Connection time can also be impacted by the surroundings, the length of message, and the status and availability of the satellite network.

Users might not be able to connect to a satellite at all if they are located under heavy greeneries like trees.

The Emergency SOS via satellite might not also work in places above 62° latitude like northern parts of Canada and Alaska.

Latency: Satellite Internet latency can also be a problem. Minor changes in weather can have a massive impact on both the speed and latency of satellite data.

5. [Free grain scheme needs to be backed by imports to cushion wheat prices](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“Free grain scheme needs to be backed by imports to cushion wheat prices”** published in the **Indian Express** on **3rd October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3: Indian economy.

Relevance: About extending PMGKAY.

News: Recently, the government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY-Phase VII) for a further period of 3 months i.e. October to December 2022.

What is Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)?

Read here: [Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package\(PMGKP\)](#)

What are the advantages of extending PMGKAY?

Higher all-India average retail price: the all-India average retail price of wheat is now about Rs 31/kg, compared to Rs 27 last year at this time. Prices of atta and rice have, likewise, risen from

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Rs 30 to Rs 36 and from Rs 35 to Rs 38 per kg, respectively. This is due to a failed wheat crop and uncertainty over the Kharif rice about to be harvested.

What are the concerns associated with extending PMGKAY?

Low rice and wheat stocks: Public rice and wheat stocks, at just over 60 million tonnes on September 1. This is a five-year-low and two-thirds of their level a year ago. This is as against the annual average of 62.5 mt during 2013-14 to 2019-20.

Godowns are no longer overflowing: The PDS turned out to be the only effective social safety net during the pandemic, which also provided an opportunity for disposing of the excess grain lying in government warehouses. But now that situation is changed.

Read here: [A costly decision – Extension of PMGKAY should have been avoided](#)

What can be done?

Since the government has extended the scheme, the government must seriously consider importing wheat. Wheat from Russia can be imported at a low cost to supply for the scheme.

India's own wheat crop will not be ready before March end. Having 2-3 mt of imported wheat in reserve will help to keep market prices under control till then.

6. [India's cyber infrastructure needs more than patches](#)

Source: This post is created based on the **article "India's cyber infrastructure needs more than patches"**, published in **The Hindu** on 3rd September, 2022.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Cyber Security

Context: Cybercrime is increasing with the increased use of information and communication technology (ICT). However, the capacity of the enforcement agencies to investigate cybercrime remains limited.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), from 12,317 cases of cybercrime in 2016, there were 50,035 cases registered in 2020.

In Arjun Pandit Rao Khotkar vs Kailash Kushanrao Gorantyal case, SC settled the rules on admissibility of electronic evidence.

The Court held that a certificate under Section 65B(4) of the Indian Evidence (IE) Act was a mandatory pre-requisite for the admissibility of (secondary) electronic record if the original record could not be produced.

States are responsible for creating the infrastructure for the cybersecurity, whereas center is responsible for providing the uniformity in the legislations.

What are the challenges in dealing with cyber or computer-related offences?

No separate procedural code: There is **no separate procedural code** for the investigation of cyber or computer-related offences. The nature of electronic evidence is entirely different compared to traditional crime.

A five-judge committee suggested **Draft Rules for the Reception, Retrieval, Authentication and Preservation of Electronic Records**. However, it is yet to be given a statutory force.

Recruitment of technical staff for the investigation of cybercrime is not happening at the required pace. Any person with academic background in the arts, commerce, literature, or management cannot identify digital evidence.

Authority to investigate: As per Information technology Act, an offences registered under the act, cannot be investigated, by an officer, below the rank of an inspector. However, there are not enough inspectors in a district for that purpose.

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Examiner of Electronic Evidence: While most State cyber labs are sufficiently equipped to analyse hard disks and mobile phones, many are yet to be notified as 'Examiner of Electronic Evidence' (by the central government) to enable them to provide expert opinion on electronic records.

Trans-national cybercrimes: It is very difficult to investigate the Trans-national cybercrimes. In these cases, blocking of an objectionable website or suspect's account is the only option available with the authorities.

What should be the future course of action?

First, the broad 'guidelines for the identification, collection, acquisition and preservation of digital evidence' are given in the Indian Standard IS/ISO/IEC 27037: 2012. Which are issued by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The guidelines are sufficient to ensure that electronic evidence is neither tampered with nor subject to spoliation during investigation.

Second, a sufficient capacity build up is required to handle cybercrimes. It could be done either by setting up a separate cyber police station in each district or range, or having technically qualified staff in every police station.

