



9 PM

Compilation

10th to 15th October, 2022

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

General Studies - 1

1. [Act quickly: Hate speech gets encouragement with late action from cops and courts. Parties must get tough too](#)
2. [About the shift in the Indian monsoon: The lingering monsoon](#)

General Studies - 2

1. [Getting it right, in five ways: Commerce and industry minister says growth will receive a big boost from new logistics policy](#)
2. [The coalition of the world](#)
3. [Status beyond faith: The panel on giving SC status to converts has its work cut out](#)
4. [Russia's continued defiance of international law](#)
5. [Indian prisons are stretched to their limits](#)
6. [How China reduced poverty: lessons for India](#)
7. [The message in a bottle on quality from Gambia](#)
8. [Too few rules: Without some codification, SC collegium will keep running into problems in selecting judges](#)
9. [Throttled at the grass roots: how to strengthen decentralised governance](#)
10. [Pakistan-US: The Bajwa reset](#)
11. [Blaming technology for deaths by suicide is misguided](#)
12. [India@75 looking at 100: What India's education system needs](#)
13. [Pension system should be fair and sustainable](#)
14. [We have come a long way on abortion rights in India](#)
15. [The Court and the problem with its collegium](#)
16. [Measure topography to ensure the equitable delivery of goods and services to all](#)
17. [Donors R Us: It's absurd that police confuses online crowdfunding with begging. Stop fraud not charity](#)
18. [The democratisation of India, the Mandal way](#)
19. [Supreme Court's split verdict on hijab frames a fraught issue and offers a starting point for the larger bench](#)
20. [Mission Karmyogi: An attempt to change the face of civil services](#)
21. [7 ways to tango with Taiwan](#)
22. [Does India need a population policy](#)
23. [An attempt at tilting the balance of power: How the government is trying to control Big Tech](#)
24. [Judges are hardly snoozing on vacations](#)
25. [A court for our times](#)

General Studies - 3

1. [Why India Inc. is not taking a Hanuman leap](#)
2. [The cause of science](#)
3. [India's drug problem: Why WHO's alert over Indian medicines in Gambia should not be ignored](#)
4. [The fate of chips will decide the fate of nations](#)
5. [What an e-rupee really is must be crystal clear](#)
6. [Is IAF ready for future wars?](#)
7. [Building resilient mineral supply chain](#)
8. [Do we really need the e-rupee?](#)
9. [Ineffective implementation: Ban on single-use plastic is not working](#)
10. [Why NPAs are not just about bank governance](#)
11. [Solutions by the people, solutions for the people](#)
12. [FDI and the ordinary Indian](#)
13. [Oil & Gas: A discouraging history](#)
14. [Disintermediation: An overblown bank scare](#)
15. [The war against illegal goods as India's fight](#)
16. [We need a forest-led COP27](#)
17. [Falling reserves and the bogey of the RBI's role](#)

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

18. [Govt's ethanol blending programme faces supply and pricing problem](#)
19. [Lessons from Maiden: Gambia deaths raise several questions](#)
20. [Overtaxing online gaming will favour grey operators](#)
21. [Indian Deep Tech and a case for a strategic fund](#)
22. [Through a 40-year prism: India's record creditable, but not outstanding](#)
23. [Smash hit – On DART mission](#)
24. [Metaverse in India: The challenge of buying land and painting houses](#)
25. [Do not ignore the role of woman livestock farmer](#)



General Studies Paper – 1

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

General Studies - 1

1. [Act quickly: Hate speech gets encouragement with late action from cops and courts. Parties must get tough too](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “Act quickly: Hate speech gets encouragement with late action from cops and courts. Parties must get tough too” published in The Times of India on 12th October 2022.

Syllabus: GS1- Communalism. GS3- Security issues

News– The article explains the reasons for hate speeches. It also provides the solution to curb instances of hate speech.

Recently there were instances of elected representatives of parties and religious organizations giving hate speeches.

What are the reasons behind encouragement for hate speech?

Lack of quick and meaningful police and legal actions encourages hate speech.

There are delays by the police in registering FIR.

Courts take a very long time to decide the cases related to hate speeches.

Political parties do not act against their members giving hate speeches.

What is the way forward?

Police forces have to be vigilant and proactive in registering FIRs, making arrests, filing chargesheets and pursuing trials.

Political parties should show zero tolerance for hate speeches.

Higher courts should take a proactive stand. They should supervise a few hate speeches. If necessary, they should also pull up lower courts.

A separate law on hate speeches is unnecessary. It can be misinterpreted.

2. [About the shift in the Indian monsoon: The lingering monsoon](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**The lingering monsoon**” published in the **Indian Express** on **12th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS -1 – Important Geophysical phenomena

Relevance: About the shift in the Indian monsoon

News: Incessant rain over Delhi and several other parts of North and Northwest India over the last few days provide further evidence of the shifting patterns in monsoon activity over the Indian subcontinent.

What is the shift in the Indian monsoon?

STATION	ONSET		WITHDRAWAL		Existing dates for normal onset and withdrawal of the southwest monsoon based on 1901–40 data; new dates being used by IMD from June 1, 2020 based on 1961–2019 and 1971–2019 data for onset and withdrawal respectively.
	New	Existing	New	Existing	
Hyderabad	Jun 8	Jun 7	Oct 14	Oct 15	
Pune	Jun 10	Jun 9	Oct 11	Oct 6	
Mumbai	Jun 11	Jun 10	Oct 8	Sept 29	
Ahmedabad	Jun 21	Jun 14	Sept 30	Sept 22	
Kolkata	Jun 11	Jun 10	Oct 12	Oct 14	
Lucknow	Jun 23	Jun 20	Oct 3	Sept 30	
New Delhi	Jun 27	Jun 23	Sept 25	Sept 22	
Chandigarh	Jun 26	Jul 1	Sept 22	Sept 22	

Source: Indian Express

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

The monsoon season earlier confined neatly to the four-month June-September period. But it is clearly spilling over into October now. The monsoon rainfall has also become more erratic — fewer rainy days but more intense rain. Extreme rainfall events are increasing both in intensity and frequency. For instance, Delhi had its fourth-wettest October of the last 120 years.

The recent spell of rainfall over Western Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Eastern Rajasthan and Delhi were a result of the interaction of monsoon winds, moving east to west, with the western disturbance wind system. Such interactions happen several times during the monsoon season.

Due to this, three years ago, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had revised the expected dates of onset and withdrawal of the monsoon for several regions of the country. The withdrawal dates for North, Northwest and Central India were pushed back by one to two weeks to account for the trends witnessed over the last 50 years.

What is the reason for the shift in the Indian monsoon?

Climate change: The shift in the Indian monsoon is being driven primarily by **climate change**.

Global warming: One possible reason for the spillover of monsoon rainfall to October could be the fact that the oceans (**Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea**) are now warmer than earlier.

Warmer ocean currents help the formation of monsoon winds. Earlier, rainfall during the monsoon season would bring down the temperature of the ocean. But possibly because of global warming, the oceans continue to remain warm even after the traditional monsoon season is over. Similarly, a warmer atmosphere has a greater capacity to hold water. When this water is finally released, it often results in a heavier downpour.

What are the challenges associated with the shift in the Indian monsoon?

A challenge for forecasting: The IMD has over the past 10-12 years, invested heavily in setting up observational equipment, upgrading computing resources, and fine-tuning weather forecast models. But despite that, the IMD is battling public perception for its generic forecasts.

Impact on Indian economy: A significant part of Indian agriculture still depends on monsoon rainfall for irrigation. The supply of drinking water and the generation of electricity are also linked to the monsoon.

Dam management: Most reservoirs in the northern and central parts of the country seek to attain full capacity levels by the end of September because not much rain is expected after that.

What needs to be done to adapt to the shift in the Indian monsoon?

Augment IMD capacity: Capacity upgradation has to be a continuous exercise. So, India need to set up more observation stations, collect more data, and do more computing.

Follow-up action in agriculture and economy: Not just the preferred time of sowing of crops, but the entire cropping cycle — even the choice of crops — might need to be changed.

General Studies Paper – 2

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

General Studies - 2

1. [Getting it right, in five ways: Commerce and industry minister says growth will receive a big boost from new logistics policy](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Getting it right, in five ways: Commerce and industry minister says growth will receive a big boost from new logistics policy**” published in **The Times of India** on **10th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2

Relevance: benefits of New Logistic Policy

News: The government has recently come up with the New Logistics Policy (NLP). It will benefit India in many ways and lead India towards a developed country in coming 25 years.

What are the components of NLP?

New Logistics Policy focuses on 5 ‘R’s. They are –

1. Getting the right product;
2. In the right condition;
3. At the right place;
4. At the right time;
5. To the right customer.

What are the benefits of the new logistics policy?

Costs: It will reduce logistics costs from an estimated 13-14% of GDP to single-digit. The policy will benefit small farmers and many MSMEs by lowering the transportation costs.

Farmers: This will benefit farmers as they have to sell their products at low prices due to the fear of rotting. However, the NLP will improve connectivity and benefit farmers by giving them the required price of their products.

Governance: The New Logistics Policy along with PM Gati Shakti will end the isolation in the governance of infrastructure.

- These policies will help in building high-quality rural roads and expressways, improving container turnaround time, faster and safer railways and dedicated freight corridors amongst others.

Exporters: Exporters will gain a lot from better logistics as their goods will become more competitive and can be delivered to buyers in a faster and more predictable manner.

- The Unified Logistics Interface Platform has been launched under the NLP to help exporters facing various hurdles in exports such as compiling shipping bill numbers.
- Further, a digital platform named Ease of Logistics Services (eLOGS) under the logistics policy will help resolve any issue faced by the exporters.

India has already seen improvement in its logistics before by the movement of oxygen and food during the peak of pandemic.

Further, this new policy will boost the economy by creating jobs, eliminating disparities between wealthy metropolitan areas and the countryside and creating massive savings from efficiency gains.

2. [The coalition of the world](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**The coalition of the world**” published in **The Hindu** on **10th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- International Relations

Relevance– Global governance

News- The article explains the challenges faced by the UN-led multilateral framework. It explains the guiding framework for future multilateral engagement.

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

What are challenges to the UN led multilateral framework?

While addressing the United Nations General Assembly The Secretary General said that the world is in big trouble. We need to create mechanisms of dialogue to heal divides.

Multilateralism is under challenge by its proponent, the USA. The dispute settlement mechanism of WTO is dysfunctional due to lack of quorum. G7 countries have not fulfilled their promise of providing 100 billion dollar every year to fight climate change.

China is developing alternate institutions for multilateral cooperation. Belt and Road initiative is one such institution. It covers half of world population, one-third of GDP and has investment of \$930 billion.

There is a deep divide between the Atlantic powers and Russia-China combine.

What should be the guiding framework?

In a multipolar world, there is a need for new rules and principles that are focused upon human well-being.

There is a need for bid ideas. We should move away from multilateral focus on global rules, amount of aid and IPR inviolability.

“**Vasudhaiva kutumbakam**” or ‘world as one family’, can be the core of a set of universal principles for a dialogue between the states.

There is a need for redefining ‘**common concerns**’ in terms of felt needs of the majority rather than interests and concerns of the powerful.

We need a global consensus around equitable sustainable development.

India’s Presidency of the Group of 20, UNSC in 2022, and the SCO in 2023 presents a historic opportunity to guide the future framework.

3. [Status beyond faith: The panel on giving SC status to converts has its work cut out](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Status beyond faith: The panel on giving SC status to converts has its work cut out**” published in **The Hindu** on **10th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Indian Constitution—historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

Relevance: About historical discrimination post-religious conversion.

News:

The Centre has appointed a three-member Commission to examine the sensitive issue of extending Scheduled Caste (SC) status to all those who have historically suffered discrimination and untouchability, regardless of the religion they now profess.

About the Panel to study SC status of Dalits post-conversion

Must Read: [Panel to study SC status of Dalits post conversion](#)

What are the previous instances of historical discrimination post-religious conversion?

In 1985, the Supreme Court agreed that historical discrimination may continue even after members of the SCs convert to other religions. But it did not decide in favour of converts being given SC status as it felt there was not enough material outlining their condition after conversion.

