



**9 PM**

# **Compilation**

**6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2023**

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### General Studies - 2

---

1. [Caste System In Indian Prisons: Unconstitutional But Legal](#)
2. [The hardships of a career in Ayurvedic practice](#)
3. [India needs to double down on bridging its digital gender gap](#)
4. [The roots of global success – on the global achievements of India diaspora](#)
5. [Supreme Court's order on CEC selection panel](#)
6. [Power against knowledge: On Centre for Policy Research FCRA licence suspension](#)
7. [A 'Zeitenwende' in the India-Germany relationship](#)
8. [The anti-defection law is facing convulsions](#)
9. [Multilateral reforms as a priority in the G-20](#)
10. [Petty, ugly & costly: Karnataka is proof how much 'small' corruption hurts India, reputationally & ultimately economically](#)
11. [Travel and tourism is poised for its own Amrit Kaal](#)
12. [The days after Women's Day: Integrate women cops as leaders in the police force](#)
13. [Stopping the boats: On the U.K.'s new 'Illegal Migration Law'](#)
14. [India and Sweden: Old friends in new times](#)
15. [Nobody loves local government](#)

### General Studies - 3

---

1. [A sugar rush for emissions – on ethanol blending](#)
2. [How to double India's farmers' income](#)
3. [Why India needs a Green Revolution 2.0](#)
4. [How to become a green hydrogen superpower](#)
5. [A new trade strategy: India's performance on exports is a result of policy interventions](#)
6. [Hindu rate of growth' is a phrase we must erase](#)
7. [Measuring forest cover in India: A doubtful green cover](#)
8. [About internal labour migration issues: Migrants Are All Of Us](#)
9. [Industrial policy learnings from a Soviet model versus Japanese](#)
10. [The ideal track to run India's logistics system](#)
11. [Can the cheetahs help India's grasslands?](#)
12. [Old Pension System will take from the poor and give to the rich](#)
13. [About improving financial inclusion: Breaking barriers, building inclusion](#)
14. [Crypto under PMLA: New rules of the game](#)
15. [A moment of reckoning for AUKUS and Australia](#)
16. [Let's talk about crime – on Cyber Crimes](#)
17. [Dump This Practice – Kochi garbage fire is a warning to all cities](#)

# General Studies Paper –2

General Studies - 2

---

1. [Caste System In Indian Prisons: Unconstitutional But Legal](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**Caste System In Indian Prisons: Unconstitutional But Legal**” published in **The Times of India** on **6<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 –Governance

**Relevance:** Prison Reforms

**News:** The article discusses the prevalent caste system in Indian prisons and measures required to bring reforms.

**How is the caste system still present in Indian prisons?**

The law that governs management and administration of prisons is still the colonial era law – **Prisons Act, 1894**.

The idea of purity and impurity is still present in the **prison manuals**.

Persons from the most marginalised and disadvantaged castes are often expected to perform activities like manual scavenging, cleaning and sweeping.

Manual scavenging is prohibited by the **Prohibition of Employment as Manual scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013**.

However, this law has not been able to prohibit manual scavenging in the Indian prisons because the 2013 Act **does not cover prison administration**.

Prison manuals also protect the status of “**savarna Hindus**” by ensuring they enjoy a monopoly on cooking and carrying the food for all prisoners.

**Christmas and Easter are recognized as jail holidays while Diwali is excluded from it.**

Therefore, the Constitution of India and acts like Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1980 have not been able to prevent discrimination in Indian prisons.

**What are some steps taken at the global level for better treatment of prisoners?**

The United Nations General Assembly in 2015 adopted the **Nelson Mandela Rules**. These rules provide for all prisoners to be treated with dignity and state that there should be no discrimination amongst the inmates on the grounds of status.

These rules are however **not binding but they help at strengthening prison management** and providing humane conditions for inmates.

The Ministry of Home Affairs released a **Model Prison Manual in 2016**, based on the Nelson Mandela Rules, for all states to adopt.

However, states never felt the need to bring changes in its prison system and re-evaluate its prison manuals.

**What measures can be adopted to bring equality amongst the prisoners?**

**First**, state governments should amend outdated prison manuals and adopt the Model Prison Manual of 2016.

**Second**, state governments should ensure the implementation of change in policy, sensitization programmes for prison authorities and awareness campaigns for prisoners.

**Third**, reconsider the draconian provisions of the Prisons Act, 1894.

## 2. [The hardships of a career in Ayurvedic practice](#)

**Source**– The post is based on the article “**The hardships of a career in Ayurvedic practice**” published in **The Hindu** on **6th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS2-

**Relevance:** Traditional practices of medicine

**News-** Practice does not seem to be a feasible career option for most Ayurveda graduates. There is a trust- deficit in AYUSH treatment.

### **What is scepticism among the public about Ayurveda?**

There is widespread scepticism in the public mind about the **soundness of Ayurvedic theories and the fruitfulness of its practices**.

The Ayurveda establishment has failed to keep pace with the **intellectual and scientific advances** of the times. A major reason for the **trust -deficit** in Ayurveda is its diminished **evidence based quality**.

Another perception is that Ayurveda treatments are **slow to heal**.

### **Why the view that Ayurveda is slow to heal is not correct?**

Ayurveda’s thrust is on patient benefit and not merely on **patient gratification**. Real patient benefit would be sustainable as opposed to patient gratification which is momentary.

**Sustainability of treatments** requires a **gradual transition from illness to wellness**. Sudden relief is deemed **superficial and temporary**.

Therefore, the popular view that Ayurvedic treatments are slow to heal is thus a half- truth. It can be corrected by appropriate **patient education**.

### **What are the challenges faced by an Ayurvedic practitioner?**

A new Ayurvedic Practitioner faces the difficult realities of **public perception**. College training is a huge corpus of ancient medical wisdom, where has limited practical use.

Ayurveda does not have a **vibrant ecosystem of science and research**. The poor practitioner has to depend on himself to discover treatments and approaches that actually work.

The process involves a **lot of trial and error with patients** and predictably leads to an erosion of the practitioner’s reputation.

Ayurveda can be used **safely and efficiently** only in about 60%- to 70% of primary care illnesses. For the rest, it is necessary to **complement Ayurveda with modern medicine**.

Most States prohibit the practice of modern medicine by Ayurveda graduates. The practitioners face difficulties due to it.

Practitioners resort to **gimmickry and publicity, due to general trust deficit**. It is harmful for genuine Ayurveda physicians.

### **What is the way forward to improve the condition of Ayurvedic practitioners?**

**Appropriate policy making** can solve a lot of these problems.

**Rejuvenating primary care** is necessary to secure the health of its citizens. Ayurveda graduates can contribute enormously towards this if trained properly.

A proper training of Ayurveda graduates with a view to make them good primary care doctors would involve- (1) A vigorous **evidence based appraisal** of Ayurvedic Theories and practises. (2) **A statutory decision** to allow Ayurveda graduates to practise modern medicine in stipulated primary care areas.

There is a need for **sincerity, straight thinking, and some adventurism** on the part of stakeholders.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### 3. [India needs to double down on bridging its digital gender gap](#)

**Source**– The post is based on the article “**India needs to double down on bridging its digital gender gap**” published in the **mint** on **6th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS1- Social empowerment. GS2- Vulnerable sections of the population

**Relevance:** Issues related to women empowerment

**News- The article deals with the issue of digital access for women empowerment**

**What is the status of digital disparity between men and women in India?**

According to a **Unicef report**, as many as **90% of the jobs** in the world today have a digital component. These jobs are available only to the digitally able, and to more men than women.

According to the report, in developing countries, only 41% of women have **access to the internet** compared with 53% of men. Women are 20% less likely to own a smartphone and are more likely to borrow phones from a male family member.

The report also says that boys are **1.5 times more likely** to own a mobile phone, and **1.8 times more likely** to own a smartphone than girls.

Another **report by the OECD** revealed that the **gender gap in internet use** is widening. **Software development** remains a **male-dominated field**. Women comprise only 15% of software designers.

Data on the **use of the internet in India** indicates that in comparison with 58% male internet users, female users are only 42%.

Girls and women are denied access to digital technologies because they almost always come second in a **patriarchal social order**. The internet is seen as a **‘risk to the traditional social order’** and ‘male gatekeepers’ restrict or control girls’ and women’s access to the internet.

**How Covid19 shows the importance of digital access?**

Covid has demonstrated the **seminal importance of digital tools** in today’s world. Children struggled to keep up with their studies using the limited smartphones and computers.

**UNESCO estimated** that around 168 million girls enrolled in pre-primary to tertiary levels of education were affected.

**What is the importance of digital inclusion?**

Leaving women out of the digital world would amount to denying them **basic skills for survival**. India aims to have a **\$1 trillion digital economy by 2025**. Already, **40% of global digital transactions** take place in India. As economies **digitise further**, most jobs will require some knowledge of digital technology.

In India, front-line workers are using tablets and smartphones. Public schemes such as the PM Janani Suraksha Yojana require beneficiaries to provide their bank account details. **Social and financial inclusion** will necessitate **digital inclusion**.

There are vast opportunities for girls and women to **power India’s digital economy** and benefit from it. Access to digital technology for a young woman can be a game changer with **multiplier effects**.

**Digital literacy** for women is a necessity if India wants to achieve the ultimate goal of **gender equality**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the need for **‘women-led development’** as India took over the G20 presidency.

**What is the way forward for bridging the gender gap in digital space?**

Leveraging **India’s demographic dividend** requires an equal emphasis on the country’s **gender dividend**.

It will require **smart interventions** specially designed for girls and women in **health, education, employment, banking, skilling and transportation**.

A **favourable policy environment to promote the digital empowerment** of women is a step in the right direction.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### 4. [The roots of global success – on the global achievements of India diaspora](#)

**Source**– The post is based on the article “**The roots of global success**” published in the **Business Standard** on **6th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS2- Issues related to development and management of human resources

**Context** – Indians have a remarkable presence in the leadership of global organisations: IBM, Google, Microsoft, and now the World Bank.

**What are the reasons behind Indians achieving top leadership positions of global organisations?**

India is known for **multiculturalism and tolerance**. Growing up in India involves **accepting, absorbing and interoperating** with many cultures. It involves a **great deal of tolerance**.