Third, Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 should be amended and make the officers of the rank of sub-inspector, eligible to investigate the cybercrimes.

Fourth, the central government has proposed launching a digital rupee using block chain technology soon. State enforcement agencies need to be ready for these technologies. Cyber forensic laboratories of States should be upgraded by providing modernisation funds by the centre.

Fifth, Data localisation must be implemented to deal with the transnational crimes happening in India.

Sixth, the Indian police receives a CyberTipline reports on online Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) from the U.S.'s non-profit agency, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC). India should develop its in-house capacity and/or makes intermediaries accountable to identify and remove online CSAM for immediate action by the police.

7. [FABS: The East Asian lesson for India](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**FABS: The East Asian lesson for India**” published in the **mint** on **4th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy

Relevance– Semiconductor manufacturing

News– The article explains the experience of East Asian countries in promoting semiconductor manufacturing.

Recently the central government has announced some changes in the production-linked incentive linked scheme for semiconductors.

It is now offering fiscal support of 50% of total project cost to companies setting up semiconductor plants irrespective of chip type.

The government wants to promote the chip making industry amid the global move to de-risk semiconductor manufacturing. There is a global effort to diversify their production after the pandemic.

What are the challenges in chip manufacturing?

High investments are needed both from cost and technological perspective.

Lower labour cost counts little in chip manufacturing.

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Market is dominated by the biggest players that are both highly profitable and **technologically sophisticated**. It is not easy for new players to be competitive.

The chip manufacturing industry is highly **dispersed geographically**. The US leads in designing and Taiwan in manufacturing chips. They are highly interdependent. It creates a competitive advantage for them. Local players do not have the capability to match their scale.

What is the backstory of Taiwan in chip manufacturing?

In the 1980s, Japan assumed a major share in chip manufacturing at the expense of American products.

To lower Japan's share, America outsourced low-tech processes in the chip value chain such as packaging to countries like South Korea and Taiwan.

Later developments in Taiwan were different from other Asian countries. Foreign investment was not very helpful in shifting up to high-tech processes of the supply chain.

It was government intervention in the form of promoting research that proved beneficial. The government supported the setting up of a research institute called Industrial Technology Research Institute. It transferred technology to the private sector.

Another important component of Taiwan's strategy was the **foundry model**. Manufacturers did not design their own chips. They manufactured chips for American companies who had design experience.

What was the South Korean experience?

Initial developments were the same for almost all Asian countries. South Korea also benefited in the initial stage from low tech processes outsourcing by America.

But in later stages, Japan and the USA were reluctant to share licensing technology.

South Korea's large industrial conglomerates hired engineers from Silicon Valley.

They approached Silicon startups for design experience. These startups were provided capital by industrial houses.

How have the governments of these countries helped in semiconductor manufacturing?

Financial support by the government was important but it was not a deciding factor for growth of semiconductor manufacturing in East Asian economies.

Investment in semiconductor fabrication was financed almost entirely by companies themselves.

Government support was crucial in the form of providing facilities for research. Government coordination and encouragement of investment in early stages was beneficial for these companies.

8. [Lessons unlearned: The deadly football tragedy in Indonesia raises serious questions](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "Lessons unlearned: The deadly football tragedy in Indonesia raises serious questions" published in **The Indian Express** on **4th October 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Disaster Management**

Relevance: Indonesia's football stampede and concerns associated with it

News: The crowd at Indonesia's Kanjuruhan stadium ran onto the pitch after their team lost. This led to a stampede and around 125 people lost their lives.

Police used tear gas to control the crowd which led to low visibility leading to chaos. It will be counted as one of the darkest days in football.

What is the reason for such accidents?

One of the reasons for such an accident is the emotions of spectators with the team.

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The spectators are often attached to the team they support and at times this attachment leads to accidents. There are also commercial and political interests involved in it.

However, using tear gas cannot control the spectators' feelings.

When tear gases are used and why should it not be used in the stadiums?

Tear gases are used to bring order when violence goes beyond control and descends into riots and there is little thought for public safety.

FIFA prohibits the use 'firearms' or 'crowd control gas' to maintain order at a game.

Stadiums are regulated and closed spaces and using firearms or tear gas for crowd control would only result in chaos and threats to public safety.

Therefore, the authorities who have justified the use of tear gas must be held accountable in Indonesia.

Moreover, the Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights is planning to investigate the matter.

What has caused past sport accidents?

