



9 PM

Compilation

15th to 20th May, 2023

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

General Studies - 1

1. [The cultural markers of urbanisation](#)

General Studies - 2

1. [This strategic-economic bloc will only tighten the leash](#)
2. [Even when women are breadwinners, they continue to shoulder bulk of domestic responsibilities](#)
3. [A Court recall that impacts the rights of the accused](#)
4. [Death by methanol](#)
5. [Haryana's new liquor policy: Drink to that](#)
6. [On sexual harassment in the workplace](#)
7. [Why spurious liquor kills](#)
8. [New Delhi and the New Washington Consensus](#)
9. [The rising tide of dictatorship](#)
10. [Just Not Justice – Seizure or destruction of property without following due procedure is a troubling misuse of executive power](#)
11. [New pension reform must reduce burden on future generations](#)
12. [How India's drug regulatory regime can ensure greater credibility for our pharma industry](#)
13. [Leaky Oil Borrell – on EU's stand over Russian Oil imports in India](#)
14. [About USCIRF report: Predictable counter – Introspection will do India good in areas where it faces international criticism](#)
15. [Two judgments and the principle of accountability](#)
16. [India's trade and economic ties with the EU are set to strengthen](#)
17. [About Hiroshima G7 Summit: In Hiroshima, En Route To A North-South Bridge](#)
18. [Poverty in India is yet again being overstated](#)
19. [A long-drawn test for India's diplomatic skills](#)
20. [PLI footprint in India-China trade](#)
21. [Why the Andhra HC struck down order seeking to regulate public assemblies, processions](#)
22. [Legal recognition for same-sex marriage is a natural consequence of the right to privacy](#)
23. [Tracking SDG progress the Bhopal way](#)
24. [On PM Modi's visit to Australia: Delhi to Canberra, a new journey](#)
25. [Allopathy Plus – Integrative medicine is well worth researching](#)

General Studies - 3

1. [Information warfare and its limitations](#)
2. [The nutritional value of millets](#)
3. [How to weather-proof food security](#)
4. [India's Quantum dreams: The impact of tech on economy could be significant](#)
5. [Digital India's two realities: A yawning gap between tech use & tech skills](#)
6. [Why India went nuclear 25 years ago](#)
7. [Women-dependency of Indian agriculture: Gender discrimination in farms](#)
8. [Is there room for a dairy behemoth?](#)
9. [Measuring India's manufacturing sector remains a data challenge](#)
10. [Basis for penalty in competition law](#)
11. [As president, India can guide G20's disaster management initiatives](#)
12. [Plainly Evident – India needs a cross-border insolvency framework soon as supply chains are global](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

13. [What are the gaps in the AePS transaction model?](#)
14. [The next step in climate efforts](#)
15. [Government's Open Network for Digital Commerce: An audacious idea](#)
16. [Tripping trade – India must not excessively rely on a few large markets](#)
17. [Climate trade barriers: Go for realistic idealism](#)
18. [Curbing defence imports](#)
19. [Safe farming – on Indiscriminate use of pesticides](#)
20. [Towards a National Innovation System](#)
21. [12-Hour Workday Won't Work](#)
22. [Why are financial regulators transitioning from LIBOR?](#)
23. [Regulating AI – on EU's draft Artificial Intelligence law](#)
24. [Express View on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code: Changes are needed to ensure its smooth functioning](#)
25. [More innovation, a skilled workforce: The promise in India's National Quantum Mission](#)
26. [Measuring success: Increasing PLI allocation will not be enough](#)
27. [Logistics makes the world go around](#)
28. [Warming warning – on WMO's report on increasing heat](#)
29. [Globalization will work better for Planet Earth than its alternative](#)
30. [Express View on new climate change report: It should lead to a review of Paris Climate Pact targets](#)
31. [About India's economic growth: A sustainable growth rate](#)

General Studies - 4

1. [Why the erosion of the traditional Indian family is worrying](#)

General Studies Paper – 1

General Studies - 1

1. [The cultural markers of urbanisation](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**The cultural markers of urbanisation**” published in the **Business Standard** on **18th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 1: Urbanisation, their problems and their remedies.

Relevance: About the cultural markers of urbanisation.

News: The impact of urbanisation is not only limited to the demographic composition of an area but also has a much more lasting and profound impact on the cultural fabric of that area.

How do cultural markers of urbanisation create a lasting impact on society?

Sociologists used to think that urbanisation was nothing more than a simple population shift from rural to urban areas. But that is not the reality. Individuals from many ethnic backgrounds choose to migrate and dwell in cities, creating cultural concentrations

Over time, people can become “urbanised” and exposed to various cultures if they live in urban regions for a long time. They absorb these concepts and take them back to their smaller towns or villages, thereby influencing their immediate environments. For instance, large retail convenience stores in smaller towns are a clear marker of urbanisation.

These transformations are not as transitory. Instead, they are permanent. So, urbanisation, like globalisation, is aiding the transformation of the culture of a city.

Must read: [A reminder of the flaws in India’s urbanisation policies](#)

Why India needs to pay attention to the cultural markers of urbanisation?

Increasing urban population: For the first time ever, in 2008, more people lived in cities than rural areas. About two-thirds of the world’s population is predicted to reside in urban regions by 2050 and more than half of the world’s population already living there.

GDP powerhouse: Further, metropolitan areas are thought to account for 70% of the global GDP. Cities serve as centres for trade, culture, research, productivity, and growth of society, the human race, and the economy. So, India needs to pay special attention to the cultural markers.

Cities might de-link from traditional culture: Urban development has historically centred on culture. Cities without culture are just concrete and steel structures that are prone to social decay and disintegration and do not exist as vibrant living areas.

Sustainable development issues: But, the government face challenges in cities’ sustainable development. The primary challenge includes maintaining the quality of urban life, safeguarding urban identities, valuing local cultures, and promoting cultural expressions, arts, and heritage as pillars of sustainable social and economic development.

Read more: [The cow and the city: How Maldharis challenge Gujarat’s ideas of urbanisation](#)

What should be done to ensure the sustainable development of cities?

A UNESCO report also highlights the interlinked role of culture in making cities more sustainable and invigorating their distinct identity. The report suggests that in order to ensure infrastructure and services are available to billions of people, **decent housing must be provided, green public spaces must be created, and social unrest and epidemics must be prevented.**

The current **emphasis on urbanisation should include cultural elements in urban policies** to ensure sustainability.

According to UN-Habitat’s “New Urban Agenda”, the focus is to make cities more sustainably developed, resilient and safe for human settlement and conducive to growth and prosperity. The New Urban Agenda must address these and other significant challenges.

General Studies Paper – 2

General Studies - 2

1. [This strategic-economic bloc will only tighten the leash](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “This strategic-economic bloc will only tighten the leash” published in “The Hindu” on 15th May 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relations

News- India is negotiating the U.S.-driven Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF).

Why is India prioritising free trade bloc that include the US rather than China?

The one clear difference is **China versus the U.S.** India’s **top foreign policy priority** is developing a **strategic partnership** with the US. Its relationship with China has further deteriorated.

The big economic fear in the case of China is the **free trade deal’s impact** on India’s manufacturing sector due to cheap Chinese goods.

What are issues related to IPEF?

The **economic issues** with the U.S. have been no less problematic. These are related to **agriculture, intellectual property, labour and environment standards, and the digital economy.**

Strategic partnership is not about accepting a completely U.S. **self-interest-driven economic framework** that does not suit India’s current economic interests.

Traditionally, trade deals used to be **mostly about tariffs.** But issues related to **intellectual property, services, investment, domestic regulation, digital, and labour and environmental standards,** are becoming more important.

The U.S. ‘s IPEF proposal is entirely about all these other areas. The U.S. has also found a tariffs-free trade deal as a good way to **deal with the resistance** of many countries to free trade agreements.

IPEF’s **‘new age’ language** itself is the biggest trap. As per experts, the IPEF would result in a **complete control over the economic systems** of the participating countries by the US.

The IPEF is about developing a **strategic-economic bloc.** It is about an **integrated economic system** centred on the U.S. that excludes China.

The **systemic integration** caused by the IPEF’s will leave little room for domestic policies to help a country’s own industrialisation.

Developing country trade negotiators are used to the **traditional language of free trade agreements.** They find it quite difficult to understand and respond to the IPEF’s language.

IPEF is proposed to be concluded by November 2023, and real engagements only began late last year. Traditional free trade agreements take **years to conclude.** The US is rushing through IPEF.

What are the long-term economic implications of IPEF?

In the long run, IPEF will have a stronger effect on **economic and trade flows.** In the digitalising world, giving up **policy spaces in key areas** such as digital, labour and environment, and export constraints, would take the form of an **economic dependency.**

The IPEF can have **implications in agriculture,** in terms of genetically modified seeds and food. It could mean surrendering policy space for regulating Big Tech.

The country can compromise a **comparative advantage in manufacturing** due to unfair labour and environment standards.

It will also seriously affect India’s ability to create a **vibrant domestic ecosystem** in emerging areas such as a **digital economy and green products.**

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

2. [Even when women are breadwinners, they continue to shoulder bulk of domestic responsibilities](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Even when women are breadwinners, they continue to shoulder bulk of domestic responsibilities**” published in **The Indian Express** on **16th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Issues Associated with Women

Relevance: problems faced by women in managing work and household responsibilities.

News: The article discusses the findings of Women at Work report, published by Deloitte.

What are the findings of the report?

As per the report, **only 15 percent of working women split daily tasks equally with their partner**. The rest bear the burden of household responsibilities while simultaneously being breadwinners.

As per the report, **53 percent of women have higher levels of stress and mental health issues** than their global counterparts.

The report highlights that **42 per cent of women take on the sole responsibility of household tasks along with their job**.

This shows that men never regard household duties as their responsibilities. Instead, they always see household duties as the responsibility of females.

The survey further shows that even when men and women earn equally, **it is the women disproportionately responsible for childcare**.

When it comes to childcare, women tend to take more flexible work options to balance both ends while men exclude themselves from such responsibilities.

The survey further founded that **70 percent of women accepted the larger household role**, saying their partner is the primary earner.

However, the fact is that women step back and opt-out for promotions, making men the bigger earner by default.

Moreover, **men utilize this “stay at home” privilege as a justification** for neglecting domestic duties because society as a whole supports it as a “strictly” maternal domain.

However, if men want to opt for childcare, **there is no support for them from the policy makers as there is no paternity leaves available for new fathers**.

This is in contrast to developed societies in the West. **For example**, Finland allows seven months of leave for employees, male or female.

What can be the way ahead?

Policymakers need to look at paid paternity leave because this will encourage fathers to take part in childcare and become sensitive to the mother’s needs. Otherwise, Indian women will continue to struggle with responsibilities.

Moreover, **91 percent of women are unhappy that their organizations** aren’t taking any steps to ensure gender diversity, stop them from quitting or support policy decisions taken by them.

If these headwinds continue, India will lose its competitive edge to representational biases.

3. [A Court recall that impacts the rights of the accused](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “A Court recall that impacts the rights of the accused” published in “The Hindu” on 16th May 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Indian constitution

Relevance- Issues related to fundamental rights

News- On May 12, in its interim order, the Supreme Court clarified that courts could grant default bail without relying on the Ritu Chhabaria judgement.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

What are provisions related to bail in the Indian legal system?

The **right to statutory bail** is available to accused persons in cases when the investigating agency fails to complete its investigation within the **stipulated time**. It is often known as **default bail**.

Under **Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC)**, the maximum time available to investigators is 60 or 90 days. It depends on the seriousness of the offence.

If the authorities are unable to complete the investigation within this time period, the accused can apply for default bail under Section 167(2) of the CrPC.

The right to bail has been described by the Court in multiple judgments as an **indefeasible right**. It flows from **Article 21 of the Constitution**.

In **Achpal vs State of Rajasthan (2018)**, the Court held that an investigation report filed by an unauthorised investigating officer, would not bar the accused from availing default bail.

In **S. Kasi vs State (2020)**, the Court further stated that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, the investigating agencies would not be allowed any relaxation for the **maximum stipulated period** of investigation. It could lead to additional detention of the accused.

Why are provisions related to bail not effective?

These protections related to bail have **eroded in practice**. Investigating authorities routinely filed **incomplete or supplementary charge sheets** within the 60/90 day period, to prevent the accused from **seeking default bail**.

In other instances, the investigating authorities would file charge sheets, incomplete or otherwise, after the 60/90 day period. It is **before the default bail application** could be filed by the accused.

What are SC viewpoints in the Ritu Chhabaria case?

The Supreme Court's decision in **Ritu Chhabaria** delegitimizes such illegal practices. It held that **incomplete charge sheets** filed by the police would not bar an accused from applying for default bail.

The Court emphasised that the **preliminary or incomplete nature** of these police reports revealed that the investigation was not complete.

In **Jasbir Singh (2023)**, the Supreme Court held that a complete charge sheet filed within time could not be rejected because the investigation did not have sanction.

Why is the SC decision to recall its judgement in the Ritu Chhabaria case is alarming?

Right to default bail could be made **subservient to concerns of 'difficulties'** faced by investigative authorities.

The Supreme Court also agreed to defer decisions on bail for accused persons across the country as per **Ritu Chhabaria case guidelines**. It makes the matter even more serious.

4. [Death by methanol](#)

Source: This post has been created based on the article "**Death by methanol**", published in **The Hindu** on 16th May 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2 – Governance – Government policies for various sectors

News: In two recent incidents in north Tamil Nadu, 17 people died and 50 were hospitalized after consuming spurious or illicit liquor.

Notably, these incidents occurred just one month after the state government reported no such alcohol-related incidents over the last 14 years.

Also, NCRB and union government reported a significant reduction in deaths caused by illegal alcohol from 2016 to 2021.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

What measures were taken by the Tamil Nādu Government?

Since 2002, methanol has been brought under the ambit of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition Act, 1937. Methanol is said to be the main reason behind hooch tragedies.

Tamil Nadu Denatured Spirit, Methyl Alcohol and Varnish (French Polish) Rules, 1959 was also amended to control methanol supply.

What are the shortcomings behind these incidents?

The recent events highlight administrative shortcomings, including insufficient regulation of methanol and a lack of monitoring of cheaper brews that compete with official retail outlets.

These incidents underscore the need for a consistent and thorough policy to tackle the issue of illegal alcohol, along with a strict commitment to zero tolerance for this issue.

Top of Form

5. [Haryana's new liquor policy: Drink to that](#)

Source: This post has been created based on the article “**Haryana's new liquor policy: Drink to that**”, published in Indian Express on 16th May 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2 – Governance – Government policies for various sectors

News: The Haryana government has announced its new liquor policy.

This policy allows certain offices to sell booze on the premises. The eligibility criterions are over 5,000 employees, office space of at least 1 lakh sq feet and a canteen over 2,000 sq feet.

What is the significance of Haryana's new liquor policy?

Taxes on liquor contribute a significant share to many states' own revenue. This policy will increase this tax revenue from corporates instead of common men.

It will train the people to develop the habit of responsible drinking. It is because, employees tend to remain discipline around their bosses and colleagues.

6. On sexual harassment in the workplace

Source: The post is based on the article “**On sexual harassment in the workplace**” published in **The Hindu** on **16th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 2: Mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of vulnerable sections.

Relevance: About issues with the PoSH Act.

News: The Supreme Court Bench of India has said there are “serious lapses” and “uncertainty” regarding the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (PoSH).

How was the PoSH Act formed?

In 1997 as part of the Vishaka judgment, the Supreme Court laid down specific guidelines known as Vishaka guidelines. The guidelines focused on the prevention of sexual harassment of women at the workplace.

After this, the Protection of Women against Sexual Harassment at Workplace Bill was introduced. It was later tabled in Parliament and went through amendments. The amended Bill came into force in 2013, as the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) or PoSh Act.

What is the Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act, 2013?

Must Read: [Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace\(prevention, prohibition and redressal\) Act, 2013](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

The law expands the definition of 'workplace' beyond traditional offices to include all kinds of organisations across sectors, even non-traditional workplaces. It applies to all public and private sector organisations throughout India.

The law requires any employer with more than 10 employees to form an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC).

The Act mandates every district in the country to create a local committee to receive complaints from women working in firms with less than 10 employees and from the informal sector.

The employer has to file an annual audit report with the district officer about the number of sexual harassment complaints filed and actions taken at the end of the year.

What are the observations made by the Supreme Court on the PoSH Act?

Read more: [Lack of committees against sexual harassment is disquieting, says SC](#)

Improper constitution of ICCs: The majority of the ICCs either had an inadequate number of members or lacked a mandatory external member.

Lack of responsibility: The Act does not satisfactorily address accountability. For instance, the Act does not specify who is in charge of ensuring workplace adherence to the Act, and who can be held responsible if its provisions are not followed.

-Law is largely **inaccessible to women workers in the informal sector.**

-Sexual harassment is hugely underreported for a number of reasons such as the power dynamics of organisations, fear of professional repercussions, etc.

7. [Why spurious liquor kills](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Why spurious liquor kills**" published in **The Hindu** on **17th May 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Issues related to Health**

Relevance: concerns associated with the consumption of liquor

News: Recently, 22 people had died after consuming spurious liquor in the Chengalpattu and Villupuram districts of Tamil Nadu. The article explains the harmful impact of alcohol and measures needed to treat those.

What is the alcohol in liquor?

Liquor is differentiated by its alcohol content, e.g., beer has 5% alcohol while wine has 12%.

