



9 PM

Compilation

28th Nov. to 3rd Dec. 2022

9 PM Compilation for the Month of November, (Fifth Week) 2022

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General Studies Paper – 1

General Studies - 1

1. [It's time to discuss depopulation](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Its time to discuss depopulation**” published in **The Hindu** on **28th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS1 and GS2 Population and associated Issues

Relevance– Human Resource

News– The article explains the increasing population in India.

What are Statistical data of Population in India as per recent report?

By current **United Nations estimates**, India's population will begin to decline only in 2063 It will be just shy of 1.7 billion by that time

Fertility in India is falling along expected lines as a direct result of rising incomes and greater female access to health and education. India's **total fertility rate** is now below the **replacement rate of fertility**.

What are the challenges associated with depopulation in India?

First, the mismatch is rising gap between **sex ratio** as families with a first son is less likely to have a second child.

Second, the literacy rate is going to play an important role in deciding depopulation.

Third, the sharp **anti-Muslim tone in the conversation** has remained even though fertility between Hindus and Muslims is converging.

What is the way forward?

The focus of one should be upon the various dimensions of population like harnessing the potential of **demographic dividend**.

There is a need for much focus on **betterment of living standard of living** by providing skills to the youth and bridging the gap between the workforce.

2. [Still a nightmare for domestic violence survivors](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Still a nightmare for domestic violence survivors**” published in **The Hindu** on **29th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS1- Society

Relevance: Women related issues

News- The article explains the challenges associated with accessing services with respect to domestic violence.

What are the facts associated with Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence is a punishable offence under **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 (PWDVA)**. It is a violation of human rights.

The latest round of the **National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21)** reveals that 32% of ever-married women aged 18-49 years have ever experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence committed by their husbands.

Despite almost a third of women being subject to domestic violence, the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-21) reports that only 14% of women have ever sought help.

What are the issues related with Domestic Violence faced by Women?

Despite the law existing on paper, women are still largely **unable to access the law** in practice. Its promise and provisions are unevenly implemented, unavailable and out of reach for most Indian women.

The research in Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu reveals that Women were hopeful that things would change, that they could change their husband's behaviour.

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Women believed that they would become **‘a problem’ or a source of ‘tension’** for their families, and bringing them shame and dishonour, irrespective of the survivor’s level of education, caste, or class.

For **migrant women, transpeople** or those with several sisters, or ill, older or deceased parents, it was felt even more acutely that the perpetrator’s violence was their **individual responsibility to manage**.

Parents, in a majority of cases, insisted on their daughter preserving the family environment which they should do by adjusting to their husband’s and his family’s needs better. In a minority of cases, the daughter’s welfare was prioritised over the well-being of the ‘the family’ and steps were taken to help mediate or exit the relationship.

NFHS-5 data reports that women are more likely than men to justify a scenario in which it is acceptable for a husband to beat or hit his wife.

With **few safe houses** across India, Many women have nowhere else to go.

Access to legal justice through the courts was a material possibility only for women with independent wealth and connections or those supported by specialist non-governmental organisations.

What are the issues regarding role of state?

Across the States, we heard that the police were more likely to **send women back to violent households** to reconcile with the perpetrator.

Several States are yet to implement **Protection officers**. And where they are in post, they are under resourced, under-skilled and overworked.

Women know all too well that the state serves **patriarchal and heteronormative interests** first. The state is failing women.

3. [On the entry of women in masjids](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“On the entry of women in masjids”** published in **The Hindu** on **30th November 2022**.

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

Relevance– Issues related to women

News– The article explains the issues related to prohibition on entry of women inside Jama Masjid premises.

Following a meeting with the Lieutenant-Governor, the mosque authorities withdrew the ban.

What is the Islamic law on women’s entry?

Among Islamic scholars, there is less disagreement on a woman’s right to offer prayers inside a masjid. Most Islamic scholars agree that a prayer can be offered at home but can only be established in a group. Hence, there is the importance of going to a mosque.

Most also agree that women have been exempted, not prohibited from going to the mosque. The **Quran** at no place prohibits women from going to mosques for prayers. Wherever the Quran talks of establishing prayer, it talks in gender **neutral terms**.

In Mecca and Medina, both men and women pray. Both places have separate halls earmarked for men and women. Also, across West Asia there is no ban on women coming to the masjid for prayers.

The denial of access to mosques for women worshippers is a largely **subcontinental phenomenon**. In India, only a handful of mosques maintained or owned by Jamaat-e-Islami and the Ahl-e-Hadith sect have provisions for women worshippers.

Have there been similar bans before?

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In 2011, Haji Ali Dargah prohibited women from going beyond it. They started a campaign, '**Haji Ali for All**', winning over more women in the process. Led by the **Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan**, the women approached the Bombay High Court. It ruled in their favour in 2016.

What is the legal issue?

According to the Constitution, there is complete **equality** between men and women. In the Haji Ali Dargah case too, the High Court quoted **Articles 15, 16 and 25** of the Constitution to grant women the desired access to the dargah.

There are petitions filed before the Supreme Court wherein access has been sought for women in all mosques across the country. The apex court has clubbed them with the **Sabarimala case**.

General

Studies

Paper – 2

General Studies - 2

1. [JUVENILE JUSTICE LAW](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**JUVENILE JUSTICE LAW:PERSON WITH MATURITY MUST NOT GET BLANKET IMMUNITY FROM CRIMINAL PROCESS**” published in **The INDIAN EXPRESS** on **28th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection of vulnerable sections.

Relevance– Protection of juveniles

News– The article explains the observation made by the Supreme Court in its judgement on the infamous Kathua rape murder case.

What is Juvenile Justice Law?

The **Juvenile Justice(Care and Protection of Children) Act,2015** is an act to strengthen and amend the laws relating to the children who are alleged to be in conflict with law and the children who are in the need of care and protection.

In this act the role and powers of **Juvenile Justice Board and Children Welfare Board** are defined.

Under this act the **Central Adoption Resource Authority** is given statutory powers.

What are the main observations made by the Supreme Court in this regard?

1. The rising rate of **juvenile delinquency** in India is a matter of concern and requires immediate attention.
2. There is a **school of thought** existing in our country. It firmly believes that howsoever heinous the crime may be, be it single rape, gangrape, drug peddling, or murder but if the accused is a juvenile, he should be dealt with keeping in mind only one thing. It is the goal of reformation.

What is the Way forward?

Juvenile Justice Laws should be made more easier for the victim, their parents and other social organizations to get the necessary support and ensure that their child returns to a normal life. This should be done in addition to addressing the **procedural loopholes** and ensuring rapid **delivery of justice**.

2. [Toward legalising same-sex marriage](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Toward legalising same-sex marriage**” published in **The Hindu** on **28th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Social Justice

Relevance: problems with LGBTQI+

News: Two LGBT couples have filed petitions in the Supreme Court to allow recognition of same-sex marriage under the **Special Marriage Act, (SMA) 1954**.

The SMA provides a civil form of marriage for couples who cannot marry under their personal law and both the petitioners seek to recognise same-sex marriage in relation to SMA.

What are the arguments of petitioners?

SMA is beyond the purview of the Constitution as it discriminates between same-sex couples and opposite-sex couples.

Act denied same-sex couples both **legal rights** as well as the **social recognition and status**.

Recognition of same sex marriage is in continuation of the previous SC judgment – **Navtej Singh Johar judgment of 2018** (decriminalising homosexuality) and the **Puttaswamy judgment of 2017** (affirming the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right).

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Section 4 of the SMA on one hand allows marriage between any two persons but on the other hand **Section 4(c) of the SMA** uses gender specific words like husband/wife. This limits the Act to opposite genders.

Therefore, both petitioners demanded that SMA should be made **gender neutral**.

One of the new petitioners highlighted SC judgment **of NALSA vs Union of India judgment (2014)**. The court in this judgment held that **non-binary individuals** were protected under the Constitution and fundamental rights such as equality, non-discrimination, life, freedom, etc. also applies to these individuals.

What is the stand of the government on the issue?

The centre last year has **opposed the same sex marriage**. It said that the same sex marriage is neither recognised nor accepted in any uncodified personal laws or any codified statutory laws. It further said that as per law, marriage was only permissible between a “biological man” and “biological woman”.

Which country in the world has legalised same sex marriage?

The Netherlands was the first country in 2001 to legalise same-sex marriage and many other countries followed it.

Today, around 32 countries have legalised same-sex marriages. Many of these countries have recognised same-sex civil unions.

Civil unions or partnerships provide legal recognition of unmarried couples of the same or opposite sex in order to grant them some of the rights that come with marriage such as inheritance, medical benefits, employee benefits to spouses, etc.

3. [The President's caution on overcrowding of prisons is a wake-up call to the executive and judiciary](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**The President's caution on overcrowding of prisons is a wake-up call to the executive and judiciary**” published in the **Indian Express** on **28th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Prison reforms

Relevance: About overcrowding of prisons.

News: Recently, the President called the government and the judiciary to address the issue of overcrowding of prisons. The President mentioned that India is “forced to make new prisons because prisons are overcrowded. This raises questions about India’s move towards progress as a society.

Note: Recently, the law minister also suggested that only trial courts ought to decide to grant bail. What is the present status of the overcrowding of prisons according to Prison Statistics?

Prison Statistics India is a report published by the Ministry of Home Affairs. According to its 2021 edition, **a)** Between 2016-2021, the number of convicts in jails decreased by 9.5% whereas the number of undertrial inmates increased by 45.8%, **b)** With three out of four prisoners being undertrials, the problem of overcrowding of prisons is essentially an undertrial issue, **c)** Around 80% of prisoners were confined for periods up to a year.

What needs to be done to address the overcrowding of prisons?

The government need to tackle the root cause instead of providing bail. Such as addressing the indiscriminate arrest of individuals.

Similarly, the government has to identify those who cannot afford bail and facilitate them with bail.

Read more: [About Prison reforms: What numbers don't tell us](#)

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4. [Shifts unexplained – System of shuffling High Court judges without consent needs reconsideration](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Shifts unexplained – System of shuffling High Court judges without consent needs reconsideration**” published in **The Hindu** on **28th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary.

Relevance: About transferring the judges of High Courts.

News: A recent round of transfers — from Telangana, Madras and Andhra Pradesh High Courts — has stirred the debate on transferring the judges. There are also reports that the Gujarat High Court Chief Justice was unaware of the impending transfer of a judge from the Gujarat High Court.

What are the norms to be followed while transferring a high court judge?

According to the **Memorandum of Procedure**, **a) A judge’s consent is not necessary** to effect a transfer, **b) All transfers ought to be in public interest**, that is, for better administration of justice throughout the country, **c) The personal factors** of the judge, including his preference of places, **should invariably be taken into account**.

What are the concerns associated with the transfer of judges?

The power of transfer has always been seen as a possible threat to judicial independence. For instance, even under the Collegium system, it is difficult to dissipate the impression that the threat of transfer hangs over every judge’s head.

Read more: [Why does the SC collegium hold primacy over transfers?](#)

What should be done to ensure impartiality in transferring a judge?

Transfers need not to be used as a punitive step. India needs to do a complete review of the provisions for the transfer of High Court judges.

Read more: [There’s a need for transparency in transfer of judges](#)

5. [Pill Carefully Hospitals, doctors, chemists – they all need a stronger push towards rational use of antibiotics](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Pill Carefully Hospitals, doctors, chemists – they all need a stronger push towards rational use of antibiotics**” published in **The Times of India** on **28th November 2022**.

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

Relevance: About Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

News: Recently, ICMR attempted to reform advised doctors to avoid using antibiotics in conditions such as low-grade fever and viral bronchitis. It also plans to announce a stop date in advance to ensure that antibiotics are not given beyond the recommended duration.

What is Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and its causes and concerns?

Must read: [Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\): Causes, Concerns and Remedies – Explained, pointwise](#)

What is the reason behind ICMR’s recent advice to reduce the use of antibiotics?

Multiple studies of ICMR have shown the costs of using antimicrobial prescriptions for syndrome management rather than based on a definitive diagnosis. For instance, last year, resistance to Imipenem increased from 14% in 2016 to 36% in 2021.

Note: *Imipenem is used to treat infections caused by bacteria E coli*

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AMR is also being increased due to the food industry, contaminated soil and poor sanitation, doctors and hospitals have a direct role in the matter.

What should be done to reduce the use of antibiotics?

Instead of being at the pilot stage, **stewardship programmes should be started** across hospitals. This should focus on **transparently reporting** both prevalent and targeted levels of antibiotic use.

ICMR, CDSCO and state drug controllers all need to **step up the audits and updation** needed to depress antimicrobial resistance.

6. [MUMBAI MEASLES OUTBREAK DUE TO LOW VACCINATION COVERAGE](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**MUMBAI MEASLES OUTBREAK DUE TO LOW VACCINATION COVERAGE**” published in **The HINDU** on **29h November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2 and GS 3

Relevance– In the recent week at least 4 states have shown a sudden rise in the measles infection so it becomes an important issue to discuss.

News– The article explains how the chances of children getting measles infection gets reduced if they are properly vaccinated.

What is Measles Outbreak?

Measles is a highly contagious viral respiratory disease that can severely sicken young children. Generally, it affects the children but it can affect the other age population as well.

However, it is highly dangerous for unvaccinated children.

What is the News?

Recently, several measles cases have been reported in Mumbai and nearby districts. According to an ANI report, the BMC has reported that 78 new patients were admitted to the hospital on Monday.

What are the main Symptoms of Measles?

- High fever which starts 10-12 days after exposure to the virus
- Runny nose
- Sore throat and cough
- Conjunctivitis (red and watery eyes)
- Skin rash around the face and upper neck which spreads later
- Small white spots inside the cheeks

How to protect the Children from Measles?

The measles vaccine is one of the best ways to prevent this infection. It is usually given as a combined measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine to children between 12-15 months of age. The second dose is usually given between 4 to 6 years of age. Adults who have never received immunization can also consult their doctors to get the doses.

According to CDC, the two doses are 97% effective against the virus. In some countries, vaccination against chickenpox is also combined with the MMR vaccine.

What is the Way forward?

In my opinion Proper strategy to be followed up by the concerned authority in addition to vaccination of children should be adopted to avoid any outbreak.

We can also learn from our successful strategy that we adopted to contain the spread of COVID-19.

7. [WHY INDIA MUST STAND WITH PALESTINE](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Why India Must Stand with Palestine**” published in **The HINDU** on **29th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- International Relations

Relevance– As rising confrontation of Israel and Palestine India must have a particular stand as both the nations were erstwhile colonial empire and now must stand against Islamophobia.

News– The article explains how the India’s shifting stand on Israel-Palestine reflects the changing contour of India’s foreign Policy.

What is Israel-Palestine Conflict?

The conflict has been ongoing for more than 100 years between Jews and Arabs over a piece of land between the Jordan river and Mediterranean river.

In 1947, the UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem becoming an international city. That plan was accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by the Arab side and never implemented.

What is Present Scenario?

Israel still occupies the West Bank, and although it pulled out of Gaza the UN still regards that piece of land as part of occupied territory.

Israel claims the whole of Jerusalem as its capital, while the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state. Tensions escalated in recent month over Israel’s actions concerning Al-Asqa mosque in East Jerusalem.

What is India’s stand on this Issue?