This accident is reminder of other crowd-related tragedies such as the deaths of eight people during the Africa Cup of Nations in Cameroon in 2022, death of 97 Liverpool supporters at Hillsborough in Yorkshire, England in 1989, etc.

The deaths in these games were the result of police incompetence and crowd control failure.

What are the lessons learnt from this stampede?

First, the stadium had only one entry/exit point. Therefore, the stadium must be provided with multiple entry/exit points.

Second, there is a need to barricade players at the end of the match to prevent anyone entering the field.

Third, fans will need to be calmed and police will need to be trained to handle any eventuality with sensitivity and care.

9. [The Agnipath challenge for India's new Chief of Defence Staff](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“The Agnipath challenge for India's new Chief of Defence Staff”** published in **The Indian Express** on **6th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Security challenges

Relevance– Reformation of defence services

News- The article explains the challenges related to military affairs before new CDS.

Recently General Anil Chauhan was appointed as second CDS of India

What concerns are raised about his appointment?

He has been chosen over and above the chiefs

He has been appointed as a CDS after a 10-month delay and not as the obvious first choice. There are concerns about the appointment of a retired officer as military chief.

What are the tasks ahead for new CDS?

First major task of national concern is to manage the Agnipath scheme.

Second challenge is related to **capacity development**. Supply Of arms and ammunition from Russia may get impacted. Defense capacity development under Atma Nirbhar Bharat has not been much successful.

Third challenge is to bring focus on **jointness and formation of theatre commands**.

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Fourth challenge is to develop military credentials needed for the rise of India in global affairs. This task till now is mainly driven by the External Affairs Ministry and PMO.

10. Calamity-prone — urban India's worrying storyline

Source: The post is based on an article “**Calamity-prone — urban India's worrying storyline**” published in **The Hindu** on **6th October 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Disaster Management**

Relevance: **climate action plans and problems associated with it.**

News: There has been an increase in unfavorable weather phenomenon these days. Mostly urban cities suffer due to the lack of proper mitigation mechanism.

These weather calamities have impacted Delhi (2013, 2021), Mumbai (2005, 2017), Chennai (2015, 2021) in the past and the most recent one is Bengaluru.

Karnataka government announced a ₹900 crore project in November 2021 after flooding and this year they have announced an anti-encroachment drive.

However, these measures are not helpful and there is a need for proper climate consciousness in the planning process.

What are the impacts of extreme weather phenomenon?

It causes extensive losses to property and life.

For example, Mumbai reportedly lost ₹14,000 crore between 2005 and 2015 while the figure for Chennai was an estimated ₹15,000 crore in 2015 alone.

There are also social and human costs involved which is mostly borne by the poor section of the society.

What are the problems with climate action planning in urban cities?

Master plan: Urban cities in India lack master planning. For example, Bengaluru has not had a master plan to control its development since 2015.

65% of urban settlements in India do not have a master plan. The cities that have master plan usually do not address issues of environmental protection or mitigating climate change.

Local governments: The powers to prepare a master plan lie with the state government and the local governments are only reduced to stakeholders without much authority.

Old plans: The plans present in cities are old and some of them vary with the present mapping.

For example,

1. the Drainage Master Plan for Delhi was drafted in 1976 and a new plan is only just being implemented.
2. the drainage lines in Bengaluru as per the 2015 Master Plan vary significantly from the drains mapped by the municipality.

Moreover, there are problems associated with the new climate action plans also.

What are the issues with the present climate action plan being drafted?

City administrations of Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Nagpur among others have begun adopting climate action plans.

The Mumbai plan covers all aspects of the city's environment from flooding to air pollution and aligns itself with the national goal of net-zero emissions.

However, the plan lacks statutory backing. It does not prescribe any regulatory controls and there are a series of recommended measures that can be adopted by the authorities/citizens.

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These plans are made with the consultation of experts but there is hardly any public participation involved. This reduces the plan's credibility.

What can be the course of action?

First, there is a need to create a comprehensive climate action plan for all major Indian cities.

Second, the plans should be given statutory backing by bringing them within the ambit of the city's master plan.

Third, there is also need to involve public consultation in plan preparation process. This would be effective in highlighting issues of underserved neighborhoods which are often overlooked by decision-making bodies.

Fourth, there is also a need for an environmental protection agency to proactively tackle issues related to climate change.

11. [Towards integrated commands: It's too late to turn around](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“Towards integrated commands: It's too late to turn around”** published in the **Business Standard** on **7th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Security Challenges

Relevance– Military reforms

News- The article explains the concerns of the air force about the creation of **integrated theatre command**. It also tells about the basic framework of integrated theatre commands.

