



9 PM

Compilation

20th to 25th February 2023

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General Studies Paper – 1

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General Studies - 1

1. [Judgement reserved – Too early to celebrate the lithium find](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Judgement reserved – Too early to celebrate the lithium find**” published in **Business Standard** on **20th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 1 – Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent).

Relevance: About Lithium reserves.

News: Recently, a vast deposit of lithium ores has been found in Jammu’s Reasi district.

What is Lithium?

Read here: [Facts about Lithium](#)

About the Lithium findings

Read more: [Geological Survey of India Finds Lithium and Gold Deposits](#)

What are the applications of Lithium?

Read here: [Uses of Lithium](#)

What are the issues with extracting the identified Lithium resources?

If the estimates that the Reasi deposits of 5.9 million tonnes of lithium are close to being accurate, then India possesses the largest reserves after Bolivia. However, **a) the accurate estimates of proven quantity** could eventually be **significantly lower than the current inferred amount**.

b) The extraction process could take a decade or more and **require substantial investment**. For instance, in 2005, Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC) announced that it had discovered \$100 billion worth of natural gas in the offshore Krishna Godavari Basin. It was hailed as a historic moment and large investments poured in over the next 17 years. But GPSC still did not achieve commercial production.

c) India should not only have to extract and refine lithium but **also set up a value chain** for battery production. This process of extraction, refining, and battery production will take a fair amount of investment and time.

d) The project will create a serious environmental impact and possibly require the shifting of local populations since the area is geologically “young” and seismically unstable.

e) Reasi is close to the Line of Control, which means there could be **geopolitical complications**.

What should be done?

The government will have to **work out a comprehensive policy** if the reserves are proven.

Work on sodium-ion batteries: India has always been aware that it is lacking in lithium reserves. Hence, India has invested in researching alternative storage technologies involving sodium-ion batteries. Sodium is far more abundantly available than lithium it can be extracted from seawater. There has been promising research into sodium-ion battery technologies in the laboratories of the IITs. Indian should continue and scale up it to be commercially available.

The lithium discovery is worth investigating, but that should not hurt research on alternative storage technologies.

2. [A ‘democratisation’ that is more a fallacy](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**A ‘democratisation’ that is more a fallacy**” published in **The Hindu** on **18th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS1- Society

Relevance: Impacts of changing social media landscape

News- The Social media has democratised self-expression. But, it has mixed effects on the public sphere.

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How has the social media landscape changed in recent times?

There is a trend towards **increasing brevity and homogeneity**.

The early days of online discourse centred around **long-form text** on blogs and message boards. It required **conscious engagement** from the writer and the reader. The reader spent time reading and making her/his own expression in her own words.

With the advent of social media, **long-form text has changed to shorter versions**. There is a shift from posts to tweets to retweets, likes, memes, and emojis.

One of the most striking things about online communication is **little speaking by people**.

Social media also **forces brevity (accurate and shorter expressions)** due to its format and the larger ecosystem associated with it.

What are the impacts of social media on different spheres of life?

It puts constraints on the possibilities of what can be said. This limits the **scope of self-expression**.

The incentives of social media privileges **antagonism, outrage over dialogue and reason**. It compels individuals to become **more antagonistic and outrageous**. The effect is that the medium dictates the message.

The ability of social media platforms for **short messaging** is impacting the **“creator economy”**. In order to improve user engagement, social media platforms have started **compensating users** for original audiovisual content.

Platforms have increasingly moved to **shorter video formats** ranging from 15 to 60 seconds. There are many reports of creators trying to hack the algorithms.

With the emergence of **generative AI such as ChatGPT** for text and images, there is a high possibility that “self-expression” will be further diminished. It will make it easy to generate content without requiring the individual to apply herself in any meaningful manner.

[3. We should shed colonial legacy by creating content in mother languages](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“Former Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu writes: We should shed colonial legacy by creating content in mother languages”** published in **The Indian Express** on **23th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS1- Art and Culture

Relevance: Socio-Cultural development

News- The article emphasizes the need to overhaul the language of education system to make it more **inclusive and diverse**

What is the viewpoint of UNESCO on mother language?

In November 1999, **UNESCO** declared **February 21 as International Mother Language Day** in response to the declining state of many languages all over the world.

This year’s theme, **“Multilingual education — a necessity to transform education,”**

UNESCO states, a monolingual system of education which relies on **“providing education in only one language** that is not necessarily shared by all learners **may negatively impact learning** performance, and the development of socio-emotional and foundational literacy skills.”

What are the challenges with colonial era learning?

Even as we **Amrit celebrate Azadi ka Mahotsav**, to mark 75 years of Independence, we have not been able to shed this colonial legacy of dependence on English.

Educators and parents continue to accord unquestioned primacy to English and, as a result, **the child is compelled to study his or her mother tongue as a “second/third language” at school**.

Our emphasis on English has, ironically, made the educational system **exclusive and restrictive**.

While limiting the acquisition of knowledge in technical and professional courses, to a select few, we made it **inaccessible to a vast majority of our students**.

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What are government initiatives in this regard?

The **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** is a farsighted document which advocates education in one's mother tongue right from the primary-school level.

AICTE's landmark decision to permit **BTech programmes in 11 native languages**.

Government is looking forward for **employment and job creation** in mother languages ex-SSC.

What is the way forward?

Mother tongue as the medium of instruction gives confidence to youth.

Including mother languages in learning, we can fast-track methods to make quality education more **accessible, equitable and inclusive**.

Thus, steps need to be scaled up at all levels. We must involve all key stakeholders in education — **policymakers, schools, colleges and universities, teachers, regulatory institutions and non-governmental** bodies.

General Studies Paper – 2

General Studies - 2

1. [Changes in organ transplant rules: A new lease of life](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Changes in organ transplant rules: A new lease of life**” published in **Indian Express** on **20th February 2023**.

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

Relevance: About the revised guidelines for organ donation.

News: The Union Health Ministry has recently revised several guidelines related to organ donation.

What is Organ Donation?

Must read: [Organ Donation in India](#)

India’s organ transfer law recognises donations by the patient’s close relatives — parents, spouses and siblings. In case, a near relative is medically incompatible with the recipient, the pair is permitted a swap transplant with another related unmatched pair.

What are the revised guidelines for organ donation?

Read here: [Now, no age bar to register for cadaver organ transplants](#)

What are the benefits of the revised guidelines for organ donation?

Benefits of removing the upper age limit for registration: The pool of organ donors for a large section of critically ill people above 65 will be wider. Senior citizens in the age group above 65 can now register to receive donations from live donors.

Benefits of removing domicile-related restrictions: Earlier, some states either registered recipients who lived there or accorded priority to them in allocating organs. Now the new guidelines will make organs accessible for timely transplants.

Increase organ transplantation: India conducts the third-highest number of transplants in the world every year. But only 4% of the patients who require a liver, heart or kidney transplant manage to get one.

The new guidelines will increase organ transplantation percentages in India.

What are the issues with organ donation in India?

Problem with organ shortage: It is a complex problem faced by policy planners from not only India but also from nations whose healthcare systems are far better equipped than India’s.

The issue of the black market in organ donation: The majority of organ donations in the country are not by the close kin of patients. This highlights the black market which lures the desperately poor to sell their organs.

An issue with the screening committee: Donors have to convince a screening committee of their altruistic motives. But suggestions to make the proceedings of the committees more transparent have been ignored by authorities.

What should be done to address issues in organ donation in India?

India’s growing burden of lifestyle diseases might increase demand for the pool of organs. Hence, India should **increase the pool of organs** along with **regulatory creativity without compromising on ethical imperatives**.

Introduce an opt-out system: It is adopted in some western countries. Under this, all citizens will be donors unless they “opt out”. But for introducing such a system in India, the government should **improve awareness of organ donation**.

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[2. All That India Can Do To Make Cancer A Less Dismal State](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**All That India Can Do To Make Cancer A Less Dismal State**” published in **The Times of India** on **20th February 2023**.

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

Relevance: About cancer in India.

News: Recently, World Cancer Day was celebrated.

About cancer in India

The incidence of all cancers is estimated to increase to 15.7 lakhs by 2025. The incidence of cancer of the uterine cervix has reportedly dropped over the last 50 years from 45 to 10 per 1,00,000 population, and the HPV vaccine will likely to reduce it further. Breast cancer continues to rise in urban centres.

What are the challenges in reducing cancer in India?

- India made little progress to detect cancer early enough to reduce death rates.
- Because of high levels of pollution, India is going to witness a significant rise in rates of lung cancer in the future among non-smokers too.
- People who live in villages have much more advanced stages of cancer than their urban counterparts.
- There is also a lack of awareness and widespread use of carcinogenic products like tobacco in India.
- Cancer generally presents itself in an older age group. As human life spans increase the risk of getting cancer also rises. Older adults also have additional problems associated with ageing.

What are the steps undertaken to detect cancer in India?

Access to early detection facilities and affordable treatments have an important role in reducing cancer mortality.

The government is providing that by making primary health centres more responsive and taking attempts through Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission. This will shorten the time lag between diagnoses and treatment.

What should be done to reduce cancer in India?

Compulsory Palliative care: Only an estimated 1 in 10 people who need palliative care worldwide are receiving it. In India, it is estimated that less than 2% of people with serious and chronic conditions availing palliative relief care. So, palliative care must be made part of India's healthcare agenda and should be available to all.

Focus on preventive health: For example, tobacco is implicated in one-third of India's cancers. Punitive measures and higher taxation of tobacco products as well as bans should be imposed along with strict and effective enforcement for raising awareness and tackling cultural factors.

Focus on technological solutions: Such as immunotherapy, CAR-T cell therapy and other cutting-edge treatments and technological advances.

India should work on preventing cancer, catching it early and ensuring the quality of life for those who have it.

[3. The curious case of the disqualification of a politician](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**The curious case of the disqualification of a politician**” published in **The Hindu** on **20th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Parliament and state legislature

Relevance: Issues related to disqualification of the legislative member.

News: The Kerala High Court suspended the verdict passed by the District and Sessions Court in which the then-sitting MP of Lakshadweep was sentenced to 10 years in jail.

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What is the issue?

A sitting MP of Lakshadweep was convicted by the Kavaratti sessions court on January 11. The Lok Sabha announced that he was disqualified as an MP with effect from the date of conviction. The Election Commission of India fixed a date for a by-election to that constituency.

However, the Kerala High Court stayed his conviction and sentence. The High Court said that the consequence of not suspending the conviction is drastic not just for the particular person but also for the nation. The MP then challenged the ECI's announcement in the SC of India.

What is the question before SC?

It is related to whether the person automatically will resume his **membership of the Lok Sabha**. The answer lies in deciding whether the cancellation of disqualification takes effect when the High Court suspended the conviction or from the **date of conviction and disqualification**.

What are constitutional and legal provisions regarding the disqualification of a sitting member of Parliament?

Article 102 of the Constitution contains provisions for disqualification. It specifies that a person shall be disqualified from contesting elections and being a Member of Parliament under certain conditions.

These include holding an **office of profit, being of unsound mind or insolvent, or not being a citizen of India**.

It also **authorises Parliament to make law** determining conditions of disqualifications. There are analogous provisions for members of state legislatures.

The **Representation of the People Act, 1951** provides that a person will be disqualified if convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for two years or more. The person is disqualified for a **period of imprisonment and a further six years**.

There is an exception for sitting members. They have been provided a period of three months from the date of conviction to appeal. The disqualification will not be applicable until the appeal is decided.

What are the judgements of higher courts on disqualification?

The **differential treatment of candidates** for elections and sitting members were challenged under **Article 14**. The **Supreme Court in K. Prabhakaran vs P. Jayarajan case** decided that the consequences of disqualifying a contestant and a sitting member were different.

In the case of sitting members, the strength of the party in the legislature would change. It could have an adverse impact if a government had a **thin majority**. It would also **trigger a by-election**. Therefore, it was reasonable to treat the two categories differently.