This gives Indians a **natural edge in dealing with the cultural diversity** of global organisations, when compared with people who have grown up in a **monoculture**.

**What are the implications of its people having top leadership positions in global organisations for India?**

The rise of Indians to leadership positions in the world helps to reduce **asymmetric information** and thus **improve global engagement** with India.

Each of these individuals is well plugged into the Indian elite. The top leadership of organisations has an **instinctive common sense** about India. This produces better decisions regarding India. India should think about the **meritocracy** within those organisations.

India will gain by opening up to **greater heterogeneity in our internal culture, to more meritocracy in global recruitment, to more engagement with the outside world**.

**How does the pool of knowledgeable persons benefit India?**

This creates the **agglomeration economies** of these individuals collaborating and competing with each other. India is a good site for **building research offices** by global corporations. It is the essence of the IT revolution in India.

**Why are Chinese not successful in attaining leadership roles in global organisations?**

Chinese universities took off only in the last 20 years. Other factors are **English fluency, the homogeneity of Han-Chinese culture, the lack of the full cultural package** located in enlightenment values, and the stifling of imagination by use of state power.

**How these developments shape the future in India?**

A lot of the Indian elite today does not play in the competitive exams for higher educational institutions.

The average IIT graduate today has read fewer books, seems more like a Chinese STEM graduate, and has less of the **full cultural package** required for rising beyond technical functions.

The domination of the IITs has probably peaked. The leadership cadre will come from a more **diverse array of schools** in India and abroad.

### 5. [Supreme Court's order on CEC selection panel](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**Supreme Court's order on CEC selection panel**” published in the **Indian Express** on **6th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS – 2 – Appointment to various Constitutional posts, powers, functions and responsibilities of various Constitutional Bodies.

**Relevance:** About the formation of a selection panel for Election Commissioners.

**News:** Recently, the Supreme Court has ruled that the appointment of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners (ECs) will be done by the President on the advice of a neutral selection committee.

**What is the Supreme Court ruling?**

**Read here:** [President to appoint CEC, ECs on advise of committee comprising PM, LoP, CJI: Supreme Court](#)

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

**What are the advantages of the formation of a selection panel?**

**Read more:** [Supreme Court verdict will ensure a more independent Election Commission](#)

**What are the challenges associated with the formation of a selection panel?**

**The presence of a Leader of Opposition:** This will ensure a strong case for the Opposition to have a voice in the composition of an institution whose primary job is to conduct free and fair elections.

**The presence of CJI:** This will violate the constitutional system of checks and balances as it raises doubts regarding the presence of the court's authority in the functioning of ECI.

**Regarding the formation of the panel:** The SC's Basic Structure doctrine mandates the court to review and restrict Parliament's powers to amend the Constitution's foundational principles. But the SC verdict invites questions about the country's highest court intruding outside its domain.

**Other issues:** **a)** The Court has prefaced its decision to set up the panel with a mention of the "unrelenting abuse of the electoral process over a period of time". The Court has been very respectful of the EC's powers in the past and there is little evidence for "unrelenting abuse", **b)** The selection panel is similar to the appointment of the CBI director. But CBI's record of prosecution doesn't quite read like an exemplary testament of institutional autonomy. The same might be true for ECI also.

**Must read:** [Changes to the process of selecting election commissioner: Significance and challenges – Explained, pointwise](#)

### 6. [Power against knowledge: On Centre for Policy Research FCRA licence suspension](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article "**Power against knowledge: On Centre for Policy Research FCRA licence suspension**" published in **The Hindu** on **6th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS 2 – The role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

**Relevance:** About restricting NGO operations.

**News:** The government has recently suspended the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) licence of the country's premier think tank, the Centre for Policy Research (CPR).

This is due to **a)** lapses in the income-tax paperwork of CPR's staff, **b)** lack of due process in the accounting process, and **c)** diversion of funds to publication of books, which the authorities allege is not part of the CPR's objectives.

**What are the concerns associated with invoking CPR Licence and restricting NGO operations?**

**Firstly**, the CPR has been working on improving governance and enhancing state capacity among other things, in collaboration with governments, and the public and private sectors. Hence, the action against the CPR lowers the bar of tolerance for the political establishment to an abysmal level.

**Secondly**, the FCRA is a regulatory mechanism to ensure that foreign vested interests are not unduly influencing the domestic politics of India. But the application of the law in a manner that clearly disables the non-governmental sector suggests a thoughtless approach bordering on vindictiveness.

**Thirdly**, India's New Education Policy envisages academic exchanges and cooperation between Indian and global institutions to raise the standard of higher education and research in the country. However, India's global ambitions are clashing with insecure and reactionary actions such as the restrictions on the CPR.

**Fourthly**, assuming Indian thinking should be insulated from foreign ones, while seeking international technology and capital inflow at the same time is a paradox.\



Read more: [Restrictions on NGO activities: Beyond civil society – ‘Protectionism’ in social services is impractical](#)

#### What should be done instead of restricting NGO operations?

Collaboration with the world requires the flow of information, personnel and funds in both directions. But stringent restrictions on all these for **national security reasons should be exercised sparingly**.

In a country growing as fast as India, a massive expansion in capacity for research is the need of the hour. Along with **public funding, private and philanthropic funding are essential** for India to continuously expand its knowledge horizons in all fields. So, the government should **not only tolerate, but also facilitate the emergence** of several more institutions like CPR.

#### 7. [A ‘Zeitenwende’ in the India-Germany relationship](#)

**Source**– The post is based on the article “A ‘Zeitenwende’ in the India-Germany relationship” published in **The Hindu** on **7th March 2023**.

**Syllabus**: GS2- Bilateral groupings and agreements

**Relevance**: India and Germany relationship

**News**- Chancellor Scholz of Germany made a two -day visit to India, that began on February 25, 2023,

#### How is Germany undergoing major changes in its external approach?

The **Russian invasion of Ukraine** has been a **watershed moment in Germany’s security policy**. It has resulted in the abandonment of **post-war pacific policy towards strategic matters**. This is evident in **Germany’s increased military spending**.

**Russia’s war and China’s assertive posturing** have brought into question Germany’s approach of change through trade. It has prompted a rethink of its **energy and trade dependencies**. The focus is now on **diversifying economic relations**.

In a departure from **previous Asia policy** that centred around China, Mr. Scholz first visited Japan after assuming office in 2021. He later invited Mr. Modi for the **6th Intergovernmental Consultations** to Berlin.

This enhanced **political outreach to Asia** is part of Germany’s **overall strategy for the Indo-Pacific Region**. It mentions India as a **key partner**.

For Germany, the **stability of supply chains and trade routes** linking Asia to Europe assumes critical importance. The reason is its status as Europe’s **economic powerhouse and its reliance on exports**.

#### What are the points of convergence between India and Germany?

As ties with Russia and China are uncertain, Europe is prioritising **values based partnerships with like minded countries**. It can advance India--German cooperation.

The German government’s **coalition agreement in 2021** refers to relations with India among its top foreign policy priorities.

Mr. Scholz has expressed Germany’s intent to enhance its **strategic involvement in the Indo-Pacific through greater military deployment**.

Germany’s symbolic gesture of **sending its frigate Bayern to the Indo-Pacific in 2021**, with a stopover in Mumbai was a demonstration of this.

A recent agreement on **India--Germany triangular cooperation** involving development projects in third countries is also an important step in this direction.

#### What is the status of the bilateral relationship between India and Germany?

**Defence and security**– New Delhi attempts to **diversify from its military dependence** on Russia. Berlin is also **reassessing its arms exports policy**. Germany could become an **important defence partner** for India.

The recent meetings between heads of the states included discussions around **co-development of military hardware and tech transfers**.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

A deal worth \$5.2 billion where Germany would jointly build **six conventional submarines in India** could be underway. Besides, the first ever **France--India--Germany military exercise drill** is slated to take place in 2024.

Yet, it is important for the two countries to set **realistic expectations in the security realm**. Despite their common concerns regarding stability in the Indo-Pacific, Germany does not share a border with China.

India has **territorial conflicts** with China. Despite the lack of German trust in China, there exists **economic interdependence**.

It is encouraging that Germany is drafting a **new official China strategy** amidst a wider national security strategy.

**On global issues**– India and Germany also cooperate in **multilateral forums, as part of the G-4 grouping** pushing for United Nations Security Council reform.

Discussions on the Russia- Ukraine conflict and its **global repercussions** were the **centre stage of talks** between two Modi and Scholz. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has reiterated India's commitment to contribute to any peace process.

**Economy**– Germany is **India's largest economic partner** in the European Union (EU). The Chancellor had a high powered business delegation with him during visit to India.

**Clean energy and green technologies**- It has emerged as the central pillar in the partnership. The **Green and Sustainable Development Partnership** was launched last year. There exists cooperation in the area of **green hydrogen**.

**Mobility and migration**– It is also a focus area. Germany has shortages of **skilled manpower**; where technically skilled Indians could help plug this gap.

**What is the future of bilateral partnership?**

The relationship is steadily evolving into a more **wholesome Partnership**.

**Divergent positions on the war** have not undermined India's **regular political engagements** with Europe.

An intensification of the **Russia--China axis** could further embolden this alignment. Against the backdrop of **volatile geopolitical shifts, emerging multipolarity**, India's ties with Germany could be vital in **shaping a new global order**.

### 8. [The anti-defection law is facing convulsions](#)

**Source**– The post is based on the article **“The anti-defection law is facing convulsions”** published in **The Hindu** on **7th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS2- Indian constitution

**News-** Parliament enacted the anti defection law in 1985 to curb political defection. The promise of political stability provided by the law seems to be facing challenges, especially in the last five years.

**What are the main objectives of anti-defection law?**

**The first** was to curb the act of defection by disqualifying the defecting member.

**The second** was to **protect political parties from instability**. Frequent defections from even well organised political parties leave them weak. Indian democracy is based essentially on a **party system**. Stable parties are requirements of a **stable democracy**.

**How is the stability of parties the principal focus of the 10th schedule?**

It is clear from two provisions enacted in the 10th Schedule- the **provision of a split in a political party and that of a merger of two political parties**.