What is an integrated theatre command?

The Elements of all three service the army, navy and air force work in an **integrated manner** to maximise the military's combat power.

This would involve restructuring India's single service commands. It merges 17 army, navy and air force commands into five or six tri-service commands.

The Andaman & Nicobar Command and the Strategic Forces Command are India's only tri-service commands.

What are the concerns of the Air Force related to integrated theatre commands?

It has reservations about setting up joint command structures without having thought through the process and its consequences adequately.

The idea of dividing their 30-35 fighter squadrons among five-six integrated theatre commands, leaves all of them with a little strength.

The Air Force wants that planning should be centralised and execution decentralised. Centralised planning is essential for multiple tasking required by the Air Force. Aircraft are viewed as flexible assets that can be switched around among theatres.

What is the way forward?

New structures needed to be future ready. They need to be prepared for new forms of warfare such as cyber and space warfare.

With multiple tasking in mind, the decision-making levels must be reduced.

It is essential to address the concerns of the air force.

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12. [Chinese chequers on the China border](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Chinese chequers on the China border**” published in the **Business Standard** on **7th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Security Challenges. GS2- International Relations

Relevance– Challenges on China border

News- The article explains the concerns of Local Ladakhi people about China’s territorial claim on Indian territory in Ladakh. It also explains the Chinese strategy for their expansion.

What are the concerns related to the Indo-China border?

The nomadic yak graziers of Ladakh who live along the borders have disclosed the real situation of LAC.

They are saying that Chinese troops and border guards are denying them access to their traditional borderland pastures. The Indian government is not supporting them.

A local elected official from Ladakh has publicly refuted government claims that India and China have negotiated a mutual and equal troop disengagement and have created buffer zones on either side of the LAC.

Territorial claims by both armies are depriving them from their local identities . Traditional name of local Ladakhi places is replaced by military nomenclature. This is diluting their longstanding claim on the territory.

Territorial claims along the LAC rest on village records of grazing grounds. It must be reasserted each year by the physical presence of nomads with their herds.

What is Chinese strategy?

A study by **Human Rights Watch (HRW)** of the Tibetan areas bordering Arunachal Pradesh, revealed that an initiative has been directed personally by President Xi Jinping since 2017. It involves setting up villages in disputed border areas. In a major investigative article in May 2021 in **Foreign Policy magazine** described its working.

Tibetan nomads are being used by the Chinese army. They have assigned duty to be physically present in border areas throughout winters.

They are being trained to assert China’s claim in these areas. Their methods include driving yak herds over land grazed by local herders, demanding tax payments from these herders, planting Chinese flags on peaks and painting the word ‘China’ on rocks throughout the area.

In July 2021, China’s President Xi Jinping visited Tibet for three days. His focus is on the Tibetan town of Nyingtri . This town is of strategic interest to India as Beijing regards Arunachal Pradesh as a southward extension of Nyingtri Prefecture.

Over the years an estimated 250,000 Tibetans have been resettled thus in vulnerable pockets along the border.

13. [Rice insecurity](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Rice insecurity**” published in **The Indian Express** on **7th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Agriculture

Relevance– Agriculture marketing and pricing

News- The article explains the issues with the current government move to ban the export of rice. It also tells about the challenges for long-term sustainability of rice cultivation.

Government wants to regulate domestic prices and safeguard food security through this move.

What will be the impact of export ban on rice?

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India exports rice to more than 130 countries. It constitutes 40% of global rice trade. Further 90 per cent of rice production across the world is consumed domestically. As a result, any small change in exports and imports has an enormous impact on prices.

The export uncertainties will affect the credibility of Indian exporters and create a disincentive for future exports. It will enable buyers to shift towards other major rice-exporting countries.

The export restriction may lead to fall in prices. It will impact Indian farmers.

India's export restrictions will adversely affect several low-income and low-middle-income countries like Bangladesh, Senegal, Nepal. These are among the largest importers of Indian rice.

What are the challenges for long-term sustainability of rice cultivation?

Around 49 per cent of rice cultivation depends on groundwater. It is depleting rapidly. As per the **FAO data**, agricultural water withdrawal as a percentage of total available renewable water resources has increased from 26.7% in 1993 to 36% in 2022. The total per capita renewable water resources have also declined from 1909 cubic metres to 1412 cubic metres during this period.

Rice exports are leading to an indirect export of water to other countries. It is known as the virtual **water trade**.