Alcohol, which is frequently consumed, is known scientifically as ethanol.

The **World Health Organisation** has found that "no level of ethanol consumption is safe for our health". **Long-term use leads to** dependence, increases the risk of various diseases, and may eventually cause death.

How does ethanol affect the body?

Ethanol is a psychoactive drug that, in low doses, reduces the level of neurotransmission in the body, leading to its typical intoxicating effects.

Ethanol, inside the body, is metabolised in the liver and the stomach by alcohol dehydrogenase (**ADH**) enzymes to acetaldehyde. Aldehyde dehydrogenase (**ALDH**) enzymes transform the acetaldehyde into acetate.

Acetaldehyde becomes the main reason for harmful effects of ethanol in the body.

What is spurious liquor?

Spurious liquor is characterised by the liquid mixture containing **methanol along with ethanol.**

Methanol is added in the liquor to strengthen the intoxicating effects and/or to increase its bulk volume.

The **Food Safety and Standards (Alcoholic Beverages) Regulations 2018** has provided standard for the maximum permissible quantity of methanol in different liquors.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

What is methanol?

Methanol is commonly produced by combining carbon monoxide and hydrogen in the presence of copper and zinc oxides as catalysts at 50-100 atm of pressure and 250°C.

Methanol has several industrial applications including the production of acetic acid, formaldehyde, and aromatic hydrocarbons. It is also used as a solvent and as antifreeze.

Use of methanol is governed by various central and state laws. **For example**, the Indian Standard IS 517, specifies how to determine the quality of methanol.

Whereas, the Tamil Nadu Denatured Spirit, Methyl Alcohol, and Varnish (French Polish) Rules 1959, specifies what labelling and packaging requirements should be present for methanol.

How does spurious liquor kill?

The deadliness of spurious liquor arises from methanol. Once ingested, methanol is metabolised in the liver by ADH enzymes to form formaldehyde.

ALDH enzymes convert formaldehyde to formic acid. The accumulation of formic acid leads to a condition called **metabolic acidosis**.

Acidosis can lead to acidemia, a condition wherein the blood's pH drops below its normal value of 7.35, becoming increasingly acidic.

Formic acid also interferes with an enzyme called cytochrome oxidase, which in turn disrupts cells' ability to use oxygen and leads to the formation of lactic acid, contributing to acidosis. This ultimately leads to death.

How can methanol-poisoning be treated?

First, pharmaceutical-grade ethanol should be administered by healthcare workers because ethanol checks methanol from being metabolised to formaldehyde. Thus, preventing it from becoming poisonous.

Second, Fomepizole should be administered. It slows the action of the ADH enzymes, causing the body to produce formaldehyde at a rate that the body can quickly excrete, preventing the deadlier effects.

Third, healthcare workers may also recommend dialysis to eliminate methanol and formic acid salts from the blood. They can also administer folic acid, which encourages the formic acid to break up into carbon dioxide and water.

8. [New Delhi and the New Washington Consensus](#)

Source- The post is based on the article "New Delhi and the New Washington Consensus" published in the "Business Standard" on 17th May 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relations

Relevance- India and changing economic order

News- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the G7 summit in Hiroshima this week, the Quad summit in Canberra the week after. There are bilateral visits to Washington and Paris in June and July.

The restructuring of the global economic order will be high on India's bilateral and multilateral agenda.

What are geoeconomic changes being unleashed by the competition unfolding between the US and China?

The **geoeconomic competition** between Washington and Beijing had begun to develop in the Trump years. President Joe Biden has intensified it and provided an **ideological framework**.

In a major speech late last month, US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan outlined a **set of policy initiatives** to pursue the geoeconomic contestation with China.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

The US is seeking **wider international consensus** on the **new economic approach** from its allies and partners, including India. Some are calling the Biden initiatives as efforts to build a **“New Washington Consensus”**.

Sullivan’s speech criticises **conventional economic wisdom** and a call for a **transformation of the global economic order**.

What are several challenges highlighted by Sullivan that have arisen from the old Washington Consensus and inflicted damage on the US economy?

“Markets know best” approach led to the hollowing out of the **US industrial base**. There is importance of the markets. But, in the name of **oversimplified market efficiency**, **entire supply chains of strategic goods** along with the industries and jobs moved overseas.

There was a notion that **“all growth was good growth”**. This led to the **privileging of some sectors** like finance and neglected other **essential sectors** like semiconductors and infrastructure. US **industrial capacity** took a real hit.

Old assumption that **economic integration** would make nations more **responsible and open**, and that the global order would be **more peaceful and cooperative**.

The **integration** of a **“large non-market economy”** like China into the WTO created many problems. **Economic integration** didn’t stop China from expanding its **military ambitions** in the region.

Emphasise on **“just and efficient transition”** to **green economic growth** and reducing **economic inequality** at home that has undermined **American democracy**.

What are the solutions offered by Sullivan?

Sullivan offers a **five-fold policy framework**.

Return to industrial policy that was responsible for US economic development historically but was dismissed by **economic neoliberalism** in the last few decades.

He advocates the US’s friends and partners to look beyond **traditional trade policies**. The US-proposed **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework** is not a free trade agreement.

In today’s world, trade policy needs to be about more than **tariff reduction**. The focus should be on developing **diversified and resilient supply chains**, promoting **clean energy transition**, and **massive infrastructure** that supports the rapidly expanding **global digital economy**.

The US should mobilise investment into emerging economies with **local solutions**, but with capital enabled by a **different brand of US economic diplomacy**.

This involves offering an alternative to **China’s Belt and Road Initiative**, **addressing the global debt crisis**, and reforming multilateral development banks.

There is a need to develop a **new set of export controls on sensitive technology** that will limit national security threats from China and other rivals.

What are the choices for India?

The US is ready for **substantive engagement** with its partners. India must be ready to respond. There are many common areas of engagement, like **China’s geoeconomic challenge**, the dangers of **dogmatic commitment to globalisation**, **technological cooperation** among like-minded partners, building **resilient supply chains**, addressing the **economic concerns of the Global South**, and reforming the **global financial institutions**.

There will also be many disagreements on the **identification of priorities** and the **details of the specific outcomes** in rearranging the **global economic order**.

It must be viewed as a historic opportunity for India. As one of the world’s leading economies, India can and should actively **reshape the global economic order**.

9. [The rising tide of dictatorship](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “The rising tide of dictatorship” published in “The Hindu” on 17th May 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity

Relevance- Threats to democracy

News- The article explains the subversion of democracy by majoritarian forces in current times.

What are the factors that lead to the rise of dictatorship?

History often repeats itself, especially when people forget that **war or dictatorship or ethnic conflicts** are not a solution to any issue.

Humanity still has not learnt from the **brutal regimes** that brought violence and bloodshed. Lessons from history fade away and nations continue to repeat these mistakes.

Revolutions, like those in France and Russia, gave an **individual, absolute power**. These emerged as **failed empires under brutal dictatorships**.

Widespread **corruption, high crime rates, governmental incompetence**, and the **rule of law** fail to awaken humanity. Such conditions give rise to **“strong man” politics**.

Dictatorships are forgotten by the public. People blindly begin to put faith in a leadership that projects **competence and ability** to advance the **welfare of the people and the country**.

After Stalin’s brutal regime, Cuban revolutionaries allowed their **charismatic revolutionary leader** to seize absolute power.

There is abuse of **modern communication technology** by **authoritarian regimes** for **propaganda**. It gives birth to **manipulative dictatorships**.

In current times, **technological means** are used to **subjugate public opinion**. Hitler and Stalin are replaced by Russia’s Putin, Peru’s Fujimori, Venezuela’s Chavez, Hungary’s Orbán and Turkey’s Erdoğan.

How is democracy being subverted in current times?

This is an era of **strident nationalism and xenophobia**. The hopes of a **new world of progress, harmony and democracy** have turned into despair.

Over the last few decades, use of violence as a **weapon for retaining power** has reduced.

Technology is used to **manipulate and govern public opinion** through deceit, lies, and deceptions under the guise of **safeguarding the institution of democracy**.

For **reliability and acceptance**, **“non-democratic leaders”** allow a certain amount of dissent in the independent media. **Complete censorship** is replaced by **indiscriminate regulations**.

Elections are made to look **fair and honest**, through **money, manipulation** and the creation of a **cult leadership**.

Mass use of force and subjugation has gradually converted into **majoritarian brute force**. It is supported by a **subservient media** that tactfully spins a **public discourse** which seems to be democratic. But, in reality it is a **far right wing agenda**.

This is apparently different from North Korea’s Kim Jong-Un, Syria’s Bashar al-Assad, or Saudi Arabia’s Mohammed bin Salman, who openly use **subjugation, expurgation and physical punishment** to remain in power.

Right-wing intellectuals continually make efforts to **strengthen the discourse of nationalism** through the politics of **image building and exceptionalism**. It captures the attention of the masses.

Criticism is pushed to the fringes while the **dominant party discourse** remains in full force. It is done through **brain-washing the public** with doublespeak and sophisticated means of **surveillance and propaganda**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

[10. Just Not Justice – Seizure or destruction of property without following due procedure is a troubling misuse of executive power](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Just Not Justice – Seizure or destruction of property without following due procedure is a troubling misuse of executive power**” published in **The Times of India** on **17th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About the seizure or destruction of property by the state.

News: Recently, the Allahabad high court’s Lucknow bench has directed the state government to return the seized property of a gangster. This is because the seizure wasn’t preceded by an inquiry into whether the property had been acquired illegally.

What are the High Court’s observations regarding the seizure or destruction of property by the state?

The court also observed that there is a growing number of appeals filed by alleged or convicted criminals and peaceful protesters whose properties have been seized or bulldozed by state machinery without following due process.

What are the issues associated with the seizure or destruction of property by the state?

The immediate seizure or destruction of property by state machinery is **seen as “summary punishment”** even before investigators can decide whether the seizure of property or its destruction, is warranted or lawful. For example, the houses of three accused in a gangrape case in MP’s Rewa has nothing to do with the crime they committed.

When governments and police take this summary punishment route, many lower court judges sanction these actions. Essentially, it means the executive has arrogated themselves with extra-judicial powers.

Last year, a group of former judges of HCs and the SC called the apex court’s attention to the sweeping seizures of property and the use of bulldozers in a number of states. They called these as “an unacceptable subversion of the rule of law”.

What should be done?

The Bengal government this year made its law on property seizure and fines more stringent to deter the destruction of public property during protests. The law’s effectiveness and fair application will come down to the quality and fairness of policing.

The state machinery’s application of improper seizure or destruction of property is not proper governance and not justice too.

[11. New pension reform must reduce burden on future generations](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article “**New pension reform must reduce burden on future generations**” published in **Indian Express** on 18th May 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2 – Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes

Context: Recently, Government has constituted a committee to “improve” the NPS.

The issue of government employees’ pensions is a critical issue. Five states in India have already announced a shift from the New Pension Scheme (NPS) back to the old defined-benefit (DB) Pension Scheme (OPS). The Indian government is taking steps to improve NPS due to its growing importance.

Read about – [Old Pension Scheme and New Pension Scheme](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

What are the challenges of New Pension Scheme (NPS)?

NPS funds are invested in market-linked securities. It has given an impressive annual return over 9% since its inception. However, there is a risk of lower future returns due to global trends of lower interest rates.

Therefore, NPS suffers from market risk and might end up with a reduced pension annuity.

What are the issues with Old Pension Scheme (OPS)?

First, it is neither funded nor fiscally sustainable.

Second, by the year 2100, the dependency ration of India will increase 5 times. The World Health Organisation's life expectancy simulations show that for people aged 60, life expectancy would increase from 18 to 27.9 years in this period. Therefore, pension support period will increase by 55 per cent just this century.

Third, the OPS employees currently get pension at 50 per cent of their last drawn salary. This pension further increases with a dearness allowance (DA) to account for inflation, twice every year. If 25 years post-retirement is counted, this pension increases exponentially with higher DA.

Fourth, in OPS, current workers finance those who are retired.

Fifth, with pension costs rising faster than revenue growth, this could potentially lead to decreased development expenditure and increased borrowing, leading to a debt trap.

Sixth, the base for determining the pension is the highest drawn salary instead of some average of earnings over the career followed globally.

What should be done?

A sustainable pension reform should retain contributions and the NPS fund management but avoid periodic increases in the annuity. The government could guarantee a certain percentage of the last drawn salary as a fixed annuity pension.

However, these guarantees should consider the declining trend in global interest rates and India's economic development stage, both of which could reduce nominal returns on the pension corpus. Additional benefits, like extending pension to the spouse and providing health and life insurance benefits, can be considered.

[12. How India's drug regulatory regime can ensure greater credibility for our pharma industry](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article **"How India's drug regulatory regime can ensure greater credibility for our pharma industry"** published in **Indian Express** on 18th May 2023.

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

Context: In the absence of effective regulations of pharmaceuticals industry, many casualties have taken place due to consumption of faulty medicines.

In January 2020, 12 children in Jammu died after consuming contaminated medicine manufactured by Digital Vision.

6 months later, a two-year-old from Himachal Pradesh died after consuming Cofset cough syrup, manufactured from the same company.

What are the issues associated with regulating pharmaceutical industry?

India has 36 drug regulatory bodies; however, an alarming number of drugs have recently failed to meet quality standards. For example, in February 2021, Global Pharma Healthcare had to recall a batch of eye drops exported to the US due to links with vision loss. Indian manufactured cough syrups caused many deaths in Gambia and Uzbekistan in 2022

Between November 2019 and November 2022, the **US FDA raised 60 Official Action Indications (OAI)s against Indian pharmaceutical companies**. It was found that **procedures**

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

to prevent **microbiological contamination** of drugs were not established or followed. Also, environmental monitoring programmes **do not include measures to control fungal contamination**.

Some of these actions led **to import alerts** preventing them from supplying to the US market. These compliance failures **can jeopardize India's reputation as a reliable drug manufacturing nation**.

3 per cent of all drugs in routine use — for hypertension, allergies and bacterial infections — were found to be substandard by regulatory inspectors.

What steps can be taken by government?

Despite the negative publicity, several countries still seek access to Indian generics. Therefore, the Indian pharmaceutical industry must take up the challenge and strive for zero defects in its products.

First, the Drugs and Cosmetics Act (1940) should be amended, and a centralised drug database should be created for effective surveillance of all pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Second, India's 36 regional regulators should be merged into a single body.

Third, setting common standards across states could help reduce the risk of inconsistent regulatory enforcement.

Fourth, India has more than 10000 pharmaceutical manufacturing units. To cover all, additional budgetary support is needed to enhance inspection teams and enable more frequent quality-related inspections.

Fifth, increased transparency and credibility is required by public access to detailed notes of drug application reviews, past violations, inspection records, and failure history.

Sixth, there should be clear penalties for firms exporting spurious drugs, a public database of safety data, and a national law on drug recall.

Seventh, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) needs to be reinforced with statutory backing and should be independent.

13. [Leaky Oil Borrell – on EU's stand over Russian Oil imports in India](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article "**Leaky Oil Borrell**" published in **Times of India** on 18th May 2023.

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

News: Josep Borrell, the EU foreign affairs representative, criticized India for supposedly violating sanctions on Russia. However, the EU's executive vice-president called for a more diplomatic approach, suggesting the EU and India should talk about the issue as friends.

This criticism was based on the report by Finnish research agency, Crea. It reported that India was bypassing sanctions on Russia. This was due to the EU buying Indian diesel and petrol made from Russian oil.

What is the background of these allegation?

As part of their sanctions on Russia, G7 nations had set the oil price limit at \$60 per barrel last year. India then started buying more Russian oil, such that by March 2023, Russian oil made up 35% of India's oil imports, up from just 1% before February 2022.

The EU has profited from this as it is India's third largest trading partner. Much of their trade includes oil products, with India now exporting nearly 3.8 million tonnes of oil products to the EU, the G7, and others.

India has been supplying a lot of oil products to Europe, and this supply has tripled since Russia invaded Ukraine.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Crea reported that the EU was simply buying the same oil products from India that they used to buy directly from Russia. Therefore, it proposed a “place of origin” certification for products sold to the EU.

What is India’s stand on this criticism?

The foreign minister argued that once Russian crude oil is substantially processed in another country, it’s no longer considered Russian.

India is within its rights to import crude oil and export the processed products, regardless of the oil’s original source.

14. [About USCIRF report: Predictable counter – Introspection will do India good in areas where it faces international criticism](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Predictable counter – Introspection will do India good in areas where it faces international criticism**” published in **The Hindu** on **18th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About USCIRF’s International Religious Freedom Report.

News: For the fourth consecutive year, the government rejected the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom’s (USCIRF) latest report, calling it “biased and motivated”.

What is the USCIRF’s International Religious Freedom Report?

Read here: [International Religious Freedom Report](#)

About the latest USCIRF’s International Religious Freedom Report 2023 and issues with the report

Read here: [USCIRF’s International Religious Freedom Report: Present imperfect – Irrespective of what the USCIRF says, India must review its rights record](#)

The report release was followed by a briefing by a senior official. He said according to the U.S. Holocaust Museum, which tracks majoritarian trends, India is ranked eighth among 162 countries on the risk of “mass killing”, a serious allegation.

What India should do?

India might come up with its own report on the state of religious freedom in the country to counter it. Further, India should introspect into the areas where it faces international criticism. The government must also devise more comprehensive methods for rejecting any unsubstantiated and unfounded challenges to India’s reputation.

