



9 PM

Compilation

September, 2023

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

General Studies - 1

1. [Mark The Sea That Blows Hot & Cold](#)
2. [How G20 will strengthen India's building blocks](#)
3. [Express View on caste in California- Law making caste-based discrimination illegal is a step forward. Prejudice must be brought into the light](#)
4. [Disappearing languages, vanishing voices](#)
5. [Opium, history and economics](#)
6. [The Rocket Fuel That Is English](#)
7. [Express View on Santiniketan's world heritage status: At home in the world](#)
8. [Legislating change- The Women's Reservation Bill must be implemented without delay](#)
9. [Slums in the urban ecosystem](#)
10. [People count – On the Issues of Census](#)
11. [A FRESH CANVAS FOR MEWAR ART](#)
12. [Santiniketan chronicles: Unesco tag adorns the idyllic haven](#)
13. [Bhagat Singh's Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam](#)
14. [A milestone in Hindu marriage reform in India](#)
15. [A dictionary to prevent a language from vanishing](#)

General Studies - 2

1. [One nation, one election plan: How the Constitution is amended, when do states get a say](#)
2. [Status of the Right to Information Act](#)
3. [Measuring hunger across States](#)
4. [Court's order and the ASI survey are flawed](#)
5. [How India has made the G20 more inclusive](#)
6. [Who is afraid of the Basic Structure?](#)
7. ['India's Talent Pool A Force For National, Global Good'](#)
8. [Not A Job For Quotas](#)
9. [C Raja Mohan writes: At G20, the end of old multilateralism – and the beginning of a new order](#)
10. [Xi Jinping skipping G-20 Summit a deliberate signal to India, West](#)
11. [DIY India – The government's ₹13,000cr proposal to train artisans is a step towards self-reliance](#)
12. [The implications of expansion of BRICS](#)
13. [The case for elections in Jammu and Kashmir](#)
14. [India, that is Bharat: How the Constituent Assembly chose](#)
15. [Bridging the malnutrition gap, the Bemetara way](#)
16. [PM Narendra Modi writes: G20 will reach the last mile, leave no one behind](#)
17. [Kota suicides: Our children on the brink](#)
18. [Chandrayaan 3 success: India's role in democratising space](#)
19. [India, US and the China anxiety- For Delhi and Washington, the other's China choices matter](#)
20. [Finding Seoul in the Indo-Pacific](#)
21. [India should quit the Brics](#)
22. [GOI must consider a law that mandates a cooling-off period before retired judges take another job](#)
23. [The case for decoupled elections](#)
24. [Continental Shift? Why it's not quite Asia's century yet](#)
25. [An overhaul, the criminal law Bills, and the big picture](#)
26. [India's G20 presidency has been a landmark- The voice of emerging powers must be heard](#)
27. [India's G20 opportunity: Internet shutdowns hamper Digital India promise](#)
28. [G20's well being challenge](#)
29. [Eastern hedge – on India and ASEAN relationship](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

30. [Change the playbook, repatriate Indian children](#)
31. [The New Look In New Delhi](#)
32. [An unforgettable presidency – on G20 Summit](#)
33. [New currency, next steps- Global collaboration and cooperation on regulation of crypto-assets](#)
34. [The larger project of subverting the idea of India](#)
35. [African Dividend – On India- Africa Relations](#)
36. [China’s BRI Now Faces A Credible Indian Challenger](#)
37. [Tuning into news- Allow news on private FM radio, with effective self-regulation](#)
38. [Still Just Five- With an even more aggressive China against UNSC permanent membership for India, reform looks tough](#)
39. [Why simultaneous elections would militate against federalism](#)
40. [Ridding India of food insecurity](#)
41. [No filter- Prior approval requirement for initiating corruption probes is not desirable](#)
42. [How fraternity in India is different from the idea enshrined in the Constitution](#)
43. [African Union and the G20: Africa on the high table](#)
44. [G20 meet’s climate action promise: Significant, but not enough](#)
45. [The new India-US dynamic](#)
46. [Just What Is Justin Up To? – On India Canada Relations](#)
47. [A mockery of pedagogic ethics, the breaking of a bond](#)
48. [Unified approach- An integrated approach to health can prevent zoonotic spillover](#)
49. [Expert Explains: With the announced India-Europe Economic Corridor, a look at India’s supply chain opportunity](#)
50. [For Make in India, Invent in India](#)
51. [On The Right Road – Airbags for rear passengers are best achieved via competitive pressure](#)
52. [Mansukh L Mandaviya writes | Ayushman Bhav: May all be free of illness](#)
53. [Wrong Target – Life ban from polls for convicted netas is a bad idea](#)
54. [Disentangling the 2030 global renewable energy target](#)
55. [Jal Jeevan Mission remains a pipe dream](#)
56. [It’s time for India and Africa to deal with food and security issues together](#)
57. [Not Old Habits in New House, please – on functioning of parliament](#)
58. [33% Fairer – Political returns on passing the women’s reservation bill look very good now](#)
59. [India is at a pivotal moment in its health-care journey](#)
60. [India trails in deceased organ donation](#)
61. [India-Middle East-Europe Corridor: The way to a new world order](#)
62. [The ‘mantras’ that powered success at the G-20 summit](#)
63. [Facilitating degrees within a degree](#)
64. [The Cauvery Water Management Authority should act](#)
65. [33%: The Details – Implementing women’s reservation will need a lot of work](#)
66. [The Indo-Pacific power play](#)
67. [With G20-IMEC plan, the global order shifts to Eurasia](#)
68. [Canada needs to see India – not just the diaspora](#)
69. [Rice fortification can help tackle our problem of hidden hunger](#)
70. [Values Kota imparted: Anxiety and building a future on a butchered present](#)
71. [No BFFs Needed – India needs four things to secure strategic autonomy in foreign policy and more than one alliance](#)
72. [Climate finance must get beyond greenwashing and greenwashing](#)
73. [M Venkaiah Naidu on One Nation One Election: Together, for the greater good](#)
74. [Silent killer – India must get more people to keep blood pressure under control](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

75. [Bench Strength – CJJ must move fast to create permanent constitution benches](#)
76. [India and the great power contest in West Asia](#)
77. [Trudeau has shown irresponsibility in accusing India. He must answer](#)
78. [In these times, what meaning could a new Parliament have?](#)
79. [The suicide cluster in Kota is a public health emergency](#)
80. [Prachanda, the US, and China](#)
81. [South of the Godavari](#)
82. Covert action is a troublesome but often useful tool of statecraft
83. Gap between law and justice
84. Not Just Oil- New momentum in ties between India and Saudi Arabia could be a game changer
85. Fukushima N-wastewater controversy
86. An economic corridor, the Israel link and the geopolitics
87. Politicising exchanges
88. Taking India back to the drawing board
89. G-20 diplomacy and a shifting world order
90. Prachanda & Himalayan Xiopolitics
91. War in the Caucasus – Azerbaijan should respect the autonomy of the Armenian population
92. What are the findings of the Parliament panel on NEP?
93. WHO report flags deficits in BP care — facilitating diagnosis is first step
94. With climate change, tackling new disease scenarios
95. The need for quiet diplomacy to clear the air
96. Diplomatic standoff – Indo-Canada row may have unintended costs
97. No, data isn't the new oil – Data Protection Bill needs to realise that
98. The G-20's screen over 'mazdoors', their rights
99. Nearly 69 lakh cancer deaths among Indian women were preventable: What a study says on gender and the disease
100. ASEAN's China dilemma
101. ASEAN's China dilemma
102. Parliament to workplace
103. Warring Over Water – River fights between states need a single dispute resolution body
104. Unhealthy dynamics – Gender bias in cancer care reflects a larger health care crisis
105. Reform can address India's kidney transplant deficit
106. Global dispute settlement, India and appellate review
107. Push for more women, this time in the police
108. Taming Big Tech

General Studies - 3

1. [The impact of food on climate](#)
2. [Unabated global warming will wipe penguins off this planet](#)
3. [Current green transition solutions disregard social and political realities, both international and domestic](#)
4. [Onward, sunward – Aditya-L1 gives India's space programme one more boundary to push](#)
5. [Emerging countries need women-led climate action](#)
6. [The need to build sovereign AI capabilities](#)
7. [Rethinking growth – Economic growth policies](#)
8. [The tax base is growing – government shouldn't waste the opportunity](#)
9. [Laws governing forests of the Northeast](#)
10. [Time to decide-Infrastructure development in the hills cannot be the same as in the plains](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

11. [RBI's e-rupee could use UPI for a reformist leap](#)
12. [Use financial inclusion to reduce inequality and speed up growth](#)
13. [How unemployment is measured?](#)
14. [For an expanse of blue, with air so clean](#)
15. [GDP: It All Comes Down To Demand](#)
16. [Xi's 'one mountain, two tigers' diplomatic puzzle](#)
17. [Let us deploy fiscal federalism against climate change](#)
18. [Over 30% UPI frauds in 3 states](#)
19. [How to curb government's fiscal irresponsibility](#)
20. [Impact of RBI's lending guidelines](#)
21. [Do subsidies and safety nets take focus away from generating jobs?](#)
22. [Pulses are dearer- Shortfall in pulse production has spurred inflation](#)
23. [Why India's falling cotton production is a worry](#)
24. [Redouble efforts to reduce disaster risks](#)
25. [Developing best practices – SRO for fintechs will be a first step](#)
26. [Secure and fair – On guidelines to prevent and regulate dark patterns](#)
27. [Stocktaking calamity – on United Nations' Global Stocktake report](#)
28. [Nuclear energy is clean but too risky to rely on](#)
29. [Laptop Decision Doesn't Compute](#)
30. [Why the earthquake in Morocco has caused so much damage](#)
31. [Satwik Mishra writes: Cautiously on AI](#)
32. [The signals from this 'Made in China' smartphone story](#)
33. [Spotlighting another border point, the 'rogue channel](#)
34. [Climate phenomena and food security](#)
35. [May the twain meet: Look East as much as West for Indian exports](#)
36. [Sunny Side Up – on India-Saudi Arabia MoU](#)
37. [A new direction for direct taxes](#)
38. [Haseeb Drabu writes: What the 16th Finance Commission needs to do differently](#)
39. [India's unemployment challenge can't be tackled by doles as usual](#)
40. [Our inflation index lens is hazy but clear enough](#)
41. [Banking investments – New norms will impart stability](#)
42. [Protecting floodplains is the need of the hour](#)
43. [Expanding the Indian economy, the green way](#)
44. [Express View: Checking Nipah](#)
45. [The New Delhi Declaration and Paris Agenda show a way forth](#)
46. [Disentangling the 2030 global renewable energy target](#)
47. [PMMSY: bridging gaps in the fisheries sector](#)
48. [Broadening the field- Science awards should aim to encourage more young scientists](#)
49. [Changing the way the postman knocks](#)
50. [Fuel for thought – Mr Gadkari's statement reflects a valid policy concern](#)
51. [With an increase in taxpayer base, closing the tax gap](#)
52. [Syed Ata Hasnain on Anantnag attack: Dying embers, but terrorism threat not over](#)
53. [IAF takes delivery of first C295: How this deal kicks off 'Make in India' scheme for military aircraft](#)
54. [A GM crop decision that cuts the mustard](#)
55. [Being people-centric – on government spending](#)
56. [How Basmati in India is reaping the rewards of research](#)
57. [Why is the government pushing for regulatory mechanisms for OTT services?](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

58. [Export bans and stocking limits: are they working?](#)
59. [Growth needs more electricity](#)
60. [Clean aviation will take more than just biofuels](#)
61. [India's tea industry needs policy liberalization for rejuvenation](#)
62. [Flight to self-sufficiency-AF orders are increasing domestic production](#)
63. [Empowering MSMEs for export success](#)
64. [A chocolate nudge can serve a public purpose](#)
65. [R S Sharma on PM-WANI's potential to transform India's digital public infrastructure](#)
66. [Green Tax, Black Mark – on EU' CBAM](#)
67. [Ships Of State – on India's Naval Strength](#)
68. [Where has India's record wheat and rice output gone?](#)
69. [Environmental humanities: the need to expand our understanding of nature](#)
70. [Simultaneous polls: do States have a say?](#)
71. [Let's not conflate microfinance with self-help group financing](#)
72. [All charged up: India's battery storage plans](#)
73. [Women's reservation Bill – imperfect but important](#)
74. [Taking a giant leap for a new ethics in outer space](#)
75. [Navigating the evolving trade landscape](#)
76. [Propelling India's development the right way](#)
77. [Unlocking MSME potential- Digital tools are crucial for expanding their reach and unleashing growth](#)
78. [Digital forensics: India's opportunity](#)
79. [Shyam Saran writes: BRICS is growing – and that doesn't hurt India's interests](#)
[Shyam Saran writes: BRICS is growing – and that doesn't hurt India's interests](#)
80. [A light-bulb moment for the Indian fan market](#)
81. [Ethanol – a saviour that gives savings](#)
82. [Hybridisation can spread gainful genes between species](#)
83. [Creators Vs Algos-Generative AI poses a serious copyright violation risk](#)
84. [Managing flows – Govt's dependence on foreign funds should be limited](#)
85. [Swift death of the 'Green Consensus'](#)
86. [The Job Question – on unemployment data](#)
87. [Our institutes of higher learning can produce a green generation](#)
88. [Our chip-making game shows welcome realism](#)
89. [Unseal And Pause- NDMA finding that Joshimath has overshot carrying capacity was expected](#)
90. [ExplainSpeaking: What's the link between GDP growth and employment in India](#)
91. [There is a better way to capture the growth picture](#)
92. [Tackling the various myths within the field of microbiome research](#)
93. [Experts weigh in on criticism of GDP methodology](#)
94. [The Data Maze- An overhaul of the statistical system is urgent](#)
95. [Green Hydrogen push will need to counter challenges](#)
96. [OSIRIS-REx's success, and Bennu's gift of knowledge from the heavens](#)
97. [Why are tigers dying in Nilgiris district?](#)
98. [What does a drop in household financial savings imply for India?](#)
99. [Timeless quest- Bennu sample can help human understanding beyond the immediate](#)
100. [Drawing the line- Information aids public safety, and is not a trigger for panic](#)
101. [GDP doesn't mean much for economy](#)
102. [Let us not resurrect the ghost of retro taxation](#)
103. [KEEPING Small Finance Bank \(SFBs\) AFLOAT](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

104. We should join the WTO's investment facilitation talks
105. Swaminathan walked ahead of his time: scientific community
106. Narco Taliban – Why Afghan meth is India's big headache
107. 40th...Now What? India's Innovation Index 2023
108. India's wildlife, decimated by hunting and forest exploitation, found succour in national parks
109. Extended exclusion – on AFSPA
110. On semiconductors, jugaad won't do
111. As illicit trade booms, seizure mount

General Studies - 4

1. [Enhance board effectiveness to acquire a competitive advantage](#)
2. [In-person teaching has value if it's led by values](#)
3. [Living in the age of moral dystopia](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

General

Studies

Paper – 1

Created with love ❤️ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.



General Studies - 1

1. Mark The Sea That Blows Hot & Cold

Source: The post is based on the article “**Mark The Sea That Blows Hot & Cold**” published in **The Times of India** on 4th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS1- Geography- Important Geophysical phenomena (El Niño)

News: The article talks about strange weather patterns this year. It asks if El Niño is really causing the Indian monsoon drought. It also points out that predicting monsoons is tricky due to things like global warming and specific sea-surface temperatures.

What is El Niño?

[Read here](#)

What's different in El Niño this year?

Typical El Niño Patterns: In standard El Niño years, the eastern Pacific gets warmer, leading to decreased rainfall in places like Indonesia.

Western Pacific Temperatures: This year, instead of being cooler, the western Pacific has temperatures that are slightly warmer than normal.

Western Indian Ocean Temperatures: Similarly, the western Indian Ocean is also warmer than what is typically expected during an El Niño.

Rainfall Anomalies: Contrary to usual El Niño patterns which cause rainfall deficits, the Indonesian Seas are receiving more rain.

Indo-Pacific Tripole: This year's sea-surface temperature patterns, termed the Indo-Pacific Tripole (It refers to the sea-surface temperature (SST) patterns across three key regions: the western Indian Ocean, the Indonesian Seas, and the Eastern Pacific.), are not consistent with what's usually seen during El Niño.

Impact on Indian Monsoon: The relationship between this year's unusual El Niño and the Indian monsoon remains uncertain and not fully understood.

What are the reasons for these differences?

Reasons for Differences in El Niño This Year:

Atypical SST Patterns:

Both the western Pacific and the western Indian Ocean are showing temperatures warmer than usual.

This deviates from the typical warm-cold-warm pattern of the Indo-Pacific Tripole expected during an El Niño.

Positive Rainfall Anomalies:

Contrary to usual El Niño conditions that result in rainfall deficits in the Indonesian Seas, there's an increase in rainfall.

Possible Influence of Global Warming:

A similar atypical pattern was detected in 2009, which was a drought year.

A study from 2012 indicated that this unusual El Niño pattern might overlap with global warming trends.

Unfamiliar Pattern:

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The observed pattern isn't commonly associated with El Niños.

It's challenging to determine if this unique pattern will become frequent in future El Niños or if there's another factor at play.

What are its implications for India?

Uncertain Monsoon Impact: The different Indo-Pacific Tripole pattern brings uncertainties about El Niño's effect on the Indian monsoon.

Forecast Challenges: The unexpected pattern emphasizes the need to predict specific sea-surface temperature patterns, not just the El Niño index.

Economic Preparations: The government has taken proactive measures, regulating exports of grains and onions in anticipation of potential effects.

Anxiety for the Remaining Season: With the unusual patterns observed, there's anticipation and concern regarding how the rest of the monsoon season will play out.

2. How G20 will strengthen India's building blocks

Source: The post is based on the article "Union Minister Pralhad Joshi writes: **How G20 will strengthen India's building blocks**– The meet could consolidate India's efforts to secure critical minerals' supply chains" published in "The Indian express" on 8th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS1- Geography- natural resources & GS2- International relations – global grouping

News: The article discusses the importance of critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements for clean energy technologies. Global demand for these minerals has increased, but their supply chains can be unstable due to politics, trade, or natural events. India is focusing on enhancing its own production and supply of these minerals to reduce dependence on imports. The government has made policy changes to encourage mining and has formed international partnerships for mineral security.

What are Critical minerals?

Definition: Vital elements essential for modern technologies and clean energy transition.

Examples: Cobalt, lithium, silicon, graphite, and rare earth elements (REE).

Uniqueness: They have no viable substitutes, making them indispensable.

Applications: Foundational for technologies such as solar modules, wind turbines, and batteries.

Growing Demand: Key to the global shift towards green energy solutions.

Supply Chain Vulnerability: Influenced by trade policies, geopolitics, and natural events.

Importance for India: Essential not just for economic growth but also national security.

Why are critical minerals important?

Clean Energy Technologies: Critical minerals like cobalt, lithium, and rare earth elements are fundamental for green solutions.

Sustainability Targets: They play a key role in helping India achieve 500 GW of non-fossil power capacity by 2030.

Emission Reduction: These minerals support India's goal of reducing emissions intensity to 45% below 2005 levels by 2030.

Economic Growth: These minerals are essential for national economic health and security.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

No Substitutes: They have no viable alternatives, making them indispensable.

Tech Applications: Used in devices like solar modules, wind turbines, and batteries.

Global Demand Surge: From 2016 to 2022, the production of lithium grew by 240%, rare earth elements by 134%, and cobalt by 67%.

Modern Civilization: Termed as building blocks for today's society.

What efforts has India made to secure its future?

Focus on Critical Minerals: Recognizing their importance in clean technologies like solar modules, wind turbines, and batteries.

Policy Reforms: Amended the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 in 2015, 2020, 2021, and 2023 to bolster the domestic critical minerals sector.

New Auction Regime: Initiated in 2015, this system grants mining and composite licenses transparently and promptly.

Encouraging Exploration: The **National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)** supports the exploration of critical minerals. Private agencies are funded for these activities.

Provisions for Deep-Seated Minerals: The 2023 Act amendment included Exploration Licenses (EL) specifically for deep-seated and critical minerals.

International Partnerships: India joined the Minerals Security Partnership and formed agreements like the **Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement**. They're also exploring opportunities in Chile and Argentina through **Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL)**.

G20 Leadership: Under India's G20 presidency, the country is emphasizing the importance of critical minerals for a sustainable future.

About Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 2023

Recent Amendment: This is the latest in a series of amendments since 2015 to promote mining in India.

Special Provision: The Act includes provisions for Exploration Licenses (EL) specifically for deep-seated and critical minerals.

Atomic Minerals: Six minerals, including lithium, were removed from the atomic minerals list.

Government Role: The central government is tasked with auctioning 24 critical minerals, but revenues go to the respective state governments.

Objective: Strengthen India's domestic mining, reduce import reliance, and ensure a sustainable supply of critical minerals.

Impact: The changes are expected to boost domestic exploration and production of essential minerals for clean energy technologies.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

3. Express View on caste in California- Law making caste-based discrimination illegal is a step forward. Prejudice must be brought into the light

Source: The post is based on the article “Express View on caste in California- Law making caste-based discrimination illegal is a step forward. Prejudice must be brought into the light” published in “The Indian express” on 8th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS1- Society

News: The article talks about California becoming the first US state to pass law SB-403, aimed at addressing caste-based discrimination. It points out that while many Indian-Americans embrace their culture in the US, some carry biases like caste prejudice. The article stresses the need to address these issues for a stronger Indian-American community.

Why did California introduce a law against caste-based discrimination?

Growing Awareness: California, being a progressive state, has often led in terms of legislation, addressing issues from pollution control to LGBTQIA+ rights.

Notable Incidents: In 2020, Cisco, a significant tech company, was sued by the state because two Indian managers allegedly discriminated against a Dalit engineer.

Influence of Other Regions: Earlier this year, Seattle recognized caste discrimination, signaling the urgency of addressing this issue on a broader scale.

Reflecting Community Voices: The law is a result of a larger conversation in the community and isn't just a top-down decision. It indicates that caste prejudices exist among some Indian-Americans in the US.

Promoting Justice: The law aims to challenge and address discrimination, ensuring that everyone, irrespective of their ancestry or caste, is treated fairly.

What are its impacts?

Recognition of Caste Issues: The law solidifies that caste discrimination is not just an Indian issue but is recognized and addressed in the US, specifically in California.

Validation for Marginalized Voices: The legislation provides a platform for Dalits and other marginalized groups to raise their concerns about caste prejudices in the US.

Influence on Other Regions: Following California's lead, other states or cities might consider similar legislation, as Seattle did by recognizing caste discrimination earlier.

Reflection for Indian-Americans: The law prompts the Indian-American community to introspect and confront prejudices they might have carried over.

4. Disappearing languages, vanishing voices

Source- The post is based on the article “Disappearing languages, vanishing voices” published in “The Hindu” on 8th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS1- Art and Culture

Relevance- Issues related to language

News- The article explains the loss of linguistic diversity across the world.

How is linguistic diversity across the world in decline?

A **mathematical model, featured in The Economic Journal**, predicts that within the next century, around **40% of languages** with fewer than 35,000 speakers will become extinct.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The ILD reveals a **global decline in linguistic diversity** by 20% from 1970 to 2005. Regionally, indigenous linguistic diversity has seen a **60% decline in the Americas, a 30% drop in the Pacific region, and an almost 20% decrease in Africa.**

The index aims to analyse the **distribution of speakers** among all spoken languages globally.

A growing number of people worldwide are shifting towards just a handful of **dominant languages**, at the expense of smaller ones.

This trend has led to a **loss of linguistic diversity**, and resulted in the **eventual extinction** of some languages.

According to the **Linguistic Society of America**, many languages today have only **one living native speaker**.

Approximately half of the global population speaks **one of the ten most widely spoken languages** as their mother tongue. It poses a **significant threat** to language diversity.

What are the possible reasons behind loss of linguistic diversity?

The decline in language diversity and the extinction of languages are closely linked to **migration patterns**.

When people migrate to countries where a dominant language is spoken, they adopt that **dominant language** to access the **social and economic benefits**.

As a result, **first-generation migrants** typically become **bilingual**, the **next generation** may have a **weaker grasp** of their mother tongue. The **third generation** may no longer speak their mother language, even within the family.

India serves as an illustrative example. There is **increasing migration to English-speaking nations**. English currently boasts 340 million native speakers and over 1.2 billion second language speakers.

\What are some facts about the Language Diversity Index (LDI)?

Language Diversity Index (LDI) calculates the probability that **two randomly selected individuals** from a population will have **different mother tongues**.

This index ranges from **0 (everyone shares the same mother tongue) to 1 (no two individuals have the same mother tongue)**.

Naturally, countries with a **smaller variety** of mother languages tend to have a **lower LDI**. Countries with a **greater diversity** of mother tongues have a **higher LDI**. For instance, the United Kingdom has an LDI of 0.139, compared to India's 0.930.

In terms of LDI, the three countries with the lowest rankings are Haiti (0.000), Cuba (0.001), and Samoa (0.002). The top three countries are Papua Guinea (0.990), Vanuatu (0.972), and the Solomon Islands (0.965).

What are the impacts of loss in linguistic diversity?

When these languages disappear, they take with them **elements of identity, culture, and indigenous knowledge**.

The extinction of languages leads to a **reduction in cultural diversity** and an increase in **cultural homogenization**.

What is the situation in India?

In a 2018 report by UNESCO, it was highlighted that India is facing the **potential extinction of 42 languages**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

UNESCO's criteria for potential endangerment classify any language spoken by **only 10,000 people** as being at risk. The majority of these endangered languages are spoken by **indigenous tribal groups** across India.

Way forward-

It is essential to **explore strategies** to halt the decline of languages on a global scale. Efforts should be made to **preserve some of the endangered languages**.

The **Linguistic Society of America (LSA)** is making commendable efforts to **study and document** these endangered languages. They are creating **video and audio recordings**, and written records of these languages, along with **translations**.

It is hoped that other institutions will **follow suit** and take action to **mitigate the disappearance** of languages in any way possible.

5. [Opium, history and economics](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Opium, history and economics**" published in **Business Standard** on **14th September 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 1 – History – Modern Indian History**

Relevance: **About opium production in India during the colonial period**

News: The West usually credits its economic growth to factors like science, tech, entrepreneurship, and trade. However, recent scholars argue that imperialism, colonialism, slavery, and opium trade were also major contributors.

The article explains how India was utilized as a colony for opium production, leading to substantial profits.

What was the opium production history in India during the colonial era?

Under Dutch East India Company

Opium, used for centuries for medicinal and elite recreational purposes, saw a shift with the emergence of "smoking opium" in the 18th century.

The Dutch East India Company's introduction of this new form from East India to the East Indies led to mass consumption, substantial profits, and a monopoly on distribution.

The Dutch were the first to use opium as a tool of colonialism, and India under British rule perfected this model, becoming heavily dependent on drug profits.

Under British East India Company (EIC)

Purvanchal: After the East India Company (EIC) secured victories at Plassey and Buxar, they expanded their control westward to include **Purvanchal (now Bihar, Jharkhand, and eastern UP)**, a region where poppy was cultivated.

In 1772, Governor Warren Hastings of Bengal decreed that opium produced in Purvanchal could only be sold to designated EIC Agents, creating a monopoly.

In 1799, the East India Company (EIC) created the **Opium Department (OD)** with significant control over pricing and rules. The department dictated who could grow opium, how much, and at what price.

The EIC used force to make farmers produce opium, and corruption was widespread. They set up a big surveillance system that caused trouble for everyone except EIC officials who made money from selling opium in Calcutta.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The oppressive system lasted in Purvanchal for over a century, hindering the region's progress. Another setback for the region came in the mid-19th century after the 1857 War of Independence.

Before the war, Purvanchal supplied about half of the East India Company's sepoy (Indian soldiers).

However, **after the British won the war, they began recruiting sepoys from other regions like Punjab**, causing a decline in Purvanchal's economic and social development.

Malwa: Malwa was another significant poppy-growing area in the 18th century, which included parts of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Rajasthan.

Unlike eastern India, in Malwa, small farmers voluntarily cultivated poppies and sold their products to traders from various religious backgrounds.

This was possible because the East India Company's influence was mainly restricted to Bombay in western India.

The British East India Company attempted to halt opium production and sales in Malwa, but local merchants resisted. Eventually, the EIC chose to tax the Malwa opium trade.

This decision led to the flourishing of Malwa's opium, surpassing the amounts exported from Calcutta. Following the Opium Wars, British-Indian opium exports skyrocketed, becoming a significant part of global trade.

The key difference between the Malwa and Purvanchal opium trades was that the Malwa trade benefited many farmers and numerous traders, financiers, and shippers in western India.

Further, **the success of private enterprise in western India, in contrast to the east, can be attributed to the Maratha kingdoms' enduring resistance**, vision and strategy against colonial exploitation.

6. [The Rocket Fuel That Is English](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **"The Rocket Fuel That Is English"** published in **The Times of India** on **16th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 1 – Indian Society – Salient features of Indian Society

Relevance: About the necessity of English language in the society

News: The article explains that neither the English language should be considered as colonial nor one should depart from one's culture while speaking or learning the language.

Further, post the success of Chandrayaan-3, scientists spoke in the English language while addressing the media.

What is the significance of scientists communicating in English?

Until recently, the idea of Indian scientists educated in their mother tongue successfully landing a rocket on the Moon seemed like a fantasy. Many believed that only students from English-language elite schools could achieve such feats.

However, Mission Chandrayaan-3 has challenged this perception. After landing on the Moon, Isro scientists effectively communicated with the public in fluent English, despite their modest educational backgrounds.

Further, **great minds like Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel**, despite being deeply rooted in their language and culture, **qualified as barristers in England**.

This illustrates that proficiency in English can be acquired without losing cultural identity.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

When English is viewed as a cultural acquisition rather than just a technical tool, it can lead to colonialism. However, in the case of Chandrayaan-3 scientists, their success came from using English as a scientific tool, not for cultural reasons.

The era of individuals who once adopted a superficial British attitude and accent is fading. Today, self-made achievers, like Isro scientists who use English as a practical tool, are celebrated.

It's also important to note that, after Hindi, English is the most widely spoken language in India, surpassing Bengali, Marathi, and others.

While English may not be their first language, these scientists' proficiency in it is sufficient to make them top scientists in the country. They view English as a necessary tool, similar to a compass or pen and pencil, rather than a remnant of colonialism.

Why is it necessary to view English as a necessary tool?

As seen the case of Chandrayaan-3 scientists, teaching in one's mother tongue doesn't hinder learning English. The problem of poor education in India isn't solved by abandoning English.

It's crucial for students to be proficient in their mother tongue and also learn English for its practical benefits.

Isro scientists like K Sivan and Nigar Shaji, who came from modest backgrounds, achieved success through their education. They represent examples of the importance of learning English alongside their mother tongues.

In Europe, countries like Sweden, France, Holland, Finland, Norway, and Germany showcase a balance between embracing English for practical purposes and preserving their own culture.

What lies ahead?

English should be used as a practical tool rather than being burdened by its colonial history. Teaching English inadequately after dismissing it as colonial is counterproductive.

The Isro scientists serve as a living example of the benefits of using English instrumentally.

7. [Express View on Santiniketan's world heritage status: At home in the world](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Express View on Santiniketan's world heritage status: At home in the world**" published in **The Indian Express** on **19th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 1 – Indian History – Modern Indian History

News: Santiniketan, the home of late Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore has been added to the UNESCO World Heritage sites list. It is India's 41st world heritage site and the third in West Bengal. The move is a significant achievement.

About Santiniketan

Read Here: [Tagore's home Santiniketan added to UNESCO World Heritage List](#)

What were the views of Rabindranath Tagore regarding Santiniketan?

Rabindranath Tagore's educational experiment in Santiniketan was rooted in his belief that **diversity was crucial to overcome the constraints of parochiality.**

In 1901, he established Patha Bhavan, a residential school, **and in 1921, during Gandhi's Non-Cooperation Movement, he founded Visva-Bharati as a global gurukul.**

The vision of establishing Visva-Bharati aimed to unite people beyond nationalism, focusing on the vision of shared humanity.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Tagore expressed his discontent with nationalism, which he saw as limiting and eventually leading to arrogance. His university vision aimed to connect people to nature and others worldwide, going beyond borders, unlike the Western model.

Santiniketan was meant to be a place of empathy, where teachers, students, colleagues, and neighbors built close relationships.

It was like a global village, with a motto “**Yatra visvam bhavatieka nidam,**” – unhindered by the territorial imagination of the nation-state.

What is the significance of listing Santiniketan in UNESCO World Heritage sites list?

Visva-Bharati is facing difficulties due to internal problems and the wider political changes affecting most of the higher education in the state.

The Tagorean vision for Visva-Bharati has also faced challenges in recent years, both in practice and philosophy. **For instance**, in 2017, the education wing of the RSS advocated for the removal of Tagore’s nationalist ideas from NCERT textbooks.

Further, in 2020, the university’s decision to build a wall around the campus, which was originally open, symbolized the growing disconnect between the university’s administration and its original vision.

Therefore, **the World Heritage tag for Santiniketan is an opportunity to reflect on the importance of its tangible and intangible heritage**, and how it can serve as a model for all universities.

8. Legislating change- The Women’s Reservation Bill must be implemented without delay

Source: The post is based on the article “**Legislating change- The Women’s Reservation Bill must be implemented without delay**” published in “The Hindu” on 21st September 2023.

Syllabus: GS1- Society- social empowerment & GS2- Polity- constitutional amendment, Functions and responsibilities of the Union and the States

News: The Women’s Reservation Bill was passed in Lok Sabha after 30 years. It reserves 33% Lok Sabha seats for women. This won’t apply in the 2024 election due to delimitation and Census links. Women face many barriers in India. They need better representation.

What is the Women’s Reservation Bill about?

The Women’s Reservation Bill, also known as the 128th Constitution Amendment Bill or Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, is about:

Bill’s Passage: The Women’s Reservation Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha after being tabled in Parliament nearly three decades ago.

Current Representation: Women Members of Parliament currently make up only about 15% of the Lok Sabha.

Read – Women Reservation bill

What is the need for women’s reservation?

Existing Imbalance: Currently, women Members of Parliament constitute only about 15% of the Lok Sabha. This showcases the gender disparity in political representation.

Breaking Glass Ceiling: The Women’s Reservation Bill can address this inequality and shatter political barriers faced by women.

Ground-Level Success: Women have proved their capabilities in local bodies, with representation in panchayati raj institutions exceeding 50% in several states.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Overcoming Challenges: Women have historically broken through various hurdles, from patriarchal attitudes to being undervalued in their official roles.

Unequal Access: Women in India often have uneven access to health, nutrition, and education.

Workforce Representation: India's female labor force participation is the lowest among G-20 countries, at 24%.

Historical Rights: India granted women voting rights early on; it's essential to ensure their equal representation in governance.

9. [Slums in the urban ecosystem](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Slums in the urban ecosystem**" published in "Business standard" on 21st September 2023.

Syllabus: GS1- Society- Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

News: This article is basically saying that slums, often overcrowded and underprivileged areas in cities, are active and important parts of urban life, shaping and contributing to the city's economy and society. The article argues that rather than ignoring them, there should be efforts to improve living conditions, services, and opportunities in slums to make the overall city more prosperous and inclusive.

What role do slums play in urban ecosystems?

Slums are densely populated urban areas with substandard living conditions.

Slum role in urban ecosystems are:

Economic Contributor:

Slums play a pivotal role in the urban economy by providing labor.

Inhabitants fuel city growth and participate in various industries and services.

Social and Political Hub:

Despite their marginalization, slums form robust social networks.

They exhibit political agencies, affecting urban policies and governance.

Shelter for Marginalized:

They offer shelter to the urban poor, migrants, and other marginalized groups.

For many rural migrants seeking city life, slums are the initial shelters.

Agent of Urban Dynamics: Slums actively shape and are shaped by the dynamics of the cities they are part of, impacting overall urban experience and development.

How can slums be transformed for urban prosperity?

Improving Essential Services: Enhancing water, sanitation, and electricity in slums can improve residents' quality of life and attract investment.

Addressing Land Ownership: Secure land tenure and formalizing land ownership can encourage investment in housing and infrastructure, mitigating slum conditions.

Providing Vocational Training: Offering skill development and training to residents can improve employability and income levels, leading to economic prosperity.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Implementing Sustainable Practices: Adopting environmentally friendly solutions in redevelopment projects can ensure long-term sustainability and urban prosperity.

Inclusive Urban Planning: Developing inclusive and considerate urban policies can prevent displacement and gentrification, protecting vulnerable communities.

Monitoring Progress: Employing data and technology can help in keeping track of transformation projects and addressing areas needing more attention.

What is the role of various stakeholders in slum transformation?

Government Agencies: Governments have a crucial role in committing to and implementing slum transformation projects, focusing on infrastructural development and policy formation.

Urban Planners: Planners are essential for designing inclusive urban development policies and preventing harmful displacement and gentrification.

Non-Governmental Organisations: NGOs contribute by advocating for the rights and well-being of slum dwellers and providing essential services and support.

Affected Communities: The active participation of slum residents is vital for the success of transformation projects, ensuring the interventions meet their needs and aspirations.

Monitoring Bodies: Bodies using data and technology are pivotal in tracking the progress and outcomes of transformation initiatives, identifying areas that need further interventions.

10. People count – On the Issues of Census

Source – The post is based on the article “**People count**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **23rd September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS1- Population and Associated Issues

Relevance – Issues related to census

News – On September 20, Home Minister Amit Shah informed the Lok Sabha that the Census would be conducted after the 2024 general election.

Why is the centre delaying the Census until 2024?

There is demand for **caste enumeration** in the census, which is a cause of controversy among political parties.

In recent years, **changes in the Citizenship Act** and disputes between some states and the Center regarding the [National Population Register](#) have further complicated the matter.

Why is the upcoming census significant?

The proposed **33% reservation for women** in Parliament and State Assemblies depends on **upcoming Census and delimitation**.

This Census will also mark the **transition to a digital format**. It will allow citizens to participate in “**self-enumeration**.” During self-enumeration, it will be mandatory to **collect Aadhaar or mobile numbers**.

Advancements in technology are rapidly improving the **quality and methodology of population-level data collection**.

The [Registration of Births and Deaths \(Amendment\) Act, 2023](#) will facilitate the creation of a **centralised population register**. It will **integrate data** from electoral registers, Aadhaar, ration cards, passports, and driver’s licenses.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

11. A FRESH CANVAS FOR MEWAR ART

Source: The post is based on the article “A FRESH CANVAS FOR MEWAR ART” published in Mint on 23rd September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 1 – Art and Culture – Indian Paintings

Relevance: About Mewar Miniature Paintings

News: The article explains the Mewar school of miniature painting.

What is Mewari miniature painting?

The Mewar school of miniature painting, renowned for vibrant colors and intricate narratives within a single frame, flourished from the 17th to the 18th century.

It originated from south-central Rajasthan, parts of Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat.

Rajasthan also hosts other miniature painting schools, such as Marwar-Jodhpur, Kishangarh, Deogarh, and sub-Himalayan kingdoms like Chamba and Kangra. Each of these Indian miniature art schools had its distinct style.

What are some of the famous miniature paintings of Mewar?

The earliest dated manuscript associated with the Mewar school of Rajput painting is the **Chawand Ragamala series (1605), painted by the artist Nasiruddin.**

Another Mewari painting “A Royal Hunting Party” (1705-15) reflects Mughal imperial painting influence in its composition and scene depiction. It features distinct elements of Mewari painting from that era, such as proportions of figures, vibrant colors, and stylized, less naturalistic perspective.

These paintings provide historical insights, including details like sword storage, turban styles, and the occasions celebrated during the depicted times.

Mewari miniature painting styles evolved to changing patron demands and artistic trends. **For example,** Sahibdin’s work was highly creative and included a wide range of subjects, such as the Ragamala and Rasikpriya series, as well as epics like the Ramayana.

However, in the 18th century, political changes led regional kingdoms sought alliances, which led to the creation of court scenes that depicted the king and the people around him.

Who were the famous artists of Mewari school of painting?

Allah Baksh: Allah Baksh, a notable Mewari painter during Maharana Jai Singh’s reign (1653-98), is renowned for creating comprehensive depictions of the entire Mahabharata and including every shloka of the Gita.

He distinguished between the Mahabharata and Gita paintings: the Mahabharata scenes are horizontal, portraying the narrative’s progression, while the Gita depictions are vertical and convey a sense of upward thrust.

In the Mahabharata series, line drawings are found beneath most paintings, **while the Gita depictions** meticulously consider the chariot’s placement and its connection to everyday elements.

His Gita paintings show that the epic is not just about war but also about what is lost in war, including gardens, fountains, trees, and birds.

Sahibdin: In the later half of the seventeenth century, during the reigns of Raj Singh and Jai Singh, **portraiture gained prominence in Mewar.** Sahibdin, renowned for portraiture, created notable works like the Rasikpriya series (1630), Gita Govinda (1628), and Ramayana (1649-53).

These portraits were characterized by a limited color palette, minimal backgrounds, and the use of stippled greys for highlighting and shading.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What was the unique feature of Mewari paintings artists?

Mewari miniature painters rarely signed their works, similar to European artists who didn't sign until the Renaissance. In Mewar painting, only a few names, like Nasiruddin, Manohar, Allah Bakhsh, and Mansur, have surfaced.

What lies ahead?

The distinctive style of Mewari painting has garnered global recognition, with people around the world appreciating these works, some of which are even being auctioned.

12. Santiniketan chronicles: Unesco tag adorns the idyllic haven

Source: The post is based on the article “Santiniketan chronicles: Unesco tag adorns the idyllic haven” published in **Business Standard** on **25th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 1 – Art and Culture – Indian Heritage Site

Relevance: About Santiniketan receiving UNESCO's World Heritage site status

News: Santiniketan was recently granted UNESCO World Heritage site status. It's now the 41st site in India and the third in West Bengal to receive this prestigious recognition.

The other two World Heritage sites in West Bengal are Sundarbans National Park and the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway as part of Mountain Railways of India.

What is Santiniketan?

[Click Here to Read](#)

Visva-Bharati was declared an institution of national importance in 1951 and evolved into a central university through an Act of Parliament.

After the inclusion of Santiniketan in the UNESCO World Heritage site List, Visva-Bharati became the only living institution to receive this prestigious tag.

How did Santiniketan achieve the UNESCO World Heritage site status?

Santiniketan's UNESCO World Heritage nomination initially in 2009 faced rejection by **International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)**. In 2021, a revised nomination was prepared with simplifications.

Moreover, in order to achieve UNESCO recognition, sites must have outstanding universal value (OUV) and meet at least one of the 10 selection criteria.

Hence, to meet UNESCO criteria, the focus shifted from “gurukul” and “tapoban” traditions to highlighting ensemble art, architecture, and Pan-Asian culture, making it more tangible for recognition.

The revised proposal positioned Santiniketan as a symbol of India's new modernity.

Further, during the period of independence struggle and revivalism, Santiniketan shifted away from Western influences, embracing Indian crafts, local materials, and folk and classical Indian art.

This fusion created a harmonious blend of Balinese, Burmese, Chinese, and Japanese traditions in this living heritage site.

What challenges does Santiniketan face now after it has attained UNESCO World Heritage site status?

The challenge now is preserving this status. For this, strict conditions must be upheld, and haphazard construction should be avoided to prevent a situation like Dresden.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Dresden lost its UNESCO status in 2009 when it built a four-lane bridge within its cultural landscape.

Further, ICOMOS conducted an onsite visit to Santiniketan two years ago, resulting in strict regulations against construction within the ashram area.

However, the presence of physical barriers has sparked debates, as it appears to contradict Tagore's concept of openness.

Therefore, **preserving the serene atmosphere of Patha-Bhavana**, where classes take place under the shade of mango trees, remains a priority.

Must Read: [Tagore's home Santiniketan added to UNESCO World Heritage List and For Santiniketan, Unesco World Heritage status has been a decade-long wait](#)

What lies ahead?

Balancing tourism and preserving its educational mission is a challenge for Santiniketan. Therefore, to manage this, it's considering phasing visitor entry and preparing to welcome tourists with new signage while also maintaining its educational vibrancy and rich heritage.

13. Bhagat Singh's Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Source– The post is based on the article “**Bhagat Singh's Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **29th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS1- Modern Indian history and personalities

News– The article explains the Bhagat Singh ideas about the principle of vasudhaiva kutumbakam

What are Bhagat Singh's ideas about the ideal of vasudhaiva kutumbakam?

Early in his life, Bhagat Singh was influenced by the ideal of **vasudhaiva kutumbakam**.

Bhagat Singh talks about **social and political challenges** in the realisation of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in ‘**Vishwa Prem**.’ He was suspicious that under the current circumstances, achieving this ideal is very difficult.

In numerous articles, he talked about the issues such as **communalism, hatred, violence, oppression, poverty, untouchability, and casteism**.

According to him, the reality was that simply belonging to a particular religion is now considered sufficient reason to be viewed as an enemy by another religion.

He advocated for the **elimination of divisions** like those between the touchable and untouchable.

He rightly suspected that several **self-proclaimed social reformers** took a **superficial stance** on political matters.

What are challenges for India in adherence to the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam?

Indian society is deeply fractured by **communal and caste-based animosities, fear, and violence**. The **corporate capitalist economic development** has exacerbated existing inequalities.

The **divisions within our nation** run deep. A Tamil leader launched a venomous and incendiary attack on **Sanatan Dharma (not Hindus)**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The references made by influential leaders to “tukde tukde gangs” and calls like “desh ke gaddaron ko” contribute to an environment of division. India is witnessing an **unrestrained demonization** of the “other.”

The use of terms like “termites” for migrants, the incendiary messages conveyed during the Dharam Sansad saints, and the impunity enjoyed by them raise doubts about the commitment to the principle of **vasudhaiva kutumbakam (the world is one family)**.

What is the way forward?

To win the hearts and minds of people having **diverse and conflicting interests**, Indians must adopt a **Gandhian commitment to love, compassion, and non-violence**.

The **G20 declaration** deplored all acts of religious hatred and stressed that it was time to bridge the **trust deficit** and usher in an **era of cooperation**. It is now imperative to align our noble aspirations with concrete actions on the ground.

14. A milestone in Hindu marriage reform in India

Source: The post is based on the article “**A milestone in Hindu marriage reform in India**” published in “The Hindu” on 29th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS1- Society- Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

News: The author is discussing the long struggle in Tamil Nadu, India, for legal recognition of Suyamariyathai (self-respect) marriages, which are non-ritualistic and often inter-caste. Despite the 1967 amendment legalizing such marriages, they still face resistance and lack full acceptance by the Union government and some parts of the judiciary. The debate involves issues of caste, women’s rights, and traditional versus reformed marriage practices within Hindu law.

What is Suyamariyathai (self-respect) marriages?

Definition: These are non-ritualistic, consensual marriages in Tamil Nadu, India.

Characteristics: They are typically inter-caste and do not follow the traditional Hindu marriage rituals, aiming to uphold women’s rights and oppose caste supremacy and patriarchal rights within traditional Hindu marriages.

Legal Struggles: Initially, such marriages were declared invalid. For example, Rajathi was denied conjugal rights because her self-respect marriage to Chelliah was not recognized under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

Legislation: After several attempts, The Hindu Marriage (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act 1967, introduced by the DMK, validated Suyamariyathai marriages.

Continued Resistance: Despite legal recognition, such marriages still face opposition. In 2017, the Union Ministry rejected applications from inter-caste couples in Tamil Nadu.

What are the judicial and executive views on Suyamariyathai (self-respect) marriages?

Judicial Views on Suyamariyathai Marriages:

Initial Rejection (1950s): Courts like the Madras High Court declared these marriages invalid due to the lack of traditional Hindu rituals.

Post 1967 Amendment: The Madras High Court and other judiciary bodies have had to affirm the validity of these marriages following the Tamil Nadu Amendment in 1967.

Supreme Court Reminder: Recently, the Supreme Court of India had to remind the Madras High Court about the validity of Suyamariyathai marriages in Tamil Nadu, emphasizing their lawful status even without public ceremonies.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Executive Views on Suyamariyathai Marriages:

Union Ministry's Rejection (2017): This body rejected the recognition of these marriages under the Section 7 Act, emphasizing registration under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

Legislative Progress: Various efforts, led by the DMK, resulted in the legal recognition of self-respect marriages with the 1967 Amendment Act in Tamil Nadu.

What are the impacts of the legalization of self-respect marriage?

Legal Recognition: Post-1967, Suyamariyathai marriages gained legal validity in Tamil Nadu, ensuring recognition for couples in these unions.

Women's Rights: The legalization allowed women like Rajathi to claim conjugal rights, seek divorce, and redress in cases of bigamy, enhancing women's legal standings in marriages.

Property Rights: The Act enabled couples to secure their rights over property and entitlements within the marriage contract.

Challenges to Norms: The validation of non-ritualistic, consensual inter-caste marriages posed a direct challenge to Brahminic interpretations of Hindu marriage, promoting egalitarian values.

Civil Registrations: The movement propelled the advocacy for civil registration of all marriages, aiming for clear, dissoluble contracts between spouses.

15. A dictionary to prevent a language from vanishing

Source: The post is based on the article "A dictionary to prevent a language from vanishing" published in "The Hindu" on 29th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS1- Art and culture

News: The article is about a rare language, Toto, spoken by 1,600 people near West Bengal and Bhutan. A professor from the University of Calcutta is making a dictionary for Toto to help preserve it. The dictionary will translate Toto words into Bengali and English, using Bengali script, as the Toto community is more familiar with it. The project aims to keep the language from disappearing and integrate marginal languages into the academic curriculum.

What is Toto Shabda Sangraha?

Toto Shabda Sangraha: It's a forthcoming dictionary focused on the Toto language.

Purpose: It aims to preserve the Toto language, primarily oral until now, by documenting its vocabulary.

Languages Included: Will feature Toto words translated into Bengali and English.

Script Used: Utilizes the Bengali script, as it is more familiar to the Toto community.

Compilers: The dictionary has been compiled by Bhakta Toto, and professor Mrinmoy Pramanick is closely associated with the project.

Release & Publication: It will be released in Kolkata on October 7, and is published by the trust and Bhasha Samsad.

What is the significance of Toto Shabda Sangraha?

Significance for Preservation: Toto Shabda Sangraha is crucial as it aids in preserving the Toto language which is mainly alive orally among 1,600 speakers.

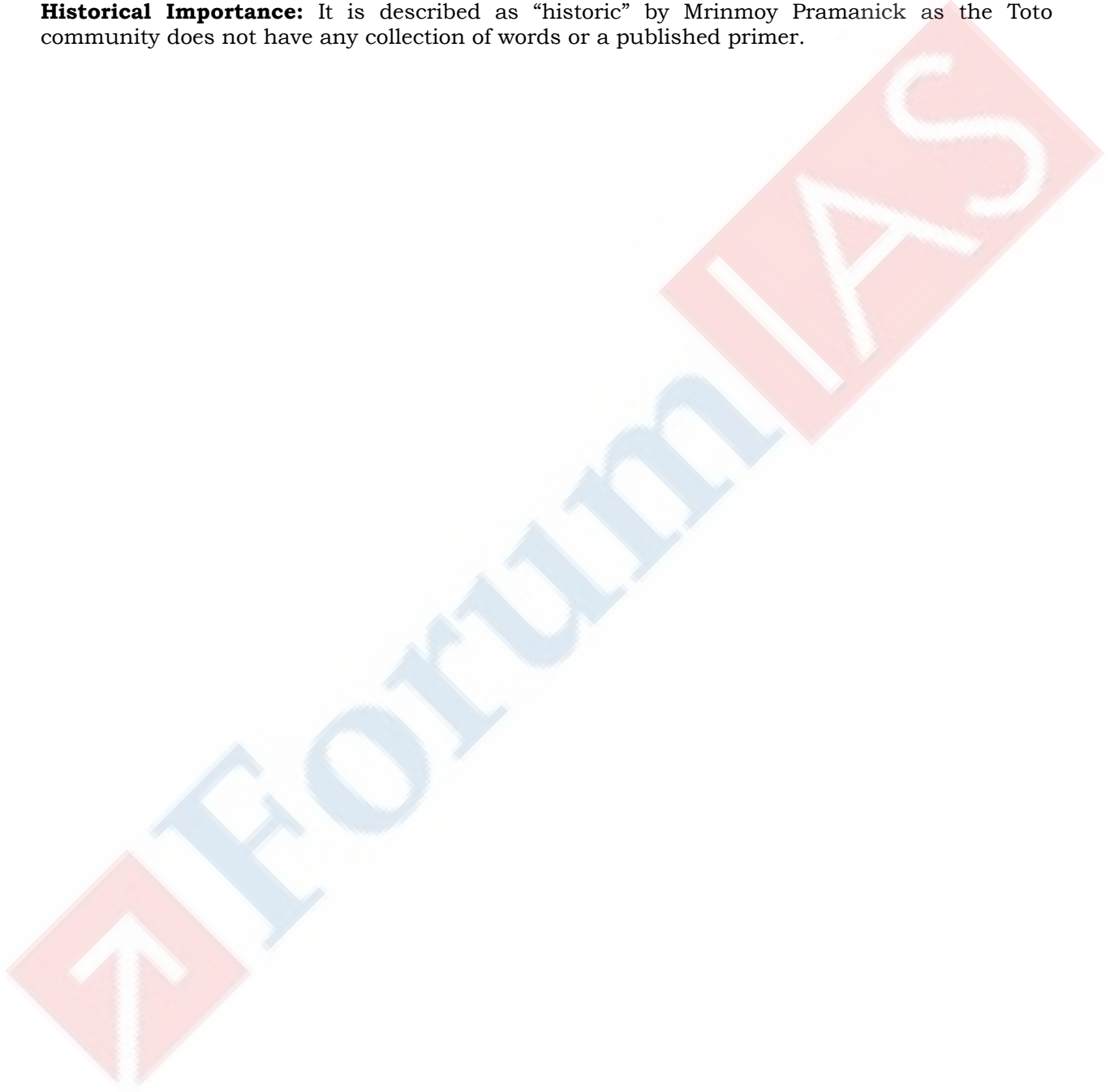
Dictionary for a Rare Language: It's significant as it is possibly the first attempt to compile a dictionary for this language.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Enhanced Accessibility: By translating Toto words into Bengali and English using Bengali script, it makes the language more accessible to its native speakers and learners.

Community Benefit: It supports the Toto community members in staying connected with their native language, even if they are studying in English and Bengali.

Historical Importance: It is described as “historic” by Mrinmoy Pramanick as the Toto community does not have any collection of words or a published primer.



General Studies Paper –2

General Studies - 2

1. **One nation, one election plan: How the Constitution is amended, when do states get a say**

Source– The post is based on the article “**One nation, one election plan: How the Constitution is amended, when do states get a say**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **4th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Indian Polity – Significant provisions of Indian constitution

News– The Centre has set up a committee to examine various aspects, both legal and logistical, for implementing the “one nation, one election” idea.

What is the process for amending the constitution?

Informally, changes to the Constitution occur through **judicial interpretation** and **established customs** derived from practice.