The **MSP regime** is not sustainable. It is mainly available for wheat and rice. Further there is a skewed distribution towards selected states like Punjab and Haryana. The cost of cultivation in India is also increasing, and hence there will be a need for a higher MSP to make production remunerative

India's rice yield is also lower than the world average.

14. [Is it time for the gig economy?](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“Is it time for the gig economy?”** published in **The Hindu** on **7th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Employment

Relevance– Changing employment scenario

News- The article explains the concept of moonlighting. It also tells about the laws dealing with moonlighting in India.

What is moonlighting?

Moonlighting is employees working for remuneration with entities other than their employers.

Kotak Securities said in a study that at least 60% of 400 employees surveyed said they themselves had or knew someone who had engaged in moonlighting.

How are companies reacting to moonlighting?

Some companies are supporting it while some are opposing it.

Wipro sacked 300 employees for moonlighting. On other hand, Swiggy has announced a 'moonlighting policy'

What does the law say?

Moonlighting is not defined in any of the statutes in India. No Constitutional Court has rendered a decision on the subject.

Section 60 of the Factories Act deals with restriction on double employment. It says that no adult worker shall be allowed to work in any factory on any day on which he has already been working in any other factory. However this enactment is applicable only to employees working in factories.

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There are State laws which deal with employment of persons working in offices, banks, shops, etc. However, there is no provision in these laws dealing with dual employment.

The Supreme Court's observation in *Glaxo Laboratories (I) Limited vs Labour Court, Meerut* and others held that The employer has hardly any extra territorial jurisdiction. If he has power to regulate the behaviour of workmen outside duty hours or other places, it is equivalent to slavery.

The Supreme Court ruling means that the sphere of employment cannot be extended by the employer beyond working hours and outside his place of employment.

Court will not give severe punishment unless the employer has not worked against the interest of the company. Courts generally lean towards labour rights.

What is the way forward?

The ministries are of view that employers should not suppress employees who want to monetise, develop and demonstrate. It also urged employees not to violate their agreements with employers.

In today's world, every company ought to have a gig economy strategy.

15. [Oil slick ahead?: Opec's cut in crude output shows the futility of Western sanctions. India must brace for tougher times](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Oil slick ahead?: Opec's cut in crude output shows the futility of Western sanctions. India must brace for tougher times**" published in **The Times of India** on **7th October 2022**.

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

Relevance: About oil price rise and low trade volume growth

News: Oil prices are likely to remain elevated as the OPEC plus, which includes Saudi Arabia and Russia, decided to trim production in a bid to keep the price high. On the other hand, WTO forecast growth in merchandise trade volume is now projected to grow at 1%, lower than the 3.4% forecast a few months ago.

About OPEC Plus's recent decision on oil production

The grouping produces a little more than 50% of the world's crude. They planned to reduce output by 2 million barrels/day beginning November by using August's production as a benchmark. It's about 2% of production.

Read more: [Opec+ should expect plenty of turbulence in the years ahead](#)

About the recent Trade volume growth

Trade volume growth is being dragged down by the economic slowdown in three major economic engines, the US, Europe and China. Such as, **1)** The US monetary tightening will soon create major impacts, **2)** Europe is facing energy shock in the form of a 350% year-on-year increase in gas prices. This will lead to reduced consumer spending, **3)** In China, its zero-Covid strategy has taken a toll on its growth.

How Trade volume growth and OPEC Plus decision are interlinked?

The energy shock in Europe is partly due to the economic sanctions imposed by the US and Europe on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine. This is because of Europe's dependence on Russian gas.

The rest of the world felt the impact through both an oil price surge and upward pressure on the prices of key food items.

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Further, ongoing US-led sanctions on other oil producers such as Iran and Venezuela are hugely counterproductive and have restricted the free flow of oil.

How oil price rise and low trade volume growth will impact India?

Supply pressure on key commodities can keep domestic inflation elevated, and a global slowdown will drag down the growth of the Indian Economy.

This is visible in September's purchasing managers' survey for services as it showed the lowest reading in six months.

So, India's policymakers have to tussle with the dual challenge from the external sector. Monetary and fiscal policies need to be flexible to adapt to a highly uncertain scenario.

Read more: [How OPEC+ deal to withdraw output cut impacts India](#)

16. [Achieving green steel: How India can bridge the gaps to decarbonise the sector](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Achieving green steel: How India can bridge the gaps to decarbonise the sector**" published in the **Down To Earth** on **30th September 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Relevance: About Green Steel

News: At present, the iron and steel sectors are highly energy intensive and big on emissions. So, the iron and steel, cement and chemical industries have started to focus their attention on greening the sector.