The **National Commission for Religious and Linguistic Minorities**, headed by retired Chief Justice **Ranganath Mishra**, also examined this issue. In its 2007 report, the panel made a categorical recommendation in favour of giving SC status to Dalits belonging to all religions. It found the caste system to be “an all-pervading social phenomenon in India shared by almost all Indian communities”.

Must read: [The criterion for SC status](#)

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

What are the counter-views about providing SC status post-religious conversion?

1) Social discrimination and deprivation are the consequences of the caste-based Hindu social order. So, the SC status should not be extended to those who have converted to Christianity and Islam, **2)** If SC benefits are provided irrespective of all religions, then it may be seen as an incentive to mass conversion, **3)** The share of the reservation pie available to Dalits among Hindus may shrink if new sections are included. There is no 'creamy layer' concept for SC reservation, and expanding its scope may be to the disadvantage of the current beneficiaries.

4. [Russia's continued defiance of international law](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "**Russia's continued defiance of international law**" published in **The Hindu** on **11th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations

Relevance: Russia and Ukraine war

News: Russia has continued invading Ukraine despite widespread condemnation and sanctions. Around 141 countries in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution demanding Russia to immediately and unconditionally withdraw from Ukraine.

International Court of Justice (ICJ) also ordered Russia to immediately suspend its military operations in Ukraine. However, Russia has continued its war against Ukraine.

What are the stands of Russia on war?

Russia has recently annexed Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia, and Kherson regions of Ukraine. Russia claims that these regions have had referendums and decided to join Russia.

However, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has pointed out that referenda in Ukraine were conducted in areas that are under Russian occupation.

Therefore, referendums in those regions may not constitute expression of the popular will of the people. Further, Russia has misused the international laws in favouring its position.

How Russia has misused the UN charter?

Russian President often invokes the UN Charter to justify his actions to the people of Russia. He referred to Article 51 of the UN Charter just before invading Ukraine. The article provides for self-defence against an armed attack. However, it was wrong to refer the article as Russia did not have any threat from Ukraine.

He has currently referred to Article 1 of the Charter when he announced illegal annexations.

The reason behind using this article was that it provides the right of self-determination to the people and Putin wanted to say that the people of annexed regions did not have this right.

However, the right of self-determination under international law is debatable.

This right is also present in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It says that a group of people can freely determine their political status.

However, Article 1 has to be read with Article 2 of the UN Charter. Article 2 provides for the principle of non-intervention as one of the seven core principles of the UN.

Moreover, the principle of self-determination in Article 1 of the UN Charter has been understood in the context of decolonization rather than the annexation of new territories.

What does the international rule say on occupation of any territory?

Russia's recent control over the four Ukrainian regions before referendums is known as 'belligerent occupation' under the international law.

The Hague Convention of 1899 talks about the rules on belligerent occupation.

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

Article 43 of the Convention states that if a country has occupied the territory of another country, then the country which has occupied the territory should take all steps to re-establish and ensure public order and safety in those territories.

Moreover, the occupant country shall respect the domestic laws of the country whose territory it has occupied.

Therefore, Russia has violated Article 43 of the Hague Convention by annexing the Ukrainian territories and imposing its laws on those territories.

Moreover, the Article also states that Russia, being the occupier, only has 'authority' and not 'sovereignty' over these regions. Further, any change in this status, i.e., from 'authority' to 'sovereignty' can only happen with Ukraine's consent.

Moreover, the Russian President has recently said that he can use nuclear weapons in the war against the Ukraine.

What are the emerging threats of a nuclear war?

Russia and Ukraine have not signatories of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear-Weapons. However, the UN Charter is helpful to understand the legality of the nuclear threats.

The Charter provides the right of individual and collective self-defence which means that if Russia launches a nuclear attack, not only Ukraine but also its allies can launch a counter-attack on Russia in collective self-defence.

Furthermore, the Charter empowers the Security Council to take action even in the case of threat of force.

Therefore, it seems that international laws have not been enough to stop Russia from invading Ukraine and there is a need to look into it.

5. [Indian prisons are stretched to their limits](#)

Source: The post is based on an article **"Indian prisons are stretched to their limits"** published in **The Hindu** on **11th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

Relevance: issues associated with prisons in India

News: The prisons in India are over-crowded. The National Crime Records Bureau's 'Prison Statistics India' reports have provided various data on the condition of prison in India.

What does the data say about the over-crowded prison?

The capacity of prisons has increased from some 3.32 lakh to 4.25 lakh in the last decade, which is a 27% increase while the number of prisoners has increased from 3.7 lakh to 5.54 lakh in the same period, by 48%.

This imbalance has caused the occupancy rate to surge from 112% to 130% in the last decade. The problem of over-crowding was worse in the northern States/Union Territories (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Delhi). The occupancy rate crossed 180% in 2021 in these regions.

Moreover, the occupancy rate out of the 36 States and UTs increased in 26 states while in 18 of the states had the occupancy rate more than 100% in the year 2021.

However, the occupancy rate decreased in Chhattisgarh and Punjab by 108% points and 51% points respectively.

Among UTs the occupancy rate was highest in Delhi between the year 2011 and 2021. The occupancy rate increased from 60% to 183%, which is 122% increase.

These data provide for the Indian prisoners while the data on foreign prisoners also show the dismal condition.

What does the data say on prison officers?

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

Over 60% of officer positions were vacant in 2019 in Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand and less than ₹20,000 was spent on each prison inmate in 2019-20 in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra.

Therefore, there are high vacancies for prison officers in some states and also the money spent on each prison inmate also varies widely across States.

6. [How China reduced poverty; lessons for India](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Explainspeaking: How China reduced poverty; lessons for India**” published in **The Indian Express** on **11th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Social Justice

Relevance: measures to alleviate poverty in India

News: The World Bank has recently released a report on global poverty.

The report stated that economic disruption brought by Covid-19 and the Ukraine war had produced “an outright reversal” in poverty reduction across the planet.

The pace of poverty reduction had been slowing down since 2015. Further, the pandemic and Ukraine war have affected so much that the “world is unlikely to meet the goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030”.

What has the World Bank stated about India’s poverty levels?

According to the WB, India has the highest number of poor people.

Further, the data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) used by WB found that the number of people living in abject poverty increased by 56 million (5.6 crore) in 2020.

What did China achieve?

According to the WB, China lifted 765 million (76.5 crore) people from extreme poverty between 1978 and 2019.

This led to almost 75 per cent of the global reduction in the number of people living in extreme poverty in China. China has also achieved improvements in other measures of well-being.

For example, the Life expectancy at birth went from 66 years in 1978 to 77 years by 2019 and the infant mortality rate dropped from 52 in 1978 to 6.8 per thousand infants in 2019.

China’s improvement in health, education, and income over the four decades has led its position to rise from 106 (out of 144 countries) in 1990 to 85 (out of 189 countries) in 2019 in the Human Development Index.

How was China successful in alleviating poverty?

First, the rapid economic growth was supported by broad-based economic transformation in China. It provided new economic opportunities for the poor and raised average incomes.

- China started reforming from the agricultural sector where poor people got benefit directly from improvements in productivity associated with the introduction of market incentives.
- Further, the development of low-skilled, labor-intensive industries provided a source of employment for workers released from agriculture.
- Public investment in infrastructure improved living conditions in rural areas and it also connected them with urban and export markets.

Second, the government policies tried to alleviate persistent poverty.

- These policies initially targeted areas disadvantaged by location and a lack of economic opportunities. Later, the policies subsequently focused on poor households irrespective of their location.
- These policies also included social protection policies for poor households like specific programs in social assistance, social insurance, social welfare, etc.

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

Third, the success in China was made possible from effective governance. It acted as a key to the successful implementation of the growth strategy as well as the evolving set of targeted poverty reduction policies.

Fourth, China also got benefit from the high level of human capital. It is important to benefit from new economic opportunities once market reforms set in.

Fifth, China also invested massively in education and expansion of health care in 1950s that resulted in achievement later.

Therefore, China's poverty alleviation strategy can be characterized as development oriented with a focus on creating economic opportunities as a means to escape poverty and India can also learn from China.

7. [The message in a bottle on quality from Gambia](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "[The message in a bottle on quality from Gambia](#)" published in **Live Mint** on **11th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

Relevance: loopholes present in the regulation of pharma companies in India

News: 66 children have lost their lives in Gambia after consuming contaminated cough syrup manufactured in India. Findings of the various reports highlight quality issues in the cough syrup.

What are the findings of WHO?

WHO found unacceptable amounts of **diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol** in the syrups. They both are toxic for humans and can lead to serious injury or death, especially in children. Diethylene glycol is cheaper, which is why it could have been used by the manufacturer. However, manufacturers are responsible for maintaining quality and following good manufacturing practices.

The health ministry's statement that the four syrups made by Maiden Pharmaceuticals were meant for sale only in Gambia and not India is also misleading.

Moreover, investigation by other agencies also highlights that there has been violation of laws by the pharma company.

What are the findings of Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)?

The investigation carried out by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and state regulators suggest that there has been violation of laws by Maiden Pharmaceuticals.

Maiden's products have failed regulatory tests in several states. It was fined in Kerala for selling low-quality drugs and was blacklisted by Bihar.

Even though the drug maker continued to manufacture low quality drugs.

What are the regulatory problems associated with drug manufacturing companies in India?

The drug regulation in India works in isolation with other states and drugs that fail quality tests in one state can keep selling in other states.

There is also a lack of coordination among states and central regulators and it is further worsened by the absence of a central drug recall mechanism.

The CDSCO estimated that around 5% sub-standard drugs are being sold by Indian manufacturers and there is no proper measure to stop it.

Indian pharma companies have also been penalized by the US in the past for selling low quality drugs.

Therefore, compromise with medicines on standards can have devastating consequences at home or elsewhere in the world.

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

Bad drugs can cost lives and such losses make global news which may provide a negative image for India as a 'pharmacy of the world'.

Therefore, the government must take urgent steps to correct all issues in our drug testing and regulatory system.

8. [Too few rules: Without some codification, SC collegium will keep running into problems in selecting judges](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Too few rules: Without some codification, SC collegium will keep running into problems in selecting judges**” published in **The Times of India** on **11th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Judiciary

Relevance– Reforming the system of appointment of judges

News- The article explains the issues with the collegium system for appointment of judges.

What are the recent reforms introduced in the collegium system?

Procedure for vetting the previous judgements of the prospective candidates has been introduced for the first time.

What are the issues with the collegium system?

There is a lack of transparency in the college system. The appointments are not open to scrutiny. Very little part of the process followed by collegium has been codified after the second and third judges' case.

The collegium system is unable to cope whenever controversy over appointments arises.

Government has not been able to finalise the Memorandum of procedure for appointment of judges. It was mandated by the Supreme Court after it struck down the NJAC.

There is a lack of criteria for ap[pointment of eminent lawyers as SC judges.

9. [Throttled at the grass roots: how to strengthen decentralised governance](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Throttled at the grass roots: how to strengthen decentralised governance** ” published in **The Hindu** on **11th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Devolution of Powers and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein

Relevance– Democratic Decentralisation

News- The article explains the constitutional provisions related to devolution of powers to local government. It also tells about the issue faced by panchayats and the way forward to resolve them.

73rd and 74th constitutional amendments mandated the establishment of panchayats and municipalities. It devolved a range of powers and responsibilities to them.

What is devolution?

It is a formal assignment of power by law. It is accompanied by adequate financial and human resources to carry out this responsibility.

The Constitution empowers states to devolve necessary functions to panchayats. Given diverse habitation patterns, political and social history, it makes sense to mandate States to assign functions to local governments.

A study for the **Fourteenth Finance Commission** by the Centre for Policy Research, shows that all States have formally devolved powers with respect to five core functions of water supply, sanitation, roads and communication, streetlight provision and the management of community assets to the gram panchayats.

What are key issues with Panchayats?

Funding– The local bodies have inadequate funds.

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

The money provided to them is not flexible. They are mostly tied grants with conditionalities attached to them.

They cannot raise their own taxes and other charges.

Violation of constitutional mandate– The elections are not held regularly at intervals of five years. In Tamil Nadu, panchayat elections have not been held for over two years now, resulting in the State losing finance commission grants from the Union government.

Centralising tendencies– The current Union government has further centralised service delivery by using technology. Panchayats are nothing more than front offices for several Union government programmes.

These tendencies also exist in the case of urban governance. The Smart city programme does not devolve its funds to municipalities.

