



9 PM

Compilation

10th to 15th April, 2023

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

General Studies - 1

1. [Indian philosophy can guide the world in these troubled times](#)
2. [Babasaheb's warning: In politics, bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to dictatorship](#)
3. [In B R Ambedkar's vision, a model for governance today](#)

General Studies - 2

1. [Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: Credit saturation for livelihoods](#)
2. [India, China and Bhutan dialogue can bring clarity on borders](#)
3. [AAP now national party; NCP, Trinamool lose tag: How is a 'national party' in India defined](#)
4. [As the Ukraine war grinds on, Russia, India seek ways to keep defence trade afloat](#)
5. [Do the wealthy influence policy-making more across all forms of democracy?](#)
6. [A crucial six months for India-U.S. ties](#)
7. [Right lessons – on NCERT Syllabus Revision](#)
8. [Who will regulate the regulators?](#)
9. [Technology can democratise education](#)
10. [Building Institutions of Eminence: It requires more than infrastructure](#)
11. [China renaming places: Beijing's posture on Arunachal Pradesh borders on intimidation](#)
12. [Building safeguards – Misuse of detention power renders need to stick to procedure paramount](#)
13. [The role of Parliamentary Committees](#)
14. [India must board the Online Dispute Resolution bus](#)
15. [Bhu-Aadhaar or ULPIN will digitise land records for efficient land usage — but incrementally](#)
16. [Close trade ties with France and Italy will promote Indian exports](#)
17. [Will Germany Inc, Bearish On China, Turn Bullish on India?](#)
18. [Axe Some Acts – As long as central, state laws on preventive detention exist, their abuse is almost inevitable](#)
19. [Skill over chance – Authorities must create an environment for healthy online games](#)
20. [Neutral, not passive: On India's stand on the Russia-Ukraine conflict](#)
21. [State Your Case, Lordship – Judge recusals for vague reasons are increasing. CJI should lead the process for procedure](#)
22. [Taiwan matters more than we'd like to tell ourselves](#)
23. [Explained | The rules for recognition as national and State party](#)
24. [The Misconception About Bail-Jail](#)
25. [Mughals have not been erased from NCERT textbooks](#)
26. [A reminder about unfettered constitutional posts](#)
27. [Economic distress in Sri Lanka: Life & Debt – India-France-Japan initiative crucial for Colombo](#)

General Studies - 3

1. [Building a blue economy: What India can learn from China](#)
2. [Awaiting lift-off into the Second Space Age](#)
3. [Directing AI for better and smarter legislation](#)
4. [On India's new stance on trade agreements: It takes India back to the pre-reforms era](#)
5. [New amendment rules on intermediary guidelines amount to censorship](#)
6. [Race to the bottom – Restricting journalists does not serve the interests of China or India](#)
7. [Amul vs Nandini threatens to limit choices for consumers](#)
8. [Small & Green Future – That India needs more nuclear power generation is not in doubt. But it should rely less on big plants](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

9. [Burning bright – India must balance conservation efforts with the rights of forest dwellers”](#)
10. [Ride Globalisation, Again](#)
11. [Celebrate the rise in tiger population, but look beyond the numbers](#)
12. [We need proactive regulation to fend off SVB-like bank failures](#)
13. [Corporate power and Indian inflation](#)
14. [Is the current regulatory system equipped to deal with AI?](#)
15. [For our world in flux: Some hard lessons in history from the 1930s](#)
16. [India is at the bullseye of climate change’s heat impacting workers — this has economic effects](#)
17. [Trade data points to slowing global and domestic demand](#)
18. [Tiger numbers can never tell the whole story](#)
19. [IT rules are a step towards denying misinformation space on the internet](#)
20. [No Trial Is Error – Allow prosecution of soldiers accused of killing innocents](#)

General Studies Paper – 1

General Studies - 1

1. [Indian philosophy can guide the world in these troubled times](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “**Indian philosophy can guide the world in these troubled times**” published in the “The Indian Express” on **13th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS1- Indian culture

Relevance- Indian philosophy

News- Indian civilization, unlike its Persian or Roman counterparts, survived waves of invasions. Its philosophy has empowered it to withstand not just several attacks by foreign aggressors.

Why has India earned goodwill in global thinking circles?

India’s outlook towards human life and **philosophical approach** towards **worldly concerns**.

India is not the only civilizational nation in the world. But the **philosophical underpinnings** of the idea of India are almost unique.

Indian movies, dance and music, and historical monuments continue to be an attraction for the global community. These cultural aspects, from yoga and spirituality to traditional knowledge systems such as ayurveda, are **manifestations of Indian philosophy**.

What are five fundamental tenets of India philosophy that make India stand out?

First is the spiritual democracy of India. This country was never a theocratic state. Its approach has been **ekam sat, vipra bahuda vadant**. It rejects any **monopolistic approach** to ways of worship.

The second tenet is based on the first tenet. The country has **unity inherent in its diversity**. It has enabled it to **accommodate and celebrate the pervasive diversity**.

The third important tenet is our approach of **confluence with mother nature**. This approach is not in favour of **conquering nature**. It is **gratitude towards nature**. India has a well-established tradition of **saluting mother nature** practically at the start of every day.

Sustainability has now become the **focal point of development policy** at a global level. However, it has been a part of India’s philosophy of human life. **Many traditions** and rituals reflect this approach.

The fourth tenet is the **concept of antyodaya**. It puts the last man first. It is about considering the most deprived for distribution of the fruits of development. Antyodaya encompasses both social and economic justice.

Design of many welfare schemes and policies under Prime Minister Modi, effectively reflect the principles of antyodaya.

The fifth tenet is **vasudhaiva kutumbakam**. India has imagined the **entire world as one family**, where **values like mutuality, sharing and collectivism** are given primacy.

These five tenets emerge from **scriptures and the teachings of sages and philosophers** including **Gautama Buddha, Adi Shankara and Guru Nanak**.

2. [Babasaheb's warning: In politics, bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to dictatorship](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Babasaheb's warning: In politics, bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to dictatorship**” published in the “**The Indian Express**” on **14th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS1- Modern Indian history and personalities

Relevance– Ideas and life of Ambedkar

News– India is celebrating the 132th birth anniversary of Ambedkar.

What are the contributions of Ambedkar for the country?

As per Rajendra Prasad, Ambedkar worked with **zeal and devotion** as the members of the Drafting Committee and its Chairman in spite of his indifferent health. He has justified his selection as chairman of the drafting committee.

In the Constituent Assembly debates, Ambedkar's **intellectual capabilities** were visible. He constantly articulated in **favour of the rights of the citizens** and emphasised remedies to enforce them.

The debates also reflect **prophetic wisdom**. He continuously spoke about the problems that existed and may confront the nation in the future.

He was concerned about the **unity of the nation**. If Hindu-Muslim problem is solved by force, this country would be involved in perpetually conquering Muslims.

What are Ambedkar ideas about democracy in India?

We have prepared a **democratic Constitution**. But the successful working of democratic institutions requires the people working there to have willingness to **respect the viewpoints of others, capacity for compromise and accommodation**.

A good constitution may turn out bad because those working upon it are bad.

He feared that India **may lose democracy**. As per him, it is quite possible for this new-born democracy to retain its form but give way to dictatorship.

How can democracy be maintained in India as per Ambedkar?

There is a need to adopt constitutional **methods** of achieving our **social and economic objectives**. It means we must abandon the bloody **methods of revolution**. There is a need to abandon the method of civil disobedience, non-cooperation, and satyagraha.

The people should not **lay their liberties** at the feet of even a great man. They should not be given powers that can enable them to **subvert their institutions**. There is nothing wrong in being grateful to great men. But there are limits to gratefulness.

He warned against **Bhakti or hero-worship** in India. Bhakti in religion may be a road to the **salvation of the soul**. But in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure **road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship**.

We must not be content with mere **political democracy**. We must make our **political democracy a social democracy** as well. Political democracy cannot last unless it is without the base of social democracy.

What are Ambedkar's views on social democracy?

Social democracy meant a way of life which recognises **liberty, equality, and fraternity as the principles of life**. They **formed a trinity** and could not be separated from each other.

In economic and social life, we continue to deny “**the principle of one man one value**”. We continue to deny **equality in our social and economic life** for a very long time. If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our **political democracy in peril**.

What are Ambedkar views on fraternity?

For him, fraternity was of great importance. It means a **sense of common brotherhood** of all Indians. This is the principle that gives **unity and solidarity to social life**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

He felt it was difficult to achieve fraternity in India, because there are castes. The castes are **anti-national**. They are anti-national also because they generate jealousy and antipathy between caste and caste.

3. [In B R Ambedkar's vision, a model for governance today](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**In B R Ambedkar's vision, a model for governance today**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **15th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS1- Personalities associated with modern Indian history

Relevance– Ambedkar ideas and life

News– India is celebrating the 132th birth anniversary of Ambedkar.

What are the contributions of Ambedkar?

In every assignment, from his association with the Simon Commission, three Round Table conferences, as labour member in the Viceroy's Council and as chairman of the Constitution's drafting committee, he firmly **safeguarded the interests of the people**.

He stressed **establishing institutions for a just society**.

What are the steps taken by the current government to preserve the legacy of Ambedkar?

Under the Ministry of Culture, the **National Research for Conservation of Cultural Property, Lucknow**, has preserved Babasaheb's belongings for posterity.

A total of 1,358 objects, including the typewriter used to draft the Constitution, have been preserved and will be showcased at the upcoming Dr B R Ambedkar Socio-Economic & Culture Centre, Chicholi Nagpur.

This centre will emerge as a **sacred place**, highlighting glimpses of his contribution to building the nation.

How actions of the Modi government indicate the acceptance of Ambedkar ideas?

From the **planning to the implementation level**, the governance system follows **Ambedkar's vision**.

Government's efforts has led to dedicated development of the **Panch Tirtha, Dr Ambedkar International Centre**, and the implementation of **pro-poor and people-centric policy measures** to facilitate the ease of life of citizens.

These are steps that bring the government closer to **Ambedkar's ideas**. Stand-Up India, Start-Up India, PM Awas Scheme, BHIM, Mudra, and JAM trinity are some of the examples.

The **Prime Minister's Panch Pran mantra** wants to make a developed India by taking **pride in our roots, removing traces of the colonial mindset**. It is also **reflected in Ambedkar's ideas**.

Ambedkar believed that the **constitutional ideals and social philosophy of “liberty, equality and fraternity”** have **Indian cultural roots**, from the teachings of the Buddha. They are not merely a **legacy of the French Revolution**.

General Studies Paper –2

General Studies - 2

1. [Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: Credit saturation for livelihoods](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana: Credit saturation for livelihoods**” published in **Live Mint** on **10th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Government Policies & Interventions in Various Sectors

Relevance: About Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

News: Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has completed eight years. The article analyzes the scheme and provides its achievements.

About [Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana](#) (PMMY)

It is one of the flagship schemes of the Union government to **encourage self-employment**. The scheme **targets micro and own-account enterprises** that are mostly engaged in manufacturing, processing, trading and services.

These units were largely self-financed or relied on moneylenders because the country's formal architecture was unable to reach out to them and meet their financial requirements.

Hence, the **PMMY was launched to bridge the gap between a large unbanked sector and formal lenders**.

The scope of the scheme has widened with the time. **For example**, initially it covered income-generating activity only in the sectors of manufacturing, trading and services.

However, **since 2016-17, activities allied with agriculture and their support services promoting livelihoods** have been brought under its ambit.

Read More: [Reserve Bank flags rising bad assets from Mudra loans](#)

What has been the social impact of PMMY?

On Social Groups: The PMMY has benefitted all segments of Indian society such as General, SC/STs and OBCs. There has been an **increase in the participation of OBCs and SCs in availing the loans**.

On Women: The scheme has given impetus to women's entrepreneurship. Disbursements to women entrepreneurs registered an average growth of 23% in the scheme's first four years. In 2022, it surpassed its pre-covid level, registering a robust growth of 28%.

On Minority Communities: The scheme has been able to cater to the requirements of minorities. **Loans to members of minority groups touched an all-time high in 2022**, with their overall share at 10%. Shishu and Kishore loans accounted for 85% of total cumulative disbursement.

How has the scheme performed across different states?

One of the objectives of India's growth policy has been to bridge the divide between the thriving western and lagging eastern parts of the country. As per a report, there has been a significant dispersion of the loan amount across states.

For example, states such as **Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar** have recorded all-round gains from the PMMY. **West Bengal and Tripura** have also seen a rise in their total share, indicating an eastward flow of beneficiaries.

Developed regions such as the **national capital region, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa** have seen their shares decline, even though they dominate the scheme in absolute terms.

What has been the overall performance of PMMY?

As per a survey, the scheme had helped in **generating 11.2 million net additional jobs during the period 2015 to 2018**.

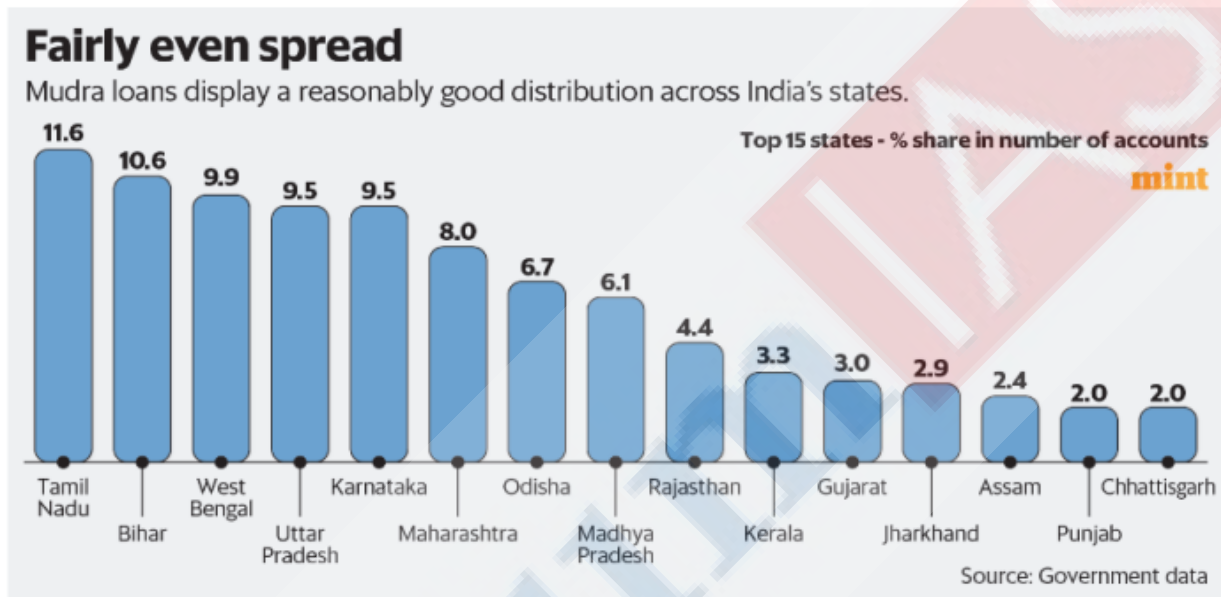
9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

Data as on 24 March 2023 puts the scheme's cumulative disburse amount at ₹22.65 trillion. The **share of Shishu loans is the highest, at 40%**, suggesting that the PMMY has largely supported first-time entrepreneurs.