'Split' is no longer a **defence against disqualification** with the deletion of paragraph three of the Schedule. But, a closer look at this erstwhile provision is necessary for a proper understanding of the **true objective of this law**.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

Under this paragraph, if a **split in a political party** results in a faction coming into existence, and **one third of the legislators** move out of the party and **join that faction**, those members could get an **exemption from disqualification**.

The point to note here is that one third of the legislators would get protection only if there was a **split in the original political party**. So, the split in the original political party is the precondition for exempting one third of legislators from disqualification.

Paragraph four protects defecting members from disqualification. The condition is **merger of the original political party** with another party and **two thirds of the legislators agreeing to such a merger**.

It can be analysed from paragraph three and four that the legislators do not have the **freedom to bring about a split or merger**. It is the original political party in both cases which takes that decision.

The argument that the Speaker **cannot make inquiry into the split or merger** is not right. The Speaker takes the decision only after **ascertaining the fact of the merger**.

This means that for exempting defecting legislators from disqualification, merger is taken into account only if two thirds of legislators have agreed to it.

### **What are the constitutional questions that arose in the Maharashtra case?**

The first question that should be decided by the Court is related to the **validity of whip**. The breakaway group of the Members of the Legislative Assembly chose its own whip. It also reportedly issued whips to all the MLAs of the Shiv Sena.

But the question related to the validity of the whip should have been decided on the basis of the **explanation (a) to paragraph 2(1)(a)**. It says that an elected member of a House shall be deemed to belong to the **political party who made them candidate for election**.

This explanation makes it clear that the party which can **legally issue the whip** is the Shiv Sena led by Uddhav Thackeray as this is the party which set them up as candidates in the last election. It should not be forgotten that the anti defection law was enacted to **punish defectors, not to facilitate defection**.

The Supreme Court by allowing the Election Commission of India to decide the **petition under paragraph 15 of the symbols order** has put the cart before the horse.

The **10th Schedule** is a **constitutional law** and **paragraph 15 of the symbols order** is **subordinate legislation**. The disqualification proceedings under it should have been given primacy over the proceedings under paragraph 15.

## 9. [Multilateral reforms as a priority in the G-20](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**Multilateral reforms as a priority in the G-20**” published in **The Hindu** on **7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** **GS 2 – Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings**

**Relevance:** measures required to bring multilateral reforms

**News:** India in its G20 presidency has decided priorities multilateral reform.

**Think 20 (T20)**, the idea bank of G20 has also come up with the Task Force on ‘Towards Reformed Multilateralism’ (**TF7**). It aims to construct a roadmap for ‘**Multilateralism 2.0**’.

### **Why has multilateralism lost its importance amongst the nations?**

**First**, multilateralism has lost the majority’s trust due to persistent deadlocks amongst the nations.

**Second**, multilateralism is facing a utility crisis, where powerful member-states think it is no longer useful for them.

However, in the absence of multilateral cooperation, countries have involved themselves in bilateral, plurilateral, and Mini lateral groupings. This has further contributed to the **polarization of global politics**.

Hence, multilateralism is the need of the hour.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### Why is multilateralism needed?

It is because most of the **challenges nations face** today such as conflicts, climate change, migration, macroeconomic instability, etc. **are global in nature** and require global solutions.

Furthermore, the **COVID-19 pandemic has reversed the social and economic progress** that the global society made in the past couple of decades.

Hence, there is a need of multilateralism but there are various reasons that make multilateral reform difficult.

### Why is multilateral reform difficult?

**First**, multilateralism is closely associated with global power politics. Therefore, bringing reforms in multilateralism will automatically reform the current distribution of power. Further, modifications in the distribution of power may have adverse implications if not done cautiously.

**Second**, the status quo powers see multilateral reforms as a zero-sum game. For example, in the context of the Bretton Woods system, the U.S. and Europe believed reform would reduce their influence and dominance. However, it also makes decision making difficult by consensus or voting.

**Third**, multilateralism has lost its significance due to the emerging multiplex global order. This multiplex global order facilitates the formation of new clubs, concertos and coalitions of the like-minded, which makes the reform of older institutions and frameworks more challenging.

### What G-20 and India can do to bring multilateral reforms?

**First**, the G-20 should focus on setting proper narratives of multilateral reform. It may constitute an engagement group that would be dedicated to bring the narrative of multilateralism at the global level.

**India should also** urge the upcoming chairs of the G20 grouping, Brazil and South Africa, to place multilateral reforms as their presidential priorities.

**Second**, competing interests and the dominance of powerful states will stay in multilateral platforms. Therefore, while supporting multilateral cooperation, G-20 should continue encouraging **minilateral groupings** as a new form of multilateralism and try to transform them into **multi-stakeholder partnerships**.

**Third**, G20 can help in creating issue based minilaterals, particularly in areas related to the governance of the global commons. This will be helpful in preventing competitive coalitions.

**Fourth, political will** is also required to bring multilateral reforms.

**Fifth, the G20 can be a model of multilateralism** by overcoming the trust, legitimacy and utility crises of multilateralism.

1. **To enhance its legitimacy**, it can include the African Union as a permanent member and the UN Secretary-General and General Assembly President as permanent invitees.
2. **To address the crisis of trust and utility**, G-20 should put all its efforts into solving one or two global issues such as food, fuel and fertilizer and showcase it as the model of new multilateralism.

### [10. Petty, ugly & costly: Karnataka is proof how much 'small' corruption hurts India, reputationally & ultimately economically](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article "**Petty, ugly & costly: Karnataka is proof how much 'small' corruption hurts India, reputationally & ultimately economically**" published in **The Times of India** on **7th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS – 2 – Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability.

**Relevance:** About petty corruption in India.

**News:** Successive raids in Karnataka have unearthed huge sums of money stashed through petty corruption.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### About petty corruption in India

Big-ticket 'scams' dominate the conversation about corruption. But the research estimates suggest that petty corruption in India is bigger than 'scams'.

For instance, in 2020, a report based on a survey on corruption in Asia concluded that India has the highest rate of bribery and use of personal contacts in accessing public services. Many of the respondents indicated that was the only way to access services such as government documents.

**Note:** India ranked 85th out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index, 2022, with a score below the global average. Within India, Karnataka has a poor record.

### What is the reason for increased petty corruption cases in India?

The reasons include **a)** information asymmetry, **b)** poor grievance redressal mechanisms, and **c)** the disproportionate power of different arms of the state.

Speed money is one of the most common manifestations of the system as the bureaucracy is not going to be penalised for delays.

### How one can tackle petty corruption?

Two quick ways in which Karnataka and other states can deter petty corruption is to **implement both RTI and state Right to Service Acts**. This will help offset information asymmetry and minimise the opportunities for speed money.

### 11. Travel and tourism is poised for its own Amrit Kaal

**Source**– The post is based on the article “**Travel and tourism is poised for its own Amrit Kaal**” published in **The Indian Express** on **10th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS2- Government policies and interventions. GS3- Economy

**Relevance**– Issues related to tourism sector

**News**– India’s travel and tourism sector will be the key axis of development in the coming years. Budget 2023 has outlined the path to developing tourism in **mission mode**.

The tourism sector accounts for **10% of the total employment directly and provides 8% of the overall GDP**.

### What are the efforts by the Indian government for the growth of tourism?

The Budget Session addressed all the “**6Ps**” effectively by covering **destination planning and management, infrastructure development, sustainability and safety, development of human capital, policy, and process interventions** to align the Centre and states, and **promoting the narrative of Indian tourism**.

The Union budget has listed **six themes** for the development of the sector — **convergence, public-private participation, creativity, innovation, digitisation and development of destinations**.

Tourism remains a **state subject**. The central tourism department is making efforts to move it to the Concurrent List. The idea of a **National Tourism Board** is under consideration by the government.

Prime Minister Modi has a vision to develop **50 destinations** across the country.

### What is the way forward for the growth of the tourism industry in India?

There is a need for **collaboration between the government, private sector, and local communities** in developing and promoting tourism. It stimulates **creativity, enhances competitiveness**.

**Technology adoption** will help in the growth of tourism. Travel experiences are becoming more **personalised, immersive, and interactive**.

**AR/VR** can help travelers explore destinations before they even arrive. It can provide **virtual tours and simulations** of famous landmarks, historical sites, and cultural experiences. **AI-powered chatbots and digital assistants** can help travelers plan their trips, recommend personalized activities, and offer **real-time assistance while** traveling.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

A **coordinated approach** boosted by the adoption of technology resolves the issue of low spending by foreign tourists in India. On average, foreign tourists spend 33% less than they would in the US.

The tourism sector requires a **comprehensive strategy** that addresses the **six key pillars of planning, place, people, policy, process, and promotion**.

Granting tourism **infrastructure status** will provide further impetus to the growth of the sector.

### 12. [The days after Women's Day: Integrate women cops as leaders in the police force](#)

**Source**– The post is based on the article “**The days after Women's Day: Integrate women cops as leaders in the police force**” published in **The Indian Express** on **10th March 2023**.

**Syllabus**: GS2- Vulnerable sections of the population. GS1- Social empowerment

**News**– Gender empowerment has been a popular theme in India and some tangible policy decisions have indeed been made. Increasing representation of women in uniform services is one such initiative.

#### **What are the issues faced by women in uniform?**

**Crime against women** is very high with an **abysmal rate of conviction**. Public spaces are still unsafe, especially after dark. It curtails their **free movement**. Thus, it adversely affects their working hours and **employment avenues**.

In most states, there is absence of **in-service training after their induction**. Female police officers are expected to investigate crimes against women and cases under POCSO Act. But, in many states, they have not received any **specialised training** for the same.

A study at the **Centre for Police Research** during 2015-16 showed that the number of women is increasing in Maharashtra Police. But women officers do not receive the required cooperation from male colleagues.

Another area of concern is the **hostility faced by women police officers** during **pregnancy and post their maternity leave**.

#### **What is the way forward to improve the situation of women in uniform services?**

Policy alone is not sufficient to strengthen the position of women in uniform. There has to be **commitment from the field-level leadership too**.

**Coaching in communication skills and fruitful negotiations** during public disorder is needed. It can help them deal with the different types of conflicts they face.

Women officers can work on their **time management skills, financial literacy and networking** to attend to **diverse professional and personal responsibilities**.