For instance, the **procedure for appointing judges** to the higher judiciary. The Constitution mentions a “**consultation**” between the President and the Chief Justice of India. The Supreme Court has construed this to **imply “concurrence.”**

Article 368 of the Constitution contains **procedure for amending the Constitution** –

1) Simple Majority: Several clauses of the Constitution can be modified through **legislative process** applied in passing regular legislation in Parliament. This entails garnering a majority vote from those **present and voting**.

Article 368 doesn't explicitly enumerate these “**less significant**” clauses. Such clauses are expressly exempted from the scope of Article 368..

Article 4 empowers Parliament to make alterations related to the organization of states. It requires a simple **majority** for amendment.

Actions such as **changing state names, admitting new states to the Union, and revising state boundaries** fall into this category.

2) Special Majority: Article 368 stipulates that the constitution amendment Bill must be passed by both Houses of Parliament with a **majority vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting**.

According to **Rule 158 of the Lok Sabha Rules**, the term ‘**total membership**’ refers to the complete number of House members, irrespective of **any vacancies or absentees** at that moment.

3) Ratification by States: It necessitates not only a **special majority** for amendment but also requires **approval from the legislatures of at least half of the states**.

The provisions **mandating ratification** are explicitly outlined. These pertain to aspects related to the **federal nature** of the Constitution and are commonly referred to as “**entrenched provisions.**”

For instance, the **Constitution (Ninety-ninth Amendment) Act** established the **National Judicial Appointments Commission**. This Act was passed by both Houses of Parliament and ratified by 16 state legislatures.

In the 1992 Supreme Court case of **Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillu**, the **issue of ratification** emerged as a crucial consideration. One of the challenges to the **constitutionality of the Tenth Schedule**, was that the amendment was not **ratified by the states**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The amendment aimed to **exclude the jurisdiction of courts** in matters related to the **disqualification process**. The Supreme Court invalidated this aspect of the amendment while upholding the **validity of the Tenth Schedule**.

What are entrenched provisions in Article 368? Article 368 lists six parts of the Constitution that have an additional safeguard for amending them. These are:

1. **Article 54 and 55**, dealing with the **election of the President** of India.
2. **Article 73 and 162**, dealing with the *extent of executive power* of the Union and states.
3. **Articles 124–147 and 214–231**, which deal with **powers of the Supreme Court and the High Courts**
4. **Article 245 to 255**, dealing with the scheme of **distribution of legislative, taxing, and administrative powers** between the Union and the states.
5. **Article 82-82**, dealing with the representation of states in Parliament.
6. **Article 368** itself.

2. Status of the Right to Information Act

Source– The post is based on the article “**Status of the Right to Information Act**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **4th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance

Relevance- Right to information Act

News– The article explains the undermining of the RTI Act by the government.

What are some facts about the RTI Act?

The **Right to Information Act of 2005** facilitated citizens in **acquiring information and data** from both Central and State institutions that are not **easily accessible** to the public.

This legislation enables any citizen to submit requests for **accessing data, documents, and other information** held by the government.

India’s RTI Act has often been recognized as one of the **most comprehensive laws** worldwide for granting **public access** to official records.

How amendments to the RTI Act have undermined it?

The Right to Information Act includes an **exemption** that prohibits the government from disclosing the **personal data of citizens**, except when there is a **compelling public interest** to do so.

The **Digital Personal Data Protection Act of 2023** has modified this exemption from a **qualified prohibition to an absolute prohibition**.

There are concerns that powerful public officials can **avoid accountability** by invoking this blanket ban on disclosing personal information.

Previous amendments to the RTI Act have also raised concerns. The **Right to Information (Amendment) Act of 2019** granted the Union Government **unilateral authority** to determine the **duration of service and salary** of information commissioners.

How else is the RTI Act undermined?

The **effectiveness of the RTI Act** also depends on the **subordinate rules** established by both the Union Government and State Governments.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

For instance, **payment methods** accepted by a public authority are left to the discretion of individual states.

Some states, like Tamil Nadu, don't accept **Indian Postal Orders (IPOs)**. These are checks that can be purchased at post offices and attached to an application for payment.

IPOs are typically the **most accessible payment method**. In contrast, **other payment options** can be less convenient or come with additional burdens.

Furthermore, **delayed appointments** to information commissions have also **eroded confidence** in the RTI framework.

Appeals can languish for months or even years before they are heard.

What is the effectiveness of online portals for filing RTI applications?

Online filing of RTI applications represents a significant step in eliminating certain obstacles. Citizens can simply submit their requests online and make payments using UPI.

However, several states do not have an **online RTI portal**. Many State Government agencies are often **not registered** on these portals.

The **Union Government's RTI portal** was launched in 2013. **Numerous public authorities** under the Union Government are listed on the portal. But, the **process of submitting applications** has become more cumbersome.

Previously, having an account on the RTI Online portal allowed citizens to have their **personal information pre-filled** in each application by default.

However, the option to create an account has now vanished. The site requires all users to **manually input** their details each time they file an application.

3. Measuring hunger across States

Source- The post is based on the article "**Measuring hunger across States**" published in "**The Hindu**" on **4th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Social Issues- Issues related to poverty and hunger

Relevance- Issues related to hunger index

News- The article provides details about the State Hunger Index and performance of states in the State Hunger Index.

What are statistics related to the prevalence of hunger in India?

India continues to face significant challenges related to **food insecurity, hunger, and child malnutrition**. In the **2022 Global Hunger Index**, India was ranked 107th out of 121 countries, trailing behind Nigeria (103) and Pakistan (99).

According to the **2022 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report**, India is home to **224.3 million individuals** experiencing **undernourishment**. Furthermore, **disparities in food security and nutrition** are clearly evident across different states within India.

What are some facts about the State Hunger Index?

The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is determined using **four key indicators: the prevalence of calorie undernourishment, stunting, wasting, and mortality among children under five years of age, along with the under-five mortality rate**.

In contrast, the State Hunger Index (SHI) employs the same indicators, except for **calorie undernourishment**. It is replaced by assessing **body mass index (BMI) undernourishment** among the working-age population.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

To calculate the SHI, data for **stunting, wasting, and child mortality** below the age of five are obtained from the fifth round of the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)**.

The prevalence of **BMI undernourishment** is computed using data from **NFHS-5 (2019-21) and Wave 1 of the Longitudinal Ageing Study in India (2017-18)**.

The SHI score is determined by combining the **normalized values** of these four indicators using methodologies recommended by the GHI.

The resulting SHI scores fall within a **range of 0 to 100**, with higher scores indicating greater hunger levels.

Scores below 10 indicate **low hunger**, 10-20 signify **moderate hunger**, 20-30 represent a **serious hunger** situation, 30-40 denote an **alarming hunger** level, and scores of 50 or above are classified as **extremely alarming hunger levels**.

What is the performance of states in the State Hunger Index (SHI)?

Bihar, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh achieved a **score of 35**, categorizing them as **'alarming.'**

Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, and West Bengal all **scored higher** than the **national average of 29**. The performance of these states is comparable to that of countries in Africa.

Sikkim, Puducherry, and Kerala scored below 16. These states, along with Manipur, Mizoram, Punjab, Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Tamil Nadu, fall into the **'moderate hunger' category**.

The remaining states, scoring below the national average but above 20, face a **'serious hunger' issue**.

No state falls into the **'low hunger' category**. The impact of COVID-19 on the SHI is not accounted for here as **post-pandemic estimates** are not yet available.

What are the reasons for the worsening GHI score of India?

Over the past five years, India's GHI score has worsened primarily due to the rising **prevalence of calorie undernourishment**.

According to the **Food and Agriculture Organization**, the proportion of **calorie undernourishment** in India has been on the rise since 2017. It was **16.3% in 2020**.

India's **subpar performance in the Global Hunger Index (GHI)** is primarily linked to its significant rates of **undernourishment and child malnutrition**.

India fares poorly in terms of **child wasting**, even performing worse than several low-income African countries.

According to the NFHS-5, approximately one-third of children under the age of five in India experience **stunted growth and are underweight**, while one in five children faces the **issue of wasting**.

4. Court's order and the ASI survey are flawed

Source: The post is based on the article **"Court's order and the ASI survey are flawed"** published in **The Hindu** on **4th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Society- diversity of India & GS2 – Polity – judiciary

News: The author discusses the Supreme Court of India's interpretation of the "Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991" in the Ram Janmabhoomi temple case and expresses concern

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

about the recent Supreme Court decision allowing the Archaeological Survey of India to investigate the Gyanvapi mosque's origins. The author fears this could set a precedent for questioning the historical origins of many religious sites in India, potentially causing religious tensions and disputes.

What is the constitutional basis for the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991?

Constitutional Basis for the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991:

Preamble's Objective: The act aims to prevent the conversion of any place of worship and maintain its religious character as of August 15, 1947.

Defined by Supreme Court: The law addresses two primary concerns:

7. a) It bars the conversion of any place of worship, thereby addressing the future.
8. b) It mandates the upkeep of the religious nature of places as they were on India's Independence Day.

Specific Exceptions: Only the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid is exempted from this mandate.

Upholding Constitutional Values: The act was described by the Supreme Court as protecting and upholding the core values of the Indian Constitution.

Healing Past Injustices: The act sees independence from colonial rule as a foundation to rectify past injustices, assuring every religious community of the protection of their places of worship.

What was the recent controversy?

In August 2023, the Supreme Court did not stop a decision allowing the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to study the Gyanvapi mosque.

The author questions the purpose of this study since the mosque's religious nature has been established for centuries.

What are the implications of the recent Supreme Court decision on the Gyanvapi mosque?

Overlooked Precedent: The Supreme Court's decision seemed to overlook the binding precedent set in the Ram Janmabhoomi temple case, especially one Justice Chandrachud was part of.

Potential Character Change: There's an absolute bar against changing the mosque's character. Any Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) inquiry into its nature challenges this principle.

Futility of the Inquiry: The mosque has been a worship place for Muslims for centuries. The purpose and potential outcome of the ASI survey are questioned.

State Obligations: The decision disregards obligations the act placed on the state and every citizen.

Cultural Harmony at Risk: With elections approaching, this decision can cause misgivings in minority communities.

Setting a Precedent: This might open a Pandora's box where multiple sites could be questioned, further stirring religious tensions.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

5. How India has made the G20 more inclusive

Source: The post is based on the article “**How India has made the G20 more inclusive**” published in “The Indian express” on 5th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests

News: The article talks about India’s leadership in the G20 presidency. It focuses on global unity, making changes to the global economy and finance, and involving regular people in discussing important global topics to make the G20 more inclusive.

How is India taking forward its stewardship of the G20?

Promoting Global Unity:

India introduced “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” as the G20 slogan, emphasizing the interconnectedness of cultures and their shared responsibilities in the global family.

Democratizing the Global Economy:

India is championing the democratization and decentralization of the global economy.

Challenges like the US’s Inflation Reduction Act and the EU’s plans for a carbon border tax are viewed as moving away from the core principles of globalization, and India aims to rectify this.

Reforming Global Finance:

Recognizing the misalignment post-2008, India points out that most future global growth will come from emerging economies.

The goal is to ensure finance supports this growth, channeling resources where they are most needed.

Making G20 Inclusive:

India has transformed the G20 summit from a technocrat-centric summit to a more inclusive “people’s festival.” This shift includes a broader range of voices in discussions, focusing on global challenges like food security, health, and climate change adaptation.

Shifting Focus to the Global South:

Under India’s leadership, the G20 is recognizing the potential of the Global South. This promotes a vision of sustainable, digital, and inclusive growth, reframing the Global South as a leader in these areas.

How does India address previous G20 protests?

Engaging the Public: The focus has shifted to issues that matter to everyday people, like food, health, jobs, and climate change adaptation.

Democratic Global Governance: By democratizing the G20’s approach, India believes it can address and include concerns raised by past protesters.

Wider Involvement: The broader and inclusive approach has garnered support from various groups, even those led by the opposition, showcasing its non-partisan nature.

What does India’s G20 leadership mean for the Global South?

Reclaiming Identity: Under India’s G20 leadership, the Global South’s perception has shifted from being a mere beneficiary to a proactive growth leader.

Changing Narratives: India’s leadership has worked to ensure the Global South isn’t viewed pejoratively, highlighting its potential for green, digital, and equitable growth.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Developmental Legacy: India's G20 presidency marks a pivotal shift, ensuring the Global South is the pathfinder for future global growth, emphasizing greener and inclusive solutions.

6. Who is afraid of the Basic Structure?

Source: The post is based on the article "Suhas Palshikar writes: **Who is afraid of the Basic Structure?**" published in **The Indian express** on 5th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity – Indian constitution

News: The author is criticizing Subrata Mitra's ideas ('Let's debate Basic Structure', IE, August 28, 2023) about the Basic Structure Doctrine in India. This doctrine is about the key principles of the Indian Constitution. The author supports the doctrine because it safeguards personal freedoms and disagrees with Mitra's suggestion to discuss changing it.

What are the arguments in favour of and against revisiting the Basic Structure doctrine?

Arguments in Favour Revisiting:

Debatable Jurisprudential Basis: Mitra suggests that the Basic Structure Doctrine might have an uncertain legal foundation, making it worth revisiting.

Need for Clarity: There appears to be a lack of clarity regarding what exactly constitutes the Basic Structure. Mitra's call to debate can be seen as a request for better definition and understanding.

Executive Limitation: Mitra posits that the uncertainties in the doctrine might be hampering the powers and functions of the executive, restraining effective governance.

Electorate's Ability: The author mentions Mitra's belief in the electorate's capability to ensure accountability, hinting that a strong doctrine might not be essential if people can hold powers in check.

First Amendment Parallel: Mitra lauds the First Amendment for its progressive stance, implying that certain constitutional elements can and should be revisited for societal progress.

Against Arguments Revisiting:

Protection of Liberties: The author emphasizes that the doctrine is crucial in safeguarding individual liberties against potential executive and legislative overreach.

Historical Roots: Early debates on parliamentary sovereignty after India adopted its Constitution indirectly reinforced the need for the Basic Structure Doctrine.

Checks on Growing Executive Power: The author sees the doctrine as a necessary check against the increasing arbitrary power of executives worldwide.

Risk of Redefining Democracy: The article warns that revisiting the doctrine might pave the way for narrowing democratic space and ushering in authoritarian governance.

Potential for Misuse: Mitra's call to revisit the doctrine could be seen as a covert plea to rewrite the entire Constitution, which could destabilize India's democratic framework.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

7. 'India's Talent Pool A Force For National, Global Good'

Source– The post is based on the article “**India’s Talent Pool A Force For National, Global Good**” published in “**The Times of India**” on **5th September 2023**.

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

News– The National Education Policy 2020 is a comprehensive framework aimed at creating inclusive, well-rounded, and forward-looking education in India.

What are the focus areas of National Education Policy 2020?

Mother tongue- One of its primary objectives is to prioritize learning in a **student’s mother tongue**. It fosters a strong **conceptual understanding and clarity**.

This emphasis on mother tongue education is intended to **complement the use of link languages**. It is designed to ensure that students have **smooth educational journeys**.

Internationalization of higher education- The National Education Policy 2020 aims to position India as a **leading destination for advanced studies**

It is doing so by promoting activities such as **faculty and student exchanges, research collaborations, teaching partnerships, and the establishment of mutually beneficial MoU with foreign nations**.

For instance, IIT Madras and IIT Delhi have already signed MOUs to establish their foreign campuses in Tanzania and Abu Dhabi, respectively.

Fostering **collaboration between industry and academia** is another key focus of the National Education Policy.

The objective of creation of the **National Research Foundation** is to facilitate research within academic institutions.

The government is dedicated to ensuring a **business-friendly environment and conducive atmosphere for research activities**.

India has established **educational partnerships** with major countries, including the United States, Australia, Japan, and Europe.

Initiatives such as the **Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) and the Quad Fellowship** are actively promoting increased collaboration in high-technology areas.

Standardization and skill development- Standardization plays a crucial role in aligning India’s education system with **global standards and skills**.

Under the National Education Policy, the **National Curriculum Framework for School Education** has been introduced. It sets **specific learning standards, content, pedagogical methods, and assessment criteria**.

Similarly, a **National Credit Framework** has been established to encompass various academic practices within a **credit bank**.

Skill development has been integrated into the **school curriculum**. It has become an integral part of the **credit framework**.

What is the potential of skill development for India?

India boasts a young population. It has over **600 million people aged between 18 and 35**, and approximately **65% of them under the age of 35**.

Leveraging this **demographic advantage** and nurturing a **multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled, critically thinking, and future-ready workforce** is the top priority.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

India is currently experiencing a remarkable shift in the fields of **skill development and entrepreneurship**. It is the **third-largest startup ecosystem globally** and has over **100 unicorn startups**.

This trend is not limited to major cities. Smaller towns are also contributing to **India's innovation and startup landscape**.

Individuals equipped with both education and skills can play a pivotal role in today's **knowledge-based economy**.

They have the potential to make significant contributions to **nation-building** through **groundbreaking innovations, scientific discoveries**.

8. Not A Job For Quotas

Source– The post is based on the article “**Not A Job For Quotas**” published in “**The Times of India**” on **5th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity

Relevance- Issue of reservation

News– Recently, protests were held in Maharashtra over reservation demand for Maratha community.

What are the issues with the current system of reservation?

Governments are resorting to the use of reservations for **politically influential groups**. The strategy to build **electoral alliances** and address the **challenging employment situation**.

These short-term tactics often lead to **long-term adverse consequences**. Consider the situations in **Tamil Nadu and Karnataka**. In these states, governments near the end of their terms made **ill-conceived changes** to existing **reservation policies**.

In Tamil Nadu, in 2021, the government introduced **internal reservations for the Vanniyar community**. However, this move was struck down by the Supreme Court because it lacked the necessary **data-based justification**.

In Karnataka, recent **adjustments to reservations** have also faced **legal challenges**. The Supreme Court expressed concerns about their validity.

The **legal framework** governing reservations has consistently stressed that caste should merely be an **initial criterion** for **assessing backwardness**. It must be complemented by **data on other pertinent factors**.

However, governments frequently overlook these aspects. Once such policies are adopted, future administrations invest **substantial political capital** in **seeking compromises**.

This strategy neither generates **employment opportunities** nor is free of **associated costs**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

9. C Raja Mohan writes: At G20, the end of old multilateralism – and the beginning of a new order

Source: The post is based on the article “C Raja Mohan writes: At G20, the end of old multilateralism – and the beginning of a new order” published in “The Indian express” on 6th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests

News: The article discusses the decline of post-Cold War multilateralism, with Russia and China’s growing conflicts causing challenges. It also highlights India’s growing role in shaping new regional and global partnerships, as seen in recent summits in Jakarta and Delhi.

Why is the post-Cold War era of global cooperation weakening?

Russian Conflicts: Russia’s aggressive actions, particularly the annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and its ongoing conflict with Ukraine, have caused significant strain on international relations.

China’s Territorial Ambitions: China’s tensions with neighboring Asian countries, including disputes with India, Japan, the Philippines, and Vietnam, have become sources of concern.

Economic Leverage: China has tried to use the world’s dependence on its economy for political and strategic gains, causing distrust.

Change in Chinese Policies: Xi Jinping’s reversal of policies from the 1980s, which aimed for a peaceful periphery and shared prosperity, has negatively impacted regional and global institutions.

How is Asia responding to China’s actions?

Security Institutions: New security groups like the Quad, which includes India, the US, Japan, and Australia, have been established to counterbalance China’s influence.

AUKUS Pact: The AUKUS alliance, consisting of Australia, Britain, and the US, has been formed as a direct response to China’s increasing military presence.

Questioning ASEAN’s Role: China’s aggressive territorial expansion has led to doubts about the effectiveness of ASEAN-led regional institutions in ensuring stability.

Bilateral Ties: Many Asian countries are strengthening bilateral relationships to deter China’s unilateral moves. For example, the trilateral compact between the US, Japan, and South Korea aims to bolster security in Northeast Asia.

Economic Diversification: Nations like Japan and the US are trying to reduce their economic dependence on China by diversifying trade partnerships.

How is India’s role evolving?

Central Player: India is emerging as a pivotal figure in shaping both regional and global dynamics, highlighted by its active participation in forums like the Indo-Pacific Quadrilateral Forum.

G20’s Evolution: India is pushing for the G20 to address the concerns of the Global South, signaling its desire to play a more substantial role in global economic discussions.

Shifting Alliances: Historically aligned with Moscow and Beijing for a multipolar world, India’s focus has shifted due to China’s increasing assertiveness, leading it closer to nations like Australia, Japan, and the US.

Embracing the Indo-Pacific: India has adopted the Indo-Pacific concept and rejuvenated the Quad alliance to counterbalance China’s influence in the region.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are the features of India's new multilateral approach?

Quad Collaboration: At the Jakarta summit, Indian's PM emphasizes that the Quad complements ASEAN's efforts and promotes regional stability.

Re-globalisation Focus: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar advocates for a diversified, democratic globalisation, moving away from a China-centric production model.

Collective Solutions: Despite challenges in multilateralism, India continues to seek collective solutions, focusing on diverse issues like modernising the global tax regime.

Global South Concerns: India prioritizes the concerns of the Global South in the G-20 agenda, aiming to enhance cooperation between developed and developing nations, rather than reviving old confrontational politics.

10. Xi Jinping skipping G-20 Summit a deliberate signal to India, West

Source: The post is based on articles

"Xi Jinping skipping G-20 Summit a deliberate signal to India, West" published in The Hindu on 6th September 2023 and

"No middle ground – Xi's decision is a lose-lose" published in Business Standard on 6th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations – Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

Relevance: concerns with Chinese President skipping the G20 summit

News: Recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping has decided to skip the G20 Summit in Delhi for the first time. Instead, Chinese Premier Li Qiang, the second-ranked leader, will attend the Summit, which is a departure from the usual protocol.

China has also not officially provided any specific reason for this.

What may be the probable reasons behind Chinese President skipping the G20 summit?

Tensions with India: China is unhappy with the current status of its bilateral relations with India, specifically India's position that achieving normalcy in broader relations requires resolving the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

China's decision to skip the summit might be linked to the 2020 border clashes and the ongoing border dispute. **The release of a new map by China recently further escalated tensions.**

Additionally, **China may not want to see India's G20 presidency succeed**, given India's growing international influence, both strategically and economically.

Domination of the West: China's decision to skip the G-20 Summit shows its preference for forums like BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), where it has more influence.

However, this strategy faces challenges, as BRICS is already diverse, and it hasn't achieved significant results since its formation.

Skipping the summit might also be aimed at reducing the G20's influence, which China sees as Western-dominated and less appealing. The absence of the Russian President at the G-20 could also put China under more scrutiny.

Another possible reason for Xi's absence could be to avoid addressing Western leaders' questions regarding China's support for Russia.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Politicization: China is unhappy with the politicization of the G-20. It believes that the G-20 should focus solely on economic matters and not get involved in political issues like the conflict in Ukraine.

What may be the consequences of China's decision?

China's absence at the G20 summit reduces its significance. India's presidency at G20 has held discussions on issues like reforming multilateral development banks and addressing debt sustainability in low- and middle-income countries.

China's cooperation in this regard was critical, as it considers its loans to low-income nations commercial.

Skipping G20 summit could also harm China's global standing and image as an emerging superpower, making it less predictable and reliable on the global stage.

What is the way ahead?

India will need to engage with China beyond the G20 and accept that diplomatic relations are unlikely to improve soon.

Economic risks due to dependence on Chinese imports remain, so India should carefully handle military and diplomatic issues while decreasing reliance on Chinese imports.

11. DIY India – The government's ₹13,000cr proposal to train artisans is a step towards self-reliance

Source: The post is based on the article “DIY India – The government's ₹13,000cr proposal to train artisans is a step towards self-reliance” published in The Times of India on 6th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Government Policies & Intervention

Relevance: About PM Vishwakarma Scheme

News: Skilled workers like plumbers and carpenters have become difficult to find in India because many leave for better opportunities abroad.

Additionally, **there's a lack of a DIY (Do It Yourself) culture among the middle-class Indians**, unlike in the West where people do minor repairs themselves.

Hence, to address this issue, the government is planning to launch a ₹13,000 crore scheme, known as **PM Vishwakarma Scheme**.

What is the scheme about?

The scheme will train artisans in various manual crafts, including carpentry. It will be **launched for five years** on Vishwakarma Jayanti (September 17).

In the first year, six lakh families will benefit, with one member receiving a subsidized ₹2 lakh loan to learn a specific craft.

This initiative hopes to supplement the country's skilled workforce and **promote the Gandhian idea of dignifying manual labor**.

Read More: [Licence To Skill – GOI's scheme for craftspeople is a good idea but its success critically depends on finding markets and Vishwakarma scheme will aid 30 lakh artisan families](#)

What are the concerns associated with the scheme?

There is a concern that, like many IIT and other institution graduates, **these artisans might also leave for better opportunities abroad, leading to a “Brain Drain” issue**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Hence, this situation highlights the **importance of self-reliance**; as the saying goes, “If you want a job done, you have to do it yourself.” **Like charity, Atmanirbharta begins at home.**

12. The implications of expansion of BRICS

Source– The post is based on the article “**Not A Job For Quotas**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **6th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2 – International Relations – Regional and global groupings

News– The 15th BRICS summit in Johannesburg announced that the five-member grouping had invited six new members from West Asia; Egypt and Ethiopia from Africa, and Argentina from Latin America.

What are some significant positive aspects about the grouping?

Since 2009, BRICS has convened **annual summits** and is supported by numerous **ministerial and expert meetings**.

It has established two significant institutions. First is the **New Development Bank (NBD)**, which provides development assistance. Second is the **Contingent Reserve Arrangement**, designed to aid countries facing **short-term balance-of-payments challenges**.

The NBD has already funded **96 projects with a total value of \$33 billion**.

What is the main agenda of BRICS countries?

BRICS member countries have shared discontent with the **Western-dominated international institutions** that emerged after World War II. These include the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the United Nations and, the World Trade Organization.

The United States has led the **Western alliance** in both **political and economic spheres**.

BRICS challenges this **Western-led world order** by promoting **economic and political cooperation** among its member states,

It is establishing institutions outside of **Western control**, and advocating strongly for **comprehensive reforms** to accommodate the **interests of emerging economies**.

The Johannesburg Declaration explicitly states that the members “**strategic partnership**” aims to achieve “**a more representative, fairer international order**.”

How recent expansion of BRICS makes the group more influential?

The recent expansion of BRICS’s membership collectively wields significant **economic influence** within the enlarged organization.

With the proposed expansion, BRICS will represent **46% of the world’s population**. Its **share of global GDP** will rise from **31.5% in PPP terms to 37%**. It is surpassing the **GDP share of the G-7**, which stands at 30.7%.

The five core BRICS members currently account for **23% of global exports and 19% of global imports**. With the addition of new members, these figures will **increase by 3.7% and 3%, respectively**.

The most significant impact will be on the energy sector. The five original BRICS members currently contribute to **20% of the world’s oil production**. This share is set to **increase to 42%**.

What is the geopolitical importance of BRICS expansion?

Countries from West Asia are already **closely intertwined** with BRICS members.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

China and India receive **35% of Saudi Arabia's oil production**. Russia, a major oil supplier to China and India, is exploring Brazil as a market. Despite **U.S. sanctions**, Iran has considerably increased its **oil production**, and most of it going to China.

Egypt and Ethiopia play essential roles in the **strategically vital Horn of Africa and the Red Sea region**. Argentina holds the position of being the **second-largest economy in Latin America**.

The recent additions to BRICS, especially those from West Asia, align well with the group's **political and economic framework**.

Since 2020, both Saudi Arabia and the UAE have pursued **independent foreign policies**, distancing themselves from **U.S. influence**.

Saudi Arabia has pursued **de-escalation**. It has **engaged in dialogue** with various countries, including Turkey and Iran. It made China-brokered accord with Iran in March this year.

The UAE has **normalized relations** with Iran and is expanding its **maritime presence** across the **Gulf, the Gulf of Aden, the Red Sea, and the Horn of Africa**.

Iran's inclusion in BRICS is significant. It opens opportunities for enhanced **regional economic cooperation** and the revitalization of **long-dormant north-south connectivity projects**, including the **Chabahar port**.

What are major takeaways from Johannesburg Declaration?

The Johannesburg Declaration predominantly emphasizes **intra-BRICS cooperation and collaboration** with other developing nations.

The member nations have agreed to promote the use of **local currencies in trade and financial transactions** between BRICS countries and other trade partners.

The Declaration demonstrates **shared viewpoints** among its members on various **political matters**, such as the **United Nations' significance, regional issues in West Asia, the conflict in Ukraine, and global terrorism**.

13. The case for elections in Jammu and Kashmir

Source– The post is based on the article “**The case for elections in Jammu and Kashmir**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **6th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Indian Polity

News– Jammu and Kashmir has not conducted legislative elections in the past nine years. The most recent Assembly election occurred in 2014, and the last elected government was dissolved in June 2018.

What are the issues with recommendations of the Delimitation Commission appointed for Jammu and Kashmir?

The recommendations raised two concerns. It allocated six out of seven new seats to Jammu and only one to the Valley. This is deviation from the **democratic principle of equal representation**.

Despite the Valley having **56.15% of the State's population**, it was assigned **47 seats**. Jammu was assigned **43 seats**, even though it had **43.85% of the population**.

The commission's redrawing of political constituencies resulted in the **concentration of minority voters** in fewer districts or their dispersion across multiple districts. It has affected their **voting strength**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Changes in residency rules also contributed to an **imbalance in constituencies**. Before 2019, **non-permanent residents** were not eligible to vote in Assembly elections.

Following the alteration of Article 370 and the repeal of Article 35A, anyone **“ordinarily resident”** in the former State became **eligible to vote**.

It includes those who had been residents for more than 15 years, those who had studied in the region for more than seven years, and those **registered as migrants** by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner.

What are some facts about new proposed bills for introducing reservation in the J & K assembly?

The **Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, allocates two seats for ‘Kashmiri migrants’ and one for individuals displaced from Pakistani-held territories of Jammu and Kashmir. These three seats will be filled by **nominees of the Lieutenant-Governor**.

The **Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, is the second Bill. It includes the Pahari community and several small tribes in Jammu and Kashmir’s list of Scheduled Tribes.

This change allows Paharis to compete for **reserved seats** that were previously dominated by **Gujjars and Bakerwals**.

The third Bill is the **Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023**. It adds the Valmiki community to Jammu and Kashmir’s **list of Scheduled Castes**.

The fourth Bill is the **Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023**. It includes 15 more **other backward classes**, such as West Pakistan refugees and Gorkhas.

What are concerns about their practical implementation of these Bills?

Pandit migrants have been elected **without reservations** for many years, even during times of insurgency and after their exodus. They may not require reserved seats but instead need **security** when elected.

Gujjars accept Pahari reservation as long as it doesn’t **encroach on their quota**. But, they have received no such assurance.

Long-term residents like **refugees, Gurkhas, and Valmikis** should be **entitled to vote**. But, the question remains whether the former group needs a **reserved seat**.

Due to these gaps, the Bills can create **voter polarisation** along caste and community lines in a region with diverse castes and communities.

In Muslim-majority areas, there is concern that the **number of their representatives** will decrease.

In Jammu, there is suspicion that **new reservations** are aimed at creating additional support for the Bharatiya Janata Party, particularly in areas where the party’s influence is waning.

Why is holding elections in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh necessary?

Most people are now eager for a prompt Assembly election. The **centrally-directed administration** in Jammu and Kashmir have led to **higher unemployment rates and loss of land and resource rights**.

Meanwhile, discontent is growing in Ladakh, where the **powers of the elected Hill Councils** have been greatly reduced by the Lieutenant-Governor’s office. Here too, the **demand for Statehood** is gaining momentum.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Holding an Assembly election before the end of the year can help **rebuild confidence**, as past experience has shown.

The Atal Bihari Vajpayee administration conducted elections in 2002, during a period of **significant insurgency**. However, that election marked the beginning of 12 years of **peace-building**, with two free and fair elections.

In contrast, the attempt to **manipulate the 1987 election** resulted in over a decade of **armed conflict**.

14. India, that is Bharat: How the Constituent Assembly chose

Source– The post is based on the articles

“**India, that is Bharat: How the Constituent Assembly chose**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **6th September 2023**.

“**India or Bharat-Why not Both**” published in “**The Times of India**” on **6th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Indian Polity

Relevance- Renaming of the country

News– Recently the President’s invite for the G-20 dinner mentioned the “President of Bharat” instead of “President of India”. This has reignited the debate whether India should be renamed as Bharat.

The first debate on Article 1 was to begin on November 17, 1948. However, on the suggestion of Govind Ballabh Pant, the discussion on the name was postponed to a later date.

What were the arguments in favour of giving prominence to Bharat over India in constituent assembly?

Reminder of colonial Past – The use of India over Bharat was seen as a **reminder of the colonial past**.

Use of Bharat would symbolise actual independence – India name for the newly independent nation did not signify the actual independence. Members who supported the name Bharat took Irish constitution example. **Irish Free State was one of the few countries in the modern world which changed its name on achieving freedom** and the fourth article of its Constitution refers to the change in the name of the land.

Name of the country as India was foreign imposition – Clinging to the word ‘India’, showed that we are not ashamed of having this insulting word which has been imposed on us by alien rulers.

Name Bharat was befitting to our history and our culture – **Vishnu Purana** and **Brahma Purana** mentioned ‘Bharat’. Seventh-century Chinese traveller **Hiuen Tsang** had referred to the country as Bharat.

What are the arguments against renaming of name India as Bharat?

Cumbersome process – Renaming of names of government institutions to corporate institutions. This will be a cumbersome and tiring process.

Renaming of name would be **against the non-theocratic and inclusive state** that India symbolises.

Renaming of names will not serve much purpose as all **institutions have already Bharat names** in their **Hindi usage** like the RBI and IITs.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Renaming of names is a means of **political polarisation** between the **elite-non-elite, urban-rural and south-north states**. It is being used to counter the emerging coalition of I.N.D.I.A by the ruling party.

However, Dr. Ambedkar reminded the House several times that the civilisational debate was unnecessary since the name Bharat was not opposed by members. Dr. Ambedkar was **apprehensive of such debates** on the name of the country. He was focussed more on development path the country should take.

15. Bridging the malnutrition gap, the Bemetara way

Source: The post is based on the article “**Bridging the malnutrition gap, the Bemetara way**” published in “The Hindu” on 7th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance- Welfare scheme for vulnerable section & issue relating to development and management of social sector/services related to health.

News: The article talks about the significance of nutrition counseling and monitoring in India, showcasing the success of the “Potth Laika Abhiyaan” program in Bemetara, Chhattisgarh. This program substantially decreased malnutrition rates in specific children within nine months.

Why is nutrition security still a challenge?

Government Initiatives: Despite measures like mid-day-meals, the Public Distribution System, and POSHAN Abhiyaan, malnutrition persists.

Knowledge Gap: Many individuals lack the correct knowledge about proper eating and feeding practices.

Myths and Misconceptions: Misbeliefs about food, combined with increased access to highly processed foods, hinder proper nutrition.

Inconsistent Counseling: While various awareness programs exist, nutrition counseling hasn't been uniformly implemented across states.

What's happening in Bemetara?

Unexpected Malnutrition Levels: Despite its agricultural richness and relative affluence, Bemetara has a high number of Severe Acute Malnourished (SAM) children. As of December 2022, there were 3,299 SAM children, a figure mirroring that of Naxal-affected areas like Bastar.

Core Issue: The primary problem isn't a lack of food access but insufficient knowledge about proper feeding practices.

Potth Laika Abhiyaan Introduction: This is a nutrition counseling program in place in 72 of the most affected Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) within Bemetara. It operates with technical support from UNICEF, Chhattisgarh. It involves teaching parents about balanced diets, handwashing, and dispelling myths, and local leaders take part while home visits track children's progress.

Program Details: Ground staff from Health and Women and Child Development departments provide nutrition counseling. Every Friday, parents of SAM and Medium Acute Malnourished (MAM) children receive guidance in local language. They learn about balanced diets, the importance of handwashing, and are corrected on food-related myths.

Community Involvement: Local leaders, including sarpanchs and religious heads, have taken part in these counseling sessions. There are also door-to-door visits to monitor the progress of targeted children.

Significant Outcomes: Due to this approach, Within nine months, from December 2022 to July 2023, 53.77% of targeted children improved their nutritional status.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What should be done to ensure nutrition security in India?

Expand Nutrition Counselling: Given the success in Bemetara, nutrition counselling needs to be consistently implemented across all states.

Uniform Implementation: States should uniformly institutionalize and implement nutrition awareness and counselling.

Training Field Staff: Proper training in nutritional counselling is essential for field staff to effectively guide communities.

Robust Monitoring: Alongside counselling, regular monitoring of children's nutrition status is crucial.

Replicate Successful Models: Programs like Poth Laika Abhiyaan, which brought significant improvements in Bemetara, should be replicated in other districts and states.

Address Myths: Awareness campaigns should target and dispel dietary myths and misconceptions.

16. PM Narendra Modi writes: G20 will reach the last mile, leave no one behind

Source- The post is based on the article "PM Narendra Modi writes: G20 will reach the last mile, leave no one behind" published in "The Indian Express" on 7th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Global groupings

Relevance- G20

News- The article explains how Indian G20 presidency can contribute towards a better world.

How the world order after pandemic has undergone significant transformations compared to the pre-pandemic era?

There is an increasing acknowledgment of the necessity to transition from an **emphasis on GDP** towards prioritizing the **well-being of individuals**.

There is a heightened acknowledgment of the significance of **resilience and dependability within global supply chains**.

There is a united call to **enhance multilateralism by reforming international institutions** on a global scale.

How India is promoting the voice of global south as the President of G20?

The **Voice of Global South Summit** had representatives from 125 countries. It marked one of the primary initiatives during our Presidency. It served as a significant effort to collect insights and concepts from the **Global South**.

Indian Presidency witnessed the **largest-ever involvement of African nations** and advocated for the **inclusion of the African Union** as a permanent member of the G20.

How India G20 presidency can contribute for betterment of human lives across the world?

The **Chennai High-Level Principles (HLPs)** for a **Sustainable and Resilient Blue Economy** are primarily focused on preserving the health of our oceans.

Indian presidency will pave the way for the establishment of a **global network** dedicated to **clean and environmentally friendly hydrogen**, complemented by the creation of a **Green Hydrogen Innovation Center**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

In 2015, India introduced the **International Solar Alliance**. Now, through the **Global Biofuels Alliance**, India will extend our support to **facilitate energy transitions** that align with the principles of a **circular economy**.

The **democratization of climate action** is essential to propel the movement forward. Individuals can make lifestyle decisions with consideration for the **planet's long-term well-being**. India has influenced the world with **Lifestyles for Sustainable Environment (LiFE)**.

Ensuring **food and nutritional security** becomes paramount due to climate change. Millets can play a pivotal role in achieving this goal while promoting **climate-smart agriculture**.

During the **International Year of Millets**, India has introduced millets to **global culinary preferences**. Additionally, the **Deccan High-Level Principles on Food Security and Nutrition** offer valuable guidance in this regard.

Technology holds transformative potential, but it must also be inclusive. India has demonstrated in recent years how technology can be harnessed to **reduce inequalities**.

The vast number of individuals worldwide who lack access to banking services or digital identities can achieve **financial inclusion** through the utilization of **digital public infrastructure (DPI)**.

DPI, have garnered global recognition. Now, through the G20, India aim to assist developing nations in **adopting, creating, and expanding DPI**.

India's status as the **fastest-growing major economy** is not coincidental. Our **straightforward, scalable, and sustainable solutions** have empowered marginalized and vulnerable populations to participate in our development journey.

Across various sectors, Indian women have taken **prominent roles**. They have shifted the narrative from **women's development to women-led development**.

During our G20 Presidency, India is actively working to bridge the **gender digital divide**, diminish disparities in **labor force participation**, and promote greater involvement of women in **leadership and decision-making roles**.

What should be the way forward for G20 to ensure sustainable development?

This year marks the **midpoint of the 2030 Agenda**. There is growing concern that progress toward the SDGs is lagging behind.

The **G20 2023 Action Plan on Accelerating Progress on SDGs** will guide the future direction of the G20 in terms of SDG implementation.

Many nations in the **Global South** are in different stages of development. It is essential that climate action is pursued in tandem with these **development stages**.

Aspirations for **climate action** should be accompanied by **tangible steps in climate finance and technology transfer**.

It's imperative to shift from a **purely restrictive approach to a more constructive approach** that emphasizes actions to **combat climate change**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

17. Kota suicides: Our children on the brink

Source– The post is based on the article “**Kota suicides: Our children on the brink**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **7th September 2023**.

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

News– Kota is getting attention due to high incidence of student suicides over the past decade or longer, with over 100 young lives lost during that period. This year city has recorded 23 suicides.

What are statistics related to suicide among young people?

Suicide is the leading cause of death among individuals aged 15 to 30, making India the global leader in this age group.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau, in 2020, a student committed suicide **every 42 minutes**. It equated to **34 student suicides daily**. During the same year, 11,396 children below the age of 18 tragically took their own lives.

What are the causes behind increasing tendency among students towards suicidal thoughts?

It reveals the neglect of our society in addressing the **emotional needs and vulnerabilities** of our children.

Suicidal thoughts or actions result from a **complex interplay of various factors**. It includes **biological, socioemotional, cultural, political, and issues related to social justice**.

For young individuals, this complexity can manifest as **developmental differences, parental and family expectations**, and the **discrimination or marginalisation** based on caste, religion.

Why suicidal tendencies among students in Kota are on rise?

The coaching industry in Kota is estimated to be valued at a **staggering Rs 12,000 crore**. It prioritises its **interests over student well-being**.

Its primary concern is to extract **maximum benefits** from the thousands of students and their families, both financially and in terms of achieving exceptional results.

These results provide them with **poster children** for their full-page advertisements in national newspapers to attract more students.

To **enhance competitiveness**, they intensify the pressure through **frequent testing**, sharing the scores with parents, giving **preferential treatment to high-achievers**, and ignoring those students who struggle.

Helpless students find themselves trapped in 12-hour daily schedules, seven days a week, without any **respite or relief**. They have no one to turn to when they experience **distress and self-doubt**.

There are no mechanisms to **accommodate individual differences**, no **safe spaces** for students to **share and support** each other, and no **compassionate, nurturing** faculty members who will mentor students.

How is the government paying more attention towards mental health issues?

Prior to the onset of COVID-19, the annual budget allocated to the **National Mental Health Programme** was a mere Rs **40 crore**. However, it has now increased **more than threefold to Rs 134 crore** for the fiscal year 2023-24.

The government of Rajasthan has taken **proactive steps** to address the crisis in Kota and has pledged to **investigate and implement solutions**.

What should be done?

Impulsive reactions and superficial solutions, such as installing fans with springs, using CCTVs, and resorting to punitive measures against scapegoats, will not lead to **sustainable improvements**.

There is a need for a more **profound and sustained** commitment **involving all stakeholders**, including parents, educators, influential institutions, policymakers, professionals, individuals with personal experiences, and young people.

18. Chandrayaan 3 success: India's role in democratising space

Source– The post is based on the article **“Chandrayaan 3 success: India's role in democratising space”** published in **“The Indian Express”** on **7th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- International relations

Relevance- International law related to outer space

News– The article explains the the issues related to consideration of space as “global common” and explain the international laws related to concept of “commons”.

Is outer space considered a “global common”?

Some individuals firmly reject the notion that outer space meets the criteria of a **“global common”**.

Others contend that it should be classified as “global common” in order to secure the **freedom of access and benefits** for developing nations.

The concept of “global commons” can be examined from **two perspectives**.

First perspective- It is related to **geopolitical prespective**. From these viewpoints, security institutions worldwide recognize **domains beyond national borders** as crucial **connecting channels for the international order**.

These domains include the **high seas, airspace outside a nation's territory, and outer space**,

Some nations also acknowledge outer space as a critical for maintaining their **security** while upholding **international law**.

In essence, open access is vital for a nation's **security and economic interests**.

Second perspective- The term “global common” is sometimes perceived as **restrictive**, primarily due to the **economic and commercial implications** associated with shared resources.

This perspective raises concerns about the **potential overuse** of these resources by some parties at the expense of others.

What is the meaning of term “global commons”?

The term “global common” is used to refer to areas on Earth that fall **outside the jurisdiction of any single nation**.

This concept is built upon the legacy of **Grotius's idea of “mare liberum” (free sea)**, which aimed to preserve the **freedom of access and benefits for all**.

The United Nations recognizes four “global commons,” including the high seas, the atmosphere, Antarctica, and outer space.

What the international laws says about the concept of “commons”?

The concept of “commons” is often linked with notions of **shared ownership, public governance, or usage limitations**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Additionally, “commons” is occasionally connected with the **concept of the “common heritage of mankind” (CHM), as articulated in Article 11(3) of the Moon Agreement of 1979.**

CHM introduced a **territorial status** in which **celestial bodies** are not subject to **national appropriation**. Their fruits and resources are considered the **property of all humankind**. The principle of CHM extends **beyond outer space**.

In 1970, the UN General Assembly passed a **non-binding resolution** declaring that “the **seabed and ocean floor**, beyond the **limits of national jurisdiction**, along with the resources of the area, are the **common heritage of mankind.**”

This principle was incorporated as **Article 136 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982.**

In 1957, the United States and the Soviet ensured the **adoption of UN General Assembly Resolutions 1721 A&B (XVI)** on December 21, 1961.

Subsequently, they **consistently adhered** to its provisions. All nations with space capabilities have continued to adhere to this **established precedent**.

The principles outlined in the **Outer Space Treaty of 1967** have evolved into **customary international law**.

Way forward for India-

India is currently at a significant juncture. It presenting an opportunity to actively shape the the **future international framework** for the **management of space resources**.

This process would necessitate a thorough examination of the **Moon Agreement of 1979 (MA)**, which entered into force in 1984.

India has **signed the MA but ratification is pending**. It is also signatories to the **Artemis Accords**.

India has a history of **robust international cooperation** in space programs. It has engaged in both multilateral and bilateral collaborations with advanced spacefaring nations, as well as those aspiring to advance their capabilities.

India should now play a role in shaping an international framework for managing space resources.

19. India, US and the China anxiety- For Delhi and Washington, the other's China choices matter

Source: The post is based on the article “Modi-Biden meet: **India, US and the China anxiety- For Delhi and Washington, the other's China choices matter**. They must address each other's concerns” published in “The Indian express” on 8th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

News: The article discusses concerns in India and the US about each other possibly getting too close to China (called G2-A2 concerns). This could affect their own strong partnership. Both countries need to communicate better about their China relations to maintain trust and strengthen their alliance.

What are G2-A2 concerns?

G2-A2 concerns refer to anxieties in both India and the US regarding each other's potential closer ties with China, potentially sidelining their bilateral partnership.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Origins:

India noticed US cabinet trips to China and changes in US-China rhetoric.

The US observed India's high-level meetings with China and India's agreement for BRICS expansion.

Historical Context:

India recalls the US's move towards China in 1971, feeling left out.

India believes the US didn't do enough to deter China's militarization of the South China Sea.

The US remembers the Sino-Indian cooperation in the 1950s, which went against US interests.

The US feels India was hesitant about joining the Quad to avoid provoking China.

Recent Events:

Commentators criticize each country's outreach to China, viewing it as a sign of desperation or weakness.

Developments like the Trump-Xi and Modi-Xi summits between 2017-2019 added to these apprehensions.

Implications:

There's a fear that if one country gets closer to China, it may negatively impact India-US ties and constrain options in the Indo-Pacific and globally.

What can India and the US do to strengthen their partnership?

Strengthening the India-US Partnership:

No-Surprises Rule: Both should keep each other informed about their significant interactions with China. For instance, Delhi and Washington can establish a regular briefing schedule on interactions with China.

Public Messaging: Enhance public communication so that China doesn't dominate the narrative. For example, joint press releases can clarify the shared perspectives of India and the US on crucial issues.

Focus on Trends: Pay attention to overall patterns of interaction rather than isolated incidents. Such as investing more in research to understand each other's historical and current views on China and Asia.

Boost Non-China Partnership Drivers:

Strengthen other aspects of their relationship not solely based on China-related concerns. Like, enhancing trade, cultural exchanges, or technological collaborations.

Adopting these measures can help India and the US solidify their ties, ensuring more robust mutual trust and collaboration.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

20. Finding Seoul in the Indo-Pacific

Source– The post is based on the article “**Finding Seoul in the Indo-Pacific**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **8th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Bilateral groupings and agreements

Relevance- India and South Korea bilateral relationship

News– The historic Camp David summit in August this year among the leaders of the United States, Japan, and the Republic of Korea (ROK) marks the new beginning of the strategic partnership among the three traditional allies.

What is the significance of Camp David summit?

This meeting signifies a crucial step in **repairing relations** between Seoul and Tokyo. It reflects a mutual recognition of the **changing regional security dynamics** by these three countries.

This development, in conjunction with other alliances like **AUKUS, the Quad, and the CHIP 4 Alliance** could lead to a strengthened **U.S.-led alliance structure in East Asia**. This structure reflects the **multipolar nature of the contemporary international system**.

The summit has the potential to redirect South Korea’s **strategic approach in the Indo-Pacific region**. This includes improved relations with Tokyo, alignment with the **American perspective on China**, and increased **engagement in the Indo-Pacific**.

This shift in strategy indicates a departure from **Seoul’s traditional stance** of avoiding any actions that might upset China.

Previous South Korean governments were hesitant to **openly acknowledge** the challenges posed by China.

There is a strong desire within South Korea to join the **Quad grouping**. South Korea has expressed interest in joining the Quad for some time. But, there were concerns about Tokyo supporting its bid due to **historical grievances**.

The Camp David summit may have **altered this dynamic**. It is possible that South Korea may seek membership in a **Quad Plus configuration** in the coming year.

There is a **renewed enthusiasm for foreign policy** in Seoul today. President Yoon Suk Yeol has declared that the **primary goal of his foreign policy** is to establish South Korea as a “**global pivotal state**.”

South Korea’s **engagement with the U.S. and Japan, support for Ukraine, recognition of the China challenge**, and a desire to play a more **significant role in the Indo-Pacific** all reflect this new vision.

Why is South Korea a natural partner for India in the Indo-Pacific?

Firstly, South Korea’s **location in the Indo-Pacific, its proximity to China**, and its status as a **U.S. ally** align well with **India’s strategic interests**.

Secondly, both countries share concerns about the **rise of China** and its attempts to **unilaterally reshape the Asian security landscape**

Thirdly, South Korea can serve as an **important regional partner** for India, as India’s **alignment with the U.S.** reaches unprecedented levels, and concerns about **China’s intentions and power** grow.

What should be the focus areas to enhance their relationship?

At the **political and diplomatic levels**, they should explore the possibility of organising an **annual summit** involving their Foreign Ministers and establish a **2+2 format dialogue**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Additionally, **reciprocal visits** by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Yoon Suk Yeol to each other's countries could further strengthen ties.

They might even consider negotiating a **joint initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology** (iCET). It can involve South Korea, Japan, India, and the U.S.

In the realm of defense, there is potential to **enhance their partnership**. South Korea's capacity to meet India's **defense requirements** within the **framework of India's 'Make in India'** program should be leveraged.

For instance, the **K9 Vajra, a 155 mm self-propelled howitzer** produced by L&T with technology from South Korea's Hanwha Defense, exemplifies this cooperation.

Another avenue for collaboration is in the nuclear **field**. India has encountered challenges in importing nuclear reactors due to concerns related to its **nuclear liability law**.

South Korea has a successful track record in providing **cost-effective and expedited nuclear reactors** to countries like the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia. India could contemplate purchasing **South Korean-built reactors** to expand its reliance on nuclear energy.

21. India should quit the Brics

Source: The post is based on the article "India should quit the Brics" published in **Business Standard** on **8th September 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests**

Relevance: **concerns for India after the expansion of BRICS**

News: The upcoming G20 summit in New Delhi marks the end of India's presidency and holds significance for two key reasons, despite the group's limited achievements since the 2008 financial crisis.

What are the reasons that make the G20 significant?

First, the Prime Minister has turned the G20 presidency into a significant domestic issue, engaging the entire nation in preparations to highlight India's global importance.

Second, India faces a strategic choice with the BRICS expansion. The group was not very effective before, but with new members, many of whom are close to China, India now needs to be careful about its foreign policies.

Additionally, Brics+ is becoming more political, with China taking a central role and showing a stronger anti-Western stance. Therefore, India needs to consider its position in the group and ending its membership might be better for India.

Why should India discontinue being part of the BRICS grouping?

Economic Issues: Originally, the BRICS was economically strong, but in 2023 it isn't as strong as it used to be. **Some, like China and Russia, are still wealthy, but that doesn't guarantee power.**

China's growth has slowed, and Russia has become weaker due to prolonged wars. Argentina is on the edge of a financial crisis while South Africa faces high unemployment and other issues.

Egypt needs help from the International Monetary Fund, and even Saudi Arabia and the UAE are in trouble because of climate change, which will reduce the value of their oil.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Hence, **most BRICS+ countries have seen their economic strength decline, except for India, which is still growing.** Since India no longer fits in well with the other BRICS members, it should consider leaving.

Political Issues: BRICS+ is becoming more political as it's leaning towards China and against Western nations, **contradicting India's neutral foreign policy.**

Additionally, most new BRICS+ members are autocracies, except for Argentina and Ethiopia. Given this increasing political orientation and India being a democracy, **it should consider leaving the group dominated by autocratic nations.**

Global Governance Issues: The current international order led by the US and G7 isn't working well anymore. Multilateral financial institutions also don't give emerging countries like India enough say.

Although India seeks a new world order, it doesn't match China, Russia, or Saudi Arabia's vision within BRICS+.

The other BRICS members aim to reduce the US dollar's dominance and offer different resources to poorer nations. However, these goals suggest a new world order based on the dominance of China.

So, **shifting from US to Chinese dominance doesn't seem beneficial for India,** as it would support China's goals in BRICS+.

Must Read: [BRICS-Plus – Significance and Implications– Explained](#)

What can be the way ahead?

The G7 is outdated, and BRICS+ isn't a good choice. **Hence, to prove its rising influence, India should leave BRICS. At the same time, to support positive alternatives, India should focus on making the G20 successful.**

22. [GOI must consider a law that mandates a cooling-off period before retired judges take another job](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“Perception Matters – GOI must consider a law that mandates a cooling-off period before retired judges take another job”** published in **The Times of India** on **8th September 2023.**

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Indian Polity – Functioning of the Judiciary**

Relevance: **About cooling-off period**

News: The Supreme Court dismissed a plea by the Bombay Lawyers Association for a cooling-off period for SC and HC judges before accepting political appointments, although such regulations exist for retired bureaucrats.

What are the regulations on cooling-off period for retired bureaucrats?

In 2021, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) directed state organizations to take vigilance clearance before offering post-retirement positions to bureaucrats in order to avoid hiring officials who have pending cases.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also mandated a three-year cooling-off period for its retired employees in 2018.

Despite this, there have already been many discussions made regarding the cooling-off period.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What discussions have taken place regarding the cooling-off period?