Corruption– Criminal elements and contractors win elections by bribing the voters. There operates a nexus between elected representatives and officials.

What is the way forward?

Empowering of Gram Sabhas- Gram Sabhas and ward committees need to be strengthened. Consultations with the grama sabha could be organised through smaller discussions where everybody can really participate. Even new systems of Short Message Services, or social media groups could be used for facilitating discussions between members of a grama sabha.

Organisation– Local government organisational structures have to be strengthened. Local governments must be enabled to hold State departments accountable and to provide quality, corruption free service to them, through service-level agreements.

Taxation powers– They should have taxation powers. It will introduce accountability for local governments.

10. [Pakistan-US: The Bajwa reset](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Pakistan-US: The Bajwa reset**” published in **The Indian Express** on **11th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- International Relations

Relevance– Pakistan angle US-India relationship

News- The article explains the reasons behind renewed engagement between the USA and Pakistan. It also suggest India to not worry about these development

What factors might explain the renewed engagement between the US and Pakistan?

Importance of Pakistan– Pakistan has always been taken into consideration by foreign policy establishment of western world.

Pakistan gains importance due to its **geostrategic location** that sits between the Indian Subcontinent, Iran, Arabia, Central Asia, Russia and China.

Pakistan continues to enjoy leverage both positive and negative due to its support for international terrorism. Whether it is promoting jihad against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s or in countering international terrorism during 2001-21, the Pakistan Army’s cooperation was seen as vital in Washington.

The Pakistan army controls the major decisions related to international diplomacy.

US- China relationship– The increasing tensions between the US and China has increased the importance of its neighbours.

Pakistan enjoyed productive relations with both the US and China. Pakistan has been a “major non-NATO ally” of the US. China and Pakistan define their partnership as an “all-weather relationship” that is “higher than Himalayas, deeper than the Indian Ocean, and sweeter than honey”.

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

China has been nudging Pakistan into the anti-American coalition led by Beijing and Moscow. Bajwa was concerned about Imran Khan going very close to China and Russia. The Pakistani army recognised the dangers of a strong Indo-US strategic partnership.

Improvement of US image in Pakistan– Imran Khan was arousing anti-American feelings in Pakistan. Imran Khan celebrated the US defeat and departure from Afghanistan in August 2021. He has accused the US officials of conspiring with Bajwa to oust him.

The USA wants Bajwa to have internal and external policies conducive to American interests.

What is Bajwa 's vision for Pakistan's external policies?

He wants the Pakistan army to stay away from politics. He prefers geo-economics over geopolitics. He has emphasised the importance of putting Pakistan's house in order and seeking regional peace to achieve that objective.

Why should India not be worried about renewed US engagement with Pakistan?

India's economy today at nearly \$3.5 trillion is 10 times larger than Pakistan's. Pakistan's political leverages against India have steadily weakened. Pakistan might be useful for the USA. But it will not regain its past position as a leading strategic partner of the US.

11. [Blaming technology for deaths by suicide is misguided](#)

Source: The post is based on an article **"Blaming technology for deaths by suicide is misguided"** published in **The Hindu** on **12th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

Relevance: concerns associated with suicides in India

News: The data released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for 2021 shows that suicide claimed 1,64,033 lives in that year.

What are the reasons for suicides?

One of the reasons for suicide today is the expanding role of digital technologies.

Technological factors such as cyberbullying, loss of self-esteem due to social media or heavy reliance on virtual followers are contributing to the issue of suicide.

It is true that the role of technology has increased human life and its influence will create positive as well as negative impacts on human life.

However, there is also a need to realize that technology is neither the main reason for a problem nor the perfect solution.

Although technology plays a role in mental health or in suicides, technology cannot only be blamed completely. There are other issues that need to be addressed in a comprehensive and holistic manner.

For example, according to a study in the U.S., participants who experienced cyberbullying, are more likely to commit suicide or attempt to it, compared to those who did not.

However, similar results are true even for those who are bullied in person.

Therefore, the medium of bullying is not an issue but it is the act of bullying that needs to be addressed.

Moreover, awareness campaigns, sensitisation programmes, community support, etc. can be adopted to find the solution to bullying.

What has led to higher suicide cases in Tamil Nadu and what are the solutions for it?

Reasons

Tamil Nadu has been consistently reporting highest shares of reported deaths by suicide in the country. It has reported over 11% of total cases in the previous decade and nearly 19,000 cases in 2021 alone.

The suicides in Tamil Nadu were mainly associated with playing online rummy games.

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

This led Tamil Nadu government to ban most online games played for money including rummy and poker.

Analysis of the data from the NCRB on deaths by suicide in Tamil Nadu makes it evident that the policy response is not adequate to address the magnitude of the crisis in the State.

According to the NCRB, family problems, illness, marriage/love-related issues, etc. alone contribute to more than two-thirds of the deaths by suicide in India.

Solutions

Evolve a holistic policy response to minimise future cases rather than top-down policy formulations which focuses only on a few high-profile incidents.

An inclusive community-based mental health and suicide-prevention approach.

The central government is already accepting technology in improving mental health outcomes for citizens. Like the announcement of the National Tele-Mental Health Program. It provides access to free, round-the-clock mental health interventions in remote and underserved areas.

Therefore, it is wrong to blame only technology for the suicides and there is a need for effective policy to address inter-related causes.

12. India@75 looking at 100: What India's education system needs

Source: The post is based on an article “India@75 looking at 100: What India's education system needs” published in **The Indian Express** on 12th October 2022.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Social Justice

Relevance: problems with the Indian education system

News: The article discusses problems with the current education system in India and the importance of value education in the schools

What are the current problems with the Indian education system?

Ignorance: Educated class has not been sensitized enough about our country and the social issues of the nation, by our education system.

Because they have never been trained to look beyond their personal needs or comfort zones.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for a program of education for national understanding.

Value Education: Values Education is not recognized as integral to Indian schooling.

The pattern of schooling focuses on the material world and neglects the intangible aspects of our socio-culture.

Therefore, there is a need to train teachers committed to the promotion of peace and equality to hold value education classes through translated works.

What is the significance of translation of different work into mother tongue?

Translated texts silently open doors to different experiences and sensitize readers to experiences, feelings and situations completely different from their own.

Moreover, today we are struggling to move our education system towards English language but there are many people who even cannot read his or her mother tongue.

Therefore, there is a need to invest in two things: Translation into and out of Indian languages and ethics education in schools and colleges.

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

13. Pension system should be fair and sustainable

Source: The post is based on an article “**Pension system should be fair and sustainable**” published in **Live Mint** on **12th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

Relevance: issues associated with the old pension system.

News: There is a growing push to switch back to India’s old system of state pensions. The promises are being made to lure the voters in the upcoming elections. These types of promises make fiscal reforms difficult and acts burden on the state.

How does the NPS and old pension schemes work?

The central and state government pensions were moved to the National Pension System (NPS) on January 1, 2004.

It acts like a retirement fund that promises to pay back a monthly pension depending on the amount of money contributed by workers during their work life.

It is like a long-range investment scheme whereas the previous pension system assured a fixed amount depending upon the one’s last drawn salary and was adjusted with inflation.

The old pension system provides the workers a fixed pay out based on the last drawn salary.

What are the problems with the old pension system?

Offering a fixed pensions can turn into an excessive burden for the government. Thus, the decision to move back to the old pension system can affect the finances of the states as they are already under heavy pension obligations.

A State Bank of India research report estimated that pensions involve big proportion of amount of the total committed expenditures of states. It was 125% of their own revenue receipts for the year 2020-21.

States that are poor will find it hard to afford the pension amount as they have other uses for the public money.

Further, the government has limited resources to perform a huge set of tasks and moving to an old pension system will be difficult for the government.

What can be the course of action?

States should stay with the NPS which is fiscally sensible and put employs of the private and public sector on an equal footing.

A probable long-term solution is to ask workers to put money into a savings scheme that would pay it back later instead of putting money in the pension schemes of the government.

14. We have come a long way on abortion rights in India

Source– The post is based on the article “**We have come a long way on abortion rights in India**” published in the **Live Mint** on 12th October 2022.

Syllabus: GS2- Fundamental rights. GS1- Social empowerment

Relevance- Women and related issues

News- The article explains the decision by the Supreme Court that allows unmarried women to terminate pregnancy between 20 and 24 weeks under Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

Earlier Delhi High Court dismissed the plea of a single woman to terminate her 23 weeks pregnancy. It observed that single women are not included under the ambit of rule 3B of MTP Act, 1971. Rule 3B allows termination of pregnancy between 20 and 24 weeks.

What are key takeaways of the judgement?

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

It puts married and unmarried women on equal footing. It **includes different categories of women** like survivor of rape, women with physical disability, minor girls, women suffering from foetal abnormalities under the ambit of rule 3B of MTP Act to avail abortion services.

It recognizes the right to reproductive autonomy, right to dignified life and right to privacy of women under MTP Act. It reaffirms the SC decision in **Suchita Srivastava case vs Chandigarh Administration case** that places the right to reproductive autonomy under Article 21.

It says that **prohibition on unmarried women** to have safe abortion services between 20-24 weeks is violation of right to equality under Article 14.

It addresses the discriminatory behavior of doctors against single women. It gives suggestive directions to doctors to **refrain from imposing extra-legal conditions** like consent of the family, authorization of courts etc.

It addresses the social stigma related to sexual intercourse by single women. It precludes the law from narrow patriarchal principles.

15. [The Court and the problem with its collegium](#)

Source: The post is based on an article **“The Court and the problem with its collegium”** published in **The Hindu** on **13th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

News: The Chief Justice of India, Justice U.U. Lalit is set to vacate his office on November 8, 2022. He along with his collegium has the task to name the successor for the next CJI but it seems there have been problems with the names.

What are the problems with the collegium system, as per the author?

Following are the issues, as per the author of the source article Sriram Panchu. He is a Senior Advocate of Madras High Court.

The problem with collegium is that there is no one in the collegium to check the problems and working of the collegium.

It is an **extra-constitutional body brought in existence by the judgments** if the Supreme Court which provides power of appointment to the judges only and thus creating issues.

The **Constitution of India provided** that the President of India will appoint the judges of the after consulting the court. However, the **judgements of the SC for the collegium have reversed it** and appointment has been done by the court with the consultation with the government.

Further, there is **no seat in the collegium for any non-judge** neither from the executive, the Bar or anywhere else to raise the functioning of the collegium.

The **SC also struck down National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)**. It comprised three judges, the Law Minister and two eminent persons to handle the task of appointing judges. There were concerns that three judges in NJAC may be overruled in the appointment of judges.

However, the probable option could have been to struck down the second eminent person from the Act and secure a situation where the judges were in the majority.

This could have secured judicial primacy, with some executive involvement as well as had one person representing a larger public constituency. This would have been generated accountability in the appointment of judges.

What are other problems with the appointment of judges and what can be the course of action?

There have been no appointments from the category of distinguished jurists stated in Article 124 of the Constitution.

Further, appointments to the top court seem to be the preserve of judges from the High Courts along with a few appointments from the Bar.

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

Therefore, there is a need to secure a better, broad-based and transparent method of appointing senior judges to the High Courts and the Supreme Court.

16. [Measure topography to ensure the equitable delivery of goods and services to all](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Measure topography to ensure the equitable delivery of goods and services to all**” published in **The Indian Express** on **13th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Federalism

Relevance– Central and state finances

News- The article explains the creation of the Finance Commission. It also explains the need for improvement in methodology for fund transfers to states by the Finance Commission.

What is the history behind the Finance Commission?

Government of India Act, 1935 had provision for grants in aid to provinces in need of assistance.

Niemeyer Report (1936), Krishnamachari Enquiry Committee Report (1949) and Sarkar Committee Report (1948) also suggested creation of such a body.

What is the logic behind creation of the Finance Commission?

The basic idea behind its creation is **equity between states**.

State has to provide a basket of goods and services. The states have differential sources of revenue. Cost of delivering these things also varies across states.

The cost of delivering social and physical infrastructure also varies across states.

Why topographical area rather than geographical area needs to be considered for devolution of funds to states?

Calculating the costs is not easy. The Finance Commission has more challenging tasks vertical as well as horizontal distribution of resources.