What is Green Steel?

It is steel which is manufactured without the use of fossil fuels. This can be done by using low-carbon energy sources such as hydrogen, coal gasification, or electricity.

What are the transitions in the Indian steel sector?

More than 80% of the country's reserves are in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and the northern regions of Andhra Pradesh. Western states Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka have made good use of the available non-conventional sources of energy in the region.

Read more: [How to decarbonize the steel industry](#)

How to decarbonise the Iron and Steel sector?

In order to decarbonise the iron and steel sector, the primary emphasis through technological interventions would be on substituting the primary production processes with cleaner alternatives. Such as, **1)** Carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS), **2)** Replacing conventional sources of energy with low-carbon hydrogen, and **3)** Direct electrification through electrolysis of iron ore.

What steps can be taken to make Green Steel economical?

a) Increasing energy efficiency through the adoption of technologies that are cost-effective, **b)** Refurbishing old steel plants, **c)** Funding for energy efficiency measures for electricity-based manufacturing, **d)** Constructing a suitable infrastructure for recycling steel and utilising steel scrap, **e)** Generating green standards and similar types of labels for the market growth of green steel, and **f)** Amending the Perform Achieve Trade scheme to estimate and check the carbon emissions instead of energy consumed.

Read more: [Year-End- Review-2021 Ministry of Steel](#)

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17. [Scarred terra pharma: Gambia tragedy needs sharp regulatory response](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Scarred terra pharma: Gambia tragedy needs sharp regulatory response**” published in **The Times of India** on **8th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3: Changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

Relevance: About India’s pharma sector.

News: Followed the death of 66 children, the WHO issued an alert on four cough syrups manufactured and exported by Haryana-based Maiden Pharmaceuticals to Gambia.

What is the issue?

Must Read: [Cough syrups exported only to the Gambia, finds CDSCO probe](#)

What are the implications of the Gambia issue on the Indian pharma sector?

Earlier, Ranbaxy falsified drug data and systemically violated good manufacturing practices and laboratory practices. Indian pharma’s global reputation is once again, after Ranbaxy, at risk.

What are the issues associated with the Indian pharma sector?

State drug controllers tasked with licensing and monitoring manufacturing units and quality control are not functioning effectively. If a drug fails a quality test in one state, the obvious thing to do is suspend the manufacturing licence in the state where it is located till a clean-up.

The Haryana drugs controller certified Maiden as compliant with WHO-Good Manufacturing Practices, making it eligible for exporting drugs. But central regulator CDSCO is now answerable to WHO for the failures.

Read more: [Drug Regulations in India – Explained, pointwise](#)

What should be done to regulate the Indian pharma sector?

Penalties without deterrent effect will not nudge offenders to reform. So, the Centre’s new drugs and cosmetics bill to replace the colonial-era law must be reconfigured with learnings from this tragedy and embarrassment.

A rigorous regulatory regime is needed to ensure India remains the pharmacy of the world and provides affordable medicines to the poorest sections of society also.

18. [Make machines in India: Why economists arguing against policy emphasis on manufacturing are completely wrong](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Make machines in India: Why economists arguing against policy emphasis on manufacturing are completely wrong**” published in **The Times of India** on **8th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Industries and industrial policies

Relevance: manufacturing sector and need to look into it

News: Some experts today argue that India should encourage service sectors and the policies for manufacturing sectors are criticized.

One of the reasons for this argument is that the service sector is big and it contributes about 55% of our GDP.

However, size alone is not important as Simon Kuznets (the father of GDP) said that GDP is a measure of wealth not of welfare.

What is the current situation of service sector in India?

Service sectors in India include low-to-unskilled labour force and none of them are skilled enough to be exported to other countries.

80% of jobs in this category are in construction, transport, retail and beauty.

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Even Indian doctors are not good at providing required medical services in India as they lack proper training and modern technologies.

How can our service sector become world class and ready for export?

International experience tells us that when the manufacturing sector grows and reaches a certain saturation level then the qualities and skills begin to move towards the service sector.

This has happened in the West, in Europe and the US, and also in the East, in South Korea and Japan.

Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the manufacturing sector because product innovations and differentiation first take place in this sector.

What is the current situation of manufacturing sector in India?

Currently India spends 0.6% of its GDP on R&D in the manufacturing sector which is one of the lowest in the world.