The concept of a cooling-off period for retired bureaucrats, judges, and constitutional post holders before entering politics or taking private jobs has been widely discussed.

In 2013, the Election Commission sought to prevent civil servants and police officers from immediately entering politics after retirement.

However, the government rejected the proposal, citing concerns about violating their constitutional rights.

The Supreme Court has also consistently declined to intervene, dismissing similar petitions in 2014 and 2022. Therefore, the government should consider the Supreme Court's suggestion to enact a law on this matter.

Must Read: EC Needs A Smart Focus – Cooling-off periods are impractical in social media age

What can be the way ahead?

Judges in constitutional courts deal with fundamental rights, political disputes, high-stakes policies, and constitutional matters, therefore, it becomes necessary to maintain impartiality.

In this regard, a post-retirement cooling-off period can further enhance public trust and perception of the judiciary.

In a world where politics is polarized with complex policies, a law mandating a cooling-off period for retired judges is becoming increasingly important.

23. The case for decoupled elections

Source: The post is based on the article “The case for decoupled elections” published in **Business Standard** on 9th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Indian Polity – Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme with that of Other Countries

Relevance: comparison between the Indian system and the European Union's

News: The article provides a comparative analysis of the Indian system and the European Union.

What are the differences between the Indian system and the European Union (EU)?

States: India has 28 states and 8 Union Territories, while the EU comprises 27 countries.

Official Languages: The EU has 24 official languages, whereas India recognizes 22 languages in its Eighth Schedule and has at least 35 more seeking recognition.

Population: India's population is about 3.5 times larger than the EU's, with around 450 million people.

Income: India has a higher GINI coefficient with a GINI of 36 in 2019, whereas Germany and France have lower GINI coefficients (32 and 30, respectively), while Bulgaria and Lithuania have higher ones (39 and around 36, respectively).

Currency: The EU has a common currency used by 20 nations, with the option for seven more to join if they meet the Maastricht or Convergence Criteria.

Trades: The EU functions as a common market, allowing the free movement of goods and people across member countries. Labor rights include automatic residency rights, and goods can be sold anywhere within the union.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Political System: In the EU, each nation has its own political system, laws, and elections with varying polling methods. **The EU mandates a secret ballot.** Voting systems range from first-past-the-post to proportional representation or ranked voting.

Each nation also maintains its own parliamentary system and enacts its own laws.

The EU is governed by the European Parliament (EP) in Strasbourg, France. **EP members are directly elected by citizens of member states every five years** using secret ballot and proportional representation.

The EP has a key role in voting on laws, negotiating on behalf of the EU, overseeing joint institutions, questioning the central bank on monetary policy, and establishing cross-zone commissions.

After the EP passes legislation, member nations must harmonize their local laws with the EP laws. **This is similar to India's federal system, where states can make their own laws but must align them with parliamentary legislation.**

However, **EU member states have more flexibility compared to Indian states in this regard.**

National Elections: EU member nations hold separate national elections from European Parliament (EP) elections, allowing them to prioritize local issues over pan-national matters.

India follows a similar approach, keeping state elections separate from Lok Sabha elections to maintain a clear focus on local concerns and avoid overshadowing by national considerations.

Taxes and Policies: Member states can set their income tax rates, with varying slabs. Indirect taxes are locally decided but must adhere to EU-approved value-added tax (VAT) levels.

The European Central Bank sets policy interest rates and utilizes other monetary policy tools as necessary.

24. Continental Shift? Why it's not quite Asia's century yet

Source: The post is based on the article "Continental Shift? Why it's not quite Asia's century yet" published in **The Times of India** on **9th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations – Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

Relevance: About the term Asian century

News: During the recent visit to Indonesia for the Asean-India and East Asia summits, PM Modi described the 21st century as the 'Asian century.'

What is the significance of the term Asian century?

The term gained popularity in the 1990s when East Asia was seen as a model for rapid economic growth.

Today, **Asia leads the world in economic growth and has the largest middle class. Three of the world's top five economies are also located in Asia.**

Moreover, the term goes beyond economic competitiveness, as it also includes **cultural richness because of the presence** of three of the world's oldest river valley civilizations.

However, some don't agree with this idea and argue that Asia is not a natural bloc but rather a creation of European geographers.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

They argue that there is lack of overlap between the economy of central Asian republics and East Asian economy. **They also argue that Asia lacks the hegemonic power that** the United States had in the 20th century.

Therefore, it is not wise to portray 21st century as the 'Asian century'.

Must Read: India's dilemmas in an Asian century and What is Asian centrality?

What is the way ahead?

The Indian Prime Minister has called for the need to build a rules-based order in Asia, which is seen as a challenge to China's growing influence.

China also faces significant resistance to its leadership in Asia, turning the continent into a place of competing ideas.

Therefore, even though **Asia stands out as the world's most economically active region with strong trade connections, the idea of the 'Asian century' still remains to be fully achieved.**

25. An overhaul, the criminal law Bills, and the big picture

Source– The post is based on the article **“An overhaul, the criminal law Bills, and the big picture”** published in **“The Hindu”** on **9th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Indian Polity

Relevance- Important bills and acts

News– The central government has introduced three Bills in Parliament in August called the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya (BS) Bill, 2023.

What are provisions in BNSS on registration of FIR and conducting inquiry?

The BNSS includes a provision regarding the **registration of cognisable offenses** at any police station, **regardless of the location** of committed offense. This practice is known as recording a **First Information Report at Zero**.

A new provision has been introduced to allow for a **preliminary inquiry** to determine the presence of a **prima facie case**.

This should be done even when the information suggests the commission of a **cognisable offense** punishable with **imprisonment between three to seven years**.

This diverges from the **Supreme Court's ruling in Lalita Kumari versus Govt. of Uttar Pradesh (2013)**. SC mandated the **mandatory registration of an FIR** when a cognisable offense is disclosed.

This clause has both advantages and disadvantages. Parties in dispute may reach a **compromise** within the **14-day timeframe** allotted for a **preliminary inquiry**. But, the police might misuse this period to avoid registering even valid cases.

What are provisions in BNSS related to arrest of accused and issues related to them?

All **provisions of the CrPC on arrest** have been retained in the BNSS.

A new clause stipulates that for **offenses** carrying a **sentence of less than three years of imprisonment**, an arrest can only be made with **prior permission** from the Deputy Superintendent of Police. It is for individuals who are **infirm or aged over 60**.

The new Codes allow for **handcuffing in** at least a dozen categories of persons accused of serious offenses, including terrorist acts, murder, rape, acid attacks, or offenses against the state. This is likely to aid the police in **securing the custody** of such individuals.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

However, the **enabling section** guiding handcuffing remains unchanged. It states that “the person arrested shall not be subjected to **more restraint** than is necessary to **prevent his escape.**”

Therefore, the investigating officer will still need to **justify handcuffing** based on the **potential for escape or physical harm** when these criminals are presented before the court.

The new Sanhita introduces a requirement for a **forensic expert** to visit the crime scene and **collect forensic evidence** in cases where the punishment is more than **seven years of imprisonment.**

However, the new code has recognized the **practical limitations** of **limited forensic infrastructure** at the ground level. State governments have been granted a maximum of five years to implement this provision.

The Sanhita promotes the use of **audio and video recording** during various stages of investigations, including searches. However, the preferred **use of smartphones**, as recommended, has its limitations.

In the case of **Shafhi Mohammad vs. The State Of Himachal Pradesh (2018)**, the Supreme Court directed the Ministry of Home Affairs and states to establish **facilities for the videography and photography** of crime scenes during **police station-level investigations.**

What is criticism against BNSS code?

The ban on the two-finger test in cases of rape is not explicitly included in the Code. The Supreme Court has declared in the **Lillu @ Rajesh & Anr vs. State Of Haryana (2013)** case that this test is **unscientific** and violates the **dignity and privacy** of rape victims.

Regarding the disclosure of the **identity of rape victims**, the provision allowing **authorization to the next of kin** when the victim is a minor needs reconsideration.

This is because the **Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act** exclusively addresses this issue and does not include a similar provision.

The Supreme Court, in the case of **Nipun Saxena vs. Union Of India (2018)** expressed reservations about **delegating such authority** to the next of kin.

One provision in the Sanhita that has drawn criticism is the **extension of the period of police custody** beyond the 15 days stipulated in the CrPC.

This extension allows the police to **re-interrogate** an accused individual if **additional evidence** surfaces during an investigation.

What are some positive aspects of the BNSS code?

The Sanhita proposes broadening the scope of judicial inquiry into **suspicious deaths** to include **dowry-related deaths.**

A useful addition that could have been included in the Sanhita relates to **videography and photography of post-mortems**, especially in cases of **custodial deaths or deaths resulting from encounters.**

The **Supreme Court and the National Human Rights Commission of India** have consistently urged states to comply with such directives.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

26. India's G20 presidency has been a landmark- The voice of emerging powers must be heard

Source: The post is based on the article "Manjeet Kripalani writes: **India's G20 presidency has been a landmark- The voice of emerging powers must be heard**. India's G20 presidency is the first step on that course" published in "The Indian express" on 9th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

News: The article discusses India's role in the G20 Leaders' Summit, highlighting its achievements as the G20 President. It underscores India's leadership in health and digital inclusion. The article also touches on global challenges, the G7's resistance to change, and emerging powers seeking greater influence in global decision-making.

How has India's role as G20 President impacted the global stage?

Pandemic Leadership: India emphasized pandemic preparedness during its G20 presidency, becoming a model for other nations after effectively managing the Covid-19 crisis.

Digital Influence: India's push for digital public infrastructure, such as the Unified Payments Interface, has expanded to nearly two dozen countries, setting a global trend.

Geopolitical Balance: Amid the Russia-Ukraine conflict, India maintained neutrality, effectively balancing relations with major global players like Russia and the U.S.

Democratizing G20: India's presidency democratized the G20 process, emphasizing inclusivity and bringing the discussions closer to its citizens by hosting in different cities.

Promotion of Multilateral Cooperation: With initiatives like involving the African Union in the G20, India is fostering broader global collaborations.

What are the main G20 challenges?

Russia-Ukraine War: The conflict has created divisions among G20 members, with countries forced to pick sides or maintain neutrality.

Differences between G7 and G20: The G7, a subgroup within the G20, often pulls in a different direction on key issues. For instance, while the G7 might have a unified stance, other G20 members seek equitable decisions on debt and climate commitments.

Digital Inclusion: India's initiative of digital public infrastructure like the Unified Payments Interface faces resistance, especially from U.S. private entities and Chinese state companies.

Financial Reforms: The G20 faces challenges in reforming the multilateral financial architecture, with differences in opinions among its members.

Energy and Climate Commitments: While the need for action on climate change is unanimous, the methods and commitments vary among members.

What recent global changes impact the G20's direction?

Geopolitical Tensions: The absence of China and Russia from the G20 summit highlights underlying global tensions.

BRICS Expansion: The growth of the BRICS nations is reshaping global dynamics.

India's Lunar Landing: This achievement highlights the rising technological and scientific capabilities of emerging nations.

Ukraine Conflict's Economic Impact: The war has caused distortions in food and energy markets, affecting global trade and economics.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What's the future of G20?

New Presidencies: After India, Brazil and South Africa will lead the G20, emphasizing health, digital inclusion, and financial reforms.

IBSA Collaboration: The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) grouping will enhance G20's focus on health, debt relief, and climate goals.

African Union Inclusion: India's proposal to include the African Union in the G20 is expected to be accepted, diversifying the group's representation.

Shift Towards Global South: G20 is likely to increase its association with the Global South, which has historically been excluded from major global processes.

Dialogue Platform: Despite disagreements, the G20 will remain a key forum for dialogue and cooperation, adapting to a world in transition.

27. India's G20 opportunity: Internet shutdowns hamper Digital India promise

Source: The post is based on the article "India's G20 opportunity: Internet shutdowns hamper Digital India promise – it's time to commit to ending them" published in "The Indian Express" on 9th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests & GS3- Science and tech- Awareness in the fields of IT.

News: The article discusses India's contradictory digital landscape. While India has a high number of internet users and leads in digital innovation, it also frequently shuts down the internet, affecting millions. As India hosts the G20 Summit, it should commit to consistent internet access, matching international digital rights standards.

How India's digital progress contradictory?

India's digital progress presents a picture of contradictions:

Impressive Rankings: India stands second in terms of active internet users and possesses the second-largest social media user base. This showcases the country's rapid embrace of the digital age.

Internet Shutdowns: Contradicting its digital growth, India has imposed the most internet shutdowns globally for five consecutive years. In 2022 alone, the internet was shut down 84 times.

Cutting-Edge Technology: While India is advancing with efforts in 5G and even 6G prototypes, a significant portion of its population still uses outdated 2G technology.

Aadhaar Debates: The digital ID system, Aadhaar, is praised for its unique benefits. However, it has faced criticism for privacy concerns and connectivity issues, which sometimes prevent basic services like obtaining rations or making UPI payments.

What has the G20 discussed about digital inclusion?

Digital Public Infrastructure: The G20 DEWG led discussions on Digital Public Infrastructure, recognizing its importance in modern societies.

Digital Inclusion Priority: One of their primary areas of discussion was "Digital Inclusion — Connecting the Unconnected", emphasizing the importance of bringing connectivity to all.

Inclusivity in Planning: The G20 DEWG document pushes for inclusivity to eliminate barriers. This aims for the empowerment of end-users and focuses on last-mile access.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Emphasis on Human Rights: The same document accentuates the need for a human rights-centric approach at every stage, from planning to operation.

How can India realign with global digital standards?

End Internet Shutdowns: With 84 shutdowns in 2022, India should reduce these to uphold consistent internet access and match international standards.

Honor International Commitments: India's signing of the G7 "open societies" joint statement in 2021 against "politically motivated shutdowns" should be adhered to, removing any qualifiers.

Strengthen Digital Infrastructure: While India pushes for 5G and 6G, efforts should be made to upgrade the vast population still on 2G.

Address Aadhaar Concerns: Addressing criticisms of Aadhaar, especially concerning privacy and connectivity, will ensure better service delivery without interruptions.

Act on G20 DEWG Recommendations: India should implement the recommendations of the G20 DEWG, focusing on human rights, inclusivity, and consistent high-quality connectivity.

28. G20's well being challenge

Source: The post is based on the article "G20's well being challenge- G20 countries must find ways to share good practices for overcoming the health challenges faced by women, children, and adolescents" published in "The Indian express" on 9th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Social issue- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health. GS2- International relations- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

News: The article discusses the challenges faced by women, children, and adolescents in G20 countries due to factors like Covid-19, conflict, climate change, and cost of living. It stresses the need for G20 leadership in improving their health and well-being for global economic growth. The solutions include better financing, data systems, early childhood investment, and global cooperation.

What challenges are faced by women, children, and adolescents in G20 countries?

The "Four Cs": They are impacted by Covid-19, conflict, climate change, and the rising cost of living.

Climate Displacement: 80% of those displaced due to climate emergencies are women, highlighting gender-specific challenges.

Preventable Deaths: Almost 2 million deaths occur yearly among these groups in G20 countries. Many are avoidable with proper care and resources.

Economic Inequalities: Women continue to earn less than men, even with similar education, pushing many into poverty.

Healthcare Shortfalls: Numerous countries can't maintain pre-pandemic health spending levels, affecting the health of these vulnerable groups.

Environmental Impact: Climate change caused over 1,50,000 deaths in 2000, with children bearing 88% of this burden.

What role does G20 play?

Population Representation: G20 countries encompass two-thirds of the world's population, making their decisions highly impactful.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Economic Power: They represent approximately 85% of the global GDP, granting them immense economic leverage in international matters.

Digital Health Drive: Under G20's watch, India launched digital health strategies, leading to the registration of a billion people for vaccine monitoring and distributing 1.78 billion Covid-19 doses.

Addressing Climate Impact: Recognizing the critical link between climate and health, G20 is spearheading initiatives to mitigate the negative effects of the climate crisis on public health.

Promotion of Collaboration: The G20 encourages countries to cooperate, share best practices, and collectively address challenges.

What actions are suggested for G20?

Prioritize Health and Well-being: The G20 must make the health and well-being of women, children, and adolescents a permanent fixture on its action agenda.

Increase Financing: They should prioritize cross-cutting financing to strengthen health systems, improve access to health services, and address social factors like poverty and gender inequality.

Develop Robust Data Systems: Strong data systems are needed to monitor and effectively implement policies and programs.

Promote Research and Health Tech Development: G20 countries should advance research and development of new health technologies and vaccines.

Invest in Early Childhood: Emphasize investing in the early years, promoting family-friendly policies and universal social protection.

Tackle Youth Unemployment: Focus on skills development for adolescents, promoting digital literacy, and environmentally conscious growth.

29. Eastern hedge – on India and ASEAN relationship

Source– The post is based on the article “**Eastern hedge**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **8th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Regional and global groupings

Relevance- India and ASEAN relationship

News– Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Indonesian capital of Jakarta for the annual India-ASEAN summit.

What are the challenges faced by the world today?

As per the UNCTAD in its ‘Global Trade Update’ on June 21, the outlook for worldwide trade in the latter half of 2023 is gloomy due to a series of **negative factors**.

These factors include reduced **global economic forecasts**, **ongoing inflation**, **financial vulnerabilities**, and **geopolitical tensions** taking center stage.

Food insecurity has been exacerbated by the **conflict in Ukraine**, the effects of **climate change**, and the various **policy responses to combat inflationary pressures** at the national level. The **potential onset of an El Niño** further complicates the situation.

What were the important developments during the summit?

The joint statement issued by leaders during the ASEAN-India summit, titled ‘Enhancing Food Security and Nutrition in Response to Crises,’ underscores the collective concern felt within the region regarding the heightened global food insecurity.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

This insecurity has been exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine, the effects of climate change, and the various policy responses to combat inflationary pressures at the national level.

How India positioned itself at the ASEAN summit?

Modi emphasized the importance of a post-COVID-19 **world order governed by rules** and advocated for a **free and open Indo-Pacific**.

It was clearly aimed at certain members of the **Asian bloc** who are growing increasingly concerned about **China's recent assertiveness** in the South China Sea.

The Prime Minister's implicit message to ASEAN members is that India is a **dependable, long-term strategic and economic partner** that has no **territorial ambitions**.

India also aimed to position itself as a voice that amplifies the **concerns of the Global South**.

What are trade related issues between two countries?

For India, **trade relations** with eastern economies have **grown in volume** but have shown **significant imbalances**. Imports are far exceeding India's exports.

The **widening trade deficit** and concerns that Chinese products are **exploiting lower tariffs** under the FTA to enter the Indian market have contributed to a **review of the agreement**. It is expected to be completed in 2025.

30. Change the playbook, repatriate Indian children

Source– The post is based on the article “Change the playbook, repatriate Indian children” published in “The Hindu” on 9th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Vulnerable sections of the population

Relevance- Issues related to children

News– The article explains the issues of children who are taken away from their migrant parents by authorities in advanced countries.

What are issues related to the process of confiscation of children by foreign authorities from migrant parents?

A migrated family in a high-income country finds themselves in a **troubling situation** where they are **accused of mistreating** their children.

These allegations surface through the child's struggles in **adapting to a foreign environment** at school and when parents seek **medical care** for an injured or ill child.

The ensuing **legal process** is **heavily biased**. Assessments carried out by social workers who hold **cultural biases** against the family.

As a result, the parents **lose custody** of their children. They are subsequently placed in **foster care** for their entire childhood.

Contact with the parents is **severely restricted**. It is often limited to just one hour every few weeks in a dismal contact centre. Over time, the child becomes **completely estranged** from their parents.

What are the issues faced by children who are taken away from their parents?

These children are entrusted to local foster parents who do not share the **same ethnic or cultural background** as the child's family of origin.

Consequently, these children lose their **sense of identity**. They fail to establish **meaningful connections** with either their host country or their extended family back home.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

When they eventually leave foster care, they are left feeling **doubly alienated**. They are not considered citizens of the country where they reside, and they lack **significant ties** to their country of origin.

Way forward-

A more **compassionate and humane solution** for such children would involve their **safe return** to their home country, rather than leaving them in the **custody of a foreign state**.

Foreign nations should move beyond **self-righteous perspectives**. They should conduct **genuine investigations** into parents' claims of **cultural bias and unfair trials** within their **child protection systems**.

The fate of these children should be considered from a **broader perspective**, rather than merely focusing on their **place of residence**.

31. The New Look In New Delhi

Source– The post is based on the article “**The New Look In New Delhi**” published in “**The Times of India**” on **9th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- International relations

Relevance- Multilateralism in Indian foreign policy

News– The article explains the different phases of multilateralism in Indian foreign policy and key elements of multilateralism in the present context.

What are different phases of multilateralism for India?

First phase– India's history of **multilateral engagement** can be divided into **four distinct periods**. The first phase saw India's **unwavering commitment to the United Nations**. However, this approach came into conflict with the **realities of the Cold War**.

Second phase- It involved India's participation in the **Afro-Asian conference in Bandung** and the **formation of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**.

NAM served as both a **diplomatic shield and an ideological framework**. It helped India to position itself between the **competing influences of Moscow and Washington**.

However, NAM **proved ineffective** when put to the test. During the 1962 conflict with China, many African and West Asian nations **aligned themselves** with Beijing.

Third phase- The **post-Cold War era**, marked by **India's economic liberalization** in 1991, ushered in a **third phase of multilateralism**. India was a participant in the creation of the **BRIC group**.

The Quad originated during the tenure of U.S. President George W. Bush. It was inspired by the impressive **joint response** of the four Quad nations' navies to the **Asian tsunami disaster**. President Bush decided to **formalize this cooperation**. It gave birth to the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue**, later known as the **Quad**.

However, during its initial phase, the Quad faced **geopolitical challenges**. China strongly opposed it. Australia withdrew from the group, and India found itself **standing alone** as the **main proponent** of the initiative.

Fourth phase- The Modi government represents the latest phase of India's approach to multilateralism. It involves several key elements.

What are key aspects of the new phase of multilateralism by India?

There is a **deliberate shift** away from the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**. Prime Minister Modi has not physically attended a **single NAM summit**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

There is an effort to **reshape post-Cold War groupings** to counter **China's expanding influence**. In the most recent BRICS summit, India attempted to resist Beijing's plans to transform BRICS into an **alternative to the Group of Seven (G7)**.

The Quad has taken the **forward-looking turn**. Its primary focus is on ensuring that China does not dominate in **strategic technology**.

Another aspect of India's approach involves the establishment of a series of **small, specialized minilateral groups**, each addressing a **single issue**.

These minilaterals aim to address **gaps in the existing international order**, which has been marked by a loss of legitimacy in the West due to **internal crises**.

Additionally, these efforts respond to the **incapacity of current international organizations** to address **urgent global crises**, especially in the context of climate change.

The **International Solar Alliance** garnered substantial interest from developing nations. It has prompted India to transform it into a permanent entity.

The **Climate Disaster Resilience Initiative** emerged from India's **genuine concerns** that the West was neglecting **climate adaptation efforts**.

At the recent G20 summit, India is actively working on restructuring the entire **multilateral development bank system** to redirect its focus toward **green finance for the Global South**.

India is also planning the establishment of a **new multilateral body**, capitalizing on its **digital successes**. It is known as the **One Future Alliance**.

India is collaborating with Western countries on many of these initiatives. Much of this new multilateralism will ultimately be financed by **Western development agencies**.

This could be the most **critical geopolitical aspect** of India's **current phase of multilateralism**.

What are the challenges for the new phase of multilateralism by India?

India still has a long way to go before it can assert itself as a **rule-maker on the global stage**.

The **International Solar Alliance** has encountered challenges in **maintaining its vision**. It is shifting its focus more toward **aid projects** than setting **global standards**.

The **Climate Disaster Resilience Initiative** is still in its early stages. The success of the **One Future Alliance** may be challenging to achieve, as governments tend to be cautious when presented with **digital initiatives**.

32. An unforgettable presidency – on G20 Summit

Source: The post is based on the article "**An unforgettable presidency**– India's convening power, ability to generate a consensus at G20 summit has set a benchmark difficult to emulate" published in "The Indian express" on 11th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS1: Art and culture- India's soft power & GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

News: The author discusses India's successful leadership during the G20 Summit. The summit highlighted India's ability to bring countries together and influence global decisions. Despite some absences like China's and Russia's leaders, the event was effective. The author praises India's Prime Minister role in making the summit memorable. India's cultural power and vision for the future were also emphasized.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

How did India showcase its global influence at the G20?

Unified Agreement: The Delhi Declaration was a testament to India's diplomatic finesse. Accepted by all 20 member countries, it touched upon pivotal issues ranging from the Ukraine war to climate change.

India's Alternative Vision: G20 saw a significant change with the inclusion of the African Union, transforming it into the G21. This move further underscored India's commitment to inclusivity and its vision of representing diverse voices in global discussions.

Economic Propositions: A significant proposal was the economic corridor connecting Europe, the Middle East, and India. This strategic move was seen as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative, signaling India's intent to be a major global economic player.

Leadership Acclaim: The G20's organization and outcomes were widely attributed to India's Prime Minister leadership. His efforts drew praise from numerous global leaders, marking India's G20 presidency as memorable and influential.

How was India's cultural power displayed?

Cultural Showcasing: The G20 Summit and associated meetings showcased the diversity, color, and genius of the Indian people, bringing them onto the world stage with newfound confidence.

Cultural Diplomacy: The summit highlighted India's civilizational strength, often suppressed by a lack of self-confidence in the past. This renewed sense of cultural pride positions India as a key destination for dialogue on contentious issues, all while visitors experience India's renowned hospitality.

Soft Power Expression: The author feels that "soft power" is an understated term for what India showcased. Instead, it's a resilient source of India's power deriving from its age-old civilization.

Merging Tradition with Modern Diplomacy: Despite some minor criticisms about cultural presentations, like the choice of dance for Oman's delegation, the emphasis was on India's broader cultural essence.

[33. New currency, next steps- Global collaboration and cooperation on regulation of crypto-assets](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**New currency, next steps- Global collaboration and cooperation on regulation of crypto-assets is needed**" published in **The Indian express** on 11th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests & GS3- Security- security challenges (crypto currency and money laundering)

News: The article talks about differences in cryptocurrency regulations worldwide. It focuses on India's evolving approach and stresses the importance of international cooperation for efficient cryptocurrency regulation or prohibition. It also mentions an upcoming G20 meeting to discuss a plan for coordinated cryptocurrency regulations.

What is the current regulatory framework for cryptocurrencies in India?

In 2018, the RBI banned Indian banks from cryptocurrency transactions.

In 2020, the Supreme Court of India overturned this ban.

In the 2022-23 Union budget, India proposed:

30% tax on income from digital asset transfers.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

1% TDS on cryptocurrency transactions.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasized the need for global collaboration for effective crypto regulation.

What is the major view of the IMF and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) paper on cryptocurrencies?

IMF and FSB View on Cryptocurrencies:

- **Comprehensive Policy Needed:**

The paper highlighted the necessity for a “comprehensive policy and regulatory response” to address the financial stability risks posed by crypto assets.

- **Difficulty in Banning Cryptocurrencies:** Banning crypto might just shift activities to more friendly jurisdictions. A ban could push transactions out of a country’s oversight, raising financial risks.
- **Regulation Over Ban:** Supervising licensed crypto-asset issuers and service providers can fill information gaps. This approach aids in monitoring cross-border crypto activities.
- **Anti-money Laundering Standards:** The paper suggests implementing the Financial Action Task Force’s standards that tackle money laundering and terrorist financing related to cryptocurrencies.
- **Global Coordination:** Emphasized the importance of worldwide coordination to address the borderless nature of cryptocurrencies.

34. [The larger project of subverting the idea of India](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “[The larger project of subverting the idea of India](#)” published in *The Hindu* on 11th September 2023.

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

Relevance: concerns with holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

News: The article discusses why the idea of holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies may not be a favorable choice.

What are the reasons that make holding simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies unwise?

Centralizations of Power: The proposal to hold simultaneous elections is under the concept of “One India” decisions of the government.

However, **conducting simultaneous elections will further centralize power, strengthen the hold of national parties, and reduce the importance of regional parties.**

Don’t Impose High Costs and Obstruct Governance: The idea of simultaneous polls is being promoted as a cost-saving and governance-friendly measure.

However, **critics argue that election costs are overestimated, and the Model Code of Conduct doesn’t hamper governance.** Instead, governance suffers when the ruling national party seeks to win every state election by focusing on state issues.

As Y.V. Reddy (the chairman of the Fourteenth Finance Commission) pointed out, elections are meant to hold governments accountable, and if they are too frequent, this can help to improve governance.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Lower Voter Turnout: Supporters of simultaneous elections relies on a study showing lower voter turnout when Assembly and Lok Sabha elections are held separately. However, this argument is only a justification rather than reality.

While increasing voter participation is important, it should be pursued through alternative means rather than disrupting the constitutional order.

Constitutional Changes: Implementing permanent simultaneous elections will require substantial constitutional changes, such as fixed-term governments, abolishing no-confidence motions, requiring “super-majorities” to unseat governments, enhancing President/Governors’ powers, or a mix of these measures.

These changes would fundamentally alter the Constitution’s Basic Structure, weaken State governments, erode federalism, and centralize power.

Read More: [One Nation One Election – Explained](#)

What is the way ahead?

“One Nation, One Election” is primarily a political and ideological push to replace India’s diversity with homogeneity.

It further goes beyond initiatives like “One Nation, One Tax” and “One Nation, One Ration Card,” aiming to centralize power in the Union Government.

Therefore, ultimately, the choice to embrace this “One India” vision rests with the electorate.

[35. African Dividend – On India- Africa Relations](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**African Dividend**” published in “**The Times of India**” on **11th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Bilateral, regional groupings

Relevance- India and Africa bilateral relationship

News– The African Union (AU) has been included as a permanent member of the G20.

What is the geopolitical significance of African Union inclusion in G20?

Africa is emerging as a potential **global economic powerhouse**, given its **abundant natural resources**.

For instance, Morocco possesses the **world’s largest phosphate reserves**, the Democratic Republic of Congo is rich in **cobalt deposits**. **Nigerian gas reserves** have the capacity to supply all of Europe with energy.

Historically, Africa has had **limited influence** on the global stage. The addition of the AU to the G20 aims to **rectify this imbalance** and ensure that Africa has a **stronger voice in international affairs**.

What is the status of the bilateral relationship between India and the African Union?

India has been making continuous efforts to establish itself as a **credible alternative development partner** to China.

This shift in focus is evident, including in the **realm of defense**. India and Africa held their **inaugural joint army chiefs conclave** earlier this year.

India is also gaining prominence as a **major defense equipment provider** to African nations. Seychelles, Mauritius, and Mozambique ranking as the **top three importers** of Indian-made arms from 2017 to 2022.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The ongoing **initiatives in healthcare, education, and solar energy generation** in Africa further underscore **India's growing engagement** with the continent.

What is the way forward for India-Africa relations?

Firstly, both parties should promptly confirm the dates for the long-awaited **fourth India-Africa Forum Summit**.

Secondly, India should enhance its presence in **Francophone Africa**. It is an area where it has historically been less active.

Thirdly, initiatives like the **Asia-Africa Growth Corridor** should receive **increased attention and effort**.

36. China's BRI Now Faces A Credible Indian Challenger

Source– The post is based on the article “**China's BRI Now Faces A Credible Indian Challenger**” published in “**The Times of India**” on **11th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- International relations

Relevance- Connectivity related issues in international politics

News– During the recent G20 summit, India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEE-EC) was introduced.

What are some facts about the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEE-EC)?

This initiative focuses on **multi-modal connectivity**. It aims to **connect India with Europe** through **ports and railway corridors** constructed in the Middle East. It offers an **alternative** to the **current trade routes** that pass through the Suez Canal.

In terms of its conception and design, IMEE-EC appears to be a **counterproposal to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**. It can be seen as India's own “**Boats and Rail Initiative**”.

It involves the construction of a **railway track across the Arabian deserts**. It is complemented by **shipping connections** from India on one end and Europe on the other.

The plans also include the installation of **infrastructure for electricity, hydrogen, and data pipelines** running alongside the railway tracks.

What are some positive aspects about the initiative?

The presence of the United States as a key sponsor of this initiative provides it with ample political, technological, managerial, and financial resources. It significantly increases its chances of success.

The involvement of **financially sound stakeholders** such as the US, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Europe, and India substantially reduces the risks of **one-sided financial outcomes**.

India also enjoys a **demographic dividend** for some time. Its **credit cycle** is near its bottom, with healthy balance sheets. The **Digital Public Stack** is opening numerous doors on an unprecedented scale.

What is the geopolitical importance of IMEE-EC for India?

It addresses complex **geopolitical challenges** that have hindered India's previous efforts to establish **transportation links with Europe via the Middle East and Central Asia**.

The **most straightforward land route**, through Pakistan, has been consistently unviable due to ongoing **Indo-Pak disputes**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The connection to **Chabahar port** has always been susceptible to the risks associated with **US sanctions on Iran**.

The **International North-South Transport Corridor**, designed to link India to the **Eurasian landmass**, has faced **geopolitical obstacles**. IMEE-EC does not face these same intricate **geopolitical constraints**.

It signifies India's **increased involvement in the Middle East**. India will reclaim some of its **historical legacy** as a **successor state to the British Raj**.

What is the geostrategic significance of the Middle East for India?

The concept of the Middle East as a **regional construct** was initially conceived and shaped by British India.

Lord Curzon envisioned British India's security as dependent on the **creation of a series of buffer states**.

It includes **Tibet to the north, Afghanistan to the northwest, and access to the Arabian Sea through ports in the Persian Gulf and the Bay of Bengal via the Malacca and Sunda Straits**.

British India's influence in the Middle East was so deep that several countries in the region used the **Indian Rupee as legal tender** until the mid-1960s.

What are the challenges before this initiative?

However, the initiative must **meet performance**. This applies first and foremost to India's own performance.

China's GDP surged from \$3.55 trillion in 2007 to \$12.3 trillion in 2017, whereas **India's GDP** currently stands at \$3.4 trillion.

The world is more **complex today**. The Washington Consensus is fraying. The **global political-economic framework** that facilitated **rapid growth** in much of Asia is in decline. India faces greater challenges today.

[37. Tuning into news- Allow news on private FM radio, with effective self-regulation](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Tuning into news- Allow news on private FM radio, with effective self-regulation**" published in "Business standard" on 12th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity- Regulatory body

News: The article discusses the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's (Trai) recommendation to permit private FM radio stations to broadcast news. It emphasizes the potential benefits for communication, particularly in rural areas, and underscores the necessity for a regulatory framework to guarantee accurate and unbiased reporting.

What are the recommendation of the Trai on private FM radio stations.

Allow News Broadcasts: Trai recommends permitting private FM radio stations to air news bulletins.

Content Regulation: TRAI suggests a code of compliance for ethical standards, accurate reporting, and impartiality, ensuring news doesn't incite violence, hatred, or misinformation.

Time Limit: Initially, news content should be capped at 10 minutes per clock-hour.

Code Similar to TV and Digital: The compliance code should be akin to those in place for television and digital platforms.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Licensing and Support: Trai emphasizes changing the licensing-fee regime, offering financial support, and promoting FM radio on smartphones.

What are the implications of allowing private FM radio stations to broadcast news?

Enhanced Reach: Many of the 388 operational private FM channels reach rural and remote areas, serving as a vital communication medium.

Local Language Connect: Broadcasting in local languages can establish stronger connections within communities.

Disaster Management Tool: FM radio can be useful during disasters when other mediums, like the internet and satellite TV, fail.

Ending AIR's Monopoly: Currently, only the state-owned All India Radio (AIR) broadcasts news. This move would diversify sources.

Potential for Misinformation: Without regulation, there's a risk of distorted news leading to societal issues, especially before elections.

Media Pluralism: The media landscape would become more diverse and pluralistic.

[38. Still Just Five- With an even more aggressive China against UNSC permanent membership for India, reform looks tough](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Still Just Five- With an even more aggressive China against UNSC permanent membership for India, reform looks tough**” published in “Times of India” on 12th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

News: The article discusses India's pursuit of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council, the challenges associated with UNSC reforms due to differing member group views, and China's opposition to India's bid. It also emphasizes the necessity of change to maintain the UN's relevance.

Why does India want to reform the UNSC?

Growing Stature: India showcased its global influence at the G20 summit in New Delhi.

Reflecting Current Realities: India believes an expanded UNSC will more accurately represent today's global dynamics.

Voice for the Global South: The handling of events like the Ukraine war shows that issues concerning the Global South often get sidelined. India's inclusion can help address this imbalance.

Avoiding UN's Obsolescence: To keep the UN relevant and prevent it from becoming ineffective like the League of Nations, countries with rising influence like India should have a permanent seat in the UNSC.

What are the challenges to UNSC reform?

High Bar for Amendments: The UN Charter requires a two-thirds vote from UN members for amendments. Additionally, the same number must ratify these changes, making reforms difficult.

Permanent Member Agreement: All five permanent UNSC members must approve reforms, making consensus challenging.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Differing Views: Groups like G4, Uniting for Consensus, and the African Union have distinct visions for reform, complicating unanimous decisions.

China's Opposition: China, a permanent member, aligns with the Uniting for Consensus group, opposing India and Japan's permanent membership.

Regional Rivalries: Some nations, such as Pakistan, oppose their regional rivals, like India, from gaining permanent seats.

[39. Why simultaneous elections would militate against federalism](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“Why simultaneous elections would militate against federalism”** published in **“The Hindu”** on **12th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity

News– The Union government has constituted a committee headed by former President Ramnath Kovind to explore the possibility of conducting simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha, the Legislative Assemblies, municipalities, and panchayats.

What are the issues with conducting simultaneous elections?

It would result in the **shortening of the tenures** of all Legislative Assemblies except for those in four States: Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha, and Sikkim.

In total, 17 States would experience a **reduction in the duration** of their Assembly terms by nearly a year and a half.

Among these, the terms of the Legislative Assemblies in Karnataka, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, and Gujarat would be **shortened by approximately three and a half years or more**.

The government has advocated for simultaneous elections as a measure to **reduce costs**. A **2018 report from the Law Commission** asserted that conducting the elections simultaneously would **cut costs in half**.

However, these reports tend to view election expenditure as **“wasteful”**. It overlooks the **multiplier effect and the broader economic influence** of holding elections on sectors such as transportation, printing, media, and infrastructure.

Simultaneous elections have **significant implications** for the **distinct legislative and governance levels** in India.

India elects 543 Lok Sabha representatives, over 4,100 Assembly legislators, representatives for 89,194 urban wards, and nearly 31.89 lakh elected panchayat representatives. Each of these tiers has its **own set of roles and responsibilities**.

The significant number of representatives across these tiers underscores the **importance of each tier** and the **necessity for competition** to address the specific needs of voters.

For example, if a voter is concerned about **waste management** in her area, she would give a vote to choose a candidate best suited to address the local ward's issues.

Holding simultaneous elections could potentially **merge the various issues** related to these three tiers into a **single electoral mandate** for voters. This could **undermine federalism** and the **fundamental structure of three-tier governance**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

40. Ridding India of food insecurity

Source– The post is based on the article “**Ridding India of food insecurity**” published in “**The Times of India**” on **12th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Social Issues – Issues related to hunger. GS3- Issues of food security

News– India is facing accelerating food-price inflation. The rise in the price of food first accelerated sharply in 2019. In July this year, annual inflation exceeded 11%, the highest in a decade.

What are challenges related to food insecurity in India?

As per the ‘**State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World**’ report from the FAO, an estimated **74% of the population** in India cannot afford a **healthy diet**. This translates to **approximately one billion individuals**.

A study highlighted in The Hindu newspaper examined the **price trends of food** in Mumbai city from 2018 to 2023.

It revealed that during this period, the cost of preparing a **homemade “thaali”** has surged by 65%. In contrast, the **average income** of a manual laborer has increased by 38%, and that of a salaried worker has gone up by 28%.

The **latest National Family Health Survey** estimated that over **50% of adult women** were suffering from **anemia**.

Traditional macroeconomic policies aimed at controlling inflation have **proven ineffective** in this context.

The Reserve Bank of India has faltered in this regard. **Inflation rates** have consistently exceeded their targets for the past four years. Their strategy of “**inflation targeting**,” does not address food inflation stemming from **supply-side issues**.

What are some facts about the green revolution?

The government launched a **supply-side strategy** by equipping farmers with **high-yielding seeds, affordable credit, and guaranteed prices through procurement**.

This endeavor achieved remarkable success. Within a short span, India no longer relied on **food imports**. It facilitated India’s aspiration for **self-sufficiency**.

However, there were some mistakes at the level of strategy. There was **excessive use of chemical fertilizers that led to soil degradation**.

There was also an **overemphasis on procurement prices** rather than **boosting productivity** to enhance farm incomes. It contributes to **inflation**.

The policy predominantly concentrated on **cereals rather than pulses**, a primary source of protein for most Indians.

What is the way forward to achieve the goal of food security?

The focus should be on **rectifying the challenges** created by the **green revolution**. There is a need to prioritize the **specific objective** of reducing the **cost of food production**.

The Green revolution paid **insufficient attention** to the **cost of producing food**. Therefore, a **second agricultural revolution** is now imperative. Containing the escalating food prices necessitates **multifaceted action**. It demands a **mission-oriented approach**.

Farm-focused measures to boost yields and contain production costs are essential.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

There is need for improvement in key areas like **extending irrigation** to cover 100% of the net sown area, eliminating **land leasing restrictions**, **accelerating agricultural research**, and **reinstating extension services**.

The **ongoing subdivision** of already small land holdings diminishes the potential for investments in **productivity-enhancing capital**. **Allowing land leasing** could provide a solution to this issue.

India's network of public **agricultural research institutions** needs revitalization to reclaim the pivotal role they played in the 1960s. The **extension services** need to be reinvigorated.

The **active participation of states** is crucial. In the 1960s, the states selected for the adoption of **new agricultural technology** worked closely with the central government.

A similar **collaborative approach** is essential to make a **substantial impact nationwide**. The central government and states should work together in the **spirit of cooperative federalism**.

A **pragmatic approach** is necessary, both at the national level and within individual states, to bring about meaningful change.

An important aspect of the **first Green Revolution** was that it embraced a **capitalist approach** by relying on private enterprise, and compromised on **socialist principles**. The objective was to make India **self-sufficient in food**.

Therefore, in the current context, no approach should be dismissed if it aligns with **ecological sustainability**.

[41. No filter- Prior approval requirement for initiating corruption probes is not desirable](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**No filter- Prior approval requirement for initiating corruption probes is not desirable**" published in "The Hindu" on 13th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability.

News: The Supreme Court stated that its 2014 decision, which nullified a law mandating government approval for probing high-ranking officials for corruption, applies retroactively to 2003. This impacts cases from 2003 to 2014, despite a 2018 amendment reintroducing a similar approval requirement.

What does current law say about investigations for corruption?

Original Issue: Section 6A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act previously required the Central government's approval to start an investigation into corruption charges against high-ranked officials. This section was invalidated by the Supreme Court in 2014.

Current Provision: In 2018, the Prevention of Corruption Act was amended, introducing Section 17A.

Mandatory Approval: Section 17A requires the government's prior approval before starting a probe into decisions or recommendations made by a public servant.

Additional Safeguard: A sanction is still needed to prosecute any public servant when the trial court reviews the charge sheet.

Implications: While these approval requirements can prevent baseless investigations, they might also impede genuine anti-corruption efforts, potentially shielding corrupt officials.

What are the views of the Supreme Court on this matter?

Equality Concern: The Court held that Section 6A of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act violated the norm of equality by protecting only a specific class of public servants.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Retrospective Effect: The recent judgment clarified that the 2014 ruling applies retroactively from 2003, impacting cases between these years.

Constitutional Consistency: Post-Constitution laws must align with the Constitution. If found inconsistent, their invalidation is effective from their inception.

Approval Requirements: The Court observed that approval requirements can block anti-corruption goals, potentially hindering the truth and warning corrupt officials.

Why are approval requirements controversial?

Objective of Anti-Corruption Laws: Such provisions can be destructive of the goal of anti-corruption laws.

Truth Impediment: The approval requirements can block the truth from surfacing in cases of corruption allegations.

Warning to Corrupt Officials: These provisions might act as a forewarning to officials once allegations arise against them.

Balance of Interests: While it's crucial to have measures that filter out unnecessary inquiries into public servants making genuine decisions, it's equally vital that these provisions don't protect dishonest officials.

42. [How fraternity in India is different from the idea enshrined in the Constitution](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**How fraternity in India is different from the idea enshrined in the Constitution**” published in “The Hindu” on 13th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity – Indian Constitution

News: The author discusses the concept of fraternity in political philosophy and its historical evolution. They emphasize its significance in India's Constitution but point out its neglect due to caste divisions. The article suggests that addressing caste-based inequalities is essential to attain genuine political fraternity in India.

What is the concept of Fraternity?

Origin in Political Philosophy: Fraternity emphasizes the emancipation and empowerment of people in the political realm. Historically, it stands alongside liberty and equality as a cornerstone of liberal political philosophy.

Ancient Beginnings: Traced back to Plato, where the term “philia” (love) denotes the sharing of knowledge, making friendships more profound. Aristotle later emphasized justice and friendship within the “polis,” marking the birth of political fraternity.

Evolution Over Time: The Middle Ages linked fraternity with Christianity in Europe. It gained political prominence during the French Revolution with the slogan “liberté, égalité, fraternité.”

Fraternity in India: Emphasized during India's independence struggle, it became a vital tenet of the Constitution. However, India's caste system presents challenges, as fraternity often remains within caste groups rather than bridging them.

How important was Fraternity in India's independence?

Foundational Tenet: During India's independence struggle and the subsequent rise of its constitutional democracy, the ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity were central. They served as guiding principles for a diverse Indian society transitioning to an independent republic.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Ambedkar's Stance: Dr. Ambedkar stressed the inseparability of liberty, equality, and fraternity. He highlighted the importance of fraternity in India's diverse and divided society.

Constitutional Framing: The framers of the Indian Constitution understood the significance of fraternity for India, a nation divided by various social hierarchies. They recognized the necessity of fraternity to counter these divisions and maintain cohesion.

What limits Fraternity in India?

Social Inequalities: Fraternity is hindered if it merely glosses over existing social disparities. True fraternity cannot be built on social solidarity that ignores these differences.

Caste Divisions: India's caste system poses significant challenges. While there exist fraternal ties within caste groups, inter-caste unity remains elusive. The shared history of India, marked by the caste system, opposes both equality and liberty, key tenets alongside fraternity.

Religious Discrimination: The rhetoric of aggressive nationalism often paints religious minorities as enemies. Such minorities have repeatedly faced social and political discrimination.

Fundamentalism's Impact: Any form of fundamentalism, with its rigid beliefs and practices, prevents the development of genuine fraternity. A fanatic's outlook is often exclusive, hampering true fraternal connections.

What's the way forward for Fraternity in India?

Addressing Caste Dynamics: For true political fraternity to emerge in India, caste and its associated prejudices must be addressed. The article suggests that caste and the idea of political fraternity cannot coexist, with one needing to make way for the other.

Political Conditioning Over Moral Stance: Fraternity in India needs to be curated, carved, and instilled through political conditioning. The article emphasizes that this approach is more effective than relying on moral considerations alone.

Role of Affirmative Actions: The introduction of affirmative actions, like the reservation system, was aimed at building equality among varied social groups. This equality is essential to actualize fraternal relations in a society marked by structural hierarchies.

Emphasis on Equality: A foundational acceptance of equality is essential to foster true fraternal ties in India. Without this, fraternity remains restricted within caste boundaries.

Politics of the Future: Deciding which one survives, caste or fraternity, will be the task of future politics. The article suggests that the politics of the future will determine the path India takes.

43. African Union and the G20: Africa on the high table

Source- The post is based on the article "**African Union and the G20: Africa on the high table**" published in "**The Indian Express**" on **13th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Regional and global groupings

Relevance- G20

News- Recently, the African Union was included as the new member of G20.

What is the significance of the inclusion of the African Union in G20?

The G20 now encompasses almost **80% of the global population, comprising 97 out of the United Nations' 193 member countries**. It also represents **88% of the world's GDP** and accounts for **79% of global trade**.

This expansion effectively balances the existing grouping of 27 developed countries within the EU. It elevates the **status and credibility** of the G20.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

It enhances the **G20's representativeness** without making it cumbersome, as the AU will be represented by a single leader.

Africa is also abundantly **rich in resources**, including arable land, minerals, rare earth metals, and a youthful workforce.

It has been **steadily growing** and achieving **economic and political integration**. In 2018, it launched a **Free Trade Area** and adopted "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want," a comprehensive plan to transform the continent into a global powerhouse.

Why is inclusion in G20 beneficial for the African Union?

This inclusion provides Africa with a **voice, participation, and leadership** on the global stage. Its **developmental, financial, economic, and environmental** challenges and solutions can be frequently discussed.

Africans now have the opportunity to **shape the agenda and outcomes**.

Importantly, Africa is home to **33 out of 46 Least Developed Countries**. It grapples with widespread **poverty, conflict, political instability, climate challenges, environmental degradation, and financial instability**.

Africa can seek support from the G20 in terms of **global public goods, such as finance, technology, investment, and capacity-building**.

Why admission of the African Union in G20 is a strategic masterstroke for India?

This decision had been pending for the past six years. Prime Minister Modi has earned the **gratitude of Africa** and has **gained their trust**.

This achievement will yield **substantial benefits** for India in terms of strengthening its partnership with Africa on **multiple fronts**. It includes **strategic, political, economic, technological, trade, and people-to-people relations**.

The inclusion of the AU in the G20 will facilitate **closer partnerships and coordination** within international bodies like the United Nations (UN), World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF).

This is especially important in **countering China's efforts** to influence African countries away from **India's proposed UN Security Council reform**.

What is the importance of G20?

The G20 plays a vital role in the establishment of **rules-based, orderly, and equitable economic, financial, and monetary systems**, and strengthening **multilateral institutions**.

The G20 is committed to creating a more **equitable playing field** within **multilateral systems** for developing countries. It also initiates **affirmative actions and measures** to assist the most disadvantaged developing nations in overcoming their challenges.

Key components include the **reform and funding of Multilateral Development Banks and the IMF**, ambitious replenishment of the **International Development Association (IDA)**, support for achieving **SDGs**.

It is also working for **effective mobilization** and provision of adequate **concessional financing** to low and middle-income countries, the **Green Development Pact** with commitments to green technologies, and **financing for climate** and a **just transition to clean energy**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

44. G20 meet's climate action promise: Significant, but not enough

Source– The post is based on the article “G20 meet's climate action promise: Significant, but not enough” published in “The Indian Express” on 13th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Global groupings

Relevance- G20 and climate change

News– At the recent G20 summit, there was a commitment to work towards tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Why is this commitment a low hanging fruit?

According to the **International Energy Agency**, this single action has the potential to prevent the **emission of 7 billion tons of carbon dioxide by the year 2030**.

It is the **easiest step** for the G20 countries to address climate issues, even though some fossil fuel-producing nations like Russia and Saudi Arabia initially had reservations.

Renewable energy adoption is already happening rapidly worldwide. **Annual capacity expansions** are increasing by approximately 10% each year. There is no opposition to the **adoption of renewable energy** by developing countries.

As per IEA, tripling the renewable capacity by 2030 is an **ambitious yet feasible aspiration**. Annual capacity is growing at an average **annual rate of about 11%**. Slightly increasing this annual growth rate will meet the targeted 2030 capacity objective.

Why is tripling renewable energy capacities within a span of seven years a challenging objective?

Currently, the **global installed capacity** for renewable energy is **just below 3,400 GW**.

In 2022, there was an addition of approximately **295 GW of new capacity**, marking the highest increase to date.

To achieve the goal of tripling the overall capacity by 2030, the world would need to incorporate **nearly 1,000 GW of fresh capacity every year**. This is the target advocated by organisations such as the IRENA, the IEA, climate activists.

What are critical components to achieve this objective?

There is a need for **mobilisation of sufficient financial resources** and the creation of opportunities. It includes **infrastructure development, favourable policy environments, and skill enhancement** in countries with limited energy access.

The majority of **new capacity additions** currently occur in only a few large developing countries. Over the past five years, **India and China**, collectively, have accounted for **more than 50% of the global capacity additions**.

Achieving the tripling target is contingent on **rapid demand growth** in other developing nations, particularly in Africa.

According to an assessment by IRENA, an **annual investment of approximately \$5.3 trillion** would be necessary until 2050 to facilitate the **energy transition** required to limit the **global temperature rise** to 1.5 degrees Celsius above **pre-industrial levels**.

How can the International Solar Alliance play a pivotal role in tripling global renewable energy capacity by 2030?

Solar energy consistently constitutes over **50% of new renewable energy capacity additions** each year. It is central to the expansion of renewable energy sources.

In 2022, out of the **295 GW** of new renewable capacity added, **191 GW** came from solar energy.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The ISA was specifically established to accelerate the **deployment of solar energy** worldwide.

The **International Solar Alliance** has collaborated with the **G20 Presidency** to expedite development in G-20 countries and **address climate change** through the promotion of **solar energy utilisation**.

ISA has launched the **Green Hydrogen Innovation Centre** to enhance the **knowledge and capabilities** of all nations in **producing, transporting, and utilising low and zero-carbon hydrogen**.

ISA is **offering guarantees** to its member countries in Africa to **incentivize private sector** investments in **solar mini-grids**.

ISA is **cultivating entrepreneurs** in countries that can become the **leading suppliers of solar energy** across countries and regions. It has recently identified and is strengthening **20 solar startups** in Africa.

Why is the recent G20 summit criticised for insufficient attention to the issue of climate change?

Goal of tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030 alone **would not be sufficient** to meet the 1.5-degree Celsius temperature goal.

Current projections indicate that **greenhouse gas emissions** in 2030 would exceed the levels compatible with a **1.5-degree Celsius rise** by approximately **24 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent**.

Tripling renewable energy would only help avoid about **7 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent**, which is **less than one-third** of what is actually required.

The G20 meeting avoided addressing most of the contentious issues, such as more **substantial emissions reductions**, the **phasing out of fossil fuels**, and the substantial **mobilisation of financial resources**.

45. The new India-US dynamic

Source: This post is based on the article **“The new India-US dynamic”**, published in Business Standard, on **13th Sep 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2 – International Relations –

News: India’s successful role in the recent G20 summit highlights improved India-US relations and growing geopolitical importance.

What have been the important development in India US relations?

Geopolitical Stakes: The US and its G7 allies have softened their stance on issues like the Ukraine war, signaling a greater investment in India. This is seen as a counter to China’s aggressive diplomacy.

High-Level Engagements: PM Narendra Modi’s state visit to the US and bilateral meetings with President Joe Biden have led to joint statements, indicating intensified engagement.

UN Security Council: Biden has reiterated support for India’s long-standing demand for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, continuing a commitment first made by President Obama.

Defense Ties: Agreements between General Electric and Hindustan Aeronautics for light combat aircraft engines signify closer defense relations. Placement of liaison officers in military organizations is another step forward.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Economic Relations: Both countries have resolved trade disputes and are working towards better economic ties. India has removed duties on certain US imports, and the US has exempted some Indian steel and aluminium exports from tariffs.