What can be the way ahead?

It is crucial that PMMY reap the benefits of 5G technology and e-commerce with popularization of **Mudra cards**.

Encouraging the registration and formalization of own-account enterprises could be another way of taking this scheme to new levels.



Source: Mint

2. [India, China and Bhutan dialogue can bring clarity on borders](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“India, China and Bhutan dialogue can bring clarity on borders”** published in **The Indian Express** on **10th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – India and its Neighborhood Relations

Relevance: Border issues between Bhutan and China

News: The article discusses various issues with the Bhutan and China boundary demarcation and stand of India on the issue.

What are the issues with the demarcation of Bhutan-China boundary?

There are issues over the natural borders. **The Chumbi Valley** is one of them.

The valley is important for strategic and economic reasons and has a significant relational value given its proximity to the Amochhu river. **The valley is also known as the Bhutanese route to Tibet.**

The valley reflects **two broad principles** guiding the demarcations of borders in the Himalayas:

- **The Thalweg Doctrine:** It emphasises the idea of map-making by identifying rivers as the central point and measuring the boundary from the lowest point of a riverbed.
- **The water-parting principle:** It identifies territory with a concerned watershed, where the boundary is determined by the highest elevation surrounding that particular lake or river segment.

These both principles have been merged in the ongoing border negotiations between China and Bhutan.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

The dispute in the north-west sector of the China-Bhutan border has revolved **around the watershed of the Chumbi Valley**, and the height of certain Himalayan ranges such as **Mt Gipmochi**.

What are the issues over Mt Gipmochi?

China has legally claimed the boundary line from Mt Gipmochi, through the **Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1890**. The **Amochhu river flows adjacent to Mt Gipmochi**.

However, both India and Bhutan have rejected these claims and stated that the boundary line should follow from Batangla, Merugla and Sinchula ranges as these peaks are higher than Gipmochi.

The Chinese have ignored these assertions and have **continued to build villages along the west bank of Amochhu river**.

Therefore, the **Thalweg Doctrine is the compromise formula** for solving the disputed claims.

How has India responded to the border dispute between Bhutan and China?

Since, the bilateral relations between Bhutan and China is of strategic importance to India, India has said that **the tri-junction would be resolved trilaterally**.

In this regard, the **15th round of Sino-Indian Special Representative (SR) dialogue, 2012**, becomes significant.

The India-China agreement on the Working Mechanism on Consultation and Coordination was made in SR dialogue of 2012.

However, China has said that the SRs discussed bilateral, regional and global issues. **Terms such as “tri-junction” and “consultation with third countries” are absent in the 15th round of SR dialogue of 2012**.

China has also said that issue lies more with the 1890 Convention than with the SR dialogue of 2012.

Must Read: [India – Bhutan relations and its significance – Explained](#)

What lies ahead?

It is important that a **trilogue is initiated**. Opening communication channels can minimise uncertainties as questions of peace and conflict cannot be resolved by potential stand-offs (like Doklam) in the future.

3. [AAP now national party; NCP, Trinamool lose tag: How is a ‘national party’ in India defined](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“AAP now national party; NCP, Trinamool lose tag: How is a ‘national party’ in India defined”** published in **The Indian Express** on **11th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance

Relevance: About national and state parties

News: The Election Commission has recognised the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as a national party, while revoking that status of the All-India Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Communist Party of India (CPI).

What is a national party?

A party with a national **presence is known as a national party**. These are usually bigger parties like Congress and BJP. However, **some smaller parties are also recognized as national parties**.

What are the current National Parties?

The BJP, Congress, CPI(M), Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), National People’s Party (NPP) and the AAP are the national parties now.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

How is a party recognized as a national party?

[Click Here to Read](#)

How is a party recognized as a state party?

[Click here to Read](#)

A party needs to have at least one MP for every 25 members, or any fraction allotted to the state in the Lok Sabha.

How did AAP fulfil the criteria of being a national party?

AAP has very large vote shares in Delhi and Punjab. In the Goa Assembly elections last year, it received 6.77% of the vote. This way it already fulfilled the criteria for recognition as a **state party in three states**.

It then required 6% of the vote in the Assembly elections in either Himachal or Gujarat last year to be recognized in a fourth state.

It received almost 13% vote in Gujarat which was more than double the required to be recognized as a state party there. **That made it to four states** and qualified for the national party.

4. [As the Ukraine war grinds on, Russia, India seek ways to keep defence trade afloat](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**As the Ukraine war grinds on, Russia, India seek ways to keep defence trade afloat**” published in **The Hindu** on **11th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations

Relevance: concerns associated with import payments to Russia

News: Russia is currently facing problems with India in resolving payment problems for its defence exports.

What are some of the defence systems being exported by Russia to India?

Russia is now carrying out numerous large contracts with India, including the **S-400 systems and two Project 11356 frigates**.

The other deals include procurement of additional and modernisation of existing **Sukhoi Su-30 MKI and upgrade of MIG-29s**.

Moreover, **India’s total imports from Russia rose by five times from \$8.5 billion in April 2022 to \$41.6 billion in February 2023**, driven mainly by oil supplies.

As per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), **Russia’s share of arms imports to India fell from 69% in 2012-17 to 46% in 2017-21**, while Russia remained the key defense supplier to India.

However, concern lies with the payment of the imports.

What are the concerns with payment?

Currently, Russian banks create **vostro accounts** with authorized dealer banks in India and pay in rupees, although **Russia wants to pay in rubles**.

However, the problems with India in adopting ruble payment are – **a)** the concerns of the Indian financial sector which is overall slowly adopting new mechanisms, and **b)** lack of trust on the Russian ruble.

After suffering a major shock last year, **India is doubtful about the ruble**, and there is an understanding that it is almost impossible to evaluate it correctly.

Therefore, the India has no particular interest in trading in the Russian currency and thus, India relies on payments in the rupee.

What is the way ahead?

Russia is upgrading its weapons after testing them in the real time war with Ukraine. This gives Russia a great advantage in terms of defense exports.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

Therefore, the issue of payments needs to be resolved in the upcoming meeting between the two nations.

5. [Do the wealthy influence policy-making more across all forms of democracy?](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “Do the wealthy influence policy-making more across all forms of democracy?” published in “The Hindu” on 11th April 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- polity

Relevance- Issues related to democracy

News- The article explains the study ‘Affluence and Influence in a Social Democracy’ published in American Political Science Review (2023).

What are the issues with democracies?

In the real world, no democracy is perfect. Affluent people enjoy a disproportionately **greater influence over policy-making** compared to the average citizen.

As per a study, public policy favors the affluent section at the expense of the poor and the middle classes. American democracy has certain unique features like **heavy reliance of political parties** on private donations. It makes policy-making **unresponsive to the non-affluent**.

Three different studies were conducted in Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden. In all these countries, policy was **skewed in favour of the affluent**.

How is Norway different from other democracies?

Public policy is skewed toward the preferences of the affluent. But the opinions of the poor and the middle classes also matter.

On economic issues, the preferences of both the poor and the rich seemed to matter almost equally. The **link between money and politics** was much weaker than in the U.S.

Why are the wealthy in Norway not able to influence policy-making?

Universal welfarism- The first factor is Norway’s **universal welfare schemes** and high levels of **wealth redistribution**. Universal welfare measures benefit every citizen. This contrasts with ‘**targeted schemes**’ which only benefit needy people.

It generates **resentment among the non-needy people** about how their tax money is being given away in ‘freebies’. It ensures their **legitimacy and endorsement** across classes.

Income equality- Norway has one of the **lowest levels of income inequality** in the world. So, the affluent section does not enjoy resource advantage to influence politics.

Resource rich people are not able to convert money power into political influence through **political party funding**. Here, the contrast between Norway and the U.S. is sharp.

Political candidates in the U.S. rely on **large donations from individuals and organizations** to run their campaigns. But parties in Norway get two-thirds of their financing from **state subsidies**.

Television advertising is a huge **campaign expense** in American elections. But **political advertising** on television is banned in Norway. This brings down the campaign costs. It also reduces the effect of disparities in spending power between candidates and makes the campaign process **less vulnerable to private wealth**.

In India, there is the opposite scenario. **Electoral bonds** empower wealthy private entities to make donations to political parties with **zero transparency**.

Strong trade unions- Norway has historically had **strong trade unions**. They have been able to **influence economic and social policy** through their close political links with the Norwegian Labor Party. It acts as a **counter force to the influence of the wealthy**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

Norway has **vast reserves of oil and natural gas**. It enables the government to maintain generous welfare schemes while imposing lower tax rates. It fulfils the needs of both the poor through subsidies and the wealthy through low taxes.

Less wealthy politicians– The country’s political class is not particularly wealthy. The median wealth among Norwegian MPs is zero.

Norwegian laws require **proportionate representation of women** in government institutions. Women on average have lower income than men. Their **higher levels of representation** results in greater political influence for women. It translates into **greater political influence** for lower-income citizens.

6. [A crucial six months for India-U.S. ties](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “A crucial six months for India-U.S. ties” published in “The Hindu” on 11th April 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Bilateral groupings and agreements

Relevance– India and US bilateral relationship

News– The next six months are going to be crucial for India-U.S. ties. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to head to the U.S. in June, and U.S. President Joe Biden is expected to visit India for the G20 summit later this year.

What are the areas of divergence between India and the US?

The U.S. wants India to change its **stance on the Ukraine crisis**. India wants a **stronger position** by the US against China.

India is reluctant to sever its **stable relations with Russia**. Moscow has just released its **foreign policy strategy** in which it has identified China and India as its **main allies**.

India is also the president of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization**, a forum that includes China and Russia. On the other hand, the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization** wants greater participation from Delhi.

What are the areas of convergence between India and the US?

The **India-U.S. Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology** is expected to expand **strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation** between the governments, businesses, and academic institutions of the two countries.

The **Indo-Pacific partnership** is aimed at promoting **security and economic growth, increasing trade and investment, and enhancing connectivity** in the region.

The partnership is based on the **shared vision of a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific region** that is respectful of the **sovereignty and territorial integrity** of all countries.

The partnership involves a range of initiatives. It includes **joint military exercises, information-sharing on security issues, and collaboration on economic and infrastructure development projects**. It also involves cooperation in areas such as **counter-terrorism, cybersecurity, and maritime security**.

One of the key objectives of the Indo-Pacific partnership is to counter the **growing influence of China** in the region. Both countries share concerns about China’s **aggressive actions** in the South China Sea, its **expanding military presence** in the region, and its **Belt and Road Initiative**.

In recent years, there has been growing interest in **diversifying supply chains** away from China. The reasons are **geopolitical tensions, trade disputes**, and concerns about **over-reliance on a single country**.

India’s **growing consumer market** makes it an attractive destination for U.S. businesses. India has a relatively **low-cost labour force and an abundance of skilled workers**. The government

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

has also implemented policies aimed at attracting foreign investment and promoting economic growth.

The U.S. and Indian governments have taken steps to promote closer **economic ties and facilitate investment**. For example, the **U.S.-India Strategic Energy Partnership**, aims to enhance cooperation in areas such as **energy security and access, and climate change**.

How has the India-U.S. relationship seen ups and downs over time?

Ups – The **nuclear deal, liberalisation of markets, and the outsourcing of Indian techies** for U.S. companies are a few key moments of the relationship.

Indian Americans are among the most successful immigrants in the U.S. India needs the **knowledge, skill and investment of the diaspora** to regain its global position.

The **Green Revolution** had transformed India from a **shortage economy** to one with **surplus food** with help from the US. The U.S. has also played an important role in making India an IT superpower. Many persons of Indian origin are working in Silicon Valley companies.

The U.S. and India are also partners in **combating climate change**. This involves a wide range of initiatives. It includes promoting **renewable energy, joint research and development projects, and investment in renewable energy infrastructure**. The two countries are also aligned on the importance of **space technology**.

Downs – In the past, there was a **trust deficit** between India and the U.S. India feels that the U.S. has not given support to it and has instead provided support to Pakistan.

The American pull-out from Afghanistan does not inspire confidence in the U.S. as a **trusted partner**. The U.S. has been flagging issues related to **terrorism, human rights and democracy** in India.

7. Right lessons – on NCERT Syllabus Revision

Source- The post is based on the article “Right lessons” published in “The Hindu” on 11th April 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Issues related to development and management of education

Relevance– Issues related to syllabus and curriculum

News– Recently, controversy has been created by revision in NCERT textbooks.

Read more – [NCERT Textbook Revision](#)

Why do textbooks and pedagogy need to be revised periodically?

Knowledge expands continuously. **Syllabus revision** is essential for a **robust education system**. Teaching to the younger generation is a **collective decision of a society**. Formal education is a critical part of it. The **values and ethics** of the collective are reflected in education.

As any society matures, it might be able to see the darker episodes of the past. It is important to decide the **appropriate levels** at which learners are introduced to **various levels of knowledge**.

When does the change in syllabus become problematic?

Sometimes, this exercise is carried out in a **politically partisan manner**, and in **disregard of expertise**. It turns out to be toxic when **strife, not harmony**, is promoted through formal education.

What is the way forward for syllabus change?

India’s growth and development depends almost entirely on educating the young population with **vocational and social skills**.

Youngsters should turn into **caring citizens of a pluralistic nation**. They should learn history with the aim of not **repeating its tragedies** in order to build a **harmonious future**.

There should be wider, more **transparent consultations** in shaping the curriculum at all levels.

8. Who will regulate the regulators?

Source- The post is based on the article “Who will regulate the regulators?” published in “The Indian Express” on 12th April 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies

Relevance- Issues related to governing board of regulators

News- The establishment of statutory regulators constitutes one of the most significant governance reforms of the last century. The Governance of these agencies centers around their governing boards (GB).

What are the issues with the governance of regulators in India?

Structure of the board- The law creates a board governed by a board, an authority by an authority, a council by a council, a commission by a commission. The **superintendence, direction, and management** of the affairs of this board vests in a board of members.

The former board is an entity, while the latter is its governing body. Most statutes do not distinguish between the two. It leads to **mix-up or reversal of roles.**

Independence of the board- It is difficult for an entity to take decisions about itself with **complete objectivity** or **hold itself accountable** for performance. So, decisions about a company are placed with the board of directors.