15. [Two judgments and the principle of accountability](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Two judgments and the principle of accountability**” published in **The Hindu** on **18th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About SC judgments on Maharashtra and Delhi.

News: Recently, two Constitution Benches of the Supreme Court of India delivered important judgments. One is the Shiv Sena case and the other is regarding the administrative services in Delhi.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

What are the SC judgments on these cases?

Must read: [SC verdict on the Shiv Sena case: Key takeaways from Supreme Court's Maharashtra verdict](#) [SC verdict on control over services: What tilted scales in Delhi's favour](#)

How did the two judgments are in contradiction to the core principle of each other?

According to M.R. Madhavan, the Maharashtra judgment contradicts the core principle applied in the Delhi case. He explains this using **a)** triple chain of command, **b)** daily assessment by the legislature.

Triple chain of command:

SC's Delhi judgment adheres to the principle of triple chain of command: The issue in the Delhi case the court held that the civil services in the Delhi government would be accountable to the Delhi cabinet and not to the Union government. This entails a **triple chain of command:** civil service officers are accountable to Ministers; Ministers are accountable to the legislature; and the legislature is accountable to the electorate. According to the court judgment, severance of any link of this triple chain would be antithetical to parliamentary democracy.

SC's Maharashtra judgment is against the triple chain of command: In the Maharashtra case, the SC ruled that the Tenth Schedule makes a differentiation between the legislature party and the political party. It determined that the power to issue directions was with the political party, and not the legislature party.

Therefore, the person in charge of the political party (who may not be a member of the legislature) would control every vote of the MLAs/MPs of that party. This reinforces the idea that the MP/MLA is not accountable to the electorate but only to the party. In doing so, it breaks the triple chain of accountability.

Must read: [Shiv Sena case and SC judgement – Explained, pointwise](#)

Daily assessment by the legislature:

In the Delhi judgment, the Court states that the government is assessed daily in the legislature through debates on Bills, questions raised during Question Hour, resolutions, debates and no-confidence motions.

But, in the Maharashtra judgment, the court states that the legislators of the party with a majority in the House have to abide by the directions of the political party. The party leadership controls the vote of its legislators on each issue. This makes the very idea of a daily assessment by the legislature meaningless.

Must read: [Supreme Court ruling on administrative services in Delhi – Explained, pointwise](#)

How anti-defection law led to this contradiction?

According to the author, the problem lies in the anti-defection law. He says that the law contradicts the democratic principle of accountability of legislators to their voters. The anti-defection law is based on the assumption that any vote by an MP/MLA against the party direction is a betrayal of the electoral mandate. This, according to the author, is an incorrect interpretation of representative democracy.

The constitutional design of a parliamentary democracy envisages a chain of accountability. The accountability of the government to the legislature is on a daily basis, and legislators have to justify their actions to their voters in every election. But, the anti-defection law turn over this design by breaking both links of the chain.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

What should be done to avoid this contradiction?

The court needs to relook at the 1992 Supreme Court judgment which upheld the anti-defection law.

16. [India's trade and economic ties with the EU are set to strengthen](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **"India's trade and economic ties with the EU are set to strengthen"** published in the **Livemint** on **18th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About India – EU trade and economic ties.

News: In 2022, India and the EU economies celebrated 60 years of their relationship with the relaunch of talks on a bilateral trade agreement. The latest Brussels visit of the Union Minister for Commerce and Industry has added momentum to the negotiations.

About India-EU Goods and services trade

India is one of the world's fastest-growing economies, so it offers EU investors an attractive alternative market to China.

-The EU is India's third largest trading partner, accounting for 10.8% of India's total trade in goods. In the last decade, trade in goods between the two economies rise by about 30%. The EU is a key export market for India.

India is the EU's 10th largest trading partner, accounting for 2.1% of the EU's total trade in goods. But this is well behind China's 16.2% and the US's 14.7%.

-Trade in services between India and the EU was around €30.4 billion in 2020.

-India has a positive trade balance with EU in many categories like agri-food products.

-Foreign investment from the EU to India has increased over the years. Over 6,000 European companies are present in India, which has led to significant job creation in the country.

Read more: [India EU – Free Trade Agreement Talks](#)

What is the potential of India – EU trade and economic ties?

-The India-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) could serve as a platform to address some of the issues between India and the EU.

-Indian companies have vast potential to enhance exports and diversify the export basket. India could develop successful business partnerships, enhance exports and attract investment from the EU.

-India and the EU are participating in trade discussions in multiple forums, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) and G20. India – EU collaboration can make trade more inclusive and growth-oriented for developing countries, building resilient global value chains (GVCs), integrating micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in global supply chains by using digital platforms, logistics for trade, and WTO reforms.

-India and the EU have already agreed to work together on common priorities covering issues like its dispute resolution mechanism, subsidies on agriculture and fisheries, and an e-commerce moratorium. Both sides recognize the need to build on their common goals to pursue consensus-based solutions. This will support livelihoods and nutrition security for millions in India and other developing countries.

-There is scope for attracting investment in the logistics sector with PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy of 2022.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

What are the challenges in the India – EU trade and economic ties?

EU has raised high-tariff-related concerns in sectors like dairy, alcoholic beverages and automobiles and auto components from India. On the other hand, the EU's carbon tax is a cause of worry for India.

India and the EU have several other issues, like the content of an investment agreement, intellectual property rights and tackling climate change challenges.

Read more: [India-EU free trade agreement: Why we need to change our approach to negotiations](#)

What needs to be done to enhance India – EU trade and economic ties further?

India and the EU's bilateral trade and investment flows can be enhanced through targeted interventions and collaborations. Such as, **a)** Creating joint-capacity building programmes for supporting MSMEs integration with GVCs, **b)** Support to startups in each other's market, **c)** Conducting joint research, innovation and skilling programmes, **d)** Ensuring collaboration and joint projects on sustainable food systems, etc.

To address issues related to technical standards and the mobility of professionals, **collaboration between regulatory bodies and mutual recognition agreements** is essential.

India should **explore the scope for collaborations** to attract more tourists from the EU, enhance exports of organic products and traditional medicine such as organic food, Yoga and Ayurveda.

17. [About Hiroshima G7 Summit: In Hiroshima, En Route To A North-South Bridge](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **"In Hiroshima, En Route To A North-South Bridge"** published in **The Times of India** on **19th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About India's participation in the Hiroshima G7 summit

News: Indian Prime Minister is travelling to Hiroshima, Japan to participate in the 49th G7 summit. For India, this will be the tenth participation.

What is G7?

Read more: [G7 – History and members](#)

G7 countries have around 45% of global GDP. It has moved on to become an economy-plus forum encompassing in its deliberation major global challenges, including peace and security, counter-terrorism, development, education, health, environment and climate change.

About the Hiroshima G7 summit

A Hiroshima action statement on food security is being worked upon. It aims to respond to the ongoing global food security crisis and to build more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive agriculture and food systems.

Read more: [Explained | The G7 plan to counter the Belt and Road initiative](#)

What is the importance of the G7 grouping for India?

Provides opportunity: India's participation in the G7 summits will provide India with an opportunity to meet with some of the most important leaders of the global community. The interactions with G7 countries provide useful input into understanding the dynamics of these major countries.

Help in expanding the rules-based order: India has been recognised as a partner of G7 for a long and is seen as a strong voice of the democratic global south. India has also been shaping the narrative on development, environment, peace and stability. This can get significant attention from like-minded countries.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Aid the success of India's G20 presidency: Hiroshima G7 summit allows for a certain G20-G7 north-south bridging which India is best placed to undertake among major stakeholders in the world. Further, the presence of both Indonesia and Brazil (Present G20 troika countries) in the upcoming G7 summit further strengthens India's G20 presidency.

India has become the largest country in population terms and is on its way to becoming the third-largest economy in another decade. This has increased India's G7 membership fortune in future.

What are the concerns raised against the G7 grouping?

G7 articulate Western unity: G7 has a practice of "outreach" by **interacting with a select number of invited countries** decided by the host. For example, the recent host Japan does not invite China and Russia to be part of the summit.

Not the gathering of largest economies: G7 started in the early 1970s as a getting together of what were the largest economies in the world. But now, with the rise of BRICS, this is no longer the case and G20 has assumed the mantle of the premier economic forum of the world.

Read more: [G7 is trying hard not to be yesterday's club](#)

18. [Poverty in India is yet again being overstated](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Poverty in India is yet again being overstated**" published in the **Livemint** on **19th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 2: Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

Relevance: About India's recent poverty measurements.

News: As the 2024 elections approach, the Great Indian Poverty Debate has again started. As the government has not released the 2017-18 Consumer Expenditure Survey (CES), many theories on poverty estimates are emerging.

What are the necessary factors in poverty measurement?

Head count: There has to be a consumption (or income) level below which individuals are deemed poor i.e. the "head count". But population sizes differ, so the headcount becomes the percentage who are poor.

Accounting inflation: Large countries like India and China have differential spatial (urban, rural, and state) rates of inflation. So, there is a need for state-specific poverty lines.

Raise the poverty line accordingly: There is a need to change the level of poverty line with development i.e. as a country becomes richer (less poor), the poverty line should be raised.

About India's poverty measurement criteria

According to newspaper reports, the government is undertaking two back-to-back consumer surveys. But the questionnaire remains pretty much the same as in 2011-12.

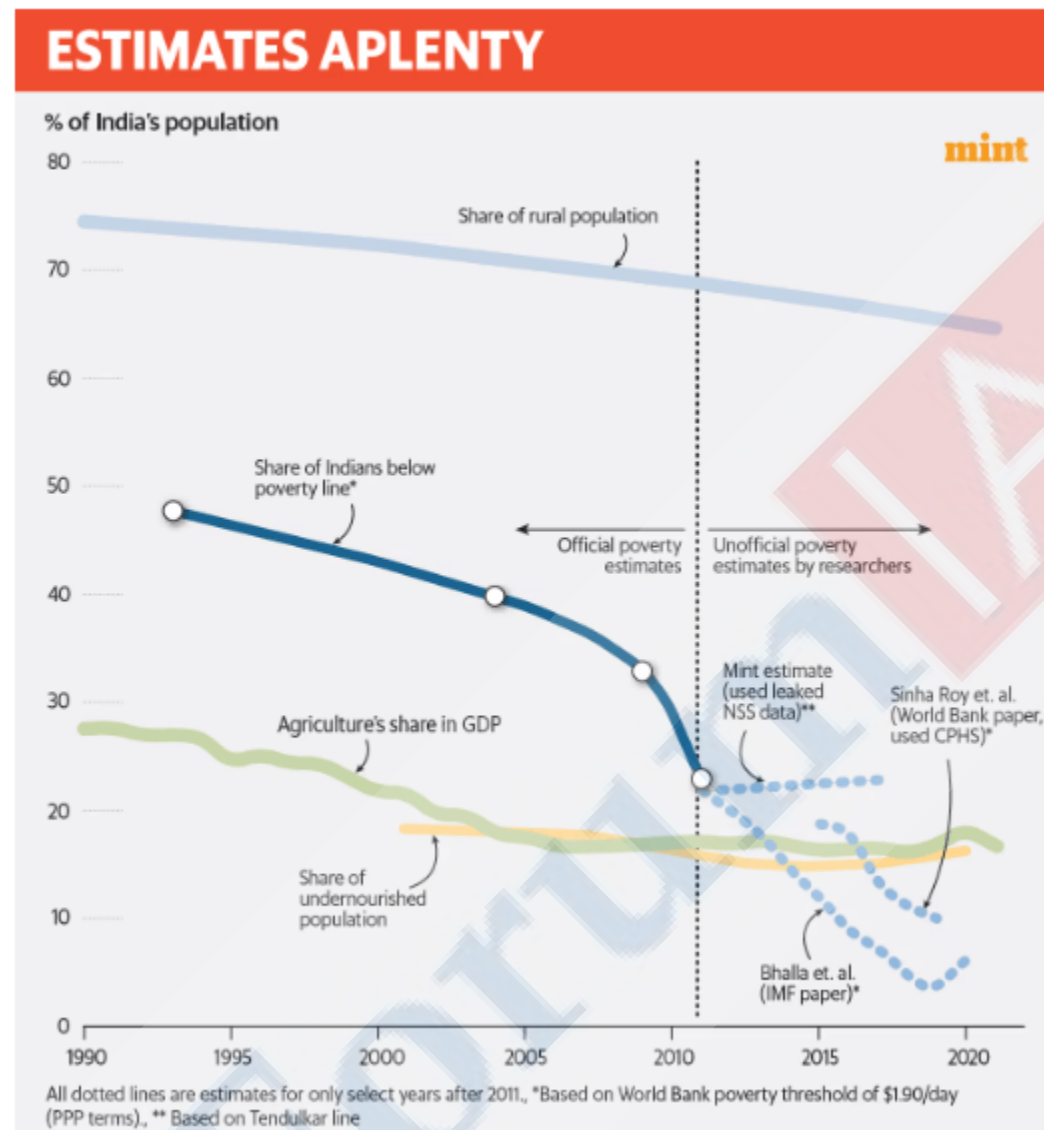
The only major change is, to get more accurate reporting, each household will be visited thrice instead of once. **First**, for questions pertaining to seven-day consumption (fruits and vegetables).

Second, for measuring 30-day consumption (most items). **Third**, for more durable items (recall period of 365 days).

World Bank and other experts, including Nobel laureate Angus Deaton, recommended having food questions on a weekly basis recall (rather than monthly) since the late 1990s. Post 2011-12, the government accepted a **Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP) method** has become the official, and only, method of data collection by NSS.

Read more: [We shouldn't let Indian poverty turn into a great eternal mystery](#)

What are the various theories on India's poverty estimation?



Source: Livemint

Why experts are suggesting India's poverty has reduced significantly in recent times?

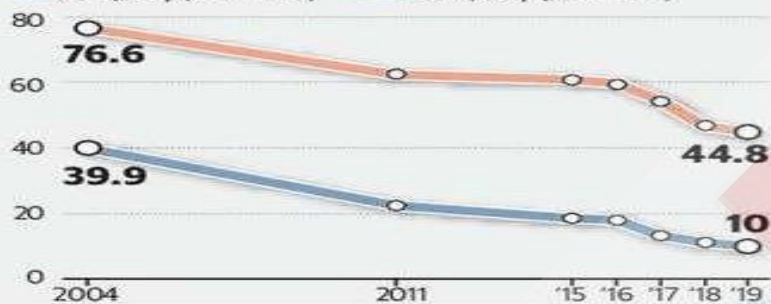
live**mint**

MOVING THE NEEDLE

According to the author's estimates, the pace of poverty reduction in the Modi years (2015-2019) was almost twice the rate of reduction between 2004/5 and 2011/12.

Poverty headcount ratio (%) based on

— \$2.15/day (2017 PPP) — \$3.65/day (2017 PPP)



Average annual pace of decline of poverty rate* (in %)

— 2004-11 — 2011-19 — 2011-15 — 2015-19 — 2015-17 — 2017-19



*Calculated as compounded annual rate of decline in poverty headcount ratio, assuming continuous change.

The World Bank estimates are based on Sinha Roy and Van Der Weide (2022), whose method relies on data from CMIE-CPHS with adjusted population weights.

Source: World Bank estimates, Author's calculations

Source: Livemint

Firstly, over the last decade (2011-12 to 2021-22), per capita GDP in India has increased by a cumulative 52%. Further, the real per capita consumption (national accounts data) grew at a healthy 3.13% CAGR, for an aggregate increase of 37%.

Secondly, average consumption increases by 37%. For example, the World Bank estimates a 67% “reasonable” pass-through of private final consumption expenditure (PFCE) growth to household consumption growth.

Thirdly, few experts said that India’s poverty remains constant around 20-25%. But the constancy of the poverty rate is not correct. Because **a)** According to the MMRP method, poverty in India in 2011-12 was 10 percentage points lower at 12.4%, **b)** The 2017-18 survey did not collect data for any method other than MMRP. So, the poverty lines should not be constant.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Fourthly, the World Bank has recently updated its poverty estimates for India and other countries. It said that the pace of poverty reduction is considerably higher during the post-2013 period.

According to World Bank estimates, the pace of poverty reduction in 2015-2019 was almost twice the rate of reduction between 2004-05 and 2011-12.

Read more: [There is no debate: There has been a persistent decline in poverty in India](#)

At present, three organizations (NSSO, NCAER and CMIE) have ongoing surveys on consumption and therefore estimates of poverty.

19. [A long-drawn test for India's diplomatic skills](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**A long-drawn test for India's diplomatic skills**” published in **The Hindu** on **19th May 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Regional & Global Groupings**

Relevance: India's position at various multilateral groupings and challenges associated with it

News: India is going to attend various multilateral organizations meetings in the coming months.

What are the upcoming multilateral meetings which India will be part of?

1. **a)** Indian PM and other Quad leaders are expected to meet G7 countries in May, **b)** PM will visit the US in June, **c)** India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in July, **d)** PM will then attend the BRICS summit in South Africa in August and **e)** India will host the G20 summit in September.

Therefore, there are many multilateral meetings on the list of India to attend, which shows that India is keen to get involved with the different global groupings.

It will also be a chance for India to showcase its diplomatic skills in maintaining the balance in its relations with various countries.

How is India trying to maintain balance?

India has maintained a sweet spot without following the Indonesian President to visit Ukraine nor has it invited Ukraine's Foreign Minister in the G20 meeting.