It stated that disqualification would be removed with **retrospective effect** as this would require the cancellation of election results. Therefore, the removal of disqualification would be **prospective and for future elections**.

Supreme Court in Lily Thomas vs Union of India case, 2013 stated that **Article 102 empowers Parliament** to make law regarding the disqualification of a person. If Parliament could specify conditions for disqualification, those conditions **would apply equally** to candidates and sitting members.

If a Member of Parliament was disqualified **under Article 102**, his seat shall become vacant. Therefore, the disqualification will be automatic and have immediate effect.

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4. On sealed cover jurisprudence

Source: The post is based on the article “On sealed cover jurisprudence” published in “The Hindu” on 18th February 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Judiciary

Relevance: Issues related to the transparent process of justice

News: The Chief Justice of India firmly refused the ‘suggestions’ offered by the government in a sealed cover on the formation of a proposed committee to enquire into the Hindenburg report on the Adani Group.

What are the issues related to the practice of routine handing over of sealed covers by the government?

It **erodes public confidence** in the ‘**open court**’ principle of justice administration.

The petitioners are unable to defend themselves. They do not know what they are supposed to defend against.

Passing on materials in a sealed cover to the court compels judges to **accept the state’s version**, that too, in cases in which the government’s narrative is under challenge.

What are the historical facts related to this practice?

The origins of sealed cover jurisprudence can be traced to **service or administrative cases**. Official service records and promotion assessments of individual personnel were received in a sealed cover in order to avoid harm to the **reputation of officers**.

The court continues to receive **confidential documents in sexual assault** cases to protect the identity of survivors. However, recently there has been a **rise in the incidence** of the government providing documents in a sealed cover.

Sealed cover documents have been received by the apex court in cases such as the Rafale jets’ purchase deal, the Assam National Register of Citizens case, the Ayodhya title dispute, the Gujarat Police ‘fake’ encounter case, the electoral bonds case, and Bhima Koregaon case.

What are the rules associated with this practice?

Supreme Court Rules, 2013 provides that the Chief Justice can direct any document to be kept confidential in a sealed cover if publication of the records is “considered to be **not in the interest of the public**”.

Section 123 of the Evidence Act of 1872 provides that the government should give a prior permission to a person who wants to give evidence “derived from unpublished official records relating to any affairs of state”.

How the Supreme Court is now witnessing a turnaround?

The SC, in the **Media One telecast ban case**, observed that the government should explain the exceptional circumstances to keep documents secret from the other party. The court has made it clear that sealed covers could be used only in a “small exception” of cases.

In the **S.P. Velumani case, 2022**; the Supreme Court criticised the Madras High Court’s decision to permit a report to remain “shrouded in a sealed cover” when the State had not even claimed any specific privilege.

The court admonished the Bihar government for attempting to give information in a sealed cover in the Muzaffarpur shelter case.

In the **Pegasus case judgement**, SC underscored that the government must prove the facts that the information sought would affect national security concerns. The state cannot get a free pass every time the issue of ‘**national security**’ is raised.

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5. [Why not use Sanskrit as our first or second official language?](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Why not use Sanskrit as our first or second official language?**” published in **The Times of India** on **21st February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Indian Polity

Relevance: promoting Sanskrit as official language.

News: The article discusses measures required to make Sanskrit an official language.

Why Sanskrit should be made official language?

Sanskrit is considered the mother of all Indo-European groups of languages. It is also considered as a secular language and is not associated with any specific religion.

Sanskrit is eminently suitable because Indians use a large number of Sanskrit words when they use their regional language.

Moreover, English is the official language of Courts. However, the counsel in court argue in Hindi. Even HCs of some states have allowed to file cases in Hindi.

English has become our second official language even though hardly 2-3% Indians have fluency over English.

Hence, Sanskrit along with Hindi should be promoted by the government.

What measures are needed to make Sanskrit an official language?

The government should appoint a commission and committee of Parliament on official language as per Article 344.

Article 344 says it shall be the duty of this commission to make recommendations to the President for (a) the progressive use of the Hindi language for the official purposes of the Union; (b) restrictions on the use of English language for all or any of the official purposes.

Article 351 of the Indian Constitution states that it shall be the duty of the government to promote the spread of Hindi, wherever necessary or desirable promote Sanskrit and then other languages.

Further, Sanskrit language should be promoted through the way of education in its pure form and in phases.

Sanskrit can be introduced in the government’s services and at the university level while the English language could be retained for international relations and commercial agreements.

Therefore, we need to use a language which can be understood by all people in India and Sanskrit is the best for it.

6. [Slow progress to creating a safe workplace for women](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “**Slow progress to creating a safe workplace for women**” published in **The Hindu** on **18th February 2023**.

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

Relevance: Issues related to women safety

News- Recently, there were allegations of sexual harassment against higher authorities by some women sportspersons.

What are the reasons behind sexual harassment of women at workplace?

Sexual harassment at the workplace, is both **direct and structural**. The enabling environment for reporting direct violence has shown a gradual improvement.

But, **indirect violence** remains poorly addressed. It is embedded deep in our **social and economic structures**. It is more visible in the **employment imbalance** prevalent between men and women.

More men at the workplace feel entitled to take undue advantage of the historical fact that the society is **still patriarchal** and women occupy a few of the higher positions.

The **number of women in leadership positions** is not enough to generate confidence in the female subordinates. Women in lower positions feel reluctant to air their grievances.

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The **Periodic Labour Force Survey for 2020-21** shows that the participation of women in the total labour force was 25.1% in 2020-21. It is still much less when compared to men.

There is absence of an **enabling and safe working environment**. Most women do not complain of sexual harassment. The current **redress mechanism** is either **non-existent or ineffective**.

Women are more vulnerable to exploitation by their employer due to the fear of job insecurity. Which makes them vulnerable to sexual favour by employers.

Whenever allegations of sexual harassment are levelled against superior authorities, the enquiry is not done properly. Instead, an accused either resorts to **multiple litigation** to stall the due process or attempts to bring **disrepute to the victim**.

What is the way forward to address the issues of sexual harassment of women at workplace?

It is the **responsibility of the employer** to provide a safe work environment.

The short-term goals may include providing the requisite **women-friendly infrastructure**, the constitution of **internal complaint committees**, and the **spreading of awareness** about the law and procedure of grievance redress.

Medium-term goals may include the **increase of female participation in the labour force**, **improvement of tooth-to-tail ratio**, and **providing incentives** to prevent drop-outs such as paid maternity leave.

In the long-run, it is essential to address the **deep-rooted structural and cultural violence** against women.

There is a need to **develop the mindset** of treating men and women **as equals** at an early stage of character formation during childhood. Parents should respect each other and treat their girl and boy child on a par in all respects.

7. [Ladakh's winter of discontent From cheering its UT status, the region is now mired in protest](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Ladakh's winter of discontent**

From cheering its UT status, the region is now mired in protest" published in **Business Standard** on **21st February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – issues and challenges pertaining to the federal structure.

Relevance: About present issues in Ladakh.

News: Centre's policies in Ladakh highlight the political risks of neglecting local aspirations.

What are the issues in Ladakh?

In 2019, Ladakhis celebrated the region's demarcation from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and its creation as a Union Territory. But over the past three years, locals claimed that their rights are weakening under central rule. These include **a)** Removal of local protections for land and jobs, **b)** Earlier Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council directed the affairs of the region. But now, the Council has become less relevant and is governed directly by the centre, **c)** Region's ethnic tribal demography would be overwhelmed by people from the plains settling in Ladakh in larger numbers, **d)** Increase in private investment from outside the region, and **e)** Industrial projects are apparently being approved without local consent and industry groups have explored the possibility of developing and extracting minerals found in the region. Such as gold, sulphur, borax, granite, limestone, and marble.

The Union home ministry had set up a committee to examine the above grievances. But reports suggest that little progress has been made.

Read more: [Ladakh, a fragile region, needs autonomy](#)

What are the demands of the Ladakh people?

There are demands that Ladakh should be granted statehood, just as has been promised to J&K at some later date and brought under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution as a safeguard of local rights. The Sixth Schedule, which comes under Article 244, provides for the formation of Autonomous District Councils in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram.

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In 2019, the **National Commission for Scheduled Tribes** recommended that with tribes accounting for 97% of Ladakh's population, its distinct cultural heritage needed protection under the Sixth Schedule.

Centre's response to the demand: The Sixth Schedule is only for the North-east; for tribal areas in the rest of the country there is the Fifth Schedule, which applies to states with more than 50% tribal population.

Read more: [What is the rationale behind the demand for special constitutional status for Ladakh?](#)

What should be done?

The Centre could introduce a Bill to amend the Constitution to bring Ladakh under the Sixth Schedule. This will ensure trust among the locals and empower them as well.

8. [Rooftop Solar Photovoltaics \(RTPV\) for poverty alleviation](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article "**Rooftop solar for poverty alleviation**", published in **Business Standard on 22nd Feb.**

GS Paper 2 – New and renewable Energy

Context: A detailed paper prepared by Infravision Foundation highlights the potential of Rooftop Solar Photovoltaics (RTPV) as the income generating source for lower income level segment.

The report proposes a Central government-sponsored scheme in the field of RTPV. It could be called Sooraj Se Rozgaari.

One such example is from China. Where, RTPV is one of the identified 10 initiatives rolled out by the government to lift rural households out of poverty.

Low-income household with limited roof space may receive a benefit anything from Rs 3,500 to Rs 6,000 per annum from the "free" sunlight.

Currently, the rooftop-subsidy programmes run by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy require consumers to bear about 60 per cent of the costs.

What is the proposed scheme for RPTVs?

The proposed scheme assumes a customer mix as shown in the image below.

CUSTOMER MIX UNDER THE SCHEME					
	Units	Low-income households	Regular income households	Institutional/ MSME	Total
No. of customers	Lakhs	100	20	8	128
System capacity per customer	kW	1	3	5	
Total installed capacity	GW	10	6	4	20
Proposed subsidy	%	100	40	20	

Source: Business Standard

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Government involvement in this scheme will be through Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA).

IREDA empowered with government incentives, would be involved in the Bulk procurement of RTPV, through State Renewable Energy Development Agencies (SRDAs). It may reduce capital costs of RTPV due to bulk order.

SRDAs will secure state regulatory approvals on benchmark costs of RTPV, including state-specific grid-installation charges and a fair developer margin.

Local developers will market the scheme, attract the consumers, install the modules and give consumer maintenance for 15 years. Upon the consumer's order, developers will request SRDAs for necessary modules and infrastructure.

Developers will receive a fixed installation fee and yearly maintenance fees from SRDAs for their services.

Consumers will have to bear a part of the benchmark costs depending upon the category.

- Low-income households do not have to pay for any share of the costs for RTPV installation and maintenance.
- Social/institutional/small businesses bear 80 per cent of the costs,
- The households with regular incomes bear 60 per cent.

Consumer will have to agree on the share of **electricity for self-use** from the electricity generated from RTPV. **Rest of the generated electricity** will be considered as sold to SRDAs.

SRDAs will gather electricity from all participating consumers and sale this power to other discoms, large consumers, and power exchanges to maximise it's revenue.

Net financial assistance from the Central government will be calculated based on the difference between the compensation paid to participating consumers and the realised sale price for electricity sold to other parties.

The proposed centralised scheme is expected to add 20 Gw of residential RTPV capacity over a five-year period.

9. [The multiplier impact of more expressways](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article "The multiplier impact of more expressways", published in Live Mint on 22nd Feb.

News: 246-km Delhi-Dausa-Lalsot section of the Delhi-Mumbai expressway was inaugurated last week. It will reduce the travel-time between Delhi and Jaipur to three hours.

The total length of 663 NHs(National Highways) has increased from about 91,287 km in March 2014 to about 144,983 km at present.

Bharatmala Pariyojana aims to develop 34,800 km of NH corridors. As of now, 11,789 km has been completed in the project.