During the 1947 UN General Assembly Resolution), India submitted that independence for Palestine should be the primary purpose of any plan for the future of the country.

India was also among the first countries that recognized the Palestinian state. In 1998, India co-sponsored the draft resolution on “the right of Palestinians to self-determination” in UNGA.

India has now taken cognizance of Human right violation done by Israel on Palestine

India supported installation of Palestinian flag at UN premises along with other observer states, like the flags of member states, in September 2015. There have been regular bilateral visits between India and Palestine.

India traditionally believes in the 2- State Solution and supports the establishment of a sovereign independent and the viable state of Palestine. India’s support for Palestine has not deterred its growing relationship with Israel. However, over the years, the Indian government has diluted its reaction to Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians.

What is the way Forward?

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between **India and Israel**, there has been increased cooperation in military and intelligence ventures. So, India must adopt a balanced approach to dealing with this complex issue.

8. [Unsure Payout – India’s health insurers get away with denying too many claims. Regulator must step in](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Unsure Payout – India’s health insurers get away with denying too many claims. Regulator must step in**” published in **The Times of India** on **29th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Social Justice

Relevance: **problems with health insurance in India**

News: India’s out-of-pocket expenditure is around 55% of total health expenditure which is more than the global average of 18%.

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However, the experience of individual with health policies has been unsatisfactory even though it has been over two decades since the insurance market opened up.

What are the problems with health insurance in India?

Health insurance in India has three main problems – it covers **only hospitalisation, exclusions** as many people are excluded from getting the insurance, and **limits on covering the hospital bills**.

Many times, people are excluded from getting the insurance benefit due to different reasons and people bear the cost of paying medical expenses even though they have insurance for it.

For example, during the pandemic, many insured found that a significant amount of their hospital bills fell outside the purview of insurance.

Some fear of being cheated as the claims process is often handled by **third party administrators**. The **largest buyer of health insurance** is GoI and the state government for their different schemes.

Even though, a good number of people are not covered under their schemes and they remain vulnerable to health emergencies in the absence of a **first-rate insurance system**.

Therefore, **IRDAI** needs to find a way to enhance the quality of insurance policies by providing individual satisfaction.

9. [My dream for India at 100: A chance at excellence for every athlete](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“My dream for India at 100: A chance at excellence for every athlete”** published in **The Indian Express** on **29h November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Government policies and interventions in various sectors

Relevance– Sports sector

News– The article explains the steps needed to be taken for development of sports.

What should be done by the government for the development of sports?

The aim should not be just medals, India needs to develop athletes who can perform at will.

India is 10 years behind every major country, in terms of **sports science**. It has only recently started looking at coaches’ training programmes, and own **data collection, analysis and research**. Now, the focus must be on **quality**.

In team sports like hockey and cricket, there should be **parity** between men and women.

We should **capitalise on traditional hubs** in boxing and wrestling, but must provide young people with more options. Sponsorship, infrastructure and sports programs at universities like in the US, are needed.

We need urban kids to play sports and aspire to be **elite athletes**.

More opportunities and facilities like travelling abroad, performing in a different set-up, and different food and language should be made available to all athletes irrespective of their backgrounds.

10. [Settling the language for cooperative federalism](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“Settling the language for cooperative federalism”** published in **The Hindu** on **30 November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Challenges pertaining to federal structure

Relevance– Language issues

News– The article explains the issues of language in our federal setup

What does the constitution say about language issue?

Article 345 leaves it to the State to choose its language for official purposes. In actual practice, several States and Union Territories continue to use English. **Article 348** stipulates that all

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proceedings of the Supreme Court, every High Court and Bills in Parliament shall be in the English language.

The **Eighth Schedule** and the periodic additions to it spell out the diversity and complexity of the language landscape. The **Official Languages Act of 1963** and its Rules made in 1976 and amended in 1987, 2007 and 2011 also adds to this diversity.

Article 351 directs the state, in the development of Hindi, to draw upon other languages in the composite culture of India.

What are some facts about parliamentary committees on official language?

It consists of 30 members of Parliament, and is headed by the Home Minister. Its mandate is to review the progress made in the use of Hindi for **official purposes**.

It also makes recommendations to increase the use of Hindi in **official communications**. It submits its report to the President of India, who forwards its recommendations to the two Houses.

So far, only the recommendations of the reports up to the ninth in the year 2010 have been forwarded to the Houses of Parliament. The **10th and 11th reports** have been submitted to the President and are not in the public domain.

What are the issues with the recommendations of the 10th report of the parliamentary committee on official language?

It highlighted some of its recommendations on language of instruction and examinations in technical courses. There are concerns about its **implications and practicality** in terms of the availability of standard books and course material. Lack of teachers qualified to communicate it adequately is also a big issue

A related matter is the **competence** in Hindi language of candidates undertaking examinations in it and competing in equal measure with those whose mother tongue it is.

There is apprehension that the imposition of Hindi is detrimental to students whose mother tongue is not Hindi. Its implications for **competitiveness** in the job market are evident.

The chapter on Official Language is **definitive** and limits itself to the language of the Union. It does not mention a national language. There is no mention of it in the section on **Directive Principles of State Policy** or **Fundamental Duties**.

[11. About Digital Personal Data Protection Bill: Finger On The Future](#)

Source: The post is based on the following articles

“Finger On The Future” published in **The Times of India** on **30th November 2022**.

“India’s law should be practical about breaches of data” published in the **Livemint** on **30th November 2022**.

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

Relevance: About Digital Personal Data Protection Bill.

News: The Union government has released the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill for public comment.

Why does India need a proper data protection policy?

India needs a proper data protection policy because,

a) India, with over 820 million internet users, soon to touch 1.2 billion, has become the world’s largest connected democracy, with the largest presence on the global internet, **b)** China has heavily censored the internet (or intranet). On the other hand, the internet in India, India is open, accessible and interconnected to the global digital network, just like Western democracies, **c)** With India assuming the presidency of G20 and also council chairmanship of the Global

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Partnership on Artificial Intelligence, it is natural for India to take a leadership role in shaping the future of technology.

What are the advantages of the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022?

a) Compliance burden is proportional and minimal, **b)** The adjudicating authority, the Data Protection Board, is independent and has a specific role of adjudicating disputes and determining financial penalties in the event of breaches, **c)** All standards for the larger data ecosystem will be set by MeitY through its India Data Management office, and **d)** The Bill is aligned to the tests of legality, necessity and proportionality as laid out by the Supreme Court.

Must read: [Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022: Benefits and Concerns – Explained, pointwise](#)

What are the concerns associated with the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022?

-Unlike previous drafts and most data protection legislation around the world, the Bill makes **no mention of the time limit**. Such as how soon a notification should be made or any other remedial action that ought to be taken.

-The draft bill required to notify every affected data principal of the data breach. Not every data breach puts data at risk. Further, over-reporting will cause unnecessary panic initially and over time a serious data breach might be taken lightly by the public.

How does the new Digital India Act make India's digital space comprehensive?

India has established a comprehensive future-ready framework for the digital economy and ecosystem consisting of IT Act & IT rules, cybersecurity directions, the National Data Governance Framework Policy, the Digital Data Protection Bill, and soon to be unveiled Digital India Act (as a successor to the 22-year-old IT Act). All this will make India's digital space comprehensive.

What are the challenges associated with creating a data protection policy?

Need swift policy response: Agile and dynamic tech developments require agile and responsive governance. But governments around the world have lagged in swift response in framing laws and regulations to the rapidly shifting and growing challenges of crime, harassment and political interference.

No standard definition of privacy in India: Since the 2017 Right to Privacy judgment, policymaking on the digital economy focuses on trust, growth and governance. But there is no standard definition of privacy in India.

Read more: [Revised Personal Data Protection Bill: One step forward, one step back](#)

What should be done to improve data protection?

Increase data protection: Most people use a single strong password that is used across a variety of services. Thus, a single data breach puts various services at risk. This can be prevented by **a)** Using a password manager can greatly reduce the cascading consequences of data breach incidents, **b)** Promote users to use two-factor authentication.

Report only potential breaches: Data fiduciaries should report only those incidents that are likely to result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of natural persons. This is followed by the European General Data Protection Regulation.

12. [Has GST reduced inter-state disparities?](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Has GST reduced inter-state disparities?**” published in the **mint** on **1st December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Indian economy and mobilisation of resources

Relevance– Taxation structure of country

News– The article explains the performance of GST regime.

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Two months, April and October in 2022 have seen the highest GST collection since its introduction in July 2017.

With introduction of GST, there was fear among states that it will lead to **lesser revenues**. The central government guaranteed a 14% growth in state revenue. It promised to make up for any shortfalls.

This compensation was only for five years till July 2017. It has ended this year.

What was the logic behind GST?

Convergence among states– No state can offer **tax breaks or tax incentives** to lure investments. It will ensure a level playing field among states.

It will replace local and state taxes. There will be a **national standard tax** on commodities. The result will be a national market for any good. It would be easier for companies to pick up underdeveloped areas for investment.

Reducing cost– A national tax would reduce **compliance and administrative cost**. Better enforcement and compliance means higher tax revenues.

Has it led to redistributing investments?

After the introduction of GST, Over half of proposed industrial investments are still accounted for by three states- Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Convergence of income has not happened.

Has it led to higher revenues?

A working paper by **National Institute of Public Finance and Policy** shows the shift in tax revenues pre and post GST.

The data shows that there is uniform decline across most states, rich or poor in tax to GDP ratio. The exceptions are states like Haryana, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

Central government has found other ways like taxes on Petroleum to cope up with the shortfall in revenues.

What is the way out for states?

There is a need for enforcing **better tax compliance**. States need to crack down on tax evasion, **Investment in technology** for faster payment of dues and making the entire GST system easier.

States can expand revenues in the longer term by doing two things. They need to reduce **transaction costs** and other costs of doing business. They need to **expand consumption** in their states by expanding economic opportunities.

But expanding consumption runs against one of the adverse consequences of the GST regime. It presumes that per capita income and employment are increasing. But worst affected by GST has been the MSME sector. RBI data shows the impact of demonetisation on MSMEs.

13. Party Congress over, understanding the China puzzle

Source– The post is based on the article **“Party Congress over, understanding the China puzzle”** published in **The Hindu** on **1st December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's interests

Relevance– India and China relationship in global context

News– The article explains China strategy in context of the recently held 20th Party Congress of Communist Party of China.

What is the current global situation?

Chinese President Xi Jinping has told the Central Military Commission, **“to enhance troop training and combat preparedness”**. He also warned of **“dangerous storms ahead”** and about

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external interference in Taiwan. All this seemed to convince the West that China is preparing to go to war over Taiwan.

Japan is understood to have already decided to double its defence budget to 2% of its GDP. Statements like “it was essential to uphold **international law and the multilateral system**, as **today’s era must not be of war**” by western leaders have only increased such concerns. Stalemates in the recent **Biden-Xi talks** have added to existing concerns. Mr. Xi reiterated that Taiwan “was the first red line” that must not be crossed. Biden told Xi that the U.S. would enhance its security position in Asia.

What can be inferred by careful reading of the 20th Party Congress of Communist Party of China?

Under Mr. Xi, **ideology** drives policy most of the time. Also, It reinforces Mr. Xi’s Marxist inspired belief that **‘history is irreversibly on China’s side’**.

There is a shift to **Marxist orthodoxy** in the political realm. It does mark a retreat from the Deng era of **‘caution and risk aversion’**. References made to changes in the **‘international balance of forces’** and that China has entered the **‘leading ranks of the world’**.

China wants to prevent the **ideological decay** of the CCP by avoiding the kind of situation that led to the collapse of Soviet Communism and ensure that the West did not succeed in fomenting **‘ideological divisions within China’**.

The priority for Mr. Xi and the CCP at present is not embarking on new conflicts but on protecting the **ideological purity and integrity** of the Party. China has certain **clear red lines** which cannot be breached. If this happens, it would lead to a major conflict.

China is asserting that today it is more powerful than ever. There is nowhere any clear evidence that China is about to use this power to change the course of history. China may want to assess the situation and the circumstances before embarking on a conflict against strategic entities such as the **Quad and AUKUS**.

What does it mean for India?

There is a need for better understanding of China’s real intentions. It includes avoiding past mistakes, such as those in the 1950s when the West seems to have overestimated China’s capabilities. India also failed in the 1950s.

The deliberations in the Party Congress do not appear directed at India. Repeated claims by western sources about China’s designs on countries in the **Indo-Pacific** should not provoke India into taking any hard steps.

Both situations and events tend to change rapidly. For instance, after a constant barrage of charges against China, Mr. Biden has implied that the situation has not changed for the worse, and that there is no **‘new Cold War in the offing’**, involving the U.S. and China.

For India, **border incursions** are a continuing cause for concern. But, they should not be mistaken as precursors to war. A careful study of the border hotspots indicates that China’s concerns are largely regarding **Aksai Chin**. Its importance for China lies in its proximity to China’s Tibet and Xinjiang.

This does not mean that relations between China and India will remain smooth. Their conflict is more **civilisational than territorial** in nature. India’s growing closeness to the U.S. and the West annoys China. It sees the U.S.-led West as its **principal antagonist**. Hence, China has excessive concerns about **strategic entities** such as the Quad.

Notwithstanding its claims about being stronger than ever before, China continues to nurse serious concerns about its **strategic vulnerabilities**.

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14. [Re-design and deliver – Govt crop insurance scheme needs radical rethink](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Re-design and deliver – Govt crop insurance scheme needs radical rethink**” published in **Business Standard** on **1st December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

Relevance: problems with PMFBY and ways to address it

News: The government has decided to bring changes in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) in the view of increasing climate hazards on farming. This is a great step as the current PMFBY has many lacunae.

What are the issues with PMFBY?

Decline in numbers: This scheme has failed to meet the expectations of farmers and state governments. The number of states implementing the PMFBY has declined from 22 in 2018 to 19 in 2022 and cultivators opting for the insurance cover has dropped from 21.6 million to 15.38 million.

Issues of farmers/insurers: Farmers argue that the compensation paid by insurers is too low and comes too late to help them whereas the insurers argue that farm insurance is a low-profit business with high risk involved in it. Therefore, some insurance companies have also stopped offering farm insurance cover.

Cost of sharing subsidy: PMFBY is a Central-sector scheme but half its cost is required to be shared by the states, and implementation is in the hands of public-sector and private companies. States already face financial issues due to which they find it hard to pay their share of subsidy for PMFBY.

What can be the way forward?

Change in the scheme: PMFBY should be either made a wholly Central scheme with all expenses borne by the Union government or leaving it entirely to the states as agriculture is a state subject under the Constitution.

- This will give autonomy to states to either choose to pay compensation to farmers or offer situation-specific insurance models acceptable to the farmers.
- It will also help the state to look at the level of the risk involved in the agriculture of its state depending upon local agro-ecological conditions.

Addressing reimbursement flaws: Even though the norms and rules for making claims and disbursement of the insurance are clearly given in the PMFBY but it is not followed. Therefore, the issue of delayed settlement of claims and inadequate reimbursement of the losses also needs to be addressed.

So, there is a need to carry out **structural and procedural modifications** to the PMFBY to make it feasible for insurance firms and financially gainful for farmers.