Further, only about 7% of the 2.5 million engineers in India can perform core engineering tasks. Land acquisition is one of the problems for setting up manufacturing plants in India. However, the data shows that only 8% of stalled projects are because of land acquisitions problems.

How can the manufacturing sector help in the growth of the service sector?

India's IT sector only employs 3 million people while in the US there are about 12 million people working in the IT sector. South Korea's IT sector has moved ahead because manufacturing and R&D.

Therefore, the growth in the manufacturing sector will create an advanced service sector.

Moreover, a mature service sector is hugely dependent on the manufacturing sector and not independent of it. The service sector grows only with a strong manufacturing sector.

Studies in the US show that the largest consumer of services is the manufacturing sector and high-end manufacturing requires the service sector to be attached with it for the best results.

Therefore, India should focus on manufacturing sector to achieve best results from the service sector.

19. OPEC+ production cut ahead of winter puts India on a slippery slope

Source: The post is based on an article “OPEC+ production cut ahead of winter puts India on a slippery slope” published in **The Business Standard** on **8th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3

Relevance: rising oil prices and its impact on the Indian economy

News: OPEC Plus countries which includes the world's biggest oil exporters Saudi Arabia and Russia have decided to cut production from November by 2 million barrels a day.

It will have impact all around the world including India.

What will be the impact on India?

The change in the oil price matters more to India's economy than any other country's economy because India imports around 87 per cent of its oil.

Further, the imports this year have increased from last year. For example, petroleum imports accounted for 28 per cent of India's total import this year while it was 23 percent a year earlier.

India also imported close to \$32 billion worth of coal last fiscal which was around one per cent of gross domestic product (GDP).

This may widen India's current account deficit from 1.4 percent in FY22 to 3.5 percent of GDP in FY23.

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World bank has also cut economic growth forecast for India from 7 percent to 6.5 per cent this fiscal year due to the high inflation, rising borrowing costs and high commodity prices.

Further, India consumes around 4 million barrels a day and the cut in production will raise oil prices in the upcoming months. This will put more pressure on the rupee and will further weaken the economy.

Natural gas prices have already increased around Rs 2.5 trillion this fiscal year and there may be a further increase in the prices.

OPEC have also agreed to extend its production co-operation agreement with non-OPEC members like Russia until the end of 2023. This means that India should be ready to face the upcoming impact on its economy.

However, the demand in India continues to be strong even with petrol and diesel retailing at close to Rs 100 a litre and the lower oil production will only impact prices, supplies are not an issue.

20. [A synthetic click](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**A synthetic click**” published in **The Hindu** on **8th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3

Relevance: benefits of click chemistry

News: The Nobel Prize for Chemistry has been awarded to Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and Barry Sharpless. The three chemists have been awarded for ‘click chemistry’.

What is click chemistry?

Click chemistry helps getting molecules bonded together in an efficient and uncomplicated manner that wouldn't normally bond together.

It can create molecular building blocks like Lego blocks that could hold together quickly and efficiently.

There have been many efforts in the pasts to join molecule together but those efforts were complicated and the result was expensive to be used.

Therefore, the discovery of click chemistry has made it efficient and possible to join two molecules.

What has led the discovery of click chemistry?

The discovery of the copper catalysed azide-alkyne cycloaddition by Meldal and Sharpless was a breakthrough moment in the click chemistry.

There were previous attempts to join azides and alkynes but they were complicated. However, copper proves to be beneficial in joining the two chemicals.

The discovery has helped chemists to link two different molecules. They just have to introduce an azide in one molecule and an alkyne in the other and they can be joined with the help of copper ions.

Bertozzi took click chemistry to a new dimension and showed that it could be used in living organisms also.

Copper is toxic to living cells but she figured out a way to produce a copper-free click reaction called the strain-promoted azide-alkyne cycloaddition. It could be used to treat tumours.

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21. [Accounting for subsidies: Let's build on the 'revdi' debate](#)

Source- The post is based on the article "Accounting for subsidies: Let's build on the 'revdi' debate" published in the The Indian Express on 8th October 2022.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian Economy

Relevance- Government budgeting

News- The article explains the freebies culture prevalent in India.

The debate on freebies has begun with an RBI 2022 report on state finances followed by Prime Minister comment.

What are freebies?

Freebies could be defined as non-merit subsidies.

Subsidies are money transfers by the government in an attempt to drive prices artificially below market prices. Money transfer may be implicit or explicit.

Why are subsidies difficult to classify into merit and non-merit?

Freebies empower the state to deliver welfare by providing subsidised merit goods like health and education.