Significance of Delhi-Mumbai expressway

- It is expected to **halve the commute time** between Delhi and Mumbai.
- Infrastructure development results in **multiplier-benefit for the economic regions** So, it could create opportunities for logistics, storage, transport and other related industries as well.
- It will **boost domestic tourism**. Tourism has a multiplier impact: Gramin Haats along the expressway can provide local farmers and craftsman a new window of opportunity.
- **Capital expenditure** is known to have a powerful multiplier effect of approx. 2.95 times.
- It also results in **social infrastructure development** for people living around highways, including education, healthcare, buildings for public use, shopping complexes etc.

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10. Discipline and discussion – on discussions in Parliament

Source: This post is created based on the article “**Discipline and discussion – on discussions in Parliament**”, published in **Indian Express** on 22nd Feb.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2, Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business

Context: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar directed the Privileges Committee to investigate the disorderly conduct by 12 Opposition Members of Parliament. The disruption led to multiple adjournments during the first leg of the Budget session.

What are the other such examples of penalising over the discussions in Parliament?

Opposition’s slogans during Prime Minister’s 85-minute address, were blacked out.

An MP was suspended by the Chairmen for recording the proceedings on her mobile phone.

Chairman interrupted the speech of Leader of the Opposition during the Motion of Thanks to the President’s Address, several times. He repeatedly directed to “authenticate” remarks.

6 parts of speech were expunged from the Rajya Sabha records. Similarly, the speech of another Congress leader got 18 cuts.

What are the issues associated with this penalisation?

It will be the mockery of parliamentary democracy if Opposition is penalised for seeking accountability from the government.

Government has availability of all the information, over which queries are raised in Parliament. It is duty of the government to validate the authenticity of the information or the lack of it provided by an MP.

Parliamentary discipline must ensure that discussions take place, and the government provides the answers and not the opposite of it.

11. Why Lok Sabha must have a Deputy Speaker

Source: This post is created based on the article “**Why Lok Sabha must have a Deputy Speaker**”, published in **Indian Express** on 22nd Feb.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2, Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business.

News: The Deputy Speaker has not been elected even after more than 3 years of this term of Lok Sabha. This matter has now reached the Supreme Court, which has reportedly sent notice to the Union government.

Significance of Deputy Speaker in the Lok Sabha

The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are described in the Constitution as officers of Parliament, which signifies their importance in the parliamentary system. As per article 93, Lok Sabha members elect the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, after the election.

The Deputy Speaker is equally significant as the House Speaker, based on history. The Deputy Speaker was designated Deputy President under the Government of India Act of 1919 since the Speaker was the president of the central legislative assembly.

Since the constitution has been enacted, every Lok Sabha had a Deputy Speaker who would be elected after a few days of the election of the Speaker.

Possible reason behind non-election of Deputy Speaker?

Constitutionally, as per Rule 8 of the Rules and Procedure of Lok Sabha, the Speaker fix the date of the election of the Deputy Speaker and government has no role in it. But in reality, government initiates the political process of the consultation with other parties and works out a consensus. In the absence of speaker, Deputy Speaker has the same power as the Speaker. no appeal lies to the Speaker against a ruling given by the Deputy Speaker. He can also determine the petitions relating to disqualification under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution. Therefore, a person from the opposition on this post also comes with risks to ruling party.

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12. [Turn off the tap of urban bias in rural development](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Turn off the tap of urban bias in rural development**” published in **The Hindu** on **22nd February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

Relevance: reasons behind increasing urban rural disparity

News: The article discusses the increasing urban and rural disparity and the performance of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in Tamil Nadu.

What are the reasons behind increasing urban rural disparity?

Biased Policies: The disparity has increased due to bias policies made by government and institutions for urban areas.

Spill-over effect: It refers to the development of rural areas which is dependent on larger urban areas.

Hence, rural areas which are far away from the urban areas not only suffer from a lack of development but also keep falling behind rural areas which are closer to the urban areas.

Therefore, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was launched by the government to reduce the disparity amongst the rural urban areas in access to tap water.

What is JJM?

[Click Here to Read](#)

The safe drinking water under JJM will **a)** improve health and nutrition and **b)** reduce the workload of women and girl children while ensuring their safety.

Further, “availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all” is the sixth goal in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations to be achieved by 2030. Moreover, the progress of JJM in ensuring safe tap water in rural areas of Tamil Nadu has also been influenced by urban factors.

What has been the performance of JJM in Tamil Nadu?

The data for 2022 reveal that there has been variation in the district wise coverage of tap water in Tamil Nadu.

For example, rural households in Kanchipuram, Ranipet, Vellore have better coverage of JJM, while rural households in Dharmapuri, Kallakurichi, Nagappatinam districts have not enough tap water connections.

It was found that the progress of JJM was better in those districts that have **better percentage of urban population** and districts with low urban population percentages were lagging in the implementation of the JJM.

Hence, it shows that urban rural bias exists even in accessing the basic facilities like tap water.

What can be the course of action?

The government must take additional measures to prioritise the implementation of the JJM scheme in districts with a high rural population in order to reach the goal of JJM.

This will not only help to correct urban bias but also meet the SDG goal with regard to tapping water connections by 2024.

13. [A new chapter in defence and tech](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**A new chapter in defence and tech**” published in **The Hindu** on **22nd February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations

Relevance: India-US bilateral relations

News: India and the US have recently inaugurated the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (ICET). The launch of ICET shows that the relations between the two nations are improving.

What is ICET?

[Click Here to Read](#)

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How has the relations between India and the US transformed over the years?

The US has played a significant role in India's development efforts since 1950. During the cold war, the US provided assistance to India in a range of areas.

The U.S. **helped to build India's first reactors for research and power**. It also gave training to India's nuclear scientists. However, the cooperation in nuclear areas came to an end after India's first nuclear test in 1974.

The U.S. also aided to modernise Indian education, especially engineering and management in the 1960s to help India's industrial growth. However, the Indian economy stalled in those times due to which growth wasn't witnessed.

Agriculture was the area where India got long lasting benefits from the US technologies. American S&T helped trigger **the Green Revolution** and end an era of food shortages.

Moreover, the Bangladesh War of 1971 and the 1974 nuclear tests led to a decline in the relations between India and the US for almost three decades.

However, relations became better in 1984 when India-U.S. signed MoU on sensitive technologies, commodities and information.

In 1987, the U.S. agreed to assist India's Light Combat Aircraft (Tejas) programme and allowed the sale of front-line GE 404 engines to India.

However, the non-proliferation treaty acted as hindrance between the relations of the two nations.

The US reimposed sanctions on India again in 1988 following the nuclear test conducted by India. However, by this time, China emerged as the threat to the US.

Therefore, the US decided to improve its relationship with India and the nuclear proliferation treaty was replaced by the **India-U.S. nuclear deal of 2008**. The relations between the two nations started to improve after this deal.

Till now, India has purchased U.S. weapons and systems worth billions of dollars. It is now deemed to be a Major Defence Partner and a Major Non-Nato Ally of the US.

However, India has also faced pressure under CAATSA and on account of its oil trade with Russia.

Hence, ICET will help both the countries to move ahead together in critical and emerging technologies. It has also set up a range of ambitious goals for India.

14. Badadministrators -Nasty social media brawl between IAS & IPS officers points to a larger, worrying trend

Source: The post is based on the article "**Badadministrators -Nasty social media brawl between IAS & IPS officers points to a larger, worrying trend**" published in **The Times of India** on **22nd February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Role of civil services in a democracy.

Relevance: About low efficiency in the public sector.

News: Recently, an IPS officer and an IAS officer from Karnataka has involved in a verbal debate on Social media. In effect, both officers were transferred. But the clash put focus on a larger, disturbing change that civil service ethos is undergoing through participation in social media.

Why the public sector is having low efficiency?

Less man power: The parliamentary standing committee last year said that there are **22% fewer IAS officers in the country** than the sanctioned strength. The sanctioned strength is also not enough to begin with given the evolving needs of the Indian administration.

Not enough reforms and incentives: The government's lack of reforms in incentives and penalties have helped incapacity, indifference and corruption creep in.

Lack of functional independence: The permanent executive suffers a lack of functional independence from the political executive.

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Social media addictions: The self-aggrandisement stimulated by social media addictions is a new challenge to the All India Services (Conduct) Rules, 1968.

In social media, promoting work takes second place and promoting the self becomes the primary motto. Social media activities of some bureaucrats make short confessions of not just “political neutrality” but “courtesy and good behaviour”.

Not attractive private sector: The private sector still isn't attractive and big enough for breaking the charm of government services such as prestige, power and job security. This is clearly visible by too much competition for government services.

What should be done?

Governments will have to recruit more to increase manpower. To reduce the reputational damage from the social media war, serving seniors and ministers must take note and tries to end them.

15. Giving data its due – On National Data and Analytics Platform

Source– The post is based on the article “**Giving data its due**” published in **The Indian Express** on **23rd February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- E-governance

Relevance: Use of data for governance

News- National Data and Analytics Platform will enable policy-makers and researchers to exploit the potential of government data

What are some facts about the National Data and Analytics Platform?

It is a **transformational open data platform launched by NITI Aayog** in 2022.

NDAP provides **foundational datasets** from central and state government entities in **machine-readable formats, with a user-friendly interface and powerful analytics**.

The platform uses **cutting-edge methods** to link diverse datasets from across the government and enables the use of several types of data at once.

NDAP's target users include policymakers, civil servants, university students and researchers, journalists, innovators, and civil society groups.

The design process of NDAP was preceded by **extensive research** with diverse data users to learn about their demand for government data, and challenges faced in doing so.

Why is there a need for such a type of platform?

Public data is often stored on platforms that are difficult to use. It is available in formats that delay analysis. Data from different sources do not speak to each other. Users cannot compare data from different departments or data gathered over time.

There are issues related to **slow updating processes and inconsistencies in data quality**. It is not always clear that the appropriate data is publicly available.

What are some positive aspects related to NDAP?

The decision-maker can access the data from different sources seamlessly linked into a **single dataset**. She can use the data and analyse it using her preferred method.

Civil servants can **save considerable time** and make her decisions **more data-driven**. The people of the state can enjoy **better governance and programme outcomes**.

NDAP has been made an **integral part of the State Support Mission of NITI Aayog**. The **state-specific portals** have been developed on the lines of NDAP. It ensures that all states are equal partners in data-driven policymaking.

NDAP strives to maintain the **principles of collaboration**. Its public access has provided opportunities for all, including states, ministries, and India's data community.

NDAP has been included in the **curriculum of officer trainees** at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie. This will enable incoming government officers to develop a **data-driven decision-making mindset**.

16. [On US-China relations](#)

Source: The post is based on an article “**Balloon-gate showed how tense US-China relations are ... most scary is their weak communication mechanisms**” published in **The Times of India** on **23rd February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations

Relevance: China-US relations

News: There have been lots of controversies over the spy balloon of China. It was later shot down by the US. This incident shows the growing distrust between the two countries.

What are the concerns with the relations between China and the US?

US Predominance: The shooting down of the balloon reflects that China is a threat to the US and a strong action is required to ensure continued US predominance.

Taiwan: There are very less chances of direct military conflicts between the two nations as most of the issues can be resolved by talks and agreements. However, there is considerable risk of military conflict over Taiwan.

Russia: There have been improvements in the relations between China and Russia. They declared that the two countries had a partnership with no limits. They both see the US as their common threats. Hence, China’s increasing proximity with Russia might be a concern for the relations between China and the US.

Strong leadership: China has seen a strong leadership and Xi’s self-appointment to a third term as CCP secretary general is one of its parts. Chinese leaders are now more open about saying that they don’t see convergence with every aspect of US leadership. Chinese society is also changing. Hence, strong leaders possess a threat over the relations between the two nations.

What are the implications of the relationships between the US and China on India?

Both nations see India in terms of broader strategic goals. **For example, Quad** is more about the US’s view of the role of its allies in countering China than India’s benefit.