15. [Towards a robust triumvirate – on appointment of Election Commissioner](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Towards a robust triumvirate**” published in **The Hindu** on **1st December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Salient features of Representation of People Act

Relevance– Electoral reforms

News– The article explains the issue of appointment of CEC and ECs. It also explains the issue of security of tenure for ECS.

A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court is examining a bunch of petitions recommending reforms in the process of appointment of members of the Election Commission.

What are various recommendations for appointment of Election Commissioner?

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The **Dinesh Goswami Committee** in 1990 suggested that the Chief Election Commissioner be appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the Leader of the Opposition. It said this process should have statutory backing. It applied the same criteria to the appointments of Election Commissioners, along with consultation with the Chief Election Commissioner.

The **NCRWC** said that the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners should be appointed on the recommendation of a body comprising the Prime Minister, the LoP in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.

The **255th Report of the Law Commission** said the appointment of all the Election Commissioners should be made by the President in consultation with a **three-member collegium** consisting of the Prime Minister, the LoP of the Lok Sabha, and the Chief Justice of India.

What are various facts related to security of tenure for Election Commissioners?

CEC can only be removed by impeachment. Election Commissioners do not enjoy this protection. SC in **Sheshan case** have conferred equal powers on the Election Commissioners as those enjoyed by the Chief Election Commissioner. It has even offered **majority power**, whereby any two can overrule even the Chief Election Commissioner. Yet, it did not afford the Election Commissioners the same constitutional protection from arbitrary removal.

The **255th Report of the Law Commission** suggested measures to safeguard Election Commissioners from arbitrary removal, in a manner similar to what is accorded to the Chief Election Commissioner.

What Election Commissioners should be provided with security of tenure?

Without this, they may hesitate to act independently.

In the absence of **full constitutional security**, an Election Commissioner could feel they must keep on the right side of the Chief Election Commissioner. They might also feel they must favour the government.

With such misgivings, an Election Commissioner can never be sure whether they will automatically be elevated to the top post because nowhere has elevation been mentioned in any statute.

What is the way forward?

Chief Election Commissioner should be appointed by a **collegium**. This must apply equally to the Election Commissioners. The collegium should be wide based.

The Election Commission must now equally be protected from arbitrary removal by a constitutional amendment that would ensure a removal process that currently applies only to the Chief Election Commissioner.

16. An Indian recipe to quell micronutrient malnutrition

Source– The post is based on the article **“An Indian recipe to quell micronutrient malnutrition”** published in **The Hindu** on **1st December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Issue relating to poverty and hunger

Relevance– Malnutrition in India

News– The article explains the benefits of food fortification in checking malnutrition

What does the statistics say about malnutrition in India? As per **NFHS-5 data**, every second Indian woman is anaemic, every third child is stunted and malnourished, and every fifth child is wasted.

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According to an **FAO Food Security Report for 2021**, India ranks 101 out of 116 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2021. It has a 15.3% undernourished population, the highest proportion of stunted children (30%), and wasted children (17.3%).

Global Nutrition Report 2021 says that stunting among children in India is significantly higher than the Asian average of 21.8%.

What are the benefits associated with food fortification?

Pilot projects on the distribution of fortified rice have been taken up in Maharashtra (Gadchiroli district) as part of a targeted Public Distribution programme for the masses. The programme has been a success in terms of preventing cases of anaemia from 58.9% to 29.5% within a span of two years.

It has prompted the central government to declare the scaling up of the distribution of fortified rice through the existing platform of social safety nets such as the PDS, ICDS and PM-POSHAN. In Gujarat, an eight-month long study on **multiple micronutrient** fortified rice intervention for school children, as part of the Midday Meal Scheme took place in 2018-19. It found increased haemoglobin concentration, reduction in anaemia prevalence, and more improved average **cognitive scores**.

What is the effectiveness of food fortification?

According to the World Health Organization, **Iron deficiency anaemia** is a major public health concern. It is responsible for 3.6% of **disability-adjusted life years or DALYs**.

According to **NITI Aayog** a rice fortification budget of around ₹2,800 crore per year can save 35% of the total or 16.6 million DALYs per year with no known risk of toxicity. In India, the cost of one DALY lost due to iron deficiency anaemia is approximately 30000 Rs.

The health benefits accruing from food fortification have made 80 countries to frame laws for the fortification of cereal flour, and 130 countries with iodised salt. 13 countries have mandated rice fortification.

What is the way forward?

Food fortification is a **cost-effective complementary strategy** to address multiple micronutrient deficiencies. It can help in reducing **micronutrient deficiencies** and address overall health benefits.

The intervention should be carried out with **precaution**. Activists have expressed concern that excess iron overload from fortified rice has been dangerous for Jharkhand's tribal population suffering from sickle cell anaemia and thalassaemia.

17. [India's agenda during its G20 Presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive](#)

Source: The post is based on the following articles

"India's agenda during its G20 Presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive" published in the **Indian Express** on **1st November 2022**.

"Today, India commences its G20 presidency" published in the **Business Standard** on **1st November 2022**.

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

Relevance: About India's G20 agenda.

News: Today, India commences its G20 Presidency.

The world remains trapped in the same zero-sum mindset even today. This is visible by **a)** Countries fighting over territory or resources, **b)** Supplies of essential goods are weaponised such as vaccines are hoarded by a few, when billions remain vulnerable.

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What will be India's G20 agenda?

-India can present its experiences, learnings and models as possible templates for others, particularly the developing world.

-India will encourage an honest conversation among the most powerful countries — on mitigating risks posed by weapons of mass destruction and enhancing global security.

-India will seek to depoliticise the global supply of food, fertilisers and medical products, so that geopolitical tensions do not lead to humanitarian crises.

-India will encourage sustainable and environment-friendly lifestyles, based on India's tradition of trusteeship towards nature.

Overall, India's G20 agenda will be inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive.

Read more: [G20: Lessons from Bali summit and what it implies for India's presidency](#)

How India's G20 agenda will promote a universal sense of one-ness?

Unique theme: India sees all living beings, and even inanimate things, as composed of the same five basic elements (panch tatva of earth, water, fire, air and space). India's G20 Presidency will work to promote this universal sense of one-ness.

Hence, India decided "One Earth, One Family, One Future" to be the theme for the upcoming G20 meet. With this, India will focus on healing our "One Earth", creating harmony within our "One Family" and giving hope for our "One Future".

Indian democracy and economic growth: India is housing one-sixth of the human population. Along with its immense diversity of languages, religions, customs and beliefs, India is a microcosm of the world. Today, India is the fastest-growing large economy. Hence, India is better positioned to revamp the agenda of the G-20.

India's past achievement: India has leveraged technology to create open, inclusive, and interoperable digital public goods. These have delivered revolutionary progress in fields as varied as social protection, financial inclusion, and electronic payments.

India can be a voice of the unheard: India can help in shaping G20 priorities in consultation with both G20 partners and the Global South, whose voice often goes unheard.

For all these reasons, India's experiences can provide insights into possible global solutions.

Read here: [The G20 president's responsibility: Ensuring the delivery of the new loss and damage climate fund](#)

[18. Unseemly conflict – Government's diatribe does not resolve conflict over judicial appointments](#)

Source: The post is based on the following articles

"Unseemly conflict – Government's diatribe does not resolve conflict over judicial appointments" published in **The Hindu** on **1st November 2022**.

"Order, Order – NJAC better than collegium" published in **The Times of India** on **1st November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS – 2: Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary.

Relevance: About the conflicts on the functioning of the judiciary.

News: Recently, the government returned 20 names proposed by the Supreme Court collegium for judicial appointments. Among them, ten names were reiterated after being returned earlier. What are the major challenges hampering the functioning of the judiciary?

One, Union Law Minister is targeting the [Collegium system with its inherent challenges](#). The collegium is a demonstrably poor system where the individual biases of judges can affect who gets selected or dropped and there's too much opacity in its ways of functioning.

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The **second** is the Government's strategy of delaying appointments recommended by the Collegium is seen as a counterblast to its loss of primacy in the matter. For instance, a Supreme Court Bench questioned whether Government's inaction is a retaliation against the Court as it did not permit the implementation of the [National Judicial Appointments Commission](#).

Third, the Government is also **violating the prevailing legal position** that a recommendation reiterated by the Collegium, after due consideration of its objections, is binding on it.

Read more: [Revive NJAC: The collegium system ultimately hurts the judiciary's credibility. Parliament's idea was better](#)

What are the implications of the conflicts on the functioning of the judiciary?

Withdrawal of eminent lawyers: The uncertainty over the fate of a recommendation for appointment is resulting in eminent lawyers withdrawing their consent or declining invitations to join the Bench. This is a tragic waste of judicial talent.

Favours government-chosen candidates: The Government ignoring the reiterations results in the Government having a particular candidate in the position. In future, they might support the government in judgements.

Widen the rift between the government and the judiciary: In counter-retaliation, the judiciary might hold a major verdict that may go against the Government. This will in turn be portrayed by the political leadership as stemming from the hostility of the judiciary.

Above all, **litigants will face collateral damage** in the fight between judiciary and the government.

Read more: [A better NJAC: Politicians are right on the collegium. But can their solution rise above politics, that's the question](#)

What should be done to ensure the smooth functioning of the judiciary?

Every week there are high court judges retiring and vacancies are growing. Existing judges can dispose of more cases. But they cannot make amends for vacancies.

Only if the two sides are willing to address each other's concerns, the relations between the judiciary and the executive will be back on track. This can be done by

a) The Government clearing the pending recommendations, b) The judiciary must agree to a process of reforms in the way the Collegium functions. The judiciary should expand the range of consultation and widen the zone of consideration, **c) The Government must bring a new constitutional mechanism to make appointments** without undermining judicial authority. For instance, The Centre can unveil a new NJAC after consultation with political parties and SC, which is acceptable to all sides, **d) The judiciary must make public criteria used to select judges**, like assessments of judgments written or cases argued.

19. [Why tracking migration is important for nutrition schemes?](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“Why tracking migration is important for nutrition schemes?”** published in **The Indian Express** on **2nd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Poverty and hunger

Relevance– Issues related to malnutrition

News– The article explains the challenges faced by the government in reducing malnutrition due to high migration in some areas. During a study, it was found that the number of children with acute malnutrition peaked in April. A **UNICEF study** in Nandurbar district in Maharashtra found the same thing. Both these districts have a high population of people who migrate in search of jobs.

What are the challenges created by migration for tackling malnutrition?

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Multiple government schemes work on the assumption that people are going to stay in villages. This assumption does not work in high migration areas.

In **nutrition surveys**, the lack of migration data inflates the number of children being measured because new births keep adding to it. It leads to data that does not reflect the actual situation.

The pregnant women and children are not reflected in data used by administration for **government interventions** in areas where people are migrated.

The migrated children are also not properly **vaccinated**.

What is the way forward?

The government needs to understand the **interplay between nutrition, livelihood and poverty** for long-term interventions to reduce malnutrition.

A plan is needed that focuses on targeting the most vulnerable.

20. [State elections and the troubling return of the old pension scheme](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**State elections and the troubling return of the old pension scheme**” published in the **Livemint** on **2nd November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2- Governance

Relevance: About reviving old pension scheme (OPS).

News: The poll promises in ongoing state elections are always debatable. The Himachal Pradesh election witnessed a promise of revival of the old pension scheme (OPS) for state government employees.

Before this, three state governments had already notified the PFRDA of their switch to the OPS: Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan and Jharkhand.

About the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and National Pension Scheme

Must read: [Comparison of National Pension Scheme with Old Pension System – Explained, pointwise](#)

The OPS was a defined-benefit scheme with an entitlement defined (by the fifth pay commission) at 50% of the last salary drawn.

Due to its drawbacks, State governments shifted to a new pension scheme (NPS) without any coercion (except in West Bengal).

National Pension Scheme: The NPS is like pension systems elsewhere in the world. It is based on the amounts contributed by the employee and employer over the working life of the employee, and the market yield obtained on the consolidated pension fund. The NPS is regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).

Note: *Pensions for defence personnel are paid by the central government. This is the sole exemption from NPS, and continues to be paid on the defined-benefit system.*

Why does the OPS is bad for state economics?

a) In addition to inflation indexation through dearness allowance adjustments, OPS wage was indexed to pay-scale revisions prescribed by successive pay commissions, **b)** The OPS benefits only retirees, on the other hand, it squeezes the state’s exchequer from which welfare benefits flow to the common person, **c)** By implementing the scheme at present, the state governments is likely to become insolvent by the time their defined benefits become due.

Read more: [OPS is bad for economics](#)

What should be done?

Municipalities and panchayats in India are subject to legislation passed at the state level. Instead of implementing OPS, the government should improve the state exchequer by transferring funds to municipalities to improve the condition of roads and sanitation, increase municipal school teacher salaries and public health services.

Read more: [Why the Old Pension Scheme is both bad economics and bad politics](#)

21. [Can China and India settle the conflict over the Line of Actual Control?](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Can China and India settle the conflict over the Line of Actual Control?**” published in **The Indian Express** on **3rd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations

Relevance: India and China relations

News: China has objected to the military drill that is being conducted between India and the US.

What did China say and why does the current objection of China hold no importance?

China said that the current military drill Operation “**Yudh Abhyas**” that is being conducted 100 km from the LAC at Auli, is a violation of the 1993 and 1996 **India-China border agreements**.

As per the agreement, there is a requirement that the two sides should not hold, or should give adequate notice of military exercises in “**mutually identified zones**”.

However, this agreement does not hold any importance as China has itself violated the agreement with its large-scale intrusions across the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh in April 2020. It has also violated other agreements signed in 2005, 2012 and 2013. All these laid down that boundary issues between the two countries will be resolved peacefully, and that neither side would use or threaten to use force.

Therefore, India no longer has the confidence that China wants to resolve the border issue.

What is the way forward?

First, India and China now need a new border agreement to settle the border issues through peaceful means. However, it is doubtful whether China wants it.

Second, India needs to build up its ties with the US and QUAD nations to counter Chinese presence in the South Asian region.

Third, India can also make an alliance with Pakistan that benefits India and attempts to establish a rivalry in the Indian Ocean region.

22. [As CJI constitutes an all-women bench, what's the status of women in law?](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**As CJI constitutes an all-women bench, what's the status of women in law?**” published in **Business Standard** on **3rd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Social Justice

Relevance: position of women in judiciary

News: The proportion of women enrolling in LLB courses or in judiciary is very low which is an important issue that requires attention.

What is the status of women in the judiciary?

According to the data from **All India Survey on Higher Education** for 2019-20, **only 33 per cent** were women enrolled out of 400,000 LLB students.

Moreover, India has not had a woman as a Chief Justice since Independence. The proportion of women in the **Supreme Court is low at 12.5 per cent**.

Recently, the Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has constituted an **all-women bench** which is only the third time in the history of SC where an all-women bench has been constituted.

The position of women is **better in lower judiciary** but their proportion falls as we move to higher judiciary.

As per the data, out of 19,288 judges employed in the subordinate courts, 6,765 (35 percent) were women and out of 6765, 55 percent women were employed as civil judges.

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However, in **the high courts**, only 13.2 per cent women occupied the position of judge. Further, there are **state-wise disparities** in the appointment of women judges in the lower judiciary and the high courts.

As per the data, out of the 36 states and Union Territories, 17 had a smaller proportion of women in the lower judiciary than the national average.