The governing board’s primary responsibility is to hold the **management accountable.** It may be hard for a governing board to hold the management accountable if its members are **only managers.**

Nominees in the board- the government has a few official nominees on the GBs of regulators. The views of such nominees carry **disproportionately more weight in the decision-making** process.

The government is often a **market participant** and subjected to **pressures from various interest groups.** It may not always be possible for the official nominee to take an **objective position** in all matters coming up before the GB.

Professionalism of the board- The **independence of a regulator** depends on the professional strength of the leaders. The **whole-time members** should be able to handle the **influence of interest groups and the pressures of fear and favor.** A term of 3-5 years for these positions comes in the way of such strength.

An individual with **demonstrated capability** would not join a regulator for a **3-5 year tenure.** Further, tenure with the retirement age of 65 years leads to selection of individuals who have retired or are near to retirement.

A term of three years is very short for members to **acquire the knowledge, expertise, and efficiency.** Sixty is not an appropriate age to learn entirely new things and achieve mastery.

What are the steps required to improve the governance of regulators in India?

The GB needs to have **appropriate external representation.** Most statutes do not provide for this representation.

The presence of a **few eminent persons** in the governing board as part-time members is one of the **more effective options.** They are not **beholden to the management.**

Therefore, the number of **part time members** should match the number of **whole-time members** on the governing board. The process of selection of part time members needs to be **robust and should inspire confidence.**

GB should not have any **nominee from the government.** Ideally, a regulator may not have any nominee at all. The nominees generally have a **conflict of interests.** They look at every proposal that comes before the GB from the perspective of the organisations they represent.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

Regulators must **attract younger individuals**, who have **demonstrated their capability** in the relevant field, for a **reasonable period of service**.

A regulator in India typically performs three functions, namely, **quasi-legislative, executive, and quasi-judicial**.

There should be a **separate organisational unit** responsible for each of the distinct types of functions. These units should maintain distance from one another to act as **mutual checks and balances**. This will address public law concerns relating to **separation of powers**.

The statute should mandate the GB only to perform **quasi-legislative functions** and to provide direction to the organisation. GB should be enabled to **delegate executive and administrative tasks** to different functionaries in the organisation.

9. [Technology can democratise education](#)

Source- The post is based on the article **“Technology can democratise education”** published in **“The Indian Express”** on **12th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Issues related to development and management of education

Relevance- Issues related to importance of technology for education

News- The article explains the importance of education to achieve the vision of Amrit Kaal.

What is the potential of the Indian economy?

India is the world's **third-largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP)**.

A significant contributing factor to prosperity is **India's young population**.

43% of Indians are aged 25 in 2023. The majority of the population expected to remain of working age until at least 2100.

According to the Confederation of Indian Industry, if the country's **working-age population** is productively employed, its GDP can grow from **\$3 trillion to \$9 trillion by 2030 and \$40 trillion by 2047**.

How can India be a global leader in the near future by investing in education?

The key to unlock India's potential lies in **education technology or EdTech**.

Education will play a pivotal role in ushering the nation into the Knowledge Age. In Amrit Kaal, every child, regardless of socio-economic background, will have access to quality education. The next 25 years will be defined by how well we can educate our people.

There is a need to **democratise technology** and unleash its full potential. It will propel the nation towards its **Amrit Kaal goals**.

The key to unlock India's potential lies in **education technology or EdTech**. Digital technology is the foundation of the modern ecosystem. The **Digital India initiative and National Education Policy** is a massive leap in the right direction.

Intelligence-embedded virtual classrooms, multi-disciplinary institutions, simulated field visits, and schools that **digitally disseminate knowledge** to students will decide the success.

Investments in tech-driven education will convert students into **competent, compassionate, and transformative future leaders**.

What are the challenges before India's education system?

UNESCO data shows that **one out of four children aged five** has never had any form of **pre-primary education**. This represents 35 million out of 137 million five-year-old children worldwide.

The pandemic further exacerbated challenges to education. It has **widened the learning gaps** and led to **generational learning loss**.

Data shows that children with disabilities, from migrant families, those living in remote areas, from marginalised communities, and girls in particular are impacted the most.

10. [Building Institutions of Eminence: It requires more than infrastructure](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “**Building Institutions of Eminence: It requires more than infrastructure**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **12th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Issues related to development and management of education

Relevance- Higher education related issues

News- The article explains the issues related to Institute of Eminence Scheme of Indian government

What are the issues related to the higher education system in India?

Most of the higher education institutions in India have remained teaching institutions. They are imparting **knowledge**. They are not **creating new knowledge**. They are **followers, not leaders** at the global level.

The approach has always been to invest in building more classrooms, buying more furniture, and making bigger campuses. The **funding for research** has always been meagre.

The **regulations for ranking and rating** have yielded some results in focusing on academic outcomes. Despite these efforts, India has not achieved the goal of being a **global destination for quality higher education**.

What are the different UGC regulations for the Institute of Eminence scheme?

The **UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) Regulation 2017** has been crafted with the express intent to develop world-class universities. This was further amended in 2021 to permit the setting up of off-shore and off-campus centres by these institutions.

The **UGC (Government Institutions declared as Institutions of Eminence) Guidelines 2017** were issued to provide funding support to the selected government institutions. The idea behind the regulation is to develop both public and private institutions equally.

What is the way forward for successful implementation of the IoE scheme?

Most of the ranking systems give close to 50% weightage to the **research productivity**. The IoE scheme should have been combined with the other crucial initiative of the **National Research Foundation**. The IoE scheme will not be successful without **investments in research**.

The IITs are still the only bet for the country to produce **global-best institutions**. A concerted focus on these institutions combined with greater autonomy would help in placing them in the top 100 ranks in the world.

There are private universities that aim to provide **liberal arts and wholesome education**. These have the chance of providing the best education globally and becoming widely known.

Three factors — **size, age and funding** — would determine the global best universities. **Regulatory processes** are impeding **institutional autonomy**. There is a need for a **liberal regulatory regime**.

The real solution lies in having **inspired faculty and students**. Inspiration doesn't come merely from better facilities or better terms of appointment or better training. Inspiration has to come from **academic leadership**.

The creation of new knowledge needs **critical thinking, problem-solving, innovative outlook of the faculty and collaborative research**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

11. China renaming places: Beijing's posture on Arunachal Pradesh borders on intimidation

Source: The post is based on the following articles

“Build The Answer – Ladakh or Arunachal, India’s counter to China’s border tactics must be via capability enhancement” published in **The Times of India** on **12th April 2023**.

“Express View: Beijing’s posture on Arunachal Pradesh borders on intimidation” published in the **Indian Express** on **12th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 2: India and its neighbourhood- relations.

Relevance: About China renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh.

News: Recently, China renamed some places in Arunachal Pradesh.

About China renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh

Read here: [China announces ‘renaming’ of 11 places in Arunachal Pradesh, including one close to Itanagar](#)

What are the factors behind China renaming places?

China does not want to solve the border dispute: China has little interest in resolving the border tussle with India as it enjoys considerable natural military advantages along the LAC. For example, since the 2020 Galwan clashes China build fresh construction of roads, bridges and helipads on the Chinese side.

Instead, China wants India to normalise relations and compartmentalise the border dispute. This was further reinforced

China wants to have leverage over India: As China prepares for an intensification of the strategic competition with the US and the Quad, it wants to have leverage on the border dispute with India. Thus, India has will be in a position to rapidly reduce the border infra gap to prevent further Chinese salami slicing tactics.

Read here: [Invented names: On India’s response to China’s fresh attempt to lay claim over parts of Arunachal Pradesh](#)

About Chinese cartographic deceptions and China’s historical claim over Arunachal Pradesh

Read here: [India must be alert to China’s cartographic deception in Arunachal Pradesh](#)

What India should do as a reaction to China renaming places?

Faster implementation of Vibrant Villages Programme: The scheme is a well-intentioned attempt at preventing out-migration from remote border villages to make them natural defences. But its success depends on speed and quality of implementation.

Work on a multidimensional approach: Arunachal assumes salience for China’s Tibet question. So, India must start preparing a multidimensional approach for future tussles over the declaration of the next Dalai Lama.

Do not take China for granted: India should know that nothing can be taken for granted in an atmosphere on the Line of Actual Control. So, India has to act with the aim of building deterrence even while making serious attempts to find peace with China.

12. [Building safeguards – Misuse of detention power renders need to stick to procedure paramount](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Building safeguards – Misuse of detention power renders need to stick to procedure paramount**” published in **The Hindu** on **12th April 2023**.

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

Relevance: About preventive detention cases.

News: Recently, the Supreme Court said that preventive detention laws are a colonial legacy and confer arbitrary powers on the state. This once again mentioned the threats to personal liberty posed by such laws.

What is Preventive Detention?

Read more: [Preventive Detention](#)

About preventive detention cases in India

Across the country, the tendency to detain suspects for a year to prevent them from obtaining bail is a pervasive phenomenon. This is leading to widespread misuse of preventive detention provisions.

Tamil Nadu government topped the country (2011-21) in preventive detentions. This is because its ‘Goondas Act’ covers offenders who range from bootleggers, slum grabbers, forest offenders to video pirates, sex offenders and cyber-criminals.

What are the observations of the court on preventive detention cases?

Both the apex court and High Courts have observed **a)** executives’ failure to adhere to procedural safeguards while dealing with the rights of detainees, **b)** detention orders are quashed by courts only after several months of detainment. In some cases, the orders are quashed after the full detention period.

Read more: [Preventable abuse: SC calls out wrongful use of preventive detention. Such arrests must be made only in rare cases](#)

What are the various reasons behind the court setting aside preventive detention cases?

Most detentions are ultimately set aside. The most common reason for setting aside detention is that there is an unexplained delay in the disposal of representations.

The other reasons are **a)** failure to provide proper grounds for detention, **b)** delay in furnishing them, **c)** sometimes giving illegible copies of documents and **d)** invocation of preventive detention laws for trivial reasons from the government.

What should be done to limit preventive detention?

-The court said that “every procedural rigidity, must be followed in entirety by the Government in cases of preventive detention, and every lapse in procedure must give rise to a benefit to the case of the detenu”.

-Though preventive detention is allowed by the Constitution, the government should understand that curbing crime needs efficient policing and speedy trials, and not unfettered power and discretion.

13. [The role of Parliamentary Committees](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**The role of Parliamentary Committees**” published in **The Hindu** on **13th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Indian Polity

Relevance: About Parliamentary Committees

News: The article explains the role of Parliamentary Committees.

Why are Parliamentary Committees constituted?

[Click Here to Read](#)

What are the recent concerns with Parliamentary Committees?

These days a few bills are referred to Parliamentary Committees. **For instance**, only 14 Bills have been referred to Parliamentary Committees in the 17th session of Lok Sabha.

As per data from PRS, 25% of the Bills introduced were referred to committees in the 16th Lok Sabha, as compared to 71% and 60% in the 15th and 14th Lok Sabha respectively.

This represents a declining trend of national legislation being subjected to expert scrutiny.

How has the Parliamentary Committee evolved with time?

A structured committee system was only established in 1993. However, individual committees were formed for various reasons as far back as independence.

For instance, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Citizenship Clause was formed to discuss the nature and scope of Indian citizenship.

The Northeast Frontier (Assam) Tribal and Excluded Areas Sub-Committee (July 28, 1947) and the Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas (Other than Assam) Sub-Committee (August 18, 1947) were formed concerning the North-Eastern region.

Hence, committees have been doing monumental work since the independence of India.

Today, both the **Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha have their own Standing (permanent) Committees and Ad Hoc (need-based) Committees.** There are also Joint Committees with representation from both Houses.

What are the roles performed by the Parliamentary Committees?

[Click Here to Read](#)

The committee reports are not binding on the government. The government is required to table an ‘**Action Taken**’ report for the House to judge the progress made on the suggestions of the committee.

The Business Advisory Committee prepares the entire schedule of both Houses when Parliament is in session. **Papers laid on the table of the House** are also prepared by committees. Committees also go into issues that are crucial from a nation-building standpoint.

For instance, the Public Accounts Committee highlighted several concerns with the shipyards in a 2015 report which were not discussed in the Lok Sabha.

How has been the performance of Parliamentary Committees in recent years?

The most important work done by a committee in recent years is on the **Digital Data Protection Bill**.

Following the [Puttaswamy judgment](#), the [Justice Srikrishna Committee](#) was formed and tasked with preparing a data protection framework for India.

The committee presented a report in 2018. On the basis of this report, the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 was tabled in the Lok Sabha.

Other laws such as the **Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, the Anti-Maritime Piracy Bill, etc.** have also been referred to Parliamentary Committees.

What is the way ahead?

In the U.S., committees play a crucial role and Bills are referred to them post introduction for scrutiny. It allows changes to be made and the modified Bill to go for voting.

Therefore, **the Parliament could consider a compulsory referral**, for the Bills to the appropriate committees. It is also essential to institutionalize such procedures and not allow political considerations to hasten law-making.

14. [India must board the Online Dispute Resolution bus](#)

Source- The post is based on the article **“India must board the Online Dispute Resolution bus”** published in **“The Hindu”** on **13th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Judiciary

Relevance- Alternate dispute resolution mechanisms

News- At the Delhi Arbitration Weekend in February 2023, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju emphasised the need for institutional arbitration to enhance the ease of doing business.

What are the issues with the dispute resolution process in India?

India has shown tremendous improvement in the **World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business report**. It has risen from the 142nd rank among 190 countries in 2014 to 63rd in 2019.

However, India is ranked 163rd, in **‘Enforcing Contracts’**, which is a marginal improvement from the 186th rank in 2015. It takes almost four years and 31% of the cost of the claim to enforce a contract in India. In contrast, it takes just over two years and costs 22% of the claim value in Brazil.

Why has India acquired the reputation of being arbitration-unfriendly?

Srikrishna Committee – There is a lack of preference for **institutional arbitration over ad hoc arbitration**. **Frequent interference from the judiciary**, from the appointment of arbitrators to the enforcement of awards, has an impact on the process.

There is also the setting aside of arbitral awards on **grounds of ‘public policy’**.

The **amendments of 2015 and 2019** and a few recent judicial decisions have put India on the right path. The **scope for using ‘public policy’** as a ground for setting aside awards has been narrowed.

Yet, India is not a **preferred arbitration destination**, even for disputes between Indian businesses. Many still seek arbitration abroad, even when the dispute is with another Indian entity.

Singapore, which opened its **International Arbitration Centre** in the 1990s has since emerged as a **global arbitration hub** and is **ranked first in terms of ‘Enforcing Contracts’**. Indian companies are among its top users.

What is the potential of ODR in India?