17. [On children’s right to protect their genetic information](#)

Source: This post is based on the article “Rights at the centre”, published in **The Hindu** on **24th feb. 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2, Protection of Vulnerable Sections.

News: Request for DNA test of children violates child fundamental right to privacy.

United Nations General Assembly in 1958,

“Mankind owes to the child the best it can give.”

How Children’s rights have evolved and what are the challenges they are facing now?

United Nation’s Declaration of the Rights of the Child was adopted in 1959. It was aimed at ensuring basic rights to all children below 18 years.

India ratified the Convention in 1992 and over the years several laws have been enacted to protect the rights of children.

The advancements in digital technologies have helped in his objective on many fronts, from registration of births, creating a legal identity to health care.

However, technological development has also led to violation of rights integral to a harmonious upbringing of a child. For example, in many cases request for DNA test of children violates child fundamental right to privacy.

What is the judicial observation in this regard?

In a petition, a man questioned his second child’s paternity. In this case, judiciary held that Genetic information sheds light on a person’s essence. This “intimate, personal information” is part of a child’s fundamental right. So, Children have the right, not to have their legitimacy questioned frivolously before a court of law.

Forensic/DNA testing should only be used as a last resort.

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Further, judiciary directed courts to acknowledge that children must not be regarded as material objects.

[18. Justice.gov.in – On Court’s digitisation programmes](#)

Source: This post is based on the article “Justice.gov.in”, published in Times of India on 24th feb. 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2, Functioning of judiciary.

News: Supreme Court recently introduced live transcription of court proceedings on a screen and published the transcripts on its website.

What are the other digital initiatives of judiciary in India?

Other than that Supreme Court is already making use of virtual hearings and e-filing. Digitisation of the Bombay high court library, with its 1.25 lakh books and records, which date back to the 1800s. Other HCs have done their bit.

In 2021 Orissa HC started a Record Room Digitisation Centre, the country’s first, and by mid-2022 it had reportedly digitised almost 5.2 lakh files.

Only last month Delhi HC introduced software for online inspection of digitised judicial files, another first.

And in a different kind of but equally important reform, Kerala HC recently published two judgments in a regional language, Malayalam.

What are the benefits of digitisation of judicial system?

Technology can make courts and records accessible to the general public, students, researchers and archivists.

It reduces their carbon footprint.

What are the challenges of digitisation of judicial system?

Digital system is also vulnerable to breaches. For example, AIIMS ransomware episode. Therefore, before digitisation security infrastructure must be made robust.

[19. How vikasvaad has lost out to centralisation of government](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “How vikasvaad has lost out to centralisation of government” published in **The Indian Express** on **24th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

Relevance: issues with bureaucracy and elite institutions

News: India has taken up the G20 presidency and there have been talks about changing India. However, even among G20 nations, the condition of India is dismal.

This article discusses the reasons behind the dismal condition of India and provides an analysis of the vikasvaad of 2015.

Where does India stand amongst the G20 countries?

India’s per capita is lowest within the G20. The **life expectancy in India** is second lowest. More than 30 percent of jobs in India need just primary education and 70 percent of those in the workforce have no contract.

Hardly **35 percent of male population and 18 percent of the female** population attain secondary education. India also has some of the most polluted rivers and cities.

Girls do not go to school in some areas while most cities remain unsafe for working women.

In all these matters, India stands at the bottom amongst the G20 nations and these all have brought into attention the vikasvaad of 2015.

What was Vikasvaad of 2015?

It was **aimed to reform of the top bureaucracy of the country and revamp the central scientific agencies**. Because, it is the top bureaucracy which determines the quality of people’s lives.

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In India, through the IAS, IITs, IIMs and a network of central agencies are available. Power is concentrated in a few hundred top functionaries.

They are responsible for the conduct of most state functions such as managing irrigation systems, making railway engines, running universities or regulating hospitals.

The **scientists and professors are responsible** for the measurement, analysis and upgradation of most practices like estimating groundwater and tackling pollution.

The **elite institutions**, through their graduates, create new professionals, companies and agencies that bring modern services to the citizens of this country.

However, these institutions and top functionaries have not performed up to the expectations.

What are the issues with these top institutions and functionaries?

The IITs today are the same as in the 1990s, because they **remain disconnected from the states** they belong to. Most professors have little understanding of regional problems like floods and droughts, pollution, etc.

The IIT graduate is a global brand with little training or interest in nation-building or the temperament for working on hard scientific problems.

Further, the **current IAS officers are incapable of performing well** and as per changing demands of society because of their old-fashioned training and work culture.

This has been one of the reasons behind the failure of most of the departments in several states.

This has ultimately led to the coming up of a **contractual system for government works**. These are mostly taken up by the politicians and big contractors who provide low grade services.

Hence, the aim of the vikasvaad of 2015 was to dismantle this system. That could not be achieved.

Why were the aims of the vikasvaad of 2015 not accomplished?

There were various **political reasons** such as – **a)** it would diminish the power of the government by creating a more elite society, **b)** it would strengthen a diverse civil society, enhance awareness and free thinking on issues of education, health and culture, **c)** it would further develop the southern states which might affect the supremacy of central government controlling those states from the North.

20. One year of Ukraine war: India and France together for peace

Source: The post is based on the article “**One year of Ukraine war: India and France together for peace**” published in **The Indian Express** on **24th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations

Relevance: measured needed by India and France to prevent war

News: Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has not only caused damage to Ukraine but has also affected the global economy along with disrupting international rule of law.

This article discusses the measures required by India and France to prevent the war like situations in the world.

What are the different measures required by France and India to improve the Ukraine’s conditions and tackle other issues?

First, there is a need to **respond to the humanitarian emergency** in Ukraine. India has already taken step by participating in the international conference which raised 1 billion euros for humanitarian assistance.

Second, there is a need to work towards **diplomatic solutions**. India has done this effectively by talking to Russia on key issues such as the safety of the Zaporizhzhya nuclear power plant.

Third, at **multilateral level**, there is a need to address the economic consequences of Russia’s war, uphold universal principles, and keep up global action on challenges such as climate change. India’s vision of “**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**” is needed in this regard.

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Fourth, India's G20 presidency will act as a voice for the world because India is an independent, major power whose voice is heard across all continents and which has the capacity to act as a bridge. France and India are working together to tackle key challenges of the world.

Fifth, at the **bilateral level, India and France** need to join hands together and address the issues of energy, food, technology or defence. France's nuclear-powered aircraft carrier was also deployed in the Indian Ocean to carry out the "Varuna" joint exercise with the Indian Navy. Hence, both nations should come together and improve bilateral relationship and become a force for global good.

21. Is caste discrimination so rampant in the US to warrant separate legislation?

Source– The post is based on the article **"Is caste discrimination so rampant in the US to warrant separate legislation?"** published in **The Indian Express** on **25th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Diaspora

Relevance: Issues faced by Indian diaspora in US

News- Recently, Seattle passed a resolution in its city council against caste-based discrimination in Indian American social life.

What is the status and historical origins of the Indian diaspora in the US?

Indians are the **second largest immigrant group** in America after the Mexicans. They went there in the late 19th century, mainly as agricultural or railroad workers.

In the early 20th century, Indian students started sailing to universities like the University of California and Cornell.

Hindus were not always welcome in America in the initial years. There was a riot in Bellingham town near Seattle in September 1907 in which a mob white Americans attacked Hindus .

The situation has reversed now. Indians in America are now the **most desired immigrants**. They are now professionals, earned riches, and nation's public life figures.

Is caste discrimination a reality among Indian-Americans today or is it a design to malign the community?

There are **some vested interests** with **weak credentials and opaque funding sources**. They lead this campaign against Indian-Americans.

These include organisations like **Equality Labs**. It produced a controversial report on caste discrimination in workplaces in the US in 2018,

There are enough **federal and state legislations** in the US that prohibit any form of discrimination based on national origin, ancestry, and ethnicity. Many transnational corporations too have **strict guidelines** with regard to such discrimination.

The **Carnegie report on 'Social Relations of Indian Americans'** suggests that more than half of all Indian-Americans do not identify with caste at all.

It dismisses the Equality Labs survey. It actually says that Indian-Americans as a group are the **second most discriminated** against in America.

Groups that champion caste discrimination are generally **Hinduphobic**. They are using this discrimination card to malign the Hindu religion.

Singling out Indian-Americans in the name of caste discrimination is in itself a **discriminatory approach**.

What will be the impacts of such groups on Indian immigrants in America?

Their politics may harm the entire Indian-American community. **Apple** has included caste discrimination as one of the **prohibited aspects of employee behaviour**.

Persons of Indian origin may have **difficulties in getting jobs**.

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22. [Section 153A: its use and misuse](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Section 153A: its use and misuse**” published in **The Indian Express** on **25th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity

Relevance: Issues related to freedom of speech and expression

News- Recently, AICC spokesperson Pawan Khera was arrested by Assam Police for alleged hate speech by him.

What are some facts related to Section 153A and Section 505?

Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code penalises “promoting **enmity between different groups** on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language and doing acts **prejudicial to maintenance of harmony**”.

This is punishable with imprisonment up to **three years, or with fine, or both**. The provision was enacted in 1898 and was not in the original penal code.

Section 505 penalises statements conducing to **public mischief**.

In 1969, the offence was widely amended to enlarge its scope to prevent communal tensions. The offence was also made cognisable.

How have these laws been applied by various governments?

Hate speech laws have been invoked by governments to crack down on criticism of public functionaries and to arrest individuals.

In May last year, Marathi actor Ketaki Chitale was arrested for a [Facebook](#) post allegedly defaming NCP leader Sharad Pawar.

Data from the **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** show that the rate of conviction for Section 153A is very low.

In 2020, 1,804 cases were registered. However, the **conviction rate** in 2020 was 20.2%. It suggests that the process often becomes the punishment.

What are safeguards available against misuse of these laws?

There are safeguards against its misuse. Sections 153A and 153B require **prior sanction from the government** for initiating prosecution. But this is required before the trial begins, and not at the stage of **preliminary investigation**.

The Supreme Court laid down a set of guidelines in the **Arnesh Kumar v State of Bihar, 2014** case. The police cannot automatically arrest an accused before investigation for offences that carry a sentence of less than seven years.

In a 2021 ruling, the SC said that the state will have to **prove intent for securing a conviction** under Section 153A. The SC in this case quashed an FIR against the editor of The Shillong Times, Patricia Mukhim.

As per SC, Words used in the alleged criminal speech should be judged from the **standards of reasonable, strong-minded, firm and courageous men** and not those of weak minds.

23. [Not neutral: On India’s stand on Ukraine at the U.N.](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Not neutral: On India’s stand on Ukraine at the U.N.**” published in **The Hindu** on **25th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations

Relevance: India’s stand on Russia-Ukraine war

News: There has been a year since the UN General Assembly’s voted on the resolution to criticise Russia on Ukraine invasion. The resolution called for a just and lasting peace.

The resolution was sponsored by more than 70 countries which demanded an immediate cessation of hostilities and appealed for accountability at international courts for rights violations and war crimes.

However, even adopting the resolution there has not been enough improvements in the situation.

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Why has there not been much improvement in the situation?

The sponsors, led by the U.S., its allies, and European Union countries, did not call for peace talks because of **the status quo advantage that lies with Russian forces.**

Russia has claimed **about one-fifth of Ukrainian territory.** Hence, even Ukraine would not go for peace talks because it might lose its territories.

Belarus, which is an ally of Russia, has also suggested the peace talks. However, Russia has rejected it.

This has been the reason behind the increasing casualties in Ukraine and western sanctions have also not found favour with much of the world.

What has been the stand of India on the issue?

India has **abstained from voting** on any resolution at key UN bodies that has been critical of Russia.

India has given the reasons behind it that it wants to maintain a **strategic autonomy and has stressed on diplomacy and dialogue** as the only way forward.

It also wants to maintain neutrality and leave space for mediation.

India has decided to continue trade with Russia despite the sanctions imposed.