States with lesser number of women employed in the subordinate courts are –Gujarat (19.5%), Jharkhand (23%), Bihar (24.2%).

States which are in a better position of women employed in the subordinate courts are – Telangana (52.8%), Andhra Pradesh (46.2%) and Punjab (45.8%).

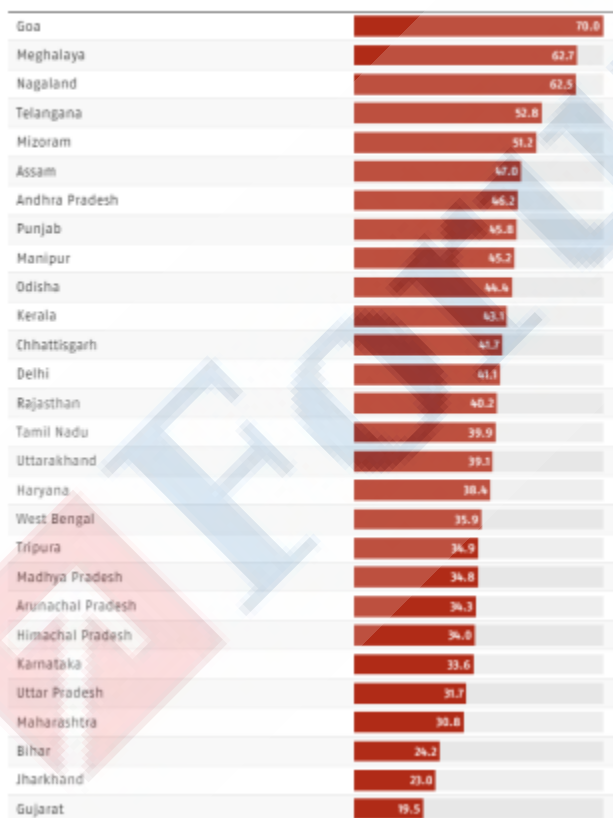
The data reveals that five states did not have a single woman judge whereas seven states have less than 10 per cent women in the judiciary. **Only three states** (Sikkim, Telangana and Delhi) had over a fourth of women judges in the high court.

Further, the number of women has increased in the high courts but their representation has hardly changed.

Therefore, these data highlight a grim picture of the women employed in the judiciary in India. So, there is a need to look into the issue and give proper representation and equal rights to women.

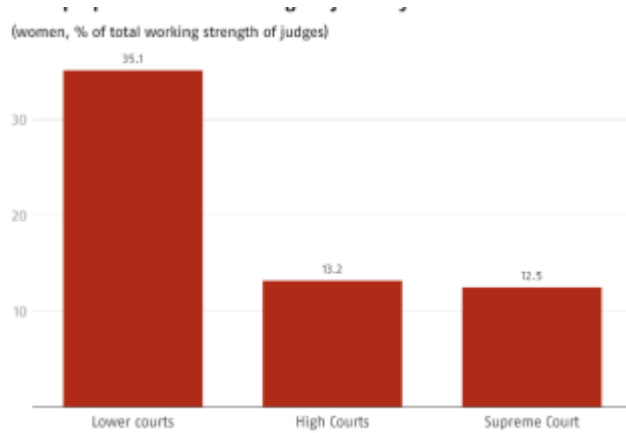
Gujarat and Jharkhand were worst performers among the states

(women, % of total working strength of judges in lower courts)



Source: Business Standard

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Source: Lok Sabha, BS Analysis

Source: Business Standard

Five HCs did not have a single woman judge

(women, % of total working strength of judges in High Courts)



Source: Lok Sabha

Source: Business Standard

23. [Winning the world, softly](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Winning the world, softly**” published in **The Times of India** on **3rd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- International relations

Relevance– Soft power of India

News– The article explains the soft power enjoyed by India in ancient times. It also explains the steps needed to enhance India’s soft power.

What shows the Indian arc of influence in ancient times?

Mahabharat’s Gandhari was from Gandhar now called Kandahar.

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Iran derives its name from the term **Airyānēmaējā** or the land of the Aryans.

Angkor Wat, the world's largest Vishnu temple, is not situated in India but in Cambodia.

Varuna was even adopted by the Greeks as Uranus.

Two Indian monks, **Kashyapa Matanga and Dharmaraksha**, carried the first Buddhist texts into China while Bodhidharma took martial arts to Shaolin.

Indonesia's 20,000 Rupiah note prominently displays Ganeshji on it.

In Thailand, the **Chakri dynasty kings** still assume the title of King Ram and their royal emblem is Garuda.

In Malaysia, the **Hikayat Seri Rama** is performed with shadow puppets even today. It is the Malay adaptation of Ramayan.

What is the way forward to increase the soft power of our country?

Iyengar Awards: International Day of Yoga has been recognised by the UN. The most famous practitioner of yoga was BKS Iyengar. The government can create an Iyengar Awards as the Oscars of yoga.

Buddhist tourism: Most of the significant Buddhist sites are in India and Nepal. There is a lack of **nodal agency** that ensures a coordinated approach from heritage site management to international connectivity. Religious tourism can be an instant brand enhancer.

Film industry: India produces 1,600 films annually. Government can provide **budgetary assistance** for Indian films to be marketed abroad once they have tasted success in India.

Health sector: India has some of the finest **alternative therapies** – ayurveda, pranayama, panchkarma, naturopathy. The practice of **meditation** is also becoming mainstream in stress management. Government needs to work on a **PPP basis** to create world-class alternative therapy centres abroad.

Sanskrit Inc: India should also be concerned that Sanskrit will soon be appropriated by countries like Germany where tens of chairs in Sanskrit are being established. It is time to develop an Indian centre that can preserve Indic knowledge and India's pre-eminence.

Indian cuisine: The world is enthusiastically embracing turmeric lattes, masala tea, pure ghee, vegetarianism and veganism. India needs to invest in a **travelling Indian food festival** that takes India's cuisine around the planet. **Strategic partners** like hotel chains and airlines can be involved.

Strengthening of ICCR: The country needs to **rejuvenate, rebrand and re-engineer** ICCR's 38 Indian Cultural Centres to play to our strengths. Both the quality and quantity of centres must improve.

24. [Connecting India's East with the Indo-Pacific](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“Connecting India's East with the Indo-Pacific”** published in **The Hindu** on **3rd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS2- Regional and global groupings affecting India interest

Relevance– Understanding the concept of Indo-pacific

News– The article explains the construct of the Indo-Pacific from the perspective of north-eastern India.

Since 2018, India's **'Look East'** and **'Act East'** policies have moved into the phase of **Indo-Pacific policy and strategy**. But the New Delhi interpretation of **Indo-Pacific** is different from the perceptions of this policy in Northeastern and eastern India.

How should the construct of the Indo-Pacific include the perspective of the north-east?

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Security aspects– Security conditions have improved significantly in recent times. However, the core issues behind the **insurgency** have remained unresolved. The way forward was to address them substantially and accelerate the pace of development.

There exists a contrast in **security assessments** of the authorities and others.

The official perspective was that the phenomena of smuggling, drug trafficking, transnational border crime, insurgent activity, and the influx of refugees represented serious non-traditional threats. China was viewed as a **'constant player'** behind these nefarious activities.

Local communities have concerns over the insensitive handling of those engaged in lawful exchanges with the neighboring countries.

A balanced view indicates that considerable scope exists for more **effective and people-sensitive border management** in the future.

Developmental aspects– The Northeast is on the right path to economic development. There is a need for improvement in roads linking northeastern towns. **Job creation** for thousands of graduates produced by local universities is required.

Manipur needs to be promoted as the hub of **medical tourism** for other Indian States and neighbours such as Myanmar. The State's research and development facilities to leverage the **region's biodiversity** should be expanded.

Accelerated development requires **increased investment** by Indian corporates and foreign investors as well as better management.

Why is there a need to focus upon the cultural aspect of Indo-pacific construct?

There is a need to move beyond **geopolitics and geo-economics**. Neighbours should focus on **"the geo-cultural dimension"** of the Indo-Pacific. Expanded **people-related cooperation** would lead to wider acceptance of the Indo-Pacific and **consolidation of the Quad**.

Shared culture, history and mutual social threads that tie the region with India are also an important component towards fostering **regional cooperation**".

How member states should consolidate the construct of Indo-pacific?

First, the growing significance of the Bay of Bengal region permeates the thinking of scholars. The concept of the Indo-Pacific seems distant. Therefore, member-states need to invest more in the **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation** to enhance its **effectiveness**.

Second, for implementing India's **Indo-Pacific strategy**, voices from Northeast and eastern India must be heard.

General Studies Paper – 3

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General Studies - 3

1. [India's high growth a good position for G20, but urban pollution must be checked](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**India’s high growth a good position for G20, but urban pollution must be checked**” published in **The Indian Express** on **28th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment degradation

Relevance: Urban pollution in India

News- The article explains the increasing urban pollution in India and steps needed to reduce pollution. It also explains the scenario of climate change.

What is India’s strength?

India is a shining star. As per the IMF forecast its GDP growth is expected to be 6.8% in 2022 and 6.1% expected in 2023. India will surpass China in two successive years by a wide margin.

Why is urban pollution a big problem for India?

Delhi is being branded as the most polluted city in the world. The **Air Quality Index** of Delhi during November 1-15, stood at 267. In comparison, Washington stood DC at 8, and Beijing at 97. Delhi has the poorest AQI amongst the G20 nations.

The **Air Quality Life Index Report (2022)** of the University of Chicago claims that Delhites are losing their life expectancy by 10 years

What is the scenario of climate change?

There is a global call for reducing **greenhouse gas emissions**. Climate change has started causing significant damage through heat waves, droughts and floods of increasing intensity and frequency.

The COP27 agreement on creating a “**loss and damage fund**” for compensating developing countries is a good beginning. But the international community is falling far short of the Paris targets.

According to Climate Watch, the biggest GHG emitters in 2019 were China (12.06 billion tonnes of CO₂), the United States (5.77 Bt CO₂), and India (3.36 Bt CO₂).

However, in terms of GHG emissions on a per capita basis in 2021, Australia tops. It is followed by Saudi Arabia, and Canada. In terms of per capita emissions and emission intensity of GDP, India is in a relatively much better position.

What is the way forward to tackle urban pollution in India?

According to **SAFAR**, the largest share of stubble burning to Delhi’s AQI this year was 34 per cent. Measures aimed at stubble management are not likely to succeed. There is a need to reduce the paddy area in Punjab by at least one million hectares.

The switch away from paddy towards crops such as maize, soyabean, pulses requires a “**diversification strategy**” for at least five years. It requires handsomely rewarding farmers with **carbon credits**, and savings of water and energy.

Vehicular emission in Delhi is another major cause of poor AQI. **A fast-track strategy** to promote electric vehicles is the answer. Incentivising and even subsidising EVs and charging stations in all parking lots and residential colonies is the need of the day.

To control dust, heavy fines must be enforced on builders who do not use water sprinklers multiple times a day at construction sites.

All thermal power plants in and around Delhi must be replaced with more renewable energy sources.

Solarisation should be made mandatory for all government buildings, schools, as well as public spaces with a minimum specified area. **Easy access to finance** for such renewables would be key.

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2. [Our free trade agreement with Australia is unique in its details](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Our free trade agreement with Australia is unique in its details**” published in the **mint** on **28th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian economy

Relevance: economic reforms for more growth

News- the article explains the steps taken by the Indian government to increase the trade potential of firms.

What are initiatives taken by the Indian government to boost trade?

More exports- India has more than 2 million firms that produce quality products and services. But, less than 100000 of these firms are engaged in exports.

There is a need to increase the number of firms doing commercial exports. **District hubs scheme** can push more firms to export their products.

Flexible labour laws– Labour laws apply to only **formal sector workers**. It constitutes just 8% of all workers. India has introduced **four labour codes**. It will help to set up many new units and increase the **employment opportunities**.

Support for manufacture of high-tech products– India’s share in global export of high-value items is low. Our export share in machinery is 0.9% and electronics is 0.4%.

The government has introduced the **production linked incentive scheme** to make India a major production centre of these products. It will lead to more exports.

Enhanced efficiency of commercial courts– Courts delay in settling commercial disputes is stunting industrial growth. **Weak contract enforcement** is one of the reasons for poor industrial growth.

The government has made several interventions like introducing new laws and **automating courts**. These are yielding results.

The introduction of WTO-compatible export schemes– Government has abolished export schemes that are not compatible with rules of WTO. The most important one was the Merchandise Exports from India scheme.

Improved product quality through regulation– Many Indian products fail quality tests due to traces of pesticides, pathogens etc. India needs to redesign its **quality assurance framework** to help firms reach higher standards.

The government has issued **Quality Control Orders** and **Technical Regulations** for many products. It will reassure the quality of these products.

Service sector diversification– The IT sector dominates India service exports. The government is working to diversify exports in 12 service sectors under **Champion Service Sector initiative**.

3. [Why DBT schemes need to fix the problem of tenant farmers](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Why DBT schemes need to fix the problem of tenant farmers**” published in **The Indian Express** on **28th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Agriculture

Relevance: problems associated with agri-DBT

News: Many economists argue that all agricultural subsidies should be converted into direct income support to farmers.

It is because DBT is transparent and simple to administer. It is crop-neutral and does not cause distortions in input/output markets. However, there are problems associated with it.

What is the problem associated with agri-DBT?

There is one limitation with the present agri-DBT schemes that they do not reach **tenant farmers**, i.e., those who undertake cultivation on leased land.

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Due to the rise in leasing of lands the tenant farmers are excluded from income support including zero/low-interest loans, crop insurance, disaster compensation and other agri-related schemes.

What does the data highlight?

According to the **National Statistical Office's (NSO)** survey for 2018-19, 17.3 percent out of the total estimated 101.98 million farms in rural India were on leased lands.

Andhra Pradesh (42.4 per cent) has the highest tenant farmers followed by **Odisha** (39 per cent). **Haryana and Punjab** have the share of leased-in area higher than the percentage of tenant holdings. It means that the tenant farmers of Haryana and Punjab cultivate large area of land, even though they don't own these lands.

The NSO surveys highlight that there has been a steady increase in tenant farmers but the agreements between the land owner and tenant farmer are mostly oral and unwritten.

This causes problems with DBT transfers as benefits cannot be availed by the real farmers and it gets transferred to the account of non-cultivating owners.

However, **Andhra Pradesh** tried to solve the problem of tenant farmers but it also has problems with it.

How has Andhra Pradesh tried to solve the problem?

The AP government agri-DBT scheme also covers tenant farmers. The government in 2019 enacted the **AP Crop Cultivator Rights law**.

The law provides for the issuance of "**Crop Cultivator Rights Cards (CCRC)**" to persons cultivating the lands of owners under agreements with 11-month validity countersigned by the concerned village revenue officers.

The cards provide tenant farmers benefits under the state's DBT schemes along with obtaining crop loans from banks.

However, very few tenant farmers have received the CCRC card and out of those who received the card, very few availed the benefits of loans or DBT.

The problem with CCRC is that it requires **landowner's signature** and cannot be issued without his consent but most owners are reluctant to sign.

They fear that this may give rights to tenant farmers over lands and they might face the burden of loan taken by the tenant farmer if they fail the repayment.

What is the way forward?