India can use its **strengths in technology** and emerge a **leader in ODR**. Universal dissemination of online technology during the COVID-19 pandemic has made it possible.

ODR involves more than just **audio/video conferencing**. It encompasses the **integration of tools such as multi-channel communication, case management systems, automated case flows, digital signatures and stamping**.

There is even the **application of advanced technologies** such as blockchain, natural language processing, artificial intelligence, and machine learning.

Private platforms in India are already resolving lakhs of disputes through ODR. Many corporations have migrated to ODR to resolve small-value disputes.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

The Reserve Bank of India, the National Payments Corporation of India, and the Open Network for Digital Commerce and a few other institutions have incorporated **ODR mechanisms** into several of their initiatives. The need now is to disseminate these on a mass scale.

What is the way forward to increase the use of ODR in India?

There is a need to **incentivise the use of ODR** by way of **legislative measures**. ODR can be set up as a **default dispute resolution tool** for disputes arising out of online transactions.

Fast-tracking enforcement of ODR outcomes and **reducing stamp duty** and court fees is required.

There is a need to solve **infrastructural challenges and curb the digital divide**. Existing setups such as Aadhaar kendras can be optimised to also function as ODR kiosks.

Each court can have an **ODR cell** along with **supplemental technical and administrative support**. A **dedicated fund** must be set up for furthering ODR.

Government departments should explore ODR as a **grievance redress mechanism**. It will not increase trust in the process and will ensure that citizens have access to a **convenient and cost-effective** means of resolving disputes with the government

15. Bhu-Aadhaar or ULPIN will digitise land records for efficient land usage — but incrementally

Source- The post is based on the article **“Bhu-Aadhaar or ULPIN will digitise land records for efficient land usage — but incrementally”** published in **“The Indian Express”** on **13th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Government policies and interventions

Relevance- Issues related to land

News- In March, there was a national conference on Bhu-Aadhaar.

What are issues related to the pendency of cases, related to land records?

As per **“Access to Justice Survey” by Daksh**, the GDP loss to the country’s economy is about 1.3% due to projects being stalled over litigation involving land disputes.

66% of all civil suits in India are related to land or property disputes, and the **average pendency** of a land acquisition dispute is **20 years**.

But there are variations from court to court and the numbers are just based on perception surveys.

According to the **NIPFP Working Paper** from August 2021 such litigation constitutes the majority of a court’s workload. But it has not been sufficiently proved that most of it is rooted in **land-titling issues**.

17% of all disputes at the Delhi High Court are related to **immovable property**. In these cases, the largest proportion of litigation is between private parties. The Union government is the petitioner in 2% of such litigation but is the respondent in more than 18% of cases.

Tenancy disputes are the most common type of litigation, closely followed by **land acquisition related matters**. Disputes related to property records are 13.6% of **immovable property litigation**.

What is the Digital India Land Record Modernization Program?

It integrates **the computerization of land records, strengthening of revenue administration, and updating of land records**.

Once this has been done, every plot/parcel of land can get the **14-digit alpha-numeric ULPIN (Unique Land Parcel Identification Number) or Bhu-Aadhaar**.

What are issues related to modernisation of land records?

Digitisation of cadastral records is easy. But there are issues related to **consistency and reliability** of these maps. Cadastral maps will typically not have **latitude/longitude data**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

There may be **elevation and projection problems**.

Land is a state subject and land rights are a **complex bundle of rights**. Unlocking this unproductive asset has **many layers**.

What is the way forward for modernisation of land records?

Modernisation of land records in absence of other changes such as **multiplicity of laws on land**, should not be overstated.

ULPIN is about **incremental improvements**. There are parts where land titles and records are in a mess. Cleaning them up is a huge task.

But there are parts where **titles and records** are clean. Those can readily have their ULPIN.

16. Close trade ties with France and Italy will promote Indian exports

Source: The post is based on the article “**Close trade ties with France and Italy will promote Indian exports**” published in the **Livemint** on **13th April 2023**.

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

Relevance: About India’s ties with Italy and France.

News: The Union minister of commerce and industry is on a visit to Italy and France.

About India’s trade relations with Italy and France

Bilateral merchandise trade between India and Italy was \$13.23 billion in 2021-22, while the India-France bilateral trade in goods (excluding military equipment) was at \$12.42 billion.

Top exports from India to Italy: Iron and steel, products made of these, aluminium and its products, petroleum products and cotton ready-made garments.

Top exports from India to France: Petroleum products, electric machinery and equipment, drug formulations, cotton ready-made garments (including accessories) and aircraft, spacecraft and parts.

Trade in Goods and Services: India had a positive trade balance in goods with both these European countries. India’s services exports to the two markets include telecommunication services, IT and IT-enabled services, business services and transport services.

What are the areas of cooperation in India-Italy relations?

Over 130 Italian companies are either present in India or sourcing from here, or have partnerships with Indian companies. Well-known Italian companies that have invested in India include Fiat Auto, Heinz Italia, Piaggio, etc. They have invested in sectors such as automobiles, trading, services, machinery and food processing.

India-Italy Strategic Partnership on Energy Transition: It was launched in 2021. The partnership provides opportunities for further exploration of joint investments.

What are the areas of cooperation in India-France relations?

France is the 11th largest foreign investor in India. This is spread across sectors such as services, cement and gypsum products, air transport, petroleum and natural gas. Notable French companies present in India include Airbus Group, BNP Paribas, etc.

Defence ties are a core component of the Indo-French strategic partnership. India has recently allowed foreign direct investment in the defence sector.

Read more: [Exploring the blue in the India-France partnership](#)

What are the potential opportunities in India’s ties with Italy and France?

a) Italian and French companies are trying to build resilient supply chains and are looking at the large and growing Indian market, **b)** India’s export baskets can be diversified in goods and services further, **c)** All three countries can collaborate in areas like research and development, technology-based services such as health-tech and edutech, and the startup and audio-visual

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

sectors, **d)** India can be a low-cost post-production hub for Italian and French audio-visual companies, **e)** India's large and growing market provides opportunities for manufacturers from Italy and France to explore and test-market their products, **f)** India's strengths in organic production and traditional medicine and practices like Yoga and Ayurveda can be showcased to Italian and French consumers.

The other areas include **1)** India's focus on organic food and millet is aligned with the EU's focus on a sustainable food system, **2)** Identification of skill requirements in the EU and joint skill development and language training programmes with France and Italy could help Indian professionals and skilled workers access the EU market.

Read more: [India and Italy: Friends in a turbulent world](#)

What India should be done?

The support of Italy and France is essential in concluding a broad-based, balanced, and comprehensive trade agreement with the EU. Hence, India should work closely with both Italy and France.

India-EU trade agreement will further boost trade and investment flows, encourage B2B collaborations, help diversify and secure supply chains, provide a stable operating environment for businesses, and create employment in both markets.

[17. Will Germany Inc, Bearish On China, Turn Bullish on India?](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Will Germany Inc, Bearish On China, Turn Bullish on India?**” published in **The Times of India** on **13th April 2023**.

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

Relevance: About German investments in China and India.

News: World's biggest economies are changing their views about China. This includes the US, Japan and Germany. This is because their investments in China are facing a combination of local competition, state policies favouring local businesses and geo-political tension calls. This forced countries like Germany to critically rethink the future of German industry in China.

What is the present state of German investments in China?

A report from Rhodium Group shows that

German giants are investing: German Industry is heavily invested in China. After 2018, more than 80% of new European FDI has come from just the top 10 companies. This includes the three German automakers – Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW.

Declining investments from smaller companies: Additionally, cutting-edge technology investments from smaller companies are also declining. For example, the share of mid-sized companies from the EU has declined from 51% in the 10 years before 2018 to about 20% between 2018 and 2021.

Low service sector investment: There are relatively small European investments in the services sector.

Reasons for the declining investments: **a)** German investors' declining interest in investing in mergers and acquisitions of Chinese companies is due to high valuations and nontransparent financials, **b)** China has created regulations that benefit local companies in terms of market access.

Read more: [A 'Zeitenwende' in the India-Germany relationship](#)

What are the other reasons for revisiting Germany's Chinese diplomacy?

Raw material dependency: Excessive dependency on China for critical raw materials such as rare earth. This forced German industries to the diversification of critical raw materials, markets

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

and investments. The German government has enacted the Critical Raw Materials Act, practising Foreign Direct Investment screening, and anti-coercion mechanisms.

The factor of Tik Tok: Germany is debating on banning Tik Tok like India. This is because of Tik Tok's potential for misuse and manipulation of personal information.

Note: India's banned a few Chinese apps that have the potential to gather personal data in an opaque and state-run Chinese way.

Why India is a perfect place for German investments?

India is not the default option. But India's significant potential for fast growth and expanding domestic consumer market are significant attractions of German investments.

Recently, India's physical infrastructure and laws & regulations have been changed to attract global businesses. But, local bureaucracy is still a matter of concern.

Must read: [India-Germany Relations in Post-Merkel Era – Explained, pointwise](#)

What India should do to attract German investments?

-India needs to make a sustained outreach to business associations in Germany that India is not a difficult place to do business.

-Both India and Germany have to work on a consensus to finalise the long pending negotiations on Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement. This will further create a robust economic relationship in a qualitatively new track.

18. Axe Some Acts – As long as central, state laws on preventive detention exist, their abuse is almost inevitable

Source: The post is based on the article “**Axe Some Acts – As long as central, state laws on preventive detention exist, their abuse is almost inevitable**” published in **The Times of India** on **13th April 2023**.

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

Relevance: About preventive detention laws.

News: Recently, two separate cases in the Supreme Court have highlighted the issues with preventive detention laws.

What is Preventive Detention?

Must read: [Preventive Detention](#)

At the central level, they have existed in different forms from 1950.

What are the observations of SC on preventive detention laws?

Case 1: The court criticised the UP government for inappropriately invoking the National Security Act in a case with political undertones.

Case 2: In Pramod Singla vs UoI case, the court pointed out that India's preventive detention laws are a colonial legacy with the potential to be misused.

Read more: [Building safeguards – Misuse of detention power renders need to stick to procedure paramount](#)

About the cases under preventive detention laws

Government data in 2021 shows that preventive detention cases increased by almost 24% to 1.1 lakh. For instance, between 2017 and 2021, annual detentions under the National Security Act ranged between 483 and 741.

States, which have their own preventive detention laws, are among the worst offenders. For example, last year, Madras HC criticised Tamil Nadu for indiscriminate use of the Goondas Act to trigger preventive detentions.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

What are the issues associated with preventive detention laws?

The root of the problem is both the intent and wording of laws. As these laws provide a broad reading of circumstances under which constitutional rights can be suppressed.

This has been the case since 1950. A recent example is the IT Rules 2021 and its amendments that can open the door to action against views deemed officially “unfavourable”.

This can be interpreted that as long as preventive detention laws are part of the statute, there is a higher chance of abuse.

Read more: [Preventable abuse: SC calls out wrongful use of preventive detention. Such arrests must be made only in rare cases](#)

19. [Skill over chance – Authorities must create an environment for healthy online games](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Close trade ties with France and Italy will promote Indian exports**” published in the **Livemint** on **13th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 2: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors.

Relevance: About Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Act.

News: Recently, the Tamil Nadu governor has given assent to a Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill. This Act aims to prohibit online gambling and regulate online games in the State.

Read more: [Draft Rules for Online Gaming: Online games must register with self-regulatory body, say draft rules](#)

About the passage of the Bill

Earlier the Governor returned the Bill, on the grounds that the State Assembly had “no legislative competence” to enact such a law.

But by the time the House re-adopted and sent the Bill, the Centre has clarified that “betting and gambling” was in the State List (Entry 34). The government also clarified in Parliament that online gambling will come under the jurisdiction of States.

Read more: [Gaming and banning: On ban on online games](#)

What should be done to ensure proper enforcement of online games?

As the Centre has notified the IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, there should be no confusion as far as enforcing the law is concerned. The enforcement has to be done in conjunction with the IT Act, 2000.

The proposed Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority should ensure a balance. Further, there should be no restrictions on online games permitted under the Act as well as monitoring of online game providers. It is in the interests of all to create an environment for healthy online games.

Read more: [Online gaming and its regulations in India – Explained, pointwise](#)

20. [Neutral, not passive: On India’s stand on the Russia-Ukraine conflict](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Neutral, not passive: On India’s stand on the Russia-Ukraine conflict**” published in **The Hindu** on **14th April 2023**.

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

Relevance: About the Russia-Ukraine war.

News: Recently, Ukraine’s Deputy Foreign Minister visited India. This is the first such by a senior government official visit from Ukraine since the Russian invasion.

How Russia-Ukraine war made India's international relations complicated?

-Russia is a historical partner of India and India also has deep defence ties. So, India has no easy, immediate alternative to Russia.

-The war has also made India's ties with its Western partners complicated as the trans-Atlantic powers, led by the United States, have launched an economic war against Russia.

-Ukraine has publicly expressed its displeasure over India's position on the war. Ukraine also criticised India's energy purchases from Russia as it involved "Ukrainian blood".

India refused to condemn Russia and maintained defence and trade ties. On the other hand, India expressed its uneasiness with the war and called for respecting the territorial integrity of all nations.

Must read: [The Russia-Ukraine Conflict – Explained, pointwise](#)

What should India do?

Utilise India's presidency: India is the chair of the G-20 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. So, India should do more to show global leadership and help to end the war.

India should play a bigger role in peacemaking: The Russia-Ukraine conflict has hurt not only Europe but also the entire world. The countries in the Global South are of the view that the hostilities should cease at the earliest. For example, both China and Brazil have hinted at playing a bigger role in brokering peace. So India should also join in the peace process.

India should uphold international laws and sovereignty: India's strategic neutrality means, it should **a)** empathise more vocally with the victim, **b)** raise the voice and interests of the Global South, and **c)** call for upholding international laws and sovereignty of all states. So, India should push for a pragmatic and permanent solution to the conflict.

Read more: [India-Russia Trade Relationship Post Russia-Ukraine Crisis – Explained, pointwise](#)

21. [State Your Case, Lordship – Judge recusals for vague reasons are increasing. CJI should lead the process for procedure](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**State Your Case, Lordship – Judge recusals for vague reasons are increasing. CJI should lead the process for procedure**" published in **The Times of India** on **14th April 2023**.

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

Relevance: About the recusal system.

News: Recently, the fourth judge has recused himself from hearing the Maharashtra-Karnataka border tussle on Belagavi. The judge reportedly recused himself since Karnataka is his home state. This highlights the urgent need for the Supreme Court to reform the recusal system.

Note: *The three other judges who earlier recused themselves from this particular case were from Karnataka too.*

What is the recusal system?

Recusal is the removal of oneself as a judge or policymaker in a particular matter. Ordinarily, judges recuse over conflict of interest.