However, despite this, Russia has hardly given its attention to India's call that "this era is not of war" and it is also unclear if Ukraine sees India as an unbiased mediator.

General Studies Paper – 3

General Studies - 3

1. [land degradation: Saving the land for better use](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Saving the land for better use**” published in **Business Standard** on **20th February 2023**.

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

Relevance: About land degradation in India.

News: “Arresting land degradation” was included among the top priorities by the G20 Working Group on Environment and Climate Sustainability. In India, the economic loss due to land degradation and changes in land use patterns was estimated in 2014-15 at Rs 3.17 trillion, equivalent to 2.5% of that year’s gross domestic product.

What is the present state of land degradation in India?

Land degradation in States: Rajasthan is the most land degradation-prone state. This is followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat. No state is, actually, immune to land deterioration due to some factor or the other. The most rapid deterioration in land quality is in the biodiversity-rich and ecologically sensitive north-eastern region.

Low per-capita availability of land: Arresting land degradation is highly relevant for India as it has to support 18% of the world’s population on only 2.4% of the land.

The per capita availability of arable land has shrunk from 0.48 hectares in 1950 to merely 0.16 hectares now. This is much lower than the global average of 0.29 hectares.

Reduction in land quality: A sizeable segment of India’s land has already lost part of its productivity and carrying capacity due to mismanagement and indiscriminate anthropogenic activity. Thus denoting ill for the livelihood of a large number of farmers and forest-dwellers.

Read more: [Despite PM Modi’s assurance, land degradation, desertification increasing](#)

What are the major reasons for land degradation in India?

The major reasons are **a)** deforestation; **b)** wind and water erosion; **c)** imprudent alteration of land use; **d)** excessive pressure on land beyond its carrying capacity; and **e)** flawed farm practices such as imbalanced use of chemical fertilisers; inadequate application of organic manures; indiscriminate tillage; and mismanagement of many other kinds, **f)** India does not have a precise data on the amount of degraded land. For instance, the data on National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, and the Space Application Centre (SAC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation vary vastly.

Read more: [Land degradation in India hurts farmers and forest dwellers the most](#)

How India has reclaimed the degraded land?

India is among the 123 countries that have committed themselves to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030.

According to a recent report issued by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, India has restored around 9.8 mha of degraded land between 2011 and 2018 — an average rate of reclamation of around 1.4 mha a year.

What should be done further to reclaim the degraded land?

The benefits of land restoration can be as high as 10 times the cost of reclamation and ill effects of land degradation, ranging from the drop in crop yields to the out-migration of the population. Hence, India should take steps **a)** to safeguard the physical, chemical, and biological health of the existing normal land, **b)** to invest in land improvement, and **c)** To evolve and meticulously enforce judicious land use policy based on the capability classification of land.

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2. [India as a developed country: Developed by 2047? Yes](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Developed by 2047? Yes: If India’s per capita income in constant PPP dollars grows 4.1% annually, a very realistic prospect, it will be in the advanced economies club in a quarter of a century**” published in **The Times of India** on **20th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- India economy and growth

Relevance: Future prospects of Indian economy

News: PM Modi, in his 2022 Independence Day speech, announced the goal for India in 2047. It will get the status of a developed country.

What is the per capita income level in India?

It measures the **average income earned per person** in a given area in a specified year. It is calculated by dividing the area’s total income by its total population.

It is **useful in evaluating people’s affordability and purchasing power**. Per capita income indicates whether certain commodities and facilities are out of reach by average people in terms of financial aspects.

India’s per capita income India’s per capita net national income or NNI was around **150 thousand rupees** in the financial year 2022. In contrast, the gross national income at constant prices stood at over 146 trillion rupees.

What are ways that can help India to improve its per capita income?

-Increasing **income for farmers**.

-Through **government expenditure and investment** in infrastructure.

-**Urbanizing** India’s rural populations.

-Becoming **competitive in high-potential sectors**.

Can India get the status of a Developed nation by 2047?

India’s **start-up ecosystem is the third largest** in the world after the US and China. Several prominent start-ups such as Ola, BYJU’S, Zerodha, Cred, Razorpay, and more have their head offices in the city which is often called the ‘Silicon Valley of India.’

Innovation will be key in transforming India’s economy. Its progress in the **Global Innovation Index 2022 from the 81st spot in 2015 to the 40th** now is a good indicator of the road ahead.

What should be India’s focus areas going forward?

As per ‘**UN State of World Population Report 2022**’ in 2023 India will dethrone China, as the world’s most populous country.

A **hungry nation** cannot be a developed country. As per the latest **Global Hunger Index (2022)** is ranked **107th among 121 countries**.

As per the **World Inequality Report 2022**, India is among the most-inequitable countries globally. It has the bottom half of the population earning Rs 53,610, but the top 10 percent earning 20 times at Rs 11,66,520.

3. [Budget and the growth process](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Budget and the growth process**” published in **Business Standard** on **21st February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Budgeting

Relevance: issues with the Budget 2023-24

News: The article discusses the shortcomings of Budget 2023-24.

What are the shortcomings of the Budget 2023-24?

Expenditure: The Budget Estimates (BE) of expenditure for 2023-24 show an increase of Rs 3.16 trillion over the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2022-23.

The increase in interest payments and the increase in loans and grants to states account for 76 percent of the expenditure.

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Subsidies: A major reduction in expenditure has happened in subsidies. This has resulted in the sharp drop in the provision for food, fertilizer, and LPG subsidies.

The budget has increased in the outlays for SC and ST welfare, youth welfare, and the gender budget. These taken together form a 9.2 percent increase but it is below the capital outlay.

The budget has also decreased the outlay for rural employment guarantee programme which was the need for the inclusive development.

Capital outlay: The Budget shows the capital outlay as Rs 10 trillion.

However, if the equity contribution to public enterprises and grants and loans to states are excluded, the capital expenditure from the Budget would be lower by about Rs 2 trillion.

Further, if one includes the capital expenditure of central public enterprises, the total would be about Rs 11.5 trillion. This is about Rs 2 trillion more than the RE for FY23.

This gives a growth rate of about 20 percent rather than the 33 percent stated in the Budget papers.

Moreover, most of the capital outlay is on the transport sector with special focus on the railways.

The Budget presents a 50 percent increase in the capital outlay on the Railways.

However, when we combine the Budget outlay and extra-budgetary resources (EBR) from public enterprises for railway development, the increase is 6 percent not 50 percent.

Household Savings and Private Investments: Capital outlay is largely funded by public borrowing which depends on net household financial savings. The increase in the public capital outlay has been one of the reasons behind low private investments.

Further, the post-liberalisation budgets of the Centre and the states have not created sufficient space for the flow of funds to the private sector.

This is because of the very slow growth in the tax/GDP ratio and the continuing rise in the public expenditure/GDP ratio.

Even though there has been a five-fold increase in real GDP between 1992-93 and 2019-20, the gap between the expenditure of the Centre and the states and the tax revenue of the Centre and the states remained around 14 percent of GDP.

This year's Budget also does not show a sufficient reduction in the draft of the central and state governments on household savings.

Hence, private savings and the stimulation of the credit market for private investment must become a major target for fiscal policy.

[4. How Union budget 2023 may foster greater violations of privacy](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “**How Union budget 2023 may foster greater violations of privacy**” published in **The Indian Express** on **21th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology

Relevance: Privacy related issues

News- The article emphasis the need for robust data protection law.

What are provisions in the budget related to digitisation?

The 2023 Union Budget promises to be a landmark year for technology and digitisation in India.

The **Digital India Programme** has been allotted Rs 4,795.24 crore

There is a **1,000 per cent increase** in the funding for **the Artificial Intelligence and Digital Intelligence** Unit.

What are the potential risks associated with Digitisation?

Digitisation entails ever-expanding data collection, storage and sharing. This includes personal information such **as biometrics and financial and health data**.

Many of the initiatives announced with the budget reinforce the deep discord between the pace of digitisation efforts which will aggravate the existing privacy deficit in India.

What is current digital privacy protection legal concern?

Current **anonymisation** techniques are inadequate and do not guarantee privacy protection.

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The **Current Draft of Digital Data Protection Bill 2022** falls short and **fails to incorporate safeguards**.

This Draft 2022 is even weaker than Draft 2021.

The 2021 draft imposed a penalty for the intentional reidentification of an individual's anonymised personal information. This provision has been done away with, amplifying concerns around insufficient limitations and safeguards for privacy.

What is the next initiative of the government?

A National Data Governance Policy will be brought out to enable access to anonymised data (Union Budget 2023–24)

Anonymised data includes data that does not contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) like **name, age, phone number, address**, etc, or data from which PII has been removed.

What is the way forward?

The World Economic Forum's Global Cybersecurity Outlook 2023 finds that data privacy and cybersecurity regulations are effective for reducing cyber risks.

So for the potential of anonymised data to be unleashed without **jeopardising people's privacy**, India first needs a robust data protection law.

As the country starts its **G20 presidency** and prepares to be a leader in this space, we should do well to prioritise the development of exemplary, rights-respecting privacy and cybersecurity regimes.

5. [Reducing Army presence in J&K hinterland: A thaw in the Valley](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“Reducing Army presence in J&K hinterland: A thaw in the Valley”** published in **Business Standard** on **21st February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Security challenges and their management in border areas.

Relevance: About withdrawing soldiers from J&K.

News: Discussion has begun on reducing the presence of Army troops in civilian areas in the hinterland of Jammu and Kashmir.

What are the reasons for withdrawing soldiers from J&K?

Excluding paramilitaries, the number of Army soldiers in J&K is said to be in the region of 1.7 lakhs. This includes the soldiers posted along the 740-km Line of Control with Pakistan.

The reason for withdrawing soldiers are **a)** a big reduction in the number of terrorist incidents, **b)** stationing soldiers indefinitely to keep a check on civilians is not good for the Army or for the people and **c)** the February 2021 recommitment by the Indian and Pakistan armies to the LoC ceasefire.

It has been proposed that the CRPF can fill in for the Army.

What are the benefits of withdrawing soldiers from J&K?

In the year of India's G20 presidency, **a)** The move could help India to counter international description of Kashmir as the “world's most militarised region”, **b)** India can focus on the Line of Actual Control. Earlier, Rashtriya Rifles, a force raised by the Army specially for counter-insurgency duties in Kashmir was deployed in LAC.

What should be done along with withdrawing soldiers from J&K?

The security situation in J&K is far from resolved. A good start for **troop thinning would be in areas with low violence levels**.

The **J&K police must put in place a regular crime control mechanism** with an emphasis on investigations, which may have a salutary effect against terrorist activity.

The ultimate goal in **J&K is political empowerment**, and for this, the government must make plans to **hold assembly elections** at the earliest.

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6. [Be Africa, Not Las Vegas – The message from Himalayan belt is clear: India needs to nurture back wild nature in some parts, and stop the construction mania](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Save Himalayas: Number of pilgrims and tourists in stressed areas must be capped. Globally, this is the accepted norm**” and “**Be Africa, Not Las Vegas – The message from Himalayan belt is clear: India needs to nurture back wild nature in some parts, and stop the construction mania**” published in **The Times of India** on **21st February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Environment and Biodiversity Conservation.

Relevance: About protecting the Himalayan ecosystem.

News: Recently, there are large cracks appearing on the Badrinath highway. From Joshimath, to the river city of Karanprayag, to the eastern edges of Himachal, the disturbing shifts and slides of the ground pose big questions for the protection of the Himalayan ecosystem.

What is the present state of ecological damage in India?

The past century has seen the disappearance of almost a third of the country's forest cover; many tree, plant and insect species are extinct or headed in that direction.

Millions of hectares of grassland and sanctuaries are encroached upon by either the local population or excessive tourism and commerce. For example, Mumbai's mangroves and Deodar forests all across Himachal was destroyed for making roads and apartment blocks respectively. Moreover, forests are cleared regularly for industrial parks, mining, commercial plantations and grazing. Further, the tree cover of 10 million hectares is destroyed every year.