Agriculture in India is increasingly seeing both "**tenancy**" (landless/marginal farmers leasing in land to cultivate) and "**reverse tenancy**" (small landowners leasing out to better-off farmers keen to reap economies of scale).

Therefore, the central government needs to expand the scope of PM-KISAN by subsuming all existing input and output subsidies under it. However, the problems of benefitting tenant farmers may still be a concern.

4. [A region-specific strategy and their introduction in mid-day meals could boost millets cultivation](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**A region-specific strategy and their introduction in mid-day meals could boost millets cultivation**" published in the **Indian Express** on **28th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Agriculture

Relevance: About improving millet cultivation in India.

News: The United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

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About India's millet cultivation

India produces various types of “nutri cereals” such as jowar, bajra and ragi and minor millets such as kodo, kutki, kakun, sanwa, cheena and kuttu. However, India's own production of these nutri cereals has fallen from 23-24 million to 19-20 million tonnes over the last 4-5 decades.

Read more: [Centre formulates action plan to promote exports of millets and value-added products of millets](#)

Why has India's millet cultivation been reduced recently?

This is because, **a)** Millets aren't the first choice either of consumers or producer, **b)** Unlike wheat, millets are gluten-free. So, kneading dough and rolling rotis is hard with millets. **c)** Public Distribution System (PDS) has made rice and wheat accessible even to the rural poor, for whom millets were previous aspirational cereals, **d)** Millets are orphan crops for farmers as with access to irrigation, farmers switched to growing wheat and rice that yield 3-4 times more than jowar or bajra.

Why does millet cultivation deserve a special push?

Read here: [Multidimensional benefits associated with enhancing millet cultivation](#)

Apart from health benefits, Millets are a hardier and drought-resistant crop. They have a short growing seasons (70-100 days, as against 120-150 days for paddy and wheat) and lower water requirements (350-500 mm versus 600-1,200 mm).

What should be done to improve millet cultivation in India?

Incentivise millet cultivators to not shift to rice and wheat: The government needs to incentivise farmers in western Rajasthan, southern Karnataka or eastern Madhya Pradesh — who are already cultivating bajra, ragi and minor millets.

Adopt region-specific strategy: Like Dindori in MP for kodo and kutki, the millet cultivation districts/regions can be developed as clusters for particular millets.

Create a potential market: According to data for 2021-22, India has 14.89 lakh schools with 26.52 crore students. These, plus another 14 lakh pre-school anganwadi centres, constitute a large potential market for millets.

The schools and anganwadis can serve khichdi, dosas, energy bars and puddings made from locally-sourced millets. Further, the need for such wholesome nutrition would be more for children in the very regions that are suited for millet cultivation.

Read more: [Why India's push for millets is yet to gain widespread traction](#)

5. [Exotic and novel food items: Growing across nations and continents](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Growing across nations and continents**” published in the **Business Standard** on **28th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Agriculture

Relevance: About exotic and novel food items.

News: The cultivation of exotic and novel fruits and vegetables is expanding in India at a fast pace.

What are some common exotic and novel food items consumed in India?

The most common among them are fruits like avocado, kiwi and dragon fruit; vegetables like Brussels sprouts, zucchini, asparagus, coloured cabbages and capsicums, baby corn, and cherry tomato; and salads like lettuce, broccoli, celery and parsley.

There are also some unique edible items that have traditionally been collected from the wild and consumed primarily by the locals but are now commercially grown by enterprising farmers. These include the likes of Japani Phal (Persimmon), Ambarella (Indian hog plum), Jangli Jalebi or Kodukkappuli (Camachile), Karonda (Carandas cherry), and Buddha's hand (Fingered citron).

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Top producers: Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have emerged as the major producers of exotic and novel food items within India. **Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, and Telangana** are the other key producers.

Why there is an increase in the intake of exotic and novel food items?

a) Increased awareness of the need to eat diversified food, **b) Impact of the pandemic** increased the need for nutritious and immunity-boosting foods. For instance, the import of exotic fruit items has almost doubled in just one year, from about 3.6 lakh tonnes in 2020 to a record 7.21 lakh tonnes in 2021, **c) Increased cultivation:** According to agriculture ministry estimates, exotic fruits were grown in 2021-22 in over 2.8 million hectares. The area under such crops was almost negligible in the early 2000s.

All these made exotic and novel food items to be readily available in fruit and vegetable shops in even tier-II and tier-III cities.

Why there is an increase in the domestic cultivation of exotic and novel food items?

Farmers replaced traditional crops like sugarcane, grapes, soybean, and vegetables with dragon fruit because it requires less water and cash inputs but fetches higher prices in the market.

Many farmers in Kerala have begun to diversify their farming from traditional crops to butternut squash (introduced from Central America), Gac fruit from Vietnam, and Loquat from China. As they provide much more remunerative than conventional crops.

How India is promoting exotic and novel food items?

Integrated Horticulture Development Mission: Under this, the government promotes several novel fruits, such as kiwi, avocado, passion fruit, blueberry, dragon fruit, figs, mangosteen, persimmon, rambutans and strawberry.

A University in Himachal Pradesh has **developed high-yielding technology** suitable for growing products like avocado, kiwi, and hazelnut in northern hilly areas.

The **Indian Agricultural Research Institute** has been promoting the technology for growing non-native plants under controlled environmental conditions in poly-houses.

What are the concerns associated with exotic and novel food items?

Despite domestic cultivation, 80-85% of the demand for these products is still met through import. So, **a)** India's highly diverse agro-climatic conditions in different regions should be effectively utilised for cultivation of exotic and novel food items, **b)** Farmers need to include high-value exotic fruits and vegetables in their cropping patterns to get good returns.

6. [Loss and Damage decisions, pitfalls and promises](#)

Source- The post is based on the article "**Loss and Damage decisions, pitfalls and promises**" published in **The Hindu** on **29th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment

Relevance: Climate change related issues

News- The article explains the issue of climate financing with respect to Loss and Damage mechanism.

What is the decision relating to new funding arrangements focusing on L and D?

The decision includes a **transitional committee** to prepare elements relating to the operationalisation of the new funding arrangements to be adopted at COP28.

The decision restores the faith of countries, especially those vulnerable, in the process of multilateralism.

The new funding arrangements will **complement the existing arrangements** and include sources, funds, processes and initiatives under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

What are the issues associated with new funding arrangement?

Lack of clarity on the **source of funding** accruing to the new fund only.

There is a question mark over the new L and D fund with **non-compliance by developed countries** as far as climate finance commitment is concerned.

This dilutes the consistent demand by the **Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)** to set up a **dedicated loss and damage response fund**, which would be on top of existing climate finance commitments.

The decision again recognises the **mitigation-centric** nature of the history of climate change negotiations to be suiting the agenda of developed countries. The mitigation-centric nature of the negotiation can be traced to **Article 2** of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (**UNFCCC**) **1992**.

What is the viewpoint of developed countries?

The developed countries have **consistently opposed** being made liable for climate-change related adverse effects. The basis for their contribution to various funds so far is the principle of **common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDR)**.

They only acknowledge their responsibility in view of the pressures their societies place on the environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.

The compensation aspect involves a **serious legal hurdle** of establishing causal relations between the injurer and the victim since the adverse effects of climate change occur substantially later than the greenhouse gas emissions that cause them.

What are the demands of Alliance of Small Island States?

During the negotiation process for the **UNFCCC in 1991**, AOSIS, unsuccessfully tried to include the establishment of an **international insurance pool** as a collective loss-sharing scheme. But it requires more research and deliberation amongst major emitters in developed and developing countries.

In Egypt, AOSIS, demanded a dedicated L and D Response Fund. It wanted funding from governments on a grant basis.

The fund would also draw upon other potential sources, which include, as **UN Chief Antonio Guterres** advocates, a **windfall tax on oil and gas** companies' profits.

The AOSIS favours a dedicated L and D response fund including the **German-backed "Global Shield Scheme"** against climate risks which is aimed at increasing **re-arranged finance** to be disbursed before or just after disasters happen, and avoid a piecemeal approach.

7. [What Does Inclusion Being Key To Growth Mean?](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "**What Does Inclusion Being Key To Growth Mean?**" published in **The Times of India** on **29th November 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Inclusive Growth**

Relevance: **problems with inclusive growth and measures to improve it**

News: The article discusses the problems faced in achieving inclusive growth at the time of Nehru and measures that can be taken to improve it.

How did the concept of inclusive growth fail during the Nehru period?

At the time of Nehru, it was argued that poverty can be reduced by focusing on growth. However, this concept failed to provide the desired result.

The failure led to the emergence of cottage industry under the title of "New Economics" which argued that redistribution was the only way to reduce poverty.

However, this argument does not hold importance as inclusive growth is important for the overall growth of a nation.

Why is inclusive growth important?

Growth raises incomes of the poor along with revenues of the government which help the government to launch anti-poverty programmes.

Inclusive growth is important for the overall growth of a nation and the government should focus on inclusion in its policies and programmes.

Why did the growth during the Nehru era not achieve the desired result?

India at the time of Nehru was at the early development stage. Therefore, in the early stage of development the most abundant resource of developing countries is labour.

A country at an early stage can only grow by using the full potential of its **labour force**.

For example, 68% of the South Korean workforce was employed in agriculture in 1960. This proportion fell to 18% by 1990. In the later decades, industry and services absorbed an additional half of the workforce with real wages rising 8-10% annually.

However, India under Nehru adopted a development strategy that was centred not on the utilisation of its abundant labour force but on its **low capital**.

Indians had a low level of income with a saving rate of just 7-9%. With these low capital resources, the government chose to invest them almost **entirely in heavy industries** which employed less than 5% of the nation's workforce.

Even though, this development strategy created a modern industry, 95% of the workforce was excluded and relied on sectors such as agriculture, cottage and household enterprises.

Census data show that the proportion of workforce in agriculture remained unchanged at 69.7% between 1951 and 1971 whereas workers in countries like South Korea became skilled at the same period of time.

However, with the change in policies, the growth rate in India began to change.

What changes were brought in India?

As per the **Employment-Unemployment Survey**, the proportion of workforce in agriculture fell from 58.5% in 2004-05 to 48.9% in 2011-12. These years also saw the annual growth rate reach 8%.

However, the process of direct inclusion of workforce into the mainstream of the economy remains slow in India compared to other fast-growing economies of Asia.

What are the concerns?

Policy-makers focusses on capital and skilled-labour-intensive industries such as automobiles, railways, steel, telecom equipment, IT, finance **for output** but **for employment**, they rely on MSMEs which have little capacity to impart skills to their employees.

Therefore, to grow at 8% or higher rates India must recognise that **inclusion is an integral part** of rapid growth and only then India's labour-intensive industries can grow leading to overall development of the nation.

8. [Long-term ecological, environmental effects of herbicide-tolerant crops haven't been considered](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Long-term ecological, environmental effects of herbicide-tolerant crops haven't been considered**" published in the **Indian Express** on **29th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Major crop-cropping patterns in various parts of the country.

Relevance: About concerns related to the DMH-11 hybrid.

News: The government recently approved the environmental release of genetically engineered (GE) mustard ("**DMH-11 hybrid**") in India.

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Must read: [Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee approves commercial cultivation of genetically modified mustard yet again](#)

What are the preconditions attached to the approval of the DMH-11 hybrid?

DMH-11 carries a gene for herbicide resistance (also termed herbicide tolerance or HT). The GEAC in its recommendation made on October 18 for environmental release of DMH-11 has accepted **a)** Usage of any formulation of herbicide is recommended only under controlled and specified conditions exclusively for hybrid seed production, **b)** Usage of any formulation of herbicide is not permitted for cultivation in the farmer's field under any situation. **c)** Usage of herbicide would require the necessary permission as per procedures and protocols of safety assessment of insecticides/herbicides by CIB&RC (Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee).

What are the concerns related to the DMH-11 hybrid?

1) Long-term ecological and economic consequences are not analysed properly, **2)** Details of the mandatory trials to ensure food and environmental safety which is a prerequisite before environmental release have not been made public, **3)** A detailed long-term assessment of the potential social and economic benefits of using DMH-11 and its potential drawbacks are not made.

The other drawbacks include,

HT offers short-term benefits at the cost of long-term sustainability: HT crops imposes strong selective pressure for resistant weeds to emerge. Once that happens, still higher amounts of herbicide need to be used; the cycle continues progressively.

Can be a disaster for the normal crop: The deployment of herbicide-resistant or HT crops has been accompanied by deleterious outcomes in several places including the US, Australia, and Canada.

Usage of herbicides: There have been numerous recent reports highlighting the illegal use of unapproved herbicide-resistant crops.

Role of CIB&RC: Safety assessment by CIB&RC raises debate as it is not the competent body for recommending approval of GM crops.

Read more: [GM Crops in India: Issues and challenges – Explained, pointwise](#)

9. [The regulatory puzzle of MIIs](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**The regulatory puzzle of MIIs**” published in the **Business Standard** on **29th November 2022**.

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

Relevance: About Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs).

News: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) constituted a committee to review the governance framework for market infrastructure institutions (MIIs). The committee recently released its draft report for public comments.

What are Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs)?

MIIs are unique institutions providing vital infrastructure for trading, settlement and record-keeping. Stock exchanges, depositories and clearing houses are all Market Infrastructure Institutions (MIIs) and constitute a key part of the nation's vital economic infrastructure.

They are vested with regulatory responsibilities while also pursuing commercial interests like other profit-oriented entities.

Read more: [Market Infrastructure Institutions \(MIIs\)](#)

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What are some key recommendations of the committee on MIIs?

-The regulatory framework should ensure that MIIs, in pursuance of their business objectives, should not lose sight of the regulatory roles vested in them as the first-line regulators.

-Tightening the norms should not deter innovation or customer focused service provision by MIIs. Hence, the committee calls for a review of the requirements related to the appointment and the role and responsibility of directors on the board and key managerial personnel (KMPs).

-The committee proposes **a)** Steps to improve the transparency and accountability in the functioning of MIIs, **b)** Metrics for the monitoring of their performance and measures for the safekeeping and sharing of information held by them, **c)** Independent directors must constitute two-thirds of the total strength of the board, **d)** Roles and responsibilities of the directors should be clearly defined, and the board should play an active role in the risk management framework of MIIs, **e)** Periodical assessment of the performance of the board and its members by an external agency, and **f)** SEBI meetings with independent and non-independent directors once a year.

What is the success story of the National Stock Exchange (NSE)?

The BSE had a record of several governance failures by the late 1980s. Then a government expert committee recommended the creation of the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

In the newly created NSE the three groups — ownership, management and trading — were kept separate. The NSE had the freedom of a private organisation, though its entire ownership was with public sector units.

What are the challenges in the functioning of MIIs?

MIIs have severe design challenges because,

1) They have to make a profit for the shareholders and perform regulatory functions. These two can be in conflict, **2)** Misgovernance is another challenge with MIIs. Every key management person's appointment decision of exchanges is controlled by the regulator(government), **3)** Personnel at MIIs have begun to behave like civil servants: Not take decisions and push every small question up through the hierarchy and get multiple signatures. This has hampered operational capability, **4)** Exchanges (and MIIs) in India can no longer be described as autonomous organisations that rapidly take decisions.

What should be done?

There is a need to get back to the journey of establishing capable exchanges. India needs to question the process of turning MIIs into de facto PSUs. Further, the SEBI report emphasises increased government control of exchanges. This should be avoided. India needs to follow NSE like approach to improve the performance of MIIs.