However, **a)** India has no laid down procedure for judges to stand down from cases, **b)** often judges don't give reasons for recusal.

Generally, recusal is advised if the presence of a judge impedes the independence of the bench. However, when recusal is sought without substantial reason, it raises as much doubt. On the other hand, justifying non-recusal and allowing opaqueness about recusal are equally damaging to the trust reposed in the courts, especially since these are constitutional courts.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

Must read: [Explained: How judges recuse from cases, and why](#)

What should be done to ensure a proper recusal system?

Define a protocol: Judges have argued that it is desirable to specify reasons for recusal to meet constitutional norms of transparency. Hence, a protocol should be defined for proper recusal.

Chief Justice should step in: CJI should lead the process for the recusal procedure, or else they will create more suspicion.

Read more: [Unnecessary Mystery: Judges recusing from cases without specifying reasons hurts the entire judiciary. SC must frame rules](#)

22. [Taiwan matters more than we'd like to tell ourselves](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Taiwan matters more than we'd like to tell ourselves**” published in **Mint** on **14th April 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – International Relations**

Relevance: **About Taiwan and China conflict**

News: The article discusses the ongoing conflict between China and Taiwan and its probable impact.

What are ongoing concerns between China and Taiwan?

Taiwan is home to the world's largest semiconductor company and there are threats of attack increasing from China. For this reason, the company planned to set up a new plant in the US. However, the plan failed and if China attacks Taiwan, **there may be concerns that China will enjoy dominant control of chip production.**

Further, even the French President has insisted European countries not to get involved in China-Taiwan conflict.

On the other hand, **China has increased its military exercise near Taiwan and sent fighter jets repeatedly into the Taiwan airspace.**

China's military strength is far more superior than Taiwan's. Due to which, Taiwan's President is looking for the help from the US but its leader of opposition is supporting China.

Moreover, China is strengthening its relations with Russia and developing debt trap policies for other countries.

China also made a commitment to manage Hong Kong as a liberal, semi-autonomous financial hub, but instead, it is imposing media censorship and imprisoning people.

Must Read: [What game theory tells us about China-Taiwan face-off](#)

What lies ahead?

If China attacks Taiwan, then it is unlikely that Taiwan will be able to defend itself for a long period of time, as the Ukraine did.

Moreover, the opposition party in Taiwan is expected to win the general election next year, which supports China. **This will change the situation of Taiwan like that of Hong Kong.**

The concern here lies in the fact that **Taiwan is the epicentre of global semiconductor production, with a 90% share of very advanced semiconductors.** Hence, there are worries over it, if any such attacks happen in the future.

23. [Explained | The rules for recognition as national and State party](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “[Explained | The rules for recognition as national and State party](#)” published in **The Hindu** on 14th April 2023.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Indian Polity

Relevance: Criteria for recognition as a national and state party

News: The Election Commission has recognised the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as a national party, while revoking that status of the All-India Trinamool Congress, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the Communist Party of India (CPI).

How does a party get recognised as a national party?

The Election Commission reviews the poll performance of recognised parties after every State Assembly election or general election to the Lok Sabha.

The rules for recognition as a national party are specified by the Commission in para 6B of the **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968**.

The Symbols Order of 1968 was amended in 2016 to give parties one additional “**pass over**”.

As per the amendment, if a national or State party fails to fulfil the eligibility criteria in the next general elections or the assembly election after the election in which it received recognition, it will continue to be recognised as a national or State party.

However, whether it will continue to be recognised after any subsequent election, would again have to be determined by the eligibility criteria.

What are the criteria to be recognized as a national party?

[Click Here to Read](#)

How was AAP recognized as a national party?

[Click Here to Read](#)

Why did Trinamool, NCP and CPI lose its national party status?

Trinamool Congress: It gained national party status in 2016 with the help of “pass over” amendment to the Symbols Act.

However, the party did not remain a state party in the required four States. It lost its status in Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, while continuing to hold recognition in West Bengal, Tripura, and Meghalaya.

NCP: It lost its recognition in three States (Goa, Manipur, and Meghalaya) where it did not secure enough assembly votes between 2017 and 2018. It is currently a state party in only two States, Maharashtra and Nagaland.

CPI: In Assembly elections and one Lok Sabha election between 2016 and 2019, the party could only retain State recognition in three States, i.e., Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Manipur but lost it in Odisha and West Bengal.

What are the criteria to be recognised as a state party?

[Click Here to Read](#)

What are the benefits of recognition as National and State parties?

A recognised political party enjoys privileges like a reserved party symbol, free broadcast time on State-run television and radio, consultation in the setting of election dates, and giving input in setting electoral rules and regulations.

However, **candidates of unrecognized party** are allotted election symbols by the Returning Officers of the concerned constituencies after the last date for withdrawal of candidature and as per availability.

Thus, an **unrecognized party cannot use a single poll symbol across the country**.

24. [The Misconception About Bail-Jail](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**The Misconception About Bail-Jail**” published in **The Times of India** on **15th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance – Criminal Justice System

Relevance: About Undertrials prisoners in India

News: The article explains the situation of undertrial prisoners in India.

What are the findings of the data on undertrial prisoners?

[Click Here to Read](#)

What are the reasons behind the large number of undertrial prisoners?

[Click Here to Read](#)

What steps were taken by the court regarding undertrial prisoners?

The court in **Hussainara Khatoon vs Bihar, 1979** case interpreted Article 21 and **held that speedy trial is the fundamental right of every citizen.**

Following this judgment, **court guidelines exist on release of different categories of undertrials:** **1)** Those under civil imprisonment, **2)** Those in custody for over 15 days for offences with a maximum sentence less than 7 years, **3) Senior citizens** in custody over 3 months for offences where the maximum sentence is less than 10 years, **4)** Those in jail for over 6 months under **IPC Sections 304** (culpable homicide) **or 307** (attempt to murder). **5) Relatives in jail** for over a year on offences under IPC Section 304B (dowry), **6)** Release on personal bond with or without sureties or bail is appropriate under Section 436A CrPC, provided that the penalty is not the death penalty and detention has lasted for more than half the maximum term.

What are the concerns with these guidelines?

There are **exceptions to it. For example, for point 4,** Bail principles won't apply to offences under NDPS, POCSO, PCA, PMLA, anti-terror laws and in CBI/ ED investigations.

Moreover, **for point 5,** there is always a risk in granting bail because investigation, evidence, witnesses can be tampered, or the accused may flee.

What has been the stand of SC regarding bail?

SC focuses on granting bail for most of the cases **and it has granted bail to even those accused of murder in Asim Kumar Haranath Bhattacharya vs NIA (2021).** However, the problem lies with the lower courts.

SC recently in **Satender Kumar Antil vs CBI, 2022** observed that the criminal justice system may not necessarily punish a criminal swiftly, or at all but trial courts think denial of bail is punishment.

SC recently also stayed a high court order that directed a trial court judge to justify bail in a particular case. SC said such orders could undermine independence of district judiciary considering bail.

What can be the way ahead?

Since, **HC is not subordinate to SC, SC has no power of its supervision. SC has only appellate powers.**

Therefore, the issue of bail must be considered by HCs as a priority because a case takes years to be resolved which increases the number of undertrials and deprives them of their rights.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

25. [Mughals have not been erased from NCERT textbooks](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Mughals have not been erased from NCERT textbooks**” published in **The Indian Express** on **15th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Issues related to development and management of education

Relevance: Curriculum and syllabus related issues

News- The **recent controversy** over the National Council of Educational Research and Training reducing **the content on Mughal history** in the school curriculum has sparked a heated debate in the country.

What are the justifications in support of the NCERT move?

Mughal history is **just one glorious 200-year part** of just one period of Indian history.

Apart from that, there are **2,000 years remaining**. Other great medieval powers like the Marathas and Southern dynasties **continue to be underrepresented**.

The **NCERT removed overlapping material** from grades 6 to 12 to reduce the burden on students.

It **revolves around the significant policies** that redefined the landscape and mindset of the people. Akbar’s policies feature in this theme in the rationalized syllabus as well.

Mughals have been overrepresented in our history books and were an **obvious area for right-sizing**.

What is the way forward?

In the age of Wikipedia, we need to **expose our children to the broad themes** and grand sweep of history and create an **understanding of their origins**. Children should be equipped with the tools and curiosity to read and research further as they grow.

History teaching should be more engaging and informative. It should do **justice to the breadth and depth of our heritage**.

26. [A reminder about unfettered constitutional posts](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**A reminder about unfettered constitutional posts**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **15th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Appointment to various Constitutional Posts

Relevance– Independence of institutions

News– Two recent comments of the Supreme Court of India are important. In a hearing of the ‘Sena versus Sena’ case, the Court expressed its “serious concern” over the active role being played by Governors in State politics.

The Court divested the executive of its sole discretion in appointing the CEC and ECs by forming a committee to suggest suitable names to man these constitutional posts.

Why is there a need for independent institutions?

A democracy requires a **system of checks and balances**. It is necessary to prevent the **arbitrary use of power** by the elected government of the day.

India’s democracy provides for **various constitutional authorities** such as the Public Service Commission, the CAG, the ECI, the Finance Commission, and the National Commissions for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes.

The Constituent Assembly of India had recognized the need for such **independent institutions** to **regulate sectors of national importance** without any executive interference.

It is necessary that such constitutional bodies are provided with **complete independence** to enable them to function **without fear or favor and in the larger interests of the nation**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

What are the provisions in the constitution that provide for the appointment of persons heading the independent institutions?

The Constitution uses simple words such as **'shall be appointed by the President'** in the appointment of the Prime Minister (Article 75), the Attorney- General for India (Article 76), the Chairman and other members of the Finance Commission (Article 280), the Chairman and other members of the Public Service Commission (Article 316).

However, the words **'shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal'** are used while authorizing the President for appointment of the judges of Supreme Court and the High Court, the CAG and for appointment of the Governor

Similar words have been used in Articles 338, 338A and 338B authorizing the President for appointing Chairman and members of the National Commissions for SCs, STs and BCs. However, as per the original Article, **'there shall be a Special Officer for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to be appointed by the President.'**

How do constituent assembly debates show that it assigns a special status to CAG, Governor and judges of higher courts in appointment related matters?

In the draft Constitution, the article for appointment of the CAG (Article 124) had provided that **'There shall be an Auditor General who shall be appointed by the President.'**

An amendment proposed in the Constituent Assembly To this Article for **inserting the words 'by warrant under his hand and seal.'**

The Constituent Assembly discussed that the Auditor -General should be always **independent of either the legislature or the executive.** He is the **watchdog of our finances.**

The same amendment for the Article related to **appointment of Governor in Article 131** of the draft Constitution was moved.

The Constituent Assembly discussed that the President should be **free from the influence of the Legislature.**

Both amendments were passed.

What is the way forward for appointment of persons heading the independent institutions?

The Constitution affixes the phrase **"by warrant under his hand and seal"** only for appointment to positions like Judges, the CAG and the Governors. It assigns a **special status** to distinguish them from other constitutional positions.

Constitutional authorities such as the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court and the CAG of India is to be kept **free from political or executive pressure.**

Appointments of judges and the ECs have been made **free from the influence of the executive.**

But there is a need to set up a **well- defined criteria and procedures** for the appointment of the CAG of India.

The process of selecting a person to be appointed as the CAG of India should begin by **appointing a committee** consisting of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India, and the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee to shortlist names for appointment of CAG of India.

A panel of three names should be forwarded to the President for him to make the **final selection** as in Article 148 of the Constitution of India.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

27. [Economic distress in Sri Lanka: Life & Debt – India-France-Japan initiative crucial for Colombo](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Lanka: Life & Debt – India-France-Japan initiative crucial for Colombo**” published in **The Times of India** on **15th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 2: India and its neighbourhood- relations.

Relevance: About economic distress in Sri Lanka.

News: Recently, Sri Lanka received a **\$2. 9 billion package from IMF**. Following that, India, Japan and France have set up a common platform for talks among Sri Lanka’s creditors to work out ways to restructure the country’s external debt.

About the present state of economic distress in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka’s average inflation in 2023 is projected to be 28. 5% even as the economy is expected to shrink 3.1%. But, Sri Lanka’s current account deficit in 2023 is projected to be 1. 6% of GDP, a manageable level.

The greatest distress of the Sri Lankan economy at present is its aggregate external debt, which is 74% of its GDP. Sri Lanka is having arrears to almost all of its external creditors. The country has also obtained financing assurances from all major creditors.

Note: *China is the major creditor of Sri Lanka.*

What led to the economic distress in Sri Lanka?

Read here: [Causes Behind Sri Lanka crisis](#)

What are the objectives of the economic restructuring package for Sri Lanka?

The key aim of Lanka’s economic restructuring package is to lower its annual debt service in foreign exchange from the current 9% of GDP to 4. 5% by 2027. This will require the country to lower its public debt from the current level of 122% of GDP.

Read more: [In Sri Lankan crisis, a window of economic opportunity](#)

General Studies Paper – 3

General Studies - 3

1. [Building a blue economy: What India can learn from China](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “**Building a blue economy: What India can learn from China**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **10th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Agriculture and allied activities

Relevance– Issue related to blue economy

News– The article explains the potential of fishing sector for blue economy

What are the reasons for the dispute on fishing rights between India and Sri Lanka?

The **Indo-Sri Lankan maritime boundary agreements** were signed in 1974 and 1976. It allowed fishermen of both nations to enjoy the rights traditionally enjoyed in each other’s waters.

Maritime boundaries lack **physical demarcation**. So, the **lull in fishing activity** during the civil war in Sri Lanka, encouraged Indian fishermen to encroach into Sri Lankan waters.

With the end of hostilities in 2009, the Sri Lankan fishing community **reclaimed their rights**. It brings them into conflict with Indian fishers.

What is the importance of the fishing sector?

The fishing fleet is an important component of the **sea power of the state**. The role of this fleet has grown sharply. In the two world wars, fishing vessels were widely used as part of the navy **for combat tasks**.

China has mobilised the fishing industry to meet the **rising demand for protein**. China is today a fishery superpower. It owns the world’s **largest deep-water fishing (DWF) fleet**. China had begun distant deepwater fishing, as far back as in 1985.

China also uses a part of its fishing fleet as a “**maritime militia**”, which assists the navy and coast guard in their tasks.

What are some facts about the fishing sector in India?

In India, fish is an **affordable and rich source of animal protein**. It is one of the **healthiest options to mitigate hunger and malnutrition**.

Since Independence, India’s marine fishery has been **dominated by the poor, small-scale fisheries**. They deliver only **2% of marine fish** to the market, while 98% is caught by mechanised and motorised craft.

India’s fisheries are being transformed into a **commercial enterprise**. The sector has shown steady growth and has become a **major contributor of foreign exchange**.