There is no institutional policy or active manpower push to contain the destruction and reverse ecological damage.

The damage inflicted is so pervasive and complete, in many cases, it is irreversible and may take many decades to repair.

What are the major reasons for ecological damage in India?

This is due to two environmentally destructive strategies, **excess and instant gratification**. For example, the fragile ecology of the Garhwal Himalayas is under tremendous stress due to **a)** Hydroelectric projects, increased traffic and construction activities which led to a breach in the carrying capacity of the Uttarakhand hills, **b)** Constructing a four-lane highway in the Himalayan region. Though four-lane highways seem like a major advance, such a development strategy is neither economically sound nor ecologically tenable.

Read more: [Joshimath Crisis: Causes and Solutions – Explained, pointwise](#)

How do other countries conserve ecology?

Bhutan's 'high value, low volume' tourism strategy: The country charges foreign tourists a **sustainable development fee** of around \$200 per person per night. Indian visitors also have to pay Rs 1,200 per day.

Central and South American countries:

a) Costa Rica's Blue Flag Ecology Programme: The country accounts for 4% of the world's biodiversity and relies on tourism for 10.3% of its GDP. A strict set of environmental criteria is laid down under the programme. Under it, all local stakeholders in the tourism industry work together to attain the coveted Blue Flag tag.

b) Chile: The tourism industry is allowed to operate only in sustainable ways within protected areas. Tourism stakeholders are then held accountable for any breaches in these agreements.

Must read: [Land subsidence: PMO reviews situation in 'sinking' Joshimath town](#)

What should be done to protect the Himalayan ecosystem?

Cap pilgrimage count: Many countries around the globe **cap pilgrim and tourist numbers**. Uttarakhand's Chamoli district administration has indicated there may be a cap on pilgrims. The government should implement this without hesitation.

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Greening of the denuded sections of the landscape: This includes replanting along with multiple ecological plans to encourage bees, butterflies and birds, besides a wider variety of regional plants and trees.

Focus on all species: A calibrated study of varied animal and insect species is required to create a balanced ecosystem within forests.

In forest and rural areas, hyenas, wild hens, boar, foxes, deer, wolves and other animal species need to be nurtured; they have been grossly neglected, due to excessive focus on tigers, lions and cheetahs.

Promote deliberate underdevelopment in ecologically-sensitive regions: The rewilding of India must be closely tied to de-populating certain overburdened areas of the country. But that should be accompanied by a clear policy on areas available for tourism, limited tourism, and no-go areas.

Find middle ground: India, wild like remote Africa, or India overbuilt like Las Vegas, it will take some serious steps to find a middle ground.

7. [UPI promotion should not eclipse our e-rupee](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “[UPI promotion should not eclipse our e-rupee](#)” published in **Live Mint** on **22nd February 2023**.

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

Relevance: About e-rupee and UPI.

News: Recently, India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was linked to Singapore’s version PayNow.

What are the benefits of the recent linking?

The link will **a)** Ease bank-to-bank fund transfers between Singapore and India, **b)** Facilitate commerce, **c)** A special boon for people of Indian origin abroad in need of a quick way to send money to India or receive remittances, and **d)** The transaction cost will be less than other legal channels.

About India’s digital rupee

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

About India’s UPI

Read here: [Unified Payments Interface \(UPI\)?](#)

How UPI is linked to global payment systems?

UPI’s international subsidiary has been active in taking UPI mechanism global by forging foreign ties. It has pacts with European payment facilitator Worldline, the UK’s PayXpert, the UAE’s Neopay and France’s Lyra Network for UPI-compatible transfers. Some UPI payments can also be made in Nepal, Bhutan and Malaysia.

How successful is UPI in India?

UPI’s open architecture has got as many as 385 banks enrolled with more than 8 billion transactions logged this January worth nearly ₹13 trillion. This is up sharply from 4.6 billion worth ₹8.3 trillion in the first month of 2022.

Note: Only 2.4 crore of the retail digital rupee has been issued by RBI till 20 January. The wholesale CBDC has had only modest issuance of around ₹115.9 crore.

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

What should be done to promote e-rupee?

UPI is currently part of India’s G20 showcase, but CBDC must not get eclipsed in the promotion. To avoid such issues the government must **provide public clarity on the e-rupee’s role**.

Banks used to promote bank-mediated transfers. But, e-rupee has sovereign backing. Unlike money held in an account whose safety depends on the particular bank’s solvency. Hence, CBDC

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holdings are safer. So, the RBI should look to **secure the retail spaces of the Indian economy from potential bank-crisis** contagion by averting over-reliance on UPI.

Read more: [Popularize the e-rupee even at the cost of UPI](#)

8. [UPI: Local & global](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**UPI: Local & global**” published in **Business Standard** on **23rd February 2023**.

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

Relevance: About e-rupee and UPI.

News: Recently, India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) was linked to Singapore’s version PayNow.

About the linking of India’s UPI and PayNow

Read here: [India’s UPI and Singapore’s PayNow are now integrated: What it means, who benefits](#)

It will enable users to send funds via a UPI ID, mobile number, or virtual payment address via Singapore PayNow up to a limit of Rs 60,000 a day.

The transfer agents will be limited to a handful of Indian banks — State Bank of India, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, and ICICI Bank — that can enable transactions via their banking facilities or mobile apps.

The UPI is truly inclusive since it could bring within its ambit the thousands of workers who have to rely on relatively slow online money transfers via service providers who charge fairly steep fees.

Note: *Third-party app providers — such as PhonePe, Google Pay, or Paytm — remain outside the purview of this international link. But, these big three account for more than 90% of transactions both in terms of number and value. Hence, in future the link might extend to them.*

About the success of UPI

By 2021, five years after it was introduced as a bank-to-bank pilot project in April 2016, the UPI has become the **world’s fifth-largest payment network by volume**, behind Visa, Alipay, WeChat Pay, and Mastercard. The major advantages of the system are,

a) The ubiquity of UPI across incomes and geographies of India, **b)** UPI’s acceptance has encouraged greater financial inclusion at low cost, **c)** UPI has gained credibility and traction in India to the extent to achieve digital economy, and **d)** UPI’s simple and secure architecture has reduced the level of vulnerability in the system.

What should be done to improve UPI’s interface?

According to RBI data, Singapore’s share of inward remittances is just 5.7%. The real value and test of UPI will happen if their scope were extended to the Gulf countries, or the US and Canada, which dominate the inward-remittance geographies.

The exponential expansion of the UPI system has been accompanied by a rise in frauds, though they occur mostly on account of user ignorance rather than hacks. These should be addressed immediately.

Read more: [UPI promotion should not eclipse our e-rupee and Popularize the e-rupee even at the cost of UPI](#)

9. [A clean gamble: On carbon trading](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**A clean gamble: On carbon trading**” published in **Live Mint** on **23rd February 2023**.

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

Relevance: About carbon markets.

News: The Centre is expected to clarify the specifics of a carbon trading market in India.

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What does the term carbon trading mean?

A decade ago, they meant stock-market-like exchanges that traded in 'carbon offsets' which is mentioned under the Clean Development Mechanism.

But now, industrial projects in developing countries that avoided greenhouse gas emissions were eligible for credits. After verification, these credits could be sold to European companies that could buy them in lieu of cutting emissions themselves.

The objective of carbon markets is to incentivise investments in renewable energy sources. The carbon trading mechanism will mobilise domestic finance and accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels. Thus, carbon trading can meaningfully lead to emissions reductions.

Must Read: [Explained | What are carbon markets and how do they operate?](#)

What are the initiatives that facilitate carbon trading?

Earlier, the approval by the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change via the Paris and Glasgow agreements** ensured that carbon markets have acquired greater global significance.

The **EU-Emissions Trading Systems (ETS)** is a government-mandated emission limit on industrial sectors such as aluminium or steel plants that require industries to either cut emissions or buy government-certified permits from companies that cut more emissions than required or were auctioned by governments. Carbon credits became valuable because they could be used as permits in EU-ETS exchanges.

The European Union also runs the oldest **emission trading scheme** since 2005, had cut emissions by 35% from 2005-2019 and 9% in 2009, over the previous years.

Domestically, **a)** an amendment to the [Energy Conservation Act](#) was passed in 2022, **b)** a similar trading mechanism is implemented in **Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme**. There are around 1,000 industries have been involved in procuring and trading energy-saving certificates (ES Certs). Since 2015, various cycles of the PAT have shown emission reductions of around 3%-5%.

What are the challenges with Carbon trading?

a) Though Carbon credits are tradeable on an exchange, like shares, these are trading permits which **permit the 'right to pollute'**, **b)** They are expected to **fluctuate in value depending on a company's need** to balance profitability and comply with pollution norms.

Must read: [Carbon Markets: Benefits and Challenges – Explained, pointwise](#)

What should be done to encourage carbon trading in India?

Clear definition: 'Carbon markets' is not a specific term. So, it needs clarity in the Indian context.

The government **must intervene** to bring **pressure on the industry to participate in the market** and also **ignore proven non-market initiatives** to achieve greenhouse gas reductions.

10. [India can become a biodiversity champion](#)

Source- The post is based on the article **"India can become a biodiversity champion"** published in **The Hindu** on **23rd February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment

Relevance: Biodiversity conservation

News- Biodiversity is essential to the future of this planet. The importance of our planet's biodiversity was strongly articulated at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference in Montreal.

What was the important development during the biodiversity conference in Montreal?

There was an agreement to **"halt and reverse" biodiversity loss** by conserving 30% of the world's land and 30% of the world's oceans by 2030, known as the **30×30 pledge**.

What are different programmes launched by the Indian government for preserving biodiversity?

Union Budget 2023 mentioned **"Green Growth"** as one of the seven priorities.

The National Mission for a Green India aims to increase forest cover on degraded lands and

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protect existing forested lands.

The **Green Credit Programme** has the objective to incentivize **environmentally sustainable and responsive** actions by companies, individuals and local bodies.

The **Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI)** is particularly significant because of the extraordinary importance of mangroves and coastal ecosystems in mitigating climate change.

The **Prime Minister Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PM-PRANAM)** for reducing inputs of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides is critical for sustaining our agriculture.

The **Amrit Dharohar scheme** is expected to encourage optimal use of wetlands, and enhance biodiversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.

What is the way forward for successful implementation of these programmes?

It is critical that these programmes should focus on current state of the country's biodiversity with evidence based implementation. A **science -based and inclusive monitoring** of the programme is important.

New missions and programmes should effectively use **modern concepts of sustainability**. The focus should be on **valuation of ecosystems that consider ecological, cultural, and sociological aspects** of our biological wealth.

There is a need to sustain ecological flows through reduction in water use in key sectors such as agriculture. This can be done by encouraging changes to **less water intensive crops** such as millets and **investments in water recycling** in urban areas.

For the Green India Mission, implementation should focus on **ecological restoration** rather than tree plantation. There is a need to choose sites where it can contribute to **ecological connectivity** in landscapes fragmented by **linear infrastructure**.

Furthermore, choice of species and density should be informed by **available knowledge and evidence on resilience** under emerging climate change.

Site selection should also be carefully considered for the mangrove initiative. There is need for greater emphasis on **diversity of mangrove species** with retention of the **integrity of coastal mud flats and salt pans**.

Each of these efforts must be **inclusive of local and nomadic communities** where these initiatives will be implemented. **Traditional Knowledge and practices** of these communities should be integrated into the implementation plans.

Each programme should include significant **educational and research funding** to bring awareness to India's biological wealth.

The **National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well Being** should be immediately launched by the government. This mission seeks to harness the power of **interdisciplinary knowledge** for greening India and its economy.

11. The difficulty with renewables

Source– The post is based on the article **“The difficulty with renewables”** published in **The Indian Express** on **23rd February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Energy

Relevance: Renewable energy and related issues

News- The target of having 500 GW of non-fossil generating capacity by 2030 may look impressive. But, it may prove to be elusive unless we can enhance our storage capacity.