There are broadly three approaches used by the Finance Commission to measure fiscal capacity- (a) expenditure equalisation based on costs of public services; (b) revenue equalisation measured by the ability of the state to raise revenue from one or more sources; and (c) macro-indicators that estimate fiscal capacity.

The cost of expenditure incurred by states is mostly measured through geographical area and population. Larger the area, the larger the expenditure.

But geographical area alone is not sufficient to calculate the expenditure requirement. Topography also matters. The cost of infrastructure creation is not the same across plains and hilly areas.

Cost calculation should be based on topographical area. Improvement in technology has made it possible to calculate it.

17. [Donors R Us: It's absurd that police confuses online crowdfunding with begging. Stop fraud not charity](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Donors R Us: It's absurd that police confuses online crowdfunding with begging. Stop fraud not charity**” published in **The Times of India** on **13th October 2022**. **Syllabus:** GS2- Development process and development industry

News- The article explains the issue related to the new phenomena of crowdfunding for charitable purposes.

Recently a show-cause notice was served on a crowdfunding platform. The Bombay high court has asked the state to answer whether private organizations are permitted to do online crowdfunding for medical treatments.

Why should government agencies not discourage crowdfunding?

Crowdfunding has very diversified interests in the world today. It's a very competitive sector. So, using images of children for children causes to appeal to potential donors is understandable. It is not begging.

Their business helped many families pay medical bills during the pandemic.

India has gross inequalities and poor health services. Crowdfunding can help deprived families in many ways.

What measures should be taken by different stakeholders to stop the fraudulent practices?

Complaints of fraud should be seriously investigated. It should be punished through IPC provisions against criminal breach of trust and cheating.

Donors should do due diligence while making contributions.

18. The democratisation of India, the Mandal way

Source: The post is based on an article **“The democratisation of India, the Mandal way”** published in **The Hindu** on **14th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Social Justice

Relevance: history of social justice in India

News: The article discusses how the changes were made for the depressed classes in India.

‘Mandal’ was a socio-political movement that changed the demographic diversity of people’s representatives in India. It was also known as ‘India’s Silent Revolution’ by Christophe Jaffrelot.

How did the concept of social justice transformed from the colonial era?

The path to social justice in modern India was started by social revolutionaries such as Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, etc. during the colonial rule.

But the policy for depressed came only after B.R. Ambedkar brought the issue at the national level.

The “depressed classes” (Dalits) and “tribals” (Adivasis) were listed as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively by 1935.

Later, the Constitution of India recognized these depressed classes and came with the benefits of reservation in education and employment.

However, a large section of the backward classes and occupational caste groups remained socially and educationally backward and their presence in elite services remained dismal.

The post-independence years was dominated by Nehruvian socialism but the polity and governance remained in the hands of upper castes.

Moreover, caste-class division was debated in the Constituent Assembly and it was thought that backward classes would be backward communities.

But B.R. Ambedkar was against this view of the Constituent Assembly and he said: “...a backward community is a community which is backward in the opinion of the government...”

Further, the Mandal report stated that a caste can be a social class in India.

How did the Constitution of India bring social justice?

Article 340 of the Constitution led the formation of two backward class commissions namely – the Kalelkar Commission (1953-1955) and the Mandal Commission (1978-80).

The Mandal Commission submitted a report that changed the scenario of the backward class in India and it led to “Mandal movement”. It was a campaign for implementing the recommendations of the Mandal Commissions.

The announcement of the implementation of one of the recommendations (27% reservation for the OBC in the central services) of the Mandal Commissions led the “Mandal moment”.

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

Further the 73rd and 74th Amendments took the idea of social justice by extending reservation benefits to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs and Horizontal reservation to all women.

In 2006, reservations were extended to OBC candidates in institutions of higher learning which was popularly known as Mandal II.

How did Mandal commission report helped in bringing social justice in other religions?

Mandal recognized socially and educationally backward castes and communities irrespective of their religion.

Pasmanda (backward in Persian) movement emerged among backward Muslims demanding democratisation and representation.

Further, the Mandal report recognised a large section of Muslims and Christians who converted from Hinduism and a majority of them were continuing with their earlier caste-based occupations.

19. Supreme Court's split verdict on hijab frames a fraught issue and offers a starting point for the larger bench

Source: The post is based on an article “**Supreme Court's split verdict on hijab frames a fraught issue and offers a starting point for the larger bench**” published in **The Indian Express** on **14th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

Relevance: SC views on the Hijab case of Karnataka

News: The issue of Hijab in the dress code occurred when Muslim students in the government-run Pre-Government College in Karnataka's Udupi district were prevented from entering classrooms on account of wearing hijab.

The state government further ordered that colleges should ensure that clothes which disturb, equality, integrity and law and order shouldn't be worn.

The Karnataka HC ratified this order on March 15 by invoking the essential practices doctrine. The order of the Karnataka court was further challenged in the SC.

What was SC judgment in the Hijab case?

The Supreme Court couldn't arrive at a unanimous decision and it has referred the case to the senior bench. However, there were different views given by the judges on the case.

Justice Hemant Gupta agreed with the Karnataka government and said that order of the government was only to “promote uniformity and encourage a secular environment” in the classroom.

However, Justice Dhulia emphasized that core issue is “a matter of choice” and a concern regarding education.

He further said that this case has also to be seen in the perspective of the challenges already faced by a girl child in reaching her school.

He invoked the verdict of SC in the **Bijoe Emmanuel (1986) case** and said that the issue is of the choice and whether we are making the life of a girl child better by denying her education only because of hijab.

Moreover, the situation of closing gates for Muslim students' girls wearing head scarf could be a setback for the education amongst the girls of the minority community.

It is the education that has empowered the young girls to fight for their rights. Therefore, it is expected from SC to come up with a balanced judgment.

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

20. [Mission Karmyogi: An attempt to change the face of civil services](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Mission Karmyogi: An attempt to change the face of civil services**” published in **The Indian Express** on **14th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance. GS4- Probity in Governance

Relevance– Reforms in civil services

News- The article explains the Mission Karmyogi programme of the central government for training civil servants.

What is Mission Karmyogi?

It sets up a **capacity building commission**.

Its aim is to develop an effective **citizen-centric civil service**.

It is targeted at employees of both centre as well as states.

It focuses on improving the professional and investigative skills of the police force.

It is about creating a civil service with **domain and technological competencies**. Government will play an enabling and regulatory role in the future private sector led market economy. This requires a civil service that has the domain knowledge of a specific sector.

The people who deal with regulation are deputed to the private sector to facilitate cross-learning.

It will reduce friction between the public and private sector.

What are some facts related to the capacity building approach followed by the programme?

The **Capacity Building Commission** has worked closely with the Department of Economic Affairs. It also coordinated with the UK's National Infrastructure Authority, IIM Ahmedabad and Larsen and Toubro project management learning centre **to develop online learning courses**.

The **capacity-building approach** adopted by the Mission has been guided by the “**70-20-10**” **formula**. Seventy per cent adult learning comes from on job experience, 20 per cent is a result of peer-to-peer sharing and only 10 per cent comes from classroom teaching.

Capacity Building Commission is working with government-run civil servant training institutions to provide classroom and online instruction.

The CBC is also providing training for section officers and assistant section officers. The focus has shifted from educating the officers about routine administrative practices. It is providing them **operational and practical skills** such as working on government E-procurement portals.

How is Mission Karmyogi different?

Earlier training programmes were focused on mostly first-class officers. Mission Karmyogi includes all categories of employees at central and state level.

The programme is guided by the “**Whole Government**” **approach**. Training resources are being shared across departments and silos are being broken. The CBC worked closely with the Climate Change Training Institute and the Wildlife Institute of India to tackle the problem of animal accidents on railway lines.

21. [7 ways to tango with Taiwan](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**7 ways to tango with Taiwan**” published in **The Times of India** on **14th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- International Relations

Relevance– Strengthening of ties between India and Taiwan.

News- The article explains the steps needed to be taken by India to improve its relationship with Taiwan.

Recently Taiwanese semiconductor giant Foxconn partnered with Vedanta to invest 1.54 lakh crore toward semiconductor manufacturing.

Why does Taiwan want a close relationship with India?

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

Economic ties are important. But we cannot ignore the **geopolitical environment**. Taiwan wants other nations especially in the Indo-Pacific to display friendship towards.

Both India and Taiwan are democracies. Both are also facing **Chinese aggression**.

What is the way forward for improving ties?[Text Wrapping Break]**Take a stand**– We need to take a stand on issues concerning Taiwan. Foreign Ministry comment on tension in Taiwan strait was well received by Taiwan.

Open more Taiwan centres– Government should permit Taiwan to set up an office of Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in Mumbai . These types of centres will lead to more investment in India.

Legislators visit– We should send a multi-party delegation to Taiwan. Other countries like the US, Japan send these types of delegations.

Civil society engagement– There is a need for more non-state exchanges with Taiwan. India will be benefitted by Taiwan's deep understanding of communist China.

Focus on supply chain– Taiwan is looking for India's help in building a resilient supply chain. India should set up a single window mechanism for firms interested in investment. State government should set up sherpa for every major investment by Taiwanese firms.

India-Taiwan FTA– Both countries should conclude a free trade agreement between them. The bilateral trade was around \$7 billion in 2021. Studies show that there is great scope for FTA between two countries.

Moe scholars exchange– Both countries should increase scholarly exchange between them. There is a programme that enables academic institutions in Taiwan to send Chinese language teachers to India. It must be expanded.

22. Does India need a population policy

Source– The post is based on the article “**Does India need a population policy**” published in **The Hindu** on **14th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS1- Human geography. GS2- Government policies

Relevance– Demography and related issues

News- The article explains the need for a new approach to population related issues. It also explains whether we need a new population policy.

United Nations data shows that India would surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2023. According to the 2018-19 Economic Survey, India's demographic dividend will peak around 2041.

What should be our approach to population related issues?

We need to move from a **family planning approach to a family welfare approach**. The focus should be on empowering men and women to make informed choices about their fertility, health and well-being.

Focus should be upon productivity of the population. Economic planning that ensures good jobs, agriculture productivity is the way ahead.

Is automation a solution to the negative economic effects of an ageing population?

Estimates show that 12% of India's total population by 2025 is going to be the elderly. Every fifth Indian by 2050 will be over the age of 65.

Automation makes a big difference to the productivity of individuals. However, it doesn't replace human nature and human touch. Automation does not provide the emotional warmth and security that family members provide to each other. We need to figure out how to address ageing in the context of changing families and the nature of state support in India.

What is need to tap into increasing young population.

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

We have the capacity to tap into the potential of our youth population.

We need to invest in adolescent well-being, if we want to reap the benefits of demographic dividend. Skilling and education of our large adolescent population can ensure their well being.

We need to address the effects of pandemic on the lives of adolescents and youths.

What are the implications of declining fertility rates?

It has dropped below the replacement level of 2.1

We need to recognise the gender dimension of some of these challenges. Fertility decline has tremendous gender implications. Ageing is also a gender issue as two-thirds of the elderly are women, because women tend to live longer than men do.

We need to improve employment opportunities for young women and increase the female employment rate. Elderly women need economic and social support networks.

We need to think about its implications for the political economy. In four other States, it has not declined much as compared to others. The future of India lies in the youth living in U.P., Bihar, M.P. We need to support these States in ensuring that their young people are available to the labour market and have sufficient skills. Otherwise, it will become an economic liability.

Do we need a population policy?

India has a very good population policy designed in 2000. States also have their population policies. We just need to add ageing to our population policy focus.

There is a need for more investments in family planning and overall investment in population.

We need a policy that supports reproductive health for individuals.

Discourse around population policy should be changed. Population control still remains a part of our dialogue. We need a policy that enhances population as resources for India's development.

We need to move away from the focus on the two-child norm. The two-child norm indicates a coercive approach to primarily one community.

23. [An attempt at tilting the balance of power: How the government is trying to control Big Tech](#)

How rationale are the justifications given Source: The post is based on an article “**An attempt at tilting the balance of power: How the government is trying to control Big Tech**” published in **The Indian Express** on **15th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

Relevance: issues with the government policies in the digital sector

Context: There has been attempts by the government to regulate each and every aspect of India's digital ecosystem.

This is evident from the proposed draft telecom bill, the personal data protection bill, etc. that require to regulate the physical infrastructure that forms the backbone of Digital India.