India ranks amongst the world’s leading seafood exporting nations. Fisheries provide livelihood to about 15 million fishers and fish-farmers at the primary level. It generates jobs, along the **value-chain in transportation, cold-storages, and marketing**.

What are the issues with the fishing sector in India?

India has not invested much in a **deepwater fleet**. Most of the fishing is being undertaken in coastal waters. India fishermen have to **compete with neighbours**, Sri Lanka and Pakistan, in restricted fishing grounds.

Fishing vessels often drift into foreign waters. It leads to **apprehension** by navies/coast guards and **prolonged imprisonment** of the crew.

Moreover, the rich resources in India’s EEZ remain underexploited. Much of fishing is done by the better equipped fishing fleets of other Indo-Pacific countries. Some of them indulge in **illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing**. IUU also has serious security and environmental implications.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

Most of India's fisheries exports are at a **low level of value addition**. There is less focus on "ready-to-eat" or "ready-to-cook" marine products.

What is the way forward for the fishing sector in India?

India needs to evolve a **long-term vision for its fishing industry** with focus on four areas:

Mechanisation and modernisation of fishing vessels by providing **communication links and electronic fish-detection devices**.

Developing **deep-water fishing fleets**, with bigger, sea-going trawlers equipped with refrigeration facilities.

A DWF fleet will have to be built around the **"mothership" concept**. Large vessel would accompany the fleet to provide fuel, medical and on-board processing facilities.

Development of **modern fishing harbours** with **adequate berthing and post-harvest facilities**, including **cold storage, preservation, and packaging of fish**.

2. [Awaiting lift-off into the Second Space Age](#)

Source- The post is based on the article **"Awaiting lift-off into the Second Space Age"** published in **"The Hindu"** on **10th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Awareness in the field of space

News- The article explains the changing nature of the space sector.

What are some facts about the first space age?

The Space Age began in 1957 with the launch of **satellite Sputnik 1**. In 1961, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the world's first person in space.

The period was dominated by the **Cold War**. Between the 1950s to 1991, 60 to 120 space launches took place annually and **93% of these** were by the United States and the erstwhile USSR governments.

What have been the important developments in the space sector in India?

India made a modest entry into the **First Space Age** in the 1960s. The first sounding rocket was launched at Thumba in 1963.

In 1969, the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** was set up. It has over 15,000 employees and an annual budget between **₹12,000 crore-₹14,000 crore** in recent years.

Its first major project was the **Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE)**. It involved leasing a U.S. satellite in 1975-76 for **educational outreach**.

Satellite technology was a **new mass communication tool**. This led to the **INSAT series in the 1980s, followed by GSAT**. It provided the backbone for the country's **tele-communication and broadcasting infrastructure**.

This was followed by remote **sensing capability development**. It includes the use of **space-based imagery for weather forecasting, resource mapping of forests, analysing agricultural yields, groundwater and watersheds, fisheries and urban management**.

There is now focus on **Oceansat and Cartosat series**. The field of **satellite-aided navigation** emerged later. It began with **GAGAN, a joint project between ISRO and the Airports Authority of India**.

GAGAN aim is to augment **Global Positioning System coverage** of the region, to improve air traffic management over Indian airspace. This has now been expanded to a regional navigation satellite system called **Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)**.

In parallel came the development of **satellite launch capabilities**. Beginning with the SLV-1 in the 1980s. ISRO has developed the PSLV series that has become its workhorse with over 50 successful launches.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

What are various facts about the second space age?

The origins of the Second Space Age can be **traced to the Internet**.

The last 15 years witnessed another transformation. The **mobile telephony**, followed by smartphones has led to drastic changes. **Broadband, OTT and now 5G** promise a double-digit annual growth in demand for satellite-based services.

It is **dominated by the private sector**. In terms of the end-user revenue, only a fifth is generated by the government. The growing role of the private sector is also evident in the **numbers and ownership of satellites**. According to the **United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs**, there are 8,261 satellites in orbit, of which nearly 5,000 are active.

Till 2010, about 60 to 100 satellites were launched annually. In 2020, 1283 satellites were launched. Today, **Starlink** operates a **constellation of over 3,500 satellites** and has a million paying customers.

Jeff Bezos of Amazon has launched **Project Kuiper** to bring **low-latency broadband connectivity** around the globe.

The Indian private sector is responding to the demands of the Second Space Age. From less than a dozen space start-ups five years ago, there are over 100 today.

The **pace of investment** is growing. From \$3 million in 2018, it doubled in 2019 and crossed \$65 million in 2021.

What are various achievements of ISRO in terms of satellites?

Today, ISRO manages four to five launches annually. It manages **53 operational satellites** – 21 for communication, 21 for earth observation, eight for navigation and the remaining as scientific experimental satellites.

ISRO has missions such as **Chandrayaan, Mangalyaan and Gaganyaan**. ISRO has always been an open organisation that has worked closely with the Indian private sector.

ISRO today is the **operator, user, service provider, licensor, rule maker and also an incubator**.

What is the government response to changes in the space sector?

In 2017, the government introduced the first **draft Space Activities Bill** in Parliament but it lapsed in 2019.

There has been talk of commercialising the **PSLV and SSLV launch services** and **NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** was set up to replace Antrix.

The **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)** was set up in 2020 as a single-window-clearance for the private sector. An **Indian Space Association (ISpA)** was created as an industry association.

In recent years, a series of **policy papers** have been circulated for discussion. It includes **telecom policy, an earth observation policy and a foreign direct investment policy**.

What is the way forward for the space sector in India?

The start-ups in the space sector are different. Their revenue stream depends on **space-related activities**. They need a **different relationship with ISRO and the government**.

Now, there is a **need for legislation** for the space sector. It will help to set up a **regulatory authority and create an enabling environment** for raising venture capital funding into the Indian space start-up industry.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

3. [Directing AI for better and smarter legislation](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “**Directing AI for better and smarter legislation**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **10th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Scientific Developments and their Applications and Effects in Everyday Life.

Relevance- Various applications of AI

News- The article deals with scope of AI to improve the legislative process

What are various examples of countries using the power of AI for assisting the legislatures?

The House of Representatives in the United States have introduced an AI tool to **automate the process of analysing differences** between Bills, amendments and current laws.

The Netherlands House of Representatives has implemented the “**Speech2Write**” system. It **converts voice to text** and also **translates voice into written reports**. It comprises **automatic speech recognition and automated editing capabilities**.

Japan’s AI tool assists in the preparation of responses for its legislature and also helps in the **automatic selection** of relevant highlights in parliamentary debates.

Brazil has developed an AI system called **Ulysses** which supports **transparency and citizen participation**.

India is also innovating and working towards making parliamentary activities digital such as the ‘**One Nation, One Application**’ and the **National e-Vidhan (NeVA) portal**.

What are various uses of AI for the legislature?

AI can also **simulate the potential effects of laws**. **Various datasets** such as the Census, data on household consumption, taxpayers, beneficiaries from various schemes, and public infrastructure **can be modelled**.

AI can uncover **potential outcomes of a policy**. It can also help in **identifying laws that are outdated** in the present circumstances and require amendment. For example, the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.

AI can analyse **citizens’ grievances and social media responses**. It identifies issues and priorities that need immediate attention. It can also assist parliamentarians in seeking citizen **inputs for public consultation** of laws and preparing a manifesto.

What is the way forward to harness the potential of AI?

Digitalisation can be utilised in the **field of law, policy-making, and parliamentary activities** by harnessing the power of AI.

It needs to be ensured that the use of AI must be encouraged in an **open, transparent, and citizen-friendly manner**. Policymakers need to be mindful of the fact that it is a **means to an end and not an end in itself**.

For AI to work in India, we first need to **codify our laws**. Current laws are **opaque, and complex**. There is a **huge translation gap between law-making, law-implementing and law-interpreting organisations**.

The codification should contain a **complete chain**, right from the **parent Act to the subordinate pieces of legislation** passed by the central government and the **amendment notifications**.

There is a need to make laws **machine-consumable with a central law engine**. It can be a **single source** for all acts, subordinate pieces of legislation, gazettes, compliances, and regulations.

4. [On India's new stance on trade agreements: It takes India back to the pre-reforms era](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “Prabhash Ranjan on India's new stance on trade agreements: It takes India back to the pre-reforms era” published in “The Indian Express” on 10th April 2023.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Economy

Relevance- Issues related to international trade and investment issues

News- The article deals with India new approach to FTAs

What is the record of India in signing FTAs?

India signed several FTAs in the 2000s with countries like Singapore, Korea, Malaysia, and Japan. These FTAs include **binding rules on both, international trade liberalisation, and the protection of foreign investment from arbitrary state conduct.**

In the last few years, India has signed FTAs with Mauritius and the UAE and an interim one with Australia. India is currently negotiating FTAs with the UK, European Union, Canada, and Israel.

How is India 's FTA policy different from its earlier approach?

India is **decoupling international trade law from international investment law.** The FTAs with Mauritius, UAE, and Australia contain detailed **international rules on trade.** But, **rules on foreign investment protection** are missing.

There is **absence of investment protection** in these FTAs. It is more striking because India has unilaterally terminated its **bilateral investment treaty (BIT)** that protects foreign investment with Mauritius and Australia.

In FTA 2.0, India is ostensibly following an approach that can be described as the “**domestication of IIL**”. It is a process where countries develop **domestic rules in parallel to international rules** to protect foreign investment.

They give primacy to their **domestic laws in safeguarding foreign investment** by doing two things-

First, **domestically legislating investment protection standards** that are typically part of International Investment Law. Second, providing a **dispute resolution mechanism** at the local level instead of **treaty arbitration.** South Africa is a good example of this kind of domestication. India has also **unilaterally terminated** most of its investment treaties. It has signed a few BITs in the last decade.

Unlike South Africa, India hasn't legislated an **exclusive law for the protection of foreign investment.** But the message is quite clear. **International trade commitments** will be protected under **international law** and foreign investment will be guarded as per **municipal laws.**

India's approach can also be explained as “**de-legalisation of international economic law**”. It prefers **domestic adjudication for trade and investment matters** at the cost of international law.

What can be inferred from India's new approach to FTAs?

The **domestication or de-legalisation of IIL** takes India back to the pre-1991 era when India was not in favour of **international legalisation of economic relations.**

Today, India desperately seeks foreign investment but is **suspicious about IIL.** The decoupling of international trade law from IIL is not in sync with the **approaches of India's current and potential FTA partner countries.**

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

5. [New amendment rules on intermediary guidelines amount to censorship](#)

Source: The post is based on the following articles

“Intermediary oversight should never be opaque” published in the **Livemint** on **10th April 2023**.

“New amendment rules on intermediary guidelines amount to censorship” published in **The Hindu** on **10th April 2023**

Syllabus: GS – 3: role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges.

Relevance: About amendments to IT Rules.

News: The government recently notified amendments to Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules.

About the amendments to IT Rules

Read here: [IT Ministry notifies body to flag ‘fake’ content about govt](#)

What are the concerns associated with amendments to IT Rules?

Lack of clarity: There is a lack of clarity on how the fact-checker would be governed and allow redressal of faulty calls. If ‘misleading’ posts are banned, then the wide scope for interpretation of the term “misleading” would make it easy for a fact-checker to abuse its authority.

Further, in ‘the Information Age’, it is challenging to set the truth apart from falsehood.

Forgets Arm’s length of government and media: In India, freedom of the press is guaranteed through Article 19 of the Constitution, with media rights and public right to free speech derived from this Article. This means any relationship between the government and the media should be one kept at arm’s length, with the media having sufficient freedom. But these amendments will impact the freedom of the press.

Create chilling effect: By threatening to remove a platform’s immunity for content that is flagged by a government unit, it is clear that the Union government intends to create a “chilling effect” on the right to speech and expression on online platforms.

Read more: [Express View on IT Rules amendments: Government sets itself up as judge, jury and executioner](#)

What should be done?

-All rule-making and rule enforcers must outlive changes in every domain. To ensure that, the fact-checking body should be kept transparent and open to scrutiny.

-Autonomy for the fact-checker would be an essential condition to address the conflict of interest between the Centre and the media firms. Else, it will act as a another arm of government’s regulatory system.

-The rule’s basic validity needs to be tested by the judiciary in the light of our right to free speech. The Constitution must prevail.

6. [Race to the bottom – Restricting journalists does not serve the interests of China or India](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“Race to the bottom – Restricting journalists does not serve the interests of China or India”** published in **The Hindu** on **10th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 3: role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges.

Relevance: About actions against journalists from India and China.

News: Recently, the Chinese government froze the visas of two Indian journalists. The Chinese government have said that its recent decision was a response to India taking steps aimed at Chinese journalists.

How are journalists dragged into the geopolitical tensions between India and China?

Until 2016, reporters from both countries were on one-year visas and largely left to do their work. But in 2016, three Chinese reporters were expelled after visiting a Tibetan settlement without

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

permission from the Home Affairs Ministry. This reduction was subsequently placed on all Chinese reporters with three-month visas in 2017.

According to Chinese reports, a Chinese reporter was told to leave India this year. In response, China warned only two Indian reporters in China to face countermeasures if Chinese visas were not restored to one-year validity.

What are the implications of actions against journalists?

a) If Chinese journalists were asked to leave and vice versa, then there would be no reporters from the world's two largest countries covering the other, **b)** Absence of on-the-ground context might lead to the spread of fake news. For example, there has been fake news of a coup in China last year, **c)** India's recent actions, including the government's response to a BBC documentary, appear to show insecurity.

What should be done?

-China should understand that reciprocity should also include giving Indian organisations the kind of freedom that Chinese media enjoy in India. For example, even in the absence of Chinese employees, Chinese media can continue to report with their Indian journalists. In contrast, China bars foreign media organisations from hiring Chinese journalists except as assistants.

-Restricting all of the Chinese journalists will be counterproductive, Instead, India should scrutinise the non-journalistic activities of some Chinese reporters.

7. Amul vs Nandini threatens to limit choices for consumers

Source: The post is based on the following articles

“Who Moved My Milk? – Amul vs Nandini battle is meaningless. India needs both to expand nationally and shake things up” published in **The Times of India** on **11th April 2023**.

“Express View: Amul vs Nandini threatens to limit choices for consumers” published in the **Indian Express** on **11th April 2023**.

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

Relevance: About the milk cooperatives.

News: Recently, Amul, a Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, announced on social media that it will make online deliveries in Bengaluru. This supposedly threatens the local Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation (KMF) alias Nandini.

Why milk cooperatives are fighting with each other for markets?

Share for the market: India is the world's largest milk producer, with 222. 1 million tonnes production in 2021-22. Almost half the milk produced is consumed locally. The rest enters the urban market, which is the growth area.