Further, **India hosting SCO and G20 shows India's content to strike balance between the global order in the wake of war and changing geopolitical scenario.**

India is also setting examples for many countries in South East Asia and the Global South by maintaining this balance.

For example, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey and Israel are managing their ties with the West without joining its stand on Ukraine or sanctions.

Further, **the France President has reiterated on the Strategic Autonomy after his visit to China this year.** This strategic autonomy has benefited India to maintain its relations with the countries of its interests.

What are the challenges for India in maintaining this balance?

2. **a)** Unexpected victory of Ukraine over Russia may force India to reexamine its relations with Russia, **b)** attacks by China across any part of the Line of Actual Control would make India to rethink on its strategies, **c)** India would also be forced to rethink if Russia escalates its stand on payment issues or withhold supplies of defence hardware to India under pressure from China, **d)** threats remain over imposition of unilateral sanctions by the West for buying Russian oil or sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act-Related Sanctions (**CAATSA**) for acquisition of the Russian S-400 missile systems.

What can be the way ahead for India?

An important task with India ahead is to ensure China and Russia come to a consensus on a joint declaration at the G-20 summit in September.

This is because the G7 countries have always been in favour of excluding these two countries from the group.

Therefore, for India to get success in maintaining the balance with the nations, it has to show its diplomatic skills in making a consensus between the two nations.

20. [PLI footprint in India-China trade](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article “**PLI footprint in India-China trade**” published in the **Business Standard** on **19th May 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2 – India’s International Trade

News: India’s imports from China are reducing compared to imports from other countries.

India’s imports from China increased at a slower growth rate in comparison to global imports.

In FY23, India’s import of electronics products from China decreased from \$30.3 billion to \$27.6 billion.

The decrease is most noticeable in sectors where the [PLI \(production-linked incentive\)](#) scheme is in operation.

For instance, there was a 70.9% decrease in imports of solar cells and parts, 23.1% in laptops and PCs, and 4.1% in mobile phones between FY22 and FY23.

China’s share in India’s merchandise imports has also decreased from 16.4% in FY18 to 13.8% in FY23.

What are the other areas of concern?

China is India’s fourth-largest export destination, with exports during FY23 being \$15.3 billion. India had a trade surplus with China until 2005. However, due to China’s technical advancement and India’s product profile, this surplus turned into a more than \$83.2-billion deficit in FY23.

The major problem is not high imports but low exports. The figures of Chinese exports to Japan, Korea, and the US are 25.8 per cent, 21.4 per cent, and 21.4 per cent, respectively.

China still is India’s number one supplier of import items.

Therefore, to become self-reliant India must invest in deep manufacturing. For electric-vehicle batteries, India must produce lithium-ion cells; for laptops, printed circuit boards should be made; for mobile phones, components should be manufactured and not merely the outer shell of the final product.

21. [Why the Andhra HC struck down order seeking to regulate public assemblies, processions](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Freedom of speech the ‘bulwark’ of democracy:**

Why the Andhra HC struck down order seeking to regulate public assemblies, processions” published in **The Indian Express** on **20th May 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation.**

Relevance: concerns associated with the Government Order of the Andhra Pradesh government.

News: The Andhra Pradesh High Court has struck down a Government Order (GO) issued by the Andhra Pradesh government that sought to regulate public meetings, processions, and assemblies on roads, highways, and streets.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

What were the arguments presented by the government on its order and what did the court say?

Andhra Pradesh Government: Through the GO, the government sought to regulate public meetings or assembly on roads. The government told the court that it decided to regulate the conduct of meetings without imposing a blanket ban to prevent accidents like stampedes.

The government further argued that roads are made for smooth movement of traffic. Therefore, if there is a hindrance to it, then the state can impose reasonable restrictions. The state government relied on **Sections 30, 30A, and 31 of the Police Act, 1861**, to issue directions under the GO.

Court: The court clarified that **Section 30 of the Police Act only gives authorities the power to regulate the conduct** of assemblies, processions, etc., on public roads.

The Court emphasized that the power granted to the police or magistrate under these sections is limited to regulating assemblies, especially when there is road blockage.

The right to assemble or protest peacefully in streets, public places, etc. cannot be restricted totally by virtue of these sections of law.

The court further said that if the officer concerned thinks that the assembly may cause a breach of peace then he can ask the organisers to apply for a license and prescribe the conditions under which the procession can be held.

The court also held that an accident occurring at a particular place cannot be used as a “cause” to curtail the right to assemble on all other roads.

Instead, the cause of such incidents should be studied fully, and then guidelines can be issued to prevent repetition.

What did the court say about the right to assembly?

The court said that the “right to assemble, to protest peacefully, and to express one’s opinion freely” is an important freedom which cannot be taken away.

Freedom of speech is the “bulwark” of democracy and is regarded as the first in the hierarchy of liberties.

Therefore, this freedom should not be curtailed on anyone’s discretion and these rights can only be subject to a ‘reasonable restriction’.

The court also relied on the Supreme Court judgment of 2018 which laid down guidelines for peaceful assembly.

What were the guidelines laid down in the 2018 SC ruling?

SC in Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan v Union of India, laid down guidelines for regulating protests and demonstrations.

The guidelines – **a)** regulated the intended number of participants in such demonstrations, **b)** prescribed the minimum distance from the Parliament House, SC, and the residences of dignitaries within which no demonstrations were allowed, **c)** imposed restrictions on certain routes where the PM, Central Ministers, and Judges pass through, **d)** disallowed demonstrations when foreign dignitaries were visiting a place or route and **e)** disallowed demonstrators from carrying firearms, lathis, spears, swords, etc.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

22. [Legal recognition for same-sex marriage is a natural consequence of the right to privacy](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**It’s Your Job, Milords – Legal recognition for same-sex marriage is a natural consequence of the right to privacy. So, Supreme Court not legislature is the correct forum to grant this right**” published in **The Times of India** on **20th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions & Bodies Constituted for Protection & Betterment of Vulnerable Sections

News: The article discusses the issues concerning same sex marriages.

What has been the stand of the Supreme Court on same sex marriages?

There are two important judgments of the SC in this regard – 1) [Navtej Singh Johar \(2018\)](#), which struck down Section 377 IPC and 2) [KS Puttaswamy \(2017\)](#), which recognized the right to privacy as being a fundamental right.

Hence, legal recognition of same-sex unions/marriages comes as a continuation of these judgements. Whereas, denying it is a direct infringement of their right to privacy.

However, SC has reserved its judgment on legal recognition of same sex marriage.

What are other concerns related with the recognition of same-sex marriages?

An important question arises whether the Parliament can intervene into the recognition of same-sex marriages even if the court has recognized it.

If the answer is yes, then **legislature can by law reverse the judicial recognition** of the right to same-sex relationships.

However, **if it is accepted that the legal recognition of same-sex marriages is only a natural consequence of their right to privacy**, then the state would not be competent to make a policy decision in this area.

Moreover, if the fundamental right to embrace one’s sexual orientation is considered a part of the fundamental right to privacy, then leaving the decision to recognize same-sex marriage on to the government would not serve the purpose.

This is because the government does not support this idea and it prioritizes social morality over constitutional morality.

What are the Constitutional provisions that support same-sex marriage?

The Constitution ensures **every citizen the right to equality with the right against discrimination on any ground including sex and sexual orientation**.

Therefore, as per the Constitution, the state cannot deny its citizens the right to legal recognition of marriages on the only ground of varied sexual orientation.

Must Read: [Legalising Same-sex marriages in India and associated challenges – Explained](#)

What can be the way forward for same sex marriages in India?

The legal recognition of same-sex marriages will not only guarantee the couple rights for adoption, surrogacy, procreation but will also ensure dignity to their children.

Further, the institution of marriage is equally important to individuals regardless of their gender identities.

Moreover, **Justice DY Chandrachud also said that the** Supreme Court must not risk losing its role as a leading institution in upholding constitutional values. Else, the erosion of its authority would pose a significant threat to democracy.

Therefore, until the Parliament makes the law and recognizes the same-sex marriage, it is better to have expectations from the SC for its recognition.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

23. Tracking SDG progress the Bhopal way

Source: The post is based on the article “Tracking SDG progress the Bhopal way” published in **The Hindu** on **20th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions & Bodies Constituted for Protection & Betterment of Vulnerable Sections

News: Bhopal has released its Voluntary Local Review (VLR). With that it has become the first city in India to join the growing global movement on localisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2015, 193 United Nations member-states adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This agenda consists of 17 SDGs and 169 targets aimed at people, planet, and prosperity.

To depict the progress on the agenda, member-states submit a Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the UN’s [High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#). This submission was recently extended to the local level. Now Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is also submitted which reports local implementation of SDGs at the sub-national and city levels.

What are the provisions of localisation of SDGs through VLRs?

Cities are crucial for achieving at least 65% of the 169 SDG targets, necessitating local urban stakeholders’ involvement. **The VLR serves as a tool to showcase local actions leading to equitable and sustainable transformations.**

Although it is ideal for city’s VLR to align to the State-level action plan (where available) and the country’s VNR, VLR mechanism allows flexibility to the cities to select the SDGs to focus upon. This flexibility is given, considering the fund crunch and logistical challenges of cities.

India’s progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

India has made notable progress towards adoption and achievement of the SDGs, with NITI Aayog presenting India’s second VNR at the HLPF in 2020.

The Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) of India has published a National Indicator Framework (NIF) for the review and monitoring of the SDGs, representing India’s unique development journey.

Efforts of India towards localisation of SDGs

India has made significant progress towards adoption and achievement of the SDGs. NITI Aayog presenting India’s second VNR at the HLPF in 2020.

NITI Aayog reported that at least 23 States and Union Territories have prepared a vision document based on SDGs. Almost all of them have initiated steps to localise the SDGs. However, it is a time taking process.

Significance of Non-Governmental Stakeholders in the VLR Process

A VLR does not necessarily have to be initiated by a local government. It can be carried out by any city-level stakeholder within the framework of Agenda 2030.

Bhopal’s VLR is the result of a collaboration between the Bhopal Municipal Corporation, UN-Habitat, and more than 23 local stakeholders.

Bhopal’s VLR has helped identify the city’s performance areas in solid waste management, public transportation, and open spaces per capita.

It also highlights areas that need improvement, like provisioning of adequate shelter, air pollution, city planning capacity, and even distribution of open spaces.

In the city of Canterbury in the United Kingdom, some residents and local groups came together to do the VLR, with the help of local government. However, the local government merely served as interlocutors in the VLR process.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Similar examples have been observed in Dhulikhel (Nepal), Singra (Bangladesh), and Amman (Jordan).

24. [On PM Modi's visit to Australia: Delhi to Canberra, a new journey](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “[On PM Modi's visit to Australia: Delhi to Canberra, a new journey](#)” published in **Indian Express** on **20th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Bilateral, multilateral agreements of India

News: Prime Minister Modi has continued with the scheduled visit to Australia, even after the cancellation of Quad Summit. It shows the importance India places on its relationship with Australia.

What are the strengths of India Australia Relations?

Cultural Links: There are strong cultural connections between these two vibrant, democratic societies. This is evident in the similarities between places like Parramatta in Sydney and Polo View in Srinagar.

Regular visits: High-level visits between the two countries are now regular. For instance, Australian PM Anthony Albanese visited India just two months ago.

Shared platforms: Both countries regularly interact through multilateral, trilateral, and bilateral forums, such as QUAD, G7, East Asia Summit, G20, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association.

Through these platforms, both countries focus on the goals of common interests like maritime awareness, supply chain resilience, and climate change.

Resilient supply chains: India and Australia have pledged to build secure and resilient supply chains for strategically significant sectors such as clean energy, electric vehicles, semiconductors, aerospace, and defence. In this regard, an MoU signed between India's Khanij Bidesh Ltd (KABIL) and Australia's Critical Minerals.

Space collaboration has been prioritised in the Australia-India bilateral partnership. Australia participated as a partner country in the Seventh Bengaluru Space Expo. Australia is supporting India's Gaganyaan Space Programme.

Education forms the cornerstone of the bilateral relationship, with Australia being a popular study destination for Indian students. PM Albanese's announcement of an education agreement that gives mutual recognition to the qualifications of both countries is the most comprehensive of its kind with any other country.

Trade: Last year both [countries struck a trade deal](#) after two decades of effort. It will lift the trade between both countries from the current base of \$35 billion.

New announcements: Australia has announced multiple initiatives, like the opening of a new consulate in Bengaluru and a new centre for Australia-India relations in Sydney, to deepen its ties with India.

25. [Allopathy Plus – Integrative medicine is well worth researching](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “[Allopathy Plus – Integrative medicine is well worth researching](#)” published in **The Times of India** on **20th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About attaining integrative health.

News: Recently, the Indian Council of Medical Research and GoI's AYUSH ministry signed an MoU to promote and collaborate on integrative health research.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

About integrated systems of medicine, government initiatives and advantages

Must read: [Integrated system of medicine: Need and significance – Explained, pointwise](#)

What are the challenges in attaining integrative health?

Different school of thought: Integrating allopathy with alternative approaches (AYUSH) under the banner of integrative medicine has a long history. But despite that, there are significant differences in the underlying approach to treatment. This is because **a)** the practitioners of the modern medicine system rest on standardisation, **b) The importance of randomised controlled trials in allopathy** to establish the safety and efficacy of treatments. Other therapies don't easily allow themselves to these RCTs.

What needs to be done to attain integrative health?

India should carry out more research in various fields. The regulatory authorities should curb misinformation on efficacy and risks.

General Studies Paper – 3

General Studies - 3

1. [Information warfare and its limitations](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Information warfare and its limitations**” published in **Business Standard** on **15th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Role of Media and Social Networking Sites in Internal Security

Challenges

Relevance: concerns associated with social media

News: The article discusses the concerns associated with the advancement of social media and technology.

What are the concerns with the advancement of technology?

Technological advancement has created a whole new world of possibilities for information warfare.

Authoritarian countries are employing technology to intervene in other countries without directly interfering with them.

This information warfare has made people believe false information while it is also being misused for one’s national interest.

For example, a Russian firm named “Internet Research Agency” (IRA) and other Russian agents have run campaigns to push the Brexit referendum in favour of Russia and to push US presidential elections in favour of Donald Trump, etc.

In both the above cases, **Russia used information warfare for its own benefit without involving both countries**. These information warfare methods have scaled up and industrialized.

Even in India information warfare is used to run internet-based campaigns. These campaigns influence the people over certain political parties and gain trust in them.

What does the future of information warfare look like, and how can people protect themselves against it?

The media has split into two – **an elite media supported by subscriptions versus a mass market based on clickbait**. The elite media is more immune to information warfare.

Therefore, it lies in the hands of people to opt for the type of media they want.

If they are looking for trusted information, they should buy subscriptions of elite media and stop using mass and social media to gather information. Otherwise, there are chances that people will get trapped into the conspiracy theories of social media.

Moreover, **with the improvements in machine learning and large language models (LLM)**, information warfare is becoming worse.

Further, hiring someone who could produce convincing fake news used to be expensive in India and a lot of the fake information was identifiable through the embedded cultural markers. However, these protections have declined in India.

What lies ahead?

Information warfare might become less disruptive in the coming time because there has been a rise in trustable sources along with a rise in awareness amongst the people.

Further, **with the rise of LLM-free knowledge and people becoming skeptical** about the news on social media, information warfare might have less influence on the people in the future.

2. [The nutritional value of millets](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**The nutritional value of millets**” published in **The Hindu** on **15th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Agriculture

Relevance: About Millets

News: The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has declared 2023 to be the ‘International Year of Millets’.

What are millets?

Read Here: [India’s Wealth: Millet For Health – Explained](#)

In 2021-2022, India accounted for 40.51% of the world’s pearl millet production and 8.09% of sorghum.

Why are millets preferred?

Read Here: [Millet Production in India – Explained](#)

What are the types of nutrition present in the millets?

[Click here to Read](#)

Foxtail millet is rich in the amino acid lysine; **finger millet** has more crude fibre than wheat and rice; **proso millet** has a significant amount of the amino acids’ leucine, isoleucine, and methionine.

Where are these nutrients stored?

Each millet kernel consists of three major parts, called pericarp, endosperm, and germ.

The pericarp has an outer covering called the husk. **The husk and pericarp together protect the kernel from bad weather, disease, and physical injury.**

The endosperm is the largest part of the kernel and its storage centre. It has a protein covering called aleurone.

The endosperm is relatively poor in mineral matter, ash and oil content but a major contributor to the kernel’s protein (80%), starch (94%) and B-complex vitamins (50-75%).

Similarly, pearl millet has a relatively larger germ, which is rich in oil (32%), protein (19%) and ash (10.4%), with over 72% of the total mineral matter.

How does processing affect the nutrients?

Processing and preparing millets for consumption can affect nutrients in three ways — enhance them, suppress/remove them, and ignore them.

Removing the Husk: The husk is removed from the grains because it is composed of cellulosic matter that the human body cannot digest. However, according to one study when husk was removed from pearl millets, their phytic acid and polyphenol contents dropped.

Decorticating the grain: Decorticating refers to removal of any other outer covering which exposes the seed. Studies have found mechanical and hand-worked decortication removed crude and dietary fibre from the grain.

However, decortication makes the grain more edible and visually attractive.