What are the aims of the government behind the regulation in digital sector?

First, Government's efforts are pointing towards localisation and giving preferences to domestic firms. It is bringing laws that promote them and limit the influence and dominance of Big Tech.

For example, the draft telecom bill. It proposes to bring OTT communication platforms under it by providing similar rules like those governing the telecom operators.

Second, as per the government, it is trying to create a level playing field and address the concerns of national security.

However, majority of the initiatives by the government are aimed at curbing the dominance of Big Tech instead of any economic logic.

by the government?

The current policy differentiates between the domestic companies and foreign companies, only in the digital sector.

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

If market concentration restricts competition, then the same argument should be extended to telecom operators. **For example**, ownership of spectrum is limited to few firms only.

The provisions of different bills seem to increase the controlling power of the government rather than create a level playing field.

This form of industrial policy which favours a few chosen domestic players while restricting foreign competition could lead inefficient and uncompetitive goods and services market.

This would also go against the government's aim of the digital economy.

If the concern is expansion of the foreign firms in India. Companies of Indian origin could be acquired by a foreign company or that receives funding from Big Tech.

24. [Judges are hardly snoozing on vacations](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Judges are hardly snoozing on vacations**” published in **The Times of India** on **15th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Structure and functioning of judiciary

Relevance– Issues related to judicial functioning

News- The article contains arguments against the general belief that the judiciary in India enjoys a large number of vacations.

What are arguments against higher vacation enjoyed by the judiciary?

Comparison with other countries– US Supreme Court (SC) hears arguments for five to six days a month. High Courts in Australia hear arguments for two weeks a month. In comparison, the SC of India conducts hearings for 190 days and High Courts for 210 days in a year. Followin are some other tasks:

The judges devote long hours before and after court time. They consume a lot of their time reading newly listed cases. The time spent only reading cases over the weekend is a minimum 15 hours. The judges spend a lot of time writing reasoned judgements. In some cases, judges require research on the question of law and its wider social ramifications.

They also have to perform administrative tasks like supervision of lower judiciary and appointment of judges.

Burden on judiciary- The Law Commission in 1987 recommended 107 judges per million. In 2002, SC also gave directions to increase the strength of to 50 judges per million in five years. But as of 2018, India has 18 judges per million.

A lot of judicial positions are vacant against the sanctioned strength.

In the 1950s, average disposal was 75 cases per judge. It increased to 3165 cases per judge.

Along with lack of judicial strength, judicial infrastructure is still in poor condition.

Malimath Committee report– It should not be read selectively. It has also suggested increasing the strength of the judiciary along with a reduction of vacations by 21 days.

For further reading- <https://blog.forumias.com/vacation-pe-vacation-no-major-country-has-their-top-court-going-on-long-holidays-neither-should-supreme-court/>

25. [A court for our times](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**A court for our times**” published in **The Indian Express** on **15th October 2022**. **Syllabus:** GS1- Social empowerment. GS2- Vulnerable

sections and fundamental rights

Relevance– Women and related issues

News- The article explains the recent Supreme Court ruling to include unmarried women in category of women who can seek abortion after 20 weeks under MTP Act, 1971.

What are the legal provisions related to termination of pregnancy?

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

Section 3(2) (B) of the MTP– Pregnancy can be terminated within 20 weeks.

If pregnancy is between 20 and 24 weeks, then two registered medical practitioners must be appointed. They must form an opinion that the continuation of the pregnancy would involve a risk to the life of the pregnant woman and will be dangerous for physical and mental health.

Rule 3B of MTP– It establishes categories of women who can terminate pregnancy between 20 and 24 weeks. It includes survivors of sexual assault, those undergoing a change in status of relationship, physically or mentally challenged and women with foetal abnormalities. It does not include unmarried women.

What are important aspects of Supreme Court ruling?

The petitioner approached the Supreme Court. Her plea was rejected by Delhi HC on the basis that rule 3B does not include unmarried women.

SC overruled the Delhi HC decision.

Supreme Court observed that unmarried women faces social stigma for engaging in pre-marital sexual relations. It prevents them from enjoying reproductive rights.

We should avoid literal interpretation and look at the intention of the legislature. Changing social norms should be taken care of while interpreting the law.

SC also noted the **transformative nature of the constitution**. It observed that legislation should not avoid the changing context of relationship and family. In the **Navtej Singh Johar case**, modern forms of familial relationships like single parents, live-in relationships were recognised.

It observed that Article 14 of the constitution provides equal citizenship to single and unmarried women. Legislation has always intended for equal status for single and unmarried women. It has done this through consistent reforms of law related to adoption, succession.

General Studies Paper – 3

General Studies - 3

1. [Why India Inc. is not taking a Hanuman leap](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Why India Inc. is not taking a Hanuman leap**” published in **The Hindu** on **10th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Industries and industrial policies

News: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has recently raised concern about slow corporate investment despite business-friendly measures taken by the government.

The corporate tax was cut in 2019 for existing companies to 22% from 30% and for new manufacturing companies to 15% from 25%. However, there has been rarely any improvement in the investments.

Private investment accounts for close to 75% of total capital formation in the economy. Therefore, its revival is essential for sustained growth of the economy.

What is the significance of public investment in the expansion of private investment?

The private capital formation last peaked in 2011–12 but it has been on decline at present.

The present government tried to **shift away from a state-driven model of economic development** and it announced the slogan of ‘minimum government’ to encourage private investments.

However, still the government maintained the level of public investment, but Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act kept it from expanding it any further.

Later, export growth declined due to the global financial crisis and the slowing of the world economy which led private investors to stop investing.

Even the ‘minimum government’ failed to expand aggregate demand when it was needed. Further steps like demonetization and GST also did not boost demand, which raised a sense of insecurity amongst private investors.

However, the government brought change after the pandemic by increasing the allocation of capital spending in Budget 2022 but it will take time to enhance the growth in India.

Therefore, the expansion in public investment should have been taken earlier by the government. The International Monetary Fund has also suggested that public investment can play the role of an engine of growth for the developing economies.

What can be the course of action?

First, if private investments are declining then the government can come up with public investments. It has also been proven from the history of India that public investments have led the growth in India.

- **For example**, the growth accelerations of the 1950s, the late 1970s, etc. Therefore, crowding in rather than crowding out characterizes the relationship between public and private capital formation in India.

Second, it is important to choose the right projects and the investment must be focused on productivity-enhancing infrastructure.

Third, the government should focus on overall growth of agricultural produce other than the superior cereals to control the inflation.

- This could also act as an opportunity to end India’s import dependence on edible oils and the persisting shortfall in the supply of vegetables.

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

2. [The cause of science](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**The cause of science**” published in **The Business Standard** on **10th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3

Relevance: Nobel Prize 2022 in science

News: Recently, Nobel Prize has been given in many fields which also include Chemistry, Physics and Medicine. The developments made in these fields are important for the development in science.

Who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry and for what achievement?

The Nobel prize of 2022 in chemistry prize went to Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, and Barry Sharpless (who also won a chemistry Nobel in 2001) for “the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry”.

Click chemistry helps in quick chemical reactions without unwanted by-products.

Bioorthogonal chemistry is a method of doing click chemistry within living cells without disrupting the normal functions of the cell.

These processes enable scientists to quickly and cheaply build new molecules which can be studied intensively.

It has many benefits as it can help in pharmaceutical research by making new drugs and also studying the impact of those drugs.

For example, bioorthogonal approach can help in studying the impact of cancer drugs in cells.

Who has been awarded Nobel Prize in physics and for what achievement?

The Nobel Prize in physics is shared among three individuals – Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser and Anton Zeilinger. They have separately investigated the rules for the working of entangled particles.

Entanglement between two paired particles means that a change in the state of one particle leads to a simultaneous change in the state of the other particle even if the pairs are separated by a distance.

This appears to violate the principle of relativity which says that not even information can travel faster than light. Albert Einstein described it as “spooky action”.

Anton Zeilinger demonstrated quantum teleportation using entanglement.

Quantum effects are important in cryptography and in computing.

Who has been awarded Nobel Prize in medicine and for what achievement?

The Nobel Prize 2022 in medicine has been awarded to Svante Pääbo.

He developed the field of paleogenetics by using modern DNA technology to examine the genomes of extinct branches of the human race.

He is also led the discovery of the Homo Denisovan sub-species and with sequencing the Neanderthal genome.

This discovery gives us many clues about Palaeolithic migration and socialisation patterns.

Further, this method can be used to extract and analyse ancient DNA from many other species.

Moreover, genes from extinct sub-species may have peculiar and useful effects in terms of affording immunity.

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

3. [India's drug problem: Why WHO's alert over Indian medicines in Gambia should not be ignored](#)

Source: The post is based on an article **"India's drug problem: Why WHO's alert over Indian medicines in Gambia should not be ignored"** published in **The Indian Express** on **10th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3

Relevance: low quality cough syrups in India and issues associated with it

News: Cough syrups manufactured by Maiden Pharmaceuticals has caused the deaths of 66 children in Gambia.

This has led Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) and state authorities to investigate into cough syrups.

What are the findings of the WHO?

WHO said that its laboratory analysis of samples of these syrups have revealed the presence of unacceptable amounts of diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol.

These chemicals are toxic to humans, and can result in abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, inability to pass urine, headache, and altered mental state. It can also lead to acute kidney injury that can prove fatal in children.

India stopped the use of cough syrups that contained these toxins after 17 children died in Jammu and Kashmir.

However, the initial inquiries have revealed that Maiden Pharmaceuticals manufactured the cough syrups only for export to Gambia.

What led to the manufacture of the cough syrups even though they were stopped by the government?

The Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940 says that the state authorities are responsible for monitoring the manufacture and sale of drugs. While CDSCO is responsible for laying down standards and providing expert advice to regulators in the states.

However, after the tragedy of Jammu and Kashmir there is very little information shared between the state and the centre.

Moreover, drugs that fail quality tests in one state continue to be sold in others due to the lack of binding mechanism to recall of such medicines.

What are the concerns associated with the low quality of drugs?

According to a CDSCO survey in 2014-2016, about five per cent of Indian drugs mostly manufactured by large pharma companies failed the quality test.

There has also been quality concern raised by national and international observers over the pharmaceutical products of India and many have been rejected for the quality.

Therefore, there is a need for the pharma industry to set up mechanisms for cooperation on quality control amongst firms.

Moreover, the situation like that of Gambia can harm India's hard-earned reputation of being the pharmacy of the Third World.

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

4. [The fate of chips will decide the fate of nations](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**The fate of chips will decide the fate of nations**” published in **The Hindu** on **10th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy

Relevance– Chips and semiconductor manufacturing

News- The article explains the reason behind increasing dependence on chips. It also tells about the factors that need to be considered by India in case of chip manufacturing.

Why has chip manufacturing gained the attention of the world?

They are very small in size. Apple’s new A16 chip has 16 billion transistors on it. Apple chips are mostly outsourced. Even a large company like Apple is not able to manufacture chips on its own. Besides, it is manufactured by very few countries like the USA, Taiwan.

Russia was not able to dominate Ukraine through war. Ukraine used precision-guided missiles powered by chips. Russia had a lack of these missiles due to unavailability of chips.

Toyota has to temporarily shut down its plants in Japan due to a shortage of chips.

Critical sectors such as defence, telecom and mobility are impacted by chip shortages. It would not end by 2023. Natural disasters in South Korea and Taiwan could worsen the crisis.

Further the \$200 billion investment put up by countries in chip making will not give instant results.

If China attacks Taiwan, it could disrupt the entire supply chain.

What factors need to be considered by India while putting investment in chip manufacturing?

India should be cautious. Previous attempts by Vietnam, Brazil and the USA have not yielded desired results.

Chip manufacturing requires a steady supply of electricity and billions of gallons of clean water. A chip manufacturing plant costs around 15 to 20 billion dollars. It takes time to make it profitable. Further the supply chain disruption by COVID-19 and the Ukraine war has complicated chip manufacturing.

5. [What an e-rupee really is must be crystal clear](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**What an e-rupee really is must be crystal clear**” published in the **mint** on **10th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3-

Relevance– Digital currency

News- The article explains the recent RBI concept note on Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

Which issues are clearly addressed in the RBI note?

The RBI note has clearly addressed the issue of monetary stability. Money supply due to e-rupee may lead to inflation.