Role of state governments: Co-ops impart a unique dimension to milk and milk product markets. For example, the Karnataka government provides incentives for them. So, they have little flexibility over procurement or end-product pricing. In a difficult phase such as the lockdowns, the government was reluctant to raise product prices.

To fulfil farmer's interest: Dairy is often the primary source of income for many landless households and marginal farmers. So, it's in their best interest, successful brands like Amul and Nandini procure and sell across markets. In short, Karnataka's dairy farmers, like their Gujarat counterparts, need to find new markets.

Surplus procurement: As per the government, milk cooperatives and private players share the liquid milk market. This market is expected to touch 54% by 2026, from 41% now. Milk cooperatives procure more from farmers with their attractive collection strategies. For example, Nandini Cooperative provide Rs 6-per-litre incentive to farmers. This led the KMF unions to

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

procure milk far in excess of what can be absorbed within Karnataka. This surplus is, then, being “dumped” as milk powder, butter and ghee in other states.

Why blocking competition between milk cooperatives is wrong?

Neither producers nor consumers benefit from such protectionism and beggar-thy-neighbour policies. Competition can enable consumers to take the form of better quality or product differentiation.

By favouring one brand over the other might trigger a similar response in other states. For example, by blocking Amul in Bengaluru, politicians are risking similar retribution when it comes to Nandini selling outside Karnataka.

Blocking competition can frame a political economy challenge. Hence, the government has to consider electoral necessities before embarking on market reforms.

8. [Small & Green Future – That India needs more nuclear power generation is not in doubt. But it should rely less on big plants](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Small & Green Future – That India needs more nuclear power generation is not in doubt. But it should rely less on big plants**” published in **The Times of India** on **11th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 3: Energy.

Relevance: About the nuclear power plants.

News: India, by 2047, aims to produce 9% of its electricity from nuclear power, up from the current 3%. By 2031, installed nuclear power capacity is set to increase from 6,780 MW to 22,480 MW with 20 new nuclear plants. In that process, ten new reactors were approved recently.

About the nuclear power plants around the world

Rich countries that have had 20 years of nuclear power generation. A 2019 IAEA report of nuclear plants’ age-profile highlighted the challenges of ‘nuclear fade’.

Note: *Nuclear fade means the nations are giving up on nuclear power as plants age and costs rise.* About 83% of plants across Europe are over 30 years old, in the US more than 90% are over 30. Though nuclear plants had licences for decades more, several retired early. This stalls the transition to non-carbon energy.

In contrast, almost 80% of China’s plants are less than 10 years old; the corresponding number for India is 40%.

Read more: [Nuclear Energy: Status, Advantages and Concerns – Explained, pointwise](#)

What does India need to do while planning nuclear power plants?

India should move away from big plants and plans small modular reactors (SMRs). Though SMRs only generate a third of a nuclear plant’s power, many can be built since the smaller investment is easier to mobilise. SMRs are reportedly safer in design and simpler to construct and require much less land. They are therefore easier propositions to sell to locals.

According to the IAEA, SMRs’ economic viability in operational settings is not proven. But India’s huge electricity demand, need for non-carbon energy, net zero commitment can be aided significantly with SMRs.

Read more: [\[Yojana October Summary\] Energy Security: Nuclear Power – Explained, pointwise](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

9. [Burning bright – India must balance conservation efforts with the rights of forest dwellers](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Burning bright – India must balance conservation efforts with the rights of forest dwellers**” published in **The Hindu** on **11th April 2023**.

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

Relevance: About tiger population.

News: Recently, the government released the 5th cycle of India’s Tiger Census. Based on the survey, the tiger population in India has grown from 1,411 in 1972 to 3,167 in 2022.

What are the key findings of India’s tiger census?

Read here: [India is home to 75% of global tigers; count rises above 3,000](#)

What are the government initiatives that led to an increase in the tiger population?

Read here: [Increasing tiger population in India and government initiatives – Explained, pointwise](#)

What are the challenges India faces with the increased tiger population?

The ‘Status of Tiger’ report warns that **a)** All of India’s five main tiger zones, while largely stable, face challenges of deforestation and loss of tiger habitat, **b)** In Western Ghats, tiger numbers are on the decline, with only populations within protected forests stable, and **c)** Tiger reserves has increased from nine in 1973 to 53 today. However, the increase in reserves has not resulted in all of these reserves becoming suitable habitats for tigers.

The other challenges include **a)** Serious conservation efforts are needed in tiger population recovery in Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. Wildlife habitats in these areas face various threats that include habitat encroachment, hunting, conflicts with humans, unregulated cattle grazing, excessive harvesting of non-timber forest products, fires, mining, and expanding infrastructure, **b)** According to Experts, India’s tiger reserves, in their present state, can be able to sustain populations of up to 4,000 only.

Read more: [Tiger Reserves in India \(Updated 2023\)](#)

What more can be done?

-The government has to maintain the delicate balance between conservation efforts and ensuring the right to livelihood and dignified living of forest-dwelling communities.

-The cheetah, the leopard, the lion and the tiger can co-exist in India only with the right incentives in place for all stakeholders.

10. [Ride Globalisation, Again](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Ride Globalisation, Again**” published in **The Times of India** on **12th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy

Relevance: About services exports and manufacturing sector

News: Services exports in India have risen remarkably. This has made India recover from the pandemic loss and focus on other aspects of the economy.

What are some of the findings on services exports?

After the pandemic, net services exports have risen to \$9 billion per month in the last financial year, 2021-2022. **This financial year there has been a steep rise and it has gone up to \$16 billion per month.**

India’s net exports in services have been positive while its net exports in goods are negative. In the two years since the pandemic, India’s net export in services has boomed.

What has caused a boom in the services exports?

The big IT firms of India have played a major role in services exports.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

It has also risen due to the **Global Capability Centres (GCC)**. GCC refers to offices set up by large multinational firms that provide IT, research, and analytical support to the parent companies.

India currently hosts 40% of the world's GCCs and this number is expected to rise.

Moreover, there is more potential in India to increase its services exports in the sectors **such as finance, medicine, education and law. These sectors have not yet been utilized in services exports.**

These sectors along with IT exports and a strong privacy and data protection law will position India at the centre of new **wave of globalization of services.**

However, this doesn't mean India should abandon manufacturing.

Must Read: [Services Sector in India – Explained](#)

How can India create job in its manufacturing sector?

India has a strong presence in skilled manufacturing such as **two-wheelers and pharmaceuticals.**

However, **India has not been successful in creating low skilled jobs in manufacturing** and there is a need to create more jobs in the manufacturing sector.

Moreover, jobs cannot be created by selectively focusing on industries through industrial policy, protecting some areas with tariffs and subsidising others with the production-linked incentive scheme.

This is because **these schemes typically benefit large firms in capital intensive industries and not act as a mass job creator.**

For instance, according to government data, with 15% of the proposed investment in PLI schemes, **only 3% of the proposed jobs have been created.**

Therefore, there is a need for **building infrastructure, producing a better educated and healthier workforce, and promoting easing doing business** to create jobs.

Moreover, well-paying jobs created through skilled service exports will create other associated low-skilled service jobs.

What can be the way ahead?

India should work to persuade the world to open up to the possibilities of services exports in sectors that are traditionally regarded as **non-tradable, such as health, education, legal and accounting services.**

For example, an Indian doctor cannot diagnose patients in the UK because their Indian qualifications are not recognised.

Hence, **India's G20 presidency is an opportunity for India** to push for lowering barriers to the globalisation of services.

[11. Celebrate the rise in tiger population, but look beyond the numbers](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“Express View: Celebrate the rise in tiger population, but look beyond the numbers”** published in the **Indian Express** on **12th April 2023.**

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

Relevance: About tiger population.

News: Recently, the government released the 5th cycle of India's Tiger Census. Based on the survey, the tiger population in India has grown from 1,411 in 1972 to 3,167 in 2022.

What are the key findings of India's tiger census?

Read here: [India is home to 75% of global tigers; count rises above 3,000](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

What are the government initiatives that led to an increase in the tiger population?

Read here: [Increasing tiger population in India and government initiatives – Explained, pointwise](#)

What are the challenges India faces with the increased tiger population?

Read here: [Burning bright – India must balance conservation efforts with the rights of forest dwellers”](#)

What are the challenges highlighted in the tiger census?

These include **a)** There is a decline of the genetically unique varieties of the animal in Odisha and parts of Northeast India, **b)** Simlipal tiger is known for their unusually broad and fused stripe. But the numbers of the Simlipal tiger have been coming down steadily in the last decade. This is because the reserve in Odisha is unable to provide its tiger population with an adequate prey base, **c)** Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh has become one of the hotspots of human-tiger conflict — villagers in the vicinity of the reserve allegedly beat up tigers to death in 2019 and 2020 and **d)** Understaffed forest departments find themselves ill-equipped to deal with many challenges. Overall, better protection and augmentation of prey in protected areas “could help increase the tiger population”.

[12. We need proactive regulation to fend off SVB-like bank failures](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**We need proactive regulation to fend off SVB-like bank failures**” published in **Live Mint** on **13th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Economy – Money and Banking

Relevance: measures needed to prevent bank crisis.

News: The article discusses the Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) crisis and provides measures to prevent such a crisis.

About Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) crisis

[Click Here to Read](#)

What were the steps taken by the US to minimize the impact of the crisis?

To calm down the financial markets, the US Treasury Secretary announced **special protection even for uninsured deposits held with failed banks**.

It is estimated to cost the US Federal Deposit Insurance Corp (FDIC) over \$20 billion.

The US Federal Reserve also **opened up a special liquidity window**, in the midst of its policy tightening to control inflation, against the face value of securities.

What were the scenarios at the time of the SVB crisis?

The **gap in the value of assets and liabilities of US commercial banks** stood at \$2,137 billion. **Mark-to-market losses were** over \$2 trillion which was more than 40% of the capital of all banks.

More than 50% of SVB’s long-dated securities had fewer financial values, with facing mark-to-market losses. **Its capital ratios were unfavourable** and its customer profile skewed in favour of bulk deposits.

What can be done to prevent a bank crisis?

It is necessary to come up with **laws that bridge gaps and provide real-time necessary information on fresh developments**, including the use of technology for financial transactions and the behaviour of participants.

There is also a need to **constantly scan big data using machine learning and artificial intelligence**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

It will help to model alternate scenarios and provide solutions for authorities to intervene in time to avert disasters and minimize large-scale mishappening.

13. [Corporate power and Indian inflation](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “**Corporate power and Indian inflation**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **13th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- India economy

Relevance- Issues related to inflation

News- The former Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Viral Acharya, is reported to have observed that unlike in the West where it abated with COVID-19, core inflation remains elevated in India. He ascribed it to the pricing power of five big corporations.

What are counter arguments against Viral Acharya that core inflation in India is due to pricing power of big five companies?

First, a divergence between inflation rates in India and the rest of the world is not new. After the **global financial crisis** of 2008, Indian inflation surged. It reached levels higher than the economies of the United States and the United Kingdom.

This was due to a **surge in food price inflation** in India, driven by **negative agricultural shocks**. Food-price inflation tends to feed into **core inflation**. So, it cannot be concluded that Indian inflation is higher than in the West today due to corporate pricing power.

There is evidence that in India, food price inflation affects **core inflation**.

Second, the argument that corporate power plays a role in **elevated core inflation** is based on an observation of a short time period. Wholesale price inflation was considerably low in the six months preceding March 2023, but consumer price inflation was not.

A **mismatch between WP and CP inflations** is not new. In 2021-22, WP inflation surged by 12 percentage points, but CP inflation actually declined.

So, the maintenance of high price increases by firms in the retail sector even with low wholesale price inflation in 2022-23 may just be a **compensating mechanism**.

Third, attributing elevated core inflation in consumer prices to pricing power of the Big 5 assumes that these conglomerates have a **high presence in retail trade**. Their presence is greater in the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors than in retail. It may be noted that their presence in the economy itself may not be so high.

Fourth, to compare WP inflation with CPI inflation is not the right thing. The **commodity basket of CPI** is different from the wholesale price index. So, we would be comparing apples with oranges here.

The claim that **corporate pricing power** is driving current inflation in India has no solid basis. For the first three quarters of the financial year, over **75% of the direct contribution to inflation** is by sectors where the Big 5 presentation is low.

What can be concluded ultimately about core inflation in India?

Corporate pricing power does exist. Pricing power in Indian industry and that the **rate of profit** in India is high in a global comparison.

However, the question is the extent to which corporate power is driving overall inflation in India beyond its obvious role in elevating the price level.

In theory, corporations can drive inflation if **concentration rises continuously** and if they come to dominate the economy. India is not in that position. But **industrial concentration** is most likely rising in India.

14. [Is the current regulatory system equipped to deal with AI?](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Is the current regulatory system equipped to deal with AI?**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **14th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance. GS3- Science and technology

Relevance– Issue related to AI and its use

News– The growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies and their deployment has raised questions about privacy, monopolisation and job losses.

Why AI is not a threat for the society?

Technological change improves **aggregate productivity**. **Output of society** also goes up. People today are better off than they were because of technology.

There is nothing special or different this time around with AI. This is just **another round of machines** being used to **increase productivity**.

The primary risks emerging from AI happen to be the same risks with other digital technologies, like how political systems **integrate those technologies**.

Some AI based systems are already operational and have been used for some time. AI is used today in **facial recognition in airports** in India and by law enforcement agencies.

The human mind has **general intelligence**. They are able to think from scratch and be able to try to solve a problem. Machines don't know what to do.

ChatGPT is just one **big, glorified database** of everything that has been written on the Internet.

What are issues related to the regulatory system to deal with the privacy and competition threats arising from AI?

One important question in the field of technology policy in India is about **checks and balances**. There are questions related to the **kind of data** the government should own and its **surveillance powers** over us.

There is also one big concern about the use of modern computer technology and its impact on our lives.

There is also a need for laws for the **deployment of AI- based systems** to comply with the **Supreme Court right to privacy judgement** for specific use cases such as facial recognition.

A lot of police departments and State governments are using this technology. It comes with **error rates**. This may result in **exclusion, harassment**. So, there needs to be a **level of restraint**.

The government should pay greater attention to the **conversations happening in Europe** around AI and the **risk assessment approach**.

The **presence or absence of competition** in this field is not cause of worry. On a global scale, there are many players. OpenAI and Microsoft collaborating on AI. Facebook is also building in this space. Google also has a big presence.

This shows the extent to which **technical dynamism** generates **checks and balances** of its own. ChatGPT has raised a new level of **competitive dynamics** around Google Search.

Indians are **spectators**. When it comes to issues such face recognition, nobody else is going to solve it for us. India is a poor country where **regulatory and state capacity** is very limited. So, the work done here will generally be of low quality.