Local law colleges and universities can be approached to understand the **latest amendments and provisions of law**.

It is important to **sensitise men** on women in police stations and the need to respect them as professional colleagues instead of resenting their presence.

The concept **All Women Police Stations** needs relook. There is a need for **inclusive police stations** where complainants, irrespective of gender, will get **prompt redressal** of their grievances.

A **standard police station** must reflect the **healthy gender ratio of society**. Its main objectives are **prevention and detection of crime and maintenance of public order**.

The idea that women police can do justice to the issues of women needs to be discarded now. Women have proved competent to deal with **complex issues** while men have proved to be **compassionate and empathetic** to women victims.

Confining them to All Women Police Stations or investigating offenses against women and children is a gross **under-utilisation of their wide-ranging capabilities**. It is also unjust for **women victims** who are made to travel long distances in search of AWPSs.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

**Menstruation and child-bearing stages** in a woman's career should also be accepted naturally without casting aspersions on their capabilities. This **requires sensitivity**. The department should **construct rest rooms, changing rooms and creches for them**.

### 13. [Stopping the boats: On the U.K.'s new 'Illegal Migration Law'](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article **"Stopping the boats: On the U.K.'s new 'Illegal Migration Law'"** published in **The Hindu** on **10th March 2023**.

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

**Relevance:** About UK's new 'Illegal Migration Law'.

**News:** Recently, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has severely criticised the U.K. Prime Minister's plan to pass a new "Illegal Migration Law". This is because the planned law effectively stops the granting of asylum to migrants who reach the U.K. illegally.

#### **What is the reason behind UK's new 'Illegal Migration Law'?**

The UK government is worried that many number of persons are attempting to travel to the U.K. and trying to apply for asylum while on British soil. This according to the UK government is costing significant cost to the exchequer.

Hence, the new law aims to return illegal asylum seekers to either return to their own country or to a "third country" which will enter an agreement with the UK. For instance, Rwanda has entered into an agreement to provide processing facilities for illegal migrants.

Illegal immigrants will also face a lifetime ban on citizenship and re-entry to the U.K.

**Exceptions:** The Bill makes exceptions for those arriving directly from the countries they are fleeing. But such people will be a small proportion given the short distances "small boats" could travel.

**Read more:** [Study explains migration events that brought genetic diversity among Nepalese population](#)

#### **What are the challenges in implementing the UK's new 'Illegal Migration Law'?**

According to the UNHCR, **a)** the law would contravene international laws, including the 1951 Refugee Convention that Britain is a signatory, **b)** Those who flee their homes and countries often do so without proper paperwork, as they are forced to leave to save their lives. So, there are problems in identifying their source countries, **c)** An estimated 45,000 came to the U.K. on "small boats" last year. They would have been economic refugees rather than political asylum seekers. But, the British government does not make a distinction between the two, **d)** The Bill is like the U.S administration that latched on to the equally catchy "Build That Wall" slogan, **e)** The plan to transport asylum seekers to a third country highlights neo-colonialism and will involve considerable cost which migrants are unlikely to be able to afford,

#### **What the western countries should focus on while enacting Illegal Migration Laws?**

**Introspect their message:** Western countries have long quoted international law and convention to India on its plan to forcibly deport Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, or to discriminate on the basis of religion in the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Hence, they must introspect on their message to the world by enacting such laws themselves.

**Does not belittle the real contributions of immigrants:** Western countries should value the significant contributions made by immigrants to western societies. Including those like the parents of UK's present PM and UK's Home Secretary, who made their journey from Africa.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### 14. [India and Sweden: Old friends in new times](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**India and Sweden: Old friends in new times**” published in **The Indian Express** on **11<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

**Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations**

**Relevance:** India-Sweden bilateral relations

**News:** There have been 75 years to bilateral relation between India and Sweden. The article discusses the bilateral relations between the two nations.

**How has been the bilateral relations between India and Sweden?**

**Manufacturing:** Sweden and India have both identified industry and manufacturing as the key to building long-term economic growth. The extensive bilateral manufacturing exchange between Sweden and India has allowed the two countries to benefit from each other.

**Swedish companies like** Ericsson, SKF, Alfa Laval, and Volvo have been ambassadors of Sweden in India for innovation, sustainable manufacturing, skill development, and social inclusion.

**Clean Energy:** There have been many Swedish innovations in India to enable decarbonisation. There is further need to work toward socially and environmentally sustainable practices throughout the entire supply chain.

Further, **Bilaterally, both the nations** prioritise digitalisation, the green transition, and the industry of the future.

**Multilaterally**, both nations **co-chairs the Leadership Group for Industry Transition** and also through their **respective presidencies in the European Union and the G20**, they lead the way towards achieving sustainable goals.

**Trade:** The year 2022 saw record bilateral trade between the two nations.

**What lies ahead for the bilateral relations between India and Sweden?**

Sweden is one of the strongest proponents for a **Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and India**. An FTA would be a game changer for both the economies.

Further, **Sweden is also committed towards deepening and expanding the partnership by capitalising on the collaboration in innovation, green transition, energy, health, industry policy and more.**

Hence, both nations should work together on improving ties and collaborating on strategic issues and leading the development.

### 15. [Nobody loves local government](#)

**Source:** This post is created based on the article “**Nobody loves local government**”, published in the Indian Express on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2023.

**Syllabus Topic:** GS Paper 2 – Indian Polity – Devolution of power upto the local levels

**Context:** on the 30th anniversary celebrations of 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendments, there is a need to take a relook on the achievements of local governance.

Centralisation was made attractive by the argument that centralised power would be required to break the power of local elite.

However, even after 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Amendments, both central and state governments, are looking to hoard most of the resources.

India has the lowest spending on local government as a proportion of resources.

In this regard, it becomes important to look at the significance and challenges associated with local governance.

**Achievement of 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> amendments**

It made common citizens, representatives sharing power with central and state governments.

It led to the devolution of many important functions to the local government.

Women empowerment.



## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### **What are the challenges facing local governance?**

It is a common perception that the lower tiers of government is incompetent. However, the state at local levels is competent, which is facing a lack of support and investment from the top.

A good amount of Fiscal resources that local governments is managing, going through central level schemes, like NREGA.

Technology has been a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it can create local capacity; on the other, it has been used to largely bypass political negotiation and control.

### **What steps should be taken?**

Local government requires many technical, administrative and financial fixes.

Jayalithaa, the former chief minister, made the case for a unified district-level local government rather than a distinction between urban and rural. Now, many important decisions for urbanisation, like land use change are being made in panchayats.

Decentralisation was designed to be the pathways to inclusive growth through inclusive governance and active citizenship. Therefore, the state would be better served by decentralisation than centralisation, transparency instead of opacity (hence the RTI Act), public reason instead of administrative discretion (hence independent regulators), local capacity instead of concentrated authority, active participation instead of subject status.

# General Studies Paper – 3

### General Studies - 3

---

#### 1. [A sugar rush for emissions – on ethanol blending](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “A sugar rush for emissions” published in **Business Standard** on **6<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 –Environment

**Relevance:** concerns associated with ethanol production

**News:** All cars in showrooms have to be E20 compliant from April this year. This means that cars should be able to run with 20 percent ethanol blended petrol.

**How much ethanol blending has been achieved by India?**

India had already crossed the 10 percent ethanol blended petrol and according to the National Policy on Biofuels, India could hit the 20 percent mark by 2025.

**India is the world’s fifth-largest producer of ethanol** after the US, Brazil, the European Union (EU) and China.

**What is the major concern associated with ethanol production and how has the government tried to tackle it?**

Ethanol in India is mostly produced from sugarcane. Other crops from which ethanol can also be produced are maize, broken-rice, wheat, etc.

Hence, one of the concerns with ethanol production **from sugarcane is its pricing**.

The government has tried to solve the issue of price by adopting the system of **Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane farmers and that of minimum support price for sugar mills**.

This has become the reason farmers in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra prefer sugarcane to other crops.

This has ultimately led India to surpass Brazil in sugar production in the current sugar season (2022-23) and has become the world’s second-largest exporter.

This FRP and MSP model to control prices of ethanol and expect sugarcane farmers and millers to respond with production shifts has worked well.

**For example**, the year 2021-22 (October-September) saw about 35 lakh tonnes of sugar diverted for ethanol production. This number is expected to reach 60 lakh tonnes by 2025-26.

**What are other concerns with ethanol production in India?**

**Ethanol Production from other crops:** The government has plans to offer price support for maize or broken rice. But due to the higher prices in the market, there has been no attempt by the grain-based distilleries to produce ethanol from these two crops.

**Stock reserves for Ethanol:** Stocking the ethanol crops is another concern because crops like sugarcane or maize production depends on the weather. However, this issue can be solved once the automobiles incorporate a flexi-fuel design that allows the car to run on any combination of ethanol and oil.

**Increasing Demand:** As per Niti Aayog, the demand for ethanol is expected to increase 1,016 crore litres by 2025. The domestic production of 684 crore litres will have to jump by 48 per cent to achieve this target.

**Fiscal Requirement:** The government will need more money for FRP and MSP in order to reduce dependence on oil imports.

**Read More:** [Ethanol Blending of Petrol and its challenges: Explained](#)

**What can be the way ahead?**

There is a need to come up with an option of storage of ethanol like that of petroleum reserves because a sudden drought could be dangerous to the production.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### 2. [How to double India's farmers' income](#)

**Source**– The post is based on the article “**How to double India's farmers' income**” published in **The Indian Express** on **6th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS3- Agriculture.

**Relevance:** Issues related to agriculture policy

**Context** –On February 28, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared his dream of doubling farmers' incomes in the year when India completes 75 years of Independence.

#### **What is the importance of agriculture?**

Unless the incomes of farmers go up, **sustained high growth of GDP** is not possible. This is because the manufacturing sector starts facing a **demand constraint** soon after meeting the demand of well-off urban consumers, due to low income of farmers.

Agriculture engages the **largest share of the workforce**. It is 45.55% in 2021-22 as per PLFS. Agriculture also provides **food and nutritional security** to the largest population on this planet.