10. [Money to fight climate change: Are taxes the answer?](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Money to fight climate change: Are taxes the answer?**" published in **The Indian Express** on **30th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Environment

Relevance: problems with climate finance

News: The money that is currently being invested in climate projects is only **one to ten percent** of the estimated requirements. Therefore, there is a need to mobilize the required financial resources to tackle climate change.

What is the estimated amount of money required to tackle climate change and what is the current scenario?

It is estimated that the global transition to a low-carbon economy would likely require about **\$ 4-6 trillion every year till 2050**. TO achieve net zero targets, \$ 4 trillion investment is required in renewable energy till 2030.

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Further, the total requirements of the developing countries for implementing climate actions were about \$ 6 trillion between 2022 and 2030.

Investing such a huge amount means at least **five percent of the global GDP** would need to be directed into climate action every year. This amount was just 1 and 1.5 percent of global GDP a few years back.

Developed countries agreed to mobilise \$100 billion every year from 2023 but as of now they are able to mobilise **\$ 50-80 billion every year**. Therefore, the current requirements are higher than the money being made available.

What are the problems with climate finance?

Availability: The availability of finance can be increased if businesses and corporations start investing money into green projects. Their investments are only 30 percent of current climate finance.

Businesses and corporations do not invest unless they are sure of good returns. Therefore, there is a need for **international financial institutions** to engage with stakeholders to create the right environment for investments in green projects.

Accessibility: The current rules and regulations of the global financial system make it extremely difficult for many countries to access international finance. Therefore, there is a need to make finance accessible to these countries.

Transparency: Climate finance flows through a network of channels – bilateral, regional, multilateral in different forms such as grants, concessionary loans, debt, etc. This creates confusion over the actual amount of money being spent on climate. This needs to be addressed by bringing transparency.

What are the ways to bring more money for green projects in India?

One of the ways to bring money other than from the developed countries is to impose various types of **carbon taxes on the citizens**. The use of petrol and diesel, and other fossil fuels needs to be taxed.

Government has already imposed taxes on the production of coals which brings money for investments in the clean technologies but there is a need to share the burden on **citizens, businesses** and come up with different sources of money.

11. Where does waste originate and go?

Source: The post is based on the article “**Where does waste originate and go?**” published in **The Hindu** on **30th November 2022**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Environment**

Relevance: **amount of waste generated and disposed in India**

News: The report titled ‘**EnviStats India 2022**’ has been published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. The report provides the data for Delhi for the year 2020-21.

What are the highlights of the report for Delhi?

Waste Generated: According to the report, over 40 lakh tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste (**MSW**) was generated in 2020-21. Out of which about 85% of MSW in Delhi was generated by households and 15% by shops and restaurants. (**Chart 1**)

Delhi generated over 13 lakh tonnes of construction and demolition waste, over 5.4 lakh tonnes of plastic waste, about 11 thousand tonnes of bio-medical waste, and 610 tonnes of e-waste along with 3,239 tonnes of hazardous waste.

Waste Disposed: Half the municipal solid waste went to landfills and the other half was recycled and reused. About 35% of bio-medical waste was burnt while all construction and demolition waste were recycled (**Table 2**).

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About 22% of plastic waste is converted into energy while 37% is taken to landfills. However, it is not known how e-waste was disposed of as there is no treatment and disposal facility available in Delhi for e-waste.

What are the conditions of other states?

The current report highlights data for Delhi only, therefore, previous year data has been taken for other states.

Waste Generated: 68% of the **MSW generated** is processed across India in the year 2019-20.

Himachal Pradesh leads the list with 98% of MSW followed by Chhattisgarh at 93%. **(Table 3)**

An average of 2.5 tonnes of plastic was generated per 1,000 population in India in 2018-19 and 8.09 metric tonnes of the hazardous waste generated in the country per 1,000 population in 2018.

Waste Treated: 87% of **biomedical waste** was treated across India. **Seventeen States and five Union Territories** have already achieved 100% bio-medical waste treatment whereas only 29% of biomedical waste was treated in Bihar and Chhattisgarh in 2018.

Across India, only 45% of the **hazardous waste** generated was recycled/utilised. Most States lag in this indicator. Out of 30 states less than 50% was recycled/utilised in 13 states and less than 75% was recycled/utilised in 22 states in the year 2018-19.

Counting the waste

Chart 1 and Table 2 are sourced from "Envi Stats - India 2022", published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Table 3 is sourced from the NITI Aayog SDG Index



Chart 1 | The chart shows the various sources of solid waste generated in Delhi in 2020-21. Over 4 lakh tonnes of municipal solid waste was generated in the capital in 2020-21

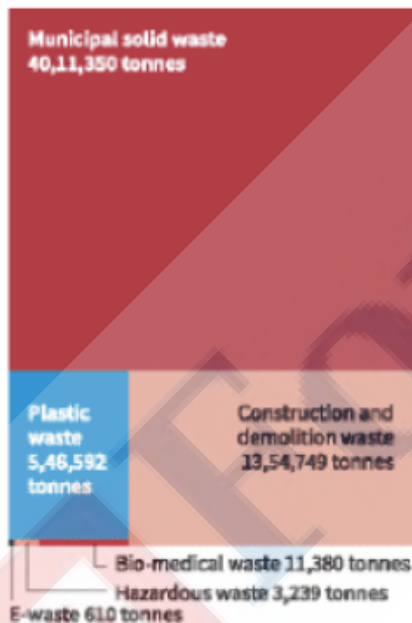


Table 3 | The table shows the % share of various types of waste processed or treated or recycled/utilised

Area	% of MSW* processed of the total MSW generated	% of BMW* treated of total quantity of BMW generated	Quantity of hazardous waste recycled/utilised of total hazardous waste generated
Target	100%	100%	100%
India	68%	87%	45%
U.P.	68%	100%	60%
Uttarakhand	57%	99%	96%
Punjab	76%	100%	18%
Haryana	50%	100%	100%
Himachal	98%	100%	65%
Jharkhand	64%	53%	2%
Bihar	58%	29%	28%
West Bengal	9%	100%	50%
Odisha	80%	100%	63%
Arunachal	24%	100%	-
Assam	63%	75%	21%
Manipur	70%	79%	-
Meghalays	65%	100%	2%
Mizoram	80%	100%	50%
Nagaland	68%	100%	50%
Sikkim	71%	73%	0%
Tripura	63%	100%	93%
M.P.	90%	92%	67%
Chhattisgarh	93%	29%	20%
Rajasthan	77%	76%	99%
Gujarat	87%	100%	33%
Maharashtra	83%	100%	12%
Goa	70%	100%	4%
Andhra	64%	100%	75%
Karnataka	64%	100%	55%
Kerala	75%	59%	33%
Tamil Nadu	70%	100%	45%
Telangana	78%	100%	52%

Table 2 | The table shows the various ways in which the waste was disposed of in Delhi in 2020-21. The figures are in % and each row adds up to 100%

	Landfill	Incineration	Recycling and reuse	Flows to the environment	Exports	Waste to energy	Unknown
Municipal solid waste	50%	0	50%	0	0	0	0
Bio-medical waste	2%	35%	31%	3%	0	0	29%
Hazardous waste	0	0	0	0	11%	0	89%
Construction and demolition waste	0	0	100%	0	0	0	0
E-waste	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Plastic waste	37%	0	25%	16%	0	22%	0

MSW- Municipal solid waste | BMW- Bio-medical waste

12. [Learnings from COP27: Education as a tool of innovation for the climate change generation](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Learnings from COP27: Education as a tool of innovation for the climate change generation**” published in **The Indian Express** on **30 November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment

Relevance– Climate change

News– The article explains the need for education to fight climate change.

What is contained in India Long-Term Low Emissions and Development Strategies (LT-LEDS)?

It outlines priorities for carbon-intensive sectors like electricity and industry and transport. There is emphasis on the role of a **Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)** as a mass movement towards **sustainable consumption and production**.

What are the challenges faced by the education sector in India?

First, school closures during the pandemic have led to a **learning deficit**. This will likely impact productivity and per capita income levels in the long term.

According to a paper by the OECD, one year of school closures could reduce GDP levels by anywhere from 1.1 to 4.7 per cent by mid-century.

Second, climate impacts are already disrupting children’s learning and well-being globally. For instance, extreme heat reduces students’ **learning levels** and causes **physiological harm**. Children’s health is affected due to persistently poor air quality in cities like Delhi. Floods are permanently displacing families. It is leading to children dropping out of schools and being trafficked.

Third, the lived experiences of climate-induced disasters and anxiety about the future are causing despair and dread among young people.

How education system can be leveraged to avert climate crisis?

At a national level, there is a need for **strong enabling framework** for a **climate-resilient education system**. It could cover matters from curricula to nutrition to school building codes in a climate-changed world. India should create this framework through a **consultative exercise** with educators, students, and experts.

Design and implementation in states and districts should be shaped by existing **local needs and anticipated climate risks**. Across the board, children should be able to access clean water and nutritious food. Students’ **mental health** needs should be served through an emphasis on **social and emotional learning**.

Curricula can be infused with **scientific and technical know-how** alongside **indigenous and local knowledge**. In pockets, there are already **innovative initiatives** under-way where non-government organisations are doing close work with communities. The example is the buffer zone of Kanha National Park where Baiga and Gond students are learning about the potential of integrating **biodiversity conservation** with **regenerative agriculture**.

We should foster **critical thinking instead of rote learning**. While we must strive for **abundance and equity**, societies and individuals will likely need to negotiate **scarcity and trade-offs**.

We can’t afford to be narrowly focusing on **technical training** for the innovation, research, and development of climate technologies. Rather, we should develop strong **analytical capabilities and holistic thinking** about **societal transformations** and how new technologies will be embedded in communities.

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13. [Geo-engineering and climate control](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Geo-engineering and climate control**” published in the **Business Standard** on **30th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Climate Change.

Relevance: About geoengineering solutions to climate change.

News: A recent sci-fi novel (Ministry of the Future) describes what will happen in the future if countries fail to implement a carbon mitigation programme.

What are the key highlights from the novel on India and Climate Change?

-The novel appreciated the efforts of the Indian government such as spraying sulphur dioxide on clouds in the Indian Ocean. As this spraying would reduce solar radiation and bring the temperature down.

-A massive heat wave will strike Uttar Pradesh which will kill millions. The generations to come will face severe and relatively long heat episodes, floods, droughts and water uncertainty, more storms, sea-level rise, biodiversity loss and much more.

-The novel proposes measures to cope with the consequences of catastrophic climate change.

What is Geoengineering?

Geoengineering is an umbrella term for various experimental technologies designed to deliberately alter the climate system to reduce the impacts of global warming.

Geo-engineering basically compensates for the significant shortfall in mitigation options that are necessary to keep temperature rise below the agreed target level.

What are the various Geoengineering solutions to combat climate change?

Cloud seeding: [Read here](#)

Stratosphere aerosol injection (SAI): Most aerosols cause atmospheric cooling, either by directly reflecting incoming solar radiation or indirectly through their impact on clouds. For example, anthropogenic aerosols alone have cooled global surface temperatures by up to 0.8 °C over the last century.

They are short-lived in the atmosphere and more regionally variable relative to longer-lived emissions, like carbon dioxide. But there is very little scientific data to assess the impact and the uncertainty.

Solar Radiation Modification (SRM): [Read here](#)

Any SAI or SRM action will have cross-border effects.

What needs to be kept in mind while promoting geoengineering solutions?

-The nations must accept that **geoengineering is a precautionary measure** and it **should not dilute the pressure on major emitters** to do more to reduce their carbon emissions.

-The process of establishing a credible multilateral process for dialogue and decision must start soon because the **risk of wrong decisions is very high**.

What determines the success of geoengineering solutions?

The success of geoengineering solutions depends on **a) A cooperative scientific research process** to analyse the available information for major volcanic eruptions that altered solar radiation, **b) The governments must plan and evaluate pilot experiments and multilaterally approve them,** **c) The world needs to agree on a global agreement that prohibits unilateral action and sets up a process for a multilateral agreement on geoengineering initiatives.**

European Commission can take the lead in this as it will require an inter-country mechanism even for its own inter-membership decision on this issue.

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14. [ED's expansion – The agency is entering new areas of surveillance](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**ED's expansion – The agency is entering new areas of surveillance**” published in the **Business Standard** on **30th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – money laundering and its prevention.

Relevance: About the expansion of ED's power.

News: Last week, the Centre has amended a 2006 notification to include 15 organisations on the list of institutions with which the Enforcement Directorate (ED) may share information regarding cases. This expands substantially the ambit of the ED's information-sharing brief.

What is the Enforcement Directorate(ED)?

Read here: [Enforcement Directorate \(ED\)](#)

What is the functioning of the Enforcement Directorate?

Read here: [The functioning of the Enforcement Directorate](#)

About the present amendment on ED's power

The Centre has amended a 2006 notification to include 15 organisations on the list of institutions with which the ED may share information regarding cases. Among these are the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Competition Commission of India (CCI), the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), and State Police Divisions.

Previously this information sharing is limited to bodies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation's economic offences wing, the banking and stock market regulators, the Research and Analysis Wing of the Cabinet Secretariat, and the Intelligence Bureau, apart from the chief secretaries in states.

How the recent amendment will widen the power of ED?

Expand ED's sectoral expertise: Some of the institutions that have been included in the amendment will widen ED's sectoral expertise. For instance, information sharing with Bureau of Wildlife Crime Control will provide domain expertise in that field.

ED can question other organisations: If organisations such as the SFIO, Central Vigilance Commission, and NIA are required to share data with ED, it will create an open question of the enforcement functions of these agencies.

The inclusion of the CCI within the ED's information-sharing ambit: This has significant consequences for the corporate sector since it lays open to agency scrutiny confidential data that companies submit to the competition regulator.

How does the recent Supreme Court ruling on ED also widen its powers?

Recently, the Supreme Court held that **a) The ED's have powers of arrest, property attachment, and search and seizure** with relative impunity, **b) ED was not bound to produce the Enforcement Case Information Report**, the official document recorded before starting a criminal investigation.

Note: *The court agreed to list the verdict for review.*

Why there is an expansion of ED's power?

This is due to an **expansion in the money-laundering caseload**. Between 2019-20 and 2021-22, the agency handled 2,723 cases, up from 1,262 in the seven years from 2012-13 to 2018-19.

What are the concerns with the expansion of ED's power?

a) The weaponisation of the ED might lead to an increase in cases against Opposition leaders and critics of the state, **b) The government can expand its surveillance powers** to larger swathes of society. An expanding surveillance state is usually a sign of **shrinking democracy**.

Read more: [How Enforcement Directorate \(ED\) became so powerful?](#)

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15. [Held To Ransom – Healthcare sector is a sitting duck to cybercriminals. AIIMS & other hospitals must shore up security systems](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Held To Ransom – Healthcare sector is a sitting duck to cybercriminals. AIIMS & other hospitals must shore up security systems**” published in **The Times of India** on **30th November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Basics of cyber security.

Relevance: About cyberattacks on healthcare institutes.

News: The recent massive ransomware attack has crippled the e-hospital services of AIIMS, Delhi for the last seven days. This highlights the increasing vulnerability of the country’s healthcare infrastructure and other critical IT systems to cybercriminals.