It helps households to combat poverty by providing subsidised public goods like food, electricity. It appeals to the electorate through populist policies.

It becomes difficult to classify freebies as merit and non-merit subsidy when the boundaries between the above mentioned objectives are blurred.

What are the impacts of freebies?

It leads to an increase in fiscal deficit and puts a debt burden on the state.

Debt burden could have an adverse effect on the state finances if it is not properly accounted for through transparent budgeting procedures. It threatens fiscal sustainability.

Why is the fiscal council being proposed?

It has been recommended by the FRBM Review Committee (2017) and recently constituted Finance Commissions too including the 15th Finance Commission.

The council will provide independent forecasts on key macro variables like real and nominal GDP growth, tax buoyancy, commodity prices. It will also act as a monitoring institution to advise on triggering the escape clause and also specify a path of return.

Monitoring of finances and fiscal rules could also help ensure that states comply with a medium-term fiscal policy framework.

22. [Grid cells in our mind map the whole world- focus your attention to use the brain test](#)

Source- The post is based on the article "Grid cells in our mind map the whole world- focus your attention to use the brain test" published in the The Times of India on 8th October 2022.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology

News- The article explains how the brain understands places and memories.

How Brain help in understanding locations?

The part of Brain called the hippocampus plays an important role in understanding locations . Hippocampal cells help in encoding locations in the environment of our Brain.

In people suffering from epileptic seizure, the hippocampus has to be removed. After removing it, people were intellectual and socially fine. But they cannot remember new faces and places.

What is the role of the Entorhinal cortex?

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It provides information to the hippocampus. The cells found in this area are called grid cells. They resemble hexagonal tiling on the floor. The working of different grid cells leads to generating information about locations.

These grid cells function constantly. These keep moving around abstract doughnut shapes. This stays the same every time.

23. [Where the stars must not twinkle](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Where the stars must not twinkle**” published in **The Hindu** on **8th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Space

Relevance– India achievement in space sector

News- The article explains the logic behind establishing an astronomical observatory by the Indian government at Hanle, Ladakh. It also explains the major components of observatory and role of other stakeholders

Why has Ladakh been chosen as the location for the observatory?

Earlier the observatory was located in Bengaluru. It is known as **Vainu Bapu observatory**. The southwest and northeast monsoon forced the observatory for months. The rainclouds absorb starlight and radiation from cosmic objects. It prevents telescopes from capturing these objects. To capture a **cosmic phenomena like supernovae**, we need radiation that lies outside the range of visible light. Therefore a dry, high-altitude place is an ideal location to capture these phenomena.

Artificial lights create light pollution. It creates obstacles for natural light. It is a contaminant for astronomy by impeding cosmic radiation. There is a relative absence of artificial lights in Hanle.

What are the major components of this observatory?

The multicoloured dish is the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment Telescope (MACE)– It is the second largest of its kind in the world and only one at such an elevation. Its goal is to detect **Cherenkov radiation** from space. This is a special kind of light from gamma rays, or the most energetic sources of radiation. It can result from dying stars or several galaxies.

High Altitude Gamma Ray (HAGAR)– It also looks at Cherenkov radiation, although at a lower range of energies.

Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT)– It is designed to detect light from the visible range of the electromagnetic spectrum as well as from the **infra-red spectrum**. The second capsule, situated slightly lower than the

GROWTH-India telescope– It is equipped to track cosmic events that unfurl over time, such as afterglows of a gamma ray burst or tracking the path of asteroids

What is the negative side of the location?

The extreme weather and climate is an issue for people working there. Low atmospheric oxygen may lead to altitude sickness.

But it is widely controlled via satelink link from IIA’s Centre for Research and Education in Science and Technology, Bengaluru.

What is unique about Hanle?

Starlight is relatively unimpeded here.

Twinkling stars means starlight is being bounced back by atmospheric gases, clouds. This is relatively absent in Ladakh.

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How are other stakeholders involved in this process?

Ladakh's government is eager to expand economic opportunities via tourism and the Indian Army expanding its infrastructure development, bolster defence at the India-China border. It will create light pollution.

To strike a balance, the Ladakh government along with the IIA and India's Scientific Ministries is laying the groundwork to declare Hanleas an **International Dark Sky Reserve by the International Dark-Sky Association.**

Government is also trying to involve the local community. Eight telescopes will be set up in village clusters. Homestay owners will be trained in elementary astronomy to guide astro tourists. It will promote tourism and encourage the local people to avoid light pollution. This will be a win-win situation for all sides.