What should be done?

While the relationship is improving, India faces the challenge of balancing its ties with the US and its complex relations with neighboring China, which has territorial ambitions on India's borders.

46. [Just What Is Justin Up To? – On India Canada Relations](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Just What Is Justin Up To?**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **14th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Bilateral groupings and agreements

Relevance- India and Canada bilateral relationship

News– Canadian PM Justin Trudeau got a cold response from India at recently concluded G20 summit in India

What are the reasons behind increasing distrust between India and Canada?

First, Trudeau has displayed a **consistent disregard** displayed by towards **Indian interests**. The G20 summit primarily **revolve around trade**. Trade necessitates at least a **basic understanding** of the **needs and desires** of the other party. However, there was an **absence of common ground** between the two sides.

Second, Trudeau has dismissed the **khalistan issue** as merely a matter of ‘**freedom of expression**’. He overlooks the fact that India views it as a threat to its **territorial integrity**.

For example, in a recent incidents in Canada, Khalistan supporters displayed scenes depicting the assassination of India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It crossed the boundaries of freedom of expression.

Third, another significant issue pertains to **India's relationship with China** in comparison to its relationship with Canada. There is a **close relationship** between the current federal government of Canada and the Chinese Communist Party's government.

Before the G20 summit, the Canadian government independently halted **trade negotiations** with India. This decision was **not communicated** to India's High Commissioner to Canada. **Such opacity** in policymaking creates suspicions.

How do Trudeau's personal inclinations impact the foreign policy of Canada?

Trudeau has a history of downplaying the **trade potential** with other countries. It may be due to **ideological reasons** or other motives.

During his initial visit to China early in his tenure, he returned without **significant achievements** because he primarily focused on issues like **gender equality**.

In August 2022, the German Chancellor visited Canada seeking **natural gas supplies** due to the Ukraine conflict. Trudeau sent him back without a deal. He cited the absence of a “**business case**” for exporting the abundant Canadian natural gas to Germany.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

47. A mockery of pedagogic ethics, the breaking of a bond

Source: The post is based on the article “A mockery of pedagogic ethics, the breaking of a bond” published in “The Hindu” on 14th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Education.

News: The article discusses the decline in teacher training and quality in India, especially in Uttar Pradesh. It mentions a specific incident where a teacher made students slap a young Muslim boy. The article highlights the need for better teacher training and the importance of the teacher-student relationship.

What is the status of the Right to Education Act in India?

Momentum Loss: The Right to Education (RTE) Act, introduced over a decade ago, has lost its initial momentum.

Quality Indicators: The RTE has established clear indicators of quality for schools.

Attempted Compliance: For some time, there was an effort in a few states to ensure both government and private schools met RTE standards.

COVID-19 Impact: While the pandemic affected the implementation of the RTE, it wasn't the sole reason for its decreased focus.

Neglect in Teacher Training: The crucial sector of teacher training has seen neglect, impacting the RTE's effectiveness. For example, the incident in a Uttar Pradesh school, where a teacher allowed students to slap a young boy, highlights the gaps and challenges in maintaining RTE standards.

What is the issue with teacher training?

Entrepreneurial Dominance: Since the 1990s, teacher training has become a domain for small-time entrepreneurs, which could lead to a compromise in quality.

Ineffective Regulation: The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has struggled to enforce its meticulously set norms for teacher training.

Justice J.S. Verma's Report: In 2008, the Supreme Court of India appointed a commission under the late Justice J.S. Verma to address issues in teacher training. Despite its detailed report in 2012, many recommendations have gone unheeded.

Qualification Concerns: The Supreme Court commented on the NCTE's decision to allow Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree holders to teach at the primary level, which is traditionally for secondary education.

Gap in Professional Ethics: The incident in Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh, highlights the decline in teaching ethics and professionalism in some educational settings.

What are the recommendations of the Chattopadhyaya Report?

Professional Conduct: The report tried to define what would be considered appropriate professional conduct for teachers.

Well-read and Thoughtful Teachers: Chattopadhyaya envisioned a teacher who is well-read, thoughtful, and conscious of her decisions and actions.

Gap from Professional Standards: The report highlighted how teaching in India was distanced from the standards and ethics one would consider professional.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What should be done?

Reinforce RTE Act: The momentum of the Right to Education (RTE) Act needs to be reinvigorated to ensure quality education for all.

Strengthen Teacher Training: Address the concerns in the teacher training sector by strictly enforcing the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) norms.

Revisit Recommendations: Review and implement the guidelines and vision from past reports, like the Chattopadhyaya Report, emphasizing introspection and ethical teaching practices.

Address Qualification Mismatches: Ensure that teacher qualifications align with their teaching levels, as highlighted by the Supreme Court's concern over BEd degree holders teaching primary students.

Strengthen the Teacher-Student Bond: Recognize and nurture the crucial bond between students and teachers, ensuring trust, respect, and effective education.

48. [Unified approach- An integrated approach to health can prevent zoonotic spillover](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Unified approach- An integrated approach to health can prevent zoonotic spillover**” published in “The Hindu” on 14th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.

News: The article discusses another Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala, its impact, previous outbreaks, the need for constant vigilance, and emphasizes adopting a “One Health” approach to consider human, animal, and environmental health together.

About Nipah virus in India

Origin: Nipah virus is a zoonotic disease, transmitted from animals, especially fruit bats, to humans.

Outbreaks: Kerala, India, has witnessed four outbreaks in the past five years. The most severe was in 2018, where 21 out of 23 infected people died.

Current Situation: Kozhikode in Kerala is facing another outbreak. Two have died, and three more are infected.

Treatment: There's no cure for Nipah; only supportive care is available in hospitals.

Cause: Expansion of agricultural activities into fruit bat habitats has been a contributing factor in these outbreaks.

How is Kerala responding?

Establishment of Control Room: A dedicated control room has been set up in Kozhikode to monitor the situation closely.

Hospital Protocols: All hospitals in the district are directed to follow strict infection control measures.

Containment Teams: Sixteen specialized teams have been formed to implement appropriate containment protocols.

Central Assistance: A central team has been dispatched to Kerala to support the state government's efforts.

Communication: The state's Chief minister has communicated through video, assuring the public of serious efforts to handle the crisis.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What should be done?

Address Root Causes: Consider addressing anthropogenic activities, like the expansion of agriculture into fruit bat habitats, which contribute to zoonotic spillovers.

Adopt One Health Approach: Embrace a comprehensive strategy that looks at the health of humans, animals, and the environment as interconnected.

Educate the Public: Raise awareness about the disease, its transmission, and preventive measures.

Collaborate with Neighbors: Work closely with neighboring states to ensure the virus does not spread across borders.

49. [Expert Explains: With the announced India-Europe Economic Corridor, a look at India's supply chain opportunity](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Expert Explains: With the announced India-Europe Economic Corridor, a look at India's supply chain opportunity**" published in "Indian express" on 14th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests. & GS3- Economy- Effects of liberalisation on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

News: The article talks about global supply chains moving away from China and how India could become a significant hub. It mentions India's strengths, like its growing manufacturing and service sectors, and offers ideas for India to seize this chance. The article also stresses India's role in fostering growth in South Asia.

What are supply chains?

Supply chains represent the different stages of producing a product or service.

They dictate where each production stage, like design or assembly, happens.

The model has dominated industrial production since the 1980s.

Historically, the shift from local supply to global supply has taken about 100 years. Examples of industries with supply chains include:

Textiles: Like clothing production.

Food processing: Making packaged foods.

Complex industries: Such as cars, electronics, and pharmaceuticals.

In essence, supply chains describe the journey a product takes from its initial concept to reaching the consumer, determining where each part of that journey is most cost-effective.

Why are companies leaving China?

Economic Reasons:

Rising Wages: Costs in China are increasing, especially in labor-intensive stages of production.

Supply Chain Bottlenecks: Companies are experiencing operational issues, impacting their efficiency.

For economic: Exports from China and Hong Kong dropped by 15% and 27% respectively in the last quarter of 2022.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Regulatory Challenges:

Tighter Regulation: There's growing apprehension about stricter oversight and rules for foreign companies in China.

Geopolitical Tensions:

Trade War: The ongoing conflict between the US and China is causing uncertainties for multinational firms.

Why is India seen as a new hub?

Manufacturing Advancements:

Tech Transfers & Manufacturing: iPhones are now being produced in India, and there was an early technology transfer for the advanced Mercedes Benz EQS.

Growing Industries: Foxconn is setting up a chip-making fabrication plant in Gujarat, and sectors like automotives and pharmaceuticals are flourishing.

Attractiveness to Foreign Investors:

WTO Rankings: By the end of 2022, the WTO listed India as the fifth largest importer of intermediate goods with a 5% share.

Trade Agreements: New trade deals, like the UAE-India partnership and ongoing negotiations with the UK and EU, indicate deep economic integration.

Service Sector Growth:

Diverse Services: India excels in IT, back-office work, financial services, and logistics.

Considering these factors, India is gaining attention as a key center in global supply chains.

What should India's strategy be?

Promotion of FDI:

Export-Oriented Approach: India should promote export-oriented foreign direct investment to effectively join global supply chains.

Trade Liberalization: There's a need for trade liberalization, especially with an emphasis on facilitating FDI in manufacturing.

Modern Special Economic Zones: As public-private partnerships, these zones would enhance the business environment.

Empower Local Companies:

Big Company Advantages: Large companies have the advantage in supply chains due to scale and technology access.

Support SMEs: Small and mid-sized enterprises should work as suppliers or subcontractors to these large firms.

Domestic Technological Investment: Invest in domestic technology to meet international standards in price, quality, and delivery.

Learning from China's Experience:

Selective Adoption: While some aspects of China's industrial policy may be relevant, India must avoid wholesale copying to sidestep risks of government failure and cronyism.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Education Focus: Upstream investment in tertiary-level education, especially in STEM fields, is crucial.

By adopting these strategies, India can position itself as a dominant force in global supply chains.

50. [For Make in India, Invent in India](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**For Make in India, Invent in India**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **15th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Government policies related to human resource – skill development

Relevance- Issues related to scientific research in India

News– The article explains the recent efforts by the Indian government to promote scientific research and suggest solutions to promote scientific research in the country.

What are efforts made by the government to promote scientific research?

The government has acknowledged the need for a significant overhaul of the **infrastructure for generating patents**. There is a concerted effort to **streamline and expedite** the process of **filing and obtaining patents**.

Recent bilateral agreements in the field of science and technology, particularly with the United States, demonstrate that the government is correctly identifying **strategic priorities** in this crucial sector.

The government has established the **National Research Foundation (NRF)**.

What is the way forward to promote scientific research in India?

Human capital- The most significant factor for running institutions should be the **merit and quality of human capital**.

Bureaucrats and administrators tend to prioritize **numerical metrics**. But, scientific research is governed by **Lotka’s law**, where the top few leaders in a specific field hold **paramount importance**.

Quantity cannot replace **quality**. India must focus on both **retaining its top talent** within the country and positioning itself as an **attractive destination** for talent from overseas.

The mindset of **seeking remittances** from abroad should be replaced with an approach focused on **creating value**.

Collaboration between laboratories and academia- One of the fundamental shortcomings of science policy has been the nearly **complete segregation of teaching and research**. **Research facilities and centers** within a wide range of scientific institutions are spread throughout India.

Many government laboratories have the potential to establish **structured partnerships** with universities and collaborate with on-campus science parks. It can further extend their involvement into the industrial sector.

The objective should be to **unite teaching and research** through a **merit-based admission system**.

Funding strategy- India should adopt a **funding strategy** for research that resembles a barbell. It should be a combination of **high-impact, high-yield projects** that receive **financial support** from a consortium of government agencies and industry.

The **Design-Linked Incentive (DLI) program** is an example of it. It aims to support **high-reward innovation** in partnership with high-tech businesses, with specific funding allocated to the India Semiconductor Mission for semiconductor design.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Moonshot research initiatives are known for their **high risk** and the potential for **enormous rewards**. It often originates from individual researchers.

Government should **bear responsibility** for funding such ambitious endeavors. But, it's also important to encourage **innovative and entrepreneurial scientists** to seek **additional financial support** from the industry.

Cultural transformation- It is imperative within the realm of Indian science. Decision making is influenced by **science bureaucrats** who rely on **subject-matter experts** in academia.

Unfortunately, this group is **resistant to necessary changes** that might disrupt the existing **status quo**.

The long-term success of Indian science will ultimately depend on the **caliber and motivations** of the individuals engaged in it.

[51. On The Right Road – Airbags for rear passengers are best achieved via competitive pressure](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“On The Right Road – Airbags for rear passengers are best achieved via competitive pressure put on carmakers by customers”** published in **The Times of India** on **15th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance – Government Policies & Intervention

Relevance: About government's decision to postpone its plan to make six airbags mandatory in vehicles.

News: Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari announced that the Indian government has postponed its plan to make six airbags mandatory in vehicles carrying up to eight passengers from October 1.

This decision was made due to a lack of unanimous industry support. However, frontal airbags have been compulsory for new vehicles since 2021.

Why is car safety important?

Vehicle safety is crucial due to global statistics indicating that road accidents are the top cause of death for those aged 15-49. **In India**, this is a grave concern, with 154,000 fatalities in 2021, averaging 18 deaths per hour.

Further, in India, highways comprise just 5% of road length but are responsible for 51% of fatalities due to impact momentum.

Data from the US supports the use of frontal and side airbags, saving 34% and 31% of lives, respectively.

However, **while the government hasn't mandated side airbags**, it has still taken a wise decision by empowering customers to demand enhanced safety features from auto manufacturers.

In this regard, the government has recently come up with the **[Bharat New Car Assessment Programme \(NCAP\)](#)**, a collaborative tool designed to help Indian car buyers evaluate safety standards.

Read More: [Lapses in Road Safety: A casual attitude to safety](#)

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

52. [Mansukh L Mandaviya writes | Ayushman Bhav: May all be free of illness](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Mansukh L Mandaviya writes | Ayushman Bhav: May all be free of illness**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **16th September 2023**.

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

Relevance- Government health scheme and interventions

News– Recently, a new health campaign called Ayushman Bhav was launched by President Droupadi Murmu.

What are some facts about the Ayushman Bharat scheme?

Its goal is to offer **inclusive healthcare** services to all individuals, regardless of their **geographic location or financial situation**.

Ayushman Bharat represents a shift from a **fragmented healthcare system to a more comprehensive, demand-driven approach**.

It encompasses **preventive measures, health promotion, and healthcare delivery** at **primary, secondary, and tertiary levels** through the establishment of **health and wellness centers (HWCs)** and the implementation of the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)**.

What are some facts about Ayushman Bhav?

Its core objectives include **extensive coverage, raising awareness** about PM-JAY, establishing **health account IDs**, and **delivering healthcare services** such as **disease screenings** and the **management of various health conditions** like tuberculosis, hypertension.

The primary goal of Ayushman Bhav is to extend its reach to over 6.45 lakh villages and 2.55 lakh gram panchayats.

The campaign will organize activities such as **sewa pakhwada**. It encompasses initiatives like **organ donation drives, cleanliness campaigns, and blood donation initiatives**.

Ayushman Sabhas are scheduled to convene on October 2. Another round is planned before December 31.

These gatherings will provide a platform for citizens to **acquire knowledge** about both diseases and **voice their concerns** regarding healthcare services.

This initiative aims to promote **social accountability** within the healthcare systems and exemplify the principle of “**jan bhagidari se jan kalyan**”.

Activities during these assemblies will include **distributing PM-JAY cards, showcasing accredited hospitals, creating Ayushman Bharat Health Account IDs, offering screening services, and organizing informative talks** about various diseases.

Participation is expected from **various stakeholders**, including MPs/MLAs, PM-JAY beneficiaries, beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, tuberculosis champions, and others to inspire **community engagement**.

Ayushman Melas will be held weekly at 1.6 lakh **Health and Wellness Centre** in villages and also at community health centers. It will be **organized by medical colleges** at the block level.

These Melas will provide **specialized services** such as ENT, eye care, and psychiatric care, **build trust** between the community and the healthcare system, improve **health-seeking behavior and literacy**, encourage **greater interaction** with medical colleges.

It will transform every village and urban ward into an **Ayushman Gram Panchayat or Ayushman Urban Ward**. It will foster **comprehensive and sustainable development** at the grassroots level.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The mission aims to **certify villages** that achieve **100 percent coverage of selected schemes** under each pillar.

It includes the **distribution of Ayushman cards**, generation of **Ayushman Bharat Health Account IDs**, **population-based screening**, and **testing and treatment** for communicable and non-communicable diseases.

[53. Wrong Target – Life ban from polls for convicted netas is a bad idea](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Wrong Target – Life ban from polls for convicted netas is a bad idea**” published in **The Times of India** on **16th September 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Governance – Salient Features of the Representation of People’s Act.**

Relevance: **About criminalization of politics**

News: An amicus curiae/judicial person appointed by the Supreme Court to help with a case about corruption in politics suggested that politicians convicted of crimes should be banned from running for office for life.

What was the rationale behind such a suggestion?

Currently, convicted politicians are barred from running for office for six years.

The rationale behind this suggestion is that the six-year ban violates constitutional principles, such as the right to equality, especially when civil servants in comparable situations face dismissal.

This raises the question of whether politicians are given preferential treatment.

What has been the previous stand of the Supreme Court regarding the conviction of the politician?

Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act prevents the criminalization of politics by specifying disqualification criteria.

In the past, the Supreme Court has interpreted this law in a way that politicians must tell voters about any criminal cases they are facing, but the Court has avoided making any major changes to the law.

However, in 2013, the Court struck down a provision that allowed convicted politicians to appeal their convictions before being disqualified.

This means that politicians are now disqualified from running for office immediately after they are convicted of a crime, as seen in the case of Rahul Gandhi.

Must Read: [Disqualification of Legislators in India – Explained](#)

What can be the way ahead?

An analysis of affidavits filed by current members of Parliament found **that 40% of them have outstanding criminal cases**.

This suggests that simply making the Representation of the People Act stricter will not solve the problem of criminalisation in politics, given the flaws present in the Indian criminal justice system.

Further, increasing punishments for politicians convicted of crimes will only give the government more reasons to exploit the system to target its opponents. Therefore, **there is no good reason to amend the existing law by citing equality concerns**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

[54. Disentangling the 2030 global renewable energy target](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Disentangling the 2030 global renewable energy target**” published in “The Hindu” on 16th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity- Indian constitution

News: The article discusses the controversy surrounding an official G-20 summit invitation from Rashtrapati Bhavan that referred to the President of India as “President of Bharat.”

What are the arguments in favor of using “Bharat” interchangeably with “India”?

Constitutional Reference: Article 1 of the Constitution mentions “India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States,” implying a dual recognition of the country’s name.

Historical Context: The Constituent Assembly debates saw members like H.V. Kamath and K.T. Shah advocating for “Bharat.” B.R. Ambedkar, in a compromise, added “that is Bharat” to the draft.

Symbolic Significance: Using “Bharat” could be seen as an attempt to reconnect with Indian roots and distance from colonial ties.

Public Perception: Some believe that the term “Bharat” resonates more with India’s cultural and traditional identity than the English term “India.”

Legal Proposition: Some senior advocates of the Supreme Court and other proponents suggest that a simple resolution in Parliament can officially recognize “Bharat” alongside “India.”

What are the arguments against using “Bharat” interchangeably with “India”?

Constitutional Provision:

Constitutional Discrepancy: Article 52 of the Constitution specifically mentions the title as “President of India” rather than “President of Bharat.”

Not Truly Interchangeable: In Article 1, “India, that is Bharat,” indicates that “Bharat” serves as a clarification or translation of “India” and not an interchangeable term in the original text.

Historical Consensus:

During the Constituent Assembly debates, “Bharat” was added as a compromise, without suggesting it can be used interchangeably in the original Constitution.

Communication and Representation Concerns:

Risk of International Ambiguity: Using “Bharat” in international treaties and communications might confuse foreign entities, given the official recognition as the “Republic of India.”

Potential for Public Misunderstanding: The unanticipated change in official communication, without clear explanation, has led to public uncertainty.

Consistency in Official Communication: To prevent misunderstandings and maintain clarity, a country should have one consistent official name in all forms of communication.

[55. Jal Jeevan Mission remains a pipe dream](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Jal Jeevan Mission remains a pipe dream**” published in “The Hindu” on 16th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- governance- welfare scheme

News: The article discusses the gap between the reported success of the Jal Jeevan Mission in providing tap water connections to households in Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh and the actual ground reality, where many households either lack taps or receive inadequate water supply.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are the main issues with the Jal Jeevan Mission in Mahoba, Uttar Pradesh?

Data Discrepancy: Official records show 100% tap connections in some villages, while ground realities, like in Asthaun and Luhari, contradict this.

Infrastructure Issues: Many homes lack the necessary pipes and taps, as seen in Kunata village.

Supply Inconsistencies: Even where taps exist, the water supply is inconsistent. Some receive water for only two hours.

Dependence on Old Sources: Villages continue to rely on traditional sources like handpumps due to inadequate tap water supply.

Terrain Difficulties: Laying pipes across Mahoba's uneven terrains is challenging, causing disruptions.

What are the future goals?

Water Treatment Plants: Five large plants are being established to ensure a clean water supply to households.

Regular Quality Checks: Water will be frequently tested for purity, and if not up to standards, supply will be halted for cleaning.

Full Water Supply by 2024: The state aims for a full water supply by 2024, with a specific deadline for Mahoba set for November this year.

[56. It's time for India and Africa to deal with food and security issues together](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "It's time for India and Africa to deal with food and security issues together" published in **Indian express** on 18th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora. & GS3- Agriculture- food security

News: The author praises India's leadership in the G20 and its inclusion of the African Union, making it G21. The article discusses the challenges of food and nutrition security faced by India and Africa due to climate change. The author suggests strategies like open trade, investment in climate adaptation, promoting women's education, and improving sanitation to address these issues.

What are the challenges of food and nutrition security faced by India and Africa due to climate change?

High Undernourishment: India and Africa, with 36% of global population, are home to 69.4% (503 million) of the world's undernourished people in 2020-22.

Child Malnutrition: The regions account for 67.0% and 75.8% of malnourished children under five, suffering from stunting and wasting.

Trade Decisions: India's recent restrictions on rice and wheat exports can adversely affect global food security, particularly hurting African countries.

Climate Change Costs: Developing nations need \$100 billion for loss and damage from climate change, crucial for mitigation and adaptation in these economies.

Rapid Population Growth: With Africa's inclusion in G20, challenges intensify due to population growth, persistent poverty, and widespread undernourishment.

Nutritional Insecurity: High rates of malnutrition in both regions necessitate agriculture policies that are nutrition-sensitive.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What should be done?

Keep Borders Open: Ensure international borders remain open for agricultural trade. India exported 85 million tonnes of cereals in recent years, aiding global food security.

Financial Commitment: Developed countries should provide \$100 billion for climate change-induced losses. This can support climate mitigation and adaptation in developing nations.

Private Investments: World Bank President Ajay Banga emphasized that private capital investments are crucial. Each dollar from developed nations should be matched by hybrid capital, potentially unlocking \$6-7 billion for poorer countries over a decade.

South-South Collaboration: India and Africa should engage in a comparative analysis to share strategies for sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Bio-Fortification: Promote bio-fortification of staple crops. Examples include iron and zinc bio-fortified millet, rice, and beans, developed by CGIAR and ICAR.

Promote Women's Education: Highlighted by ICRIER's study, educated women lead to better nutritional outcomes. Increase female higher education by offering scholarships, which can help reduce dropouts.

WASH Initiatives: Invest in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programs. Like India's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which increased sanitation coverage, similar initiatives can help reduce malnutrition.

[57. Not Old Habits in New House, please – on functioning of parliament](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Not Old Habits in New House, please – Resources and changes in Constitution can help strengthen Parliament but key is for legislature to respect it as a forum for debate**” published in **The Times of India** on **18th September 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Indian Polity – Parliament and State Legislatures—Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges and Issues Arising out of these.**

Relevance: **measures required for effective functioning of the Parliament**

News: The special five-day Parliament session starting today will prioritize passing new laws and will not include a Question Hour.

What is the purpose of the special session of Parliament?

The government plans to seek Parliament's approval for five bills, including three contentious ones on election commissioners, a new postal law, and press registration.

The session will also bid farewell to the old Parliament building. MPs will reflect on the Parliament's 75-year history, identifying institutional changes for its future strengthening.

Moreover, legislatures are essential for shaping a country's future through debate, as **they are often called the “grand inquest of the nation.”**

According to former Lok Sabha MP Somnath Chatterjee, Parliament's true greatness lies in the quality of its debates, not its physical structure.

Thus, securing and enhancing the deliberative aspect of our Parliament requires both resources and constitutional changes.

What can be done to strengthen the nature of our Parliament?

Increasing the Budget: With the government's budget at ₹45 lakh crore and Lok Sabha's at just ₹850 crore, a substantial budget boost for both Houses is necessary to enhance the intellectual knowledge base for high-quality parliamentary debates.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Improving Research Quality: A 2019 parliamentary panel report highlighted a decline in research quality and the lack of proper research support for MPs. The report recommended hiring domain experts to support the work of parliamentary committees.

Improving the Functioning of the Parliamentary Committee: India's parliamentary committee system needs to evolve from isolation.

The National Commission for Reviewing the Constitution, established during Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's tenure, identified the need for a specialized parliamentary Committee on National Economy for major economic matters.

India should also consider creating specialized committees like those in Sweden and Finland, such as one dedicated to constitutional issues.

Finland has a unique "Committee for the Future" that deals with long-term challenges and opportunities. India should consider establishing a similar committee to plan for its future.

Changing the Rules of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha: Rules in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha should be updated to address challenges like the Covid pandemic. Many national legislatures worldwide switched to electronic or hybrid modes to continue their work during pandemic restrictions.

Changing the Sessions of the Parliament: India's Parliament is seen as part-time, with the government determining session schedules. However, **given India's size and governance challenges, there's a rising demand for year-round parliamentary sessions.**

This extended time would promote greater deliberation, consensus-building, and discussions on national issues.

Evaluating Role of MPs: MPs are viewed as part-time lawmakers and full-time problem solvers for their voters. However, the anti-defection law limits their ability to express independent views during legislative duties.

Hence, constitutional changes are essential to abolish this law and create an independent process for convening Parliament, enabling more debate time.

Must Read: [The new Parliament House: More than a building and Functioning of Parliament: Challenges and way forward - Explained](#)

What lies ahead?

MPs must acknowledge that our rich parliamentary history can guide the future.

While increased resources, rule adjustments, and constitutional changes can help, **a fundamental shift in mindset is also crucial for transforming the parliamentary system.**

58. [33% Fairer – Political returns on passing the women's reservation bill look very good now](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**33% Fairer – Political returns on passing the women's reservation bill look very good now. Don't waste this chance**" published in **The Times of India** on 18th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Social Justice – Issues Related to Women

Relevance: About representation of women in the legislative bodies

News: The specific legislative agenda for the special Parliament session, which begins today, remains uncertain. However, one speculated item is a bill aiming to reserve one-third of Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly seats for women.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are the reasons for the Parliament to consider a bill that allocate one-third of Lok Sabha and state legislative assembly seats for women?

The country and its women have made a lot of progress since the first attempt to pass such a law in 1996. The strong opposition that every government has faced in trying to pass this law has also died down.

Therefore, it is unlikely that there will be the same violent scenes of male MPs tearing up women's reservation bills as seen in the past.

Further, the social and economic arguments for this reservation were strong even three decades ago. **The main difference now is that there is more political support for it.**

Even the current ruling party has pledged to pursue a constitutional amendment for this reservation in both its 2014 and 2019 manifestos.

What is the current status of women's representation in legislative bodies in India?

There has been a shift in Indian politics regarding women's reservation. This can be attributed to factors like the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, where women voted in higher numbers than men, a trend also observed in various assembly polls.

Women are now the focal point of numerous welfare programs, and their issues are receiving greater attention.

However, **despite these changes, women's representation in legislatures remains low, ranging from 0% to 14%.**

Must Read: [Women's Representation in Legislature – Explained](#) and [On reservation for women in politics](#)

What lies ahead?

The women's reservation bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha in 2010, and that same year, the budget aimed for double-digit economic growth. However, double-digit growth has not been yet achieved.

Therefore, **recognizing the connection between strong economic growth and women's empowerment, policymakers should prioritize increasing women's representation in legislatures.**

A persistent discrimination against women imposes significant costs on India in both wealth and well-being.

59. [India is at a pivotal moment in its health-care journey](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“India is at a pivotal moment in its health-care journey”** published in **“The Indian Express”** on **18th September 2023.**

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

Relevance- Healthcare sector in India

News-The article explains the health challenges faced by India and achievement of India in the healthcare sector. It also explains the potential of AI in transforming the healthcare sector in India.

What are significant health challenges faced by India?

It is the **world's diabetes capital**. Millions of people are suffering from conditions like **hypertension**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

India's youth are increasingly affected by **health issues like heart attacks, cancer, respiratory problems, and depression.**

If these **non-communicable diseases** continue to go unchecked, it's projected that the burden on India's healthcare system will reach **nearly \$4 trillion by 2030.**

This could result in a **significant "age tax"** on the **country's demographic dividend.**

What are the achievements made by India in the healthcare sector since the 1980s?

Key health metrics have seen significant improvements. **Infant mortality** has decreased fourfold, and **maternal mortality** has decreased sevenfold. The **average life expectancy** of an Indian has increased by nearly 30%, from 55 years to over 70.

India boasts **world-class healthcare infrastructure.** It has **exceptional clinical talent** capable of delivering **clinical outcomes** on a massive scale and at a **fraction of the global cost.**

India's expertise extends to highly specialised areas such as **organ transplants, cardiology, oncology, and more.**

India has emerged as a prominent **global hub for Medical Value Travel,** particularly in fields like **oncology, orthopaedics, and robotic surgery.**

A noteworthy achievement in this journey is the introduction of **proton beam therapy technology.** It has established India as a **regional leader in cancer treatment.**

Robotic surgery has also gained popularity. Indian hospitals have adopted **robotic-assisted techniques** for **precision and quicker recovery.**

What is the potential of AI in promoting the healthcare industry in India?

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly **revolutionising healthcare** worldwide.

The country possesses a **vast pool of talented data scientists, engineers, and healthcare professionals** who can drive innovation in **AI-based healthcare solutions.**

AI can have a significant impact in **diagnostics.** **AI-powered tools** can enhance the **accuracy and efficiency** of medical diagnoses. It can lead to **faster treatment decisions** and **improved patient outcomes.**

Additionally, AI can predict **disease outbreaks, analyse healthcare data, and optimise treatment plans,** expediting **healthcare procedures** and **revolutionising drug discovery.** This makes healthcare more **personalised and effective.**

Way forward-

India must continue to invest in **research and development in AI in healthcare.** It must facilitate **collaborations** between academia and industry and create an **ecosystem** that encourages innovation.

India must prioritise **community health, promote public-private partnerships, and invest in innovation and research.**

Public-private partnerships can create a favourable environment for **Medical Value Tourism** by jointly investing in **infrastructure, promoting medical tourism, and establishing international healthcare accreditation bodies.**

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

60. India trails in deceased organ donation

Source: The post is based on the article “**India trails in deceased organ donation**– Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka top in transplantations” published in “Business standard” on 19th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.

News: The article discusses the low deceased organ donation rate in India compared to other countries, the increase in living transplants, the large number of patients waiting for organs, and the removal of age restrictions for transplant registrations.

What are the current trends in deceased organ donation?

Global Trends in Deceased Organ Donation:

The US dominates with 41 deceased organ donors per million.

Other countries' rates: France (24.7), UK (19.8), Germany (11.1), Japan (0.62), Brazil (13.8), and China (3.63).

Most countries, except the US, saw a decline from 2019 to 2021, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India's Trends in Deceased Organ Donation:

India has a low rate of 0.4 deceased donors per million.

Deceased transplants have increased, tripling from 837 in 2013 to 2,694 in 2022.

Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka, Gujarat, and Maharashtra lead in deceased donor transplants.

What is the trend for living transplants in India?

Living transplants in India rose from 4,153 in 2013 to 13,338 in 2022.

Most living donor transplants took place in Delhi (3,422), Tamil Nadu (1,690), Kerala (1,423), Maharashtra (1,222), and West Bengal (1,059).

The leading states for deceased donor transplants were Tamil Nadu (555), Telangana (524), Karnataka (478), Gujarat (398), and Maharashtra (303).

What are the challenges still present in organ transplantation in India?

Demand outpaces supply: 57,000 patients registered for organ transplants by 2022, but only a fraction receive them.

Number of procedures suggests kidney and liver transplants are more common than lung or intestine transplants.

Precise number of Indians requiring transplants isn't recorded, indicating the waiting list might be longer than currently known.

What are the recent changes made in organ transplantation rules in India?

Age-based restrictions removed: Previously, only patients under 65 could register for transplants. Now, patients of all ages can register.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

61. India-Middle East-Europe Corridor: The way to a new world order

Source: The post is based on the article “**India-Middle East-Europe Corridor: The way to a new world order**” published in **The Indian Express** on **19th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations – Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests

Relevance: About the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

News: India, the United States, Germany, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Italy, and the EU have decided to establish the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC).

What is the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)?

[Click Here to Read](#)

IMEC comprises two corridors: an eastern one connecting India to the Arabian Gulf and a northern corridor linking the Arabian Gulf to Europe. Both ends of the IMEC corridor have robust port, rail, and road infrastructure.

While India has a vast, integrated railroad network and mega ports in the east, in the west of the IMEC, the Mediterranean Sea route connects seamlessly to Greece, Italy, France, and Spain, with efficient rail and road links to Europe.

IMEC has gained support from participating states and financial institutions like the World Bank, driven by promising returns.

Its distinctive features include green initiatives like laying electricity cables and a clean hydrogen pipeline, aligning with global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainability.

What is the significance of IMEC?

IMEC is a new trade route that will connect Asia with Europe through the Gulf. It will be shorter and more efficient than the current maritime route, which relies heavily on the congested Suez Canal.

It links major ports in western India with major shipping ports in the Gulf, and then uses the Saudi rail network to transport cargo to the port of Haifa in Israel.

From Haifa, cargo can be shipped to European ports on bulk container trains and post Panamax ships. **Thus, IMEC will reduce transportation costs and delivery times for both Asian and European businesses.**

Further, IMEC can unite India, West Asia, and Europe for remarkable growth. India can lead regionally and assist neighboring economies by leveraging its expertise in rail and infrastructure for IMEC’s development.

Must Read: [India Middle East Europe Corridor-Explained](#)

What are the challenges with IMEC?

IMEC requires infrastructure to facilitate cargo transport between ships and trains. **This involves constructing missing** rail links, terminals, and inland container depots at major Gulf and Mediterranean ports.

For instance, the missing rail link between Saudi Arabia and Jordan is a crucial challenge for the success of IMEC.

The IMEC project will also require Jordan and Israel to build a missing rail link between them and for the port of Haifa to expand its capacity. This is critical to ensure seamless transport from Gulf ports to Haifa and onwards to Europe.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

IMEC's success also relies on a consistent standard gauge railway network. Hence, to enhance it, the focus should be on developing feeder rail routes connecting hinterlands that can integrate with the main corridor.

What can be the course of action?

IMEC has potential but requires substantial effort to become successful.

In this regard, a working group should be created to prepare a detailed plan to tackle challenges, and participating nations must sign a comprehensive agreement with a clear timeframe.

62. [The 'mantras' that powered success at the G-20 summit](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**The 'mantras' that powered success at the G-20 summit**" published in "The Hindu" on 20th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

News: The article talks about India's role during its G-20 presidency, highlighting how it promoted multilateralism and consensus-building among member countries. It focused on issues like the Ukraine conflict, emphasizing India's approach to a multipolar world, support for the Global South, and its stance as a mediator in global affairs.

How did India promote multilateralism at the G-20?

Consensus on NDLD: Despite initial disagreements on language and topics like Ukraine, all G-20 members agreed on the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD) under India's leadership.

Bilateral Engagements: Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral meetings with various G-20 members, including visits to countries like Japan, Australia, the US, and others, fostering closer ties and ensuring support.

Addressing Global Politics: By ensuring smoother discussions and consensus in the absence of divisive figures like the Russian and Chinese Presidents, India prioritized unity.

Western Bloc Compromises: The western countries, for the sake of consensus and the importance of the G-20, agreed to remove direct references to Russia concerning the Ukraine war.

Promotion of Global South: India actively championed the voice and significance of the Global South in global decisions, emphasizing its relevance in global forums.

Middle Path Approach: By not taking hard stances or choosing sides, India's approach of following a "middle path" on global issues was evident, helping bridge differences between member countries.

How does India's middle-path approach benefit global relations?

Multipolar Advocacy: India promotes a multipolar world, standing distinct from the U.S.'s unipolar vision and China's bipolar ambition.

U.S. Global Role: Post-Cold War, the U.S. tried establishing a unipolar world. However, during the Trump era (2017-2021), its potential decline was evident as it exited several multilateral agreements like the Paris Accord.

China's Ascendancy: China, marking the 10th anniversary of its Belt and Road Initiative, spent over a trillion dollars on infrastructure in about 90 countries, highlighting its growing influence.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

China's Controversies: China's rise also raised concerns due to actions during the COVID-19 pandemic, predatory financing in smaller countries, and territorial aggressions, including with India.

Global South's Significance: The Global South, comprising over 125 countries, is gaining a louder voice on global issues, resetting priorities on topics like climate change and health.

[63. Facilitating degrees within a degree](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Facilitating degrees within a degree**" published in "The Hindu" on 20th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- governance- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Education.

News: The article discusses India's new National Higher Education Qualifications Framework (NHEQF). It points out its shortcomings, complexity, and potential implementation issues. The article emphasizes the importance of clearer guidelines and more inclusive consultations to improve the higher education system.

What are the issues of new National Higher Education Qualifications Framework (NHEQF)?

Multiple Frameworks: Instead of one consolidated framework, UGC prescribed both NHEQF and the National Credit Framework, causing confusion.

Omission of Key Disciplines: Important disciplines like agriculture, law, medicine, and pharmacy aren't covered in the NHEQF.

Over-reliance on European Standards: The NHEQF heavily references the European Bologna process and Dublin descriptors, which might not align with India's unique educational context.

Broad Purpose of Education Overlooked: The framework seems more focused on qualifications than holistic education encompassing socio-cultural and politico-economic factors.

Elitist Approach: Students with a four-year degree and high CGPA can directly pursue a PhD, which might lead to elitism.

Implementation Challenges: Equating postgraduate diplomas with four-year undergraduate programs, and suggesting unrealistic study hours, creates practical hurdles.

Unclear Learning Outcomes: The framework borrows heavily from European standards without adapting them for the diverse Indian disciplines.

What should be done?

- Integrate all existing guidelines into the NHEQF for clarity.
- Include disciplines like agriculture, law, medicine, and pharmacy in the NHEQF.
- Base the NHEQF on consultations with states considering India's education system diversity.
- Recognize the broader purpose of education, beyond just livelihood.
- Reconsider the direct path from a four-year degree with high CGPA to a PhD to ensure inclusivity.
- Address challenges like equating postgraduate diplomas with four-year undergraduate programs and clarify the duration of courses like B.Ed.
- Adapt and clarify learning outcomes for the diverse Indian disciplines, instead of heavily borrowing from European standards.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

64. The Cauvery Water Management Authority should act

Source: The post is based on the article “**The Cauvery Water Management Authority should act**” published in “The Hindu” on 20th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity- Interstate relation

News: The article discusses the ongoing water-sharing dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu regarding the Cauvery River. It highlights the necessity of a distress-sharing formula, recent developments in the Supreme Court, and the roles of the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) and other relevant bodies.

What are the main issues with Cauvery River water sharing?

Historical Dispute: The sharing of the Cauvery River water has been contentious since the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal’s 1991 interim order.

Lack of Clear Guidelines:

There’s no detailed distress-sharing formula in the 2007 Tribunal order or the 2018 Supreme Court judgment.

Both mentioned pro-rata sharing in distress times, but specifics are lacking.

State Perspectives:

Tamil Nadu factors in the deficit in inflows to four Karnataka reservoirs and the rainfall pattern in three Cauvery catchment groups.

Karnataka argues that water sharing should consider both the southwest and northeast monsoons.

Unclear Reservoir Status: From June 1 to August 27, the four Karnataka reservoirs faced a 51.22% shortfall in inflows.

Authority’s Stance: Neither the disputing parties nor the Cauvery Water Management Authority has opposed the concept of distress sharing. The disagreement is on the formula’s specifics.

What do the judicial bodies say?

Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) 2007 Order:

The Tribunal did not provide much in its final order regarding distress sharing.

However, it did mention that during two consecutive bad years of rain, the monthly schedule of water release should be relaxed.

The suggestion was to operate all reservoirs in the basin in an integrated manner to “minimize any harsh effect.”

Supreme Court Judgment 2018:

The Supreme Court also did not provide a clear guideline for distress sharing.

The judicial bodies referred to the principle of pro-rata sharing in times of distress.

Current Scenario: Neither the states involved in the dispute, nor the Authority has expressed opposition to the concept of distress sharing. The main disagreement is about the specifics of the formula.

What should be done now?

Transparency is Essential:

The CWMA and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) should publish their meeting proceedings online.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Providing access to these records will help dispel misconceptions in both states.

Proactive Approach:

The CWMA, despite its establishment in 2018, hasn't made significant progress in five years. This needs to change.

The Authority should not miss the current opportunity to address the issue.

Objective Decision Making:

The Authority comprises officials and technical experts.

They should utilize their expertise to create a rational and objective distress-sharing formula.

Judicious Water Use:

Tamil Nadu should focus on the efficient and judicious use of water, regardless of the Supreme Court's decision on its water quota.

65. 33%: The Details – Implementing women's reservation will need a lot of work

Source: The post is based on articles:

"Women's reservation Bill – finally, a House of equality" published in The Indian Express on 20th September 2023 and

"33%: The Details – Implementing women's reservation will need a lot of work, some of it complex & politically fraught" published in The Times of India on 20th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Governance – Government Policies & Intervention

The points of these articles have been covered in the following article:

[Women Reservation Bill – Explained Pointwise](#)

News: The Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill, 2023, was introduced in Parliament, proposing a 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies. The article discusses the Bill and explains how reservation can elevate women's status in society.

How has the reservation of seats for women in local bodies contributed to improving their status in society?

Reserving seats for women in local government positions like sarpanches, block pramukhs, etc. **increased their respect at home and in the community, reduced domestic abuse, and ensured that women** in similar roles were heard and respected.

Women's empowerment is often viewed as urban-centrally, but reservations in local bodies, like panchayat elections, offer rural women a distinct experience that brings them respect and recognition in their communities.

How will the Women's Reservation Bill grant recognition to women?

The Women's Reservation Bill aims to increase women's representation. **Increased female presence will boost confidence in being heard and will build a supportive ecosystem for women's rights.**

The Women's Reservation Bill could increase women MPs from 82 to 181. It seeks sub-reservation for SCs, STs, and Anglo Indians.

It proposes adding a clause to Article 330 A, reserving one-third of Lok Sabha seats for women within the SC and ST categories and one-third directly elected women.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The Bill also seeks to insert a subsection in Clause 2 of Article 239 AA, reserving seats for women in Delhi's legislative assembly, with one-third within SC and ST categories.

Therefore, **this legislative effort is considered a progressive step for participatory democracy, which values inclusion rather than exclusion**. However, despite this, there are still concerns present with the Bill.

What are the concerns with the Bill?

Enactment of the Bill: Reservation for women in Parliament depends on the census and delimitation process.

However, **the census has been delayed and delimitation could be politically sensitive, especially impacting southern India**, which has seen slower population growth due to its development progress.

Hence, the 2002 freeze on delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies will continue until after 2026, which is around the time, the delayed Census 2021 data is expected to be released.

This means that reservation for women in Parliament will likely not start until after 2026.

Reservation within Reservation: The new bill reserves one-third of seats for women, with a further reservation within that quota for women from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

However, **some political groups have also called for the inclusion of OBC and minority reservation as well**.

Rotation of Reserved Seats: The Bill proposes to rotate reserved seats after each delimitation exercise which will be determined by Parliament. **However, it is unclear how this will be implemented.**

Rotating one-third of seats before each election is being considered the fairest approach. However, since the bill is expected to come into effect after the next census and delimitation, there is time to find other solutions.

What lies ahead?

The Bill ensures women's representation, transforming politics and addressing social inequalities.

It aims to create an enlightened democracy by removing entry barriers and fundamentally reshaping parliamentary democracy, giving Indian women their rightful place in Parliament.

66. [The Indo-Pacific power play](#)

Source- The post is based on the article **"The Indo-Pacific power play"** published in the **"Business Standard"** on **20th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- International relations

Relevance- Indo-pacific

News- The article explains the US strategy in Indo-pacific to counter China

How is the US increasing its presence in the Indo-Pacific region to counter China?

Ties with Vietnam- During US President Joe Biden's visit to Hanoi, the two countries elevated their **Comprehensive Partnership to a more comprehensive and strategic level**, known as the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**.

Vietnam shares a **sensitive land border** with China and is involved in disputes over **Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

However, it's worth noting that in the **joint statement** issued during the visit, Vietnam was cautious not to **include language** that might **provoke China**.

Ties with Philippines- There has been a significant enhancement of the **Philippines military alliance** with the United States.

This has enabled the US to **regain access to its key bases** in the Philippines, after a period of several years without such access. The US has been granted permission to **use four additional bases** in the country.

In May 2023, new guidelines were issued for the **1951 treaty**. It outlined **more specific commitments** by the US to address **security threats to the Philippines**. One notable provision now allows for **joint patrols** by US and Philippine forces in the EEZ.

Trilateral security framework- It involves the **United States, Japan and South Korea**. Efforts to bring these two allies together in a truly **coordinated trilateral alliance** had been ongoing for some time.

Recent events, such as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's visit to Russia and the potential deepening of **military cooperation** between these two nations, have further fuelled concerns in Seoul and Tokyo.

Under US sponsorship, the leaders of the United States, Japan, and South Korea adopted the **Camp David Principles**.

These principles call for **annual trilateral summits**, the **establishment of a hotline** among leaders, **intelligence sharing**, and the **conduct of annual military exercises**.

All three countries view the situation in the **Taiwan Strait** as a factor affecting **regional peace and security**.

Multi-tiered security framework in the Indo-Pacific region- At the lowest level are **partnerships**, including those with countries like Vietnam, Singapore, and Thailand.

The **next tier includes the Quad**, comprising India, the United States, Japan, and Australia. India holds a unique position within the Quad as it is not an ally but maintains **strategic partnerships** with each of the other member nations.

At a higher level, there is a trilateral **military alliance** involving the United States, Japan, and South Korea.

Finally, at the apex is **AUKUS**. It is an **enhanced military alliance** between the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

AUKUS is committed to **empower Australia** to become a **nuclear submarine-capable nation**, and **operate in collaboration** with the **naval capabilities** of the United States and the United Kingdom in the **Indo-Pacific region**.

What is ASEAN's approach towards Indo-pacific?

Some individual nations, such as Laos and Cambodia, maintain **strong alignment** with China. Others are **cautious** about provoking China.

Nevertheless, there are indications of a **potential shift**. ASEAN nations are currently conducting their **inaugural naval exercises** off the **Natuna islands** this month.

These islands fall within **Indonesia's exclusive economic zone (EEZ)** but are also claimed by China through its disputed **nine-dash line**, which covers the **entire South China Sea**.

This could be an early sign of ASEAN countries pushing back against **China's exaggerated territorial assertions** in the region.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What is the Indian approach towards Indo-pacific?

India is increasingly embracing its role as a **willing participant** in the evolving **US Indo-Pacific strategy**. It has already finalized **three foundational agreements that enhance interoperability** between the armed forces of both nations.

Furthermore, India has secured **two master ship repair agreements**: one with the US Navy and the Larsen and Toubro shipyard near Chennai, and another with the Mazagaon Docks in August.

American naval vessels have begun using these ports for **repairs and refitment**. It would be relatively straightforward to extend these facilities to other members of the Quad.

67. With G20-IMEC plan, the global order shifts to Eurasia

Source– The post is based on the article **“With G20-IMEC plan, the global order shifts to Eurasia”** published in the **“The Times of India”** on **20th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- International relations

Relevance- Connectivity projects impacting the global politics

News– At the G20 Summit, President Joe Biden, joined by the leaders of India, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, Germany, Italy, and the European Commission, unveiled the multi-modal India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC).

What are some facts about the India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)?

The economic corridor consists of **two main routes**. The first is an **eastern route**, which enables India to **connect to the Arabian Gulf through sea routes**. The second is the **northern route** that **connects Saudi Arabia to Europe** through Jordan and Israel.

Collective Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the IMEC nations totals **approximately \$47 trillion**. This GDP represents approximately **40% of the world’s total GDP**.

What is the significance of India-Middle East-Europe Corridor (IMEC)?

Shared vision for the Eurasian supercontinent- It aspires to establish a route leading to a more **interconnected transoceanic system**, stretching from the **Mediterranean region through West Asia to the vast Indo-Pacific**.

Changing world order- IMEC represents an implicit recognition from the West of the tangible consequences of the **ascendance of non-Western powers** and the undeniable shift of the world’s **economic and geopolitical center** toward the East.

It underscores the need to assign more **substantial global leadership roles** to India, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE in reshaping the future of **Eurasia’s economic and geopolitical landscape**. Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, New Delhi, and other emerging powers within Eurasia will hold significant influence in realigning the **broader power dynamics** across the **supercontinent**.

Emergence of a West Asian system- Washington and Brussels might be inclined to present the IMEC as an **alternative to China’s Belt and Road Initiative**. But, for Delhi, Abu Dhabi, and Riyadh, the IMEC represents the **emergence of a West Asian system**.

Within this system, India, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Oman, and Egypt are progressively coming together beyond areas such as **energy, remittances, and shared ideology**.

IMEC serves as another effort to unite Saudi Arabia and Israel under a **single transcontinental framework**. It also contributes to ongoing US-supported endeavors to secure a **normalization agreement** between these two nations.

United States’ Eurasian strategy in the post-US hegemony era- Washington aims to shape a **balanced power structure** across the **broader Eurasian landscape**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The objective is to prevent a **loose coalition** of states, including China, Russia, and Iran, from dominating the supercontinent.

Instead, the strategy involves **strengthening the positions** of countries like India, Saudi Arabia, and Japan. They should be enabled to exert **economic and geopolitical influence** and actively contribute to a **balanced Eurasian power structure**.

European Union's strategy in the new multipolar world- It is the most ambitious endeavor to gain **geopolitical significance and cohesion** beyond the **European continent** in the **new multipolar world**.

Major European nations like Rome, Berlin, and Paris, with London are aiming to **align their efforts** with the United States and Asian powers.

They are going beyond **occasional maritime exercises in the Indo-Pacific** and are working on **integrating their economic systems** with high-growth markets in the East.

Way forward-

For India, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and other involved parties, the goal of achieving a **balanced Eurasian structure** does not imply forming a **dual containment alliance** against China and Russia.

There is a need for conducting a **pragmatic evaluation** of each nation's motivations for involvement, progressing the project **beyond a mere Memorandum of Understanding**,

It is necessary to tackle **logistical and operational hurdles**, and give **precedence to electricity, digital connectivity, and clean hydrogen** during the initial phases of the Corridor.

The IMEC nations should take proactive measures to address **potential security challenges** that may arise due to the heightened **Eurasian connectivity** brought about by the corridor.

[68. Canada needs to see India – not just the diaspora](#)

Source- The post is based on the article **“Canada needs to see India – not just the diaspora”** published in the **“The Indian Express”** on **21st September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Bilateral groupings and agreements

Relevance- India and Canada bilateral relationship

News- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has alleged that Indian agents killed Khalistani activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar this June. It has strained the relationship between the two countries.

What has been the trajectory of the India and Canada relationship?

During the cold war- During the Cold War, relations between Ottawa and New Delhi were fine. It was due to their **shared Commonwealth status** and **aligned views** on the **significance of the United Nations, multilateralism, and global development**.

However, differences emerged during **Cold War conflicts in Korea, Hungary, and Vietnam**. It strained the relationship. India's **pursuit of a nuclear program** created further issues.

Post cold war

Since the 1980s- Increasing Immigration from India improved the relations. However, there were limited opportunities for **trade or security cooperation**. So, no substantial **diplomatic engagement** could be established at that time.

After, 1998, Significant efforts have been made to **rejuvenate the relationship**, when Canada rejected **India's nuclear status**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Current status- Today, the core of the relationship revolves around **investment and trade**.

However, certain segments of the diaspora community hold **strong negative sentiments** towards India, reject its territorial integrity, and aim to fragment it.

How is diaspora politics by the Canadian government causing strain in the India and Canada relationship?

Canada has shown a softcorner for Khalistani groups and other diaspora elements. It is a **characteristic feature of its foreign policy**.

Both political parties, Liberals and Conservatives, have kept a favorable attitude towards diaspora groups.

This **diaspora politics** has prevented Canadian governments from **separating national security and foreign policy priorities** from **short-term electoral pressures**.

The views expressed by **pro-Khalistan groups** have been a source of concern for the Indian government.

What is the approach of the current Indian government towards the diaspora?

Diaspora engagement has intensified under the present government. There are efforts to encourage them to invest in **India's economic development**.

Wealthy Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) play a **crucial role in remittances, networks, and ideas** flowing into India.

Support from Diaspora have advanced **India's strategic relationships** with the United States and helped **national initiatives like Make in India and Digital India**.

Why does diaspora engagement by the current Indian government need careful management?

During Indian PM's foreign visits, civil society groups were demanding attention to **human rights**. Recent **pro-Khalistan protests** in the US, UK, Canada, and Australia have **turned contentious and violent**.

Caste discrimination is becoming an important issue within US firms, universities, and organizations.

Digital technologies have transformed how Indian immigrants abroad interact with their homeland. It is leading to **divisions in terms of political views, language preferences, and ideological affiliations**, among diaspora.

The rise of Transnational organisations like pro-khalistani groups, are posing a significant challenge to **Indian foreign policy of a favourable approach to most diaspora groups**.

Way forward-

Read- [Indian Canada Relations](#)

[69. Rice fortification can help tackle our problem of hidden hunger](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Rice fortification can help tackle our problem of hidden hunger**" published in "Live Mint" on 21st September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health & GS3- Agriculture- food security

News: The article talks about hidden hunger in India, a situation where people get enough calories but lack essential nutrients, causing health problems. To combat this, India is using

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

food fortification, adding vital nutrients to common foods like rice and salt, and the government is working to make these fortified foods available to everyone, facing challenges like raising awareness and managing costs, to improve the overall health and well-being of the population.

What is hidden hunger?

Hidden hunger occurs when people get enough food to eat, but the food lacks essential nutrients, vitamins, and minerals, leading to malnutrition. This condition is often concealed until noticeable health issues arise, such as impaired cognitive abilities and birth defects.