Milling and Sieving: While milling grind the grains into flour, sieving removes large impurities, including bran. Studies have found the longer the grains were milled, the more protein, fat, and fibre contents were removed.

Sieving made the flour more digestible and its nutrients more accessible to the body. However, it also reduced nutrient content due to the loss of bran.

Germination and fermentation: These refer to soaking grains in water for an extended duration. It showed a positive improvement in the overall nutritional characteristics of millets.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Polishing: Polishing is the process of transforming brown rice into white rice by rubbing off the bran and germ. Studies have found that polishing removed 8-10% of grain weight and also removed 60-80% of iron, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, and manganese.

However, rice polishing is considered desirable because most consumers favour the resulting taste and texture and prefer the shorter cooking time while it benefits retailers with longer shelf-life.

3. [How to weather-proof food security](#)

Source- The post is based on the article “How to weather-proof food security” published in “The Hindu” on 15th May 2023.

Syllabus: GS 3- Indian economy – Pricing and inflation

News – There is a degree of comfort in the corridors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the **consumer price index (CPI) inflation figure for April 2023 slid to 4.7 percent**, and food price inflation has fallen to even lower, 3.84 percent.

What is the inflation scenario of the country?

The food and beverages component in the Indian CPI has a weightage of 45.86%. Managing this component to around 4% is critical to control overall inflation.

This component of inflation cannot be managed only through **monetary policy**, nor even by **fiscal policy**. It is often triggered by **external shocks**, such as droughts and breakdown of supply chains.

There is a **possibility of El Nino**, and it could cause below-normal rainfall, even a drought. All droughts since 1947 have been El Nino years, but all El Nino years are not necessarily drought years. IMD’s revised forecast about the monsoon will clear the picture.

The **unseasonal rains** are also not good for agriculture.

The biggest crop of the kharif season is rice. **Rice inflation** for April was 11.4% Wheat inflation is still very high at 15.5%. The overall **cereal and products inflation** is still at an uncomfortable level of 13.7%.

There is a concern about **milk and milk products**. Inflation in this category is also high. It has the highest contributions amongst all commodities.

Experts give two reasons for this inflation. **Lumpy skin disease** had its impact. The milk production growth rate collapsed to almost zero in FY23.

The **fodder price inflation** has been very high, between 20 and 30%, in recent months. Both these factors have been straining milk prices. These are not likely to come down this fiscal in the business-as-usual scenario.

How high inflation in rice and wheat can be easily managed by the government?

More than 800 million people are getting free rice and wheat under the **PM-Garib Kalyan Yojana**. So, they are well protected from cereal inflation.

The **rice stocks with the FCI** are more than three times the **buffer stock norms** for rice.

If the government wants to control rice price inflation, it can unload 5 million tonnes of rice from the **Central Pool in open market operations**, and easily bring down the rice inflation to around 4%.

What is the way forward to control the food and beverages inflation?

There is a need to focus on **cereal and milk inflation**. Both have **high weights in CPI**. The **policy instruments** to keep their inflation around 4% are the **buffer stocking policy and import policy**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

There is a need to **lower import duties** on fat and skimmed milk. These are currently at 40% for fat and 60% for skimmed milk powder. Indian prices of SMP and fat are much higher than the global prices. That could help in reining milk and milk product prices.

These policy actions must be **pre-emptive in nature and not reactive** to the event. There is a lag of two to three months for these policy actions to show their results.

4. [India's Quantum dreams: The impact of tech on economy could be significant](#)

Source- The post is based on the article "India's Quantum dreams: The impact of tech on economy could be significant" published in the "Business Standard" on 15th May 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Awareness in the field of IT and computers

News- National Quantum Mission was approved by the Union Cabinet in April, with a total outlay of ~6,003 crore over the next six years. The investments will be directed towards research and development and creating an innovative ecosystem in quantum technology.

What is the progress of the country in the field of quantum technology?

As per **Nasscom**, numerous players are actively engaged in this field. It includes 10-15 government agencies, 20-30 service providers, 15-20 start-ups, and 40-50 academic institutions. About **92% of 100 projects** initiated in India as of February 2022 are **government-sponsored**. The projects are operated by remote access to quantum computers through **cloud platforms provided by** companies like IBM, Microsoft, Google, and Amazon.

IBM was the first company to make an actual **quantum computer** available on the cloud in 2016. IBM has been playing a pivotal role in India's **quantum computing journey**.

Since 2021, IBM has prioritised access to quantum computing to boost **quantum programming skills** in India. By installing **Qiskit and some Application Programming Interfaces**, anyone can start programming.

BosonQ Psi became the first start-up from India to join the **IBM Quantum Network**.

What is the potential of quantum technology for India?

India may achieve **quantum advantage** where quantum computers outperform classical supercomputers within the next year or two.

This can solve many problems at the scale of India's population. It can identify **fraudulent transactions** from billions of digital transactions.

The impact of quantum technologies on India's economy could be significant. Nasscom's study suggests that widespread adoption of quantum technology across industries could contribute **\$280-310 billion to the Indian economy by 2030**.

The technology may reach **critical maturity by 2026-2027**. It can lead to an increase in **enterprise adoption**.

What can be various potential uses of quantum technology?

Quantum technology can solve crucial problems in **finance, chemistry, life sciences, and logistics**. It is already helping enterprises.

Quantum computing can provide better solutions to **complex optimization problems**. It can explore problems in chemistry and pharma related to **protein folding and drug design**.

The next-generation computing methods can unlock **new scientific possibilities** in areas like **computational chemistry** for **new materials and energy solutions** to address **climate change**.

Quantum computing can have application in **currency arbitrage, credit scoring and portfolio optimisation** for a client in the financial services domain.

What is the way forward for India in the field of quantum technology?

Quantum computing is still in its early stages globally, but India cannot afford to ignore its role in it.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Countries across the world are going to have **quantum encryption**. India cannot afford to be without it. India will have to develop them indigenously.

A **quantum industry** is going to develop all over the world. It is important to have a **partnership with that industry**.

5. Digital India's two realities: A yawning gap between tech use & tech skills

Source- The post is based on the article "Digital India's two realities: A yawning gap between tech use & tech skills" published in the "Business Standard" on 15th May 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy.

News- The article explains the issues of digital divide and skilling in digital technology in India

What are major insights from Multiple Indicator Surveys for 2020-21, published by the NSSO about the digital divide in India?

More than 70% of Indian youth aged between 15 and 29 cannot **send emails with files** attached. Nearly 60 per cent cannot **copy and move a file or folder**. Over 80% cannot **transfer files** between a computer and other devices.

Only 8.6% can create **electronic presentations** with presentation software. The data shows that the Indian youth fares poorly in most of the **basic ICT skills**.

How has digital technology impacted the job market in India?

As per a recently published **report by the WEF**, in the next five years, **the churn in Indian labour markets** will be led by technology-driven sectors.

Jobs in fields such as **artificial intelligence and machine learning, data analysts and scientists, and data entry clerks** will lead to this labour churn.

"Labour-market churn" refers to the **expected job movement** being created, and existing roles destroyed as a proportion of current employment.

Generative artificial intelligence is emerging as the **next frontier** in tech and IT skills. Firms have already begun hiring for new roles such as **prompt engineers, AI trainer, ethics coach**.

Job roles involving generative AIs will not require candidates to be trained in **hardcore computer engineering skills**. Instead, candidates from the **humanities stream**, with English or history as their majors, will be better able to use these **natural language tools**.

Technology has influenced our daily lives and we have become **used to technology**. The **use of personal tech** has become second nature to those born between the late 2000s and early 2010s.

What are the challenges related to skilling in digital technology?

There remains a **massive demand-and-supply gap for computer skills**. There exists a **wide gap in tech-skilling** in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

Only about 40 to 45% of Indian graduates are **readily employable**. Many technology companies have created **large training infrastructures** and have also worked with engineering schools to develop the curriculum and pedagogy.

On the **government front**, challenges persist. One of the biggest challenges of the **Skill India Mission** is that the government is **organized in verticals**. The issues around employment and skills are **horizontal and involve different ministries**.

What are some positive things about India's future in IT skill development?

Mobile and internet penetration in the hinterland has been a **harbinger of change** by **democratising access to information**.

It is easier to **make available educational content** for consumers from every background. Country is moving forward to close the **demand-supply gap**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

6. [Why India went nuclear 25 years ago](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“Why India went nuclear 25 years ago”** published in the **Indian Express** on **15th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 3: indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

Relevance: About India’s nuclear test.

News: This year marks the 25th year of Pokhran nuclear test.

About the Pokhran nuclear test

India carried out a series of three nuclear detonations. These included a 45 KT (kiloton) thermonuclear device, a 15 KT fission device and a 0.2 sub KT device. **India declared itself a nuclear weapon state** on May 11, 1998. A second test followed two days later and having attained the requisite degree of techno-strategic capability. Following that, India **announced a self-imposed moratorium** on further testing.

The US denounced India for refusing to be bounded as a non-nuclear weapon state under the strictures of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty). The US and most of its allies imposed sanctions on India. South Asia was described as the “most dangerous” place in the world and humiliation was poured on India.

Read more: [India nuclear regime after Pokhran-II Nuclear test](#)

Why India became a nuclear power?

China as nuclear power: China acquired its nuclear weapon in October 1964 to address its insecurity in relation to the US and the former USSR.

China – Pakistan coalition: Soon, in the mid-1960s, China and Pakistan entered into an opaque strategic partnership focused on nuclear weapons to advance their shared security interests that were hostile to India. Pakistani scientists who had access to Western nuclear technology shared their designs and blueprints with their Chinese counterparts.

Experts maintain that Pakistan acquired the nuclear weapon in the late 1980s, courtesy to China. This enabled a secret test to validate the warhead design in Lop Nor in May 1990.

Read more: [Aligning the triad: On India’s nuclear deterrence](#)

How does India view a nuclear-powered state?

The US and USSR in the Cold War envisaged nuclear power as a counterforce strategy. But, India, on the other hand, sees the nuclear weapon has a single purpose — the core mission — to deter the use of a similar capability. This is visible in India’s No First Use policy.

At a time when the nuclear policies of other countries rattling and becoming more pronounced, India’s commitment to pristine deterrence and nuclear restraint should remain persistent.

India’s nuclear policy aids the extended southern Asian region and brings China and Pakistan to the negotiation table. This will be a test of Indian acumen.

Read more: [‘No First Use’ nuclear policy depends on circumstances: Rajnath Singh](#)

What should be done?

The introduction of the CDS (chief of defence staff) is a work in progress. So, the civil-military command and control needs to be regularly reviewed and simulation exercises conducted.

The role of the Defence Minister in the Indian nuclear ladder needs to be reviewed as part of the rewiring of the higher defence management pyramid.

Read more: [India’s nuclear doctrine after 25 years of Pokhran – Explained, pointwise](#)

7. [Women-dependency of Indian agriculture: Gender discrimination in farms](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Gender discrimination in farms**” published in the **Business Standard** on **15th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About women-dependency of Indian agriculture.

News: Indian agriculture is becoming increasingly women-dependent.

About the women-dependency of Indian agriculture

Various research studies and data compiled through agriculture censuses and various surveys found that,

-About 80% of the country’s economically active female population is employed in the farm sector. Women comprise about one-third of the agricultural labour force, and nearly 48% of self-employed farmers.

-Nearly 95% of animal husbandry-related work is performed by women. Their involvement in the production of field crops is 75%, and that of horticultural crops 79%. More than 50% of post-harvest activities are carried out by women.

On the whole, the work participation rate for women is 41.8% in rural areas against 35.31% in urban areas.

Must read: [FEMINIZATION OF INDIAN AGRICULTURE](#)

What are the various reasons for increasing women-dependency in Indian agriculture?

Migration of men: More men are migrating from villages in search of paid employment because of the fragmentation and shrinking of land holdings. So, the management of small and marginal farms is becoming the responsibility of women. For example, the Economic Survey 2017-18 maintained that growing rural-to-urban migration by men was leading to “feminisation” of the agriculture sector.

Low payment: Typically, female labour is employed in farms for low-skilled but labour-intensive jobs. Besides being hard-working, women are generally preferred over men because they are willing to accept low-paid irregular employment.

Nature of jobs: Women are deemed ideally suited for work like grass cutting, weeding, collecting cotton sticks, detaching fibre from cotton seeds, and de-husking grains. They also look after domestic animals and make value-added products like curd, butter, and ghee, and dealing with gobar (cowdung).

Significantly, there are a few intricate farm operations which require some training, for which women are deemed more suitable than men. For instance, producing hybrid cotton seeds, transplanting paddy, etc.

What are the challenges associated with women-dependency in Indian agriculture?

a) The ownership of farms in official land records is mostly in the names of males, **b)** The bulk of the benefits of government welfare schemes tend to accrue to men — as land pattas (titles) are in their names, **c)** Women are often denied access to credit because of lack of ownership of land, property, or other assets to serve as collateral, **d)** Women face difficulties in getting membership of cooperative societies or farmers producer organisations (FPOs), **e)** Women labourers are paid lower wages than men for doing the same kind of work, **f)** Women are not considered for decision-making in agri activities.

Read more: [The multidimensional factors behind informalisation of female workforce](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

What should be done to utilise women-dependency in Indian agriculture?

Women's empowerment through enhanced access to resources like land, property, credit, technology, and training is essential to ameliorate the plight of rural women and improve their calibre to serve as engines of agricultural growth lies.

According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), farm output in developing countries can be raised by 2.5 to 4% by ensuring men and women equal access to resources, skill development, and opportunities in agriculture. So, the role played by women in the agricultural value chain farm development **policies needs to be gender-sensitive.**

Specialised farm implements and equipment, designed with female ergometry in view, are needed to reduce the physical strain of strenuous work on farm women.

Incentivising ownership of land and property in the name of women by offering concessions in registration fees and other charges can help in empowering women. The government should facilitate access to benefits in government welfare programmes.

8. [Is there room for a dairy behemoth?](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Is there room for a dairy behemoth?**” published in the **Livemint** on **15th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 3: Marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints.

Relevance: About the challenges faced by the dairy cooperatives.

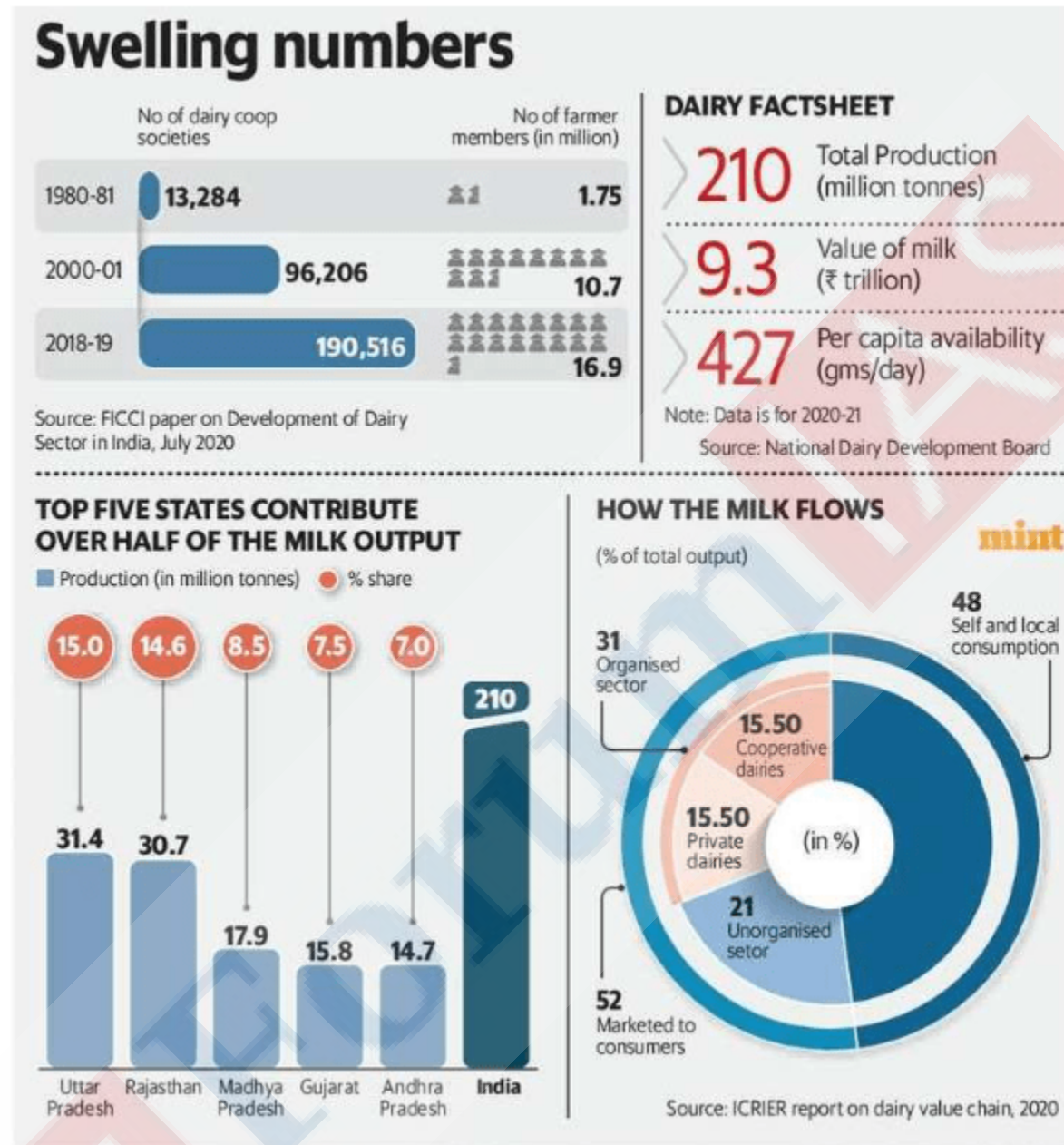
News: Many cooperatives are struggling financially. In this situation, creating a pan-India mega-brand will be hard.