It has clarity on danger of disintermediation. It rejects interest-paying CBDC as it might get enough funds to leave lenders out of the loop.

Which issues are not clearly addressed?

On Product-The two versions of CBDC will create misconfusion.

On placement- Banks and wallets will work as intermediaries. It will not create disruption. But we should have flexible technology to ensure its gradual shift to direct or hybrid models of finance. It will ensure that RBI can use deposit rates directly as tools and keep e-rupee saving free from bank failure.

On promotion– For promotion, UPI may be used as a base for retail CBDC. But we need cash like appeals for CBDC which has components like no need for ban and anonymity of transaction.

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

First component can be addressed by use of the internet. For the second component, we need privacy laws and anonymity of transactions. At this juncture, RBI can only ensure anonymity for small value transactions.

6. [Is IAF ready for future wars?](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Is IAF ready for future wars**” published in **The Times of India** on **10th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- security

Relevance– Challenges for security forces

News- The article shows the strengths and weaknesses of IAF. It shows the requirement of IAF in the context of hybrid wars.

What message does the recent use of the Air Force against China and Pakistan, convey?

It shows the determination of IAF to take action. It also conveys the willingness of political executives to take calculated risks.

It also brought into focus several faultlines in IAF working in changing scenarios of war.

One of the lessons learnt was in dealing with the after-effects of a strike. Lack of numbers, capability gap in long-range air to air missiles and other structural deficiencies in IAF defence networks and sensors resulted in suboptimal response.

What is needed to strengthen the Air Force in the context of hybrid war?

There should be accelerated induction of mid-range indigenous platforms with sensors and weapons.

There should be need-based and transparent import of **high-end offensive capabilities**. It must be linked with technology transfer for the next generation aerial system.

Space domain should be treated at par with the land and maritime domain. The Air Force should get adequate representation at apex structures of national security.

The Air Force should move away from its rigid position. It should contribute to **jointness, synergy and integration**.

What are lessons from the use of air power in recent conflicts?

In recent conflicts the use of air power was a determining factor to decide the outcomes.

Limited use of air power by India during Balakot strikes proved beneficial.

Sustained use of airpower against ISIS ensured its defeat.

Russian use of air power against Ukraine shows its limitations. It was not well coordinated, and without proper strategy. Poor training and lack of precision-guided weapons impacted its effectiveness.

7. [Building resilient mineral supply chain](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Building resilient mineral supply chain**” published in **The Hindu** on **11th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy

Relevance– Mines and minerals sector

News- The article explains the challenges for securing access to key minerals. It also provides suggestions to secure the mineral supply.

In his Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the need to have *aatmanirbharta* in energy by focusing on clean energy technologies.

The Indian government established Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) in 2019 with the mandate to secure mineral supply for the domestic market.

Why is there a renewed focus on the need for self-reliance in the energy sector?

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

The Ukraine crisis led to concerns over pricing and availability of oil and gas.

India imports 85% of oil and half of gas. Imported inflationary pressures pose risks to macroeconomic growth and stability.

Why is securing access to key minerals a challenging task?

First, reserves are often concentrated in regions that are geopolitically sensitive. These regions do not perform well from an ease of doing business perspective.

Second, a portion of existing production is controlled by geostrategic competitors. For example, China has considerable influence in cobalt mining in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Third, future mine production is often tied up in advance offtake agreements by buyers from other countries.

What are suggestions for policymakers to secure mineral supply for them?

First, figure out the mineral requirements of the domestic industry. An inter-ministerial task force should be set up. A five-year road map with clear targets for deployment and indigenous manufacturing across clean energy applications need to be created.

Second, Government should coordinate with the domestic industry to determine where strategic interventions by the government would be necessary for the purpose. KABIL could collaborate with industry to bolster its market intelligence capabilities for tracking global supply-side developments.

Third, if there are no conducive investment opportunities, KABIL should sign offtake agreements with global mineral suppliers to secure future production.

Fourth, Government should jointly invest in mining assets with geostrategic partners. KABIL should make investments in countries where private sector investment is risky.

The government supports technologies that utilise domestically available materials.

We need to develop policies aimed at recycling minerals.

8. [Do we really need the e-rupee?](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Do we really need the e-rupee?**” published in **The Business Standard** on **11th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth.

Relevance: About concerns and benefits of e-rupee

News: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a concept note on an Indian central bank digital currency or CBDC.

About the concept paper on e-rupee

Must read: [RBI unveils features of digital rupee, plans to launch pilot soon](#)

What is the state of present monetary and financial systems?

The Indian monetary and financial systems are mainly bank-based, with money taking the form of cash and bank deposits. In this system, digital payments were based on virtual money created by commercial banks.

After the [Unified Payments Interface\(UPI\)](#), India became the pioneer in developing digital payment systems. Using the UPI platform, apps like Google Pay, Paytm and PhonePe have popularised digital payments tremendously.

Recent data indicates that demand for cash may have even gone up once the pandemic started retreating. This seems to indicate that even if a CBDC is introduced as a form of legal tender. It may play a secondary role to cash.

Must read: [UPI and Digital Payments in India – Explained, pointwise](#)

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

What is the need for e-rupee?

Along with other reasons, there is a massive push from China to establish the digital yuan, not only as a domestic currency, but also to be used for cross-border payments with their trade and investment partner countries.

Once the digital yuan gains acceptability as a global currency, it will only be a matter of time before it starts flowing into the Indian economy. This leads not only to the possibility of a dollarisation-type problem in the conventional sense but also grave data security risks. So, it is in India's interest to limit this possibility by introducing the e-rupee.

Read more: [What are the advantages of having own digital currency for the Indian economy?](#)

What are the benefits of e-rupee?

The e-rupee can make the monetary system more efficient and the financial markets more stable in a number of ways. For instance,

Monetary system benefits of e-rupee: e-rupee will **a)** Reduce the cost of physical cash management, **b)** Push the monetary system towards more digitisation, **c)** Cash is used significantly in small-value transactions. These transactions may be redirected towards the e-rupee if reasonable anonymity is assured.

Benefits of e-rupee in financial markets: **a)** As the e-rupee will provide an alternative to crypto assets, it will provide financial stability in the economy, **b)** Provide the public with a risk-free virtual currency.

Benefits of e-rupee on payments infrastructure: As e-rupee **1)** Provide the domestic payments system with an additional channel, **2)** Increases resilience by providing payment services even outside of the commercial banking system, **3)** Diversify the range of payment options, particularly for e-commerce, **4)** Helps the international payments infrastructure by making cross-border transactions faster and far less costly, and **5)** Ease frictions in cross-border payments that is critical for international trade.

Increase the welfare for poorer sections through financial inclusion: This is because the e-rupee can **a)** Make financial services more accessible even to the unbanked and underbanked population, **b)** Offline functionality as an option will allow the e-rupee to be transacted without the internet. This will enable access in regions with poor or no internet connectivity.

Read more: [Digital Rupee: Advantages and Challenges – Explained, pointwise](#)

What needs to be done to increase the benefits of e-rupee?

India needs to **a)** Establish global protocols on the development of cross-border use of CBDCs, **b)** Create a credible and working CBDC.

Read more: [RBI shouldn't rush the launch of India's official digital rupee](#)

9. [Ineffective implementation: Ban on single-use plastic is not working](#)

Source: The post is based on an article **"Ineffective implementation: Ban on single-use plastic is not working"** published in **Business Standard** on **12th October 2022**. **Syllabus: GS 3 – Environment**

Relevance: issues associated with plastic bags

News: The ban on single-use plastic came into effect on 1st July 2022.

However, items like plastic straws and cutlery are being marketed and used routinely in most places and the ban seems to have remained largely on paper.

The concept of extended producer responsibility to ensure sound management of plastic products has failed to produce the desired results.

What are the problems with single-use plastic bags?

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

The discarded plastic products are thrown randomly which litter roads and block drainage and cause waterlogging.

These plastic products are disposed of in an environment-unfriendly manner of open burning and emitting highly toxic fumes.

These wastes also affect aquatic life and biodiversity when dissolved in water.

Plastic carry bags of less than 75-micron thickness were banned long ago but they are still being used especially by street vendors and small shopkeepers.

The deadline for phasing out bags of slightly thicker material of up to 120 microns is December 31, 2022. However, with the current situation even this target seems unlikely to be met.

What can be the course of action?

India adopted the resolution on addressing the single-use plastic pollution issue in the United Nations Environment Assembly in 2019.

Whereas, some countries like Kenya and Bangladesh had stopped the use of some plastic bags before the resolution. Kenya had barred the use of plastic carry bags in 2017 while Bangladesh did in 2002.

Many other countries have put in place systems to return the used plastic products back to the producers for appropriate recycling or safe disposal.

Therefore, India needs to follow these countries in ensuring plastic-product manufacturers' stringent compliance with the extended producer responsibility.

10. [Why NPAs are not just about bank governance](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “Why NPAs are not just about bank governance” published in The Indian Express on 12th October 2022.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy

Relevance– Banking sector

News– The article explains the cause behind higher NPAs between 2011-18.

By the late 2000s, NPAs, as a percentage of gross advances had decreased to less than 3.5 per cent. It began to rise in 2011 and peaked at 11.18 per cent in 2018.

Governance issues that stem from government ownership are cited as reasons for higher NPAs.

Why are governance issues not solely responsible for stressed balance sheets?

The government ownership doesn't explain the improvement on performance of banks during the 2000s.

Most of these NPAs arose due to defaults by private sector non-financial firms.

The difference in the business models of public and private sector banks has not been considered. At the beginning of the 2010s, public sector banks had significantly higher exposure to commodity-sensitive sectors such as iron and steel and textiles compared to private sector banks.

How the fall in commodity prices is responsible for the stressed balance sheet of banks?

The rise in NPAs coincides with fall in international commodity prices. Earlier fall in commodity prices during the late 90s also led to a rise in NPAs. But it was not as severe as between 2011-16.

During the pandemic, the balance sheet was not stressed despite the economic crisis. It can be attributed to the rise in commodity prices during the pandemic.

Decline in commodity prices leads to a decline in raw material cost. But it also causes a more proportionate decline in sales revenue. It impacts the profitability of firms.

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

The banks which experienced a higher decline in prices also experienced higher NPAs. Public sector banks generally had higher exposure to commodity-sensitive sectors. They experienced a relatively higher decline in prices and a bigger rise in non-performing assets between 2011-16.

What can be done?

We can create a nominal price index using data on banks' sectoral exposure and commodity prices. For each bank, we multiply the exposure with the sectoral price in that year and the sum of all sectors provide the nominal price index. It will capture the bank-wise variation in their exposure to commodity prices.

11. [Solutions by the people, solutions for the people](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“Solutions by the people, solutions for the people”** published in **The Hindu** on **12th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy and Environment. GS2- Global Politics

News- The article explains the different economic models across the world and suggests a model for the future. It also explains the challenges faced by the presently dominant economic model.

What are different economic models across the world?

There have been two predominant economic models followed since the 20th century- **Welfarist model and free market economy model**.

The welfarists were in favor of government intervention in the economy. On the other hand, supporters of a free-market economy want a free hand for markets and minimum government intervention in the economy.

The alternate model was suggested by **Club of Rome** in 1972. It advocated for including environmental cost while estimating profits and growth.

The neoliberal economic model has prevailed in recent times.

What are the challenges faced by the current model of economic governance?

The 2008 financial crisis shows the limitation of this model. To check the slowdown, countries bailed out large financial institutions. There was no compensation for common citizens. Austerity measures were imposed on some countries like Greece.

The low inflation and balanced budget provisions has led to waves of protest. Citizens complain that the system favors wealthiest people. There is a demand to include the needs of people in economic policy.

Social tensions are too high within many countries. Their governments are unable to find fair solutions through conventional democratic processes.

Disillusionment with democratic institutions is increasing even in U.S. and Europe. Authoritarian governments are coming to power in many countries with support of citizens.

What is the new economic model suggested by Earth for All: A Survival Guide for Humanity?

It is based on the **“3P” slogan- People, Planet and Profit**.

It proposes **collaboration between economists, ecologists and social scientists**.

It proposes five systematic solutions: ending poverty; addressing gross inequality; empowering women; making food systems healthy for people and ecosystems; and transitioning to clean energy.