The tech landscape is dominated by Big Tech. They have a **computing power advantage, a data advantage, and a geopolitical advantage**.

It is possible that the pre existing firms like Microsoft, Google, Meta may deepen their domination in AI.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

How India 's handling of AI can be compared with China's authoritarian use of AI?

China has built a **Chinese firewall** and cut off users in China from the Internet. The people connected with the ruling party in China get **monopoly powers** to build products that look like global products.

They steal ideas and then design and make local versions in China. But it also comes at the price of **mediocrity and stagnation**. They're just copying things and not at the frontier. It will not lead to the development of **genuine scientific and technical knowledge**.

So far in India, there is **decent political support for globalisation, integration into the world economy and full participation by foreign companies** in India. **Economic nationalism** is not yet a dominant impulse here. So, there is fundamental superiority in the Indian way.

Will AI completely replace all existing jobs?

There should be focus on the **word 'productivity'**. It's good for society when human beings produce more output per unit hour as that makes us more prosperous.

People who lose jobs will see job opportunities multiplying in other areas. The labour market does **relocation of jobs** every day.

There were 1-2 million jobs operating an STD ISD booth in India. Then mobile phones came and there were apprehensions that millions of people would lose their jobs. In the end, the **productivity of the country** went up.

15. [For our world in flux: Some hard lessons in history from the 1930s](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“For our world in flux: Some hard lessons in history from the 1930s”** published in the **“mint”** on **14th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Global economy. GS2- Global politics

News– The article explains the prevailing uncertainty in global politics and economy and compare with situation in 1920s

How is the world in a state of flux today?

Global politics– The **geopolitical divides** are sharper than they have been for decades. International relations are **strained**, and there are **several potential flashpoints**.

Economy– The coronavirus pandemic prompted **repeated lockdowns** across the world, it led to sharp contraction in output and employment everywhere. The economic recovery has been slow. In many countries, national income in 2022 just about returned to its 2019 levels. The recovery has been **K-shaped**, so **economic inequalities** have continued to rise. The pandemic also disrupted integrated **global production networks**. It stifled **international trade and investment flows**.

The situation might have improved in early 2022. But the **Russia-Ukraine war disrupted global supply-chains** in food, fuels and fertilisers. The sharp rise in food and fuel prices pushed inflation to double-digit levels in most countries.

The response of central banks has been **raising interest rates**. It will **stifle investment and dampen consumption**, instead of curbing inflation.

In fact, the prospect of recession in the world economy looms large. The continuing war Ukraine has **enhanced uncertainty and risk**. It has made markets nervous. Large international firms are **relocating and re-shoring** their production. **Globalisation is at risk**.

Regional politics– There are **resurgent nationalisms** due to **populist or chauvinist sentiments**. In rich countries, **nationalist-populist political parties, or far-right xenophobic leaders**, exploit fears about immigration and trade.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

In poor countries, **nationalist-populist political parties** exploit **religious beliefs or ethnic divides** to create **identity politics**. Such populist-authoritarian regimes are now present across countries and continents.

What are many strong parallels with the world that existed a century earlier?

The **preceding era of globalisation** during 1870-1914, was brought to an abrupt end by World War I. In 1918, Spanish Flu caused a worldwide pandemic that cost 50 million lives.

In the 1920s, Europe struggled with **problems of reconstruction, slow growth and hyperinflation**. **Economic inequalities** between and within countries rose. This was conducive to the **rise of nationalism and militarism**. Mussolini captured power in Italy.

Unequal terms in the **Treaty of Versailles** had **economic and political consequences**. In October 1929, the Great Crash in stock markets of the US led into the Great Depression.

Economic troubles led to **political instability** in many parts of the world. The **political uncertainty** led to the **rise of nationalism and militarism** in some countries.

By 1930, the Nazis were the second largest political party in Germany. In 1933, Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor. **The Great Depression** also led to the **rise of militarism** in Japan during the 1930s.

Economic nationalism surged almost everywhere as countries adopted **'beggar-thy-neighbour' policies**. They restricted imports to protect domestic output and employment.

Both Germany and Japan aspired to a larger role in a world dominated by the US and Great Britain. In this quest, during the late 1930s, Germany pushed Europe closer to World War II. Japan did so in December 1941.

What are striking similarities between this past and our present?

The **financial crisis of 2008** spread worldwide. The **Great Recession** followed in its aftermath **disrupted globalisation**. The covid pandemic was perhaps the last shock for globalisation.

Inequalities in income and wealth between and within countries are unprecedented. **Slow growth, persistent inflation, and a possible recession** can increase discontent among people.

The Ukraine war could have **global implications**. Russia wants to **regain its position**. There is a pronounced **shift in the balance of economic power**, from the West to Asia, and from the US to China.

[16. India is at the bullseye of climate change's heat impacting workers — this has economic effects](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **"India is at the bullseye of climate change's heat impacting workers — this has economic effects"** published in **The Times of India** on **15th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Climate Change

Relevance: Impact of rising heat

News: The article discusses various impacts of rising heat on labour productivity and on economy.

What are the impacts of the heat?

Heat, humidity and outdoor air pollution may have a health impact on workers working outside. This can have economic impacts on a nation.

Which areas are more affected by the rising heat?

Most areas in the tropics or within about 30 degrees of the equator are getting hotter and more humid on average. Even, mornings and night are getting warmer too. This can have a **series of cascading health impacts**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

How is India impacted by rising heat?

One of the most intense locations on Earth which is mostly hot and humid is the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

India also has a high number of people working outdoors, doing manual labour in agriculture, construction, etc. which involves working out in the sun, lifting loads and lacking heat protection. Therefore, **In India, there are a lot of people which generates internal body heat and this becomes worse by high heat and humidity.** This ultimately leads to various health impacts.

Moreover, half of the labour lost to human heat exposure around the world is in India.

China is also impacted given that its large populations live in eastern China which is low-lying and near the coast where it is hotter and more humid seasonally.

However, from various observations, **India seems the most impacted in terms of lost labour productivity.** This can have economic impact on India.

How is heat and deforestation linked?

The emission of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere is causing global warming and the temperature is expected to increase more in the future.

In such a situation, **deforestation raises temperatures locally because trees conduct photosynthesis and evapotranspiration which cools the surrounding environment.**

Therefore, across tropical rainforest regions, **there is a strong association between deforestation and temperatures increasing from half a degree to several degrees Celsius locally.**

What are some important mitigation measures that can be adopted?

Some of the measures that can be adopted are – **a)** work hours might be shifted from the hottest hours to cooler periods, **b)** local regulation should be brought up to prevent workers from working during the hottest hours and **c)** workers should be allowed to rest in those periods and their resting place should be in the shade, with cool, clean drinking water available to tackle dehydration.

[17. Trade data points to slowing global and domestic demand](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “Express View: Trade data points to slowing global and domestic demand” published in “The Indian Express” on 15th April 2023.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian economy

Relevance- Issues related to trade

News- Trade data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Thursday provides an indication of the headwinds to growth.

What are important takeaways from recently released data?

India’s merchandise exports and imports have now declined in three of the last four months.

Tight financial conditions across the world have slowed down **global and domestic demand.**

As per the latest data, **merchandise exports** contracted by almost 14% in March and imports fell by around 8%.

How was the performance of the export and import sector in fiscal year 2022-23?

Merchandise exports were \$447 billion in 2022-23. It is 6% up from \$422 billion in 2021-22.

If we exclude non-oil exports, exports in the full year were actually lower than the year before. Electronic goods have registered a significant expansion. Rice exports, gems and jewelry, cotton, man-made yarn, textiles as well as engineering goods, have shown poor performance.

If oil and gems and jewelry are excluded, imports in March were lower than in the same period the year before.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

The latest data also shows that the **merchandise trade deficit** widened to \$267 billion in 2022-23, from \$191 billion in 2021-22.

What is the future scenario of trade in India?

The **International Monetary Fund** has pegged global growth at 2.8% in 2023, down from 3.4% in 2022. So, exports are likely to come under further pressure in the months ahead.

A **deep contraction in merchandise exports** will slow down the manufacturing sector in India. It will have an impact on **overall domestic economic activity**.

Both exports and imports are likely to remain weak this year. The extent of domestic demand as compared to external demand will determine the country's **overall current account deficit**.

18. [Tiger numbers can never tell the whole story](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“Tiger numbers can never tell the whole story”** published in **live mint** on **15th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment – Biodiversity Conservation

Relevance: Wildlife Conservation

News – On 9 April, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the **latest tiger numbers**. We have about **3,167 tigers in India**. The last estimation in 2018 counted **2,967 tigers**.

What are the genetic variations in Tigers?

Except for the Western Ghats, these populations are **quite small**, and this is a matter of concern. The tigers in Satkosia have **gone extinct**.

According to the 2018 census, Valmiki has about 30 tigers.

The Simlipal tigers are famed for their **broad black stripes**, rather than the traditional orange-yellow and black.

The 2022 report also points out that the North-East hill tiger population could be the result of **gene flow from the South-East Asian tigers** of Myanmar.

What are the two main management challenges?

One is the question of **repopulating reserves** that don't have tigers. In areas like Satkosia, tigers can be brought in, but they have to be from a related genetic cluster.

The second is the **issue of connecting tiger habitats** so tigers can disperse naturally and create viable populations.

What are the recent amendments to the 1980 Forest (Conservation) Act in this regard?

The proposed clause suggests that forests around highways, public roads, railways, or public amenities of a certain size **should not be considered forests**. It opens forest areas to non-forest users.

It proposes that the **construction of linear projects within 100 km** of the international border and concerning “strategic” or “national importance”, should be exempt from the Act.

What is the way forward?

There is a need to make tigers a **cross-cutting concern** with all departments and to bypass forests that have tigers.

The less effective option is to make **roads underground or overhead**, a form of “green infrastructure”.

Tiger numbers can only go up if the animal is allowed to walk and then secure its own land. Further, tigers have genetic clusters within India and there is a **need to bolster numbers within these distinct populations**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

19. IT rules are a step towards denying misinformation space on the internet

Source: The post is based on the following articles

“The ‘fact check’ is that Indians will have little choice” published in **The Hindu** on **15th April 2023**.

“IT rules are a step towards denying misinformation space on the internet” published in the **Indian Express** on **15th April 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 3: role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges.

Relevance: About amendments to IT Rules.

News: The government recently notified amendments to Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules.

About the amendments to IT Rules

Read here: [IT Ministry notifies body to flag ‘fake’ content about govt](#)

What is the rationale behind the recent amendment to IT Rules?

Regulating misinformation: Misinformation operations for cyberwarfare by state and non-state actors have utilised social media platforms to create civic unrest and for radicalisation and terror recruitment.

In recent times, Covid misinformation, fake cures, financial market misinformation and AI deep fakes have caused and will cause tremendous social and economic harm.

Regulate the state and non-state actor activities: Attacks from state and non-state actor activities against India have become more sophisticated. For example, **a)** recently, The Washington Post exposed Khalistani elements using bots to conduct misinformation operations against the Indian government, **b)** In 2019, a network of accounts and pages managed by Pakistan’s ISPR were engaged in malicious, coordinated activity against India on social media platforms.

The scale and diversity of India’s Internet users: India’s internet users vary from children to the elderly. So, proper regulation of information going on the platform is essential.

Note: Rule 3(1)(n) explicitly provides that the fundamental rights of Indian citizens cannot be violated by any platform.

Lax in the enforcement of older IT rules by intermediaries: Under Rule (3) of previous IT Rules, there were nine no-go areas for content on social media, if the platforms were to continue to operate with legal immunity under Section 79. These included child sexual abuse material, religious incitement and misinformation.

But, due to new challenges like AI/deep fakes and the proliferation of anonymous users, bots and fake accounts, the social media intermediaries’ were sloppy in the implementation of the rule (3). This is creating a situation where no one could be held accountable for the content that was false or illegal.

Need a fact-checking government body: This is because **a)** The government was a target of most misinformation operations, **b)** Only the government has access to government data, **c)** any non-governmental entity might not effectively check all the data which is related to government.

International commitment: The G20 Leaders **Bali Declaration of 2022** highlighted the need to counter disinformation campaigns as an essential requirement to prevent online threats and promote cyber security.

Must read: [Amendment to IT Rules and regulating fake news – Explained, pointwise](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of April [Second Week] 2023

What are the concerns associated with amendments to IT Rules?

No safeguards: Natural justice requires a transparent process, where a person is provided a fair chance of a hearing and given a legal order. No such safeguard exists in the IT Rules, which could result in a black box of government censorship.

Prevent readers from developing a critical understanding: With the new powers, the government can take down posts swiftly. Thus making the posts inaccessible not only on social media but also on the website of the news portal. Hence, it will prevent readers from developing a critical understanding through a contestation of facts.

Against judicial observations:

-In the **State Of U.P. vs Raj Narain (1975) case**, the court observed that “the claim of the executive to have exclusive and conclusive power to determine what is in public interest is a claim based on the assumption that the executive alone knows what is best for the citizen”.

-In the **R. Rajagopal vs State Of T.N. (1994) case**, the SC observed said that “Our system of Government demands... constant vigilance over exercise of governmental power by the press and the media among others. It is essential for a good Government.”

Creates mistrust with government: The design of “fact checking body” which is not insulated, or formed with financial and functional autonomy makes them subservient to government and even political interests.

Read more: [Express View on IT Rules amendments: Government sets itself up as judge, jury and executioner](#)

20. No Trial Is Error – Allow prosecution of soldiers accused of killing innocents

Source: The post is based on the article “**No Trial Is Error – Allow prosecution of soldiers accused of killing innocents**” published in **The Times of India** on **15th April 2023**.

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

Relevance: About prosecution of soldiers.

News: In 2021, a commando unit opened fire and killed six coal miners in a counter-insurgency operation in Oting, Nagaland. Recently, the defence ministry has refused sanction for the prosecution of 30 army commandos allegedly responsible for the Oting massacre. The issue highlighted as the misuse of provisions of AFSPA which give sweeping powers to security personnel.

Why prosecution of soldiers is essential?

Security forces are forced to operate in difficult, often hostile, terrain. But that shouldn't translate into impunity when grave errors are made.

-Non-prosecution of soldiers will create a sense of injustice which might provide a fillip to the insurgency in the North East.

-Normalisation in the Northeast is directly linked to removal of AFSPA. From April 1, AFSPA is restricted to eight districts of Assam while it has been removed from 19 and 18 police station areas respectively in Manipur and Nagaland. In this situation, by ensuring fair trial and prosecution in the Oting case will increase government's trust.

Must read: [Armed Forces Special Powers Act \(AFSPA\) – Explained, pointwise](#)

What should be done?

Justice has to be provided, especially in the areas where the AFSPA continues to operate.