About India's milk revolution

Operation Flood was launched in 1970. Various successful dairy cooperatives emerged in different states. Amul is the largest fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) brand, surpassing the turnover of giants like Hindustan Unilever. Besides Amul, there's Nandini in Karnataka (the second-largest dairy cooperative), Aavin in Tamil Nadu, Milma in Kerala, Gokul in Maharashtra, Verka in Punjab, Saras in Rajasthan, and Sudha in Bihar (the largest cooperative in eastern India).

Read more: [Amul vs Nandini threatens to limit choices for consumers](#)

What is the success of India's milk revolution?



Source: Live Mint

The other success of the operation are,

- India is the largest producer of milk in the world—accounting for a fifth of global output—even though productivity per animal is low.
- Milk is the largest farm product valued at close to ₹10 trillion annually and produced by over 80 million rural families.
- Per capita milk availability grew over four-fold, from 107 gm per day in the 1970s to 427 gm in 2021, despite a growing population.
- Farmer members of cooperatives receive between 75-85% of what the consumer pays for dairy products. This compares with 25-50% share in other farm products.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

-Multinational dairy giants were unable to crack India's dairy market due to the strength of successful cooperatives.

Due to its success, the cooperation ministry (set up in July 2021) will help usher in the White Revolution 2.0 by setting up cooperative societies in 200,000 of the 500,000 uncovered villages.

Must read: [Challenges Facing Dairy Sector in India – Explained, Pointwise](#)

What are the challenges faced by the dairy cooperatives in India today?

Financial struggles: A 2020 research paper on farm value chains found that 95 of the 175 milk unions it studied were in loss. The bulk of loss-making cooperatives—55 out of 95 unions—were from Uttar Pradesh, the largest milk-producing state.

Issues with the expansion of Amul: Since farmers from other states cannot be members of the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), Amul behaved like a private sector entity outside Gujarat. In short, Amul entered other states, but it did not follow the Anand model (Anand dairy was owned by farmers and elected farmer representatives managed it).

Issues with the expansion of other dairy cooperatives: The expansion might create benefits like regional balancing (of supply and demand) and logistical benefits. But, the expansion of dairy cooperatives might increase unfair competition that will ultimately hurt farmers. Further, they will destroy local cooperatives by predatory pricing.

State funds are used to support local dairies (for fodder, artificial insemination, and veterinary services). So, the expansion of cooperatives directly waste the investment of state funds.

Issues with One India one model: One India-one Brand is a thought process aligned with present-day political realities. Dairy cooperatives entering another state may increase competition, transparency and efficiency in the dairy value chain. But the larger the cooperative, the lesser its accountability to members. Further, they become more vulnerable to a technocratic capture with a select few taking all decisions.

Must read: [The significance of Amul model of cooperatives](#)

9. [Measuring India's manufacturing sector remains a data challenge](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Measuring India's manufacturing sector remains a data challenge**” published in **Live Mint** on **16th May 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Growth & Development, Infrastructure**

Relevance: concerns associated with the calculations of MCA21

News: The article discusses the advantages and limitations of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) 21 data-set.

About MCA21 data-set

The MCA21 data-set was introduced in place of the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) to expand coverage of the organized sector.

This data set along with manufacturing also includes service-sector companies in its calculations unlike the ASI.

How is MCA21 data set different from ASI?

The MCA21 represents an administrative dataset, fundamentally distinct in structure from the ASI.

The implementation of such datasets for national accounting purposes is a difficult venture because it requires substantial collaboration among ministries to understand data gathering procedures, definitions, aims, etc.

These data sets are not collected or generated via any statistical design, schedule or questionnaire intended for statistical purposes.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

As a result, **the statistical agency struggles with data structures derived from** regulatory practices, accounting standards, and the administrative processes of the ministry in charge of data creation, over which it has no authority.

Thus, **the shift from ASI to MCA included replacing survey data with administrative data**, which introduced many new challenges.

What are the advantages of the MCA21 data set?

The MCA21 data offers **a broad aggregate picture of our corporate sector**. It offers wider coverage data, offers broader scope to estimate value addition, and offers a faster way to prepare annual estimates.

What are the limitations of the MCA21 dataset?

Improper Classification: The MCA21 dataset has both manufacturing and service-sector companies unlike the ASI. However, **MCA21 lacks clear identifiers of economic activity** within the registered entities for correctly classifying companies into respective sectors.

MCA21 provides information on the product-level revenue of enterprises. However, **the problem comes in the case of diversified enterprises** that have multiple products and services and operate at several locations.

Therefore, in such scenarios, **sector-wise estimates are distorted by misclassification**, and data available are inconsistent with other metrics of industrial activity.

Lack of Geographical Indicators: The MCA21 data also lacks geographical indicators, making it problematic for computing state-level aggregates.

Lacks Quality Data: The MCA adds companies on a monthly basis and de-registers companies as per the norm of de-registration.

GDP data from 2012-17 showed that on average, about 60% of active companies file their financial statements and are thus available for estimation. **These companies are considerably different from the universe captured by ASI.**

Therefore, **a year-on-year mapping of ASI and MCA is required** to get the clear data from the shift.

Lack of Data for Unorganized Manufacturing Sector: There are limitations to find data for the unorganized manufacturing sector because there has been transformation in the enterprise landscape, particularly after GST implementation and due to the effect Covid.

Measurement errors: GVA values are extended by using MCA growth rates for the organised sector, which might result in considerable measurement errors.

Therefore, in such situations, it is difficult to examine India's manufacturing industry because, despite changes in data and methodology, it has introduced new complexity.

10. Basis for penalty in competition law

Source- The post is based on the article "Basis for penalty in competition law" published in the "Business Standard" on 16th May 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian economy

Relevance- Regulation issues related to the economy

News- The Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023 was introduced recently

What are some facts about the Competition Act, 2002?

The Competition Act, 2002, aims to defend the economy from **anti-competitive practices**.

It empowers the Competition Commission of India to **impose penalties** for anti-competitive practices and abuse of dominant position.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

The CCI has the authority to impose a penalty of up to **10% of the average turnover for the three preceding financial years**. The Act defines “turnover” to **include the value of goods or services sold**.

What was the ruling of the apex court in In Re: Excel Crop Care Limited case related to calculation of turnover?

The CCI imposed a penalty at **9% of the total turnover**. CCI statute was not clear whether the turnover was related to the product or the person.

An appeal in this matter was filed in apex court in 2017. It adopted “**relevant**” turnover for imposing a penalty. It clarified that “**relevant**” turnover was the person’s **turnover pertaining to products and services affected by the violation of law**.

For this purpose, it relied on two principles: (i) **strict interpretation** — if two interpretations are possible — one that leans in favour of the infringer should be adopted.

(ii) Punishment should be **proportionate to the harm** caused by the infringer.

What are some provisions of the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023?

The Competition (Amendment) Act, 2023 defines turnover for purposes of penalty as “**global**” turnover. It is the turnover derived from **all the products and services by the person concerned**.

It mandates the CCI to **publish guidelines** to determine an **appropriate amount of penalty** for violating the provisions of the Act.

It further mandates the CCI to consider these guidelines for imposing penalties and provide reasons in the case of any divergence from them.

The amended law does not enable more than one interpretation. So, there is no need to use the **principle of strict interpretation**.

It provides three levers to **ensure proportionality**– (1) The penalty can vary from zero to 10% of the global turnover, depending on the gravity **of the Violations**.

(2) The guidelines shall guide determining the **appropriate amount of penalty**.

(3) The order shall give reasons for awarding a penalty different from the one **specified in the guidelines**.

What are the advantages of Global turnover as compared to relevant turnover?

There are situations where it is difficult to use **relevant turnover** for imposing a penalty. An example is the hub-and-spoke agreement.

A hub is typically not engaged in the **same line of business** as the spoke. Since its relevant turnover is nil, the penalty based on such turnover would be nil. IT encourages the hub to **contravene the law with impunity**.

Determining relevant turnover is often **complex and imprecise**. An example is the abuse of dominance in health insurance.

The infringer would argue for a **narrower definition of the product**. The competition authority would take the opposite view. This will only **add to litigation**.

Why does global turnover make eminent sense for determining penalties?

Enforcement is an important **aspect** of any law. The **effectiveness of enforcement** depends on the **probability of conviction** of the violator of the law and the **level of sanction or punishment**.

A **higher probability of conviction** can assure compliance even at a **lower level of sanction** and vice versa. However, the probability of conviction is less in economic legislation like competition law because it relies on the **rule of reason**.

Therefore, the **level of sanction** must be higher. So, **use of global turnover** is justified for imposing penalties.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Competition law addresses market failure arising from market power. If a person abuses market power to, it triggers a **process of resource reallocation**. This trigger settles down after moving resources across products and sectors.

It kills several enterprises, and possibly creates new ones. This yields a **new equilibrium**, which is different from the **initial equilibrium**.

The difference is the misallocation of resources. So, the **entire economy suffers**. Thus, the impact of the abuse is not limited to the products or services underlying the contravention.

11. As president, India can guide G20's disaster management initiatives

Source: This post has been created based on the article “**As president, India can guide G20's disaster management initiatives**”, published in Indian Express on 16th May 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Disaster Management

News: The G20 has endorsed a new working group on disaster risk reduction under India's Presidency. This article discusses the significance of disaster risk management and mitigation.

What are the socio-economic impacts of disasters?

There is an increase in catastrophes across the globe. These disasters have been increasing poverty, thwarting development, and generating social polarisation.

The annual disaster losses have a significant impact on GDP in many low-income economies.

What are the challenges faced by countries in dealing with disaster related challenges?

Partnership with private insurance companies transfer sovereign risk to the capital markets.

There is also a scarcity of investment in a development-oriented approach to manage disasters.

Difficulty in collecting and analysing data on hazards and exposures.

The necessity of strengthening technical and institutional capacity for risk assessment and modelling.

The challenge of achieving comprehensive coverage of disaster risks.

What role can Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) play in disaster risk management?

It will prioritize disaster risk financing.

It will provide a comprehensive overview of disaster risk assessment and financing practices across various economies.

The G20 DRRWG can play a significant role in directing capital flow towards investments that make societies and economies more disaster resilient.

The DRRWG aims to establish critical links between public and private actors' investment and financial decision-making.

How India can be instrumental in strengthening disaster risk management mechanisms?

India has extensive experience in dealing with natural disasters, so it can lead the way in promoting awareness of the financial impacts of disasters. India can help in establishing a regulatory framework to enhance insurance companies' financial capacity to cover disaster losses.

12. Planely Evident – India needs a cross-border insolvency framework soon as supply chains are global

Source: The post is based on the article “**Planely Evident – India needs a cross-border insolvency framework soon as supply chains are global**” published in **The Times of India** on **16th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About cross-border insolvency framework.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

News: India's aviation industry is dependent on a global supply chain for its operations. The voluntary insolvency sought by Go First has once again highlighted the cross-border spillover of a domestic problem.

What are the reasons behind Go Air's insolvency?

Must read: [Indian aviation industry: Potential and challenges – Explained, pointwise](#)

What is the core issue with India's cross-border insolvency framework?

Barring foreign firms: The [Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code](#) represents a transition from a regime of 'debtor-in-possession' to 'creditor-in-control'. For example, in aviation, foreign aircraft lessors are barred from taking possession of their assets when the insolvency process is on. This can have negative fallout for other domestic airlines in cross-border insolvencies.

Non-adhere to time limits: The biggest challenge IBC faces is overshooting the legally mandated time to complete the process. For example, against the mandated timeline of a maximum of 330 days to finish the resolution process, the average time taken for closure at the end of March was 614 days. Of the ongoing resolution cases, 64% have already exceeded 270 days.

This creates the following issues **a)** erodes the value of firms facing resolution, **b)** limits financial creditors' claims. For instance, on average creditors are able to realise just 32% of their claims, and **c)** undermines the credibility of IBC.

Read more: [Insolvency and bankruptcy code – present challenges: Explained, pointwise](#)

What are the other issues with the cross-border insolvency framework?

There's a template available in the form of a UN model law on cross-border insolvency. Despite that, the cross-border insolvency **laws across countries are not uniform**. For instance, during the Jet Airways insolvency, a parallel proceeding was underway in the Netherlands. Both Indian and Dutch resolution efforts managed to agree on a cross-border insolvency protocol that received NCLAT's approval.

What should be done?

NCLTs need to find ways to reduce the time taken to decide on the admission of a firm into insolvency proceedings. During the process, stakeholders also need to follow deadlines to end procedural uncertainty.

India also needs a cross-border insolvency framework as the supply chains are becoming more global.

Read more: [Finetuning the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code](#)

13. [What are the gaps in the AePS transaction model?](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**What are the gaps in the AePS transaction model?**" published in **The Hindu** on **16th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 3: basics of cyber security.

Relevance: About issues with the Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS).

News: Cybercriminals are now using silicone thumbs to operate biometric POS devices and biometric ATMs to drain users' bank accounts.

What is an Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS)?

The AePS is a bank-led model which allows online financial transactions at Point-of-Sale (PoS) devices and micro ATMs of any bank using Aadhaar authentication. The model removes the need for OTPs, bank accounts and other financial details.

Under section 7 of the Aadhaar Act, users who wish to receive any benefit or subsidy under schemes have to mandatorily submit their Aadhaar number to the banking service provider.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

According to a website managed and run by MeitY, the AePS service does not require any activation. The only requirement is that the user's bank account should be linked with their Aadhaar number.

According to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), this allows fund transfers using only the bank name, Aadhaar number, and fingerprint captured during Aadhaar enrolment.

Read more: [How loopholes in Aadhaar-enabled payments are putting poor people at risk of being swindled](#)

How have cybercriminals exploited the AePS ecosystem?

The UIDAI said that the Aadhaar data, including biometric information, is fully safe and secure. UIDAI's database is not the only source from where data can be leaked.

Aadhaar's numbers are readily available in the form of photocopies, and soft copies, and criminals are using Aadhaar-enabled payment systems to breach user information.

How UIDAI is planning to improve AePS ecosystem?

The UIDAI is proposing an amendment to the Aadhaar (Sharing of Information) Regulations, 2016. The amendment will require entities in possession of an Aadhaar number to not share details unless the Aadhaar numbers have been redacted or blacked out through appropriate means, both in print and electronic form.

UIDAI will require entities in possession of an Aadhaar number to not share details unless the Aadhaar numbers have been redacted or blacked out through appropriate means, both in print and electronic form.

The UIDAI has implemented a **new two-factor authentication mechanism**. This uses a machine-learning-based security system, combining finger minutiae and finger image capture to check the 'liveness' of a fingerprint.

UIDAI also advised users to lock their Aadhaar information by visiting the UIDAI website or using the mobile app. . It can be unlocked when the need for biometric authentication arises, such as for property registration, passport renewals, etc.

Timely reporting will ensure any money transferred using fraudulent means is returned to the victim.

Read more: [Failure Of Aadhar Based Payment System](#)

14. [The next step in climate efforts](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**The next step in climate efforts**" published in **Business Standard** on 17th May 2023.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Climate Change

Relevance: About the resolution adopted at the UNGA.

News: A consensus has been adopted on the UN General Assembly resolution recently. **The resolution seeks advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on "the obligation of States in respect of Climate Change"**.

What are some of the facts about the resolution?

The resolution was led by the Pacific Island state of Vanuatu. Later, the Core Group of 18, known as ICJA04, which includes other island states, African states, Germany and Portugal also supported it.

India was not part of this group nor was it a co-sponsor. The US has also not voted for the resolution. However, China has joined the consensus.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

The resolution seeks ICJ's legal opinion on legal consequences for states that are responsible for climate change, particularly affecting small island developing states and present and future generations.

Note: *Advisory opinion from the ICJ is not legally binding on states but it carries a certain moral authority.*

What is the resolution about and what are the concerns present?

The resolution focuses on the missing historical responsibility of states, which are primarily responsible for the stock of greenhouse gases already accumulated in the earth's atmosphere. Australia, Germany, and the rest of the European Union have spoken in support of the resolution because the idea of historical responsibility, which is **a key element in the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) of 1992**, has been ignored.

ICJ opinion may also be used for laying the blame on countries like India whose emissions will inevitably rise in the course of their economic development, despite their ambitious efforts to limit such emissions.

However, **there is no reference in the resolution to the issue of compensation for "loss and damage" from climate change.**

This issue should have been highlighted at ICJ because developed countries have been staying away from their legal responsibility to compensate developing countries for their past emissions. Therefore, India should not hesitate to make such submission to the ICJ, which represents its own views and concerns.

What can be the key elements in India's submission?

First, India should emphasise that there is already a climate change treaty in the shape of the UNFCCC or the Rio Convention of 1992, which clearly establishes nations' legal responsibility to take climate change action.

For ICJ, it should reaffirm the validity of the principles and provisions of the UNFCCC rather than seek to establish another legal framework.