#### **What are different types of subsidies and support provided by the government to farmers?**

Government provides **fertiliser subsidy** whose budget crosses Rs 2 lakh crore. It provides income support to farmers through **PM-Kisan**.

Many small and marginal farmers also get free ration of at least 5 kg/person/month through the **PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana**.

There are also **subsidies for crop insurance, credit and irrigation**. States also dole out power subsidies in abundance, especially on irrigation. Even farm machinery for custom hiring centres is being subsidised by many states.

Combined subsidy is about **Rs 4 lakh crore per annum**.

#### **What are issues with agriculture policy in India?**

**Trade and marketing policies** adopted by the government are suppressing farmers' incomes. For example, the **ban on exports, the suspension of several commodities from the futures markets, and the imposition of stocking limits** on certain commodities.

These are hidden policy instruments of “**implicit taxation**” of farmers' incomes. This is not a “**pro-farmer approach**”. In fact, the approach is **pro-consumer**. This is the fundamental problem with our policy framework.

The policy of **heavy subsidisation** along with **assured and open-ended procurement** of paddy and wheat is creating challenges for the environment.

#### **What is the way forward to improve agriculture in India?**

There is a need to realign farmer support policies keeping in mind **environmental outcomes**. Millets, pulses, oilseeds, and much of horticulture could perhaps be given **carbon credits to incentivise** their cultivation.

Subsidies support should be **crop-neutral**. Even if they need to be skewed, they should be in favour of those crops that are benign to the planet's basic resources.

There is a need for **innovations in technologies, products, institutions and policies** for more diversified high-value agriculture that is also planet friendly.

Increasing productivity through **better seeds and better irrigation** is necessary. It will have to be combined with **unhindered access to the best markets** for their produce.

**Diversifying to high-value crops**, and even putting solar panels on farmers' fields as a third crop will be needed.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### 3. [Why India needs a Green Revolution 2.0](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**Why India needs a Green Revolution 2.0**” published in the **Indian Express** on **6th March 2023**.

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

**Relevance:** About the rabi crops and impacts of heatwaves on them.

**News:** More than the monsoon, it is temperatures that are emerging as a greater source of uncertainty for farmers. The recent rise in heat waves in February and March threatens India's rabi harvests.

#### **Why rabi crops are important for India?**

**a)** The rabi crops are considered assured and immune from rainfall vagaries, **b)** India produces more food grains now during the rabi (winter-spring) than in the kharif (post-monsoon) season. (This highlights the role of irrigation in drought-proofing).

**Read more:** [Winter Heatwaves – Explained, pointwise](#)

#### **What are the vulnerabilities faced by Rabi crops?**

Rabi crops were always vulnerable mainly to **shorter winters and the advanced onset of summers**. They are also vulnerable to spring thunderstorms and hail.

The impact of the temperature surge was seen in March 2022, when the wheat crop had just entered its final grain formation and filling stage. The heat stress led to early grain ripening and reduced yields.

**Vulnerabilities this year:** There is an absence of active western disturbances that bring rain and snowfall over the Himalayas. Currently, both minimum and maximum temperatures are ruling 3-5 degrees Celsius above normal in most wheat-growing areas.

#### **What are the other challenges faced by Indian agriculture?**

Climate change isn't the only risk farmers are confronting. They also confront **a)** the prospects for wheat are uncertain, **b)** prices of onion and potato have crashed, **c)** Mustard is trading below its minimum support price with the arrival of the new crop, **d)** edible oil inflation had peaked following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The frequency, volatility and intensity of climate change and crop damages have also increased.

**Read more:** [Heat alert – No apparent impact, but March weather crucial for wheat](#)

#### **What needs to fast-pace Green Revolution 2.0 to avert the challenges in Indian agriculture?**

Green Revolution 2.0 has to be about varieties that can withstand extreme temperature and rainfall variations, while yielding more, using less water and nutrients.

Along with fast pacing, **a)** Farmers, scientists and policymakers have to adapt for the challenges, **b)** Implement better crop planning and market intelligence, **c)** Farmers must know what to plant, how to manage their crops at various stages under different stress scenarios and when to sell.

### 4. [How to become a green hydrogen superpower](#)

**Source-** The post is based on the article “**How to become a green hydrogen superpower**” published in **The Hindu** on **7th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS3- Infrastructure: Energy

**Relevance:** Non-fossil sources of energy

**News-** The 2023 Union Budget has allocated ₹19,700 crore for the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

#### **What is the potential of green hydrogen for India?**

India has committed to **50% electricity capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030**. But an **energy transition in industry** is needed at the same time. Most industrial greenhouse gas emissions in India come from steel, cement, fertilizers and petrochemicals.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

Green hydrogen can lead to **industrial growth** while simultaneously reducing **industrial emissions**. It can serve as an energy source for heavy industry, long distance mobility, aviation, and power storage. It can also serve as an **energy carrier**.

India is targeting **at least five million tonnes of production by 2030**. This would create demand for **100--25 gigawatts of renewable energy, 60-100 GW of electrolysers, investment opportunity of ₹8 lakh crore, and cut 50 MMT of annual emissions**.

India has abundant sunshine and significant wind energy resources. It is **geographically blessed** to become one of the **lowest cost producers of green hydrogen**.

**What should be the priorities of the government for the success of the mission?**

**First, domestic demand** is critical. If we are not a big player domestically, we cannot be a major player in the international market.

The mission introduces a **Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition fund** for five years, with ₹13,000 crore as direct support to consume green hydrogen. This will encourage heavy industries to increase demand, offering **economies of scale**.

**Blending mandates for refineries** can be another demand trigger. Urea plants have been exempted.

Another approach is to **leverage government procurement**. India is the second- largest steel producer in the world. Costs of **green steel**, made from **green hydrogen**, are currently much higher.

But, this could be reduced with **economies of scale and changes in production technologies**. A share of government procurement of steel may be **green steel**.

**Second**, India can be an **attractive destination for domestic and foreign investment**. GreenHydrogen production projects in India are far fewer compared to others. Green hydrogen is **difficult and expensive to transport**.

The mission envisions **green hydrogen hubs to consolidate production, end use and exports**. A **mission secretariat** can ensure project clearance is **streamlined and reduce financial risks**.

**Third**, the **SIGHT fund offers ₹4,500 crore** to support **electrolyser manufacturing** under the **performance linked incentive scheme**. Currently, manufacturers are importing stacks and assembling them.

India must become **more competitive** with **targeted public funding** in manufacturing the most critical and high value components of electrolysers in India.

**Electrolyser technology** must be improved to achieve **higher efficiency goals, specific application requirements**, be able to use non freshwater, and **substitute critical minerals**.

**Fourth**, establish **bilateral partnerships to develop resilient supply chains**. Globally, about 63 bilateral partnerships have emerged; Germany, South Korea and Japan have the most.

Using yen- or euro denominated loans for sales to Japan or to the EU, could reduce the **cost of capital** and help us become **export competitive**.

Many bilateral deals focus on import -export but few deal with **technology transfer or investments**. India must **cooperate with like minded countries** on trade, value chains, research and development, and standards.

The mission allocates **₹400 crore for R&D**, which can be leveraged to **crowd in private capital into technology co-development**.

Indian companies should **consider joint projects** in countries with good renewable energy resources and cheap finance.

**Finally**, India must coordinate with major economies to develop **rules for a global green hydrogen economy**.

In the absence of **common global frameworks**, rules and standards are being driven by collectives of private corporations rather than through **structured intergovernmental processes**.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

There are already signs of **conflicting regulations and protectionist measures** in major markets. These put India's ambitions at risk.

India's G20 presidency is an opportunity to craft rules for a **global green hydrogen economy**. These rules must address **operational threats, industrial competitiveness and strategic threats**.

India should promote a **global network on green hydrogen** via which companies could **collaborate**.

### 5. [A new trade strategy: India's performance on exports is a result of policy interventions](#)

**Source**– The post is based on the article “**A new trade strategy: India's performance on exports is a result of policy interventions**” published in **The Indian Express** on **7th March 2023**.

**Syllabus**: GS3- Indian economy

**Relevance**– Issues related to export policy

**News**– India's robust export performance has made a **critical contribution to its economic growth** in recent times.

Despite global economic woes, India's overall exports grew at **17.33% to \$641 billion during April-January 2022-23 compared to \$547 billion** during the same period last year.

**How has India improved its export performance in recent years?**

The country's exports performance was the result of well-crafted trade **policy interventions, their efficacious implementation and a host of other initiatives**.

**Export facilitation**– It ensured the effective conceptualisation and implementation of export promotion schemes.

These schemes are **Market Access Initiative (MAI), Remission of Duties and Tax on Exported Products (RoDTEP), Trade Infrastructure for Exports Scheme (TIES) and Interest Equalisation Schemes** on pre- and post-shipment rupee export credit.

**Production-linked Incentive scheme**– It has been a game changer. It has not only transformed India into a **manufacturing hub**. It has also curtailed its **large trade deficit** in electronics and other manufactured goods.

As a result of this scheme, **electronics manufacturing** attracted a massive investment and its exports have grown rapidly by over **55 % annually**. **Exports of mobile phones** alone may reach \$10 billion during the current financial year.

**Logistics**– it has been a critical stumbling block in India's **exports competitiveness**. It has been proactively addressed in the Union budget 2023-24.

**Capital expenditure allocation** has been sharply **increased by 33% to a record Rs 10 trillion** on the development of rail, road, air, and ocean infrastructure.

It will make export **logistics efficient**. It will also integrate Indian production systems with **global value chains**.

**Restructuring of process**– There has been **rationalisation of work allocation** within the Ministry of Commerce and restructuring of its divisions and subordinate offices. It is likely to transform **India's institutional mechanisms to promote exports**.

Adopting the latest technology in the **collection, assimilation, processing of data and making available real-time information** across stakeholders has **bridged the information gap** between the exporters and the various government departments.

**Work with state governments**– In recent years, the Ministry of Commerce has been actively engaging with state governments and at the district level for **speedy and effective implementation of policy measures** to promote exports.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

Each of the Indian states was asked to prepare an **export promotion strategy**. Proactive involvement of Indian missions abroad helped not only in **market identification** but also in **facilitating product entry**.