What are the concerns associated with the recent ransomware attack?

There are fears that the attackers could sell the force-encrypted AIIMS databases that contain the personal information of patients – including political leaders, senior administrators and judges – and their healthcare records on the Dark Web.

About increasing cyberattacks on healthcare institutes

A massive increase in cyberattacks on healthcare institutes worldwide has been witnessed during the Covid pandemic.

According to research by CloudSEK, the first four months of this year saw cyberattacks on the healthcare industry increase by 95% compared to the same period last year.

In the US, the ransomware attack resulted in delaying chemotherapy treatments to diverting ambulances from a San Diego emergency room after computer systems were frozen.

Read more: [Explained: What is cryptojacking, the cyber attack carried out by crypto miners?](#)

About cyberattacks on Indian healthcare institutes

The **Indian healthcare sector was the second-most targeted** globally. The Indian hospitals are even more vulnerable than their American counterparts given their measly budget for cybersecurity.

The increasing digitisation of hospital operations and records make them more vulnerable.

What should be done to make Indian healthcare institutes cyber secure?

Follow ‘3-2-1 backup approach’: Healthcare entities must save three copies of each type of data in two different formats, including one offline. This is an industry best practice to make healthcare institutes cyber secure.

Read more: [Cyber attacks on critical Infrastructure](#)

16. [This global water audit should not gather dust](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**This global water audit should not gather dust**” published in **Live Mint** on **1st December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Environment

Relevance: findings of the World Meteorological Organization’s report

News: The World Meteorological Organization (**WMO**) has released a water audit report that can guide global climate adaptation.

What are the findings of the report?

The report offers an overview of river-flow volumes, major floods and droughts, and identifies hotspots of change in freshwater storage with the vulnerability of the cryosphere. The findings of the reports are –

3. A large part of the Earth in 2021 was dry due to the rising global warming.
4. **India** may also face water scarcity in the future.

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5. 6 billion people have insufficient access to water for at least one month per year which is expected to exceed 5 billion by 2050. This means that more than three people would be short of water by 2050.
6. African rivers, rivers in some parts of Russia and Central Asia were all affected by weak stream flows last year while Chinese and **North Indian rivers** are becoming more prone to floods.
7. There was a rainfall deficiency in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia last year.
8. Even though India did not suffer much dryness, but **monsoon coverage** is increasingly becoming uneven which may pose a threat in the future.
9. There has been severe groundwater depletion in **North India and Pakistan** and these regions are categorized as below average compared to their 2002-2020 average.
10. The Gangetic and Indus systems also feature on the WMO's '**hotspot**' list of rapid deterioration.

The findings of the report highlight the future concerns. Even though India has its own water audit but WMO's report should also be taken into consideration and actions should be adopted by the World including India accordingly.

17. Are ransomware attacks increasing in India?

Source: The post is based on the following articles

"The AIIMS cyber attack is a wake-up call for national security" published in the **Indian Express** on **1st November 2022**.

"Are ransomware attacks increasing in India?" published in **The Hindu** on **1st November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Basics of cyber security.

Relevance: About the recent ransomware attack on AIIMS.

News: The recent massive ransomware attack has crippled the e-hospital services of AIIMS, Delhi for seven days.

What is ransomware?

Ransomware is a type of malicious software, used by cyber criminals, to infect a computer system by blocking access to the stored data by encrypting the files. A ransom is then demanded from the owner in exchange for the decryption key.

A Cybersecurity firm, in its third-quarter global report, has identified 25 major ransomware in circulation. According to Interpol's first-ever **Global Crime Trend report**, ransomware was the **second highest-ranking threat after money laundering**, at 66%. It is also expected to increase the most (72%).

Read more: [What is a Ransomware?](#)

Why AIIMS is targeted by ransomseekers?

Many countries consider the health and medical sector as critical information (CI) infrastructure. But in India, health is not specified directly as a CI. However, an organisation like AIIMS is a natural target for cyber attackers and ransom seekers because,

a) AIIMS databases contain the personal information of patients – including political leaders, senior administrators and judges – and their healthcare records, **b)** AIIMS handles and stores **very sensitive medical research data**, and **c)** AIIMS New Delhi could be counted as a "strategic and public enterprise" as it deals with crores of patients.

Must read: [Held To Ransom – Healthcare sector is a sitting duck to cybercriminals. AIIMS & other hospitals must shore up security systems](#)

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How did India handle the AIIMS ransomware attack?

The Delhi Police used the provisions of **section 66 (F) of the [Information Technology Amendment Act 2008](#)**. Thereby identifying AIIMS incident as a case of cyber terrorism. This is significant and indicates a much larger ambit than a typical ransomware case.

Read more: [Explained: What is cryptojacking, the cyber attack carried out by crypto miners?](#)

Which agencies in India deal with cyber-attacks?

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In): It is the national nodal agency that collects, analyses and circulates inputs on cyber-attacks; issues guidelines, advisories for preventive measures, forecasts and issues alerts; and takes measures to handle any significant cyber security event.

National Cyber Security Coordinator: It functions under the National Security Council Secretariat. It coordinates with different agencies at the national level on cybersecurity issues.

National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre: It has been set up for the protection of national critical information infrastructure.

Cyber Swachhta Kendra (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre): It has been launched for detection of malicious software programmes and to provide free tools to remove the same.

National Cyber Coordination Centre: It works on creating awareness about existing and potential threats.

Read more: [Steps Taken to Deal with Cyber Crime and Cyber Security](#)

What should be done to protect India's critical infrastructure?

AIIMS incident is a wake-up call for organisations across sectors to shore up cyber security measures. This can be done by

Announcing a national cyber security strategy: This will be a guiding document to motivate and monitor the preparedness of cyber readiness of institutes and also enhance capacity on many fronts including forensics, accurate attribution and cooperation.

Increased budget for cyber security measures: Significant budgets have to be allocated by various ministries to ensure cyber security measures.

Capacity enhancement: The capacity enhancement for the National Critical Information Infrastructure Centre (NCIIPC) and CERTIn has to be undertaken to address the emerging sophisticated nature of threats and attacks. Further, sectoral CERTs have to be set up for many areas including health.

International cooperation: This will help India to gain more knowledge and power. For this, India has to move beyond the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) meetings and the US-led Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI) of 37 countries and the European Union.

18. [How can India make a soft landing amid global economic crash?](#)

Source- The post is based on the article "**How can India make a soft landing amid global economic crash?**" published in **The Indian Express** on **2nd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian economy

Relevance- Performance of economy

News- The article explains the current situation of the Indian economy. It also explains the future economic prospects.

What is the current global economic situation?

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There was no disruption of economic activities by Covid-19 pandemic for the second consecutive quarter. Covid is unlikely to affect economic growth for coming times with the exception of China which is following the **zero-Covid policy**.

There are also some downsides. **Geopolitical tensions, high inflation** in many parts of the world and sharp increase in **policy rates** will impact economic growth.

How did the Indian economy perform in the July -September quarter?

Economic growth slowed down to 6.5% because of a fading **low base effect**.

Contact driven services such as trade, hotels and transport continued to be key drivers of economic growth. This sector has been impacted by recurrent lockdowns.

Private consumption was quite strong. It was growing by 9.7%. It is now 11.2% above pre-pandemic level.

Manufacturing GDP slowed sharply due to the base effect and margin pressure on manufacturing companies.

Despite climate-related disturbances, **agriculture growth** was satisfactory. Rain was lopsided and led to drop in rice acreage.

Food inflation, particularly in cereals, was high. It was due to abnormal weather.

Healthy tax revenues have allowed higher investment by the government. Investments grew 10.4% in the second quarter.

What are the future economic prospects?

The contact-intensive service is likely to maintain its momentum.

The **resilience of domestic demand** will shape the contours of GDP growth in upcoming quarters as global economic prospects are weak.

Manufacturing sector will likely face challenges as poor growth in the global economy has started to impact export growth.

Prospects for **rabi crops** look good because of favorable soil moisture conditions and health reservoir level. Overall, agriculture is expected to grow at 3% this year.

Consumer inflation is likely to be averaging at 6.8% this year.

Strong corporate balance sheets will protect them against the global economic slowdown. It will also provide an opportunity to kick-start the investment cycle once uncertainty ends.

[19. The battle to bring freshwater turtles back from the brink](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**The battle to bring freshwater turtles back from the brink**” published in **The Hindu** on **2nd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Conservation

News– The article explains the issues of turtle trafficking in India.

Recently, West Bengal Police seized 270 kg of turtle calipee in Malda district.

What is the status of turtles in India?

India has 29 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises. The main difference between the two is that turtles are primarily aquatic whereas tortoises are **terrestrial** and spend more time on land.

More than half of the turtle species are threatened and 11 are protected under **Schedule I of The Wildlife Protection Act**.

Recently, the **Conference of the Parties** adopted India’s proposal to transfer two species of freshwater turtles found in the country. These are the **red-crowned roofed turtle** and the **Leith’s Softshell Turtle** to **Appendix I of CITES**.

What are issues associated with trafficking of turtles?

According to the study, at least 111310 tortoises and freshwater turtles were trafficked from September 2009 to September 2019.

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They are being **illegally traded** as pets, for food, or to prepare medicines. India is reported to be one of the world's major sources and consumers of turtles and tortoises.

The **TRAFFIC India report** stated that an unknown proportion of illegal wildlife trade presumably goes undetected,

People who live in the Barasat and Bongaon areas of West Bengal's North 24 Parganas district are responsible for more than 50% of the country's consumption of turtles.

The pet market for trade is serviced mostly by air now. Agencies do not have the **intelligence** about them.

What are some successful initiatives by government agencies to protect turtles from trafficking?

The WCCB has carried out a pan-India crackdown on turtle smuggling. Between December 2016 and January 2017, it launched '**Operation Save Kurma**' to prevent poaching, transportation and illegal trade of live turtles and tortoises.

Two more such initiatives, called '**Operation Turtshield-I**' and '**Operation Turtshield-II**' from 2019 to 2021 were taken up to tackle the illegal trade of live turtles.

What are some success stories related to conservation of turtles?

Conservationists face the challenge of **rehabilitating** the animals rescued from the illegal trade back to their natural habitats. Organisations such as the **Turtle Survival Alliance** have assisted in the rehabilitation of over 30,000 rescued turtles over the past 10 years.

The Turtle Survival Alliance, along with the Forest Departments of U.P. and M.P., has also been credited for conserving critically endangered **red-crowned roofed turtles** in the Chambal landscape. Attempts have also been made to conserve the critically endangered **black softshell turtle** in its natural habitat — temple ponds of Assam.

20. [Safer roads for a greener, more sustainable environment](#)

Source– The post is based on the article "**Safer roads for a greener, more sustainable environment**" published in **The Hindu** on **2nd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment pollution

Relevance– Causes of environmental pollution

News– The article explains the linkages between road safety and clean environment.

How do road accidents lead to environmental pollution?

Most vehicles contain **toxic metals** such as lead, mercury, cadmium or hexavalent chromium, which are detrimental to the environment. **Fuel and fluid leaks** are seen at crash sites.

Severe road crashes lead to automobile wreckage. It becomes a part of unusable end-of-life vehicles. This gives rise to scrappage.

What are issues with vehicle scrappage in India?

India is estimated to have about 22.5 million end-of-life vehicles by 2025.

India's **National Automobile Scrappage Policy**, launched in 2021, is still in its nascent stages.

There is absence of **widespread, systematic facilities** dedicated to their proper recycling. vehicles after road crashes as well as old **end-of-life automobiles** are left to rot by the wayside.

These end up at landfills or at **informal recycling facilities** where they are dismantled unscientifically. This leads to the leakage of **hazardous constituents** such as oils, coolants and glass wool.

How are road safety and environmental sustainability intertwined concepts?

In 2020 alone, speeding was responsible for 91,239 road crash fatalities. It comprises 69.3% of all road crash deaths registered.

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Simulation exercises in Europe have demonstrated that cutting motorway speed limits even by 10 km/h can deliver 12% to 18% fuel savings for current technology passenger cars. It can lead to significant reduction in **pollutant emissions**, particularly Nitrogen Oxides and particulate matter, from diesel vehicles.

What is the Zero-Fatality Corridor solution for road safety by the SaveLIFE Foundation?

All road safety initiatives undertaken and recommended by the SaveLIFE Foundation are designed to be **impactful and environment-friendly**.

It was deployed on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway in 2016. It helped bring down road crash fatalities by 52%, as of 2020.

Initiatives included guarding **natural hard structures** such as trees using **crash barriers** to prevent direct collisions. It also includes installing **retro reflective signage** on the trees to make them more visible to commuters.

Missing or inadequate signages are another leading cause of road crashes. It is a common standard practice to use asbestos for creating these signages.

Asbestos has an adverse impact on the environment. The ZFC programme opts only for **long-lasting, high-quality, non-hazardous** material for signage. Aluminium Composite Panels are employed for signages. It is free of toxic gas or liquids during the production process. It is also recyclable separately.

What is the way forward?

Roads and the environment are inseparable spaces. They are not just our shared resources but also our joint responsibility. T

herefore, safer roads and a sustainable environment can be ensured only through the joint efforts of road-owning agencies, enforcement officials and the public.

21. Coming clean on coal

Source: The post is based on an article “**Coming clean on coal**” published in **The Indian Express** on **2nd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Environment

Relevance: coal-based energy generation and concerns associated with it

News: The Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh, highlighted the importance of coal-fired plants in meeting developmental requirements.

What did he say?

He said that India is planning to gradually lower the use of coal for electricity generation but on the other hand India is also looking to expand its coal power capacity for its developmental needs. He said that the share of this fossil fuel in the energy mix will come **down in percentage terms but not in absolute measure**.

What is the current usage of coal in India and future estimation?

India’s **50 percent electricity** is generated from coal-fired plants which is expected to come down to 30 per cent in the next 10 years.

However, India is planning to increase its electricity generation capacity to 865 GW from 407 GW. Therefore, 40 GW of this additional power will come from coal-based plants.

This energy generation from coal-based plant was also a concern in the CoP-26 meeting last year where countries accused India and China.

What were the decisions made in CoP regarding the usage of coal?

Countries in the **CoP-26** decided to “phase down” their coal-based electricity generation.

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However, the final draft of the agreement wasn't successful and India and China were accused of opposing anti-coal stance. Even this year's **CoP-27** did not come with an appropriate conclusion regarding elimination of coal.

Moreover, the current **geopolitical situation** has changed the energy demand scenario of the world.

How the current geopolitical situation has changed the energy demand?

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has altered the demand of the energy sector worldwide. The conflict has caused the **EU** to restart its coal plants which were once importing clean gas from Russia. According to the **International Energy Agency**, the EU's coal consumption rose by more than 10 per cent in the first six months of 2022 and it is further expected to rise in the coming months. Even though EU governments have said that the use of coal is temporary, its usage at a time when countries are planning to eliminate the use of fossil fuel is concerning.

What can be the course of action for India?

India has made remarkable efforts in expanding its **renewable energy** but due the unstable nature of renewable energies the dependence will be on coal-based plants. Further, **new coal plants are more efficient** as they emit less GHG.

Therefore, India must begin work on plans for an energy generation which has a negligible role for coal to achieve the net zero target by 2070.