Second, the idea of equality and equitable burden sharing must be reiterated in establishing legal commitments of states for climate change action.

Third, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities should be reiterated. This will make the states that are responsible for the accumulation of greenhouse gases and which are responsible for global climate change to support adaptation by developing countries.

India should also highlight the ambitious measures it has adopted in addressing the challenge of climate change.

Fourth, India should point out those industrialized countries which violated their legal obligations under the Kyoto Protocol and walked away from it without submitting to the penal provisions under its compliance procedure. The ICJ should hold them accountable.

15. Government's Open Network for Digital Commerce: An audacious idea

Source: This post is created based on the article **"government's Open Network for Digital Commerce: An audacious idea"**, published in **Indian Express** on **17th May 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3, Changes to Industrial policies

E-commerce is not simply selling goods and services online; it also includes the physical process of shipping and delivering the ordered items to the customers.

The platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart also function as "operators" as opposed to mere online "platforms". These platforms are not just bridging the gap between sellers and buyers, but also ensuring the physical completion of transactions.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Therefore, the success of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) as well, depends on its ability to provide end-to-end solutions from logistics and warehousing to delivery and payments.

What are the aims of ONDC, as an alternative to existing online platforms?

ONDC aspires to displace the prevalent 'platform-centric' model with an 'open network' model that relies on non-proprietary protocols.

This model allows sellers and buyers to engage in transactions independently and switch among platforms that are compatible with each other.

It will integrate approximately 13 million small local stores and 42.5 million Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which are presently digitally marginalized.

The potential of the ONDC's success lies in widespread adoption of internet and smartphones in the last decade. Also, the effective implementation of large-scale initiatives like Aadhaar, the Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Goods and Services Tax Network, and CoWin vaccination apps.

What are the challenges in front of ONDC?

First, in UPI, the transactions are limited to transfer of funds between bank accounts that are linked to mobile phone numbers.

Second, ONDC faces a challenge in its ability to physically fulfill orders.

Third, as Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that ONDC will have to do better than present platforms or even what UPI did in payments.

16. Tripping trade – India must not excessively rely on a few large markets

Source: The post is based on the article “**Tripping trade – India must not excessively rely on a few large markets**” published in the **Indian Express** on **17th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About the reduction in India's imports and exports.

News: This March exports had hit a nine-month high of nearly \$42 billion while imports were \$60 billion. But, goods exports declined to \$34.6 billion in April, the lowest since last October. Imports in April shrank by a sharper 14% which is a 15-month low of under \$50 billion.

Note: *The new Foreign Trade Policy enunciated a two trillion-dollar export goal to be achieved in seven years.*

What are the various reasons for the reduction in India's imports and exports?

a) Slowing global economy, **b)** Falling imports indicate a reduction in domestic demand, **c)** If imports of petroleum (down 14%), and gems and jewellery are down, then the associated value-added end products export will also come down, **d)** Other job creators such as textiles is also facing hardships.

What is the status of global economies at present?

WTO forecasted a global trade growth hike (from 1% to 1.7%) for 2023. This might be because of China's opening up of the economy. However, the recent Chinese data have been disappointing regarding recovery momentum.

European and North American markets are expected to speed up goods orders. But the services exports may not speed up.

What India should do?

India must use this slack period to review its overall trade stance. India should **a) assess its excessive reliance on a few large markets**, and **b) pursue greater integration** with global value chains and multilateral trading arrangements.

17. [Climate trade barriers: Go for realistic idealism](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Climate trade barriers: Go for realistic idealism**” published in the **Livemint** on **17th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism of EU.

News: Recently, the EU gave approval to its [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism \(CBAM\)](#). This will impact Indian iron, steel and aluminium shipments worth more than 2021’s \$8 billion.

About Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)

According to EU, the CBAM will ensure its climate objectives are not undermined by carbon-intensive imports and spur cleaner production in the rest of the world. Apart from that, EU policy is trying to level the internal field for EU and non-EU players.

Must read: [EU’s carbon border tax – Explained, pointwise](#)

How it will create unfair climate trade barriers?

Restriction on importers: Annually, EU importers will have to declare direct and indirect emissions caused by their previous year’s imports. From 2026, they must submit equivalent CBAM certificates priced on the basis of weekly average auction prices in the EU’s market for carbon permits.

Success not guaranteed: The CBAM idea and its impact are unproven. The EU needs a world market to emerge to meet its CBAM ambitions.

Double pricing: Carbon has already been priced high in India. If India adopts carbon pricing expansively in India, the price will need to be low, just a fraction of Europe’s.

What are India’s options against the CBAM?

Read here: [Green crosshairs – A multi-pronged counter is warranted to tackle the EU’s carbon tax plans](#)

What should India do?

It will take years of data to properly assess the impacts of the EU’s carbon tax. So, India should adopt a stance that combines realism on securing India’s export interests with idealism on saving the planet. A global market for carbon is an idea that deserves a fair chance.

18. [Curbing defence imports](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article “**Curbing defence imports**”, published in **Indian Express** on **17th May 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3, Changes to Industrial policies, Liberalisation

News: Government has been progressively restricting imports of specified weapons and defence kits in India.

In December 2020 Initial restrictions were imposed on importing line replacement units (LRUs) and some other defence equipment.

In 2022, curbs on import were further expanded. The list contains 2,500 items that have already been indigenised and another 1,238 that will be indigenised within stipulated timelines.

The list which includes indigenised items is called “**positive indigenisation lists**” or PIL.

What are the questions raised by indigenous defence industry on PILs?

First, what is the need for import restrictions if it is indeed cheaper to design, develop, and manufacture defence products in India. Although MoD has said that it is an assurance to Indian defence manufacturers that they will compete on a level playing field within India.

In the past, MoD has imported the same product from global market, which was developed by private defence industry in India, leading to losses.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Second, whether PILs compromise defence preparedness due to issues of quality and timing. Many of the Indian projects like Arjun tank, the Tejas fighter aircraft were protected from the global competition. It resulted into time and cost overruns. In the face of global competition, it would not have happened.

Third, whether PILs are a suitable method of increasing indigenisation? sophistication level of defence equipment is increasing, therefore indigenization should not be at the cost of military preparedness.

19. Safe farming – on Indiscriminate use of pesticides

Source: This post is created based on the article “**Safe farming**”, published in **Business Standard** on **17th May 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3, Agriculture Inputs

News: Pesticides are a vital input for modern farming to protect crops against pests, disease-causing pathogens, and other threats. The scientific committee has given its suggestions on the issue of ban on pesticides.

Scientific committee, led by T P Rajendran has presented its report. Government has submitted its report in the Supreme Court (SC).

What are the findings of the committee on pesticide ban?

The committee considered the safety, toxicity, and effectiveness of these agro chemicals. It also took into account the views of farmers who have used them for years to protect their crops from pests, diseases, and weeds.

The committee approved 24 out of these 27 agro chemicals, suggesting only three should be banned.

A lack of affordable and equally effective alternatives to these chemicals is one of the reasons given for shortening this list.

What are the effects of pesticide use?

Pesticides are inherently hazardous due to their toxic chemicals which can have acute and chronic health effects, especially if misused.

Adverse health effects of agro chemicals usually result from over-exposure or misuse by farmers. Farmers in India often neglect basic precautions such as wearing gloves and face masks when spraying pesticides.

Additionally, farmers frequently ignore the safe use instructions provided on pesticide packaging.

What should be done?

The “International code of conduct on pesticide management” has been developed by WHO and FAO. It is a guide for governments, regulators, and other stakeholders, including farmers for pesticide management. This code should be strictly followed right from the stage of approval of pesticides for manufacture to their application to crops by farmers.

A **large-scale awareness campaign** is needed to promote the appropriate use of pesticides to mitigate agro-chemical-related hazards.

The ideal approach would be to incentivise the production and use of harmless and environmentally friendly bio-pesticides.

20. [Towards a National Innovation System](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “Towards a National Innovation System” published in **Business Standard** on 18th May 2023.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy – Growth & Development

News: Economists, focusing on the National Innovation System, believe that innovation largely happens at firms. Firm capacity is affected by both what they do themselves and the institutions around them.

What is the present situation of India in innovating its firm?

The top 2,500 firms investing in R&D worldwide account for around 90 percent of all industrial R&D. However, **India has no firms in the top 2,500.**

Even when Indian software companies are profitable, **they invest just 1 percent of their average annual revenue in R&D**, compared to a global average of 12 percent.

Therefore, **India should increase its in-house R&D from 0.3 percent of GDP to match the world’s level of 1.5 percent.** India also needs big R&D investors.

Where could big R&D investors in India come from?

India’s 10 most profitable non-financial firms are in software, oil refining, metals, and other industries.

They invested under \$1 billion, or about 2 percent of profit, in R&D. However, **companies in China invested around 29 percent of profit while companies in the US, Japan and Germany invested 37, 43 and 55 percent of profit in R&D.**

Therefore, **Indian industry should be present more in technology-intensive sectors to invest more in R&D.** Within the industries that are already present in India, it is required that they invest closer to the world average.

These measures will then bring giant investors in R&D among the most profitable firms.

What can India learn from the world in firm innovation?

Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and China followed a particular sequence in building innovation capacity.

Firms in these countries **first entered export markets as original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) supplying to foreign brands.** This ensured world-scale capacity and brought competitiveness amongst the companies.

Later firms in these countries moved up the value chain to more technology-intensive sectors such as consumer durables, electronic assembly, etc. They also started to invest in in-house R&D in these sectors to sustain competitiveness.

These firms further moved to higher-technology sectors like semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, computers and went with increasing investments in in-house R&D.

All five East Asian governments funded R&D and followed the West in investing in public research in the higher education system to create researchers.

These researchers became the core of the in-house R&D departments of local firms.

In contrast, **Indian Industry was forced to compete only after 1991 liberalisation, which was the first step of innovation in India.**

The other steps in innovation have not yet happened in India as the Indian industry has been content with low R&D spending of 0.3 percent of GDP.

What can be the way ahead for India?

Pharmaceuticals and automobiles are the two technology-intensive sectors in which India has some presence in the global industrial R&D.

Pharmaceuticals dominate the R&D investments in India. It accounts for 34 percent of all Indian industrial R&D.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

With this investment in R&D its sales account for 10 percent, which is lower than the world's 16 percent. However, this ratio is decent relative to every other sector.

Therefore, **India has an advantage in pharmaceuticals to build a world-class innovative industry.**

21. 12-Hour Workday Won't Work

Source: The post is based on an article "12-Hour Workday Won't Work" published in **The Times of India** on **18th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy, Changes to Industrial Policy

News: The governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have recently allowed 12-hour workdays. The rationale behind this Arguments is that it will ensure higher domestic growth and foreign investment, thereby creating jobs.

However, developed economies have taken other measures to achieve these.

What steps have been taken by developed economies?

Developed economies have increased their GDP and attracted investments by growing the size of their manufacturing sector.

Manufacturing plays a key role in an economy's growth and development because compared to other sectors it displays greater economies of scale and has a larger number of forward and backward linkages.

Further, unlike construction and the majority of services, manufacturing output is tradable. This means that firms cannot survive if they cannot compete in the global economy. This forces them to be more productive.

What is the current situation of India in manufacturing?

The share of India's workforce in manufacturing has been around 12% since the early 1980s. **As of December 2022, total manufacturing employment in India stood at just 12.7% of the workforce.**

The vast majority of workers, with low levels of education, who left agriculture have ended up either in construction or small-scale services, leading to low-productivity work.

Whereas **the transition from farm to factory in Europe and East Asia increased the share of employment in manufacturing to 25-30%, reaching a peak.**

What are the concerns present for India in the manufacturing sector?

India's industrial policy has not been as effective as other countries like China. However, India has taken measures to improve its industrial policy for the manufacturing sector by introducing the PLI scheme.

Further, India is unable to attract foreign investments in the manufacturing industries as well as to promote domestic firms **because of complex regulatory structure and inadequate infrastructure.**

Since India suffers from these issues, it prefers focusing on labour law amendments.

Will amending labour law help India?

Without changing regulatory structure and infrastructure issues, labour law changes would not be of great help.

Moreover, **Indian factories prefer employing contract laborers.** This makes a vast majority of workers stay away from the labor laws benefits.

Therefore, **a more transparent and uniformly enforced regulatory environment is needed** to help employers and enable job creation to help workers.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Moreover, the biggest reason employers in India are much more powerful than workers is that workers far outnumber jobs. Therefore, the government must ensure the safeguarding of basic workers' rights.

Further, **regulatory changes must be accompanied by substantial investments in local and grassroots infrastructure.** Else, labour law changes will not be beneficial and effective.

What can be the way ahead?

Balancing the wellbeing and safety of workers while allowing employers the flexibility to deal with fluctuations in market conditions is imperative for a well-functioning capitalist economy.

Hence, if India wants both economic growth and decent jobs then this balance must be maintained.

22. [Why are financial regulators transitioning from LIBOR?](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article **“Why are financial regulators transitioning from LIBOR?”** published in The Hindu on 18th May 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Indian Economy – Financial Market

News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on May 12 that some banks haven't completely stopped using the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

In 2020, RBI had asked banks to analyse their LIBOR exposures and prepare for the adoption of alternative references rates like Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) and Modified Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MMIFOR).

RBI has announced that Contracts entered after (or before, if possible) December 31, 2021, were not to use the LIBOR as reference rate.

What is LIBOR?

LIBOR is a global benchmark interest rate. It combines individual rates collected from banks at which they may borrow from each other (for a particular period of time) at the London interbank market.

LIBOR is used as a benchmark to settle trades in futures, options, swaps and other derivative financial instruments in over-the-counter markets.

How is LIBOR decided?

Banks on the LIBOR panel submit their suggested interest rate at 11 AM on every business day to news and financial data company, Thomson Reuters.

The company then averages the middle quartiles to derive the LIBOR. It excludes the Extreme quartiles, on the top and bottom.

What is the controversy in the methodology of LIBOR?

This mechanism is heavily dependent upon the banks in the panel to be honest in the interest rate suggestions.

The phenomenon of dishonest submissions was on display during the 2008 financial crisis when submissions were artificially lowered.

In 2012, Barclays admitted to the misconduct and agreed to pay \$160 million in penalties to the U.S. Dept of Justice.

Another observation was the banks were changing the submission to acquire more profits.

What alternatives are available to LIBOR?

Therefore, an alternative was announced in 2017 by the U.S. Federal Reserve, which was Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR).

India also announced the use of SOFR and the Modified Mumbai Interbank Forward Outright Rate (MMIFOR), instead of MIFOR, for all new transactions.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

MIFOR

Indian banks use the Mumbai Interbank Forward Offer Rate as a standard for pricing forward-rate contracts and securities. MIFOR rate is tied to Dollar LIBOR.

SOFRA comprises the weighted averages of the rates charged in these repo transactions. It is collateralised by U.S. Treasury securities. Therefore, it is a transaction-based rate and does not require any expert calculation. It also makes it less prone to manipulation.

23. Regulating AI – on EU’s draft Artificial Intelligence law

Source: This post is created based on the article “**Regulating AI – on Artificial Intelligence**” published in **Indian Express** on 18th May 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Artificial Intelligence

News: The European Parliament’s committee has approved a draft artificial intelligence (AI) law.

What are the provisions of EU’s draft Artificial Intelligence law?

Scope of the act: The proposed Act aims to establish standards for AI deployment within the European Union (EU). This act applies to any entity serving EU residents, much like the EU’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The Act prohibits several types of AI tools that infringe on privacy or enable discrimination.

Risk based Categorisation: AI will be categorized based on risk levels, from minimal to limited, high, and unacceptable. High-risk tools will be allowed under strict oversight, auditing, and transparency requirements.

Banned Systems: It will ban systems such as real-time remote biometric identification systems used in public spaces and post-real-time use of such systems. Certain exceptions are provided for law enforcement in serious crimes following judicial authorization.

Other prohibited systems include biometric categorization based on sensitive attributes, such as race, gender, or political orientation, and predictive policing systems.

The Act also prohibits the widespread scraping of biometric data from social media or CCTV footage to create databases. Also, “emotion recognition” systems used in several contexts to detect discomfort through facial expressions or body language.

High-risk AI will include systems that are potentially harmful to health, safety, fundamental rights, or the environment. It will include AI used in political campaigns to influence voters and recommendation systems used by large social media platforms.

Generative models, like GPT, would need to comply with robust transparency requirements.

Exemptions: There are provisions for exemptions for research activities under open-source licenses, and the Act supports the establishment of regulatory sandboxes to test AI before deployment.

The Act further introduces legislation to facilitate citizens in filing complaints and requesting explanations for AI-based decisions affecting them.

24. Express View on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code: Changes are needed to ensure its smooth functioning

Source: The post is based on the article “**Express View on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code: Changes are needed to ensure its smooth functioning**” published in the **Indian Express** on 18th May 2023.

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

Relevance: About the performance of IBC.

News: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code failed to provide a time-bound resolution process as envisaged in the code.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

What is the performance of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code so far?

At the end of March, 6,571 cases had been so far admitted under [Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code](#). Of these admitted cases, 4,515 cases have been closed, while proceedings are ongoing in the remaining. A staggering 45% of the closed cases have ended up in liquidation, while the rest have been either resolved, withdrawn or appealed.

Of the total admitted claims of creditors estimated at Rs 8.98 lakh crore in various cases, the total realisable value was only Rs 2.86 lakh crore. Almost two-thirds of the current resolution proceedings have crossed the 270-day deadline.