**Free Trade Agreements**– Most Free Trade Agreements signed by India previously became **counterproductive**. The Ministry of Commerce has **re-examined all the FTAs**. It is in the process of engaging in newer ones to benefit India.

Recently, India negotiated **new FTAs with UAE, Mauritius and Australia**. It is in the advanced stages of negotiations with the UK.

It is also actively exploring **new trade agreements with the EU and US**.

### 6. [Hindu rate of growth' is a phrase we must erase](#)

**Source:** The post is based on an article “**Hindu rate of growth' is a phrase we must erase**” published in **Mint** on **7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS 3 – Indian Economy

**Relevance:** meaning of the term 'Hindu rate of growth' and concern associated with the Indian economy

**News:** The term 'Hindu rate of growth' was recently used by Raghuram Rajan, former governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

#### **What does the term mean and when was it first used?**

The term was coined by the economist, **Raj Krishna** in late 1970s. The term refers to a sluggish pace of economic expansion back in the 1980s when the growth of India was under 4%.

Krishna argued that our weak growth back in the 1980s was not on account of a resource or talent deficiency, but **it was the result of a restrictive policy environment**.

According to Krishna, our economy was held back by dismal productivity, an inefficient public sector and a sarkari maze of red tape. However, things changed after the LPG reforms of 1991.

Hence, **Raghuram Rajan used the term in the current economic scenario** which according to him is similar to the 1980s due to low private-sector investment, rising rates of interest and a slowing global economy.

However, there are problems with the phrase and it should not be used.

#### **What are the problems with the phrase?**

The term Hindu attached to the phrase may create controversies. **The term nowhere points to religion but suggests a cultural context for poor economic performance.**

Hence, it would be better to delete the phrase as it may hurt the sentiments.

#### **What are the counter arguments to Rajan's view?**

It is true that India is currently facing slow growth. However, after the pandemic, there **has been a V-shaped revival with increased state spending** in the infrastructures. GDP is also expected to increase around 7% in 2023-24.

Hence, there is a need to **attract private investment** for more economic growth and to eliminate the risk of economic slowdown.

### 7. [Measuring forest cover in India: A doubtful green cover](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**A doubtful green cover**” published in the **Indian Express** on **7<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

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

**Relevance:** About measuring forest cover in India.

**News:** The Forest Survey of India's State of Forest Reports has shown a steady increase in the country's forests. For instance, the recent report also showed that the country added more than



## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

1,500 sq km of forest between 2019 and 2021. But, experts have maintained that these reports are not satisfactory indicators of ecological health.

### Why increasing forests does not indicate ecological health?

**a)** Bungalows of ministers and senior officers, the Reserve Bank of India building and parts of the campuses of AIIMS and IIT in Delhi are classified as “forests” in official maps, **b)** The area under plantations have gone up while the country has consistently lost good forests in the past three decades, **c)** In the last 10 years, more than 1,600 square km of forest land has been cleared for infrastructure or industrial projects — nearly a third of this has been diverted in the past three years.

**Must read:** [Lutyens' bungalows, RBI, encroachments are 'forests' in govt's forest cover map](#)

### What are the challenges associated with Compensatory Afforestation Programme (CAP)?

In 2016, the government made that the developers must offset the loss of forests due to developmental projects and initiated the Compensatory Afforestation Programme (CAP).

**Issues with generated forests:** The programme follows a **plantation-centred approach** means that compensatory afforestation takes place in discontinuous patches — the new green tracts are a far cry from the dense forests they are meant to replace.

**Plantations cannot replace forests:** Plantations are mostly monocultures that are no substitute for biodiverse ecosystems. They are susceptible to fires, pests and epidemics and often act as a barrier to natural forest regeneration.

**Underutilised funds:** The investigation shows that large sums of money deposited in the afforestation fund are lying unused.

**Read more:** [States fall short of target to improve forest cover, quality](#)

### Why India needs to properly measure India's forest cover?

**Properly assess afforestation:** The ambiguities and grey areas in measuring forest could prevent India's afforestation programme from achieving its potential.

**Fulfilling India's commitment:** India has committed to creating an additional sink of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent by increasing its forest cover. To fulfil that, India has to increase its forest cover by about 25 million hectares in the next seven years.

The government needs to be more transparent in the way it maps the country's forests.

## 8. [About internal labour migration issues: Migrants Are All Of Us](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the following articles “**Migrants Are All Of Us**” published in **The Times of India** on **7th March 2023**.

“**Tamil Nadu migrant scare: A thin line between nativism and chauvinism**” published in the **Indian Express** on **7th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS – 3 – Employment and GS-1 – Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

**Relevance:** About internal labour migration issues.

**News:** Recently, a fake video surfaced in Tamil Nadu containing visuals of migrant workers being attacked by the locals.

### About labour migration issues in colonial India

The colonial government never wanted to extend to British India the labour legislations prevailing in the UK. Indentured labour were ‘freely’ kidnapped away from India to several other British-ruled areas including Fiji, Mauritius, West Indies and in Africa. The Indian Penal Code actually provided punishment for workers who escaped servitude.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

When the case of indentured labour and their forced migration came to the notice, the Royal Commission of Labour commissioned a study. But the colonial government did nothing to safeguard the interests of migrant labour.

### **What are the protections available for migrant labour at the global level?**

ILO at its 21st session adopted the **Migration for Employment Convention, 1939**. In 1975, there was the 143rd convention concerning **Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers. Recommendation 151** also dealt with migrant workers.

However, all these recommendations were only concerned with the migration of workmen **from one country to another country**.

### **How did the government frame policies to tackle internal labour migration issues so far?**

After the reorganisation of states on a linguistic basis, different states began to have their own labour legislations.

The government enacted the **Interstate Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979**. The Act defined an inter-state migrant workman as “any person who is recruited by or through a contractor in one state under an agreement or other arrangement for employment in an establishment in another state, whether with or without the knowledge of the principal employer in relation to such establishment.” Supreme Court also in 1984 said that the Act was enacted to eliminate abuses by the contractors, sardars or khatedars.

### **Why internal labour migration is essential for India?**

**a)** Migrant workers are the backbone of the Indian economy: No region or sector is immune to dependency on them, **b)** The internal migration offers a competitive environment for manufacturing especially the availability of cheap labour. Hence, any threat to the migration pattern can potentially upset the economic equilibrium in the states like Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra.

### **What are the challenges in addressing internal labour migration issues in India?**

**a)** Indian labour laws are almost a century old, **b)** The problem of internal migrant labour was dealt with only along with the general problems of other workmen in the state, **c)** In most sectors like coal, steel, docks and plantations the issue was not dealt with.

### **What are the vulnerabilities faced by internally migrated labours?**

**a)** Easy for local police to make allegations against strangers, **b)** The respective state governments can frame reservation laws for locals in educational institutions and in employment. For instance, the Karnataka government has framed legislation, **c)** Locals might complain that the migrant labourers have displaced them in many local employments, **d)** There are other issues like shelter, civic rights, right to get civic amenities, **e)** Subnational groups have also stepped up a campaign against the “northern invasion” and **f)** People from the scheduled areas go to other states and lose their status as a Scheduled Tribe.

### **What should be done to protect the internally migrated labours?**

The problems faced by inter-state migrant labour cannot be addressed only through labour legislation. However, Parliament has to consider special legislation that deals with all aspects of migrant workers’ rights including their security and civic rights and not just the labour issues.

A thin line separates nativism and chauvinism, which can be breached at any time. The political parties need to ensure that this doesn’t happen for political gains.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### 9. Industrial policy learnings from a Soviet model versus Japanese

**Source**– The post is based on the article “[Industrial policy learnings from a Soviet model versus Japanese](#)” published in **The Indian Express** on **10th March 2023**.

**Syllabus**: GS3- Changes in Industrial Policy and their Effects on Industrial Growth.

**Relevance**– Different models for industrial growth

**News**– The governments of most of the economically advanced countries are now pivoting towards more **interventionist policy**. They are promoting investments in preferred sectors through a combination of **domestic subsidies as well as import tariffs**.

**What are arguments in support of policy interventions by the government in the economy?**  
**First**, the desire to build some element of **strategic autonomy** in a more **geopolitically fragile world**.

**Second**, the need to help in **rapid transition to a green economy** before climate change does more damage.

**Third**, the attempt to **reduce dependence** on a single supplier or a single source of export demand.

**What were the debates related to the development model to be followed by India after independence?**

Early Indian nationalists of all hues agreed that the **state** should play an **active role in driving economic development** after independence. Though there were differences in the details.

In 1950, the two most important models to follow were those of **Japan and the Soviet Union**. India ultimately adopted the **Soviet model**. It was based on **Mahalanobis’ strategy**.

**Why do some economists argue that India should have adopted the development path chosen by Japan after the Meiji Restoration in 1868?**

Japan at the time of the **Meiji Restoration** had crucial features that made it the **best economic model** for India.

Japan had focused on **higher farm productivity, the rapid expansion of primary education, and an early focus on export markets to accelerate industrial expansion**. By the 1920s, Japan was in the ranks of the **world’s industrialized countries**.

India’s **First Five-Year Plan** also mentioned the **Japanese experience** as a way forward. Even Jawaharlal Nehru saw the benefits of the Japanese strategy,

The **Mumbai economists** C.N. Vakil and P.R. Brahmananda were critical of **Nehru-Mahalanobis strategy**. They argued that India should focus its **development strategy** on the **production of wage goods rather than heavy industry**, like what the Japanese did.

**How was the Japanese development strategy different from the one that the Soviet Union followed in three ways?**

Japan built **industrial capacity** with **private rather than public investment**. The sectoral focus was on **light rather than heavy industry**. **Rapid productivity growth** on small farms owned by families released female workers for industrial work.

Since all industrial progress in Japan has been achieved in comparatively recent years, it offers India the most direct and **valuable lessons in reconstruction**.

**What are arguments against the wage goods model?**

While the **wage goods model** outperforms the Mahalanobis model in the short run, the growth rates converge over a longer period of 40 years.

This is under the unrealistic assumption of a very **high initial savings rate**. With more **realistic savings** at the beginning, the Mahalanobis model actually **outperforms the wage goods model**.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### 10. [The ideal track to run India's logistics system](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**The ideal track to run India's logistics system**” published in **The Hindu** on **10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** **GS 3 – Infrastructure**

**Relevance:** concerns associated with the railway's logistics services

**News:** The Union Budget 2023 has doubled the **PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan** to States from ₹5,000 crore to ₹10,000 crore, and has announced an outlay of ₹2.4 lakh crore for the Indian Railways.