In India, it's a significant concern, particularly affecting children's health and development. For example, in Aspirational Districts, only about 12.32% of children aged 6-23 months receive adequate nutrition.

Additionally, inadequate protein intake and a preference for processed foods and excessive cereal consumption in the country are contributing to this issue, causing long-term health problems and affecting normal physical and mental functions among adults.

How prevalent is malnutrition in India?

Malnutrition is prevalent in India, with about 194 million people still undernourished during 2016-18.

Over 690 districts have less than 30% of children receiving proper nutrition, and 17 districts have over half their children suffering from stunting.

The prevalence of anemia among women and children in India is 61.20% on average.

The country's average daily calorie consumption is below the recommended 2,503 kcal per capita per day.

People in India generally consume inadequate amounts of proteins, fruits, vegetables, legumes, meat, fish, and eggs.

The preference for processed foods and excessive cereal consumption in the country are also contributing to malnutrition.

What is food fortification?

Food fortification is the process of adding essential vitamins and minerals to food to improve its nutritional value. It began as a strategy to combat hidden hunger and micronutrient deficiencies.

The practice started in 1920 in the US with the addition of iodine to salt.

In India, fortification initiatives began in the 1950s with the fortification of vegetable oil and salt iodization.

Why is addressing hidden hunger important?

Impact on Individual Health: Addressing hidden hunger is crucial because it causes serious health issues like birth defects, impaired cognitive abilities in children, and maternal and infant mortality, affecting a significant number of people in India.

Consequence on Development and Productivity: It impedes optimal development in children and affects normal physical and mental functions among adults, which can lead to reduced productivity. In India, addressing this is important to avoid long-term impacts on the nation's workforce.

Importance for Future Progress: Given India's young demographic profile, addressing hidden hunger is essential to ensure the well-being and productive potential of the population, contributing to the overall social and economic progress of the country.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are India's efforts in food fortification?

Introduction of Fortification: India began food fortification in the 1950s, starting with salt iodization and vegetable oil fortification. It's a strategy to combat hidden hunger by adding essential nutrients to common foods.

Fortification of Staples: Recently, staples like rice and wheat are also being fortified. The government aims to fortify rice in all social safety net schemes by 2024, with different phases covering various services and districts.

Implementation and Standards: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India established fortification standards in 2016 and introduced the '+F' logo to facilitate food producers in joining the fortification efforts. This helps in enhancing the nutritional value of food items and improving the overall health of the population.

70. [Values Kota imparted: Anxiety and building a future on a butchered present](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article "Values Kota imparted: Anxiety and building a future on a butchered present", published in the Indian Express on 21st Sep 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2 – Social Issues – Issues associated with education

News: Rising suicides in Kota questions whether the intense focus on future success comes at the cost of the present well-being of students.

Kota is seen as an essential midpoint for students aiming for top-tier colleges. However, the city has witnessed 25 suicides in a single year, indicating a deep-rooted issue in its coaching culture.

What are the challenges faced by Kota coaching Students?

There is an intense environment, where the future is prioritized over the present. It has led to a state of anxiety among students.

Students are made to feel guilty for enjoying anything outside of their studies, leading to a constant state of anxiety.

The coaching industry in Kota has overshadowed traditional schooling. Holistic promises of school, such as engagement with all subjects, extracurricular activities, and a balanced life, are often compromised in favor of peak performance.

The societal obsession with success pushes students to extremes in pursuing their dreams.

What should be done?

There is a need to reconsider the intense coaching model of Kota. It suggests that there might be alternative paths to success, and students should be allowed the flexibility to choose their journey.

71. [No BFFs Needed – India needs four things to secure strategic autonomy in foreign policy and more than one alliance](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "No BFFs Needed – India needs four things to secure strategic autonomy in foreign policy and more than one alliance" published in **The Times of India** on 21st September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations – India's Foreign Policy

Relevance: About changing India's foreign policy

News: Prime Minister Modi's statement that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) has fulfilled its purpose carries significance as it highlights India's shifting foreign policy direction.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

How is India's foreign policy shifting?

India's non-alignment strategy is transitioning towards obtaining strategic autonomy. This implies being more friendly to some countries than others, but not always allied with any one group.

India's strategic autonomy is driven by four factors such as – 1) managing the China challenge, 2) securing supply chains in critical products, 3) achieving competency in critical technologies, and 4) diversifying defense platforms.

This requires India to seek alliances in its own interest.

For instance, while India needs a partnership with the US to counter China, it also requires maintaining friendly relations with Central Asian Republics to secure future energy needs.

How has India utilized its strategic autonomy in recent years?

India imports defense equipment from countries with different geopolitical positions, such as France and the US. India imported Russian crude oil despite Western sanctions, which greatly aided its economy.

Similarly, India leading the Global South in the G20 gives it more flexibility in its dealings with big powers. **Hence, strategic autonomy requires flexibility, and a strong economy and India is well-positioned to achieve it.**

[72. Climate finance must get beyond greenwashing and greenwashing](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Climate finance must get beyond greenwashing and greenwashing**” published in “Live Mint” on 22nd September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Environment- climate change

News: The article discusses the requirement for practical and accessible investment solutions to combat climate change. It highlights the importance of profitable, liquid investments such as ETFs in climate-resilient real estate, green commodities, and inflation-proof assets. The article emphasizes the use of digital, tokenized assets to include unbanked populations, with the aim of achieving genuine impact and avoiding empty, unfulfilled green promises, especially with CoP-28 approaching.

Why is there a need for practical and accessible investment solutions to fight climate change?

Climate Change Affects All: It is impacting both poor and rich countries, creating an urgent need for broad-based resilience and adaptation strategies.

Unlocking Private Sector Resources: Scalable solutions require substantial commitments from the private sector, with many current climate-centric investments being illiquid and tightly wound up in private-equity funds.

Inclusion of Ordinary Investors: Many current climate investments are inaccessible to ordinary investors and savers who are the most exposed to climate-driven food, water, and energy insecurity.

Need for Diversified Solutions: Diversified, liquid, and profitable investment solutions like ETFs in climate-resilient sectors can mobilize capital effectively and are essential for inclusivity, including the unbanked global population.

How can climate investments be made accessible?

Developing Liquid Investments: Create climate investments that are liquid and profitable like ETFs, which are easily accessible to individual and institutional investors.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Encouraging Investment in Climate-Resilient Real Estate: Invest in weather-proof, stable geographies. Using Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and ETFs can help secure reliable returns from these investments.

Investing in Green Commodities: Focus on commodities essential for renewable energy and electric vehicles, like copper and lithium, to avoid greenflation and supply bottlenecks.

Offering Inflation-Proof Assets: Include assets like short-term and inflation-indexed sovereign bonds and gold in portfolios to provide a hedge against inflation and geo-economic risks.

Creating Tokenized Assets: Develop digital, tokenized representations of climate investment solutions to include unbanked populations, ensuring they are backed by real-world assets.

What solutions are offered?

Digital assets must be backed by real-world physical and financial assets to be a viable solution, avoiding speculation risks and preserving liquidity.

[73. M Venkaiah Naidu on One Nation One Election: Together, for the greater good](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**M Venkaiah Naidu on One Nation One Election: Together, for the greater good**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **22nd September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Indian Polity

News– The concept of One Nation, One Election has been a topic of debate for several years.

What are arguments in favour of One Nation, One Election?

The **Election Commission** of India proposed synchronised elections in 1983 and 1999.

In 2018, the **NITI Aayog** introduced the concept of One Nation, One Election.

Financial burden- The Indian electoral system involves **large costs** during each election cycle. India’s election machinery is in **constant operation** due to elections at various levels of government throughout the year.

The expenses associated with conducting elections, **security of polling stations**, deploying security forces, and **logistics** are substantial. In addition to the **financial costs**, there are **logistical challenges** and a **strain on human resources**.

Impact on governance- Frequent elections demand a **significant workforce**. It includes police personnel, administrative staff from various departments, and educators like teachers and lecturers.

This disrupts regular **government functions** and delays development projects. It also impacts the **academic calendars** of schools and colleges.

Political polarization- Regular elections often contribute to **political polarization** since politicians are constantly engaged in election campaigning. They prioritize **short-term gains over long-term policy planning**.

Earlier experience- India had experienced simultaneous elections during specific periods. Notably, elections held in 1952, 1957, and 1962, as well as in 1967 followed the One Nation, One Election principle.

What are the advantages of One Nation, One Election?

Improved governance– Reduced election frequency would minimize disruptions in **government operations**. It will allow bureaucrats and elected officials to focus more on **governance**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Promote national interest- it promotes cooperation among political parties. When elections are synchronized, parties would be compelled to seek **common ground and consensus** on vital **national and state-level matters**.

This could lead to more **collaborative policymaking** and a better, **unified understanding of issues**.

Political participation- Such an approach would alleviate **voter fatigue** and encourage more **active participation in elections**. Voters frequently face multiple elections in a single year, which can lead to **weariness, apathy, and potential disengagement**.

74. [Silent killer – India must get more people to keep blood pressure under control](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Silent killer – India must get more people to keep blood pressure under control**” published in **The Hindu** on **22nd September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Issues Related to Health

Relevance: concerns with hypertension

News: Recently, the World Health Organization (WHO) has released its first report on hypertension.

What are the key findings of the report?

Globally: Hypertension is a global issue, affecting one in three individuals, and it is often inadequately controlled in four out of five cases.

This highlights the lack of effective measures taken by countries to manage this major risk factor for cardiovascular diseases like heart attacks and strokes.

Uncontrolled blood pressure, even below 140/90, is risky, especially for people with diabetes, obesity, and habits like tobacco and alcohol use.

India: In India, the WHO report from 2019 data shows that 188 million adults aged 30-79 have hypertension, but only 37% are diagnosed, 30% are treated, and just 15% have their hypertension under control.

Women seem to have slightly better rates of diagnosis, treatment, and control compared to men.

Stroke rates in India are high, with a fatality rate of 18%-42%. In 2019, heart attacks were the top cause of death and disability in the country.

Must Read: [WHO releases report on global impact of high BP](#)

What are the reasons behind rising hypertension cases in India?

Research indicates that consuming more than five grams of salt daily is linked to 17%-30% of hypertension cases.

Although member States are obligated to achieve a 30% reduction in average population salt intake by 2025, **India has not fully adopted the WHO's recommendations to reduce salt consumption**.

A 2021 study in four Indian States found high salt and sugar levels in packaged foods, highlighting the importance of mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labels, food reformulation to reduce salt, and public awareness efforts.

What steps has India undertaken to address hypertension?

India has made progress in managing hypertension through the [India Hypertension Control Initiative \(IHCI\)](#).

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

As of March 2021, 48% of patients at primary health centers and 55% at health wellness centers achieved blood pressure control under this program.

Hence, expanding this initiative and maintaining effective blood pressure control should be the essential goals.

75. [Bench Strength – CJI must move fast to create permanent constitution benches](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“Bench Strength – CJI must move fast to create permanent constitution benches, which will address one part of case pendency”** published in **The Times of India** on **22nd September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Indian Polity – Functioning of the Judiciary

Relevance: About establishment of permanent constitution benches in the SC.

News: Chief Justice of India Chandrachud has proposed the establishment of permanent constitution benches with varying strengths in the Supreme Court. This reform has been needed for a long time and should be prioritized.

How will the establishment of permanent constitution benches fulfill their purpose?

Article 145(3) mandates that any case involving a significant constitutional question must be heard by a panel of at least five judges.

Currently, there are 306 cases awaiting decisions from such five-judge benches and 135 cases awaiting nine-judge benches. This shows the importance of larger benches.

An example of importance of larger bench is **the 13-judge bench in the Kesavananda Bharati case established the “basic structure” doctrine**, which has had a lasting impact on Indian law.

Read More: [SC to get permanent Constitution bench](#)

What made this reform challenging to implement until now?

Establishing permanent constitution benches in India’s Supreme Court has been challenging due to its extensive caseload of over 80,000 cases.

Unlike the US Supreme Court, which primarily deals with constitutional matters, India’s court handles a diverse range of cases, often seen as a “people’s court.”

Further, **when a nine-judge bench is formed to hear a constitutional matter**, it takes up 26% of the court’s sanctioned strength of 34 judges.

Hence, **challenge exists in balancing everyday legal concerns with constitutional issues, which requires a systematic approach** rather than the Supreme Court simply prioritizing cases.

What more can be done to reduce the burden on the Supreme Court?

First, the subordinate courts in India need to take on more of the responsibility for hearing cases, especially cases involving bail.

The Supreme Court of India has repeatedly found that the subordinate courts are not understanding the scope of its orders, which is putting more pressure on the Supreme Court.

Second, expanding the scope of Indians’ fundamental rights also requires the **establishment of more constitution benches in the Supreme Court**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

76. India and the great power contest in West Asia

Source – The post is based on the article “India and the great power contest in West Asia” published in “The Hindu” on 23rd September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relations

Relevance – West Asian geopolitics and involvement of major powers

News – At the G-20 summit in New Delhi, United States President Joe Biden and others unveiled a United States backed infrastructure project to connect India, West Asia and Europe with shipping lanes, rail networks, pipelines and data cables.

What are the main components of Mr. Biden’s strategy for West Asia?

1) Reducing friction between Middle East countries: It is the continuation of the Trump policy. Trump wanted to bring together America’s two key allies in the region, the Gulf Arab states and Israel. The purpose is to address shared geopolitical challenges, particularly related to the rise of Iran.

The **Abraham Accords** initiated transformation in **Israel’s relationships** with countries like the United Arab Emirates. This policy will fully succeed with a **diplomatic agreement** between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

The Biden administration believes that a **Saudi-Israeli agreement** can improve **Arab-Israeli relations**. Also, it will **strengthen the US position** in the region without **additional military commitments**.

2) Strengthening US Presence in Middle East: Mr. Biden wants to reassure America’s friends and allies that the US remains **actively engaged** in West Asia.

In 2012, leaders from India, Israel, the United States, and the UAE held a virtual summit. It has since evolved into the **I2U2 Mini lateral**.

The **I2U2 platform** seeks to facilitate **economic integration between West Asia and South Asia**. It offers **economic and technological solutions** to the challenges faced by countries in the **Global South**.

What are the reasons behind the changes in US strategy for West Asia?

The United States has shifted its focus away from **West Asia by deprioritized its security commitments** in the region. It is increasing its focus on **Eastern Europe and East Asia**. However, the following factors have brought the US back in the region:

China is heavily reliant on imports for **over 70% of its oil needs**. It is increasing its **engagement with West Asia**.

China has become the **largest trading partner** for **America’s Gulf Arab allies** and a **significant investor** in the region. China wants to play a more **substantial role** as a **peacemaker**. **Iran-Saudi reconciliation agreement** shows it.

Therefore, the US cannot simply **exit West Asia**. Otherwise, China will fill the vacuum.

What are the challenges in reengagement of US in the West Asia?

1) Rising trend of Independent foreign policies: The **U.S.’s deprioritization** of the region has weakened its influence on its allies. This has created a **security vacuum**, prompting regional powers to pursue more **independent foreign policies**. For example, **Saudi-UAE détente** with Iran, ending the **Saudi-led blockade of Qatar**, and **Arab reconciliation** with Syria’s Bashar al-Assad.

Furthermore, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are making policies that are not **entirely dependent on U.S.** objectives. Their decision to join the BRICS grouping is illustrative of this trend. They

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

are no longer willing to remain as **client states**, as they were during the **Cold War and the unipolar world**.

2) Reducing significance of Iran factor: The **rivalry between Iran and Israel** remains the central geopolitical tension in West Asia. Gulf Arabs don't want to be entangled in the **Iran-Israel rivalry**. It would **destabilise the region**.

How is India's importance growing in the US policy for West Asia?

For India, the competition between the U.S. and China in West Asia presents **new opportunities for engagement**. It wants to involve India as a **stable partner** in shaping **new rules for economic engagement and integration**. India appears **willing to embrace** this role. Which is proved by the following events:

- 1) India's participation in Abraham Accords.
- 2) Announcement of [India-Middle East-Europe Corridor](#) at G20.
- 3) India's participation in [I2U2 minilateral](#).

What should be the policy of India towards west Asia?

India should **grab this opportunity**, but should not view it through the **lens of another Cold War**.

India's policy towards the region should be based on the **concept of multi-faceted engagement** rather than **appeasing or containing any major power**. By that, it would avoid the repeat of its Afghanistan policy.

India is already a part of the **International North-South Transport Corridor**. The potential **"Middle East Corridor"** would provide other **economic opportunities**.

India should aim to play a significant **geopolitical role in West Asia and its extended neighbourhood** without disrupting its **traditional balance**.

[77. Trudeau has shown irresponsibility in accusing India. He must answer](#)

Source – The post is based on the article, **"Trudeau has shown irresponsibility in accusing India. He must answer"** published in **"The Indian Express"** on **23rd September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Bilateral groupings and agreements

News – Recently, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated in Canada's parliament that he had knowledge regarding connections between individuals associated with the Indian government and the death of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

What are the concerns of India regarding its relationship with Canada?

Delhi is concerned about **Canada's tolerance for militant separatist groups** associated with **terrorist activities** in India for many years. They enjoy impunity due to their **strong organisation and strategic voting**.

Trudeau is talking about **human rights and the rule of law** in the **Nijjar case**. India is a **democratic country** with a constitution that upholds human rights. These principles should not be **misused for political gain** and **shield criminal and terrorist organisations**.

What is the way forward for India?

India needs to take steps to ensure that **Canada's diplomatic efforts** do not harm **India's strong relationships** with the **Anglosphere and Western countries**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Delhi should present its arguments and ensure that its **broader concerns** are **effectively communicated**, especially to English-speaking nations.

For more information on India and Canada relationship read- [India Canada Relations – Explained](#)

78. [In these times, what meaning could a new Parliament have?](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**In these times, what meaning could a new Parliament have?**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **23rd September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Indian Polity

Relevance- Institution in modern democracy

News – The article explains the socio-political changes introduced by the current government. It also explains the global trends towards degradation of institutions of modern democracy.

Does the inauguration of a new Parliament building signify a fresh start?

What is the significance of a parliament building?

A Parliament has a **huge symbolic significance**, instead of just being a concrete structure. It is the **conceptual space** where state power intersects with the **concept of community**. Coercion and consent are both parts of it.

However, at this symbolic level, there has been a global trend of introducing **substantial changes** in the methods of **popular governance**.

What is the global trend across many democratic nations?

Rise of authoritarian populism – Many democratic nations, including India, are shifting toward **authoritarian populism**. Power has concentrated in a single **supreme leader** who enjoys **popularity** among a **dominant segment** of the population.

Degradation of institutions- Populist regimes lead to the **degradation of the institutions of modern democracies**. These institutions are used for promoting **the supreme leader’s agendas**.

Institutions crucial for the **deliberative aspects of democracy**, such as the media, universities, the judiciary, and the bureaucracy, are particularly targeted. **The institution of Parliament** is also impacted in this process. It often **experiences marginalisation**.

How have institutions changed in current times as compared to institutions established after independence?

After independence– The country inherited and established a **set of institutions** that were not aligned with the **longer history of Indian society** and its **traditional power structures**.

The elite in power during that era established institutions such as Parliament and the Constitution based on **certain values**.

Current times–The current elite in power wants to create new institutions that **align with their own values**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

79. The suicide cluster in Kota is a public health emergency

Source: The post is based on the article “**The suicide cluster in Kota is a public health emergency**... It is different because it is occurring throughout the year” published in “Times of India” on 23rd September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health. & GS1- Society- Social issues

News: The article discusses the high number of student suicides in Kota, India. It likens this situation to a disease outbreak or a “suicide cluster.” The article emphasizes the necessity of adopting a public health approach to address and prevent these suicides. This approach focuses on specific responses such as monitoring, support, and prevention.

What are suicides and the cluster of suicides?

What do you mean by Suicide?

Suicides are acts where individuals intentionally cause their own death.

In Kota, India, there’s a notable rise in suicides, particularly among students preparing for examinations, totaling 26 in 2023.

What is suicide Cluster?

A cluster of suicides occurs when suicides, attempts, or self-harm events happen closer in time and space than usually expected, forming a pattern.

The situation in Kota is identified as a suicide cluster, specifically a point cluster, occurring within a specific time and location, mainly related to the stress of examination preparation in residential coaching centers.

This phenomenon can lead to contagion, where one person’s suicide can trigger suicidal ideation or attempts in others who are already vulnerable.

Such clusters call for a public health approach, including surveillance, information sharing, media regulation, bereavement support, and prevention strategies.

What initiatives has the Indian government taken to tackle suicides?

National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS): India introduced the NSPS, aiming to decrease suicides by 10% by 2030.

Suicide Surveillance Systems: A key target of NSPS is to establish effective suicide surveillance systems within the next three years.

Mental Health Outpatient Clinics: Another goal under the NSPS is to set up mental health outpatient clinics providing suicide prevention services. This will be achieved under the District Mental Health Programme and is slated for completion within five years.

Helplines in Various States: States such as Telangana, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu have launched helplines for suicide prevention, particularly during the announcement of school leaving and entrance examination results.

What should be done?

Implement a Response Plan: Develop and enforce a Suicide Cluster Response Plan involving surveillance, consistent information sharing between agencies, and support for those bereaved by suicide.

Media Responsibility: Encourage media to report responsibly on suicides to prevent contagion.

Focus on Prevention strategies to reduce the risk of further suicides need to be implemented.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Regular Monitoring and Review: Assess the effectiveness of the response and adapt strategies based on what has been learned.

Adopt Successful Models: Consider adopting approaches like the Tomorrow Project in Nottingham, UK, which has successfully halted suicide contagion through community information, meetings, and clinical support.

[80. Prachanda, the US, and China](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Prachanda, the US, and China**” published in “Indian express” on 23rd September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- India and its neighbourhood- relations.

News: The article discusses Nepal’s Prime Minister Prachanda’s efforts to balance relations between China, the US, and India. This comes amid concerns about human rights violations, corruption, and international peace processes. It highlights Nepal’s strategic geopolitical position and the external pressures and interests in its internal affairs.

What is Nepal’s Prime Minister addressing at the United Nations General Assembly?

Nepal’s Prime Minister Prachanda spoke at the United Nations General Assembly about the progress in Nepal’s peace process.

He stated that completing the tasks of transitional justice is a top priority on his political agenda.

Prachanda declared there would be no amnesty for serious human rights violations that occurred during the civil war in Nepal from 1996 to 2006.

He sought goodwill and support from the international community to conclude the peace process.

How is Nepal balancing relations with India, China, and the U.S.?

Balancing Relations with India:

Prachanda made a diplomatic visit to India, highlighting efforts to maintain equilibrium in relations.

Nepal is managing tensions with India, addressing concerns related to the open border and ongoing bilateral disputes.

India’s approach to Nepal is being closely watched, reflecting concerns about India’s diminishing influence.

Balancing Relations with China:

Prachanda is set to visit China, symbolizing efforts to keep balanced ties amidst the MCC endorsement.

He is expected to discuss waiving the \$215 million loan, indicating concerns over dependency.

Nepal’s endorsement of the MCC compact indicates a shift in development partnership narratives with China.

Balancing Relations with the U.S.:

Nepal has strengthened relations with the U.S. through the endorsement of the \$500 million MCC compact grant.

This endorsement symbolizes a balancing act between U.S. and Chinese interests in Nepal.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The geostrategic importance of Nepal has attracted U.S. interest, and the country is navigating these relations cautiously.

What is the perception from India?

From India, there's a perspective that the union of major communist parties in Nepal could enable greater Chinese influence in the region.

Indian leaders are contemplating aligning with U.S. strategies to counterbalance China's growing influence in Nepal.

There's a realization of diminishing Indian influence in Nepal, and New Delhi is keenly observing Prachanda's diplomatic maneuvers with China.

India is concerned about how cordially Prachanda is received in China and how boldly he represents Nepal's viewpoint during meetings with Chinese leaders.

The deteriorating and changing aspects of India-Nepal relations, such as the open border and Gorkha recruitment issues, are also part of India's considerations.

81. [South of the Godavari](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “[South of the Godavari](#)” published in **Business Standard** on **23rd September 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Functions and Responsibilities of the Union and the States, Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure, Devolution of Powers and Finances up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein.**

Relevance: **concerns with increasing disparities between Southern and Northern states.**

News: The five southern states of India (Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana) have outperformed other regions in various factors. However, these states still face concerns in their representation.

What are some of the achievements of the southern states?

Economic Growth: Southern states in India have experienced substantial economic growth and increased their share of national economic activity from just over a fifth in 1981 to 30% today.

There is a significant disparity in per capita income between southern states and economically poorer northern states.

For instance, Karnataka's per capita income is over five times higher than Bihar, Telangana's is four times that of Uttar Pradesh, Kerala's is double that of Assam, and Tamil Nadu's is twice that of West Bengal.

The economic disparity between southern India and other regions is growing due to faster economic growth, lower population growth, and higher tax revenues in the south.

The southern states contribute a significant portion of the central GST revenue but receive less than a sixth of the total central transfers to states.

Better Socio-economic Indicators: The southern states exhibit superior socio-economic indicators, including higher life expectancy, better literacy rates, and lower fertility rates compared to their northern counterparts.

In certain southern states, fertility has even dropped below the replacement rate, potentially leading to a population decline in the south, while the north continues to grow.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Better Private Sector Investments: Private-sector investments in emerging industries such as solar panels, electric vehicles, mobile phones, and electronic components are predominantly centered in the southern and western regions.

This results in migration from economically challenged eastern areas to the more affluent west and south in search of a job.

What are the concerns present with the Southern states?

First, the upcoming census and subsequent delimitation of parliamentary seats will impact the southern states of India. Currently, they have almost a quarter of parliamentary seats but only a fifth of the population.

After delimitation, they may get fewer new Lok Sabha seats due to their successful population control efforts.

This has raised concerns about the potential shift in politics, possibly favoring a more Hindi-centric language policy, with a Lok Sabha dominated by northern states.

Second, southern states are also concerned about sending more tax money to the northern and eastern states without receiving sufficient returns.

What can be the way ahead?

Southern states are governed by distinct political parties compared to the north India. Along with other concerns, differences in ruling parties could lead to a growing political divide, an increase in regional, economic, linguistic, and socio-political disparities.

Hence, to prevent this, the government should consider offering concessions like greater regional autonomy or maintaining the status quo in the Rajya Sabha.

Southern states should also acknowledge the importance of the northern market for their economic interests.

82. Covert action is a troublesome but often useful tool of statecraft

Source: The post is based on the article “Covert action is a troublesome but often useful tool of statecraft” published in “Live mint” on 25th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

News: This article discusses accusations that India was involved in a targeted killing in Canada, highlighting that many countries use covert actions like this. It suggests that whether such actions are acceptable depends on their effectiveness and management of consequences. The article urges India and Canada to resolve their differences diplomatically for mutual benefit.

Was India involved in a targeted killing in Canada?

The article discusses allegations against India, suspecting its involvement in the targeted killing of Hardeep Singh Nijar in Canada.

However, there’s not sufficient public information to conclusively confirm India’s role in this incident.

The situation has led to tensions between India and Canada, with Canada raising concerns and India denying involvement.

A.S. Dulat, a former Indian intelligence chief, has clearly stated that Indian intelligence officers are opposed to such actions and do not engage in assassinations.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Are covert actions acceptable?

State Practices: Many sovereign states, including democracies, use covert actions to safeguard their interests.

Historical Data:

Israel has carried out over 1800 covert operations.

The U.S. executed 48 targeted killings under George W. Bush and 353 during Obama's tenure.

Morality vs Effectiveness: The realist perspective values the effectiveness of covert actions over their moral implications. The actions are risky and require careful management to avoid unintended consequences.

Indian Intelligence Stance: India, as represented by former R&AW chief A.S. Dulat, claims a strong opposition to targeted killings and asserts that they do not engage in assassinations.

Global Perspective: Many states, including those not labeled as 'rogue', have been involved in covert actions to protect their interests, indicating a broader acceptance or practice of such actions globally.

What should be done?

Diplomatic Engagement: The article explicitly suggests that India and Canada need to engage diplomatically to reconcile their differences and rebuild trust.

83. Gap between law and justice

Source: The post is based on the article "Gap between law and justice" published in "Indian express" on 25th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity- functioning of Parliament

News: This article is talking about new criminal law Bills in India. The government says these will strengthen law and order by reducing crime. But the article argues that the law focuses too much on individuals and ignores social reasons for crime. It claims real change needs broader reforms in the whole criminal justice system, not just laws.

Why is the new bill not the solution to crime?

Overemphasis on Individual Responsibility: The new bill focuses predominantly on blaming and punishing individual offenders, overlooking the socially rooted nature of crimes.

Ignorance of Societal and Environmental Factors: The legislation doesn't consider the significant influence of socio-economic status, social upbringing, education, and environmental factors on a person's decision-making process and risk-taking behavior.

Lack of Broader Institutional Reform: The article suggests that the bills fail to address the need for a comprehensive overhaul of the entire criminal justice system, including police, investigation mechanisms, criminal courts, and support services.

Reproduction of Existing Provisions: Many provisions in the new bills are just reproductions of existing laws, indicating a lack of genuine innovation or a real overhaul in the approach to criminal law or criminal justice.

Political Motivation: The article implies that the bills are more of a populist move, with the actual motivation being deeply political in nature, offering an illusion of strict action from the state without addressing the real problems that plague the criminal justice system.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

84. **Not Just Oil- New momentum in ties between India and Saudi Arabia could be a game changer**

Source: The post is based on the article “**Not Just Oil- New momentum in ties between India and Saudi Arabia could be a game changer**” published in “Indian express” on 25th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests.

News: The article discusses growing friendly relations between India and Saudi Arabia. It mentions a recent visit by the Saudi Crown Prince to India, leading to many agreements between the two countries. Saudi Arabia is investing in India’s energy and technology sectors. This improved relationship benefits both nations.

What are the new developments in India-Saudi relations?

Enhanced Bilateral Ties: The Saudi Crown Prince, Muhammad bin Salman, recently visited India, marking his second state visit in four years, highlighting strengthened relations.

Economic Collaboration: The nations have seen trade soar to \$52.75 billion in 2022-23, with Saudi Arabia investing \$50 billion in energy projects in India, including a Maharashtra refinery.

Strategic Initiatives: India and Saudi Arabia have proposed the IMEC (India-Middle East-European Corridor) to rival China’s Belt-Road-Initiative, aiming to enhance port-railroad connectivity between India, the Gulf countries, and the European Union.

Agreements Concluded: Eight major MoUs were signed in diverse areas like finance, technology, and desalination during the bilateral meet.

Investment in Technology: Saudi Arabia is diversifying its investments, pledging another \$50 billion, and plans to open a Saudi Sovereign Wealth Fund office in Gujarat International Fin-Tech City.

How does this relationship benefit both countries?

Benefits to India:

Stable Trade Partner: With trade at \$52.75 billion in 2022-23, Saudi Arabia is a significant partner for India.

Enhanced Energy Security: Saudi Arabia has been a reliable source of crude oil for India, addressing its energy needs.

Foreign Capital Influx: Saudi Arabia’s commitment to investing \$50 billion in energy projects and another \$50 billion in different sectors bolsters India’s economy.

Benefits to Saudi Arabia:

Economic Diversification: Collaborating with India supports Saudi Arabia’s 2030 vision to develop a post-oil economy.

Enhanced Global Reach: The proposed IMEC project and BRICS induction would increase Saudi Arabia’s global influence and connectivity.

Access to Skilled Workforce: Saudi Arabia values the role of Indian expatriates in its development.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

85. Fukushima N-wastewater controversy

Source– The post is based on the article “Fukushima N-wastewater controversy” published in “The Hindu” on **25th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- International relations. GS3- Science and Technology

News– Recently, the Japanese government revealed its intentions to gradually release over one million tonnes of contaminated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean. It has raised a concern among the public, both domestically and internationally.

What are the concerns of the public?

Various methods have been employed to treat the contaminated water. One of them is the **Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS)**, which eliminates **62 types of radioactive materials**. However, **tritium** is not removed during the treatment process.

As per the Japanese government, the **concentration of tritium** in the treated water does not exceed **international standards set by the IAEA**. The concentration of tritium in the treated water is six times lower than the **World Health Organization’s limit**.

The **chemical extraction of tritium** from wastewater is virtually impossible because tritium is **chemically identical to hydrogen**.

There is evidence suggesting that even exposure to low levels of radiation can have **adverse effects** on both human health and the environment.

Tritium is **readily absorbed** by living organisms and **rapidly distributed** throughout their bodies via the bloodstream. Moreover, it can **cross the placenta**. It can lead to **developmental issues** in babies if ingested by pregnant women.

Releasing the water appears to be the **only viable option** due to **limited space** around the Fukushima plant and the potential for leaks. Storing the water elsewhere throughout the country would significantly increase both **costs and the risk of leaks**.

How is this affecting regional politics?

The Japanese Prime Minister and South Korean President publicly consumed seafood after the wastewater discharge began. This public act aimed to **bolster public trust** in the water treatment process.

Transparency concerning the treatment and release process has been crucial, especially in Japan’s relations with South Korea.

For both Mr. Kishida and Mr. Yoon, the water discharge presents more of a **geopolitical challenge** than a **health issue**. **Historical tensions** still strain their relations today. However, both leaders have been working to **improve relations**.

Japanese authorities have engaged with **regional counterparts**, such as South Korea, China, and Russia, to discuss the wastewater treatment and release plan since 2021.

Why has China adopted a hardline stance?

China’s response to the wastewater issue should be viewed within a **broader geopolitical context**.

Recent Japan-China relations have been impacted due to China expanding its **military presence in the South China Sea**. This has fueled **nationalist sentiments** on both sides, making the wastewater issue significant.

China is also monitoring the **deepening relationship** between South Korea and Japan. China is uncomfortable with the **growing closeness** between South Korea and Japan. It aims to exploit the **strategic divisions** between the two.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

86. An economic corridor, the Israel link and the geopolitics

Source– The post is based on the article “An economic corridor, the Israel link and the geopolitics” published in “The Hindu” on 25th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Global groupings

News– The 2023 summit of the G-20 under India’s presidency went exceptionally well given the group’s limited economic approach to the complex issues that the world faces

How India achieved significant success at this year’s G20 summit in early September?

Incorporation of the African Union into the G-20.,

A concrete proposal for clean **energy cooperation through a biofuel alliance.**

A substantial increase in aid for **Asia-Africa initiatives.**

the development of an economic corridor called “**India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.**” It will link India, West Asia, and Europe through an ambitious **rail and shipping network.**

An **unprecedented presence from the Middle East.**

Issuance of the Delhi Declaration- India was able to develop consensus for declaration despite the current **fragmented international order and power dynamics.**

It refrains from explicitly naming Russia for its actions in Ukraine. However, it provides reference to the **principles outlined in the United Nations charter** and emphasises **territorial sovereignty.**

What is the significance of “India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor”?

This has the potential to reshape the **geopolitics of the future.** Its significance goes beyond merely challenging **China’s Belt and Road Initiative.**

U.S. President Joe Biden has described it as a “**real big deal,**” acknowledging its **transformative impact** on all parties involved and the global landscape.

Why did Israel not receive such an invitation during the G20?

It could have been challenging to arrange a meeting between Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Mr. Netanyahu without **diplomatic normalisation.**

President Biden might have preferred an event without Mr. Netanyahu due to domestic political considerations, as he had avoided meeting him for the past eight months.

87. Politicising exchanges

Source– The post is based on the article “**Politicising exchanges**” published in “The Hindu” on 25th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Bilateral groupings and agreements

Relevance- India and China bilateral relationship

News– Recently, Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur cancelled his visit to China to protest the last-minute denial of entry to three Indian Wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh.

Why is denial of entry to athletes a cause of concern?

The three athletes were granted the **necessary accreditation** to travel along with the rest of the Indian team to the Games.

The decision to prevent the athletes from travelling is punitive because **digital accreditations,** not visas, were required for their travel.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are other examples of China using the sporting event as a tool of foreign policy to counter India?

China has issued **stapled visas** to Indian citizens from Arunachal Pradesh. In July, three wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh who were supposed to participate in the World University Games in Chengdu received stapled visas.

In February of the previous year, Beijing selected the commander of the People's Liberation Army involved in the Galwan Valley clash as one of the **torchbearers for the Winter Olympics**.

Why is China indulging in such types of practices?

The recent action by China highlights the ongoing lack of **trust in bilateral relations** and the absence of **effective communication channels** to address long-standing issues.

As per Indian stand, normalizing relations will not be possible until the **disengagement process** along the Line of Actual Control is completed and peace is restored in border areas.

88. Taking India back to the drawing board

Source– The post is based on the article “India and the great power contest in West Asia” published in “The Hindu” on **25th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity

Relevance- Issues related to delimitation process

News– The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, which promises 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha, and in the Legislative Assemblies of States sheds the spotlight on the delimitation of electoral constituencies.

What are past delimitation exercises taken by the government?

Since the 1970s, the number of Lok Sabha seats has remained unchanged. The **Constitution (Forty-Second Amendment) Act of 1976** froze the delimitation of Lok Sabha constituencies based on the 1971 Census, up until the **Census 2001**.

In 2001, this deadline was extended to 2026 through an amendment to **Article 82 by the Constitution (Eighty-Fourth Amendment) Act**. Boundaries of electoral constituencies were redrawn in 2002. But, the total number of Lok Sabha seats remained the same.

What are issues in conducting a fresh delimitation?

The freeze on delimitation- It was imposed in 1976 to address the **concerns of states** actively involved in **population control**. They were facing the possibility of a reduction in their Lok Sabha seats.

The allocation based on the 1971 Census remains unchanged despite **India's significant population growth** since then.

Using 1971 figures to represent the present population contradicts the **principles of the Constitution and distorts the essence of representative democracy**.

Issues related to federalism and the representation of states- The northern states have experienced **faster population growth** compared to the southern states.

This means that Members of Parliament (MPs) from northern states represent more voters than their counterparts in the south.

The delimitation has **significant implications** for both individual voters and states. Southern states may potentially lose some of their parliamentary seats once the **delimitation exercise** is completed based on **current population figures**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Population data for the delimitation- The 2021 Census was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Union Home Minister has indicated that the **next Census and subsequent delimitation** will take place after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Recent examples- The recent delimitation process in Assam highlighted widespread concerns about **altering district boundaries and renaming constituencies**, potentially impacting the representation of specific communities.

For more reading- [Delimitation](#)

89. G-20 diplomacy and a shifting world order

Source- The post is based on the article **“G-20 diplomacy and a shifting world order”** published in **“The Hindu”** on **26th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Global groupings

News- Recently, India successfully conducted the G-20 meeting in Delhi.

What are some facts about the Delhi declaration agreed during the G20 summit in Delhi?

The **New Delhi Declaration** appears to encompass a **wide range of topics** that cater to various interests.

It covers issues such as **condemning terrorism**, addressing **climate concerns**, tripling **renewable energy capacity**, promoting **sustainable development lifestyles**, and **reforming multilateral development banks**.

It highlights India’s contributions, such as **digital public infrastructure and the Unified Payments Interface**.

The Declaration aligns with the prevailing sentiment within the G-20. It endorses Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of **“One Earth, One Family, One Future.”**

Regarding the **Ukraine conflict**, the declaration does not explicitly blame Russia. It seeks a resolution to the conflict. This sets the New Delhi Declaration apart from the **Bali Declaration** of November 2022, where Russia was condemned for its **aggression in Ukraine**.

Why should India not be over-optimistic about G-20 outcomes?

China’s reception of the Delhi Declaration is mixed. It underscores that the G-20’s primary purpose is economic cooperation. It is not a platform for addressing **geopolitical and security issues**.

China acknowledges the establishment of the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor Plan**. But it cautions against its potential use as a **geopolitical tool**.

Some world leaders have not fully embraced the Delhi G-20. The South Korean President cautioned about the current state of global affairs marked by **geopolitical competition**, rising inflation, and the ongoing **conflict in Ukraine**.

China remains a **dominant force** in Asia, and India is a **prominent target**. India’s growing **economic strength and its membership in the Quad** demand careful handling.

How has the nature of the G-20 undergone a transformation in recent years?

Earlier during the 2008-09 economic crisis, G20 preferred to focus on **global economic issues**. It collaborated to prevent a **global economic downturn**. Now, it has shifted towards addressing **global political conflicts** with less emphasis on the global economic landscape.

A covert struggle is unfolding between two opposing blocs aiming to reshape the **global balance of power**. One is led by Western nations and the other by China and Russia,

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The world is grappling with an **“emerging world disorder,”** marked by the resurgence of two **antagonistic blocs.**

The stalemate in the Ukraine conflict has prompted the U.S. to bolster and **expand NATO** under its leadership. This development raises the prospect of a **U.S.-equipped “territorial force”** emerging in Ukraine.

Beyond Europe, several **non-NATO allies** are being courted to join the **U.S.-led alliance** aimed at **countering “authoritarianism,”** represented by Russia and China.

Japan and South Korea have already aligned with the **Western alliance,** and Australia has become a significant partner in the U.S.-led alliance in the Southern Hemisphere.

Russia and China are deepening their **“strategic alignment.”** Countries like North Korea are strengthening their ties with this bloc.

China is leveraging its presence in the **Pacific Ocean** to openly challenge **U.S. naval dominance** in the region.

Russia and Turkey have also strengthened their relationship. Russia is once again seeking to expand its **influence in Africa.**

How is the emerging world order impacting international politics?

The increasing number of new alliances will undermine the **concept of non-alignment significantly.** It is becoming challenging for nations to maintain **true non-alignment.** Even groupings like BRICS are finding it difficult to sustain their neutral stance.

The **proliferation of relationships and the complex web of security agreements** have severely restricted the scope for non-alignment.

As rival blocs with **conflicting visions of the international order** grow stronger, the world faces an uncertain and gloomy future.

90. Prachanda & Himalayan Xiopolitics

Source– The post is based on the article **“Prachanda & Himalayan Xiopolitics”** published in **“The Times of India”** on **26th September 2023.**

Syllabus: GS 2 – Bilateral and regional groupings

Relevance- India and Nepal bilateral relationship in context of China

News– Nepal PM Prachanda’s visit to China from September 23 has resulted in numerous commitments and bilateral agreements.

How has the Chinese approach regarding India and Nepal relationship has undergone transformation?

Earlier approach- Until a decade ago, China was amenable to Nepal’s growing **ties with India.** China could not provide Nepal with the same level of support and assistance as India could deliver.

Current approach- China does not want a **closer relationship** between India and Nepal. The new Chinese ambassador in Kathmandu criticised **India-Nepal relations.** He has urged the Nepalese to strengthen their ties with China.

A representative from the Communist Party of China’s politburo attempted to convince the Nepalese government in July 2023 to consider **recruiting Gorkhas** for the People’s Liberation Army. The Nepalese government firmly rejected this proposal.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What is the Chinese foreign policy approach towards Nepal?

China's earlier objective was **primarily security oriented**. It aimed to prevent Tibetans from fleeing to Nepal and exert strict control over the Tibetan community in Nepal.

When Tibetans are apprehended by the Nepalese Armed Police, they are often returned to China and placed in re-education or detention camps. Those reaching the **UNHCR office** in Kathmandu receive **exit permits** from Nepal's immigration department.

Over 40,000 Tibetans transited through Nepal under a **1990 Gentlemen's Agreement**. China's demand for the repatriation of Tibetan refugees raises concerns about **Nepalese sovereignty**.

China has been active in its efforts to unite **various communist parties and factions** in Nepal. It has financially supported favoured politicians, established Confucius Institutes throughout Nepal, and provided Chinese language teachers to Nepalese schools.

What are the issues in project implementation by China in Nepal?

The concerning aspects of projects carried out by Chinese firms in Nepal include **escalating costs**, projects **awarded through nomination** rather than **international and transparent bidding processes**, the supply of **substandard materials**, and the employment of Chinese workers.

For instance, the **Pokhara Airport** project ended up costing 85% more than the original estimates. **Six Chinese aircraft, including two Xian MA60s and four Harbin Y12s**, remain grounded, and Nepal Airlines has been unsuccessful in leasing or selling them.

Nepal signed the **Belt and Road Initiative Framework Agreement** with China six years ago. But many projects have not advanced significantly. Notably, the proposed rail link, initially suggested by King Birendra in 1973, has faced delays.

What is the difference between the Indian and Chinese approach towards Nepal?

Nature of assistance- China provides Nepal with **modest grant assistance**. The nature of this assistance differs from India's support. In the fiscal year 2020-21, China provided a grant of \$14 million, while India committed grant assistance of \$6.32 million during the same period.

Connectivity- The 2016 Sino-Nepalese **transit and transport agreement protocol** granted Kathmandu access to seven Chinese sea and land ports for third-country trade.

However, most of the Nepal's trade still passes through India. Kolkata and Visakhapatnam ports are significantly closer than Chinese ports.

In contrast to the open border between India and Nepal and India hosting Nepalese nationals, China maintains a **closed northern border** with Nepal.

Project implementation- In 2015, during a disruption in supplies to the Kathmandu Valley, China had promised to step in. However, currently, **China's petroleum supply** to Nepal is nonexistent.

India has implemented a **dedicated pipeline system** to ensure uninterrupted and timely delivery, and further pipeline construction is underway.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

91. War in the Caucasus – Azerbaijan should respect the autonomy of the Armenian population

Source: The post is based on the article “War in the Caucasus – Azerbaijan should respect the autonomy of the Armenian population” published in The Hindu on 26th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations

Relevance: About Azerbaijan recapturing Nagorno-Karabakh

News: Azerbaijan has recaptured Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian-populated enclave, with the help of Turkey. This shows the changing power dynamics in the Caucasus region where American, Russian, and Turkish interests collide.

What is conflict about?

The conflict originated during the final stages of the Soviet Union, when the majority Armenian-Christian population conducted a referendum to declare independence from Azerbaijan, which had a Shia majority.

Until recently, Nagorno-Karabakh was under the administration of Armenian separatists with support from the Republic of Armenia.

However, in 2020, Azerbaijan, with backing from Turkey, engaged in a conflict with Armenia, which is a Russian treaty partner.

This conflict resulted in the capture of a significant portion of Nagorno-Karabakh by Azerbaijan. Despite Russia’s role in brokering a ceasefire, it provided limited assistance to Armenia, and the ceasefire short-lived.

Further, **Azerbaijan blockaded the Lachin Corridor**, the only road connecting Nagorno-Karabakh to Armenia, causing severe economic hardship for the enclave’s 120,000 residents.

Despite international criticism, Azerbaijan maintained control over the corridor and restricted the flow of goods and medicines.

Recently, Azerbaijan attacked Stepanakert, the capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, forcing the separatists to cede full control of the enclave.

Must Read: [Why does the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh remain unresolved?](#)

What caused Azerbaijan to recapture Nagorno-Karabakh?

First, Turkey supported Azerbaijan both politically and militarily, seeking a greater role in the Caucasus region.

Second, Russia’s engagement in Ukraine weakened its influence in the Caucasus, leaving Armenia dissatisfied with Moscow’s lack of action during the conflict.

Hence, recognizing this geopolitical advantage, Azerbaijan took control of the enclave.

What can be the way ahead?

Azerbaijan’s recent takeover has caused a significant refugee movement into Armenia, accompanied by allegations of genocidal crimes.

Hence, to peacefully integrate Nagorno-Karabakh, **Azerbaijan must guarantee equal rights and respect autonomy for the Armenian population.**

Failure to do so may result in resistance from the Armenians, posing challenges for Azerbaijan’s control over the region.

92. What are the findings of the Parliament panel on NEP?

Source: The post is based on the article “What are the findings of the Parliament panel on NEP?” published in *The Hindu* on 26th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Issues Related with Education

Relevance: concerns associated with the implementation of NEP 2020 and measures needed to address them.

News: In the special session of Parliament, a report titled “Implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 in Higher Education” was presented by the Parliament Standing Committee on Education.

What are the key findings of the report?

The report evaluated NEP 2020 implementation in higher education, emphasizing that 70% of the country’s 1,043 universities function under the State Act.

Moreover, it pointed out that 94% of students attend State or private institutions, with only 6% in Central higher education institutions. This emphasizes the important role that States play in providing higher education.

What were the issues highlighted by the Committee in the report?

The panel addressed several critical issues, including the rigid separation of academic disciplines, limited access to higher education in socio-economically disadvantaged regions, the scarcity of higher education institutions (HEIs) teaching in local languages, insufficient faculty numbers, etc.

What were the recommendations given by the Committee to address the issues?

First, the committee recommended that by 2030, every district in the country should have at least one multidisciplinary HEI. **The Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education**, which includes vocational education, should be increased from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% by 2035.

Second, it recommended increased funding, higher enrolment targets, gender balance, and more financial support and scholarships for Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs) in public and private HEIs.

Third, the government should promote inclusivity in admission procedures and curriculum, enhance the employability prospects of higher education programs, and develop more degree courses taught in regional languages and bilingually.

Fourth, the government should provide specific infrastructural support for physically challenged students and enforce all no-discrimination and anti-harassment rules.

The Committee cited Jammu and Kashmir as an example of NEP implementation in 2022 which resulted in substantial changes in teaching methods and improved lifelong learning opportunities for students.

Fifth, the Committee proposed improving [Higher Education Financing Agency](#) (HEFA’s) funding effectiveness by diversifying its sources to include partnerships with private sector, philanthropic foundations, and international institutions.

It also suggested reviewing and adjusting loan interest rates to make them more competitive and affordable for HEIs.

Sixth, the committee raised concerns about the feasibility of implementing the [multiple entry and multiple exit](#) (MEME) system in Indian institutions.

They highlighted that while MEME works well in Western institutions, it may disrupt the pupil-teacher ratio in Indian institutions due to uncertainties in student enrollment and exit.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

93. WHO report flags deficits in BP care — facilitating diagnosis is first step

Source: The post is based on the article “WHO report flags deficits in BP care — facilitating diagnosis is first step” published in “Indian express” on 26th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- governance- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health.

News: This article discusses the concerning lack of awareness and treatment for hypertension in India, affecting over 180 million people, and highlights the urgent need for improved healthcare services and education to manage and control this condition effectively.

Why is high blood pressure a concern for India?

Widespread Issue: Over 180 million people are affected.

Awareness Gap: 63% of them aren't even aware they have it.

Severe Health Risks: It can cause heart attacks, strokes, and damage kidneys and eyes.

Major Cause of Death: Identified as a leading cause of mortality in India.

Treatment Challenges:

Regular BP checks for those above 30 aren't frequently done, especially in rural areas.

Only 15% effectively control it after diagnosis.

Discontinuation of Medication: People often stop treatment when symptoms improve, against medical advice, risking their health.

What can be done to improve the situation?

Increase Awareness: Educate people on the importance of diagnosing and treating high blood pressure.

Promote Regular Screening: Ensure people over 30 regularly check their blood pressure, especially in rural areas.

Enhance Healthcare Provision: Improve quality of hypertension care in rural areas, where only a third of providers in places like Bihar could offer quality care.

Community Health Workers: Educate community health workers in villages and districts to diagnose and create awareness.

Policy Implementation: Policymakers should focus on enhancing existing policies, following the recommendations in the WHO report.

94. With climate change, tackling new disease scenarios

Source- The post is based on the article “With climate change, tackling new disease scenarios” published in “The Hindu” on 27th September 2023.

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

News- As per the latest report released this March by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), climate change heightens the global risk of infectious diseases.

Why is there a strong connection between climate and disease?

It becomes increasingly evident each year. The regular occurrence of disease outbreaks caused by mosquitoes no longer follows **anticipated patterns**. **Dengue fever** now exhibits two to three peaks annually.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Fluctuations in temperature, rainfall, and humidity disrupt the **cycles of disease transmission**. These fluctuations also impact the **distribution of the carriers** and the animal hosts.

High temperatures can alter the genetic **makeup of pathogens**. It can affect their **ability to infect and their virulence**.

Habitat destruction compels disease-carrying animals to encroach upon human habitats. It increases the likelihood of **human-animal interactions** and the transfer of pathogens from wildlife to humans.

Climate change is **altering ecosystems** themselves. This dynamic leads to the introduction of **invasive species** and the expansion of the ranges of existing species. Both of these factors trigger disruptions in ecosystems.

Human-induced climate change is giving rise to an **unprecedented vulnerability to health crises**. India has experienced **early summers and erratic monsoons** causing water shortages in the Gangetic plains and Kerala.

These climate-related shifts are contributing to severe health challenges. It includes a dengue epidemic in Dhaka and Kolkata, and the Nipah outbreak in Kerala.

How infectious diseases are becoming a challenge for human health?

An analysis published in Nature Climate Change in 2022 warns that humans now face a broader range of infectious agents than ever before. Over half of all known infectious diseases that threaten humans are exacerbated by changing climate patterns.

Diseases often discover new transmission pathways, including environmental sources, medical tourism, and contaminated food and water from previously reliable sources.

What are steps taken by India in reporting outbreaks over the last two decades?

The **Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP)** was introduced in a few States in 2007, reporting 553 outbreaks in 2008 and increasing to 1,714 in 2017.

IDSP was replaced by the **Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP)**. It is a **web-enabled, near-real-time electronic information system** launched in seven States in 2018. IHIP expanded the scope by including 20 additional disease conditions.

How is one health approach beneficial in protecting humans from infectious diseases?

To combat the spread of these diseases, it is essential to **protect ecosystems, reduce greenhouse gas emissions**, and establish **active pathogen surveillance**.

A holistic approach, known as One Health, **integrates monitoring of human, animal, plant, and environmental health**.

This approach plays a crucial role in **preventing outbreaks**, especially those originating from animals.

What is the way forward?

India should initiate **One Health and infectious disease control programs** by fostering **stronger collaboration** between the central and state governments and their specialised agencies.

Departments responsible for animal husbandry, forest and wildlife, municipal corporations, and public health must converge efforts and establish **robust surveillance systems**.

Building trust and confidence, sharing data, and defining clear lines of responsibility while working with a coordinating agency are essential.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

95. The need for quiet diplomacy to clear the air

Source– The post is based on the article “**The need for quiet diplomacy to clear the air**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **27th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- Bilateral groupings and agreements

Relevance- India and Canada bilateral relationship

News– Recently, PM Justin Trudeau said in the nation’s Parliament that his government was probing “credible allegations” that Indian agents were responsible for the killing in June this year.

How differing perspectives of India and Canada regarding Khalistan issues are responsible for the current state of relationship?

Canada perspective- Canada believes that India displays little **regard to its laws and governance system**, which prevents it from taking actions that India wants.

During his speech at the UN headquarters on September 21, Mr. Trudeau emphasised Canada’s commitment to the **rule of law** and the importance of the global community upholding a rules-based world order.

Canada’s approach has asserted that regardless of any grievances a country may have against Canada, causing harm to any of its nationals is unacceptable.

India’s perspective- national laws cannot serve as a shield for **advocating secession and organising protests** that glorify murder. If such laws are absent, it becomes necessary for a country to enact them.

Currently, Canada is condemning Khalistani propagandists involved in hate speech but is not taking **legal action** against them. There is also a deeper issue at play here.

What is the history of the Khalistan movement in Canada?

India’s long-standing frustrations with Canada regarding the Khalistan issue can be traced back over four decades.