It compares the outcomes between present patterns and proposed alternative approaches.

The present path is called **“Too Little Too Late”** and the other is called **“Big Leap”**.

The present path will lead to environmental and social collapse. It will preserve the present inequitable distribution of wealth and power.

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

Big Leap”, on the other hand, can prevent catastrophe. It will lead to a more equitable distribution of economic wealth and social power. It will avoid disruptive political revolutions. It allows us to estimate whether policies related to income redistribution might cause social tensions.

What is the way forward?

Policymaking must become more inclusive and less dominated by the powerful and the wealthy. Solutions should not be imposed by experts from the top. There is a need for deliberations among diverse disciplines and dialogue among experts and citizens.

12. [FDI and the ordinary Indian](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**FDI and the ordinary Indian**” published in **Business Standard** on **13th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Economic Development

News: There have been views that India is one of the world’s fastest-growing economies. However, India has not been able to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as it should have been.

Does the improvement of rank in EoDB increases FDI?

India has improved in the rankings of Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) from 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2020 but there has been a high unemployment rate.

The improvement in EoDB rankings has also not resulted in more the Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) inflows.

The FDI in India has seen a dip in 2021 and the dismal condition of SMEs have also been unable to attract FDIs.

Whereas, China ranked second in terms of FDI despite an EoDB ranking of 31 in 2019 whereas India ranked 63 in EoDB but it ranked seventh in FDI.

What is the importance of SMEs and what are the issues they are facing?

Majority of the parameters of the EoDB represents the views of larger corporations. However, investor might look for the ease of business most of the Small and Medium Businesses (SMEs) having in a country. However, SMEs are not getting the similar environment, as big corporations are getting.

SMEs face many issues such as getting permits, licenses, and the high cost of electricity. The owners of SMEs have to rely on local contacts to sort issues related to permits and licenses.

The license-permit regimes are relatively less oppressive in the IT sector compared to SMEs.

The ranking of India in EoDB was improved with the improvements in resolving insolvency rankings with the introduction of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. However, it is meaningless for SMEs because they lack the ability to access the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code processes.

Moreover, the current government has come up with Production-Linked Incentive scheme (PLI) to improve the Indian business environment and attract foreign investment.

However, there is a doubt on the efficiency of the scheme as it is new.

What are the problems with the present policies to attract FDI?

The backward-area investment incentive does not work. It proves that the business environment cannot be improved by compensatory policies. Companies start to leave as soon as the sunset clauses come to an end.

Import substitution which is also present in the PLI schemes has proved to be a failure in the seventies and eighties.

Incentives are needed for a long term as India will have to constantly compete with rivals (Vietnam and Indonesia) in the global investment race.

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

Therefore, government should work with its ordinary people like the small-scale entrepreneur in order to attract FDI.

13. [Oil & Gas: A discouraging history](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Oil & Gas: A discouraging history**” published in **Business Standard** on **13th October 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Industrial Policies**

Relevance: **problems with exploration of oil and gases in India**

News: The government is set to put the exploration licences for 42 hydrocarbon blocks for auction in the next round of its licensing process.

The government hopes that there will be reasonable private sector participation in this auction. However, the target of exploration of 1 million square kilometres seems difficult to be met.

What are the problems associated with the exploration of hydrocarbon blocks?

The new Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP) was announced to provide a licensing mechanism and pricing formulae. The first round of 55 blocks was auctioned in January 2018.

The government announced that companies could select blocks of their choice and they have freedom over marketing and pricing. However, this liberalization process did not attract foreign Oil Companies and among the Indian private sector Vedanta was only interested.

This shows that implementation of the HELP system was not successful as it was an attempt to attract global investment into the sector.

Further, the HELP system has not performed up to the expectations as there were only 26-billion-dollar oil and gas deals between 2011 and 2021.

Why private sectors are not interested in exploration of hydrocarbons in India?

The past disagreements on tax demands on Cairn, the dispute over KG-D6 production have raised concerns over private participation from foreign countries.

The private sector’s lack of interest in the downstream sector also shows that they have a lack of trust of making enough profits in India.

Therefore, there is a need for the government to come up with laws and policies that attract foreign investment in this sector.

14. [Disintermediation: An overblown bank scare](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Disintermediation: An overblown bank scare**” published in **Live Mint** on **13th October 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Economic Development**

News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently outlined a plan for the proposal of e-rupee which is a digital currency.

The proposal sets aside intermediaries like banks from the involvement in e-rupee. However, the Nobel Prize winner in economics this year, highlights the vital role of financial intermediation played by banks in an economy.

What will be the advantages of e-rupee?

First, an e-rupee can easily attract savings as it will bear an RBI promise.

Second, money held in cash-like e-token form would be a very safe asset when compared to an account at a bank that requires transfers via UPI which looks ‘digital’ but is not risk-free. Further, offering interest on e-rupee can increase the deposits.

Third, lenders could borrow funds from RBI to on-lend and to sharpen their skills of pricing credit risk.

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

Therefore, retail deposits play an important role in credit expansion.

15. [The war against illegal goods as India's fight](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**The war against illegal goods as India's fight**” published in **The Hindu** on **13th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy and Internal security

Relevance– Parallel economy

News- The article explains the impacts of high inflation on the illegal goods market. It also provides suggestions to stop these practices.

Inflation has remained in double digits since April 2021. It was recorded at 12.41% in August.

What are the impacts of high inflation?

Parallel economy– The high inflation leads to a search for cheaper alternatives. It gives rise to a parallel economy. Cheaper goods from China flood the Indian market.

Illegal goods market– Search for cheaper alternatives give rise to the illegal goods market. It leads to loss of taxation revenues for the government.

According to the **FICCI's CASCADE report** the illicit market is thriving in five key Indian industries. This includes mobile phones, fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) -household and personal goods, packaged foods, tobacco products, and alcoholic beverages.

The size of the illicit market in these industries was valued at ₹2,60,094 crore in 2019-20. The estimated tax loss to the Government due to illicit goods in these industries has been estimated to be ₹58,521 crore.

According to a report by the **Economist Intelligence Unit**, in 2018 India ranked low in the Global Illicit Trade Environment Index. It needs quantifiable actions to bring down the risks of illicit trade on the economy.

What should be the course of action?

Improve the taxation structure– Government should rationalize the taxation structure. It should incentivize local manufacturers to make world-class goods.

Global brands should be encouraged to manufacture in India provided they can offer India-specific pricing. They should not be allowed to remit royalties and profits out of the country earned from goods being consumed by Indians. This type of model is followed by China.

Law enforcement– Strict enforcement can stop the inflow of low-quality smuggled goods. Enforcement can be improved by using cutting-edge technology such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and location technology.

Awareness generation– The Government must also increase consumer awareness so that people boycott smuggled, counterfeit and poor-quality goods.

16. [We need a forest-led COP27](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**We need a forest-led COP27**” published in **The Hindu** on **13th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment

News- The article explains the need of moving away from technological solutions and having a forest-led approach to tackle climate change.

There are calls for developing technology to fight climate change across the world.

COP26 at Glasgow also emphasised on technological solutions.

Why technology alone is not sufficient to fight climate change?

Every technological solution discussed at COP26 depends on just three resources: non-emitting electricity, carbon capture and storage (CCS) or biomass.

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

The total demand for those resources required by the plans discussed at COP26 cannot be met by 2050. We currently have 4kWh/day of non-emitting electricity per person. But the COP26 plans require 32. We currently have 6kg of Carbon capture and storage per person per year, but the COP26 plans require 3600.

In 2003, **Carnegie Institution** found that the world would need a nuclear plant every day between 2000 and 2050 to avoid catastrophic climate change.

In 2018, **MIT Technology Review** reported that at the given rate, the world will take nearly 400 years to transform the energy system.

What forest led approach is needed to tackle climate change?

Our climate crisis is linked with other complex issues. We need **multi-pronged, interconnected climate solutions**. There is an intersection of the climate change crisis and the biodiversity crisis. Forests are home to 80% of terrestrial wildlife. Therefore they need protection.

Forests absorb a net 7.6 billion metric tonnes of CO₂ a year. A new study has found that they have a tendency to cool the earth by an additional 0.5%.

The conservation of forests along with other nature-based solutions are needed. It can provide up to 37% of the emissions reductions needed to tackle climate change.

Why is there a need for conserving natural sinks?

The IPCC Land Report estimates that land serves as a large CO₂ sink.

Emission reduction can be achieved by conserving natural sinks, improving biodiversity protection, and restoring ecosystems.

17. Falling reserves and the bogey of the RBI's role

Source: The post is based on an article "**Falling reserves and the bogey of the RBI's role**" published in **The Hindu** on **14th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Economic Development

Relevance: concerns associated with the declining forex reserves and the role of the RBI

News: There is a widespread misconception that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been depleting India's foreign exchange (forex) reserves to defend the rupee.

As per reports, India's forex reserves have reduced from \$642 billion to \$537 billion from September 8, 2021 to September 30, 2022 due to selling of dollars in India's inter-bank forex market. However, this could be a misconception.

How RBI Controls the forex market?

It is well established that that the RBI has a role in determining dollar/rupee rate.

The players in the forex market are the banks licensed by the RBI and the RBI itself.

Individuals and corporates cannot enter the forex market. They can deal only with their respective banks. So, the RBI dominates the forex market as the regulator, a player and the jury.

Further, the forex market is regulated by the RBI with the exchange control regulations and all the banks are required to hold a fix forex reserves at the close of business hours each day.

Why RBI's intervention cannot deplete forex reserves?

RBI's Interventions are not sufficient to deplete forex reserves due to few reasons:

First, even if RBI sells a certain amount of dollars in the market. It is not going to deplete automatically. The amount will be reduced if the sold dollars are purchased by some bank and bank then remit these dollars to a licensed importer.

Second, if a purchasing bank start to speculate, then also forex reserve may deplete. But it is not permitted by the RBI.

Third, selling these dollars in the overseas cross currency market are also prohibited by the central bank.

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

Therefore, until and unless there is a demand of dollars from an authorized bank customer, reserves cannot go out.

18. [Govt's ethanol blending programme faces supply and pricing problem](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “Govt's ethanol blending programme faces supply and pricing problem” published in **Business Standard** on 14th October 2022.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Environment

Relevance: concerns associated with the ethanol blending processes

News: India has achieved ethanol blending of over 10 per cent till September 2022 and it has set a target to achieve 20 per cent ethanol blending by 2025.

There are two sources required for ethanol blending. They are – a) sugarcane-based and b) grain-based.

The present condition shows that the second source needs to be focused by the government.

What is the present situation of ethanol blending process?

In order to achieve the target of 20 per cent ethanol blending by 2025, India requires a production capacity of around 14.5 billion liters.

Around 3.33 billion liters of ethanol have been supplied in the current ethanol supply year (December 2021-November 2022).

Out of these, the sugar industry has contributed 2.87 billion liters (almost 86 per cent) and the rest has been contributed by grain-based distilleries.

Therefore, there is a need to increase ethanol production from grain to meet targets.

What are the challenges being faced by the grain-based ethanol production?

Sourcing rice husk to run their boilers has been a challenge because of the rising demands is putting pressure on rice husk prices. The price of rice husk has increased from around Rs 3.5 to almost Rs 10.5 a kg.

It is also expected that prices will further go up with the increased competition in the market because grain-based mills do not have any dedicated areas to source husk like sugarcanes.

Further, the **price of broken rice** has also shot up over the past year from Rs 15,000 to almost Rs 22,000 per tonne. Even the ban on the export of broken rice has not been very effective in controlling the price.

The price of maize has also jumped from Rs 15,000 to around Rs 22,000 a tonne. Broken rice and maize are the important components for ethanol production.

Moreover, an average grain-based distillery does not have option to get fix prices of raw material as the sugarcane industry has.

Further, there are **moral issues** also involved in diverting too much rice and maize for ethanol production as affordable food remains an issue in India.

What are the problems faced by the production of ethanol form biomass?

Ethanol produced from biomass is called 2G ethanol. It is called 2G ethanol because ethanol is produced from second-generation sources such as paddy stubble.

The government announced to set up 12 integrated 2G ethanol plants in 2018. However, even after four years only one plant has been constructed.

The high cost of the technology and convincing farmers are major challenges faced by State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) that wish to produce 2G ethanol.