This will help Railways to play an important role in enabling a coordinated and integrated logistics system.

**What is the preferable mode of logistic transport in India at the present?**

At present, **65% of freight movement is done by road transport** due to the convenience roads offer for logistic movements.

However, this has also increased the burden on roads with increased pollution and high logistic costs (almost twice that of railways).

Therefore, it is necessary to adopt railways as a mode for cargo movement. **This will improve India's logistics competitiveness.**

**How are the Indian Railways' logistics services compared with the world?**

Globally, countries are heavily investing in advanced rail infrastructure for quick and low-cost container movement.

**For example,** China uses special trains to carry containers that connect significant ports and has dedicated rail lines to move container traffic and planned double-decker container carriages for greater efficiency.

The **Indian Railways are also upgrading their infrastructure through the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.** However, **these are significantly lower than other countries such as the United States and China.**

**What are the problems faced by the Railways in its freight services?**

**First,** the increased transit time by rail and pre-movement and post-movement procedural delays freight movement by rail.

**Second,** the railways also lack necessary terminal infrastructure, maintenance of god sheds and warehouses, and uncertain supply of wagons.

**Third,** the **absence of integrated first and last-mile connectivity** by rail increases the chances of damage due to multiple handling and also increases the inventory holding cost.

**What can be done to improve freight service by the Railways?**

**First,** it needs to improve infrastructure with proper policy tools.

**Second,** private participation in the operation and management of terminals, containers, and warehouses can be encouraged.

**Third,** a special entity can be established under the railways to handle intermodal logistics in partnership with the private sector. This will help in **addressing the first and last-mile issue faced by the railways.**

The entity could function as a single window for customers for cargo movement and payment transactions.

**Fourth,** the railways can introduce an **Uber-like model** for one of the two cargo wagons, attached to each passenger train. This will enable customers to book the wagon using an online application.

This could directly increase freight traffic without any additional investment in infrastructure.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### 11. [Can the cheetahs help India's grasslands?](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**Can the cheetahs help India's grasslands?**” published in **The Hindu** on **10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** **GS 3 – Environment**

**Relevance:** concerns associated with the re-introduction of cheetahs in India

**News:** Government is trying to re-introduce cheetahs in India by bringing them from Namibia and South Africa.

**Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park** has been chosen as the site for the re-introduction of cheetahs. The article discusses the several aspects of survival of cheetahs in India.

#### **How long will it take for cheetahs to adapt in the Indian climate?**

Cheetahs have come from a very different terrain to India. Therefore, it might take time to adapt in the Indian climate.

Moreover, it is not only the adaptation to climate that will determine the success of reintroduction of cheetahs to India.

The **factors such as reproduction and a self-sustaining population** also plays a role in determining the survival of cheetahs in India.

Further, **Cheetah Action Plan states** that in 15 years the project will be considered a success if Kuno reaches an established population of 21 adults.

#### **Can the reintroduction of cheetahs help in improving India's grasslands?**

India doesn't have vast savannah grasslands like Africa from where the cheetahs are coming. There are **only six or seven savannah types of grasslands** present in India.

Therefore, the healthier population of cheetahs will indicate improving grasslands in India because they mostly prefer to prey in these grasslands.

However, **it will take 30-40 years for the cheetah to reach a population of 20-40 animals**. Therefore, it becomes difficult to say that Indian grasslands will improve with the re-introduction of cheetahs in India.

#### **Will re-introduction of cheetahs contribute to the development of a larger ecosystem?**

As it has been seen in the case of tigers, there has been a remarkable increase in the tiger reserves from 9 to 53. Therefore, it is expected that reintroduction of cheetahs will also help in the improvement of the ecosystem.

However, when we look at the animal's habitat, it becomes difficult to say that it will improve the ecosystem because **cheetahs are the weakest of the large cats**.

They exist at low densities of less than one per 100 sq km. 8-10 cheetahs can be hosted in an area of 750 sq km which is a smaller number.

Therefore, it is not feasible to say that re-introduction cheetahs will help in the development of a larger ecosystem.

Moreover, the government is planning to promote eco-tourism with the re-introduction of cheetahs.

#### **Is it feasible to promote ecotourism and conservation together?**

**Eco-tourism along with conservation can be promoted.** However, there is also a need to address the challenge associated with it because there have been experiences that people over do it.

Ecotourism helps in generating employment for the locals, but **any tourism plan must be community driven**.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### 12. Old Pension System will take from the poor and give to the rich

**Source**– The post is based on the article “**Old Pension System will take from the poor and give to the rich**” published in **The Indian Express** on **10th March 2023**.

**Syllabus**: GS3- Indian economy

**Relevance**– Issues related to public finances

**News**– Recently, the return to the Old Pension System has been proposed by sections.

#### **What are some facts about OPS and NPS?**

OPS is a “**pay-as-you-go**” scheme. The contributions of current government employees are used to fund the **pension liabilities** of past government employees. In OPS, the employees are guaranteed an amount equivalent to 50% of their last salary in perpetuity.

NPS was established by the NDA government in 2003. It is a **defined contribution scheme**. The employees invest a certain fraction of their salary that is complemented by a contribution from the government.

#### **What are the arguments against OPS?**

It will have **fiscal implications**. The only way the OPS can be made sustainable is by either having more government employees or by more borrowing. More employees will lead to **inefficiency in governance**.

States’ finances will be crippled under the pension burden. A recently released report by the Reserve Bank of India on states’ finances provides a detailed breakdown of states’ expenditures on pensions.

**In Rajasthan**, the state’s expenditure on pensions as a percentage of its own tax revenues is **28%**. In contrast, for example, **In Maharashtra**, the same percentage is **14%**.

States will have to **cut down their expenses**. Expenses on health, education, and other long-term assets will naturally be the first ones to go.

The losers will be the majority of poor people who will be denied **basic services and support from the state**. The winners will be the minority of wealthy government employees.

This is a rare example of a policy that explicitly **takes away the wealth of the poor to distribute it to the rich**. The retiring government employees are amongst the **top 5% of income earners in India**.

Finally, **the sixth and the seventh pay commissions** revised the salaries of government employees upwards assuming that they would be under NPS. Therefore, any switch to OPS now is a **breach of trust of all citizens**.

#### **How can OPS make political sense?**

There can be two explanations. One benign, and one disturbing.

**Benign explanation**– Freebies are not mutually exclusive. Parties desperate to win elections are **promising everything to everyone**. In the short run, they may even fulfil their promise. Finally, they will cut down on expenditures such as defence, healthcare.

If the current dispensation at the Centre is re-elected, opposition parties will inherit an even **better fiscal situation** when they eventually come back to power.

Parties may also have **miscalculated the political costs and benefits of OPS**.

**Disturbing explanation**– The Opposition has realised that the main obstacle in its quest for power at the Centre is the **last-mile delivery of welfare schemes**.

The success of these schemes eventually rests on the ability of the lowest layer of government employees to deliver these schemes. OPS may **incentivise government employees to sabotage** these welfare schemes.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### 13. About improving financial inclusion: Breaking barriers, building inclusion

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**Breaking barriers, building inclusion**” published in the **Business Standard** on **10th March 2023**.

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

**Relevance:** About improving financial inclusion.

**News:** According to the latest Findex Report by the World Bank, around one-third of adults still lack access to formal financial services. It means approximately 1.7 billion people worldwide are unbanked.

#### **About the potential of financial inclusion**

-Financial inclusion has been linked to up to 14% growth in the gross domestic product in developing economies.

**-Women affected disproportionately:** Only 47% of women hold a bank account, as opposed to 55 per cent of men.

**-Financial inclusion and a sustainable digital economy** are two critical components of achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and reducing poverty.

#### **What are the critical challenges while developing financial inclusion?**

**a)** Ensuring digital identity systems might infringe on individuals’ privacy rights, **b)** Digital banking systems might not be fair and inclusive to all income or socio-economic status groups, **c)** Promoting a digital public good which can be sustainable and accessible is also a challenge.

**Read more:** [How to boost financial inclusion](#)

#### **How India’s G-20 presidency helps in improving financial inclusion?**

**Firstly**, the theme of India’s G20 Presidency, “Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam,” underlines the message of equitable growth and a shared future for all.

**Secondly**, the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion working group met in Hyderabad under the grouping’s **Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) initiative**.

**Note:** *The GPFI aims to advance financial inclusion as an essential enabler for reducing poverty and promoting economic growth, potentially improving people’s lives worldwide. This initiative works closely with other international organisations.*

**Thirdly**, the **G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP)** aims to prevent future economic crises by encouraging conditions that promote its objectives of financial inclusion and stability. Four major drivers have been highlighted in the new G20 FIAP to lay the groundwork for further progress toward financial inclusion.

These are, **a)** the acceptance of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development as a worldwide framework for sustainable development, **b)** rapid development and penetration of digital breakthroughs, **c)** greater emphasis on underprivileged populations’, and **d)** mainstreaming financial inclusion.

**Read more:** [Financial inclusion is integral to holistic development](#)

#### **What should be done for improving financial inclusion?**

A **multifaceted strategy is needed** to create an inclusive and sustainable digital economy.

**Focus on digital identification, banking, payments, and regulation:** This will provide opportunities to enhance global economic stability and streamline service delivery. Digital banking should focus on promoting stability, transparency, fairness, inclusivity, and interoperability.

**Focus on Digital identity systems:** These include India’s Aadhaar and national ID schemes in Morocco and the Philippines. These systems help to streamline the delivery of services and payments.

**Create a digital stability board:** This will aid in advancing digital regulation by supporting better data-sharing legislation and data management for individuals and small- and medium-sized businesses.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

**Adaptation of laws and institutions to the digital revolution:** Adaptation is required especially in areas such as competition policy, regulatory regimes, innovation ecosystems, workforce development, social protection frameworks, and tax policies.