The establishment of the **Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS)** in 1984 marked a significant development. Many CSIS officers had knowledge of Khalistani activities.

These activities began in 1969 when the **Khalistan Commando Movement**, led by Jagjit Singh Chauhan, unilaterally declared independence for Punjab and established “consulates” in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Toronto. The tragic **Air India Kanishka bombing** in June 1985 did not lead Canada to recognize terrorism as a universal threat.

What is the best approach to resolve such kinds of issues?

Mr. Trudeau should have advocated for “**constructive engagement**” in the Nijjar case during his remarks to the Canadian Parliament rather than using harsh language. Mr. Trudeau could have also refrained from expelling a senior Indian diplomat.

Mutual accusations are rarely helpful, especially in resolving issues within important bilateral relationships. A **quiet and mature diplomatic approach** is needed to address the Nijjar case and longstanding, ongoing issues.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

96. Diplomatic standoff – Indo-Canada row may have unintended costs

Source: The post is based on the article “**Diplomatic standoff – Indo-Canada row may have unintended costs**” published in **Business Standard** on **27th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 2 – International Relations – Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India’s interests

Relevance: Issues with India and Canada relations

News: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s accusations that India played a role in the assassination of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar have damaged relations between the two countries.

What led Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to make such an allegation against India?

The US reportedly provided intelligence to Canada supporting Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s claims that India was involved in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Intercepted communications of Indian diplomats also allegedly point to India’s role in the plot.

The issue was reportedly raised with Prime Minister Narendra Modi by members of the **Five Eyes intelligence-sharing network** at the G20 leaders’ summit in New Delhi.

Must Read: [India Canada Relations – Explained](#), [Canada needs to see India – not just the diaspora](#) and [Just What Is Justin Up To? – On India Canada Relations](#)

What significance do these reports hold?

These reports are significant because they suggest that the US and other Western countries are concerned about India’s alleged role in the assassination.

The fact that two prominent Western media were chosen for select intelligence briefings could be seen as an implicit critique of the Indian government by the White House.

What has been the response of the US on the issue?

Although the US has not publicly taken sides in the dispute between India and Canada, **recent statements by US officials suggest that the US is concerned about India’s alleged role in the assassination.**

For example, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said that the US is in touch with both the Canadian and Indian governments on the issue, and he disagrees with reports suggesting that the US and Canada are not on the same page.

What can be the way ahead?

Despite the US emerging as India’s top trading partner, it’s crucial to recognize that Canada holds the same status for the US, strengthened by historic ties and trade agreements such as US-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

The US is also looking for other allies in the region, such as Japan and South Korea. **This suggests that the US may be more likely to side with Canada in the event of a conflict between India and Canada.**

Hence, India may need to find a way to balance its relationship with the US with its own domestic and foreign policy goals.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

97. No, data isn't the new oil – Data Protection Bill needs to realise that

Source: The post is based on the article “No, data isn't the new oil – Data Protection Bill needs to realise that” published in “Indian express” on 27th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Polity – Function of Parliament

News: This article discusses concerns about how data is used and perceived. It talks about India's new law, DPDP Act 2023, meant to protect people's digital data, like laws in other countries. It highlights the need for responsible and ethical use, handling, and perception of data to ensure individuals' rights and privacy. The article suggests the law is a positive step but needs more refinement to truly protect people.

What is the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act 2023 about?

Purpose: The DPDP Act 2023 in India is about protecting individuals' digital data and privacy.

Comparison: This law is like the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) from 2016 and the UK's Data Protection Act from 2018. China also passed a similar law in 2020.

Individual Rights: It gives people more control over their data and includes the right to be forgotten.

Responsibility and Transparency: It mandates greater accountability and transparency from private corporations and government institutions regarding data practices.

Limitations: While a positive step, the act still reinforces some existing perceptions about data and doesn't fully address the ethics of data generation and harvesting.

Aspirational Goals: The act is viewed as an initial draft for establishing data equity and justice, and it needs ongoing refinement and discussion.

What are the concerns with data use?

Ethics of Data Generation: The article mentions a concern about the ethics surrounding how data is created and harvested, emphasizing that data doesn't just describe us but defines and predicts us.

Commodification of Data: The act doesn't challenge the perception of data as a commodity and its economic value, overshadowing its personal and impactful nature.

Implications on Individuals: The data generated is closely linked to people's lives and experiences, impacting their social, personal, political, and economic well-being.

Provenance and Consent: There's concern about how far data can travel and whether it can be distanced from its subject, affecting the integrity of consent.

What needs to be done?

Refine the DPDP Act 2023: The act is a good start but needs more refinement to fully protect people's data in India.

Enhance Individual Control: More steps should be taken to ensure that individuals have control over their data and understand the implications of data circulation.

Focus on Operational Realities: The principles of the act should be operationalized carefully to ensure the protection of vulnerable individuals from the misuse of data.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

98. The G-20's screen over 'mazdoors', their rights

Source: The post is based on the article "The G-20's screen over 'mazdoors', their rights" published in "The Hindu" on 28th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- International relation- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

News: The author expresses concern that during the G-20 Summit, India, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, prioritized political and diplomatic victories. However, the author feels that India missed the opportunity to address significant worker rights issues and the exploitation and forced labor conditions faced by millions of Indian workers, both domestically and in the Arab Gulf. This, in the author's view, resulted in a neglect of discussions on essential workers' welfare and rights.

Was the G-20 Summit a missed opportunity for worker rights?

Neglected Worker Rights Issues: Major worker rights and welfare concerns, especially pertaining to Indian workers in India and the Arab Gulf, were largely unaddressed.

Politicization of L20: The selection of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) over the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) for leading the L20 meetings resulted in the sidelining of critical worker concerns and a boycott by ITUC.

Forced Labour and Exploitation: There was no discussion on the prevalent forced labour and modern-day slavery affecting millions in India, with the Walk Free Foundation reporting 11 million trapped in such conditions in India alone.

Missed Discussions on Core Worker Issues: The Summit did not focus on essential worker rights and welfare topics like job creation, living wages, and decent working conditions, missing a chance to make impactful changes in workers' lives.

How serious is the problem of forced labor and exploitation?

Problem in India:

Modern-Day Slavery: India has 11 million people, as reported by the Walk Free Foundation, in conditions resembling modern-day slavery.

Vulnerable Sectors: Workers in industries like textiles, brick kilns, shrimp farming, copper manufacturing, stone cutting, and plantations are particularly susceptible to forced labor and exploitation.

Informal Sector: Out of 530 million workers in India, 430 million are in the informal sector and are prone to different forms of exploitation.

Global Problem:

Exploitation in the Arab Gulf: Approximately nine million Indian workers are facing exploitative working conditions in the Arab Gulf under the kafala system.

Impacted Nations: Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates have been particularly highlighted, hosting millions of Indian workers under severe conditions.

Concern for G-20 Countries: The article emphasizes that such exploitative practices and the neglect of worker rights and welfare are global issues, affecting not just India but all G-20 nations, and hampering the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

What are forced laborers?

Definition: Forced labor refers to work taken from a person under threat, without their voluntary consent.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Indicators: Situations like withholding wages, confiscating identity documents, or using threats and intimidation indicate forced labor.

Examples in India: Workers in Andhra Pradesh's shrimp industry faced situations like unpaid overtime under threat, loan-based work obligations, and withholding of identity documents such as Aadhaar cards.

Impact: Such conditions result in workers being trapped, often facing physical, mental, or sexual threats, and working under inhumane conditions.

99. Nearly 69 lakh cancer deaths among Indian women were preventable: What a study says on gender and the disease

Source- The post is based on the article "Nearly 69 lakh cancer deaths among Indian women were preventable: What a study says on gender and the disease" published in "The Hindu" on 27th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Social Issues – Issues related to development and management of health

Relevance- Cancer among women

News- A new Lancet report highlights the issues of cancer among women.

What are some important revelations about the recent Lancet Commission report on gender disparities in cancer care, titled 'Women, Power and Cancer,'?

It revealed that approximately **63% of premature cancer-related deaths** in Indian women could have been prevented through **risk reduction, screening, and early diagnosis**. Furthermore, **37% of these deaths** could have been avoided with timely and optimal treatment.

The report estimated that out of the **6.9 million cancer deaths** among women in India, **4.03 million were preventable, and 2.87 million were treatable**.

The report emphasised that despite men being at a higher risk of some cancers, cancer **incidence and mortality** among women in India remain alarmingly high.

Globally, women account for **48% of new cancer cases and 44% of cancer-related deaths**. This disparity persists even for cancers in women, such as breast and cervical cancers, that are highly preventable and treatable.

What are the reasons behind the poorer outcomes for women?

Lancet report- It highlighted that women encounter difficulties in accessing timely and appropriate healthcare due to their **limited knowledge, decision-making authority, financial resources**, and the availability of services at the primary level near their homes.

women are more prone than men to lack the **necessary knowledge and authority** to make well-informed healthcare decisions.

Women are **underrepresented in leadership roles** face **gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment** and constitute the largest group of **unpaid healthcare providers**.

According to the report's estimates, the **unpaid caregiving services** provided by women in the context of cancer care account for **approximately 3.66% of India's national health expenditure**.

Societal issues- Breast and cervical cancer are the most common cancers in women, but many women hesitate to seek help from male doctors or even female doctors for **genital examinations**.

Logistical issues- The necessity of travelling to district hospitals, state capitals, or larger tertiary hospitals in other states for **cancer screening, diagnostic tests, and treatment** contributes to **treatment delays**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What is the way forward?

Screening- Breast and cervical cancer are **highly preventable and manageable**. Women often seek medical attention at advanced stages of these diseases, even though both can be identified early through screening.

Monthly self-examinations of the breasts, **annual clinical examinations** by a physician, and **yearly mammograms** for women over 40 to monitor for breast cancer are useful.

There is a need for **immediate consultation** with a doctor if any lumps are detected during **self-examination**.

Women between the ages of 25 and 65 to undergo **regular pap smear tests** to detect **precancerous changes** in the cervix. **HPV test**, which identifies the human papillomavirus responsible for a majority of cervical cancers, can be conducted every five or ten years.

Awareness- It is necessary among the population, especially women, so they actively participate in **cancer screening** and seek **medical attention**.

HPV vaccination program- It will reduce the occurrence of common cancers in women. Vaccines against the **human papillomavirus (HPV)** are already available in the country, and an **indigenous vaccine** has also been developed.

Role of PHCs- Government's screening programs at **primary health centres and sub-centres** can aid in early diagnosis.

For **cervical cancer**, treatment can be provided by nursing staff at **primary health centres**, like the practice in Bangladesh.

100. ASEAN's China dilemma

Source- The post is based on the article "ASEAN's China dilemma" published in "The Indian Express" on **28th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2- International Relations – Regional and global groupings

News- During the recent ASEAN meeting, Indonesia successfully introduced new perspectives into often contentious ASEAN positions.

What was the approach of Indonesia on the Indo-Pacific during the ASEAN meeting?

Indonesia's approach at the meeting involved an initiative to embrace the Indo-Pacific region. They organised the inaugural **ASEAN Indo-Pacific Forum (AIPF)**.

In his AIPF address, President Widodo called for expanding the **sphere of prosperity** within ASEAN, recognizing that **global economic growth** was now primarily centred in the Indo-Pacific region.

Indonesian representatives made it clear that not only did they **completely embrace** the Indo-Pacific concept without excessive concern for China's reaction. But they also adopted a functional approach to the Indo-Pacific.

This approach resembles the **Quad's cooperative stance on the Indo-Pacific**, viewing it more as a **collaborative endeavour** than solely a **strategic concept**.

What is the approach of Indonesia towards Myanmar?

Indonesia incorporated the **Five-Point Consensus (5PC)**. Indonesia didn't appoint an individual as a **special envoy** but established an office for the special envoy, which allowed it to quietly engage with Myanmar.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Indonesia's perspective on the 5PC has shifted from seeing it as a **binding decision** to viewing it as a **facilitating initiative**.

ASEAN collectively decided that Myanmar would not host the 2026 summit. In the past, ASEAN has used the privilege of hosting a summit as a means to **address Myanmar's actions**.

How is China a challenge for ASEAN?

China represents the primary challenge for ASEAN, particularly concerning the **rivalry between major powers** in the region. China's call for **peace and prosperity** implies a desire to prevent the US and China from displaying their rivalry within the region.

Progress on the **code of conduct for the South China Sea (SCS)** has been slow. There are differences over the interpretation of the **United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**, especially in relation to **China's new standard map**.

What are steps taken by ASEAN to counter these challenges?

ASEAN has embraced the **ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP)**, aimed at **enhancing coordination** among coast guards and conducting joint exercises among defence forces.

Under Indonesia's chairmanship, there is a movement toward **coordinated rules** on how ASEAN should act when **consensus** is lacking, potentially leading to decision-making by a coalition of willing members.

101. Devotion Of Teacher X – Individual and national futures depend on math skills

Source: The post is based on the article “**Devotion of Teacher X – Individual and national futures depend on math skills, which depend on good teacher training**” published in **The Times of India** on **28th September 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Social Issues – Issues Related with Education**

Relevance: concerns with math proficiency in India

News: India should be more worried about poor math skills than the United States because the ASER survey shows that the situation in India is grim.

What are the key highlights of the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER)?

According to ASER survey, only about 20% of Class III students in both government and private schools can do subtraction, and this percentage has remained consistently low for the past decade.

This is because India has not been participating in the Pisa competition, which makes it difficult to compare math skills globally.

In contrast, the US has participated in Pisa and its students score lower than those in 36 other education systems, with China having the highest score.

What can be done to enhance math skills?

India needs to learn from other countries to improve its math skills. **For instance**, Vietnam's high Pisa scores are attributed to a strong focus on teacher training, which India should also prioritize.

India, like the United States, have risk of falling behind in terms of individual and national prosperity due to a weak math education system.

This is because the ability to adapt to technological advancements and the AI-driven job market relies heavily on one's math skills.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Therefore, **the quality of math education in both the US and India depends on the competence of teachers**, so it is important to address this issue and improve math education at all levels.

102. **Parliament to workplace**

Source– The post is based on the article “**Parliament to workplace**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **29th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS2 – Social empowerment.

Relevance – Issues related to women empowerment

News– The recent landmark legislation mandating the reservation of a third of parliamentary and assembly seats for women is a game changer for attaining gender equality in political voices in the country.

Why is political and economic empowerment of women still a challenge for India?

Female representation in politics- India ranks among the countries with the **lowest levels of female representation** in politics worldwide. Women comprised a **mere 10.5 percent of all Members of Parliament**.

This figure is lower than that of regions like **sub-Saharan Africa and neighbouring countries** such as Pakistan.

Labour market-participation – The **labour force participation rate** of women is low. It is **approximately 25 percent**. This is in stark contrast to the **global average**, which is **nearly 50 percent**.

What are factors behind low labour participation of women?

1. The **unequal distribution of household responsibilities** places a disproportionately heavy workload on women.
2. **social norms** that prioritise marriage over women’s careers.
3. **Concerns about safety** and a perceived high risk of **sexual violence**.
4. Lack of **reliable and secure public transportation infrastructure** that limits women’s physical mobility.
5. **Structural shifts** away from agriculture and changes in agricultural technology have led to women leaving the farming sector. There are few viable opportunities available in **non-farm sectors**. So, these women often exit the labour market.

How enhanced representation of women in politics will impact women’s participation in the labour force in India?

Political reservation for women directly contributes to making **political and administrative careers** more viable for women in the long term. More women will enter the political arena.

Evidence from the reservation of positions for women sarpanches in Gram Panchayats suggests that **female political decision-makers** tend to prioritise and address issues that align with the preferences and concerns of the electorate. These issues are **sanitation, education, and healthcare**.

The improvement in **essential public services** has the potential to reduce the time spent by women on domestic work, such as water collection, firewood gathering, and childcare. This can enable them to pursue **productive work opportunities**.

Women leadership will focus on concerns related to **public safety, law and order**. It will advocate for policies that have a **gender perspective** into **urban infrastructure and transportation planning**. It has the potential to enhance **women’s physical mobility** and expand their access to **employment opportunities**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

There is limited empirical evidence available to suggest that increased presence of women in politics also impacts the **demand for female labour** in our economy.

It is possible that women in political leadership positions may be more inclined to advocate for legislation that enforces **gender equality in wages and working conditions** within the formal sector. They may prioritise policies aimed at **broadening employment opportunities** for women in the manufacturing sector.

103. **Warring Over Water – River fights between states need a single dispute resolution body**

Source: The post is based on the article “**Warring Over Water – River fights between states need a single dispute resolution body with real enforcement powers**” published in **The Times of India** on **29th September 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 2 – Indian Polity – Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure**
Relevance: About Cauvery Water Dispute.

News: The Supreme Court has declined to intervene in a dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over the sharing of Cauvery water. The Cauvery dispute has been ongoing for decades, and has been officially resolved, but tensions still continue to remain.

What are the reasons behind existing inter-state water dispute?

First, the government creates tribunals for each dispute. However, **these tribunals are ineffective because they are** ad hoc, their conflict resolution procedures frequently lead to new issues, and their judgements have little legal basis.

Further, when states challenge their decisions, the conflict is only exacerbated.

Second, Climate change and other factors, such as erratic rainfall, depleting groundwater, and water-intensive cropping patterns, are intensifying river disputes.

Third, the existing Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956, relies on tribunals to resolve disputes.

In 2017, the Lok Sabha passed the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill to create a single permanent tribunal and a mediation committee, but the implementation has not yet been done.

Must Read: [Cauvery Water Dispute and Interstate River Disputes](#)

What can be the way ahead?

India is predicted to become “water scarce” by 2050. River water disputes are projected to grow in the future, since the Cauvery, like other major rivers, has seen declining water volumes.

Hence, **it is important for the Indian government to** urgently pass a law that gives tribunals the power to enforce their decisions. This will help to resolve inter-state river water disputes more quickly and effectively.

104. **Unhealthy dynamics – Gender bias in cancer care reflects a larger health care crisis**

Source: The post is based on articles

“Unhealthy dynamics – Gender bias in cancer care reflects a larger health care crisis”

published in **Business Standard** on 29th September 2023 and

“Lancet report on cancer in women is a wake-up call” published in **The Indian Express** on 29th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 2 – Social Issues – Issues Relating to Development and Management of Services related to Health

Relevance: concerns with increasing cancer in women.

News: The Lancet recently published research titled “Women, Power and Cancer” that looked at women and cancer in 185 nations. It discovered a connection between social power dynamics and women’s access to cancer treatment.

What are the key findings of the report?

Read Here: [Nearly 69 lakh cancer deaths among Indian women were preventable: What a study says on gender and the disease](#)

What are the reasons behind higher cancer incidence and mortality rate among women?

Lack of knowledge: Many women are not aware of the different types of cancer and their causes.

Lack of Financial and Decision-making power: Women often lack the financial power and decision-making power to go for regular checkups and screening for early diagnosis.

Reluctance to be examined by male doctors: Many women are reluctant to be examined by male doctors.

Lack of women doctors: There is a severe scarcity of competent female doctors, particularly in rural regions. Only approximately 17% of allopathic physicians are women, and only 6% of those are in rural regions.

Travel difficulties: Due to their family responsibilities, rural women find it difficult to travel to large cities or towns for screening and treatment.

Lack of Women Empowerment: Maternal and reproductive health are the only focuses of women’s health. Additionally, they are less likely and empowered to be checked for cancer early due to a lack of decision-making power, education, work, and access to healthcare facilities.

Another study also found that only 37% of women had access to healthcare compared to 67% of men. **This highlights the lack of healthcare facilities that women have in their own healthcare.**

What can be done to improve women’s access to healthcare?

First, India’s public healthcare system needs to improve women’s access to cancer care.

Government health schemes for women in India are mostly focused on expectant and new mothers, and other important aspects of women’s healthcare, such as cancer screening and regular checkups, are often overlooked.

However, the [Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme](#) offers a potential solution, **as women account for 49% of all beneficiaries.** Hence, empowering women with greater agency in healthcare can lead to a significant benefit.

Second, there is also a need to collect and update sociodemographic data in cancer, do more research on the risks that women face, and be more sensitive and responsive to the challenges that women face due to their gender, social status, and other factors.

105. **Reform can address India's kidney transplant deficit**

Source: The post is based on the article “**Reform can address India's kidney transplant deficit**” published in “The Hindu” on 29th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2- Governance- Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health

News: This article talks about the severe kidney shortage in India, where laws make kidney swaps and chains hard, leading to few transplants. It explains that swaps and chains could increase transplants, but strict rules and lack of coordinating authority limit them. The article suggests India should adapt successful international practices to help its citizens and reduce illegal kidney sales.

What are the ways a patient can obtain a kidney?

Deceased Donor: A patient can receive a kidney from someone who has died, but limitations like the scarcity of donations and suitable infrastructure make this challenging.

Relative/Friend Donation: A patient can receive a kidney from a compatible relative or friend, but finding a compatible donor is often problematic.

Kidney Swaps: Swaps occur when two incompatible donor-recipient pairs exchange kidneys. For example, Sunita and Zoya, incompatible with their respective spouses, can swap donors if compatibility is found, allowing transplants to occur.

Kidney Chains: A kidney chain begins with an altruistic donor. This donor gives a kidney to a compatible recipient, whose incompatible donor gives to another compatible recipient, creating a chain of donations. The constraints in the current system, however, prevent the formation of such chains in most parts of India.

What are the reasons for kidneys shortage in India?

High Demand: In 2022, over two lakh people in India needed a kidney, but only about 7,500 transplants were done, showing a stark shortage.

Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) affects about 17% of India's population, mainly due to widespread diabetes, malnourishment, and poor living conditions, raising the demand for kidneys.

Stringent Regulations: Strict laws in India limit kidney swaps to near-relatives in most states and prohibit kidney chains, except in Kerala, restricting the availability of kidneys for transplants.

Lack of Donations: There is a scarcity of kidney donations from deceased donors due to specific conditions on the nature of death and the lack of infrastructure needed to collect and store kidneys.

Limited Compatibility: Even when willing donors are available, like friends or relatives, often they are not a match in terms of blood type and tissue type, limiting the successful transplants.

Absence of Coordinating Authority: The lack of a national authority for managing and coordinating swaps restricts the potential to find compatible matches and facilitate more transplants.

What should be done?

Reform Regulations: Laws limiting kidney swaps and prohibiting kidney chains need to be relaxed to enhance kidney availability.

Promote Swaps and Chains: Encourage the implementation of kidney swaps and chains to maximize the utilization of available donors.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Altruistic Donations: Permit altruistic kidney donations to initiate kidney chains, providing more patients access to compatible kidneys.

Enhance Infrastructure: Improve the infrastructure to collect and store kidneys, making donations from deceased individuals more feasible.

National Coordinating Authority: Establish a central authority for coordinating swaps and chains, allowing a more extensive and diverse pool for compatible matches.

Adopt International Practices: Learn and incorporate successful regulations and practices from countries like Spain and the U.S. to facilitate more kidney exchanges and transplants.

106. Global dispute settlement, India and appellate review

Source: This post is created based on the article 'Global dispute settlement, India and appellate review' published in **The Hindu** on 30th Sep, 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2, International Relations

News: The G-20 Declaration emphasized the need for reforms in the World Trade Organization (WTO). It was aimed to enhance its functions and ensure a comprehensive dispute settlement system available to all members by 2024.

Significance of WTO's dispute settlement system

Firstly, the WTO's Dispute Settlement System (DSS) operates as a two-tier panel and appellate body. It has been non-functional since 2019 because U.S. blocked the appointment of appellate body members.

Second, WTO's DSS has been hailed as the crown jewel of the WTO.

Third, it has been more successful compared to the International Court of Justice (ICJ). ICJ has solved just around 190 cases since 1947 compared to 493 rulings by DSS since its establishment in 1995.

Fourth, it has the scope of appellate review and mechanisms to enforce rulings.

Fifth, it ensures uniformity in the application of law globally, through the appellate review process at the international level.

What is the significance of Investor-State-Dispute Settlement (ISDS)?

With the U.S. leaning towards **dejudicialisation of international trade law**, **Investor-State-Dispute Settlement (ISDS)** has become a principle means to solve the international disputes.

ISDS mechanism is a key component of Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs), which has seen 1,257 cases initiated as of January 1, 2023.

It offers a more comprehensive solution than existing mechanisms like annulment proceedings.

What are the challenges faced by ISDS?

The ISDS mechanism, primarily used to settle international investment law disputes, **lacks an appellate review**. The ISDS mechanism, without an appellate review, has resulted in **inconsistent and different decisions** of the same provision, creating instability for states and investors.

What should be done?

Introducing an appellate review in ISDS can rectify legal errors, harmonize varying interpretations, and bring coherence to the system.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Article 29 of the Indian model BIT also indicates that India seems to favor an appellate review in ISDS.

The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law or UNCITRAL's working group III, is focusing on ISDS reforms. It will be important to decide the form and mechanism that this appellate review system should follow.

107. **Push for more women, this time in the police**

Source: This post is created based on the article 'Push for more women, this time in the police' published in **The Hindu** on 30th Sep, 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2 – Social Issues –

News: Recently, One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment Bill, 2023 has been passed. The bill reserves one-third of total seats in various legislative bodies for women for 15 years. The article proposes a similar reservation in the police force.

Read for more details of this section – [Women Reservation Bill-Explained Pointwise](#)

What is the present status of women in the police force?

Most states have policies to fill 30% or 33% of vacant police posts with women through horizontal reservation.

However, the actual representation of women in the State police force is around 10.47% as of January 1, 2021. As per Minister of State of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) statement in the Rajya Sabha, the representation of women in the police force (as of January 1, 2022) remained at 11.7% of the total State police force.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has urged states to increase this representation to 33%.

Facts that support the reservation for women in the police force

First, with changes in the criminal laws, certain procedures, like recording statements or conducting searches, mandate the involvement of a woman police officer.

Second, National Crime Records Bureau data indicates that about 10% of total crimes were against women in 2021.

Third, The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act has further increased the demand for women in the police force.

Fourth, Women have proven their capability in various police duties.

What steps have been taken by the government to promote gender equality in police force?

The MHA has **been incentivizing states** to implement police reforms, including merging women police with regular police and establishing recruitment boards.

women police have been merged with the regular police.

The MHA also provided a **special grant to encourage States** to establish a 'women desk' in every police station.

Most States have a policy to fill up 30% or 33% of the vacant posts (of direct recruitment) with women in their police forces through horizontal reservation.

What are the challenges in ensuring gender equality in police force?

Police' being a 'State' subject in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, the implementation of 'police reforms' remains primarily a concern of the States.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The actual percentage of women in the police force is not as per the state policy. **For example**, Bihar provides for 35% reservation for women and 3% for backward caste women, but the actual number of women in the force is about 17.4%. Whereas, in Himachal, there no such reservation policy, but 20% vacancies of constables are filled up by women.

Many states have not been enthusiastic in implementation of the reforms pushed by central government. The establishment of the Police Recruitment Board is one such reform.

To truly encourage more women to join the police force, states need to provide a conducive environment and essential infrastructure.

108. **Taming Big Tech**

Source: This post is created based on the article '**Taming Big Tech**' published in **Business Standard** on 30th Sep, 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 2 – Liberalization of Industrial Policies

News: Big Tech companies, often referred to as MAMAA (Meta, Amazon, Microsoft, Alphabet, and Apple), are facing increased scrutiny and legal challenges.

Recently, significant cases began in the US against Alphabet (Google) and Amazon.

Europe has already imposed massive fines on these tech giants and introduced new laws to increase competition and protect consumer rights.

In India, Google has been fined in two cases, with another still under review.

What are the concerns against these tech giants?

In the past, the internet was seen as a free space for businesses to grow. But now, concerns have risen about how **these companies use personal data, show paid content, and avoid taxes.**

The financial power of these companies is also huge. Their profitability rates double the S&P 500 average. Therefore, they can easily remove competition.

They are criticized for **practices like pre-installing software, limiting interoperability,** and acquiring potential competitors.

These companies have become so powerful that they challenge governments.

Some of their actions, like **buying competitors or controlling too much of a market,** are being questioned. For example, Australia made a law to help news publishers get fair treatment.

What is the way forward for big techs?

These companies are defending themselves and making some changes. For example, Meta has stopped certain ads for teenagers, and Google is sharing more data.

However, it is not sufficient. They might have to make even bigger changes in the future.

General

Studies

Paper – 3

General Studies - 3

1. The impact of food on climate

Source: The post is based on the article “**The impact of food on climate**” published in **Business standard** on 4th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Agriculture- food crisis & Environment- climate change

News: The article talks about how agriculture affects climate change, comparing big industrial farming with small subsistence farming. It focuses on the problems caused by methane emissions from livestock and rice farming. It also notes that global policies avoid these problems because of strong meat and farming industries.

How does agriculture and the food we eat contribute to changes in the world's climate?

Agriculture and food consumption significantly affect the world's climate:

Emissions from Food Production: In 2018, the food we produced was responsible for 11% of global greenhouse gas emissions.

Livestock's Role: About 40% of these emissions come from livestock digestion. For example, the digestion process in cattle releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Waste and Manure: Livestock manure, either applied to fields or discarded, adds 26% to the emissions, mainly in the form of nitrous oxide.

Use of Fertilisers: Synthetic fertilisers contribute an additional 13% to the emissions.

Rice Cultivation: Growing rice, especially in waterlogged fields, results in methane emissions, accounting for 10% of agricultural emissions.

India's Livestock: With the largest livestock population, India's methane emissions from livestock digestion constitute 8% of its total greenhouse gases.

Why are farmers the first victims of climate change?

Farmers are the first victims of climate change due to:

Cost and Infrastructure: The increasing cost of agricultural inputs, combined with the lack of public infrastructure like irrigation, adversely affects their livelihood.

Food Import: With rising food costs, governments often import from intensive farming systems, pushing local farmers out of competition.

Extreme Weather Events: Farmers are directly impacted by events like floods, droughts, pest attacks, and unseasonal cold and heat, leading to lost crops and income.

Double Impact: While dealing with the challenges of changing climate, they also grapple with the pressure from industrial-agricultural models.

How does industrial farming differ from subsistence farming?

Scale and Setup: Industrial farming is large-scale with factory farms, while subsistence farming involves smaller landholdings.

Purpose: Industrial farms produce for a broader market, whereas subsistence farming mainly serves personal or local consumption.

Chemical Usage: Industrial operations use vast quantities of chemical inputs, whereas subsistence farming often uses fewer or organic inputs.

Ownership: Industrial-agriculture can be corporate-driven, contrasting with the individual ownership in subsistence farming.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Livestock Handling: In industrial farming, livestock is often kept in large, concentrated numbers for mass production. In contrast, subsistence farmers typically have fewer livestock, crucial for their personal sustenance and local economy.

How is the international community reacting to emissions from the agriculture sector?

UN's Stance: The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) hasn't strongly addressed food production's impact on climate.

Netherlands' Initiative: When the Netherlands tried to reduce nitrous oxide emissions, requiring major changes in farming, it faced massive protests, even leading to governmental changes.

New Zealand's Proposal: The country considered a "burp" tax based on cattle numbers and feed, but faced resistance. As a result, the proposal was deferred.

Agriculture vs. Meat: Globally, confronting the meat industry's impact on emissions remains challenging, with its influence comparable to the fossil fuel sector.

2. Unabated global warming will wipe penguins off this planet

Source: The post is based on the article "**Unabated global warming will wipe penguins off this planet- All species deserve to survive regardless of their utility to humans**" published in "Live Mint" on 4th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment- climate change

News: The article talks about how global warming is making sea ice melt sooner in Antarctica. This is causing baby emperor penguins to die. It says we should save animals even if it doesn't help humans directly.

Why are penguins in danger?

Global Warming: The main threat is global warming causing early sea ice melting in Antarctica.

Breeding Challenges: Emperor penguins need sea ice to breed and raise their chicks. Without stable ice, chicks face risks:

Drowning: Chicks aren't ready to swim until December. Melting ice leads to their premature exposure to water.

Freezing: In 2010, after an unusual rainstorm, wet chicks froze before their feathers matured. Hundreds died as observed by geographer Peter Fretwell of the British Antarctic Survey.

Breeding Failures: Research from **Nature Communications, Earth and Environment** revealed alarming data:

In the Bellingshausen Sea, 19 out of 62 colonies failed to breed last year.

Penguins need consistent successful breeding. Young penguins have a high mortality rate, so continuous failures threaten colony survival.

Why should we care about penguins?

Natural Ecosystem: Penguins help us understand the balance and intricacies of the natural world.

Indicator Species: Their struggles signal broader environmental issues, like global warming.

Food Chain Impact: Losing sea ice affects krill, the base of the food chain in the Southern Ocean. This could lead to a collapse in fish populations that humans rely on for food.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Intrinsic Value: As highlighted by Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring," creatures enhance life on Earth in intangible ways. Their mere presence adds to the world's richness.

Legacy for Future: Protecting penguins ensures a diverse and vibrant ecosystem for future generations.

3. Current green transition solutions disregard social and political realities, both international and domestic

Source: The post is based on the article "**Current green transition solutions disregard social and political realities, both international and domestic**" published in **The Indian Express** on 4th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Environment – Clean Energy

Relevance: challenges in achieving green energy transition

News H.L. Mencken's quote, "For every complex problem, there is an answer that is simple, clear, and wrong," applies to the green energy transition. However, the solution provided for green energy transition falls short in addressing the issue effectively.

What solutions have been proposed for the green energy transition?

The solutions provided for the green transition include electrifying industrial and transportation systems with green energy, cutting generation and storage costs through technology, upgrading infrastructure, and implementing innovative financing.

However, **these solutions may not be sufficient to** prevent global temperatures from exceeding 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels because they overlook international dynamics and domestic political and social factors.

What are the international, social and political factors associated with shifting towards green energy transition?

First, global leaders recognize climate change as a global issue requiring global solutions, but **governments are promoting resource nationalism by** encouraging green energy investments within their borders.

For instance, the US Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 offers \$365 billion in incentives, while Europe and **India (PLI schemes)** also have similar schemes.

Second, the green energy transition will **have distributional consequences in the form of winners and losers**. Those who lose their job may resist the transition, so **governments need to make choices on how to distribute the costs and benefits**.

Moreover, the lack of governance institutions in green energy transitions is also a major problem.

What factors contribute to the absence of governance institutions in the green energy transition?

First, the term "green energy transition" lacks clarity as it implies a complete shift from fossil fuels to clean energy, which is not the case. **The transition will be gradual, with fossil fuels still prominent in the energy mix**.

For instance, the shift from coal to oil in the 20th century provide that coal was not completely replaced.

Moreover, **according to a recent IMF data**, governments provided \$1.5 trillion in fossil fuel subsidies in 2022.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Additionally, when factoring the hidden costs associated with air pollution and global warming, **this support amounted to approximately 7.1% of global GDP**. This justifies the dependence on fossil fuel for energy security and economic growth.

Second, a divide has emerged between China and the West due to their differing strengths. **While China dominates the supply of essential minerals, the West dominates in advanced technology.**

Both sides aim to avoid dependence while recognizing their interdependence. As a result, they are opting for a “de-risking” approach rather than complete “decoupling.”

Must Read: [Financing the Green transition: initiative and challenges – Explained](#)

What is the way ahead?

There’s an urgent need to expedite the energy transition by **creating institutions that promote** global cooperation, skill development, technology transfer, and conflict resolution.

4. Onward, sunward – Aditya-L1 gives India’s space programme one more boundary to push

Source: The post is based on the article **“Onward, sunward – Aditya-L1 gives India’s space programme one more boundary to push”** published in **The Hindu** on **4th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Science & Technology – Space Missions

Relevance: About Aditya L1 Mission

News: Recently, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the Aditya-L1 Mission. It is India’s first space mission dedicated to studying the sun.

About Aditya L-1 Mission

Aditya-L1 will study the sun from the L1 Lagrange point, which is 1.5 million kilometers from Earth.

It aims to study the sun using seven instruments, which include both remote-sensing and in situ tools.

It will study the nature of the solar wind, which affects space weather and spacecraft components **and the coronal heating problem**, which involves explaining why the sun’s upper atmosphere is much hotter than its surface.

Its findings could have a major impact on the understanding of space weather and the evolution of stars.

Read More: [Not Just Moon: Isro’s Aditya-L1, India’s first Solar mission, reaches spaceport](#)

What is the way ahead?

Aditya-L1 may seem simple mission, but it presents significant challenges that will test both the Indian space program and the national solar physics community.

Moreover, after Chandrayaan-3’s successful landing, this mission is important for evaluating ISRO’s ability to study the Sun.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

5. Emerging countries need women-led climate action

Source: The post is based on the article “**Emerging countries need women-led climate action**” published in “The Hindu” on 5th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment – climate change

News: The article discusses how climate change disproportionately affects women, especially in low-income countries. It also emphasizes the importance of women’s education, training, and inclusion in climate policy decision-making for effective adaptation and mitigation.

Why are women in developing and less developed countries more vulnerable to climate change?

Dependence on Natural Resources: Women in these countries often rely on natural resources for their livelihood, making them directly affected by climate shifts.

Poverty: Women are more likely to live in poverty than men. This financial strain limits their ability to adapt to environmental changes.

Responsibility for Basic Needs: Women, especially in rural areas, are tasked with fetching water, food, and fuel. Climate change makes these tasks more difficult, increasing their daily burdens.

Agriculture’s Impact: According to the ILO, over 60% of working women in southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are in agriculture.

Land Ownership: Despite being key in food production, women own only about 10% of the farming land.

Exposure to Disasters: According to a UN study, 80% of those displaced by climate-related disasters are women and girls.

How can investing in women help?

Adaptation to Climate Effects: Educating women aids in navigating climate change impacts. For instance, SEWA in India teaches women sustainable farming in shifting climate patterns.

Resource Management: Training women ensures better sustainable practices for agriculture, water, and energy.

Strengthening Livelihoods: By empowering women with knowledge and resources, they can better financially support themselves, especially against climate-induced threats.

Promotion of Sustainable Practices: Investing in women’s training in eco-friendly farming ensures a more sustainable approach to agriculture and food security.

Why is women’s participation in decision-making vital?

Unique Perspectives: Women, especially from vulnerable communities, bring firsthand experiences that can guide effective climate strategies.

Address Gender-specific Issues: As noted by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), after disasters like the 2015 Nepal earthquake, women faced trafficking risks. Their inclusion can ensure such issues are addressed.

Promotion of Equity: Gender parity in decision-making ensures all voices are heard, leading to more comprehensive solutions.

Effective Adaptation and Mitigation: Programs like the Gender and Climate Change Development Programme in South Asia emphasize the importance of women’s voices for successful climate change strategies.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

6. The need to build sovereign AI capabilities

Source– The post is based on the article “**The need to build sovereign AI capabilities**” published in the “**Business Standard**” on **5th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and technology – Indigenization of Technology and Developing New Technology.

Relevance- Issues related to AI development in India

News– The article explains the issue of building sovereign AI capabilities by India

What is the potential of AI?

AI and deep learning are increasingly used in recent years across various applications, like **e-commerce recommendations and self-driving cars**.

The emergence of **Generative AI**, including models like ChatGPT, DALL-E from OpenAI, Bard from Google has ushered in a new era.

Generative AI models can generate fresh **content from unstructured data, provide coherent responses to natural language queries, and propose solutions and ideas**.

These solutions have potential to **transform fields** ranging from drug discovery to the creation of video and audio content. This technology is likely to have a more profound impact on the **global economy and society**.

What are challenges for India in developing its own capabilities in AI?

Numerous Indian companies, like Tata Consultancy Services and Infosys have embraced **Generative AI**. But, none of them have developed their own **foundational AI models**.

Indian technology firms and even the Indian government have primarily concentrated on the **applications of AI**. However, focusing exclusively on applications would be a mistake.

Establishing **AI capabilities like Generative AI models**, will pose a significant challenge for India due to its late entry into this domain.

In the United States, both **university research institutes and technology giants** like OpenAI, Google have invested substantial resources in **cutting-edge AI research**.

In China, companies like Baidu and SenseTime, along with numerous startups, have created their **own Generative AI models**.

In European countries, many firms and research institutions in France, Germany, and other European nations are developing their **own transformer and other AI models**.

Even in South Korea, internet giant Naver is entering the **AI research arena**.

What should be done?

India should also invest in the capacity to create **indigenous foundational AI models**. Furthermore, India needs to commence research into the **next frontier of AI**, known as **General AI**.

India must formulate a **clear plan** and execute it **effectively**. One option is for the Indian government to take the lead and establish a **national AI computing center**.

Another approach, is similar to the **original charter of OpenAI**. It involves **collaboration** between influential Indian IT firms to fund an **AI research institute**.

This **cooperative model** would require setting aside **market rivalries** to focus on the **long-term common good**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

It is imperative for the government to **formulate policies** that can attract the most brilliant Indian minds currently engaged in AI research in the United States or Europe back to India.

China's AI research program has incentivized highly talented Chinese engineers and AI researchers who in US or European universities to work in China.

The Indian government must **formulate strategy** to attract the best Indian AI talent to return from Silicon Valley and US universities.

The government should consider **enacting new legislation** related to **copyright and data usage, granting primary rights over non-personal data** generated within the country to Indian entities.

7. Rethinking growth – Economic growth policies

Source– The post is based on the article “**Rethinking growth**” published in the “**Business Standard**” on **5th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy

Relevance- Issues related to growth and development

News– The article explains the issues with the current paradigm of economic policymaking.

Why should economic growth not be the central focus of economic policymaking?

Growth is undeniably important. But, pursuing growth as an abstract objective lacks **coherence and direction**.

History has shown that governments have achieved the most success in achieving growth when the focus was on **overarching goals**, rather than treating growth itself as the **primary objective**.

For instance, the **internet's emergence** stemmed from the need for satellites to communicate with each other. Due to its widespread adoption, **digital gross domestic product** has been growing at a rate 2.5 times faster than **physical GDP** over the past decade.

Presently, too many **non-financial firms** allocate more resources to **share buybacks and dividend distributions** than to investments in **human capital, machinery, and research and development**.

These practices diminish the **resources available** for **reinvesting in employees**. It increases the gap between those who **control capital** and those who do not.

Financialization often prioritizes **value extraction and short-term profit maximization** over **creating value** for the betterment of society as a whole.

What should be the focus areas of economic policymaking?

Promoting **inclusive growth** requires a departure from the **financialization of economic activities** and a renewed commitment to **investing in the real economy**.

It is essential to recognize that workers are the **true value creators**. Their interests should be prominently featured in discussions concerning **income and wealth distribution**.

It's essential to recognize that **investment-led growth and workers' rights** should not be seen as **conflicting priorities**. Striking a **balance between corporate engagement and a dedication** to workers is crucial.

It's important to understand that the economy cannot naturally evolve in a **socially desirable direction** without intervention. The government has a vital role to play.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

A **new thinking** is required to achieve growth that is “**smart**” and **environmentally sustainable and inclusive**.

Governments should establish **economic policy roadmaps** with **well-defined objectives** based on what matters most to both people and the planet.

Support for businesses should be contingent on their commitment to making **new investments** that lead to a **greener and more inclusive real economy**.

For instance, consider the **United States’ CHIPS and Science Act**. It seeks to boost the **domestic semiconductor industry**. This law prohibits the use of funds for **share buybacks**.

Governments must also make targeted investments in their **own capabilities, tools, and institutions**.

The outsourcing of **critical capacities** has undermined their ability to **adapt to evolving needs and demands**. It has reduced their capacity to generate **purposeful growth**.

Governments need **appropriate capacities and competencies** to **effectively mobilize resources and collaborate with business**.

A **mission-oriented industrial strategy** necessitates a **symbiotic relationship** between the public and private sectors.

8. The tax base is growing – government shouldn’t waste the opportunity

Source: The post is based on the article “**The tax base is growing – government shouldn’t waste the opportunity**” published in “The Indian express” on 6th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian economy- Mobilization of resources

News: The author discusses the growth in India’s tax base, with more individuals and companies paying taxes, even during slow economic growth. However, despite the increased tax base, the tax to GDP ratio remains stable due to tax rate reductions and other policy decisions, leaving the government with limited additional revenue for its development goals.

What are the reasons for the growth in India’s tax base?

Direct Taxpayer Growth: Companies paying tax surged by 43% from 7.46 lakh in 2014-15 to 10.7 lakh in 2022-23. Individual taxpayers saw a 65% jump from 5.38 crore to 8.9 crore.

Small Taxpayer Inclusion: A significant portion of new taxpayers earn under Rs 5 lakh, making them an essential segment of the expanding tax base.

GST’s Appeal: Active GST payers increased from 1.2 crore in 2019 to 1.4 crore by 2023. The benefits of GST registration, like input tax credits, may have driven more businesses to pay direct taxes.

Formalization of Firms: Approximately 22% of Indian firms are now formally engaged in tax-paying activities.

Economic Expansion & Formalization: The growth in the tax base can be attributed to the economy’s growth. The formalization of the economy has made tax evasion tougher.

Diverse Taxpayer Profile: Not all taxpayers are active in the workforce. Retirees and those earning from interests or rentals also contribute, suggesting a broadened tax base beyond just the active labor force.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are the challenges still present in India's tax system?

Lower Tax Revenues: Despite a broader tax base, the government has limited room to spend due to constrained tax revenues.

Stable Tax to GDP Ratio: The growth in the number of taxpayers hasn't translated into a proportionate increase in the tax to GDP ratio.

Impact of Tax Cuts: The corporate tax rate was cut from 30% to 22%. The resulting revenue loss was Rs 1.28 lakh crore in 2019-20 and Rs 1 lakh crore in 2020-21. The corporate tax to GDP ratio fell from 3.5% in 2018-19 to 3.1% in 2022-23.

Rise in Zero-Tax Individuals: The number of individuals with zero tax liability grew from 2.9 crore in 2019-20 to 5.16 crore in 2022-23. The recent increase in the rebate limit to Rs 7 lakh might further this trend.

Reduced GST Rates: The weighted average GST rate fell from 14.4% during its introduction to 11.6% in 2019 due to tax cuts in 2017 and 2018.

9. Laws governing forests of the Northeast

Source: The post is based on the article "Laws governing forests of the Northeast" published in "The Hindu" on 6th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment – environment conservation

News: The article discusses concerns over the Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023, which allows diversion of forest land near India's borders without clearance. Special constitutional protections in Northeast India like Article 371A for Nagaland and 371G for Mizoram can restrict certain central laws, including forest-related ones.

What is the controversy about the new act?

Amendment Details: The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 is at the center of controversy. It permits the diversion of forest land within 100 km of India's international borders for projects without the typical forest clearance.

Area of Concern: A significant portion of Northeast India, including states like Mizoram, lies within this 100 km range, making them directly affected by the amendment.

Mizoram's Opposition: The Mizoram Assembly unanimously passed a resolution opposing this amendment, aiming to protect the rights and interests of its people.

Constitutional Protections: Northeastern states like Nagaland and Mizoram have special constitutional protections (Article 371A and 371G) that can restrict certain central laws. This creates potential clashes with the new amendment.

Widespread Discontent: It's not just Mizoram. States like Tripura and Sikkim, which are governed by the ruling party or its allies, also expressed concerns and opposed the 100-km exemption clause in the amendment.

Is the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) relevant to Northeast India?

The FCA, established in 1980, governs the diversion of forest lands for non-forest purposes.

Relevancies of FCA are:

Special Protections: Northeastern states like Nagaland and Mizoram have constitutional protections (Article 371A and 371G) that can restrict some central laws.

Nagaland's Stance: Although Nagaland once extended the FCA to government forests, it was later deemed non-applicable due to lack of resolution.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Mizoram's Position: When Mizoram became a state in 1986, all Central Acts including FCA were extended to it, covering 84.53% of its notified forests.

Other States: The FCA is applicable in Meghalaya, Tripura, the Sixth Schedule Areas within these States, and in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Manipur, with varying extents of FCA clearances.

What is Recorded Forest Area (RFA)?

Definition: RFA refers to lands that are recorded as forests, regardless of their official classification or ownership.

Coverage: Over half of the Northeast region is categorized as RFA.

Types: RFAs include notified forests and unclassified forests (forests not officially categorized).

Supreme Court Ruling: In 1996, the court expanded "forest land" under the FCA to cover areas recorded as forests in government records, broadening the FCA's reach to unclassified forests.

Distribution in Northeast: Percentages range, with Assam at 34.21% and Sikkim at 82.31%. Other states like Mizoram and Nagaland have 35.48% and 53.01% RFA, respectively.

How does the FRA Act impact the Northeast region?

The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (FRA) 2006 includes various forest classifications, from unclassified to national parks.

Rights Recognition: FRA acknowledges specific rights under state laws, customary laws, and tribal traditions.

Northeast's Stance: While FRA benefits Northeast due to sizable unclassified forests, only Assam and Tripura have implemented it. Other states claim it's irrelevant due to existing land ownership structures.

Mizoram's Shift: Initially, Mizoram extended the FRA in 2009 but retracted in 2019, citing irrelevance as no claims for rights emerged.

What can be done to protect forests?

Measures to Protect Forests:

FRA Implementation: The Environment Ministry, in 2009, emphasized the importance of implementing the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and obtaining prior informed consent from the Gram Sabha before admitting a forest diversion proposal.

Role of District Collector: The District Collector, who heads the committee issuing FRA titles, was tasked with ensuring FRA compliance during the forest clearance process.

Shift in 2022: The Ministry's 2022 Forest Conservation Rules altered the process, asking states to ensure FRA compliance only after final approval for forest diversion.

State's Responsibility: States can ensure mandatory FRA fulfillment and Gram Sabha consent before any forest land is handed over for non-forest purposes.

Tribal Affairs Ministry's Role: This ministry can recognize and settle forest rights when forests are diverted, reinforcing legal security for forest-dwelling communities and forest protection.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

10. Time to decide-Infrastructure development in the hills cannot be the same as in the plains

Source: The post is based on the article “**Time to decide-Infrastructure development in the hills cannot be the same as in the plains**” published in “The Hindu” on 6th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment – environment conservation

News: The article discusses concerns about flood damage in north India, with the Chief Justice suggesting a study on the Himalayan region’s sustainability. The Centre proposes a committee to address these concerns, focusing on balancing population growth, infrastructure, and the area’s delicate environment.

What is the “Carrying Capacity”?

The “carrying capacity” is a concept taken from population biology. It refers to the maximum number of a species that can live sustainably in a specific ecosystem without harming it. If the population exceeds this capacity, the environment may get damaged, leading to a natural decrease in species numbers.

What environmental challenges are faced in the Himalayan states?

Population Growth: The Himalayan States struggle to support an increasing number of residents without harming the environment.

Infrastructure Needs: They need roads and buildings, but construction can damage the delicate ecosystem. For example, post the 2013 Uttarakhand floods, road-widening projects continued despite concerns.

Fragile Geography: The region’s unique topography makes development tricky. In January, land issues in Joshimath, Uttarakhand showed this.

Balancing Act: There’s a need to balance between development and preserving the environment. Himachal Pradesh’s recent floods, caused by building on vulnerable mountains, are a case in point.

What are the various proposals to overcome these challenges?

Expert Committee Suggestion: Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud recommended an expert committee to conduct a “complete and comprehensive” study on the Himalayan region’s carrying capacity.

Technical Committee Proposal: Following the suggestion, the Centre proposed a 13-member technical committee to delve into the matter.

Carrying Capacity Guidelines: In 2020, the Centre circulated guidelines among the 13 Himalayan States. The goal was to assess the carrying capacity of hill stations, cities, and eco-sensitive zones in these states.

Reminder from Environment Ministry: The Environment Ministry reminded the states in May to undertake the aforementioned study and submit their findings.

11. RBI’s e-rupee could use UPI for a reformist leap

Source– The post is based on the article “**RBI’s e-rupee could use UPI for a reformist leap**” published in the “**mint**” on **6th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy – Mobilisation of resources

Relevance- issues related to digitalisation of banking system

News– Recently, State Bank of India has integrated UPI with e-rupee wallets designed for holding the RBI’s central bank digital currency.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are some facts about UPI?

The UPI system is administered by the National Payments Corporation of India. It is a consortium of financial institutions.

The UPI platform is built upon India's state operated Aadhaar system, which utilises biometric IDs to verify the identities of bank and telecom users.

What are the benefits associated with integrating UPI with e-rupee wallets designed for holding the RBI's central bank digital currency (CBDC)?

E-rupee holders can now use UPI to conduct swift retail transactions by scanning QR codes. This integration is expected to provide increased liquidity to e-rupees. It could potentially transform UPI in the future.

What will be the potential role of a CBDC with RBI's e-rupee?

it can be a novel medium for offering a fast, cost-effective, and secure alternative to cumbersome cross-border money transfers. Such adoption would also support economic growth, international trade, and financial inclusion.

From a strategic perspective, using RBI's digital tokens for trans-border transactions could potentially serve as a barrier against the adoption of cryptocurrencies and capital flight.

What is the significant distinction between CBDC and UPI?

CBDC represents a direct claim on the currency issuer, RBI. These IOUs are backed by RBI's own guarantee, making them exceptionally secure.

In contrast, UPI relies on the safety of commercial banks participating in the payment process.

12. Use financial inclusion to reduce inequality and speed up growth

Source– The post is based on the article “Use financial inclusion to reduce inequality and speed up growth” published in the “Live Mint” on 6th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy – Inclusive growth

News– The article explain the contribution of B20 grouping for promoting financial inclusion and challenges in prompting financial inclusion.

What is the contribution of B20 for promoting financial inclusion?

The topic of financial inclusion has been a consistent part of the B20 discussions for an extended period. It all began at the Pittsburgh Summit in 2009 when the Financial Inclusion Experts Group (FIEG) was established.

The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII) was formed at the Seoul Summit in 2011. It was followed by the introduction of a fundamental set of financial inclusion metrics at the Mexico Summit in 2012.

The China Summit in 2016 led to the adoption of high-level principles for digital financial inclusion. At the Indonesia Summit in 2022, an implementation guide for this was provided.

What are challenges in promoting financial inclusion?

According to the 2021 Global Findex Database from the World Bank, approximately 24% of adults worldwide lack access to formal financial accounts.

Only 29% of adults choose to deposit their savings in a financial institution, and a mere 28% of adults borrow from a formal financial institution on a global scale.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

MSMEs are also facing growing disparities in obtaining financing. A publication by the **World Bank** titled “**MSME Finance Gap: Assessment of the Shortfalls and Opportunities in Financing MSMEs in Emerging Markets**” revealed it.

As per the report, **21% of micro-enterprises** in developing countries face constraints due to **loan application rejections or unfavorable loan terms**. For small and medium-sized enterprises, this figure rises to 30%.

Globally, women encounter various obstacles **accessing basic banking services**. It including **restrictive social norms, limitations on mobility, lack of identification, and limited financial literacy**. This gender disparity is evident in low-income and developing countries.

For example, in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa, the **gender gap in bank account ownership** is 12 and 14 percentage points. It is twice the **average gender gap** in emerging economies and three times the global average.

In case of **digital payments**, men with accounts in developing countries are **typically 6 percentage points** more likely than women to use **digital payment methods**.