Why is storage not a prominent challenge for the energy sector in current times?

India has more than **200 GW of coal-based capacity**. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission recognises **55% as the technical minimum**. It means that a 1,000 MW plant can run at 550 MW.

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The additional operating cost for running the plant at 55% capacity is allowed by the CERC as legitimate expenditure.

Why is there a need for a focus on storage capacity in the future?

When India's renewable capacity goes up further, some of the coal-based units would generate at the **technical minimum** and the extra renewable energy would be used to charge the batteries.

This stored energy could be used to supply electricity during the **non-solar hours**, especially when the coal-based generating units would be phased out gradually.

Some **minimum coal-based generation** would be required for meeting a part of the **base load**.

What are storage options for India and hurdles faced by storage options?

These options are **hydrogen-based storage, lithium-ion batteries and pump storage plants**. Hydrogen storage is feasible for **long-term storage**. One can use this stored energy, for example, in situations when coal mining goes down or when hydro generation depletes due to low reservoir levels.

For day-to-day storage, batteries are still the ideal source. Though the **cost of batteries** has declined by about 80% over the last decade, it is still quite expensive. Moreover, the pace of decline in the cost of batteries has reached a plateau.

Pump storage plants, India has a total capacity of about 4.7 GW but only 3.3 GW is functional. A survey of the CEA estimated a pump storage **potential of about 100 GW**.

Pump storage plants have not really grown in India due to several factors, including **high investment costs, long gestation periods, non-remunerative pricing models and lack of adequate sites** having the topography that is required for operating a pump storage plant.

What will be other challenges for the renewable energy sector in India?

The **financial condition of our distribution companies** will be another hindrance. The additional solar and wind capacity has to come from the private sector.

No developer will invest unless there is some **credible payment security mechanism**.

Problems with **land acquisition, and securing the right of way for laying down transmission lines** will also continue to hinder progress.

12. India must update its security strategy and shed obsession with Pakistan

Source– The post is based on the article “**India must update its security strategy and shed obsession with Pakistan**” published in **The Indian Express** on **23rd February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Security

Relevance: National security framework of India

News- The article explains the need for national security strategy for the 21st century.

What are issues with India's national security?

India is lacking a concrete **national security strategy**.

India has created the **National Security Council** to write a National Security Strategy but it was never held accountable for not producing one.

India has a **land-centric defence budget**. The Navy and Air Force are underfunded.

What is the way forward to improve the national security of India?

India has rightly created a CDS and an integrated staff. If NSC is unable to write a National Security Strategy, the Integrated Staff can write the **theaterisation plan and a National Military Strategy**.

In this 21st century, both **theaterisation and the geographical difficulties** in the Himalayas. There is a need for **grand maritime strategy**.

Pakistan has been successful in an asymmetric **warfare game** with India for half a century. But the **over-extension of resources** has now led to its collapse. India should not be overly concerned about Pakistan India's strategic thinking should come out of the 20th century and face the **new century with fresh minds**.

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13. [India at a crossroads: Reduce the risks of economic concentration](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**India at a crossroads: Reduce the risks of economic concentration**” published in **Live Mint** on **23rd February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy

Relevance: protectionists policies adopted by India

News: Many policies have been implemented by the government to make India one of the most important countries in the world. However, those policies also have concerns.

How have policies helped India?

The government has implemented various policies that have modernized India and supported its growth.

A massive investment has been made in the single market and in infrastructure including digital infrastructure. These investments with industrial policies and a growing digital based welfare system have led to **robust economic performance**.

Furthermore, India’s military and geopolitical importance will only grow, and its cultural diversity will generate soft power to rival the US and the UK.

However, there are also concerns with these policies.

What are the concerns with these developmental policies?

These policies have made India an economy where **large private corporations/conglomerates control a significant part of the economy**.

These conglomerates have helped the economy to grow despite lower investment rates. But, the problem with these conglomerates is that they have been able to influence policymaking to benefit themselves.

This has in turn led to two problems – **a)** it has become a hurdle to the growth of early-stage startups and domestic entrants in key industries, **b)** it is changing the government’s ‘Make in India’ programme into a counterproductive, protectionist scheme.

What issues are associated with the development of conglomerates?

If any loopholes found in these big industries (e.g., Adani Group), it hurts India’s image globally. It has implications for India’s institutional robustness and global investors’ perceptions of India. The **Asian financial crisis of the 1990s** demonstrated that the partial capture of economic policy by capitalist conglomerates will hurt productivity growth by hampering competition, inhibiting creative destruction and increasing inequality.

Hence, India’s long-term success ultimately depends on whether it can foster and sustain a growth model that is competitive, dynamic, sustainable, inclusive and fair.

What are the problems with the Make in India scheme?

Make in India was intended to strengthen the Indian economy by increasing the domestic production of goods for exports.

However, **India is promoting domestic products** in Indian markets through Make in India and **adopting protectionist import-substitution policies**.

This gives advantages to domestic industries and conglomerates from global competition.

Moreover, **India’s tariff policies** are preventing it from becoming more competitive in goods export and it has also resisted joining regional trade agreements.

This ultimately affects the objective of Make in India which was intended to increase trade exports.

Another problem with Make in India is that it has evolved to support production in labour-intensive industries such as cars, tractors, locomotives, etc.

However, India should be focusing on industries where it has a comparative advantage, such as tech and IT, artificial intelligence, business services and fintech.

Hence, for reaping the benefits of Make in India, policymakers should focus on these dynamic sectors by establishing special economic zones. Else, Make in India will continue to produce suboptimal results.

14. [India's R&D estimates are an incomplete picture](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**India's R&D estimates are an incomplete picture**” published in **The Hindu** on **24th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology

Relevance: Issues related to R&D in India

News- India's research and development expenditure -GDP ratio of 0.7% is very low when compared to major economies. It is much below the world average of 1.8%.

What is the reason for low spending on R&D in India?

The main reason is the **low investment in R&D by the corporate sector**. While the corporate sector accounts for about two thirds of gross domestic expenditure on R&D in leading economies, its share in India is just 37%.

What are issues with GERD statistics in India?

Evidence suggests that India's GERD data are an underestimate.

A 2022 report of the **National Science Foundation of the United States** on Foreign R&D by U.S.-based MNCs shows a spending of **₹649.7 on R&D** in India in 2018.

But the DST has provided an estimate of **₹60.9 billion R&D** spending in 2017--18 by foreign MNCs. It is only about 10% of what U.S. firms have reported to have spent in India on R&D.

Why are GERD statistics underestimated in India?

The **National Science and Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS)** of the DST is the agency that compiles GERD statistics in India.

It is easier to gather the information on R&D by the government sector, the higher education sector and public sector enterprises.

The challenge lies in collecting data from the private corporate sector. The method used for identification of R&D performing firms does not capture all the R&D performing firms.

The NSTMIS relies on the **Department of Scientific and Industrial Research list of recognised R&D units** and the **database of the CMIE for this purpose**.

The DSIR list may not have many of the actual R&D performers for two reasons:

1. Firms which consider **government incentives** as not attractive enough may register themselves with the DSIR.
2. It may be difficult for R&D firms in services such as software and R&D services to meet the **requirement of having separate infrastructure for R&D** to distinguish it from their usual business.

A study at the **Institute for Studies in Industrial Development** found that **only 11% of firms** receiving foreign investment for R&D purposes had been registered with DSIR. The CMIE database covers **only 3.5% of the currently active registered enterprises** in India.

The survey conducted by the NSTMIS is the key source of R&D statistics of India. For those firms which do not respond to the survey, the data is collected from **secondary sources** such as **annual reports and CMIE**. This method will work only if firms **disclose their R&D spending**. A review of the documents submitted to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs shows that there are firms which do not report any spending on R&D. But, **their declarations** suggest that they are engaged in activities of technology development.

What is the way forward to improve GERD statistics?

In the short term, NSTMIS should use the **patents granted data**, both in India and the U.S. in addition to its current method to identify R&D performing enterprises.

R&D statistics should not be confined to the responses to the surveys. Instead, annual R&D estimates can be prepared from **mandatory disclosures by enterprises** to MCA.

In order to ensure **compliance and proper reporting**, technologies can be used like in the case of revamped income tax return forms where various sections are interlinked.

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Proper disclosure of information to regulatory agencies, including R&D spending data, should be made an essential component of the **environmental, social and governance ranking of enterprises**.

15. [A case that scans the working of the anti-defection law](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**A case that scans the working of the anti-defection law**” published in **The Hindu** on **24th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Parliament

Relevance: Issues related to political defections

News- SC of India is presently hearing a set of cases related to political events in Maharashtra last year, when a breakaway faction of Shiv Sena formed government.

What are some facts related to anti- defection laws?

The anti-defection law was introduced into the Constitution via the **Tenth Schedule in 1985**.

Its purpose was to check increasingly frequent **floor crossing**; lured by money, ministerial berths, threats.

The Tenth Schedule stipulates that if any legislator voted against the party whip, he or she would be **disqualified from the house**.

While on the one hand this **empowered party leadership** against the legislative backbench, and weakened the **prospect of intra-party dissent**.

How has the 10th schedule worked in recent times?

The working of the Tenth Schedule has been patchy. In the last few years, there have been innumerable instances of **mid-term toppling of government** after a set of the ruling party or coalition’s own members turn against it.

This is **power politics** and not the expression of **intra-party dissent**. It is evident from the well-documented rise of “**resort politics**”.

Indeed, politicians have adopted **various strategies** to avoid the provisions of anti-defection law. Recent examples involve mass resignations instead of defections to force a fresh election. There have been **partisan actions** by State Governors with respect to swearing in ceremonies and the timing of floor tests, and equally partisan actions by Speakers in refusing to decide disqualification petitions.

Why does the role of the Supreme Court become crucial in such cases?

Such cases place the Court in a difficult position.

The court has to adjudicate the actions of a number of **constitutional functionaries**: Governors, Speakers, legislative party leaders, elected representatives.

But the Court does not have the **liberty of presuming dishonesty**. It must maintain an institutional arm’s length from the political actors, and adjudicate according to legalities.

Why the role of SC in case of 10th schedule being questioned?

In recent years the Supreme Court has given **multiple substantive judgments on anti-defection**. But, the toppling of governments remains as frequent as ever.

Politicians find **loopholes in Supreme Court judgments** and Tenth Schedule. But, Some of these loopholes were easily foreseeable at the time. They were not addressed by the Court.

16. [Can a centralized regulation help drug quality?](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Can a centralised regulation help drug quality?**” published in the **mint** on **24th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology

Relevance: Regulatory system of drugs in India

News- The Central government is planning to centralise drug regulation.

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What is the current regulatory landscape?

The **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** is the **apex regulatory body**. It is responsible for **approving new drugs, import of drugs and devices, clinical trials and laying down standards** for drugs.

Each state has its **own regulator** as well, which is often conjoined with the food and drug administration in the state. It looks after **licensing and auditing** manufacturing facilities, and **distribution and sale** of drugs.

They also grant licence for manufacturing drugs that have been around for 4 years or more.

What is the new proposal?

It is likely a step toward **centralization of drug regulation** in India. Currently, drugs older than four years can be registered in one state and sold in another.

The health ministry may be planning a **single centralized system** for the registration of all kinds of drugs, under the CDSCO.

Will it have a bearing on export quality?

It will not have much impact. Drugs sold in the global market are subject to **regulations of the buyer country**. The US and Europe deploy vast resources to make pharma adhere to their own standards.

Poorer countries such as Gambia often rely on a list of manufacturers and **inputs of the World Health Organization (WHO)**.

A centralized repository can aid in better monitoring.

Will it help improve drug quality?

Even if drug registration is **centralized**, the regulation for manufacturing will continue to be **decentralized**.

A plant is jointly inspected by the CDSCO and state regulators at the time of licensing of drugs, but **regular auditing** is usually done by state regulators.