22. [Fighting the naval battle](#)

Source: The post is based on an article "**Fighting the naval battle**" published in **Business Standard** on **2nd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Security

Relevance: challenges associated with the Indian Navy

News: The **Exercise Malabar** was conducted recently by the navies of four quadrilateral countries — Australia, India, Japan and the United States of America.

What is the importance of Malabar exercise?

This year's Malabar exercise was **hosted by Japan** with focus on countering China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) to take over Taiwan or to enforce its claims over the South China Sea and East China Sea.

Malabar exercise creates "**inter-operability**" by making the four partner navies cooperate in fighting the opponent.

This exercise helps countries to show their capability in fighting one of the major threats, i.e., Chinese PLA Navy, or PLAN. It also helps India to show the capabilities of its Navy in detecting the submarine of the opponent among others.

This kind of simulated "**locate-identify-destroy drills**" is carried by QUAD Navies every year.

What does the law say regarding the war on the sea?

India signed and ratified the United Nations Commission on Laws of the Seas (**UNCLOS**) which lays down laws for the seas. UNCLOS contains the law of **Mare Liberum** (law of the Open Seas). According to the law of Mare Liberum, seas are mankind's common heritage and everyone enjoys freedom of action on the high seas.

Further the law says that if **two nations declare war** on each other, they can destroy or seize each other's vessels anywhere in the world.

For example, if India and China were at war, Mare Liberum permits both to legally destroy each other's shipping in the Atlantic or the Southern Ocean. Moreover, India currently faces threat from its neighbours' Navy.

What threat does India face from the Navy of its neighbours?

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India faces a threat currently from two neighbours – **Chinese Navy and Pakistan's Navy**.

The Chinese Navy is certainly a major concern as it has been increasing its presence in the Indian Ocean and it is also the fastest growing navy of the world. However, there is a little threat from Pakistan's Navy.

According to a report, if the Indian Navy brought all its power on the Pakistan Navy fleet, it would cease to exist within 24-48 hours. Therefore, Pakistan would never try to engage with India in the sea.

However, it would rely on its **shore-based air force** to fight which might be a concern for the Indian Navy.

Therefore, the introduction of enhanced long-range surface-to-air missiles (**LR-SAM**) serve the purpose. It provides air defence capability to the India Navy and it also allows the Indian Navy to approach the Pakistani coast with greater efforts.

Earlier there were threats from **Pakistani long-range maritime patrol (LRMP)** aircraft but India's **LR-SAM has more potential than LRMP** as LR-SAM has 70-kilometre range compared to LRMP's range of about 50 kilometres.

Furthermore, the LR-SAM system has been inducted in **INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant** with launching facilities for MiG-29K fighters from their decks. Therefore, this has decreased the threat arising out of Pakistan's LRMP.

What is the way ahead?

Even though Pakistan's Navy does not possess a concern but Chinese PLAN has been increasing its base in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and in the East African States.

Therefore, grouping such as **QUAD and AUKUS** needs to have proper strategies to counter China in the Indo-Pacific.

23. Before infection spreads – AIIMS episode shows big cyber-security review is needed

Source: The post is based on the article "**Before infection spreads – AIIMS episode shows big cyber-security review is needed**" published in the **Business Standard** on **2nd November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Basics of cyber security.

Relevance: About the recent ransomware attack on AIIMS.

News: The recent massive ransomware attack has crippled the e-hospital services of AIIMS, Delhi for seven days.

What is ransomware and which agencies in India deal with cyber-attacks?

Read here: [Are ransomware attacks increasing in India?](#)

Why health sector such as AIIMS is targeted by ransomseekers?

Must read: [Held To Ransom – Healthcare sector is a sitting duck to cybercriminals. AIIMS & other hospitals must shore up security systems](#)

India's healthcare providers are a prime target for cybercriminals. About 28% of the global attacks on healthcare providers in 2021 targeted Indian health care.

What are some general targets for Ransomware attacks?

Ransomware attacks target municipal systems, health care (including the UK's National Health Service), financial services (many banks have been hit), and other businesses.

Cyber assaults have shut down power grids (in Ukraine and Australia), stock exchanges, nuclear facilities (Iran), telecom networks (Georgia), airlines, and government websites (too many to name), etc. In addition, there have been innumerable breaches of intellectual property (IP) and personal data.

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Why India is vulnerable to cyber-attacks?

India at present is implementing various Digital India initiatives. These are vulnerable to cyber attacks. For instance, **a)** Every bank branch is connected to the banking system, and to the Unified Payments Interface stack, and linked to non-banking financial companies, stock exchanges, toll fastags, and fintech providers, **b)** Passport information is processed by private service providers, **c)** Civil aviation system is totally digital, **d)** Aadhaar connects to multiple sectors, **e)** The national power grid is “smart” and connected to dozens of different generators and distributors, **f)** Gas distribution networks are “smart” and **g)** There are the defence and aerospace establishments and other government institutions connected to private servers.

How do various governments use Ransomware attacks?

Various governments have used ransomware attacks against other governments/agencies. For instance,

a) Google claims it has been targeted by hackers operating from Chinese government institutions to steal IP, **b)** The North Korean government has been accused of ransomware attacks, **c)** The attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities was coordinated by two governments, **d)** Cyber-attacks on Ukrainian and Georgian infrastructure coincided with physical conflict with Russia.

What should be done to prevent cyber-attacks?

Following proactive outreach programmes: Instead of reacting to breaches as and when discovered, agencies like the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team must institute proactive outreach programmes to prevent incidents occurring across public and private spaces.

Backup and disaster recovery policies also have to be instituted and upgraded continuously. All these along with regular policy reviews should be part and parcel of the Digital India initiative.

24. Stats Of The Union – Economic gap between regions in India is growing. It will have consequences in other areas

Source: The post is based on the article “**Stats Of The Union – Economic gap between regions in India is growing. It will have consequences in other areas**” published in **The Times of India** on **1st November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Inclusive growth and issues arising from it.

Relevance: About subnational economic convergence.

News: According to an economic theory, the incomes of countries and regions tend to converge over time. This is because areas with low-hanging fruit tend to attract capital and other resources that allow them to catch up. But India’s regions might be an exception to this trend.

How India is an exception to the subnational economic convergence theory?

A national survey on incomes by an economic think tank shows that the gap between states in southern and western India and many of those in the north, central and east is wide. A 2016 paper by IDFC Institute observed that **India is the only major economy** going against the trend of subnational convergence.

Instead of convergence, **there is a divergence in the incomes** of Indian states. For instance, Karnataka’s per capita income was at Rs 2,055 a year in 1989-90. This was almost two times that of Bihar. In 2019-20, the gap had widened to over five times with Bihar’s annual per capita income at Rs 29,794 and that of Karnataka at Rs 1,55,869. This trend generally holds across states.

Read more: [Inclusive growth: Why is it indispensable for India?](#)

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Why India is an exception to the subnational economic convergence theory?

India's fiscal architecture and related institutions such as the finance commission are designed to mitigate the fallout of economic convergence. This is done by allocating the divisible pool of taxes in a manner that brings about a degree of equity between states.

But the combination of **economic and fertility divergences** makes India an exception to economic divergence. For example, India's national population will increase to 311 million between 2011 and 2036. Of this increase, only 9% will come from the five southern states. On the other hand, these southern states currently contribute 30% of national income with just 20% of the population.

Read more: [Circular Economy: Meaning, Benefits and Opportunities – Explained, pointwise](#)

How India can ensure a subnational economic convergence?

India's subnational economic divergence is a trend that deserves more study and policy attention. This is because an uneven economic structure usually has consequences that ripple out into other areas. So, India should focus on attaining economic convergence.

25. [Air To Everywhere – North's fewer farm fires were thanks to tech, incentives & some good politics. There's a wider green lesson](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Air To Everywhere – North's fewer farm fires were thanks to tech, incentives & some good politics. There's a wider green lesson**” published in **The Times of India** on **2nd November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Environment.

Relevance: About measures to tackle farm fires.

News: This year winter witnessed a significant reduction in farm fires in both Punjab and Haryana. North India's citizens had slightly better winter air as well.

About the recent reduction in farm fires

Farm fires are down by 30% and 48% over last year in Punjab and Haryana respectively. This may be Punjab's lowest farm fire count since 2012. This reflects the concerted attempt by Punjab and Haryana officials to deter farmers from setting fields on fire.

This is done by

a) In-situ straw management: This is done through super-seeders, which plough the straw back into the soil. Super-seeder machines gained popularity over the previous generation happy-seeders is a promising development.

b) Ex-situ baling of the straw for sale to biogas plants, industries with captive power plants, and fodder suppliers were heavily promoted this year.

c) Other measures: Centre's Commission for Air Quality Management, in which the affected NCR states are stakeholders, has released ample funds.

The key then is to sustain these gains next year and the years after.

Read more: [Stubble burning: Addressing north India's burning issue sustainably](#)

What needs to be done to reduce farm fires further?

ICAR's **bio-decomposer** appeared to not find much favour, given the short window between kharif harvest and rabi sowing this year. This has to be promoted.

India should **focus on even bigger environmental challenges**. Such as weaning off coal, using a mix of technology, promoting government-backed incentives and funds to address environmental challenges.

Read here: [Centre to help set up paddy straw pellet units to arrest stubble burning](#)

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26. [Maritime stocktaking](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Maritime stocktaking**” published in **The Indian Express** on **3rd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Various security forces

Relevance– Issues related to Indian navy

News– The article explains the importance of the navy for the security of our country. It also explains the achievement in the maritime sector.

Why is a strong navy needed for our country?

Border impasse at LAC and **China expansionist activities** in South China sea necessitate a strong navy.

In the 1971 conflict with Pakistan, the Indian navy was actively involved. INS Vikrant mounted sustained attacks on East Pakistan airfield, ports and riverine traffic. Maritime dominance had expedited Pakistan’s surrender.

What are significant achievements of India’s maritime past?

The navy of 10th century South Indian emperor Rajendra Chola defeated the Sumatran empire to establish chola power.

The century **Maratha admiral Kanhoji Angre Konkan fleet** constantly harassed the British, Dutch and Portuguese.

Bombay Wadia master shipbuilders was a ship-building pioneer who constructed warships for Britishers.

What are naval assets added by our country in the recent past?

In the 1960s, Indian naval leadership started **indigenous warship production**.

Mazagon Docks delivered the **first license-built frigate, INS Nilgiri**, in 1972.

The commissioning of India largest indigenously designed aircraft carrier called INS Vikrant is a major achievement for our navy.

The Indian navy has launched over a hundred warships; ranging from patrol boats to destroyers and from hydrographic vessels to nuclear submarines.

Recent induction of US built **shipborne helicopters** and **maritime-reconnaissance aircraft** will boost Navy surveillance and anti-submarine capabilities.

What are the shortcomings in inducting the naval assets?

Many of INS Vikrant major systems like gas-turbine engines, guns, missiles and radars are imported. Another concern is foreign origin of aviation-related activities such as workshops and landing-aids.

The time interval between ordering, launch and commissioning of Vikrant was excessive by international standards.

What is the way forward to strengthen the navy? Given the political leadership’s global **aspirations**; navy has made significant contributions to make India a QUAD **member** or as a regional “**net security provider**”.

The navy role must be spelt out. Its force architecture should be defined as well as funded.

There is a need for a comprehensive “**maritime vision**” and articulate it in a “**National Strategy for Maritime Security**”.

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27. Measuring food insecurity

Source– The post is based on the article “**Measuring food insecurity**” published in **The Indian Express** on **3rd December 2022**.

Syllabus: GS3- Poverty and hunger

Relevance– Issues related to malnutrition

News-India ranked at 107th out of 121 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2022.

There are some question marks on data used by FAO to measure the hunger prevalence in India which is used in GHI score

What is food security?

It exists when all people at all times have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food. It should meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

What are the arguments favouring the authenticity of data by FAO that is used to calculate GHI score?

India ranking results from the use of Indian government official statistics called **NFHS survey**. This data confirms that there persist high rates of **child mortality and chronic malnutrition** in India.

A falling **child mortality rate** is not a consolation for the fact that a larger proportion of children still suffers from chronic malnutrition.

The indicator used by FAO to measure food security was scrutinised and approved by countries through the **UN Statistical and UN Economic and Social Council**.

Prevalence of malnutrition is not simply based on survey data collected by FAO using the **Food Insecurity Experience Scale(FIES)**. It is computed using data on **national food balances and consumption** at household level. The most recent food consumption data available for India is from 2011. FAO does not have access to updated data, including the 75th round of the same survey on **consumer expenditures** conducted in 2017-18.

There is a lack of understanding regarding how **FAO FIES data** are processed to ensure valid, reliable measures of severity of food security across countries.

In 2013, FAO started the “**Voice of the Hungry**” project by engaging the global community because the international community did not have a way to identify and monitor food insecure households and individuals in a comparable manner across countries.

These efforts resulted in development of **statistical protocols** that ensure different translation and interpretations of FIES survey questions in 180 languages.

All the methodological details regarding the way FAO measures food security are public knowledge.

For the last four years, FAO has been actively collaborating with the **Ministry of Statistics** to include **FIES data** into official national data collection initiatives and to align with national SDG indicators.

28. Why India needs timely and reliable data on crop production

Source: The post is based on the article “**Why India needs timely and reliable data on crop production**” published in the **Indian Express** on **3rd November 2022**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Agriculture

Relevance: About the credibility of NSO estimates

News: According to the National Statistical Office’s (NSO) latest GDP estimates for July-September, manufacturing contracts 4.3% and agriculture growing 4.6% year-on-year.

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About the credibility of NSO estimates

The credibility of NSO estimates on Manufacture

The estimates of NSO is in stark contrast to the S&P Global's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). According to PMI, the manufacturing sector registered an expansion of 17 months in a row.

Reason for divergence: **a)** Most companies reported higher input costs in the recent quarter, this might be caused by the divergence between the NSO and PMI data, **b)** The PMI is based on a panel survey of just around 400 manufacturers. But the NSO's estimates are based on gross value added.

Read more: [Improving Agriculture Yield in India – Explained, pointwise](#)

The credibility of NSO estimates on Agriculture

The estimates of Agriculture are in stark contrast with the other reports. Such as,

-According to the Agriculture Ministry's first advance estimates, the production of kharif foodgrains and oilseeds (during July-September) was lower compared to last year.

-Most field reports suggested deficient precipitation in this monsoon, drought conditions in the Gangetic plain and excess rains in September-October would adversely impact the kharif crop.

-The high fodder and feed costs, and lumpy skin disease virus infecting cattle across many states have impacted non-crop segments such as livestock, forestry and fishing.

Overall, it's difficult to reconcile the NSO's agricultural growth estimate with the reported reality on the ground.

What should be done?

Timely and reliable information on crop production is a necessary public good — for policymakers as much as farmers and agri-businesses. Hence, India should,

Address the credibility of data: India is becoming a digital superpower. So, it should rely more on satellite imagery, remote-sensing vegetation indices and hand-held chlorophyll meters, instead of the traditional patwari-girdawari system for estimating crop area and yields.

Follow the approach of the US: The US Department of Agriculture releases monthly reports providing crop-wise output, domestic consumption, export and import forecasts and updates.

Read more: [India's Agriculture Exports: Status and Challenges – Explained, pointwise](#)

Overall, India should understand the impacts of overestimation and underestimation of production.