Women also face greater challenges in **accessing emergency funds**. According to the **World Bank's Findex data** from 2021, only **50% of women in developing nations** claimed they could consistently access emergency cash, compared to **59% of men**.

What is the way forward for financial inclusion?

There are **three main pillars** to reduce barriers to financial inclusion.

The first pillar focuses on enhancing the **ecosystem and facilitators** that drive financial inclusion. Challenges such as a **lack of innovation in financial services, low financial literacy, limited opportunities for capacity building, and gender-based exclusion** can strain ongoing financial inclusion efforts.

To address this, the promotion of **private sector engagement** in financial inclusion through partnerships is necessary.

There is need for enhancement of **individuals' and small enterprises' capacities** through **incubation and financial literacy programs**, and the promotion of **gender-inclusive financial services and initiatives**.

The second pillar aims to expand the **reach of financial products and services**. **Global insurance penetration** remains low at 7% of GDP.

There is also a need to accelerate **financial inclusion for agricultural, rural, and migrant populations**.

This pillar concentrates on reducing the **cost of capital** for financial institutions, devising **innovative distribution channels** for service delivery, and promoting **cross-border payments** through **protocol standardization**.

The final pillar strengthens the **consumer protection framework** to uphold **consumer trust** in new digital products. It seeks to formulate policies that strike a **balance between protection and innovation**.

13. How unemployment is measured?

Source: The post is based on the article “**How unemployment is measured**” published in “The Hindu” on 7th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy – employment

News: The article talks about challenges and methods for measuring unemployment in India. It points out differences with developed countries due to India’s informal economy. It also mentions that varying definitions and time frames can result in different unemployment rates, and the 2020 lockdown’s impact on these rates may not be accurately reflected due to measurement methods.

What is unemployment?

Unemployment refers to when someone is out of a job, is ready to work, and is actively seeking employment. It doesn’t mean simply being without a job; one must also be searching for work.

To measure unemployment, the number of unemployed people is divided by the total labor force to get the unemployment rate.

In 2017, India’s unemployment rate was 6.1%, but by 2021-22, it decreased to 4.1%.

Comparatively, the U.S. had rates fluctuating between 3.5% in 2022 and 3.7% in 2023. The U.S.’s employment-to-population ratio was 60.8% in 2019 with an unemployment rate of 3.7%.

What are the different methods for measuring unemployment in India?

Methods for Measuring Unemployment in India:

Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS):

Considers one’s main activity over the past year.

If someone worked for seven months and was unemployed for five, they are still considered employed under this method.

Current Weekly Status (CWS):

Focuses on an individual’s employment status over the past week.

A person is deemed employed if they’ve worked at least an hour in the past week.

This method often shows higher unemployment rates than UPSS because it captures short-term joblessness.

Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy Approach:

Classifies people based on their activity the day before the interview.

It often reports a higher unemployment rate but lower labor force participation rates because of its focus on daily activity.

What are the challenges for measuring unemployment in India?

Informal Economy:

Many Indians don’t have a single, year-round job.

People might work as a casual laborer one month and as a farmer another, making it hard to consistently classify their employment status.

Social and Cultural Norms:

Many women, particularly in rural areas, might be willing to work but aren’t actively searching due to societal constraints.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

In a 2009-10 survey, 33.3% of rural women showed willingness to work if available within their household.

Varied Employment Definitions:

Methods like Usual Principal and Subsidiary Status (UPSS) and Current Weekly Status (CWS) have different time frames and criteria, leading to different unemployment rates.

For instance, UPSS considers someone employed if they worked seven months in a year, even if unemployed for five.

Lockdown Impact:

The 2020 lockdown greatly affected the Indian economy.

Its effects might not be accurately reflected in yearly unemployment rates, given the long-term (UPSS) and short-term (CWS) measures used.

Urban vs. Rural Dynamics:

Unemployment rates are often lower in rural areas due to the nature of agrarian work, even if joblessness exists.

14. For an expanse of blue, with air so clean

Source: The post is based on the article “For an expanse of blue, with air so clean” published in “The Hindu” on 7th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment – Air pollution

News: The article discusses the severe air pollution crisis, its health impacts, especially in Delhi. It highlights global efforts to combat air pollution crisis, and emphasizes the need for action and global attention to ensure clean air for all.

What’s the situation on air pollution?

Global Situation on Air Pollution:

The earth has entered what the UN Secretary-General calls the “era of global boiling”, emphasizing the urgent challenges of climate change.

Lung cancer deaths reached 10 million globally in 2020 (According to WHO) and could increase by 3.2 million by 2050 (according to Indian National Institute of Health).

India’s Situation on Air Pollution (with a focus on Delhi):

South Asia hosts nine of the world’s 10 most polluted cities; Delhi is a prime example.

Delhi’s air contains high levels of harmful pollutants like SO₂, NO_x, and particulate matter.

In 2019, air pollution was linked to 1.67 million deaths in India, making up 17.8% of total deaths.

What are the health impacts of air pollution?

Lung Cancer: 10 million deaths worldwide in 2020 were attributed to lung cancer, and this number could increase by 3.2 million by 2050.

Respiratory Ailments: Delhi’s polluted air, laden with pollutants like SO₂, NO_x, and high particulate matter, affects breathing and exacerbates respiratory conditions.

Cardiovascular Disorders: Polluted air increases the risk of heart diseases due to the inhalation of harmful particles.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Mental Health Issues: Air pollution has been linked to adverse mental health outcomes due to environmental stressors.

Vulnerable Groups at Risk: The air pollution toll is especially high for immunocompromised individuals, pregnant women, children, and the elderly.

Staggering Death Rate: In 2019, 1.67 million deaths in India, which is 17.8% of the total deaths, were related to air pollution, highlighting the dire consequences on health.

What measures are being taken to combat the air pollution crisis?

Global Efforts to Combat Air Pollution:

Cities like Ljubljana, Accra, Seville, Bogota, and Medellin are adopting **car-free zones, green spaces, and electrified public transportation.**

China is transitioning **to clean energy and e-mobility.**

Indonesia launched a **'Carbon Efficient Farming'** project to assess biomass and reduce CO2 emissions.

Thailand and Vietnam have initiated measures to decrease open straw burning.

UNESCO introduced a **carbon tax on flights** and is investing in emission reduction.

The World Air Quality Project provides real-time air quality data to residents.

The **"Virtual Meetings" project**, in collaboration with UNEP, promotes environmentally conscious digital work.

India's Efforts to Combat Air Pollution:

The **PUSA Decomposer**, created by IARI, uses biotechnology to address agricultural pollution.

GRAP 3 (Graded Rapid Action Plan) is a state-level policy monitoring air quality in hotspots.

Green War Rooms have been established for a focused approach.

Innovative startups **are transforming agricultural waste into useful products**, reducing open field burning.

What should be done?

Acknowledge the Problem: Recognize the severe impacts of air pollution, as 10 million global deaths were due to lung cancer in 2020.

Implementation: Best practices for combating air pollution need to be effectively applied, not just discussed.

Learn from Successful Cities: Adopt methods from cities like Ljubljana and Bogota that have prioritized health and environment.

Prioritize Health: With 1.67 million deaths in India linked to pollution in 2019, health-focused policies are essential.

Innovative Solutions: Support startups converting agricultural waste into valuable products, reducing sources of pollution.

Global Collaboration: While UNESCO and UNEP have taken steps, a global cohesive effort is crucial.

Public Awareness: Educate the public on the importance of clean air and their role in the solution.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

15. GDP: It All Comes Down To Demand

Source: The post is based on the article “**GDP: It All Comes Down To Demand**– Growth is being driven by booming public investment. Private firms are still unsure. For them to invest, consumption needs to grow faster” published in “The Times of India” on 7th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- Indian economy

News: The article discusses India’s economic growth, highlighting the strong performance of key sectors. It also points out concerns like the weak monsoon, declining exports, skewed consumption patterns, and the need for more private investments.

What is the growth scenario in India?

India’s Growth Scenario:

GDP Growth: India recorded a 7.8% GDP growth in Q1 FY 23-24, suggesting a robust economic recovery.

Leading Sector: The services sector emerged as the primary growth driver, witnessing a substantial 10.3% increase. For instance, there was notable demand in travel, tourism, and financial services.

Manufacturing Uptick: The manufacturing sector experienced a revival, growing by 4.7%. This improvement came after the sector faced challenges due to high raw material costs, which have since decreased.

Construction’s Role: The construction sector is also on an upward trajectory, benefitting from the government’s emphasis on infrastructure development.

Domestic Spending: There’s a positive sign in domestic consumption, which went up by 4.9% in Q1 23-24. However, this surge is primarily seen in the higher income category.

Investment Landscape: The government currently spearheads investments. For instance, their capital expenditure surged by 59%, overshadowing private sector investment.

Export Challenge: India faces challenges in the export domain, with a decline of 7.7%, largely attributed to the global slowdown.

What are the major concerns to India’s economy?

Major Concerns to India’s Economy:

Weak Monsoon: The deficient monsoon is a concern, affecting agricultural growth. With a growth of just 3.5%, it might lead to higher food prices, impacting the broader economy.

Exports Decline: There’s a 7.7% contraction in exports in Q1 FY 23-24. The global slowdown, especially in merchandise exports, poses challenges to external trade.

Skewed Consumption: While domestic spending increased by 4.9%, consumption largely leans towards the higher income group, indicating a ‘K’ shaped recovery. This can lead to disparities in economic benefits.

Limited Private Investment: Even with promising signs, private sector investment remains restricted. The government is leading, but private sector involvement is essential for sustained growth.

External Threats: With global GDP growth projected to slow further, India faces potential challenges in exports and global economic ties.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

16. Xi's 'one mountain, two tigers' diplomatic puzzle

Source– The post is based on the article “Xi's 'one mountain, two tigers' diplomatic puzzle” published in the “**Business Standard**” on **7th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Bilateral groupings and agreements

Relevance- India and China bilateral relationship

News– Chinese President Xi Jinping is skipping the G20 summit as India hosts world leaders in Delhi.

How Xi's absence from the G20 summit in India shows his preference for non-western framework?

Mr. Xi has been a consistent attendee of nearly all **G20 summits**. It provided him with a **global platform** to promote **China's narrative**.

However, in recent years, Mr. Xi has become convinced that **profound changes** not seen in a century are taking place. It signifies **America's diminishing role** in the **global order**.

He is growing more optimistic about China's rise as a **powerful challenger to the United States**.

There is a **newfound dynamism** in **various alliances** connected to China or where China plays a leading role.

A notable contrast can be observed between Mr. Xi's absence at the **Delhi G20 summit** and his presence at the **Brics summit in South Africa**.

Mr. Xi perceives **nations joining groupings** such as Brics and SCO as a testament to **China's achievements in global affairs**.

It is leading Mr. Xi believes that China can become a **counterbalance**, and form a **China-led bloc opposed to US dominance**.

Here, Mr. Xi aims to persuade developing nations that China alone holds the key to the “**path of prosperity**” after **Covid pandemic**.

Mr. Xi has committed to supporting **sustainable development in the Global South**. He has established a “**South-South Cooperation Fund**” totaling \$4 billion and allocated a \$10 billion fund by Chinese financial institutions to implement his **Global Development Initiative**.

How China's grand vision clashes with India's growing advocacy of issues related to the Global South?

During its tenure as the G20 presidency, India extended invitations to 125 nations for the “**Voice of Global South**” summit.

India has leveraged its G20 presidency to advocate for the **acceleration of reforms within global financial institutions**.

India is actively working to secure **fertiliser and grain supply chains** in light of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Under its G20 presidency, India appears to be **gaining global acceptance**. It is now perceived as a **counterbalance to China**.

During its G20 presidency, India hosted **foreign delegations** in regions such as **Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh**. It is a **diplomatic achievement**.

How Xi's recent behaviour will impact the broader India-China relations?

As India's influence grows, the **resolution of the border dispute** between the two countries may become even more challenging.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Beijing has **escalated tensions** by renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh, and **issuing stapled visas** to its residents, and **releasing a map** that questions **India's territorial integrity**.

China is facing **internal challenges**, including **economic difficulties and rising unemployment**. It may lead to **increased assertiveness**.

Mr. Xi is actively working to establish an **alternative international framework** and is investing more in **alliances associated with China**. Furthermore, China's vision is now in competition with **India's outreach to the Global South**.

17. Let us deploy fiscal federalism against climate change

Source: The post is based on the article **"Let us deploy fiscal federalism against climate change"** published in **Live Mint** on **7th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Environment – Climate Change

News: The current climate governance in India is highly centralized, with the central government taking the lead in key areas. Centre is responsible for shaping state-level climate policies via initiatives like the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

Although states have created their own plans (SAPCCs), they lack coordination, face funding constraints, and do not align with the Centre's net-zero goal. Thus, there's a need to strengthen fiscal federalism for climate change.

What can be done to enhance fiscal federalism for climate change?

Define Activities and Map Climate Finance Channels: India should expand its efforts to map the programs being carried out in different states along with the funding sources, building upon the initiatives by Niti Aayog to map programs that have connections to climate change.

Enhance Fund Allocation: A significant portion of funds should be allocated to states using fiscal federal mechanisms that are designated for climate-related initiatives and renewable energy projects.

Strengthen State Capacity: There is a need to strengthen institutional mechanisms for planning, executing, and overseeing various initiatives.

Currently, these mechanisms fall under the centralized administration of the National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change.

Incentivize Climate Action: India can provide performance-based rewards to states that make significant progress towards climate goals. States that reduce emissions or increase renewable energy generation could be made eligible for additional grants.

Harmonize Policy: India should unify state-level climate policies and regulations to create a stable environment for businesses and investors. Central government can facilitate coordination and knowledge sharing among states to promote best practices.

Boost Data Gathering and Monitoring Systems: States should establish robust data systems for fiscal federalism to effectively address climate change.

This includes improving climate data quality, implementing monitoring frameworks, and fostering transparency. Standardized data collection and reporting formats can facilitate comparisons and informed decision-making.

Encourage Public-Private Partnerships: India can attract private investment in climate action by providing fiscal incentives, innovative financing models, and risk-sharing arrangements.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Partnerships between the government, private sector, and civil society can also help to mobilize resources and accelerate projects.

Enlarge the Finance Commission's (FC) role: India's fiscal federalism, managed by the FC, allocates finances between the central and state governments.

While the FC addresses disaster management and considers forest cover in its horizontal distribution formula, this measure falls short in addressing ecological challenges.

Hence, **the upcoming 16th Finance Commission may develop a net-zero plan with medium-term funding structures for subnational levels.** Future Commissions should also address this issue comprehensively, ensuring fairness among states.

18. Over 30% UPI frauds in 3 states

Source: The post is based on the article **"Over 30% UPI frauds in 3 states" published in Business Standard on 7th September 2023.**

Syllabus: GS 3 – Internal Security – Cyber Security

Relevance: concerns with increasing digital banking/UPI frauds

News: India recently reached a significant milestone of 10 billion Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions, indicating the growing popularity of digital payments. However, this increase has also led to an increase in fraud cases.

What are some of the findings of the fraud cases related to UPI/digital banking?

India has witnessed an increase in UPI frauds, with over 30% originating from Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and West Bengal, and approximately 55% of all reported digital payment frauds being UPI-related.

The majority of these UPI frauds (50%) involve sums below ₹10,000, **with an estimated average of 80,000 UPI frauds occurring each month in India.**

A trend of fraudulent UPI apps, posing as authorized users, has emerged. These deceptive apps are employed for defrauding individuals through methods like phishing, malware, UPI ID spoofing, and device monitoring.

According to an RBI report, digital banking fraud surged from 3,596 cases with losses of approximately ₹155 crore in FY22 to 6,659 cases amounting to ₹276 crore in FY23.

Experts also warn that fraudsters may soon utilize artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to cheat users. These evolving threats could make it more challenging to identify phishing emails.

What measures have already been taken to prevent digital frauds?

First, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has implemented a 24×7 monitoring system with an average response time of 24 hours to combat these threats.

Second, banks are mandated to provide Fraud Monitoring Returns within three weeks of detecting fraud, regardless of the amount involved.

Third, the RBI has issued third-party outsourcing guidelines to prompt the fintech ecosystem to invest in security and improve processes.

Fourth, bodies such as the Central Fraud Registry, Centralised KYC Registry, Central Payments Fraud Information Registry had been established to report information on data and fraud.

What more can be done to prevent digital banking frauds?

The following measures can be taken by users to prevent digital frauds:

Created with love ❤ by ForumIAS- the knowledge network for civil services.
Visit academy.forumias.com for our mentor based courses.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

- Users should practice digital safety by safeguarding their UPI PIN, never sharing sensitive information such as OTP or UPI PIN, and enabling two-factor authentication (2FA) for enhanced security.
- Reviewing transaction history for unauthorized activity is crucial.
- Invest in reputable paid antivirus software, avoid malicious downloads, and use unique passwords for different platforms.
- Report fraud incidents promptly to authorities, financial institutions, and regulators for swift action.
- Digital forensics may be used to investigate and analyze IP addresses, email headers, and other digital traces to identify fraudsters.
- Payments service providers, app developers, and operators should improve their technology to identify and prevent irregularities.
- Set transaction limits based on user risk profiles and implement extra authentication for high-value transactions.
- Use AI and ML algorithms to spot anomalies.
- Ensure secure, updated Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) for UPI integration and invest in data encryption for user data protection.

19. How to curb government's fiscal irresponsibility

Source: The post is based on the article “**How to curb government's fiscal irresponsibility**” published in “The Indian express” on 8th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- Fiscal policy

News: The article discusses how India's Fiscal Responsibility Law (FRBM Act, 2003) aimed to control government borrowing has been regularly bypassed. Due to a provision in the Indian Constitution, the government can easily amend the law using money bills, leading to consistent delays in achieving fiscal targets. The article suggests rethinking this approach for effective fiscal control.

What is Fiscal Responsibility Law (FRL)?

FRL sets rules to control government borrowing and manage fiscal deficits.

Purpose: Ensures that governments don't overspend today, preventing financial burdens in the future.

Global Examples:

Germany: Their “debt brake” restricts annual government borrowing to 0.35% of GDP.

US: They have a statutory debt ceiling which sets an upper limit on government borrowing.

India's Experience:

FRBM Act, 2003: India's version of FRL aimed at controlling government borrowing and achieving fiscal discipline.

Goals: One of the primary targets was to eradicate India's revenue deficit by March 31, 2008.

Delays: Due to money bills, the deadline was shifted multiple times, finally settling on March 31, 2018.

Escape Clause: This is a provision that allows temporary deviations from fiscal targets due to unforeseen events. However, the very concept of a money bill in India acts as a major escape clause, letting the government easily amend the FRL.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

How Fiscal Responsibility Law evolved in India?

Evolution of Fiscal Responsibility Law in India:

Constitutional Backing: Article 292 of India's Constitution allows the Union government to borrow, but Parliament must set limits.

Initial Measures:

An expert committee led by EAS Sarma paved the way for the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act (FRBM) in 2003.

The Vijay Kelkar Task Force worked on its implementation in 2004.

Amendments and Delays:

FRBM's original goal was to eliminate the revenue deficit by March 31, 2008.

Using money bills, this deadline was postponed multiple times: to 2009, 2015, and finally to 2018.

Issues with Money Bills:

The Finance Bill, being a money bill, can amend laws like the FRBM without full parliamentary scrutiny.

This loophole was used to dilute and delay fiscal targets under the FRBM Act, 2003.

A New Approach:

The FRBM Review Committee Report in 2017 proposed a new bill – the Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Bill – to address the challenges.

What is the need of Fiscal Responsibility Law?

Excessive Borrowing: Governments have a history of borrowing heavily, risking future financial health.

Election Driven Spending: Governments might overspend to appease voters before elections, increasing future burdens.

Economic Stability: To prevent the adverse impacts of excessive deficits on the economy, legal checks are necessary.

Constitutional Framework: Article 292 of India's Constitution permits the Union government to borrow, but within limits set by the Parliament. An FRL defines those limits.

Accountability: A structured law ensures government remains accountable for its financial actions and decisions.

20. Impact of RBI's lending guidelines

Source– The post is based on the article **“Impact of RBI's lending guidelines”** published in **“The Hindu”** on **8th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian economy and mobilisation of resources

Relevance- Issues related to banking sector

News– On August 18, the Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines enabling a borrower to transition from a floating interest rate-based loan to one with a fixed interest rate.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are the detailed guidelines by RBI?

This transition from **floating interest rates to fixed interest rates** will be based on a **policy approved** by the lending institution's board of directors. The policy must also specify how many times such a switch can occur during the loan's term.

The lending institution must also provide **full communication** to the borrower about all **relevant charges, service fees, and administrative costs** associated with the transition.

It is the responsibility of the lending institution to transparently inform the borrower, at the time of loan approval, about the **implications of switching** from a floating to a fixed interest rate.

The borrower will now have the **flexibility to choose** between increasing the EMI, extending the loan tenure, or a combination of both.

Furthermore, the regulator has requested that lending institutions provide borrowers with **quarterly statements** through appropriate channels.

These statements should detail the **principal and interest amounts** collected to date, the **EMI amount**, the number of **remaining EMIs**, and the **annualised interest rate** for the entire loan term.

What are the differences between fixed interest rates and floating interest rates?

Fixed interest rates **remain constant** throughout the loan's tenure. Floating interest rates are **subject to market fluctuations and base rate changes**.

Floating interest rates are **often lower** than fixed rates.

Lenders prefer floating rate-based loans because they allow for **better adjustments** in response to **changing market conditions**.

The advantages of floating rates can benefit borrowers by potentially **increasing their savings**. But, the downside is that it can also lead to **higher costs** in case of **rising interest rates**.

Floating rate loans typically do not incur **prepayment penalties**, unlike fixed rate loans.

Fixed-rate loans offer borrowers **greater certainty and security**. It facilitates **better budget planning and financial management**.

21. Do subsidies and safety nets take focus away from generating jobs?

Source– The post is based on the article “**Do subsidies and safety nets take focus away from generating jobs?**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **8th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Inclusive growth

News– With five States going to the polls at the end of the year, political parties have been announcing several promises, largely to address concerns of price rise of essentials.

What is the effectiveness of electoral?

It appears to be a **mixed scenario**. In Chhattisgarh, certain promises like the Old Pension Scheme cater to a **small segment of the population** and may not be advisable. Reintroducing the OPS would **worsen inequality**.

In Madhya Pradesh, **nearly 13% of the overall expenses** go towards OPS, but it **benefits less than 2% of people** who were in government jobs. So, it essentially **transfers wealth** from the poor to the affluent.

However, others, like reducing the cost of gas cylinders, appear to be **reasonable**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

A recent '**Data Point**' in **The Hindu** revealed that 25% of those who benefited from the Ujjwala Scheme, either didn't request a refill or only requested one.

This is significant in the context of providing **₹1,500 per month to women**. There is a need to take into account **specific target groups** when discussing this **populism**.

Why do political parties make election promises?

It's crucial to consider the **broader context of our political economy and society**. The economic experts don't have a **definitive solution for unemployment**.

So, in the absence of a definitive solution, **temporary measures** are used. Electoral promises can be likened to **temporary measures**. They become necessary when we lack **more fundamental solutions** to address the underlying issue.

Field of economics has fallen short in **servicing societies** on a larger scale. This problem isn't unique to India. **Jobless growth** is a widespread issue in nearly every country today.

The **focus on productivity**, especially since the rise of the **neoliberal consensus**, has primarily benefited a **small segment of the population**.

There exists a **portion of the population** that doesn't benefit from growth. It necessitated the implementation of **populist measures** to include them. Yet, some measures may be driven by **political considerations**.

Should GDP growth be the only focus area for economists?

GDP growth remains important. If we look at India's **growth trajectory** over the years, it's clear that during periods of high GDP growth, **poverty** has reduced.

GDP growth had a **positive impact** in the initial 10-12 years **after liberalisation**. It has ceased to be **effective** since then.

What is the way forward for inclusive growth?

Traditional manufacturing sectors like car production, steel manufacturing, and semiconductor chip production, which used to be associated with **job creation**, no longer generate substantial **employment**. The reason is **automation**.

There is a need to invest in **mining for the energy transition**. India has barely tapped into its **extensive mineral resources**. Mining can **generate local jobs**, including opportunities for **historically marginalised castes**.

Developing economies are undergoing **two important transitions** that need to be considered. One is a **structural transition** that often keeps them stuck in the **middle-income category** due to difficulties in **pushing industrialization**.

The second is a **significant energy transition** with substantial implications for employment.

There is a need to ensure the **stability of prices** for **agricultural products**. India has witnessed recent increases in the prices of tomatoes, yet farmers lack a **guarantee of a consistent minimum price**.

Government should seriously consider **technological interventions** aimed at **transforming agricultural output into higher-value products**. This represents a **long-term solution** to the issue.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

22. Pulses are dearer- Shortfall in pulse production has spurred inflation

Source: The post is based on the article “Pulses are dearer- Shortfall in pulse production has spurred inflation. Government must ease restrictions, allow imports” published in “The Indian express” on 9th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Agriculture- Transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints.

News: Due to lower monsoon rainfall, there's less planting of pulses like arhar, urad, and moong. This has caused their prices to rise above the official minimum rates. Global pulse prices are also high. The government needs to use its stored pulses wisely and consider changing import rules to help with the shortage.

What are the reasons for the price rise in pulses?

Domestic Reasons for Pulse Price Rise:

Reduced Planting: Farmers sowed 8.6% less area under pulses such as arhar, urad, and moong compared to last year, a decline of over 1.1 million hectares.

Price Increases: In two months, arhar prices increased from Rs 10,000 to Rs 12,500 per quintal. Moong prices went up from Rs 6,500 to Rs 9,000, and chana prices rose from Rs 4,600-4,700 to Rs 6,100-6,200.

Exceeding MSP: Current market prices for pulses like arhar, moong, and chana are well above their official Minimum Support Prices.

Global Reasons for Pulse Price Rise:

Reduced International Harvests:

Canada and Australia's pulse harvests are projected at 1.3-1.4 mt each, down from 1.7-1.8 mt the previous year.

El Niño is affecting Myanmar, a key urad supplier to India.

International Price Hikes: Masoor's landed price increased from \$650-680 to \$780-790 per tonne.

Export Limitations: Mozambique set a floor price of \$850-900 per tonne for arhar exports.

What can the government do?

Utilize Stored Pulses: The government has chana stocks which can be released into the market. They were holding around 3.8 million tonnes of chana as of June 30.

Restrict Bidders: Consider limiting bidders to actual users or dal millers during allocations. This ensures that the right stakeholders get access to the pulses.

Revisit Import Restrictions: The current rule, not allowing stocks to be held beyond 30 days from customs clearance, discourages imports. This needs revision as larger imports are crucial now.

Facilitate Bigger Shipments: Presently, imports are in 25-tonne containers, but bigger 30,000-60,000 tonne vessels would be more efficient.

Revise Pea Import Duties: The government should reconsider the 50% duty and the minimum price of Rs 200/kg on yellow/white peas, making them more affordable for import.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

23. Why India's falling cotton production is a worry

Source: The post is based on the article “**Why India's falling cotton production is a worry**” published in “The Indian express” on 11th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Agriculture- Marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints.

News: The article discusses how India's cotton production grew due to Bt technology, which protects against certain pests. However, a pest called pink bollworm developed resistance, reducing cotton yields. Solutions like “mating disruption” using pheromones are now being explored to control this pest and ensure continued cotton production.

What's the significance of cotton in India?

Cotton's Triple Role: Cotton in India serves three critical roles: providing food, feed, and fiber. It's a vital crop for both agriculture and the textile sector.

Breakdown of Cotton Components: When farmers harvest cotton, known as Kapas, only about 36% is the white fluffy fiber. The remaining consists of seeds (62%) and waste (2%). These seeds are a crucial source of vegetable oil and feed cake.

Cottonseed's Role in the Market: Cottonseed oil ranks third in India's domestically produced vegetable oils, following mustard and soyabean. Additionally, cottonseed contributes the country's second-largest feed cake, with soyabean taking the top spot.

Cotton in Textiles: Cotton dominates the textile industry in India, accounting for approximately two-thirds of the country's total textile fiber consumption.

How did Bt technology impact cotton production?

Introduction to Bt Technology: India adopted Bt technology, using genetically modified (GM) cotton hybrids embedded with genes from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* or Bt. These genes were toxic to certain pests.

Significant Boost in Production and Yield: From 2000-01 to 2013-14, thanks to Bt cotton, India's cotton production soared from 140 lakh to 398 lakh bales. The average per-hectare lint yields also more than doubled during this period, increasing from 278 kg to 566 kg.

Subsequent Yield Decline: Post-2013-14, however, cotton production and yields started declining. By 2022-23, they fell to 343.5 lakh bales and 447 kg/hectare respectively.

Challenge of the Pink Bollworm (PBW): Bt cotton initially provided protection against pests like the American bollworm and the pink bollworm. But by 2014, the pink bollworm had developed resistance to Bt proteins, causing widespread infestations and negatively impacting yields.

How can the Pink Bollworm (PBW) be controlled?

Ineffectiveness of Traditional Insecticides: Conventional insecticides like profenofos, emamectin benzoate, and deltamethrin had limited efficacy against PBW larvae, which negatively impacted lint quality and yields.

Mating Disruption as a Solution: An alternative method called “mating disruption” uses Gossyplure, a pheromone from female PBW moths. The artificial version of this pheromone, found in products like PBKnot and SPLAT, confuses male moths, preventing them from mating with females. The Central Insecticides Board & Registration Committee under the Agriculture Ministry has approved this two mating disruption products.

Results from Field Experiments: Field experiments with PBKnot technology led to a 90% reduction in PBW mating, which translated to 25% higher kapas yields.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

24. [Redouble efforts to reduce disaster risks](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “Redouble efforts to reduce disaster risks” published in “The Hindu” on 11th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Disaster and disaster management

News: The world faces increased disasters like floods, wildfires, and extreme weather due to climate change. Vulnerable countries suffer most, yet they contribute least to the problem. Solutions like the SDGs, Paris Agreement, and Sendai Framework exist but need more action. India shows progress in disaster preparedness and is leading global efforts through G20 initiatives.

Why is the world at risk?

Persistent Challenges: The aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic is combined with issues like war, debt, and food insecurity.

Climate Crisis: This is leading to frequent and intense extreme weather events.

Rising Disaster Trend: Increase in disasters, such as flooding in China, wildfires in Europe and Hawaii, and the hottest month ever in July.

Vulnerable Countries Affected: Countries that contributed least to climate issues are facing the worst impacts. The 50 most climate-vulnerable countries also have major debt problems.

India's Experience: India, one of the world's most disaster-prone countries, had weather-related disasters almost daily in 2022.

How is India addressing the issue?

Disaster Management Plans: All 28 States in India have prepared their own disaster management plans.

Reduction in Mortality:

India's early warning system for cyclones covers the entire coastline, leading to a 90% decrease in cyclone-related deaths over 15 years.

Local heat wave action plans have resulted in over 90% reduction in heat wave deaths.

Effective Preparedness: The recent Cyclone Biparjoy in Gujarat saw no casualties. Women were moved to safe places before the cyclone for safe childbirth.

Financial Support: India's 15th Finance Commission allocated \$28.6 billion for disaster readiness and capacity development over five years.

Global Initiatives:

India promotes the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure globally.

During its G20 presidency, India introduced the first-ever work stream on disaster risk reduction.

What global efforts are being made?

Frameworks and Agreements: The SDGs, Paris Agreement, and Sendai Framework serve as global guidelines. However, eight years into the Sendai Framework, efforts need to accelerate.

Learnings from COVID-19: The pandemic emphasized the importance of system-wide disaster risk reduction and resilience. Innovations like India's CoWIN digital vaccine system emerged.

Early Warning Systems: UN-led initiative, with India's backing, is pushing for a global multi-risk warning system. Currently, over a third of the global population lacks access to early warning systems.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Data and Knowledge Sharing: India's G20 presidency has been recognized for advancements in knowledge sharing, joint data infrastructure, and risk analysis.

What more needs to be done?

Integration of Disaster Risk: Incorporate risk assessment in construction, investment, and lifestyle choices.

Early Warning Systems for All: Spearheaded by the UN and supported by India, the goal is a global warning system for diverse hazards. Right now, over a third of the global population, especially in least developed countries and Small Island Developing States, lacks access.

Enhanced Data Capabilities: Boost global data resources to better predict and respond to arising risks.

No One Left Behind: Strengthen international cooperation in disaster prevention, response, and recovery, focusing on countries of the Global South.

Leverage G20 Outcomes: Use results from the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group to craft a future equipped to handle disaster risks.

[25. Developing best practices – SRO for fintechs will be a first step](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Developing best practices – SRO for fintechs will be a first step**” published in **Business Standard** on 11th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy – Banking Sector

Relevance: About regulating fintech

News: The RBI has suggested fintech to establish a self-regulatory organization (SRO), which is a step in the right direction.

What are fintech?

Fintech plays a vital role in offering convenient access to formal financial services, benefiting lower-income individuals.

The fintech sector encompasses various digital-based financial services such as payments, UPI-based transfers, digital wallets, and small, short-term loans, effectively replacing traditional moneylenders.

Fintech assesses borrowers' creditworthiness using transaction data and collaborates with traditional financial institutions like NBFCS and banks.

They have maintained reasonable default rates while generating significant revenue by serving the low-income segment.

However, to maintain ethical and regulatory standards, fintech practices and processes need to align with established norms.

Why is it necessary to regulate fintech?

Fintech can charge excessively high interest rates, especially to borrowers with limited access to formal credit, which could lead to defaults. Mis-selling of loans is another concern due to incentive structures.

Therefore, looking at potential concerns, the RBI has established a basic framework for a self-regulatory organization (SRO) and encouraged fintech to regulate themselves. **However, if necessary, stricter regulations can be imposed later.**

Currently, **an SRO offers the innovative fintech industry an opportunity to shape its own best practices.**

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Read More: [Regulation of Fintech in India – Explained](#) and [Why the RBI has proposed setting-up a Self Regulatory Organisation for fintech](#)

26. [Secure and fair – On guidelines to prevent and regulate dark patterns](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Secure and fair**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **11th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Tech – Awareness in the field of IT

Relevance- Issues related to digital technology

News– The government has issued draft guidelines to prevent and regulate dark patterns.

What are some facts about “dark patterns”?

In 2010, the British ‘user **experience researcher**’ **Harry Brignull** introduced the term “dark patterns.” During that time, Google was perceived as a harmless search engine.

Profit-driven dark patterns were emerging. But, consumers had **limited awareness** of the potential consequences for their privacy, and the **time, energy, and money** they were spending.

Examples of dark patterns that have since become **widespread**. It includes the **automatic pre-selection of travel insurance** when booking flight tickets, the **obligatory requirement** to provide email addresses or phone numbers to access e-commerce websites.

These details are subsequently used for sending **text messages or emails, and birthday reminders** that encourage users to purchase gifts for themselves.

How governments are introducing regulations for dealing with the issue of excessive profit-driven tactics employed by online e-commerce platforms ?

The **European Data Protection Board** has issued guidelines to identify and avoid dark patterns on social media platforms.

The **United States’ Federal Trade Commission** has warned about the “**increasing use of sophisticated dark patterns** designed to deceive consumers.”

In India, the guidelines specify methods for **recognizing and preventing deceptive tactics** such as **false urgency, basket sneaking, confirm shaming, forced actions, and subscription traps** employed by online platforms.

A 2021 report from the **Advertising Standards Council of India** estimated that **over 50% of e-commerce websites** used dark patterns to promote their products.

27. [Stocktaking calamity – on United Nations’ Global Stocktake report](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Stocktaking calamity**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **11th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment

Relevance- Issues related to climate change

News– The United Nations’ Global Stocktake report was released just ahead of the G-20 meet.

What is the purpose of Global Stocktake from the United Nations?

It outlines the **extent of challenges** facing the world’s major economies. It will serve as a blueprint to guide discussions during the **28th Conference of Parties** in Dubai.

Its primary purpose is to provide an **official assessment** of the progress made by countries since 2015 in **curbing greenhouse gas emissions**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

In that year, during the Paris Agreement, countries committed to **limiting global emissions by more than 2°C and ideally restricting the rise to 1.5°C.**

What are some important takeaways from the global stocktake?

The report acknowledges that, despite making some progress, the world is currently **emitting gases** at a rate that will almost certainly **exceed the limits** agreed upon in Paris.

The report emphasizes that **reaching net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050** requires much more **ambitious action and support** for implementing **domestic mitigation measures.**

The **emissions gap** consistent with limiting global warming to 1.5°C in 2030 is estimated to be **between 20.3 billion tonnes and 23.9 billion tonnes of CO2.**

These are significant gaps that cannot be closed without a **rapid expansion of renewable energy resources and a departure from fossil fuel sources.**

What developments took place at the recent G-20 summit on climate change?

Little progress has been made in terms of **transitioning to cleaner energy sources.**

G-20 countries own 93% of existing coal power plants and 88% of planned ones globally.

The **G-20 Leaders Declaration** formally acknowledged the requirement for **significant financial commitments.**

It stated that there is a need for **approximately USD 5.8-5.9 trillion in the period before 2030** to support developing countries and an **additional USD 4 trillion per year for clean energy technologies by 2030** to achieve **net-zero emissions by 2050.**

The report also emphasizes the importance of addressing **deforestation** and the **adoption of electric vehicles** as crucial components of a **clean energy economy.**

28. Nuclear energy is clean but too risky to rely on

Source: The post is based on the article “**Nuclear energy is clean but too risky to rely on**” published in “Live Mint” on 12th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- infrastructure (nuclear energy)

News: The article discusses India’s desire to expand its nuclear energy to achieve climate goals. It also highlights challenges such as global politics, potential disasters, and waste disposal. This is particularly significant following a 2010 law that held suppliers responsible for accidents without establishing compensation limits.

Why is India exploring nuclear energy?

Climate Goals: India aims to achieve 500 gigawatts from non-fossil sources by 2030 to move towards carbon neutrality by 2070. Nuclear energy offers a way to meet this target.

Emission-Free Power: Nuclear plants don’t burn fossil fuels. They generate power by heating water, making it environmentally friendly from an emission standpoint.

Comparative Shortage: Despite the growth of renewable sources like wind, solar, and hydro, India still heavily relies on coal, with nuclear energy contributing only 1.6% of the country’s power. Therefore, there is potential for nuclear energy to grow and aid in reducing coal dependence.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Why didn't the 2005 nuclear deal with the US boost nuclear energy in India?

Liability Law of 2010: India's Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act made foreign suppliers accountable in case of a disaster. This law clearly stated that reactor makers and their supply chain would face consequences, not just operators.

No Compensation Cap: The law didn't set a cap on compensation, making it challenging for insurers to price risk coverage.

Resulting Deterrence: The 2010 law's conditions discouraged many nuclear suppliers, indicating the inherent risks in the nuclear industry and the high premiums possibly demanded by insurers.

What are the concerns around nuclear energy?

Potential Disasters: The extreme risk of a Chernobyl-like incident, though rare, is devastating. Such meltdowns can result in widespread radiation.

Increased Exposure: With more reactors in operation, the potential for accidents increases, heightening the country's overall risk.

Waste Disposal: Handling nuclear waste remains a significant challenge. Current temporary solutions, like cooling ponds, can become problematic, as seen with the large volumes of coolant water Japan's Fukushima plant had to dispose of.

Long-term Waste Management: Nuclear waste eventually needs safe storage deep underground or beneath seabed. This containment ensures no radiation escapes but is costly and often downplayed by nuclear proponents.

29. [Laptop Decision Doesn't Compute](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Laptop Decision Doesn't Compute**– If creating a domestic industry for computers is the goal, tariffs would have been a better policy instrument than reimposing Nehru-Gandhi era licensing" published in "Times of India" on 12th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- Effects of liberalization on the economy, changes in industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

News: The author discusses India's choice to reintroduce licensing on specific tech imports, possibly to safeguard domestic industries. However, this move raises concerns about reverting to older trade policies. The author also stresses the importance of India enhancing its manufacturing sector for economic growth and job opportunities.

Why did India reintroduce licensing on tech imports?

Discreet Discrimination: Licensing could be a tool to discreetly target imports from specific countries without explicitly naming them.

Targeting China: China is a significant supplier, accounting for 54% of India's tech imports in the HTS 8471 category in 2022.

Protection Over Retaliation: The objective might be to protect domestic industries rather than to retaliate against China.

Rapid Response: Licensing offers a quicker protective measure than safeguard or antidumping duties, which require investigations.

What are the other options available to India apart from licensing?

Tariffs: Instead of licensing, India could have simply relied on tariffs to regulate imports.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Discriminatory Tariffs: If India wanted to target specific countries, it could impose higher tariffs on them, like how the US restricted its steel and aluminum imports in 2018.

Safeguard Duties: For protection against sudden surges in imports, such as the rise in tech imports from \$7.3 billion in 2020 to \$11.1 billion in 2022.

Antidumping Duties: Used to counteract unfairly low-priced imports, though they require an investigative process.

What are the implications of reintroducing licensing on tech imports?

Possible Violation of WTO Agreements: The reintroduction of licensing might breach WTO agreements as this method is from a bygone era.

Potential for Discreet Discrimination: Licensing could allow India to quietly target specific countries, such as China, without having to overtly name them.

Unclear National Security Benefits: Restricting tech imports for national security reasons seems unlikely as potential threats, like malware, could be introduced through various components.

Minimal Economic Impact on China: Even though China accounted for 54% of India's tech imports in 2022, India's tech imports only comprise a small fraction of China's total exports.

Protection of Domestic Industry: The main reasoning might be to safeguard India's domestic industries from surging imports, which rose significantly between 2020 and 2022.

Potential Return to Old Trade Practices: Reintroducing licenses raises concerns of reverting to restrictive trade policies, signaling potential future challenges for India's trade landscape.

What should be done?

Reevaluate Trade Policies: India should reassess the reintroduction of older trade tools like licensing and consider more effective and modern trade measures.

Expert Committee Consultation: After the 2024 elections, the new government should set up an expert committee to advise on policies that can boost manufacturing growth rates.

Focus on Manufacturing: Emphasize the importance of manufacturing for rapid productivity growth, job creation, and skill enhancement.

Employment Strategy: Address the current pattern where 85% of the workforce is in low-output sectors. Encourage the growth of larger enterprises that yield higher productivity.

[30. Why the earthquake in Morocco has caused so much damage](#)

Source: This post is created based on the article '**Why the earthquake in Morocco has caused so much damage**', published in **Indian Express on 12th September 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Disaster Management

News: Morocco has been hit by its most powerful earthquake. It has resulted in casualties of more than 2500 people.

Morocco was hit by an earthquake of magnitude 6.8. Its epicenter was located in the Al-Haouz province, in the Atlas Mountains of the historic city of Marrakech.

It has resulted in heavy casualties and many survivors are left without food, electricity and phone services.

The earthquakes in the North Africa are the result of northward convergence of the African plate with the Eurasian plate along a complex plate boundary. The present earthquake was attributed

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

by USGS to “oblique-reverse faulting at shallow depth within the Moroccan High Atlas Mountain range”.

A fault is a crack between two rock blocks. If they move fast, a quake happens. Faults are classified by their angle and direction of movement.

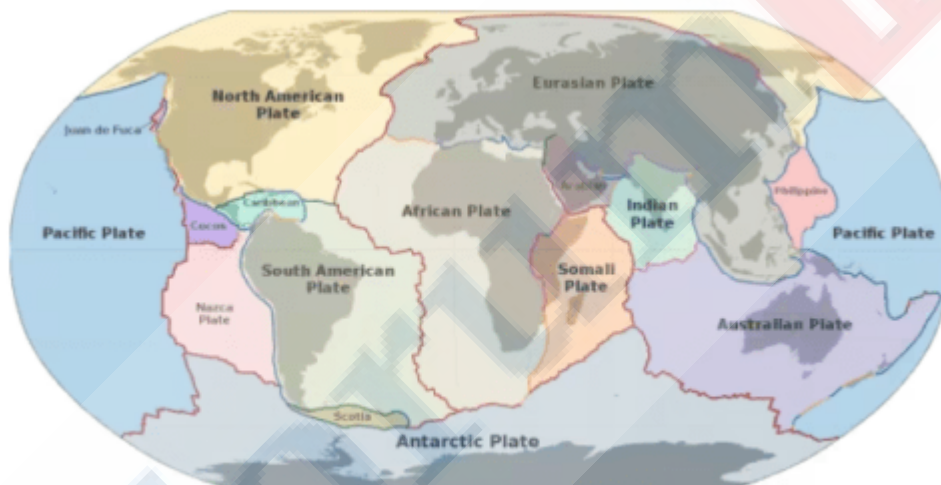
Why the Morocco earthquake was that dangerous?

Although the magnitude of the earthquake was 6.8, which in many other regions did not result in destruction and casualties. But in Morocco, it was a **very shallow earthquake**.

USGS reported the epicenter of earthquake roughly 18.5 km below the Earth’s surface. While Morocco’s own seismic agency pegged the depth at 11 km.

Shallow earthquakes carry a much higher amount of energy when they hit the surface. Whereas earthquakes with deep epicenters lose energy when they hit the surface. Although, deep epicenter earthquakes spread farther to great distances.

For example, the earthquakes, that hit Turkey and Syria were also shallow, originated 17.9 km below the Earth’s surface, with magnitude 7.8. it caused death of more than 50,000 people and destroyed about 1,60,000 buildings containing 5,20,000 apartments.



A map of the major tectonic plates on our planet. The quake occurred roughly 500 km away from the point where the African and Eurasian plates meet. (Wikimedia Commons)

What are the measures of earthquake?

Apart from depth, magnitude is also an indicator of quake. Magnitude tells how big the seismic waves are. Each increasing number of magnitudes represents 32 times more energy release and 10 times more amplitude.

In simple terms, the seismic waves produced by a magnitude 6 earthquake have 10 times higher amplitude than the ones produced by a magnitude 5 earthquake.

What are the reasons behind heavy destruction in Morocco?

First, earthquakes are not very common in North Africa. Therefore, Morocco was not prepared for such a calamity.

Second, many changes were introduced to construction rules after Morocco faced the earthquake in 1960, but buildings in rural areas and older cities are not built to withstand the earthquake. Many houses collapsed in Marrakech, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are the earthquake zones in India?

Western Himalayan region of the 2500-km stretch from the Hindu Kush mountains to the end of Arunachal Pradesh, is the most dangerous seismic zones in the world.

A huge amount of energy is stored along the fault lines there, due to the continuous interaction of different tectonic plates.

Energy can be released only in the form of massive earthquakes.

31. Satwik Mishra writes: Cautiously on AI

Source– The post is based on the article “**Satwik Mishra writes: Cautiously on AI**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **12th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology – Awareness in the field of IT, computers

News– The G20 Delhi Declaration stresses the importance of responsible artificial intelligence (AI) practices, including the protection of human rights, transparency, fairness, and accountability.

What is the potential of AI?

AI is currently **playing a pivotal role** in shaping our digital era and is fundamentally **reshaping our concept of advancement**.

According to **Stanford’s Artificial Index Report of 2023**, **private investments in AI** have surged by 18 times since 2013. The **adoption of AI technologies** by companies has doubled since 2017.

McKinsey’s estimates project that the **annual worth of AI** could span from \$17.1 trillion to \$25.6 trillion.

AI is on a steady upward trajectory. It is showing **increasing capabilities, accessible affordability, and broad-ranging applications**.

What are the challenges posed by AI?

AI poses established challenges such as **biased models, privacy concerns, and obscured decision-making**.

Generative AI carries the potential danger of undermining the **integrity of public discourse** through the **spread of misinformation, disinformation, influence operations, and personalized persuasion tactics**. It can erode societal trust.

In the defense sector, there is a concern that AI **unexplained aberrations and unverified analyses** could potentially lead to **unforeseen and uncontrollable military escalations**.

The concept of **Artificial General Intelligence** has been highlighted as a **significant concern**. There is growing apprehension about the **potential for AI systems** to become extremely powerful.

Way forward-

There is a need to establish a **global consensus** on the **risks posed by AI**. Even a **single vulnerability** can create opportunities for **malicious actors** to execute **extensive breaches**.

It would be wise to establish an **international commission** dedicated to **continuously identifying AI-related risks**

It is crucial to formulate a **set of standards** that should be met by any **public AI service**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

These standards play a **pivotal role** in enhancing safety by **reducing risks, advancing quality, facilitating private-public collaborations, streamlining operations**, and **fostering compatibility** across different regions.

There is a need to develop **socio-technical standards**. It should **outline ideals** and provide the **technical means** to achieve them. Since AI is an **evolving technology**, these standards must be **adaptable**.

Governments should have a **substantial stake** in the **design, development, and deployment** of AI. It is currently dominated by a small number of companies.

There is a need to **reimagine models for public-private partnerships**. It is required to establish **regulatory sandbox zones** where experiments aimed at **boosting entrepreneurs' competitive edge** are balanced with **fair solutions to societal challenges**.

[32. The signals from this 'Made in China' smartphone story](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**The signals from this 'Made in China' smartphone story**” published in “**The Hindu**” on **12th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian Economy

News– Huawei has created ripples within the strategic and business community with its newly unveiled Mate 60 Pro which houses the Kirin 9000 processor. The chipset reportedly used Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp (SMIC)'s second-generation 7nm fabrication technique.

What are the challenges before the Chinese advanced chips manufacturing ecosystem?

- The **manufacturing method** employed by Huawei-SMIC for producing the **Kirin 9000 processor** is **ineffective**. The **efficiency metric known as wafer yield** falls well below 50% for this technology.

In contrast, Taiwan's Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company Limited utilizes a **7nm manufacturing process** with a **wafer yield exceeding 90%**.

Consequently, Huawei **SMIC's approach** becomes **excessively costly**. It is reaching up to **ten times** the expenses incurred by other market players.

- The **7nm manufacturing process** represents the **highest level of China's capabilities** given the currently available **Deep Ultraviolet (DUV) lithography tools**.

Sanctions imposed by the United States denied Beijing access to the most advanced lithography tool in the market—the **Extreme Ultraviolet (EUVs)**. It forced China to rely on **DUVs** for fabricating the **Kirin 9000 chipset**.

While DUVs can technically be used to create **7nm chips**, the process is **inefficient**. It is leading to reduced yield.

- There are doubts about Huawei-SMIC's ability to engage in **large-scale production** of the current chipsets. Recent restrictions imposed by the U.S. and its allies pose a challenge for Chinese companies looking to scale up the **production of 7nm chips**.

What is the comparison between the Chinese chip manufacturing ecosystem and US chip manufacturing ecosystem?

- The **decentralized nature** of the **technology ecosystem** led by the United States enables individual countries to **specialize** based on their unique **comparative advantages**.

This is evident in the **current supply chain**. The United States excels in **Electronic Design Automation (EDA) tools and design**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

- The Netherlands specializes in manufacturing **lithography tools**. Japan is known for producing **specialized materials**. Taiwan and South Korea excel in **fabrication**.

In contrast, China faces the challenge of **achieving self-sufficiency** in each segment of the semiconductor value chain and attaining a **high level of sophistication** in each of these areas to remain competitive.

Specializing in any single segment of the chip value chain alone requires **substantial capital investment**. It is practically impossible in every segment.

- In the U.S.-led ecosystem, the costs can be shared among **participating countries**, most of which have significantly higher per-capita income levels than China.

So, to compete effectively with this larger resource pool, China must achieve a **higher success rate** for every research dollar it invests.

This presents a challenge. Breakthroughs in **fundamental research** often require **substantial capital** and do not always lead to successful outcomes.

- The **U.S.-led tech ecosystem** benefits from its ability to **attract talent** from diverse regions due to its **open immigration policies and widespread network**.

In contrast, China will increasingly rely on its **national or overseas talent pool**. The **movement of human capital** to China becomes more challenging due to **escalating competition** in the high-tech sectors.

[33. Spotlighting another border point, the 'rogue channel](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Spotlighting another border point, the 'rogue channel'**" published in "The Hindu" on 13th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Security- Security challenges and their management in border areas.

News: The author talks about India's Home Minister, Amit Shah, and his recent efforts to boost border security at the tough Harami Nala region in Gujarat. This includes building observation towers, roads, and other infrastructure to stop illegal activities and infiltration from Pakistan.

What new initiative has India launched to secure its India-Pak border at Harami Nala region in Gujarat?

Observation Post Tower at BOP 1164: A 9.5-metre tall observation post tower equipped with high-resolution pan-tilt-zoom cameras was inaugurated. This will enhance intelligence-gathering capabilities.

Road and Mooring Infrastructure: The newly constructed Chidiyamod-Biarbet Link Road was inaugurated to improve connectivity. Additionally, a foundation stone for a mooring place at Koteshwar in Kutch was laid. This mooring project, with a budget of ₹257 crore, will support larger vessels and floating BOPs.

New Observation Posts: New observation towers are planned at BOPs 1165, 1166, and 1169. These towers, worth ₹3 crore each, will provide live camera feeds for continuous surveillance over Harami Nala's surroundings.

Total Investment: These security enhancements are part of initiatives worth ₹361.35 crore, aiming to realize India's Prime Minister vision of a "secure border".

What are the impacts of this new initiative?

Enhanced Surveillance: The new observation post tower at BOP 1164 is equipped with high-resolution cameras, offering continuous live camera feed over the water and mudflats of Harami Nala. This significantly bolsters intelligence-gathering capabilities.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Infrastructure Boost: The inauguration of the Chidiyamod-Biarbet Link Road and the foundation stone for a mooring place at Koteswar improves access and operational capacity. The Mooring Place project, in particular, will aid the BSF by allowing maintenance and berthing of bigger vessels in the Creek area.

Impenetrable Border: With the new observation posts, continuous surveillance, and improved road connectivity, the border, as stated by Amit Shah, is now considered impenetrable, ensuring no cross-border mischief.

Enhanced Naval Capabilities: The ₹257 crore Mooring Place project strengthens the BSF's marine operations, allowing for berthing, repairs, and maintenance of larger vessels, including floating BOPs.

What is unique about Harami Nala?

Geography: It's a natural water body, about 25 kilometers long, flowing from Pakistan into Kutch, south of the Vighakot sector.

Territory: Approximately 22 kilometers of the channel are on the Indian side of the International Boundary, which is uncontested.

Changing Landscape: Tidal waters from the Pakistani side are causing the channel to extend further into the Indian territory.

Economic Importance: The area is abundant in fish, especially prawns, attracting Pakistani fishing boats.

Industrial Activity: On the Indian side, away from the boundary, factories produce salt, bromide, and other chemicals using mineral-rich waters.

Challenging Terrain: Vast marshy mudflats surround it, with temperatures reaching above 50° Celsius in summer.

34. [Climate phenomena and food security](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Climate phenomena and food security**" published in "The Hindu" on 13th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment- climate change

News: The author discusses weather disruptions in India, focusing on the impacts of the Western disturbance and El Niño. They stress the significance of two types of water in agriculture and the necessity for India to adjust its agricultural practices and water management in response to climate change.

What weather disruptions are faced by India?

Extended Western Disturbance: This disturbance, which usually brings moisture to the western Himalaya and northern India during winter and spring, remained active late into the summer.