Lower-level bureaucrats and inspecting officials need **capacity- raising and training**. India needs **greater accountability** at the manufacturer level to adhere to norms.

What else can be done to improve standards?

Along with tighter regulation of manufacturing, there is a need for a **national policy on recall of drugs**. If a drug is found to be substandard in one state and recalled by the regulator there, it is not necessarily recalled in other states.

It should be the **job of the national regulator** to ensure that a defective batch isn't sold in other markets.

Last, the track record of **prosecuting and penalizing** drug manufacturers for violating norms is poor in India. It needs improvement.

[17. New delivery mechanisms for genetic therapy will do us good](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**New delivery mechanisms for genetic therapy will do us good**” published in the **mint** on **24th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Awareness in the field of biotechnology

Relevance: Regulatory system of drugs in India

News- A biotech company called Aera Therapeutics has unveiled a type of protein nanoparticle that can be used to deliver all sorts of genetic medicines around the body.

What are the challenges associated with present genetic therapies?

The presently available **genetic therapy technologies** can only fix the genome in reachable parts of the body. **Its reach** is very limited. The liver, eyes and blood are the main places where cures might be possible.

These technologies largely rely on **viral vectors and lipid nanoparticles**. But they can only efficiently deliver to certain Zip codes. Lipid nanoparticles' routes are largely limited to the liver and eyes.

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These have other limitations, for example how much cargo they can hold. Some genes for fixing the diseases are too big to fit inside a virus. It can be tough to **squeeze the instructions** for making Crispr tools into a usable lipid nanoparticle.

What are some facts associated with the new protein nanoparticle unveiled by Aera?

It is capitalizing on a recent discovery about a **class of human proteins** that are relics of viruses that infected humans ages ago.

One of these proteins assembled into a **protein shell of a virus particle** that stored the RNA needed for making more copies of itself.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientist Feng Zhang saw in the discovery an opportunity to exploit the system to **deliver genetic material** of his choice.

His lab experimented on the human genome for other proteins that assemble into **protective shells** and probed whether they were capable of **transferring RNA**.

In 2021, they showed that one of the proteins, called **PEG10** could be repurposed to deliver **gene-editing tools**. That work became the foundation for Aera.

So far, around 50 of these **self-assembling proteins** have been found. The protective shells these proteins form come in a range of sizes. It means that some might be better suited for slipping across the blood-brain barrier.

They are also, **in theory, adaptable**. Scientists have gotten very good at **engineering proteins** to do specific jobs. So, it is reasonable to think Aera researchers could engineer the capsids to travel to specific organs or tissues.

18. [Safe across borders: On Unified Payments Interface-PayNow link](#)

Source: This post is based on the article “Safe across borders”, published in The Hindu on 24th feb. 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3, Money and Banking.

News: Recently, India and Singapore enabled faster transfer of remittances between both countries by enabling integration of Unified Payments Interface(UPI) with Singapore’s PayNow.

[Read more](#)

The daily transaction limit is set at ₹60,000 or about SGD 1,000.

Significance of Cross-border integration of Payment Interfaces

3. It is the beginning of real-time cross-border person-to-person money transfers.
4. Singapore is home to a sizeable Indian diaspora as well as tens of thousands of migrant workers employed in Singapore.
5. It enables individuals to quickly and safely remit money. It will save them the hassle of running to bank branch or a wire transfer facility’s outlet or costly hawala transactions.
6. It will eliminate the use of external settlement currency like US Dollar.
7. Singapore has already established payment settlement facility with Thailand in 2021. It is also the member of larger five-member initiative among the central banks of Southeast Asian economies, to connect their domestic digital payment systems. India could become a part of this initiative.
8. Besides boost to regional trade and tourism, such a network would help India to further formalise the flow of inbound remittances.

19. [Disclosure gains – SEBI’s Proposal on listing](#)

Source: This post is based on the article “Disclosure gains”, published in Business Standard on 24th Feb, 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3, India Economy – Financial Market

News: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has proposed to tweak disclosure norms to improve transparency and streamline processes.

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Amendments are connected to various aspects of SEBI Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements, or ICDR Regulations 2018.

Aspects included:

1. Underwriting public issues,
2. The preconditions for announcing a bonus,
3. The eligibility of pension funds to participate as anchor investors,
4. Providing material documents and contracts for inspection in the case of a public issue.

What are the changes proposed?

Underwriters: First, presently, investors don't know, if appointment of underwriters is on a "soft" or "hard" basis. Soft basis means underwriter is only handling the technical rejections. Hard basis means underwriter will have to pick up a stake in the company, in case of under-subscription.

A hard commitment means underwriter has a stake and believes that the share price valuations are fair.

Proposed change: Any agreement with the underwriters regarding under-subscription and few related information should be mentioned in Red Herring Prospectus (RHP). It would give investors an idea of the underwriters' commitment and fair valuation.

Bonus Shares: Bonus issues involve capitalisation of reserves or profits. However, it is seen sometimes that companies have not fulfilled the conditions of issuing bonus shares. For example, the company may have outstanding employee stock options or convertible debentures.

Proposed change: company should be allowed to issue a bonus only if it has received in-principal approval for all prior issues, including employee stock options and convertible debentures/warrants.

Pension funds: pension funds that are associates of the lead manager (LM) or sponsored by an associate of the LM may not participate as anchor investors.

Proposed change: If a pension fund hold a minimum corpus of Rs 25 crore, it should be allowed to participate as anchor investor.

Reports: Presently, material documents and industry reports are available at the issuer's registered office only for a physical inspection.

Changes proposed: The papers should be available online, at the issuer's website.

20. [Slow path to peace in J&K](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Slow path to peace in J&K**” published in **The Indian Express** on **25th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Security

Relevance: Security issues related to J&K

News- Union government is discussing a “proposal to withdraw the Indian Army completely from the Valley hinterland.

Why is the Union government considering the proposal to withdraw the Army from the Valley?

The **levels of violence in J&K** are decreasing since the August 5, 2019 decisions. It should lead to a reduction in the number of security forces deployed for internal security roles.

The Army is also **facing manpower pressures**. The two-year freeze on recruitment during Covid-19 has led to a shortage of around 1,20,000 soldiers. The enhanced deployment of troops along the LAC has exacerbated the problem.

Any reduction in internal security duties gives the Army an opportunity to **right-size its force** structure.

How should the proposal be implemented?

The manner of execution, in terms of timing and phasing, will be the key to success.

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Timing– Assessing normalcy requires us to look at **external and internal factors** impacting the situation in J&K.

The **external factor** has been weakened. Pakistan’s ability to support the terror activities today stands diminished. This is due to India’s strong response to terrorist acts and **weak political, economic, and internal security scenario** in Pakistan.

The **internal factors** need to be addressed. These include bringing the security situation under control, tackling **radicalisation, meeting the aspirations of the people, bringing economic development, and resumption of political activity**.

The security situation today is **stable**. But, it would be prudent to take some more time to tackle the **underlying causes** comprehensively.

Phasing– Handing over areas to the CRPF should be done in a **phased manner**. The start could be made in the Jammu region. Here, the CRPF can take over the complete responsibility for **counter-terror operations**. A few RR units could be kept as a reserve for any contingency that may arise.

After the stabilisation of the CRPF deployment in the Jammu region, the second phase could be the handover of the Kashmir hinterland to the CRPF. Bulk of RR units can be disbanded, except for a few that could act as reserves.

However, handing over some districts in Kashmir on an **experimental basis** is not recommended. It would create problems of **operational integrity, intelligence collection, and command and control issues** with neighbouring forces operating under different ministries.

Phasing is being suggested for two primary reasons. Today, the Army, CRPF, and J&K police **work in synergy**.

The Army possess **highly trained soldiers, logistics, communication, engineering, and medical support**. In the absence of the Army, this capability void would need to be filled up.

The initial deployment of CRPF in the Jammu region could provide **valuable lessons** in this regard before they take up responsibility in the Kashmir valley.

The **phased deployment** would also ensure that the complete RR is not quickly disbanded. This is India’s **most experienced counter-terrorism force for J&K**. It would be prudent to ensure that the situation is stabilised before we lose this capability.

21. [Banga Message – On Appointment of Indians in](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Banga Message**” published in **The Times of India** on **25th February 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy

Relevance: India and institute of global economic governance

News- Ajay Banga has been nominated as World Bank president.

What are the issues faced by WB (World Bank) and IMF(International Monetary Fund)?

WB and IMF is certainly in **dire need of reform**.

The US and EU have controlled the leadership of the two institutions. It does not reflect the **actual economic weight of their global membership**.

What is the significance of the Banga nomination for American Indians?

The nomination marks an important trend in India diaspora’s performance. They have achieved **high- profile positions in the business world** in the US.

YouTube’s Neal Mohan, Alphabet’s Sundar Pichai, Microsoft’s Satya Nadella and Novratis’s Vasant Narasimhan are just some of the names in the CEO list .

Banga’s nomination shows their **rising profile in US politics and governance**.

What are the lessons for India?

Banga’s US citizenship was a prerequisite for the top WB job.

If India’s **economic heft** grows, it will be successful in **pushing reforms at WB and IMF**. It will be able to nominate its own citizen for this.

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Getting there needs to **create opportunities** like the US. Many more Indians should be able to rise to the top without travelling to America.

22. [Cyberattacks are rising, but there is an ideal patch](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Cyberattacks are rising, but there is an ideal patch**” published in **The Hindu** on **25th February 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Cyber Security**

Relevance: increasing cyber threats in India and measures needed to prevent.

News: There has been an increase in Ransomware attacks in India. The attack on AIIMS and on the parent’s company of Solar Industries Limited are some of the examples.

These incidents highlight the need for mechanisms and laws that prevent such attacks.

What is Ransomware and what are threats from it?

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

According to the data, over 75% of Indian organisations have faced such attacks.

Further, as India is moving towards digitisation, every critical infrastructure, from transportation, power and banking systems, would become extremely vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

There has also been misuses of the cyber capabilities in the **Ukraine war** like hacking and GPS jamming.

Hence, cyber security has emerged as a serious concern for nations including India and a comprehensive cyber security policy is the need of the hour.

What are some cyber security policies present in India?

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In): It introduced a set of guidelines in 2022 that included the mandatory obligation to report cyber-attack incidents within hours of identifying them, and designating a pointsperson with domain knowledge to interact with CERT-In.

Digital Personal Protection Bill 2022: The draft bill proposes a penalty of up to ₹500 crore for data breaches.

Defence Cyber Agency (DCyA): It has recently been created by armed forces which is capable of offensive and defensive manoeuvres.

What are the challenges with India in cyber security?

Lack of cybersecurity tools: Most organisations lack the tools to identify cyberattacks.

Scarcity of cybersecurity professionals: India faces an acute scarcity of cybersecurity professionals.

Lack of participation of private sectors: Most of the organisations in India are in the private sector, and their participation remains limited in India’s cybersecurity structures. Hence, they should also come together like the **Digital Geneva Convention**.

Under the convention, over 30 global companies have signed a declaration to protect users and customers from cyber breaches and collaborate with like-minded intergovernmental and state frameworks.

Increasing Risk: There are risks of increasing cyber-attacks in the future with the introduction of 5G and the arrival of quantum computing.

What are some efforts taken by India at the global level to prevent cyber-attacks?

India has signed cybersecurity treaties with countries like the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, South Korea and the European Union.

There are also efforts in **Quad and the I2U2** (which India is a member of) to enhance cooperation in cyber incident responses, technology collaboration, capacity building, and in the improvement of cyber resilience.

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United Nations General Assembly has also established two processes – **a)** Open-ended Working Group (**OEWG**), comprising the entire UN membership, **b)** the Group of Governmental Experts (**GGE**), comprising 25 countries from all the major regions.

However, there are differences amongst the member nations of these groupings and there is also a lack of global framework on cyber security.

What is the way forward for India?

India is presiding over the G20 this year. Therefore, it could make an effort to conceptualise a global framework of common minimum acceptance for cybersecurity.