In the cases currently undergoing liquidation, 55% have been going on for more than two years. Such delays will lead to further destruction in the value of assets.

Read more: [Insolvency and bankruptcy code – present challenges: Explained, pointwise](#)

What is the performance of pre-packaged insolvency resolution process for MSMEs?

In 2021, the government brought in amendments to introduce a pre-packaged insolvency resolution process for MSMEs. This framework provides the space for a direct agreement between the firm's owners and its financial creditors, with the debtor remaining in control during the process. But, the framework has not gained traction. For example, only four applications have been admitted under this framework as on March 2023. Of that, one has been withdrawn.

Must read: [Planely Evident – India needs a cross-border insolvency framework soon as supply chains are global](#)

What should be done to revamp the IBC?

The government is likely to introduce further amendments. This should be focused on cutting down the delays in the process, ensuring smooth functioning, and increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Code.

Read more: [Finetuning the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code](#)

25. [More innovation, a skilled workforce: The promise in India's National Quantum Mission](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**More innovation, a skilled workforce: The promise in India's National Quantum Mission**” published in the **Indian Express** on **19th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS – 3: Indigenization of technology and developing new technology.

Relevance: About India's National Quantum Mission.

News: The Union Cabinet has recently approved the ₹6,003 crore National Quantum Mission (NQM).

What is Quantum computing technology?

Must read: [Quantum computing technology and associated applications – Explained, pointwise](#)

What is India's National Quantum Mission(NQM)?

Must read: [Cabinet approves National Quantum Mission to scale-up scientific & industrial R&D for quantum technologies](#)

What is the significance of India's National Quantum Mission?

Investments in quantum materials and devices promise far more dividends. Such as,

Generate a cadre of the highly skilled workforce: As India gears to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027, a strongly networked material infrastructure in the country will be crucial. This will cater to not just quantum technologies but also other major scientific megaprojects.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

The concept of “quantum devices”: New paradigms of ultrafast transistors and optoelectronic components, as well as non-volatile memory and sensing devices, are becoming enabling vehicles for quantum applications.

Research on new architectures to incorporate quantum materials into functional units has led to the concept of quantum devices.

Develop new or upgrading current methods: Increasing investments in innovation, quantum materials, and manpower generation will lead to precise synthesis, scalable yield, and stable performance of quantum technologies.

Streamline the material and device requirements for the core quantum technology: By **a)** building infrastructure for new materials and devices with in-house R&D, **b)** synergising the diverse and geographically distributed material workforce in India to achieve mission deliverables, and **c)** ensuring efficient resource utilisation as well as minimising redundancy and duplication will streamline the material and device requirements.

What are the challenges faced by the NQM?

Fewer firms in tech manufacturing: Currently nearly 12% of start-ups are deep tech-related — this represents a nearly 35 times increase between 2016 and 2019. However, less than 3% of these involve manufacturing and/or materials.

India does not have enough infrastructure: India does not have enough infrastructure that can support the entire chain of operation from working out the proof-of-principle to developing working prototypes.

Fewer and more scattered R&D community: In 2018, India had 253 full-time equivalent researchers per million of its population. This is about 11% of the researcher density of Italy. Further, this workforce is also distributed across the country.

Material/device challenge: The material/device challenge in quantum technologies is unique because it often **demands manipulation of the quantum state of an electron or atom** with much more control, like three-dimensional systems, that contain billions of atoms.

Read more: [Quantum Computing: Uses, Challenges and India's Initiatives – Explained, pointwise](#)

What should be done to enhance India's National Quantum Mission?

The research will be required to **develop low-loss materials for superconducting quantum electronics** this will preserve quantum information over a long period and much more.

Leverage the evolving scientific infrastructure: Capacity building in the past two decades under national initiatives, such as the Nano Mission and [National Supercomputing Mission](#), has enabled a five-fold increase in research publications in this area between 2011 and 2019.

Strategic recruitment: India needs to devolve strategies to integrate the initiatives of the demographically scattered human resources. Further, the NQM's goal-oriented multi-institutional consortia will demand strategic recruitment of new talent, synergistic multi-institutional collaboration and political will to ease bureaucratic norms and prevent delays in infrastructure building.

India needs to **create a well-balanced R&D ecosystem** where material research for near-term goals and applications needs to coexist and collaborate with more fundamental and futuristic objectives.

Through timely investment and efficient management, India can emerge a global leader in the Quantum technology.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

26. Measuring success: Increasing PLI allocation will not be enough

Source: The post is based on the article “Measuring success: Increasing PLI allocation will not be enough” published in the **Indian Express** on **19th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware.

News: The Union Cabinet has recently approved an updated Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware manufacturing with more fund allocation.

About the updated Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for IT hardware manufacturing

Must read: [Centre more than doubles outlay on PLI for IT hardware to ₹17,000 crore](#)

What are the key changes in the PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware?

-The updated scheme now has a budgetary outlay of Rs. 17,000 crore, compared to the previous allocation of Rs. 7,325 crore.

-The tenure of the scheme has also been increased to six years from four years.

-The average incentive has been enhanced to 5% compared to 2% offered in the previous version.

-Companies using local components will now get additional incentives.

What are the expected benefits of PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware?

With the modified scheme, the government expects an investment of Rs. 2,430 crore in the sector during the given period.

India needs to create a large number of manufacturing jobs for its ever-rising workforce. Hence, with the updated scheme, the Centre expects to create 75,000 direct jobs and boost production by Rs. 3.35 trillion.

About the potential of Electronics manufacturing in India

Electronics manufacturing has been witnessing consistent expansion with a 17% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the past eight years. The annual production value is estimated to have crossed \$105 billion, or about Rs. 9 trillion.

India has emerged as a trusted supply-chain partner for global players and large companies are willing to invest in India.

Why increasing allocation for PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware is not enough?

The earlier version did not yield results despite investment: Various reports have shown that the target for electronics manufacturing would be missed by a significant margin by 2025-26. Exports would be around only 53-55% of the stated target.

In the case of IT hardware, in particular, against the target of \$25 billion, production is estimated to touch only about \$6 billion.

The extension of financial support is not the correct way to attract investment: The financial support might cause **a) the subdued performance of firms** in different sectors, **b) In the long run, they might develop heavy dependence on PLI, c) deviate focus from create enabling conditions** for a large and diverse manufacturing base in the country and **d) fiscal incentive can be only one of the many variables determining actual investment** decisions.

What should be done?

The government should re-evaluate the scheme to help drive long-term investment and balance India's aversion to large trade agreements.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

[27. Logistics makes the world go around](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Logistics makes the world go around**” published in **Business Standard** on **19th May 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Infrastructure**

Relevance: measures needed by India to improve its rank in World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index.

News: India has jumped six ranks to 38th position among 139 countries on the World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index for 2023.

About WB’s Logistics Performance Index, 2023

[Click Here to Read](#)

The Logistics Index is built on six components – **1)** the efficiency of customs, **2)** the quality of trade and transport infrastructure, **3)** the ease of arranging competitively priced shipments, **4)** the quality and competence of logistics services, **5)** the ability to track consignments, and **6)** timeliness.

India has beaten key ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) competitors like Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines, in the index.

What are the benefits for India in the improvement of its the ranks in the Logistics Performance Index, 2023?

3. **a)** it helps lower the cost of doing business in India, and **b)** it will help India’s exports and make the country a more attractive destination for investment, especially in the manufacturing sector.

How is the World Bank Logistics Performance Index better than World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Index?

The **World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business Index** was flawed because the index was based on **judgements of experts and not on surveys of real businesses**.

The Index was based on the idea that less regulation is always better, which was a wrong narrative. **For instance**, the recent failure of Silicon Valley Bank has been due to the weakening regulation of mid-size banks since 2019.

The flaws that existed with the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business are not present in the World Bank’s Logistics Performance Index. Hence, the rank in this index holds a significant importance.

Read More: [Lessons from the death of the ease of doing business index](#)

What measures can be taken by India to improve its ranking further in the Logistics Performance Index?

India should focus on improving its score further because its competitors are trying to improve. **For instance**, Thailand is slightly ahead of India because of better scores on two components — customs and trade and transport infrastructure.

Therefore, India must also focus on the efficiency of its customs system because India’s custom score has fallen since 2016.

India can take some technical assistance from **Singapore, which has the best customs efficiency in the world**. An improvement in the score for customs efficiency will have huge benefits for India.

What are other areas that India also needs to focus on?

In addition to the custom, India should also focus on –

Cost of fuel: Before the depreciation of the rupee, diesel prices in India were much higher than in many East Asian countries. However, even after the depreciation of the rupee, diesel prices remain 10 percent higher than in China.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Electricity: Electricity prices are cheaper for consumers than for producers. Due to which, discoms are often at loss.

Freight: India's rail freight rates for goods needs to be reviewed. This is because even with the recent rupee depreciation of 10 percent, Indian rail freight rates are among the highest in the world.

[28. Warming warning – on WMO's report on increasing heat](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article “**Warming warning**” published in **The Hindu** on **19th May 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Disaster Management

News: The article discusses the recent findings by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) about projected temperature trends for the next decade

According to the WMO, the annual mean global near-surface temperature for each year between 2023 and 2027 is likely to be 1.1°-1.8°C higher than the average from 1850-1900.

There is a 66% chance that the global near-surface temperature will exceed 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels in at least one year before 2027.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has repeatedly said that the 1.5°C threshold should not be breached. However, with current climate policies, the globe is likely to heat beyond 2°C by the end of the century.

The heat due to El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) combined with human-induced climate change will push global temperatures into uncharted territory.

How can it impact India?

The rise in ocean temperatures is also likely to lead to stronger cyclones. For example, Cyclone Mocha, which crossed through Myanmar, claimed at least 60 lives and caused severe damage. It ended up being stronger than what was initially estimated.

The India Meteorological Department has already indicated that monsoon rainfall will be on the lower side of 'normal' due to the El Niño.

Therefore, Increased investments in disaster-related infrastructure are crucial to handle the changing climate conditions.

[29. Globalization will work better for Planet Earth than its alternative](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article “**Globalization will work better for Planet Earth than its alternative**” published in **Live Mint** on **19th May 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Environment and Climate Change

News: McKinsey Global Institute has discarded the view that the path to sustainability will involve moving away from globalization.

The McKinsey research suggests that the resources, innovations, and capital required to reach net-zero emissions are unevenly distributed globally, necessitating international cooperation and exchange.

WTO also supports that trade is crucial for countries to reduce emissions and build climate resilience.

What are some of the examples that prove that globalization is necessary for decarbonization?

First, all major world regions rely on imports for at least one input necessary for the net-zero transition. For instance, over 75% of the global supply of lithium, essential for electric vehicle batteries, comes from Australia and Chile.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Second, Decarbonizing sectors that produce most GHGs will require the development of low-emission technologies and infrastructure. Building and operating these assets requires: new mineral resources, new fuels, and complex manufacturing at scale. Therefore, International supply chains are integral to produce these assets.

Third, Minerals like copper, lithium, and rare earth metals, vital for electric vehicles and renewable power are not available in every country.

Fourth, the distribution of manufactured goods like solar panels and electric vehicles relies on global supply chains.

Fifth, developing countries will need more investment for the net-zero transition. Hence, access to cross-border financial flows will be necessary for these economies.

Sixth, if economies attempt to localize or diversify supply chains, the need for capital and intangibles will increase.

30. [Express View on new climate change report: It should lead to a review of Paris Climate Pact targets](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Express View on new climate change report: It should lead to a review of Paris Climate Pact targets**” published in the **Indian Express** on **20th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About Global Climate 2022 report

News: Recently, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) released a report titled ‘State of the Global Climate 2022’. The report has warned that at least one of the next four years could be 1.5 degrees hotter than the pre-industrial average.

About the State of the Global Climate 2022 report

The WMO report pointed out that the global mean temperature last year was 1.15 degrees above pre-industrial levels.

Must read: [State of the Global Climate 2022: The threat of rising sea levels](#)

What is the status of the temperature increase in India?

The India Meteorological Organisation recorded 2022 as the fifth-warmest year on record since 2021, and the last decade as the hottest 10 years in the country’s history.

How are global countries impacted by climate change?

- a) Floods in Pakistan claimed more than 1,500 lives and affected more than 30 million people,
- b) Heatwaves led to record temperatures in several parts of Europe last year, leading to droughts and reduced river flows, and
- c) North America had its warmest August and forest fires raged in several parts of the US and Australia.

What should be done to mitigate the impact of climate change?

Need for greater investments: This is essential especially to build people’s resilience. Such as investments in a) risk-proof agriculture, b) building food security, c) developing flood and cyclone warning systems, and d) strengthening the defences of coasts and other vulnerable areas.

Increase adaptation funds to developing countries: A UN report last year noted that the international “adaptation finance flows to developing countries are 5-10 times below estimated needs and the gap is widening”. The upcoming COP-28 summit in Dubai must address this gap.

Must read: [Impact of Climate Change on Monsoon](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

31. About India's economic growth: A sustainable growth rate

Source: The post is based on the article “A sustainable growth rate” published in the **Indian Express** on **20th May 2023**.

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

Relevance: About India's economic growth.

News: In the past four decades and more, the structure of India's economy has changed drastically.

What are the structural changes India witnessed in the past four decades?

Compared to 1980-81, using current prices, **a)** The share of “agriculture and allied activities” has dropped from 38% of GDP to 21%, **b)** The share of services has grown from 37% to 53%, **c)** Industry (including construction and utilities) has remained more or less unchanged at 26%.

What does the structural change mean for overall economic growth?

Increase in life expectancy and associated benefits: Life expectancy was 54 years in 1980. But it is currently estimated at 70 years. This means the average Indian no longer dies in his/her working age.

This has improved productivity and increased the rapid spread of education, including post-school education, where enrolment levels have grown sharply.

Rate of investment: There is an increased rate of investment in fixed capital (up from 19.7% of GDP in 1980-81 to 28.6% before the pandemic).

Further, there is a high spread of digitisation.

Healthy economic growth: Indian economy's potential for annual growth should have become at least 7%. In the two decades prior to the pandemic, India through many ups and downs averaged annual growth not far short of 7%.

Read more: [India's growth rate: Aiming for the high road](#)

How did the pandemic impact India's economic growth?

With the global economic slowdown post-pandemic, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) thinks India's potential for growth has suffered and reduced the growth forecast. This is because with Covid India has **a)** more people falling back on low-productivity agriculture, **b)** a lower ratio of worker population to total population, **c)** damage to small and medium enterprises, **d)** a shortage of consumption and (consequently) investment demand, **e)** higher level of public debt, and **f)** government policy errors (like staying out of regional trade agreements).

What India needs to do to boost India's economic growth?

India should **make heavy investments in transport infrastructure**. India should also **raise the country's capacity** for generating growth and employment. This will revive the Indian economy.

General Studies Paper – 4

General Studies - 4

1. [Why the erosion of the traditional Indian family is worrying](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Why the erosion of the traditional Indian family is worrying**” published in the **Indian Express** on **17th May 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 4 – Role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

Relevance: About traditional family system.

News: Recently, the world celebrated International Day of Families on May 15. But the constant weakening of the traditional family system is a cause for worry.

What is the importance of family?

The family has been a foundational institution of society in most parts of the world, particularly in India. India swear by Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Kutumb or family has traditionally acquired primacy in human interpersonal-social relationship dynamics. Transparency in relationships is the bedrock of mutual trust. It is this trust that provides a strong foundation for families.

It is an institution where consolidation of interpersonal relations naturally evolved while living under one roof, sharing thought processes, participating in collective actions and developing emotional bonding. It also helped its members to withstand innumerable onslaughts from a globalised world.

This is the reason, so far, no social scientist has been able to advocate any alternate unit better than family.

What are the challenges in implementing reforms in the family system?

Family is not a creation of any government. So, one cannot go to governments to introduce reforms. They **need to be society driven**. A new set of challenges are emanating from the changing social conditions in our society.

Almost all the reforms in the family start with the state of dialogue within homes. So, **lack of quality conversations** in most families might create several new crises. This made families united outwardly, but fragmented from within.

Excessive emphasis on individualism: In most relationships, dialogues between family members are rare. For example, candid and heart-to-heart dialogues between husband-wife and parent-children are becoming rare. They have become too formal and superficial. This is due to the excessive emphasis on individualism. This also prevents occasions to gather insights about each other.

Excessive Formalisation: From birthdays to weddings and house-warmings to condolence meetings, everything is being made into a formal event. This disregards the beauty of informality. This creates the “crisis of authenticity” of our interpersonal feelings.

External factors like peer pressure and exhibitionism have further complicated the family structure.

What should be done to revive India’s traditional family system?

Focus on collectivity: Indian society will pay a huge price if we continue to ape Western societies and emulate mindless individualism. A traditional Indian family is like what Krishna Yajurveda Taittiriya Upanishad says.

Note: *It said, “May we work together with great energy and finally may there be no hate among us”.*

Ideas like privacy and private space are too important to be ignored. But that should not be at the cost of collectivism, partnership and the value of sharing. The joy of sharing leads to a commonality of ethos, likes and dislikes.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of May [Third Week] 2023

Recognise the contributions of women: India needs to have women-led families as a starting point for the implementation of the PM's call for women-led development. To make this happen, men will have to rise above the traditional male mindset and ensure equality of security, opportunities and respect.

Woman-led, child-focused and elderly-sensitive families are the need of the hour