**Promote sustainability and inclusivity in the digital economy:** These can be done by **a)** establishing a supportive and enabling e-commerce environment, **b)** developing inclusive digital infrastructure, **c)** adapting policies and institutions to digital transformation, **d)** harnessing digital transformation inclusively, and **e)** using digital public goods.

**Make financial inclusion a top priority for G20 countries:** The G20 working group should consider strategies to strengthen the financial system's foundation, facilitate remittance flows, and lower the price of remittance transfers.

Along with the above measures, global nations should also focus on collaborating with international organisations to unlock the potential of millions of individuals and communities and foster sustainable, inclusive economic growth.

### 14. [Crypto under PMLA: New rules of the game](#)

**Source**– The post is based on the article “**Belated, but essential**” published in “**The Hindu**” and **Crypto under PMLA: New rules of the game**” published in “**The Indian Express**” and “**GoI Is Less Cryptic**” published in “**The Times of India**” on 11th March 2023.

**Syllabus:** GS3- Indian economy

**Relevance**– Issues related to financial and banking system

**News**– The government has mandated that a host of trading activities in crypto assets will now come under the ambit of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

**What are some major points related to government decisions?**

**Trading between cryptocurrencies and fiat currencies or among cryptocurrencies** and other such services can be investigated by agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Income Tax department.

It puts the **onus of ascertaining the provenance** of all activity in such assets upon individuals and businesses participating in or facilitating these transactions.

**What has been the approach of the Indian government on virtual currencies?**

The government has decided to not accept cryptocurrencies as “currencies”. It treats them as **virtual digital assets**.

**India's regulatory framework** is **consistently evolving** for crypto assets.

Prior to Parliament's winter session of 2021, GoI indicated that a bill to **regulate crypto assets** would be tabled. However, a bill was never introduced.

In April 2022, the government introduced a **30% income tax on gains** made from cryptocurrencies.

In July 2022, the government brought in rules regarding **1% tax deducted at source** on cryptocurrency.

GoI also acknowledges the limitation of having a **standalone domestic regulation** for virtual assets. In February, GoI informed Parliament that crypto assets are **not confined by national boundaries**.

Regulation will be effective only if there's **international collaboration** on evolving a **common regulatory framework**. Therefore, India is **utilising the G20 platform** to catalyse a **common framework**.

RBI has consistently advocated for a **ban on virtual currencies**. It had asked financial intermediaries it regulates to **follow KYC norms** and other relevant standards for remittances following transactions in crypto assets.



## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

### What are the challenges associated with virtual currencies?

They are designed to **bypass the financial system and existing regulation**. Their **anonymous character** makes them effective. But these characteristics also throw up several risks for any economy.

Due to absence of regulation, they can evade **minimum prudential norms such as Know-Your-Customer regimes, Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) rules** etc.

There is the question of **monetary sovereignty**. These private currencies are often **pegged to the US dollar**. They can replace the Indian rupee and lead to **greater “dollarisation” of the Indian economy** even as the monetary and fiscal authorities lose control.

FATF has been continuously flagging the potential that virtual digital assets have for **criminal misuse** due to their **speed and anonymity**.

A few countries have moved to regulate virtual assets, and some others have banned them outright, while a majority have not taken any action. It has created a **global system with loopholes for criminals and terrorists**.

### Why should the Indian government be proactive in dealing with virtual currencies?

**Volume of trade in unregulated virtual assets** has grown significantly in recent years.

The **Enforcement Directorate** is investigating several cases related to cryptocurrency frauds wherein a **few crypto exchanges** had been found involved in **money laundering, ₹936 crore** had been attached or frozen as on January 31 for linkages with proceeds of crime.

A **July 2021 online report by [BrokerChooser.com](https://www.brokerchooser.com)** had estimated India as being the country with the **highest number of ‘crypto owners’, at 10.07 crore**. It was more than threefold the number of owners of crypto assets in the second ranked U.S.

### What should be the approach of the Indian government towards virtual currencies?

The government must at the earliest decide on a **full-time regulator** for this sector and not leave entities trading in cryptocurrencies at the **mercy of investigative agencies** alone.

### 15. [A moment of reckoning for AUKUS and Australia](#)

**Source**– The post is based on the article “**A moment of reckoning for AUKUS and Australia**” published in **The Hindu** on **10th March 2023**.

**Syllabus**: GS3- International relations

**Relevance**– Important development impacting the geopolitics around world

**News**– An announcement about an “optimal pathway” for AUKUS is on the horizon. It has implications for Australia’s plans to operate a fleet of nuclear powered submarines within the next decade.

### What are options before the UK?

The first is for the U.S. to build **nuclear powered attack submarines** for Australia. But many U.S. policymakers seem sceptical about this option.

The US is also facing problems with **nuclear submarine construction**. So, the possibility of the U.S. building SSNs for Australia appears rather remote.

The second option is for the U.K. to expand its **Astute- class programme** to Australia. But it is not without challenges.

The U.K. is constructing its **Dreadnought Class ballistic missile submarine programme** while designing the Astute-class replacement in a sequential build process.

Even if Australia acquired an Astute-class submarine, integrating the **onboard combat system** would be difficult due to differences between the current Australian and American fleets.

The third and perhaps most likely option is a trilateral effort to develop a **new nuclear submarine design**.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

Canberra could announce a modified version of the yet to be launched **U.S. Next -Generation Attack Submarine** or **U.K. Submersible Ship Nuclear Replacement programmes**, or even a completely **new AUKUS- class design** to be acquired by all three Countries.

### **What are the challenges before Australia in getting SSBNs from the UK and US?**

Australia must find ways to get around **U.S. export controls**. U.S.'s **stringent export control and protocol regime** could jeopardise the **technology transfer agreement**.

To operationalise the pact, the only way forward is to reform the U.S. export control regime by creating a "**carve-out**" of the **International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR)**. This is not easy.

Many of its regional partners oppose the Royal Australian Navy **operating nuclear attack submarines**. Some, such as Indonesia, have been open about their reservations.

Others, such as India, despite being **politically supportive of AUKUS**, appear conflicted about the prospect of these submarines operating in the **regional littorals**.

### **How developments related to AUKUS have implications for?**

Even with its closest allies, the U.S. is facing **difficulties in transferring technology**. It is not that Washington does not want to help a partner. But the **U.S. export control system** is so rigid. Acquiring **critical technology** from the U.S. remains a daunting task.

The other lesson is that nuclear technology is difficult under the international system. For Australia to operate nuclear powered submarines, it will have to exploit a loophole.

The loophole allows non-nuclear weapon countries to **withdraw the fissile material** required for submarine reactors from the **IAEA Monitored stockpile**.

The removal could set a dangerous precedent by allowing **potential proliferators** to use naval reactors as a **cover for future nuclear weapons development**.

Acquiring nuclear propulsion technology is likely to be also complicated for India. It is not a party to the **Non- Proliferation Treaty**.

The complexities involved in the **transfer of technology for HEU fueled reactors in nuclear attack submarines** from the U.S. and U.K. leave India with only one practical option. It is buying a **high-power reactor from France**.

The **miniaturised low enriched uranium (LEU) reactor core** for SSNs is a workable alternative. But, it has its own limitations in terms of Indian dependence on France for **reactor fuel** and the need for **periodic refuelling**.

## 16. [Let's talk about crime – on Cyber Crimes](#)

**Source:** The post is based on the article "**Let's talk about crime**" published in **Business Standard** on **11<sup>th</sup> March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** **GS 3 – Cyber Security**

**Relevance:** Cyber-crimes and measures to prevent them

**News:** The article discusses the increasing cyber-crimes and measures to deal with it.

### **How do cyber-crimes possess threats to people?**

The incident of cybercrimes has increased with the time and the digitalization has further given the advantage to the scammers.

Scammers usually pretend to be from a **bank or a fintech company and ask for information from the account holders**. They have also developed **fake apps/websites** that look like real bank apps/websites.

So, multiple ways are being adopted to trap people in the scam and those who get trapped in the scam end up losing money.

Moreover, it is also **not easy to trace the scammers** because they disappear without leaving a trace. The process of **filing a cyber-crime complaint is also difficult for non-tech people**.

### **What can be done to prevent cyber-crimes by the Financial Institutions?**

**First**, they need to **spread awareness** and talk about the issue to the general public.

## 9 PM Compilation for the Month of March [First Week] 2023

**Second**, they should take several measures to publicise the issue. **For example**, everyone opening a new bank account should receive mandatory warnings about not getting trapped into the scam.

They should also **message regularly on social media** about the common scams and how to avoid them.

**Third**, Financial institutions need to **lobby authorities to make it easier** to file cybercrime complaints.

**Fourth**, they also need to explore ways to make it more difficult for criminals to scam people.

### 17. Dump This Practice – Kochi garbage fire is a warning to all cities

**Source:** The post is based on the article “**Dump This Practice – Kochi garbage fire is a warning to all cities**” published in **The Times of India** on **11th March 2023**.

**Syllabus:** GS – 3 – Environmental pollution and degradation.

**Relevance:** About Kochi garbage fire.

**News:** Kochi became clouded in toxic fumes after the Brahmapuram dumpyard caught fire recently. The Kochi garbage fire made many people in close vicinity to shift out temporarily. The winds carried noxious dioxins and furans inside faraway homes.

#### **What is the reason behind Kochi garbage fire incident?**

The waste treatment plant has been operating without a licence since 2016. This is because, they kept failing at various mandated benchmarks, from plastic waste segregation to bio-mining of legacy waste. Since it is the only dump yard in Kochi, the debris kept rising.

**Read more:** [New e-waste rules and India’s e-waste challenge – Explained, pointwise](#)

#### **What Kochi garbage fire incident highlights about India’s waste treatment plants?**

Kochi garbage fire incident is a **familiar occurrence across the country**. Unsanitary mixed waste dumps are regularly leaking serious health hazards into the air, whether it is the Adharwadi and Deonar landfills in Maharashtra or the massive garbage mountains in Ghazipur, Okhla and Bhalswa in Delhi.

**Municipal bodies have less accountability for waste treatment.** Hence, the waste turns into totally unsustainable ones.

**Must read:** [Waste Management in India: Status, Challenges and Solutions – Explained, pointwise](#)

More urbanisation is generating more waste daily. **Scientific management of waste** will be the backbone of India’s cities.