An investment of Rs 1,969.5 crore had been set aside for OMCs by the government under Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jai Indhan-Vatavaran Anukool Fasal Awashesh Nivaran Yojana). Even this scheme is being re-evaluated.

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

Moreover, PM Modi has launched the first 2G ethanol plant built by Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) at an estimated cost of Rs 900 crore in Haryana's Panipat. The cost of setting up plant has risen due to the **high cost of the technology**. Further, the absence of suitable supply chains for bio-ethanol will increase challenges for its transportation to the plant.

There also challenges for **storing the raw biomass at 2G ethanol plants** without degradation. Therefore, there is a need that government should come up with proper solutions as ethanol production is important to reduce import bills from oils.

19. [Lessons from Maiden: Gambia deaths raise several questions](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "**Lessons from Maiden: Gambia deaths raise several questions**" published in **The Business Standard** on **14th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Industrial Policy

Relevance: issues associated with the pharma companies in India.

News: 66 children have died in the Gambia after drinking cough syrup manufactured by Maiden Pharmaceuticals.

The centre has decided to set up a four-member committee to investigate allegations against Maiden Pharmaceuticals.

It has raised questions about the regulatory systems that govern India's pharmaceutical industry.

What are the findings of the probe made by different organization?

Maiden Pharmaceuticals company had not been following the **Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)** prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules.

According to the WHO, **two toxic contaminants, diethylene glycol and ethylene glycol** were found in cough syrups manufactured by the company. They may have caused acute kidney failure in the Gambian children.

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) probe found that the date of manufacture printed on the drug product predated the batch of manufacturing date.

What are other concerns?

The drugs manufactured by other big companies have also failed multiple US Food and Drug Administration inspections in the past. This raises threat not only for the overseas buyers but it is also threat for the domestic markets.

A study shows that **fake drugs are a booming business** in India accounting for a 25 per cent of the domestic medicine market. The study also says the Delhi-National Capital Region is the epicentre of this fake business.

Further, India is the world's fourth-largest producer of pharma products and one of the biggest exporters of generic drugs. These kinds of issues may damage the image of India worldwide.

Therefore, there is a need that proper inspection and regulatory mechanism should be carried out by the government in the pharma companies in India.

20. [Overtaxing online gaming will favour grey operators](#)

Source- The post is based on the article "**Overtaxing online gaming will favour grey operators**" published in the **mint** on **14th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy. GS2- Government policies

Relevance- Online entertainment platforms

News- **The article explains the repercussions of the proposed move to increase GST in the online gaming sector to 28% of the entire prize pool.**

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

Online gaming industry is generating \$20 billion revenue and entertaining 200 million people. It is expected to reach \$25 billion by 2030.

What is the taxation structure for the online gaming industry?

Online gaming industry currently pays 18% GST on its revenues or platform fee intake for providing their platform. The platform fee intake is about 15% of the overall prize pool in the contest.

What will be the impacts of 28% GST on the entire prize pool?

It will make it impossible to achieve PM Modi's vision of India becoming a superpower.

It will lead to an increase in the effective tax burden. The tax will be almost twice of operator revenue.

It will give rise to grey market operators who will evade taxes. It is not possible for tax compliant operators to compete with them.

The industry may not find these things sustainable. Closure of industry will lead to job losses and tax revenues losses for the government.

Why is higher taxation being proposed?

It flows from the argument that games of skill are required to pay GST on the entire pool instead of tax revenue.

But the law states that the entire pool is taxable in the case of betting and gambling. Higher court judgments have established that games of skill do not constitute gambling.

Some people in the government and civil society organisations take it as a social evil.

What is the way forward?

Shutting down local industry is not the solution.

India can learn from western countries who are experienced in this field.

An industry-friendly, progressive policy is needed which focuses on consumer protection.

21. [Indian Deep Tech and a case for a strategic fund](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "**Indian Deep Tech and a case for a strategic fund**" published in **The Hindu** on **15th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Science and Technology

Relevance: concerns with the strategic technology and ways to tackle it

News: Government is making efforts for self-reliance in military technology, semiconductors and science-based businesses.

However, there are market concerns due to which private venture capital are not ready to invest and government spending will not be enough for the survival.

How funding has helped in other countries?

Government is the largest source of funds for Deep Tech in countries like the United States and Israel.

There are different agencies in these countries such as **Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)**, etc. through which huge funds flow into the small businesses.

But in India this bridge has not built yet due to the lack of funding.

What is the concern associated with the venture capitals to invest in the Deep Tech?

There are two problems that make investors cautious – a) **lack of understanding** of Deep Tech and b) **the profits from Deep Tech takes time** as it does not fit to standard 10-year fund return cycle.

Further, Deep Technology has dual use. For example, GPS is needed for Google Maps and it is also needed for fighter jet navigation and missile systems.

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

Therefore, it is not wise to burden the commercial industry alone for the strategic technology. Government should also come up with proper solutions.

What steps can government take to increase investments in the strategic technologies?

The government of India is trying to pool funds from various missions such as Semiconductor Mission, iDEX and TDF schemes. However, this would not be the apt solution for sustenance of Deep Tech.

Therefore, innovations in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) budgets and high net worth (HNI) tax breaks will induce capital flowing into strategic tech.

CSR: According to some estimates the annual CSR budget is rupees 15000 crore and some of the amount of this budget is unutilized. These unutilized CSR can be diverted from the social sector to the development of strategic technology.

Therefore, effort is required from the government and large corporations to invest in certain strategic tech startups.

HNIs: HNIs can also be offered tax incentives to make equity investment in the critical technology startups. This will provide a solution for high risk involved in the funding and replace the fear of lower short-term returns.

However, there are concerns with the misuse of funds.

How can government prevent the misuse of funds?

6. a) Investment should be limited only to Government of India-recognized startups, b) Startups should have funding or 'acceptance of necessity' granted from the Indian military/Ministry of Defense.

Therefore, if proper steps are taken by the government, then CSR funds and the right tax incentives to HNIs can create self-reliance in the Indian Deep Tech ecosystem.

22. [Through a 40-year prism: India's record creditable, but not outstanding](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "**Through a 40-year prism: India's record creditable, but not outstanding**" published in **Business Standard** on **15th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Economic Development

News: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has come up with World Economic Outlook (WEO) report 2022.

What does the World Economic Outlook (WEO) report say?

Performance of India in the Previous Decades

The comparative economic growth of the report shows that four countries are the best performers for 2011-21 decade. Four countries are – **Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and India** from top to bottom.

China and Vietnam were also featured as the top performers for the previous decade.

Further, **India recorded best ever decadal growth performance in 2001-11**. But its growth was slower than all emerging markets and developing countries in that decade.

In the previous two decades, 1991-2001 and 1981-91 India performed better than the average emerging markets (EMs).

In terms of dollars, the Indian economy grew to 3.7 times its size in the 2001-11 decade but only to 1.7 times in the latest decade.

Further, the IMF report for four decades (1981-2021) highlights that only three countries (China, South Korea and Vietnam) did significantly better than India.

It also highlights that India has significantly increased its GDP – 1.1% (1981-91), 2.5% (2011), 3.3% (2021) and it is further expected to grow in the future.

Growth projections by the report

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

The Indian economy is set to grow 6.8 per cent whereas all EMs are expected to grow only 3.7 per cent in 2022-23.

The growth for the advanced economies is expected to slow from 2.4 per cent to 1.1 per cent in the next year.

4 Asian Countries including India, are the candidates for international businesses looking to diversify their production bases away from China by following “China+1” strategy.

Therefore, these data by the IMF reflects India’s better position in the world even if the growth remain less than the expected for the year 2022-23.

23. [Smash hit – On DART mission](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “Smash hit” published in **The Hindu** on **15th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Science and Technology

Relevance: benefits of DART mission

News: The article discusses about the success of the DART mission conducted by NASA and its uses.

What is the news?

NASA scientists for the first time have succeeded in altering the path of the asteroid by hitting the spacecraft into it.

The spacecraft DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) was aimed at asteroid Dimorphos which was orbiting a larger asteroid Didymos.

These two asteroids did not pose any threat for the planet earth and DART was a test mission to see the effectiveness of the technique (kinetic impactor) in altering the path of the asteroid by a desired amount.

After the collision of the spacecraft with the asteroid, NASA confirmed that it was able to change the path of the asteroid by a small amount.

Since all asteroids are not similar therefore there is a need for more tests to perfect this technique.

Further, the US is not alone in the mission and even China has also planned to deflect a 40 m wide asteroid by 2026.

Why is it necessary to develops this technique?

There is a need to develop this technique as even a small asteroid hitting the earth can have serious consequences to life on earth and climate change. An asteroid even about 100 m wide can destroy a city like Chennai.

However, it is not clear whether the kinetic impactor technique can be used to extract minerals from the asteroids by deflecting its path.

24. [Metaverse in India: The challenge of buying land and painting houses](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Metaverse in India: The challenge of buying land and painting houses**” published in the **Business Standard** on **15th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology

News- The article explains the challenges faced by metaverse in India.

Metaverse– It is a hypothetical iteration of the Internet as a single, universal and immersive virtual world that is facilitated by the use of virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) headsets.

What are the applications of metaverse in India?

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

Some companies are providing services to property developers and architects. It helps them to provide their prospective customers an experience of property even before it is ready.

Some are customising jewellerys, clothing and accessories on the metaverse for various brands. It helps these brands to customise products for customers.

The customers can not only own the physical copy of these personalised products but also convert and own these as non-fungible tokens. They can be traded also and redeemed for offline services.

What about technology involved in the metaverse?

Virtual Reality headsets are gradually becoming accessible for common people.

The hyperreality simulations can be accessed through web browser, mobile applications.

Besides the hardware cost, There is also acquisition cost of VR land in metaverse. The Cheapest parcels of land in public metaverses, like Ethereum Worlds range between \$2,500 and \$3,000.

There is additional cost of event setup and content development on the bought land.

Hosting an event in any of the public metaverses requires organisers to buy or rent land and then create the event experience. ExpoSim provides a single platform to rent space and host events across the multiple metaverses it owns without any tech development.

What are data requirements?

Data requirements for experiencing the events on metaverse is high. A low to standard resolution experience requires at least 25 Mbps for streaming. For resolutions comparable to HD TV, the requirement jumps to 80 to 100 Mbps. For 360-degree video experience as much as 600 Mbps speed is required.

Besides, data computing requirements for conducting events are high.

25. Do not ignore the role of woman livestock farmer

Source– The post is based on the article “**Do not ignore the role of woman livestock farmer**” published in **The Hindu** on **15th October 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Agriculture

Relevance– Feminisation of agriculture

News- The article explains the challenges faced by women in livestock farming.

Livestock sector accounts for 5% of national income and 28% of agricultural GDP in 2018-19. In the last six years, the livestock sector grew at 7.9% while crop farming grew by 2%.

There were five million women members in dairy co-operatives in 2015-16 and it increased further to 5.4 million in 2020-21. Women accounted for 31% of all members of dairy producer cooperatives in 2020-21. Women’s dairy cooperative societies rose from 18,954 in 2012 to 32,092 in 2015-16.

What are issues related to women livestock farmers?

Issues with data collection– Conventional labour force surveys fail to accurately estimate women work in the livestock sector. Their work is sporadic in nature and they often undertake work for short spells.

Underestimation of women livestock farmers– According to estimates of **employment and unemployment survey of 2011-12**, 12 million women were engaged in livestock farming. But, women actually engaged in the livestock economy were four times the official estimate.

India’s first **national Time Use Survey in 2019** corroborates this finding. By recording all activities done in the past 24 hours, 48 million women in rural areas were engaged in animal rearing. The **National Livestock Policy of 2013** rightly states that around 70% of the labour for the livestock sector comes from women.

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

Other core issues– The reach of extension services to women livestock farmers remains low. According to official reports, 80,000 livestock farmers were trained across the country in 2021. But we have no idea how many were women farmers.

Women farmers found it difficult to avail loans without collateral to purchase livestock. Around 15 lakh new Kisan Credit Cards were provided to livestock farmers under the KCC scheme during 2020-22. There is no information on how many of them were women farmers.

women livestock farmers lacked technical knowledge on choice of animals and veterinary care.

Women were not aware of the composition and functions of dairy boards. Men were decision - makers even in women-only dairy cooperatives.