Landslides and Flooding: These events resulted in significant infrastructure damage and loss of life in the western Himalaya and northern India.

Affected Population: More than 25 lakh people were potentially impacted in an area estimated between 2,124 and 7,362 sq. km.

El Niño Phase: Evidence showed an intensifying El Niño phase which could influence the southwest monsoon.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Northeast Monsoon: Studies found that 43% of heavy rainfall events in the northeast monsoon, including the devastating 2015 Chennai floods, coincided with an El Niño.

What are the two types of water in agriculture?

Green Water:

This is rain-fed soil moisture.

Used by food and cash crops.

Transpires back into the atmosphere.

Around half of the cultivated area in India depends on green water.

75% of India's daily diet water footprint is green water, highlighting the importance of rainfed agriculture.

Blue Water:

Found in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and groundwater.

Basis for irrigation, drinking, and industry use.

Maintains ecological flows in rivers.

Dominant crops in irrigated areas, like rice paddy during the kharif season, use green water for about 35% of their needs.

What are the impacts of El Niño on India?

Weakened Precipitation: Climate-linked warming due to El Niño may weaken winter precipitation from the Western disturbance and shift it to more intense rain events.

Southwest Monsoon Influence: An intensifying El Niño phase can potentially affect the southwest monsoon, though the relationship between them has changed over time.

Rainfed Agriculture: El Niño affects rainfed agriculture by delaying rain starts, impacting sowing, and by causing higher temperatures that negatively influence plant growth and soil moisture.

Food Production: In the 2015-2016 El Niño year, soybean production in India declined by 28% from the 2013-2022 average.

Northeast Monsoon: 43% of heavy rainfall events in the northeast monsoon, including the 2015 Chennai floods, coincided with an El Niño.

How should India respond?

Shift in Crops:

Move towards less water-intensive crops like millets to reduce the vulnerability of the food system to phenomena like El Niño.

Over 30% of blue water can be saved with such shifts, though saved water might be quickly used unless policies are in place.

Alternative Strategies:

Adaptations and alternative crop strategies are now available, like switching to shorter growing cycle crops.

Advisories to farmers are crucial for switching crops.

Utilizing Forecasts:

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Both the Centre and the States, along with farmers, should benefit from forecasts about phenomena like El Niño.

Enhancements in short-term weather forecasts are vital.

Dam Management:

There's a clear need for alternative management of dams and reservoirs to minimize flood disasters and protect aquatic ecosystems.

Governance Response:

Emphasize sustainable water-sharing between humans and nature, rejuvenating rivers, and diversifying agro-food systems.

35. May the twain meet: Look East as much as West for Indian exports

Source– The post is based on the article “**May the twain meet: Look East as much as West for Indian exports**” published in the “**mint**” on **13th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian economy

Relevance- Issues related to trade

News– India's goods exports printed 14.5% lower for the April-July period, having contracted for the sixth month on a trot in July.

Why is trade with the Asia-Pacific region(APAC) a matter of concern?

Between April and July, India's **total goods exports** contracted by **14.5%**. Exports to the APAC region experienced a more substantial decline, **down by 22.0%**.

Comparatively, the **decline in exports** to the United States and the European Union (EU) was lower at **11.5% and 4.8%**, respectively.

The slowdown in exports to the APAC region commenced earlier. In the fiscal year 2022-23, when India's overall goods exports saw **increases of 6.9%**. But, exports to APAC markets decreased by 11.2%.

Most of these regions **increased their imports** from across the globe. Hence, India's export slump cannot be attributed to **reduced regional demand**.

Furthermore, India's **non-oil exports** to the APAC region were down by 12.3% year-on-year in the past fiscal year. But, they increased to both the EU and the US.

This suggests that the decline in **India's goods exports** to APAC was not solely due to lower exports of oil but was a **broader issue**.

The **region's share** in **India's goods exports** had been diminishing for a long time. In fiscal year 2018-19, APAC accounted for 33% of India's goods exports.

However, in fiscal year 2022-23, APAC's share had **decreased to 26.6%**, while the combined share of the US and EU had **risen to 34%**.

The **trade deficit** with the region is also an issue. The APAC share in **India's goods trade deficit** was 49.6% in fiscal year 2018-19. It increased to 64.7% during April-July of this fiscal year.

How regional FTAs within the Asia-Pacific region are a cause of worry for India?

India is not a party to the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership**. It is considered as the **world's largest free trade pact**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

India is also not a party to other significant trade agreements in the broader Asian region, namely the **Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)** and the **trade component of the IPEF**.

As tariffs among member countries within these agreements continue to decrease, India's **potential for exports** to the APAC region could encounter **additional challenges**.

Way forward-

India should maintain its **focus on the APAC region**.

The APAC region has a **nominal GDP of approximately \$32 trillion in 2022**. The APAC market surpasses both the US and the Eurozone.

S&P Global anticipates that APAC will **grow at approximately 4%**. This **growth rate trend** is likely to persist in the foreseeable future.

Therefore, India should explore ways to fully **leverage the export potential** of this region, particularly considering its **geographical proximity**.

36. Sunny Side Up – on India-Saudi Arabia MoU

Source: This post is based on the article “**Sunny Side Up**”, published in **The Times of India**, on **13th Sep 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Economy – Energy – renewable Energy

News: India and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate in the field of energy.

The focus of MoU is on renewable energy and the possibility of connecting national power grids through an undersea link.

What is the Significance of the MoU between India and Saudi Arabia?

First, both countries are aiming towards transition to renewable energy (RE). Saudi Arabia aims for 50% RE by 2030, while India aims to increase its RE capacity from 175 GW in 2022 to 450 GW by 2030. The MoU explores the idea of linking national grids to manage the surge in RE capacity.

Second, it also opens the possibility of international cooperation in energy storage technology.

What are the challenges?

First, Variations in power demand throughout the day and the generation of power is dependent upon the natural forces like sunlight. It makes it difficult to manage the grid. Which is also the reason behind India's uneven state-wise RE development.

Second, Storage costs make RE less attractive financially.

37. A new direction for direct taxes

Source: This post is based on the article “**A new direction for direct taxes**”, published in Business Standard, on **13th Sep 2023**.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Economy – Mobilisation of Resources

News: The latest data shows a decline in the government's direct tax collections.

The government's direct tax collections declined by 0.91% in the first four months of the current financial year. This is contrary to the Budget's projection of 11.36% growth for the full year.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are the issues reported in the collection of direct taxes?

First, there is a shortfall in direct tax collections despite healthy profits reported by India Inc. Corporation tax collections fell by 10%.

Second, personal income-tax collections grew by only 6.6%, much lower than the projected annual growth rate of 14%.

Third, The Union Budget for 2023-24 heavily relies on the growth of direct taxes. The shortfall in direct tax collections could jeopardize the government's ambitious capital expenditure plan.

What are possible reasons behind the slowdown in direct tax collections?

Gradual cut in corporation tax rates and lower tax rates for individuals might be affecting collections. The effective tax rate for companies has come down from about 24.67% in 2014-15 to 22% in 2020-21.

Tax concessions offered to individual taxpayers have been rising steadily.

Companies earning over ₹500 crore have seen a decline in their effective tax rate from 23% to 19%.

What should be done?

There is an urgent need to understand why direct tax collections have not reflected the buoyancy in the Indian economy.

The tax department's move to send notices to potential tax evaders may not be enough to address the issue.

38. Haseeb Drabu writes: What the 16th Finance Commission needs to do differently

Source– The post is based on the article “Haseeb Drabu writes: What the 16th Finance Commission needs to do differently” published in “The Indian Express” on 14th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS2 – Issue pertaining to federalism. GS3- Government budgeting

News– The article highlights the need for relook at federal fiscal transfer due to the introduction of GST.

Why is there a need for reconsideration of federal fiscal transfer after the implementation of GST?

Earlier, the taxation system was **based on production**. Now, it is **centered on consumption**. It alters the **dynamics of federalism** both **vertically and horizontally**.

Previously, the **central sales tax** shifted the **tax burden** from wealthy **manufacturing states to consuming states**. It contributed to **horizontal imbalances**.

Now, the **destination principle** ensures that **consuming states** benefit at the expense of industrialized ones. The IGST levied during **interstate supply** of goods or services is transferred to the **destination state**.

This transition from the **origin-based tax principle to the destination-based principle** is reshaping the **power balance** among states.

However, the **federal fiscal transfer system** remains structured for the **origin-based tax era**. Its **criteria for distribution** also adhere to the previous system.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What should be the way forward for the 16th Finance Commission?

The upcoming formation of the 16th Finance Commission should include a mandate to reassess the **principles governing tax distribution**. It should take into account the changed landscape of fiscal federalism in India.

Its **terms of reference** should reflect the **consolidation and inclusion** of the indirect tax base shared by both the Union and the states.

There is a need for reconsideration of the statutory **sharing of indirect taxes**, both in terms of **vertical and horizontal distribution**.

To align the **principle of vertical distribution** with the new system, it's crucial to redefine the **divisible pool**.

For example, the 16th Finance Commission will need to specify how **IGST** can be **fully integrated** into this pool. Currently, only IGST without any **input tax credit** is shared with the states.

There should be a **standardized basis** for including unsettled **IGST with credit in transition** into the **divisible pool**.

The altered administration of GST has led to a substantial increase and considerable variation in the reported **cost of tax collection**. It is ranging from 7% to 10%.

Therefore, the SFC should recommend a method for **calculating and distributing the cost of collecting indirect taxes** and proposing ways to reduce these costs and enhance **collection efficiency**.

Regarding **horizontal distribution**, the criteria for **distributing the divisible pool** among states will need to be reexamined.

The existing criteria have evolved in the context of a **production-based tax system**. This needs to be reconfigured to suit a **consumption-based tax system**.

The SFC should evaluate the **necessity for GST compensation**. It's crucial to reassess the **need, feasibility** of the compensation scheme in light of the **revenue performance** of GST over the past six years.

Additionally, clear guidelines should be established for allocating the remaining amount of **GST compensation cess collection** to the **divisible pool of taxes**.

Furthermore, within the **new institutional framework of federal finance**, there should be a **formal institutional relationship** between the **GST council and the Finance Commission**.

The SFC should investigate how the **GST Council** can function as a **Fiscal Council** to oversee the implementation of its award during the periods when it is not actively in operation.

[39. India's unemployment challenge can't be tackled by doles as usual](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**India's unemployment challenge can't be tackled by doles as usual**” published in the “**mint**” on **14th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy – Employment

News– The article explains the issues of higher unemployment rate among the youth population.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What does the statistics say about the employment scenario in the country?

According to this **PLFS data**, there has been a consistent improvement in the **employment situation** from 2017 to 2021. Both **labour-force participation and work-force participation** have increased during this period.

If we contrast the data with the previous five-year **survey on employment and unemployment** conducted in 2011-12, the situation in 2021-22 appears markedly improved.

But, **Indian unemployment rates** are higher than they were in 2011-12. The gap was particularly pronounced in 2017-18 but has since narrowed.

Unemployment rates are higher in all categories. In the case of rural males, **unemployment** has doubled since 2011-12.

What is the conventional explanation for higher unemployment rates?

India's **demonetization** of high-value currency notes in November 2016, and **GST introduction** in 2017, had a lasting impact on the economy, especially its informal sector. This is believed to contribute to the **high unemployment rate**.

Both demonetization and the COVID-19 pandemic led to **significant reverse migration** from urban to rural areas. It resulted in **increased reliance on agriculture**.

Why do the conventional explanations for higher unemployment rates do not seem to be appropriate?

Neither of these explanations is **supported by the available data**.

The number of people identifying as **“self-employed”** is higher now than in the past.

Economists recognize **three categories of self-employed workers: own-account workers, employers, and workers in household enterprises**. **Own-account workers and employers** can be considered proxies for **informal sector enterprises**.

In 2011-12, **52.2% of workers** described themselves as **self-employed**. By 2021-22, this figure had **increased to 55.8%**.

Considering the increase in the population between 2011-12 and 2021-22, the data suggests a **significant rise** in the **number of informal businesses**.

The **Periodic Labour Force Survey** provides information on the **average monthly earnings** of self-employed workers. These figures indicate an increase between 2017 and 2022.

This suggests that the severe **adverse impact of demonetization and GST** on employment is unlikely to be the **primary cause** of the rise in **India's unemployment rate**.

The **argument of reverse migration** also does not hold up under scrutiny. In 2021, a special exercise within the PLFS assessed the **impact on migration**.

The results indicated that the **migration rate** in 2020-21 was nearly the same as that in the **National Sample Survey's 64th round in 2007-08**.

Additionally, the proportion of **workers in “usual status”** describing themselves as **primarily engaged in agriculture** had decreased between 2011-12 and 2021-22.

What are the possible reasons behind higher unemployment rates in India?

Higher educational level among youth– Youth unemployment has increased significantly from 2011-12 to 2021-22, nearly doubling during this period.

As educational attainment improves, more educated individuals are less inclined to accept **unskilled jobs**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Expansion of social security measures- The government has increased the **distribution of food** under the **National Food Security Act**.

This reduces the pressure on individuals to immediately **seek employment**. It allows them more time to **“search for work,”** which contributes to the increase in the **unemployment rate**.

Additionally, **direct cash transfers** to farmer households and **certain vulnerable population groups** have also served as **support mechanisms**.

Therefore, the rise in unemployment can be attributed to **structural changes in the economy**.

40. Our inflation index lens is hazy but clear enough

Source- The post is based on the article **“Our inflation index lens is hazy but clear enough”** published in the **“mint”** on **14th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian economy

News- In the latest official release for August, it was reported that inflation had eased to 6.8% year-on-year from the previous 15-month high of 7.4% in July.

Why are doubts being raised on accuracy of CPI data?

The **basket of goods and services** monitored by the CPI has not been refreshed in approximately a decade. But, our **consumption habits** may have evolved.

India is primarily a nation with modest means. **Food items** make up a **substantial portion** of the basket. When combined with beverages and tobacco, food items constitute nearly **half of the index**.

The rest is composed of **categories like clothing and footwear, fuel and lighting, housing, and miscellaneous items**.

A **general formula** that was appropriate a decade ago, based on **India’s consumption expenditure survey of 2011-12**, may no longer be as accurate.

In **emerging economies**, as incomes rise, the **proportion of food expenses** in monthly budgets usually decreases, while **other expenditures** increase. Today, even low-income earners are known to pay **telecom bills**.

As the **last major consumption survey** conducted in 2017-18 was discarded by the government due to discrepancies. There is a lack of a clear understanding of **consumption patterns** for revising the CPI basket.

Why is CPI index still relevant for showing inflation trends?

CPI data may not depict a clear picture of **inflation scenario**. But, it does not **diminish its usefulness**. An **updated index** may not significantly alter inflation readings.

The inflation index doesn’t need to reflect **absolute truth** as an **indicator of trends**. What matters is not the **clarity of the picture** but the **direction and pace** of its change.

As long as a central bank can grasp **price fluctuations and stabilizations**, there is no need to doubt **CPI index**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

41. [Banking investments – New norms will impart stability](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Banking investments – New norms will impart stability**” published in **Business Standard** on **14th September 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Indian Economy – Banking Sector**

Relevance: **RBI’s new guidelines for investment in the banking sector.**

News: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently released updated investment norms for the banking sector, aiming to enhance regulatory oversight.

The new framework aligns with global standards and best practices, aiming for a balanced approach to recognizing gains and losses in fair value.

About the New Guidelines

The new guidelines require banks to categorize their entire investment portfolio into **three categories:** Held-to-Maturity (HTM), Available for Sale, and Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVTPL).

This will exclude investments in joint ventures and subsidiaries while securities held for trading will fall under the FVTPL subcategory.

The new framework introduces a dedicated trading book for banks and eliminates the previous limit on the held-to-maturity (HTM) portion of the investment portfolio.

This change will give banks more flexibility in managing their investments, boosts demand for corporate bonds, and improve earnings stability.

However, banks must be cautious with their investment portfolios under the new rules, as freely moving securities in and out of the Held-to-Maturity (HTM) category won’t be allowed.

Reclassification will be strict, needing approvals from the bank’s board and the RBI, which will be seldom granted.

Additionally, in any fiscal year, **the sale of HTM securities cannot exceed 5% of the portfolio’s opening value without RBI approval.**

The new framework also includes detailed rules for securities transfers between categories and clear guidelines for categorizing and valuing securities.

Banks must establish an investment fluctuation reserve, which can be included in Tier-II capital and enhances the banking system’s capacity to absorb losses.

Overall, this framework is expected to enhance disclosure, contributing to greater stability in the banking system.

Why were the new guidelines needed?

The current regulations for valuing investments in banks have been old and in place since 2000.

Further, **RBI’s decision to come up with new guidelines has been due to the lessons learnt from the US,** where inadequate investment regulation contributed to bank crises.

Although Indian banks aren’t facing the same risks, revising the regulatory framework based on experience will improve the Indian banking regulatory structure.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

42. Protecting floodplains is the need of the hour

Source: The post is based on the article “**Protecting floodplains is the need of the hour**” published in “The Hindu” on 14th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Disaster and disaster management

News: The author discusses the increasing problem of floods in India due to climate change and poor land management. Many areas are being constructed upon, reducing floodplain space. Other countries use better flood management strategies, which India could learn from. Strong political action is needed to protect the environment and prevent further disasters.

Why are floods becoming more frequent in India?

Climate Change Impact: Due to global climate shifts, there’s an increase in intense and frequent floods in India. For instance, the 2013 floods in Uttarakhand, the 2014 floods in Kashmir, and the 2015 floods in Chennai highlight the growing problem.

Rapid City Expansion: Cities in India are expanding quickly and without proper planning. This haphazard growth disregards the natural topography, increasing flood risks. The devastating Chennai floods in 2015 are a prime example of this.

Occupation of Floodplains: Building on floodplains reduces the river’s capacity to contain water. Encroachments, especially in regions like Uttarakhand, contribute to increased flood risks. The 2013 floods in Uttarakhand were partly due to such activities.

Environmental Neglect: While India has protective environmental laws, they aren’t always enforced. Encroachments on floodplains, like in Chennai, underline the negative impact of this oversight.

What are the initiatives taken by India to handle floods?

Disaster Management Act, 2005: India primarily relies on this Act to address flood management, although it’s designed to handle multi-hazard risks and doesn’t focus exclusively on floods.

National Green Tribunal Directive: After the 2013 Uttarakhand floods, a 2015 directive from the National Green Tribunal barred construction within 200 m along the banks of the Ganga to protect floodplains.

Uttaranchal River Valley (Development and Management) Act, 2005: This Act intends to regulate mining and construction in river valleys. However, violations are common, impacting the environment.

Central Policy Measures: While India has central policies for floodplain protection, they are non-binding on states, leading to inconsistent enforcement.

What should be done?

Embrace Flood Risk Management: Adopt strategies from countries like Germany, the U.K., and the Netherlands that focus on flood risk management rather than just flood protection.

Regulate Construction on Floodplains: Strictly implement directives like the one from the National Green Tribunal, which barred construction within 200m along the Ganga banks.

Ensure Environmental Impact Assessments: Proper evaluations must be conducted before permitting constructions, especially in flood-prone areas.

Holistic Climate Change Adaptation: Integrate various laws concerning land use, water body preservation, and environmental impacts into a coherent strategy.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

43. [Expanding the Indian economy, the green way](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Expanding the Indian economy, the green way**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **15th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment

Relevance- Issue related to climate change

News– The Centre is planning to set up the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) by establishing a national framework that will help in decarbonising the domestic economy by pricing GHG emissions via trading in carbon credit certificates.

What is the carbon credit?

A **robust carbon trading network** is one of the solutions to address the **climate emergency**.

Carbon credits are **temporary “permits”** that allow an organization to emit a **specific quantity of CO2** in a given year.

This system enables companies with low or no emissions to sell these credits on the market through a **carbon trading framework or carbon exchange**. By doing so, they can **compensate for the emissions** of another entity that is willing to purchase these credits.

What is the importance of carbon credit?

Certain industrial companies and sectors such as cement, chemicals, iron and steel production, and non-ferrous metals are facing **challenges to decarbonize**. They have **limited options**.

Decarbonization in these industries is more costly compared to sectors like transportation and power generation.

Carbon credits offer a **valuable means** for companies to achieve their **sustainability objectives**. These organizations can either acquire **carbon credits** or **support initiatives** that generate **carbon credits**.

What are some facts about the Indian Carbon Market (ICM) being planned by the Indian government?

The **draft framework for the Indian Carbon Credit Scheme 2023** has been recently released by the central government.

The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** has been assigned the responsibility of developing the **Carbon Trading Scheme** in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

The Centre’s draft notification does not include **provisions for the procedures, regulations, or guidelines** governing the operation of carbon markets. This responsibility will be entrusted to a **National Steering Committee chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Power**.

ICM will be subject to regulation. It will also **offer flexibility** to companies operating in **challenging-to-decarbonize sectors**.

What are the benefits associated with the Indian Carbon Market?

First, ICM will attract investments for **transitioning** to a **low-carbon ecosystem**. It will also enable India to achieve its target of reducing the **emissions intensity of its GDP** by 45% by 2030, compared to the 2005 levels.

Second, the introduction of carbon credit trading will provide a significant boost to the **energy transition efforts** due to its **broader coverage** of potential energy sectors across the country. The Indian Carbon Market (ICM) will play a significant role in **decarbonizing the commercial and industrial sectors**.

Third, The decision by the Centre will also lead to **increased awareness, transformation, and innovation** within industries that are difficult to decarbonize. Companies motivated by

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

incentives and penalties will start incorporating **environmental impact** as a critical factor in their **strategic planning**.

As carbon-related tariffs like the **Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM)** begin to exert a direct influence on trade, businesses will need to consider both **domestic and international repercussions**.

44. [Express View: Checking Nipah](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Express View: Checking Nipah**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **15th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology

Relevance- Communicable diseases

News– The Nipah virus has surfaced in Kerala for the fourth time in the past five years.

What are some facts about the Nipah virus?

It may not spread as easily as influenza or Covid. But, it can quickly **become deadly**. In severe instances, individuals experience **respiratory distress and inflammation of the brain**. The **mortality rate** can reach as high as 75 percent.

There is currently no vaccine available to protect against this pathogen. **Treatment options** are primarily focused on **alleviating the symptoms**.

The Nipah virus was initially identified during an epidemic that affected **pig farmers in Malaysia and Singapore** back in 1999.

Research conducted by the ICMR has indicated that **fruit bats** serve as the **natural reservoir** for this virus.

Human-to-human transmission can occur through **close contact**, either at home or in hospitals.

Each outbreak increases the potential for the **virus to mutate**. It raises the possibility of a more **efficient transmission strain**. The World Health Organization classifies Nipah as a **virus of concern**.

Way forward-

The World Health Organization (WHO) also recommends that countries located in Nipah hotspots should create **strategies to predict, monitor, and manage outbreaks**.

It is crucial to gain insights into what is happening within the **virus’s animal reservoir** before it crosses over to infect humans.

There is a need for **collaborative efforts** across different fields, involving professionals in human, animal, and environmental health.

It is essential to **identify patterns** of the **virus’s circulation** among fruit bats and document the instances when it jumps between species.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

45. [The New Delhi Declaration and Paris Agenda show a way forth](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**The New Delhi Declaration and Paris Agenda show a way forth**” published in the “**mint**” on **15th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment

News– At the end of June, a historic summit on international solidarity concluded the Paris Agenda for People and the Planet. African leaders amplified this dynamic by adopting the Nairobi Declaration during the first Africa Climate Summit in Kenya.

What are some facts about the Paris agenda?

It envisioned a **world without poverty**, where the **health of our planet** is protected, and **vulnerable nations** are **empowered** to confront the challenges posed by **climate change and conflicts**.

Achieving these objectives necessitates the **mobilization of diverse financial resources and unity** among nations.

What are the four principles that should guide the Paris agenda?

- It is imperative that no nation is compelled to make a decision between **eradicating poverty** and **safeguarding and conserving** the environment.
- There is a need to recognize the **varying needs** of different countries. They should pursue **diverse pathways** to achieve the objectives outlined in the **2015 Paris climate agreement**.
- There is a pressing need for **additional financial resources** to aid **vulnerable economies**. It will enable them to elevate their populations out of poverty while simultaneously **preserving the environment**.
- Tackling contemporary global challenges and mitigating inequality, will depend on the **expansion of private capital flows** to emerging and developing economies.

What is the way forward for the Paris agenda?

There is a strong need for a **substantial financial stimulus**. The world has already achieved the target of **\$100 billion worth of special drawing rights** to be channelled to the world’s most vulnerable countries, especially in Africa.

Governments capable of providing **additional SDR rechanneling mechanisms** should contribute more.

There is a need to enhance the **efficiency of utilising** these resources. It is crucial that each dollar lent by multilateral development banks (MDBs) is matched by at least one dollar of **private financing**.

There is a need to enhance the **timeliness and predictability** of the **debt restructuring coordination mechanism** for low-income countries, commonly referred to as the **G20’s Common Framework for Debt Treatments**.

Furthermore, discussions regarding its extension to lower-middle-income countries are imperative.

Accelerating **debt suspension** in countries **experiencing debt distress** is also crucial.

The **G20 Common Framework** has already yielded positive results in the cases of Chad and Zambia. It should be **utilized more extensively**.

Countries should stand by each other in **times of disaster**. It necessitated the development of **specific tools to bolster resilience**, including the inclusion of a **climate-crisis clause in debt contracts**. All **financial institutions and stakeholders** must collaborate to fulfill it.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Part of this collaborative effort should involve **coordinating multilateral development banks** (MDBs) and **public development banks** within the **global network of development banks** known as **'Finance in Common.'**

Cooperation regarding the **energy transition** can be achieved through the **Climate Club**, established by the G7 to fulfill the objectives of the Paris climate agreement.

To meet our climate obligations, there is a need to explore **new avenues for international taxation**. Governments will need to crack down on **financial flows** that evade **legitimate tax systems**.

Developing nations require **equitable partnerships** that empower them to add value by processing raw materials and critical minerals within their borders.

There is a need for substantial **replenishment of the International Development Association** expansion of the **IMF's Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility**, and increased funding for the World Bank and other **concessional facilities** offered by the IMF.

There is a need for a **new international finance mechanism for forests** to finance ecosystem services. It will be essential to **mitigate or reduce various risks**, particularly **foreign-exchange risks**, associated with such investments.

To ensure that international commitments translate into **tangible achievements**, there is need for a **joint working committee** comprising international and regional organizations, countries, and civil societies to monitor this roadmap.

[46. Disentangling the 2030 global renewable energy target](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Disentangling the 2030 global renewable energy target**" published in "The Hindu" on 15th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- infrastructure (energy)

News: The article addresses the challenges and consequences of the global target set at COP28, which aims to triple renewable energy capacity by 2030. It highlights the unequal burden on developing countries and stresses the importance of developed nations committing to more equitable targets.

What is the current status of renewable energy?

Global Renewable Energy Status:

Installed Capacity: In 2021, the global installed capacity of renewable energy sources (RES) was 3026 GW, constituting 39% of the total capacity from all sources.

Electricity Generation: Renewable energy accounted for 28% of total electricity generation. Of this, more than half was from hydropower, while solar contributed 13% and wind added 23%.

Target: The COP28 proposal aims to triple global renewable energy capacity to about 9000 GW by 2030.

India's Renewable Energy Status:

Growth Rate: Electricity consumption in India grew annually at 6.3% between 2010 and 2019.

Future Goals: At COP26, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared a target for India to reach 500GW from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are the major issues regarding global energy targets?

Ambitious Goal: Tripling the renewable energy capacity by 2030 from the 2021 levels would mean installing around 6000 GW of renewable capacity in a short span, surpassing the total energy capacity of 2021.

Discrepancy in Generation: While renewable energy sources (RES) constituted 39% of global capacity in 2021, they only contributed 28% to actual electricity generation.

Hydropower Limitations: Most renewable energy generation comes from hydropower, but constructing new hydro plants may exceed the 2030 timeline.

Inequitable Burden: The proposed targets could unfairly place higher demands on developing countries like India, while developed nations like the US and EU might contribute minimally based on their current growth rates and phase-out plans.

Lack of Transparency: The origin and analysis backing the COP28 renewable energy target are not fully transparent, with the proposal closely mirroring an inequitable scenario from the International Renewable Energy Agency.

What should be done?

Transparent Analysis: The origin and rationale behind the COP28 renewable energy goal need clearer transparency, avoiding undue influence from reports like that of the International Renewable Energy Agency.

Equitable Distribution: The burden of the renewable energy target should be distributed fairly among countries. Developed nations like the U.S. and EU should adopt absolute targets that reflect their responsibility and historical emissions.

Consider Growth Rates: The diverse electricity consumption growth rates across countries should be taken into account. For instance, India's growth rate of 6.3% versus the EU's decline of 0.3%.

Commit Developed Countries: Developed countries, especially the U.S. and EU, should commit to phase out fossil fuels and adopt concrete renewable energy targets, easing the transition for developing nations.

[47. PMMSY: bridging gaps in the fisheries sector](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**PMMSY: bridging gaps in the fisheries sector**" published in "The Hindu" on 15th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Agriculture- Economy of animal rearing

News: The article talks about Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), which has made substantial investments in the Indian fisheries sector over three years. It has focused on technology, expanding into new areas, and aiding the well-being and development of fishers and related businesses, bringing about significant transformation.

What initiatives has the Indian government taken to improve the fishing community?

Separate Ministry: Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the systemic development of the sector by carving out a dedicated Fisheries Ministry.

Financial Boost: A significant sum of ₹20,050 crore was allocated for the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat package.

Addressing Gaps: PMMSY targeted critical gaps in the fisheries value chain, from fish production to post-harvest infrastructure and marketing.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Strategic Priority Areas: The scheme emphasized marine fisheries, inland fisheries, welfare of fishermen, infrastructure, cold water fisheries, ornamental fisheries, aquatic health management, and seaweed cultivation.

Technological Infusion: Young entrepreneurs, especially women in Kashmir, are rearing cold water trout using recirculatory aquaculture systems.

Expanding Fisheries: 20,000 hectares of pond area is now under inland aquaculture, with saline wastelands in Haryana and Rajasthan being converted for aquaculture.

Empowering Women: Fisherwomen have ventured into ornamental fisheries, pearl culture, and seaweed cultivation, with a ₹127-crore Seaweed Park inaugurated in Tamil Nadu.

Infrastructure and Research: The PMMSY has enabled the establishment of 900 fish feed plants, 755 hatcheries, and is supporting research in shrimp genetics and breeding.

[48. Broadening the field- Science awards should aim to encourage more young scientists](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Broadening the field- Science awards should aim to encourage more young scientists**” published in “The Hindu” on 15th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

News: The article talks about the delayed announcement of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prizes for scientists by CSIR. It also mentions the government’s past consideration of reducing such awards and the importance of having greater diversity among the recipients.

About Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) Prizes

Origin and Prestige:

Initiated by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Over 50 years old and viewed as the “Indian Nobel.”

Award Components: Cash prize, citation, and salary perks.

Eligibility: Scientists under 45 with notable contributions in various scientific fields.

Recent Announcement Delay:

Traditionally announced on CSIR’s foundation day, September 26.

Almost a year-long delay this year.

Why is there a delayed announcement of the SSB Prizes?

This Year’s Delay: The announcement took almost a year longer than usual.

Government’s Viewpoint: Ministry of Home Affairs felt there were too many science awards from various ministries, which could reduce their prestige. This led to a consideration of pruning prizes for scientists.

Proposed Change: The government contemplated introducing a singular major award, akin to a ‘Nobel Prize’.

Outcome:

No new award was announced.

The government decided to retain the SSB Prizes, but the uncertainty surrounding its future caused concern among scientists and contributed to the delay.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What should be done?

Retain the SSB Prizes: Concern arose from the idea to prune prizes. Retaining the SSB Prizes is crucial due to their significance.

Promote Diversity Among Awardees:

All 12 winners this year were male, primarily from centrally-funded institutions like IITs.

More recognition should be given to women and researchers from state universities.

Expand Award Opportunities:

Reducing awards isn't the solution. Instead, focus on increasing opportunities to honor diverse deserving scientists.

Prioritize commitment to diversity and provide opportunities beyond privileged groups.

Clear Communication:

Address delays and uncertainties by transparently conveying the future and importance of the awards to the scientific community.

49. [Changing the way the postman knocks](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Changing the way the postman knocks**” published in “The Hindu” on 15th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- infrastructure (Communication)

News: The new Post Office Bill (2023) revises the old 1898 Act, granting the postal department increased pricing and service autonomy. It also permits the interception of items for security purposes, introduces digital addressing for future delivery methods such as drones, and eliminates the government's exclusive letter delivery rights.

Why is there a need for a new Post Office bill?

Outdated Legislation: The Indian Post Office Act from 1898 was antiquated and no longer reflected the evolving role of post offices in the current era.

Expanding Scope of Services: With the post office's network becoming a vehicle for delivering a range of citizen-centric services beyond just mail, there was a need for a legal framework that supports these expanded services.

Market Flexibility: The postal department needed the ability to respond swiftly to market demands and competitors. The old Act's constraints on pricing didn't allow for this dynamic pricing approach.

Preparing for Future Technologies: The traditional system of addressing might become obsolete with advancements like digital addressing and drone deliveries. The legislation needed to anticipate and incorporate these changes.

What are the new provisions in the 2023 Post Office Bill?

Pricing Autonomy: The postal department can now set service prices without requiring parliamentary approval, allowing for quicker market response.

Expanded Services: Beyond mail, the post office's role has broadened to various citizen-centric services, backed by a strong legal framework.

Security Enhancements: The government can intercept, open, or detain postal items for reasons such as state security, public order, or contraventions of the Act.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Digital Addressing: The Bill introduces standards for digital addressing using geo-spatial coordinates, potentially revolutionizing delivery methods.

Removal of Exclusive Rights: The government's exclusive privilege to convey letters is removed, resolving long-standing ambiguities between 'letters' and 'documents'.

Future-Proofing Deliveries: With digital addressing, the Bill hints at futuristic delivery methods, like drone deliveries.

What challenges are associated with the proposed Post Office Bill (2023)?

Security Limitations: Even though the Bill allows items to be intercepted for security reasons, India Post's market share is less than 15% in the courier/express/parcels (CEP) industry. This limits the effectiveness of these security provisions.

Uncontrolled Courier Segment: The Bill lacks provisions requiring medium and small courier operators to register with a designated authority. With no such requirement, controlling the movement of contraband goods in parcels sent by couriers remains a challenge.

Ambiguity in Implementation: The idea of replacing physical addresses with digital codes using geo-spatial coordinates is futuristic. The practical application and public acceptance of this could be challenging.

Market Dynamics: The removal of the government's exclusive right to deliver letters acknowledges couriers but also intensifies competition and market dynamics for India Post.

What should be done?

Extend Oversight to Couriers: Given the dominance of courier firms in the market, similar legislation should be applied to them to ensure uniformity in security measures, especially as India Post holds less than 15% of the CEP market.

Require Courier Registration: Medium and small courier operators should be mandated to register with a designated authority. This would help monitor and control the movement of contraband goods in parcels more effectively.

Reinforce India Post's Role: To remain competitive, India Post should leverage its strengths and heritage, possibly focusing on its expanded citizen-centric services and bolstering its market presence.

50. [Fuel for thought – Mr Gadkari's statement reflects a valid policy concern](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "[Fuel for thought – Mr Gadkari's statement reflects a valid policy concern](#)" published in **Business Standard** on **15th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Environment – Pollution

Relevance: Measures taken to reduce vehicular emission

News: The government is taking various measures to discourage the sale of diesel vehicles in order to control the mission.

Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has also urged the automobile industry to move away from diesel vehicles, warning of increased taxes.

What measures have been adopted by the government to discourage the use of diesel vehicles?

First, it imposed a 28% GST rate on both diesel and petrol cars, with an additional 22% cess on sports utility vehicles (SUVs), making the total tax on such vehicles 50%.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Second, the government's fuel price reforms have reduced the price gap between diesel and petrol from around 16.78 rupees per liter to approximately 7.1 rupees per liter. As a result, the market share of diesel cars has decreased significantly from 48% to about 20%.

Third, a committee recommended a ban on diesel four-wheelers in cities with over one million residents. However, it's unclear if the government has accepted this proposal.

Moreover, **after the introduction of Bharat Stage-VI emission norms**, major Indian automakers like Maruti, Hyundai, and Honda decided to halt diesel vehicle production.

Must Read: [Transport Minister mentions tax on diesel vehicles: Why is diesel under pressure?](#) and [Ban on diesel vehicles by 2027: Reasoning and Challenges – Explained](#)

What more can be done to control the emission?

India, the world's third-largest carbon emitter, recognizes that road transportation, especially diesel vehicles, is a major source of emissions.

Hence, to combat this, promoting the transition to biofuels or electric transport is crucial. This shift may involve consumer-focused electric vehicle subsidies and rethinking green energy policies to reduce thermal energy reliance in the green revolution.

[51. With an increase in taxpayer base, closing the tax gap](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **“With an increase in taxpayer base, closing the tax gap”** published in **“The Indian Express”** on **16th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Government budgeting

Relevance- Issues related to taxation

News– The article explains the changes in Indian tax policy landscape in recent years

Which significant developments have occurred in India's tax policy landscape?

There has been adoption of the **Goods and Services Tax** and the introduction of **faceless assessments**.

The **number of taxpayers** has surged by 64% between 2014 and 2022, now totalling 93.7 million. This increase is notable across various taxpayer categories.

Over the past five years, more taxpayers have been **submitting their returns**. Various reasons drive this change. It includes the **mandatory need for returns** related to travel and loans, a growing **inclination to claim deducted taxes**, and the **formalisation of the economy**.

The number of **tax returns indicating zero taxes** has also risen. It has **reached 66 percent** in the fiscal year 2020-21.

Direct tax collections have outpaced both the average of the previous decade and the GDP growth in three of the last five years. A **tax buoyancy factor of 2.52** indicates that there have been **significant improvements in tax compliance**.

What are the contributing factors towards the rise in direct taxes?

The rise in direct taxes can be attributed to the increased **number of taxpayers** and **increased reported average incomes** in tax returns.

In the fiscal year 2020-21, nearly a **quarter of tax returns** disclosed **gross incomes** falling within the range of **Rs 5,50,000 to Rs 9,50,000**.

This represents a **notable shift from the 2015-16** period when **one-third of gross incomes** reported in returns fell within the **Rs 2,50,000 to Rs 3,50,000** range.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What was the impact of Covid-19 on tax collections?

The effects **extended across two fiscal years**. Consequently, **taxes paid** on business incomes and overall tax collections experienced a decline between 2019 and 2021, despite the **increase in gross incomes**.

The impact of the economic slowdown was not **evenly distributed** among different income groups and categories. In the fiscal year 2019-20, the number of tax returns and reported incomes contracted for **specific income brackets**.

52. [Syed Ata Hasnain on Anantnag attack: Dying embers, but terrorism threat not over](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Syed Ata Hasnain on Anantnag attack: Dying embers, but terrorism threat not over**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **16th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Internal Security

Relevance- Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

News– Over the last six months, encounters with Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in the region immediately north and south of the Pir Panjal range have been frequent. Army has lost several brave soldiers in these incidents.

What is the current situation of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir?

The recent occurrences represent the **fading remnants of terrorism**, despite Pakistan’s efforts to revive them.

In the four years following the **amendment of Article 370**, significant progress has been made by concentrating on eradicating **Pakistan’s networks involved in proxy warfare**.

This has involved **targeting over-ground workers, reducing infiltration, diminishing local recruitment, and accelerating development efforts**.

Several factors that contribute to supporting terrorism have witnessed a **significant decrease**. **Infiltration and local recruitment** have seen a dramatic reduction.

The **counter-infiltration measures** in the Kashmir Valley are **highly effective and multi-layered**. Consequently, there has been a shift in the actions of terrorists toward the borders of Jammu and Punjab.

These borders serve as routes for **smuggling narcotics, weapons, and equipment**.

The triggers for **negative sentiments** have decreased. **Public funerals** for terrorists, both foreign and local, are no longer allowed. Efforts to **empower the youth** have also intensified substantially.

Why would it be incorrect to claim that the issue of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has been entirely resolved?

Pakistan has invested **considerable resources, time, energy, and personnel** in conducting this **proxy war** for over three decades. It is unlikely to stop these efforts easily.

Following August 5, 2019, there was a **decrease in violence**. It led to a misconception among the public that the **proxy war** had nearly ended.

The absence of violence does not equate to **normalcy**. It is a **multi-faceted concept**. Over the course of 30 years, terrorism and proxy warfare have given rise to **covert networks** that continue to operate.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

It will take a **considerable amount of time** to attain the desired state of normalcy. Pakistan will attempt to **reignite separatism** through the **remaining elements of terror**.

Way forward-

It is essential to maintain **realistic expectations**. A region that has **experienced abnormality** for over three decades will not easily **overcome negative sentiments**.

It will require time and **sustained efforts in outreach and the promotion of patriotism**. More influential speakers, writers, and intellectuals should **engage with the youth** to bolster their aspirations.

The **“all of government approach”** adopted in Jammu and Kashmir is **proving effective**. But the **national electronic media** also needs to **contribute positively** to this effort.

53. IAF takes delivery of first C295: How this deal kicks off ‘Make in India’ scheme for military aircraft

Source– The post is based on the article **“IAF takes delivery of first C295: How this deal kicks off ‘Make in India’ scheme for military aircraft”** published in **“The Indian Express”** on **16th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Security

Relevance- Issues related to armed forces

News– The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Wednesday (September 13) received the first of the 56 C295 aircraft at the Airbus production site in Seville, Spain. It will replace its ageing Avro-748 fleet.

What is the C295 aircraft?

The C295 is a versatile tactical transport aircraft capable of performing a wide range of missions.

These missions include **transporting troops and cargo**, conducting **maritime patrols**, providing **airborne warning, surveillance, and reconnaissance**, facilitating **medical evacuations**, serving as a **VIP transport**, and assisting in **airborne firefighting**.

The aircraft has the capacity to **carry payloads** weighing up to nine tonnes. It can accommodate up to 71 personnel while maintaining a **maximum cruise speed** of 260 knots. It is equipped for **air-to-air refuelling**.

It is powered by two **Pratt & Whitney turboprop engines**. It can **cruise at altitudes of up to 30,000 feet** and can take **off and land quickly on unpaved, soft, and sandy/grassy airstrips**.

What is the timing for C295 arrival?

In September 2021, India formally confirmed the procurement of **56 Airbus C295 aircraft** at a total cost of Rs **21,935 crore**.

The **initial 16 C295s** will be assembled in Seville. The first aircraft is slated for delivery in May 2024, followed by the next 14 until August 2025.

The **remaining 40 aircraft** will be manufactured and assembled in **collaboration with Tata Advanced Systems Limited** located in Vadodara, Gujarat.

What is the significance of procurement of these aircrafts?

Firstly, it will serve as a replacement for the ageing **Avro fleet of the Indian Air Force (IAF)**, which was originally acquired back in the 1960s.

This replacement will substantially enhance the **IAF’s capabilities in air transport**. It will allow for the **efficient transportation** of troops and materials to various regions within the country.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

This acquisition marks the initiation of India's **'Make in India' Aerospace program** within the private sector. It involves the **domestic manufacturing** of these aircraft.

Until now, military aircraft production in India has been a monopoly of the **state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**.

It will stimulate **India's aerospace sector**. It will generate approximately **15,000 highly skilled jobs and an additional 10,000 indirect employment opportunities** over the course of the next decade.

What is the level of indigenous of the 40 C295?

Except for major components such as the engine and avionics, Airbus will facilitate the **transfer of manufacturing technology** to Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) for most other parts.

This approach is expected to enable the production of **95 percent of the aircraft** within India in the coming years.

The aircraft will feature **domestically developed radar warning receivers and missile approach warning systems** created by Bharat Electronics Limited.

The **countermeasure dispensing system** has been supplied by **Bharat Dynamics Limited**. The airframe of the medium transport aircraft comprises over **14,000 parts and components**. **3,500 parts** are manufactured by Tata each year.

It is anticipated that the **32nd aircraft**, set for delivery in the first quarter of 2029, will be a **fully Indian-manufactured C295**.

What is the current status of C295 manufacturing in India?

The 40 C295 aircraft are intended for production in India at the **Vadodara facility**.

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has established a factory in Hyderabad, where the manufacturing of **major airframe components** will commence this year.

Once the major sections of the aircraft are assembled at the **Hyderabad facility**, they will be transported to the **Vadodara facility** next year. There, they will be equipped with **engines, avionics, and other crucial components**.

A **training facility** has been established in Agra, which is expected to **become operational** in late next year.

54. [A GM crop decision that cuts the mustard](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**A GM crop decision that cuts the mustard**" published in "The Hindu" on 16th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- agriculture- food security

News: The article discusses the importance and benefits of genetically modified (GM) crops, especially GM mustard in India, for improving food production, reducing edible oil imports, and supporting farmers' incomes and self-reliance in agriculture.

What is the current status of GM crops?

Global Status of GM Crops:

GM crops are seen as essential for global food and nutritional security, especially in a changing climate.

72 countries have adopted GM crops for various uses like food, feed, or cultivation.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Major crops include maize, soybean, cotton, and canola, but expansion to other crops is ongoing. Economic gains from GM crops between 1996-2018 amounted to \$224.9 billion.

Over 16 million farmers globally benefit from GM crops, with 95% in developing countries.

India's Status of GM Crops:

Bt cotton, commercialized over 20 years ago, is a successful GM crop in India.

India recently approved the cultivation of a GM mustard hybrid, DMH-11, developed at the University of Delhi South Campus.

The introduction of GM mustard aims to reduce edible oil imports, promoting self-reliance in agriculture.

What is GM Mustard Hybrid, DMH-11?

GM Mustard Hybrid, DMH-11:

Origin: Developed at the Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants at the University of Delhi South Campus.

Yield: Offers higher vigor and yield, addressing India's edible oil deficit.

Technology: Utilizes the barnase/barstar system; this method involves removing male fertility in one parent and restoring it in the offspring.

Special Trait: Contains a herbicide tolerance gene used both for selecting genetically transformed lines and for hybrid seed production.

What is the significance of GM Mustard Hybrid, DMH-11?

Tackling Oil Deficit and Imports: Helps address India's edible oil deficit where 60% of demand is met by imports, potentially reducing the oil-import burden which was approximately ₹1.17 lakh crore.

Increased Production: Offers higher yield and vigor, crucial for boosting domestic edible oil production.

Economic Impact: Enhances the economic well-being of farmers through increased crop yield.

Innovation in Agriculture: Symbolizes a significant advancement in India's genetic engineering, ushering in new crop varieties with better traits.

Diversity in Breeding: The barnase/barstar-based hybrid introduces variety in mustard breeding, diversifying India's traditionally narrow genetic base.

Promoting Self-Reliance: The cultivation of DMH-11 signifies a move towards agricultural self-reliance and sustainability, reducing external dependencies.

55. [Being people-centric – on government spending](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Being people-centric**" published in "Business standard" on 16th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources.

News: The article discusses how, despite India's government spending a significant percentage of its GDP, it doesn't always achieve better outcomes in areas like health, education, and infrastructure compared to other countries that spend less.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are the major concerns with India's government spending?

Inefficient Spending According to IMF:

As per the International Monetary Fund's data, India spends 28% of its GDP, but the country lags in sectors like health and education.

In comparison, Bangladesh spends only 14.5% of its GDP but shows better life expectancy and schooling outcomes.

Misleading Data:

A higher percentage of GDP spending might not mean more actual spending per individual.

Some Southeast Asian nations, with a lower GDP percentage, possibly outspend India on a per-capita basis.

Service Quality Issues:

Services such as education and healthcare in India, despite substantial funding, often face quality concerns.

Growing Fiscal Concerns:

Over recent years, India's government revenue as a percentage of GDP has decreased.

This trend leads to an expanding fiscal deficit and a rise in public debt, with agencies like Fitch emphasizing these fiscal challenges.

What should be done?

People-Centric Programs: Emphasize Prime Minister Modi's vision of making programs more people-focused, ensuring citizens truly benefit.

Infrastructure and Basic Amenities: Accelerate investments in transport infrastructure, supply of electricity, tap water, and provide amenities like lavatories and clean cooking fuel.

Financial Incentives: Launch incentive programs to boost investments in select manufacturing sectors, encouraging economic growth.

Growth-Centric Approach: While focusing on people's welfare is essential, prioritizing GDP-centric growth is also crucial to increase revenue and fund welfare programs.

56. [How Basmati in India is reaping the rewards of research](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**How Basmati in India is reaping the rewards of research**" published in **Indian Express** on 18th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- **Agriculture**– Marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints & issues of buffer stocks and food security

News: The article discusses the evolution of basmati rice in India. Scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute developed new varieties of basmati, boosting its quality and export value (from \$200-250 million to \$4.7-4.8 billion, in the past three decades). These varieties increased yield, resisted diseases, and matured faster. However, basmati farmers face market risks and export policies.

How did Basmati rice evolve in India?

Traditional Varieties: Until the late 1980s, farmers cultivated traditional basmati types that had tall plants, low yields, and required about 155-160 days to mature.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Pusa Basmati-1 (PB-1): Released in 1989, PB-1 increased yields to 25-26 quintals per acre and matured in 135-140 days. By the turn of the century, it accounted for roughly 60% of India's basmati exports which reached 0.6-0.7 mt.

Pusa Basmati-1121 (PB-1121): Introduced in 2003, its distinctive quality was the long grain that elongated significantly when cooked. Between 2001-02 and 2013-14, basmati rice exports surged from 0.7 mt to 3.7 mt, with PB-1121 contributing over 70%.

Pusa Basmati-1509 (PB-1509): Unveiled in 2013, it matured in just 115-120 days, allowing farmers to plant and harvest an additional crop within the year.

Disease Resistance: In recent years, IARI scientists developed varieties with in-built resistance against bacterial blight and rice blast fungal disease, reducing the need for chemical treatments and maintaining the premium value of Indian basmati in global markets.

How are scientists combatting diseases in Basmati?

Focus on Yield Preservation: IARI scientists are working on maintaining the yield gains of improved basmati varieties by infusing them with disease-resistant genes.

Combatting Bacterial Leaf Blight: PB-1121 became susceptible to bacterial leaf blight. Scientists are now transferring genes from resistant landrace cultivars and wild paddy relatives to control this.

Employing Marker-Assisted Selection: Through this method, disease-resistant genes are identified. This technique has been used to pinpoint genes that can combat bacterial blight and rice blast fungal disease.

Introduction of Resistant Varieties: In 2021, the IARI unveiled Pusa Basmati-1885 and Pusa Basmati-1847. These varieties are designed versions of PB-1121 and PB-1509 with in-built resistance to major diseases.

Use of Resistant Genes: These new strains incorporate genes (like Xa21, xa13, Pi2, and Pi54) from wild rice species and traditional indica landraces, ensuring protection against predominant diseases.

What challenges do Basmati growers face?

No Minimum Support Price: Unlike other crops, basmati paddy doesn't have a fixed minimum support price (MSP).

Dependency on Exports: Most basmati rice is for export, with only a small portion directed towards the domestic market.

Fluctuating Market Prices: Basmati grain yields are about 25 quintals per acre, only slightly less than the 30 quintals for regular non-basmati varieties. Yet, basmati farmers sell at a market price of Rs 3,000/quintal, contrasting with the Rs 2,203 MSP for Grade A non-basmati paddy.

Government Policies: Basmati growers are heavily impacted by changes in government policies regarding exports. For instance, the recent restriction disallowing basmati shipments priced below \$1,200 per tonne poses a new challenge.

57. Why is the government pushing for regulatory mechanisms for OTT services?

Source: The post is based on the article "Why is the government pushing for regulatory mechanisms for OTT services?" published in "The Hindu" on 18th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3-Economy – infrastructure (information and communication network)

News: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is considering whether to regulate or ban certain online communication services like WhatsApp and Zoom. Telecom companies believe

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

these services should pay for using their infrastructure, while others argue it goes against net neutrality principles.

What are the reasons for advocating the prohibition of OTT services?

Revenue Loss for Telecoms: OTT services reduce the need for traditional telecom services like voice calls and texts. For example, platforms like WhatsApp and Signal offer messaging and calls over the internet.

Free Use of Infrastructure: OTTs operate on infrastructure built by Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) without contributing to its costs. The Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), representing giants like Jio and Airtel, highlights that OTTs don't contribute to the exchequer or invest in network infrastructure like TSPs do.

Licensing and Regulation: If OTT services replace licensed services, they should also follow the rules of telecom licenses. The Internet Service Providers Association of India suggests that OTTs should be governed by the same regulations as telecom services.

Control and Blocking: TSP networks can selectively block OTT services. COAI suggests that if OTTs come under licenses, this blocking becomes easier, ensuring better control over these platforms.

What are the reasons opposing the ban on OTT services?

Double Charging: The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) argues that demanding cost-sharing from OTTs means charging twice. Consumers already pay Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) for data, and additional OTT charges may raise internet usage costs.

Net Neutrality: The proposal goes against the principle of net neutrality. IAMAI emphasizes that networks should treat all transmitted information neutrally, without favoring or blocking particular sources.

Existing Regulations: The Broadband India Forum (BIF) believes OTT services are already regulated under laws like the IT Act, 2000 and Consumer Protection Act, 2019. Additional regulation is unnecessary.

Internet Freedom: The Internet Freedom Foundation expresses concern over the proposal to selectively ban OTT services, implying it could restrict free and open access to the internet for users.

Service Accessibility: IAMAI and BIF oppose any selective ban, emphasizing that OTTs play a crucial role in modern communication and should remain accessible.

58. [Export bans and stocking limits: are they working?](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Export bans and stocking limits: are they working?**” published in “The Hindu” on 18th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Agriculture – issues of buffer stocks and food security

News: The article discusses the Indian government's measures to control rising food inflation, especially in rice and wheat, and how these actions, like export bans and duties, may have unintended effects, causing market uncertainty and impacting both farmers and consumers.

What is the current inflation situation in India?

Retail Inflation Rate: As of August 2023, India's retail inflation stands at 6.83%. This figure is notably higher than the desired ceiling of 6%.

Significant Contributor: Food and beverages are pivotal in this scenario. They account for 57% of the retail inflation calculation in India.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Impact of Food Inflation: The food inflation rate, specifically, soared to 9.94%. Such a rapid increase in food prices severely affects the overall retail inflation.

What steps has the government taken?

Wheat Export Ban: In May 2022, the Indian government prohibited the export of wheat in an effort to control its prices.

Rice Export Restrictions:

In September 2022, exports of broken rice were halted.

By July 2023, an export ban was placed on non-basmati white rice.

Stocking Limits: In June 2023, the government introduced stocking limits for wheat traders and millers, ensuring that there weren't excessive hoardings.

Rice Export Duties:

In July 2023, a 20% export duty was imposed on parboiled rice.

Additionally, in August 2023, a Minimum Export Price of \$1,200 per tonne was set for basmati rice.

Export Duty on Onion: In August 2023, onions faced a substantial export duty of 40%.

What are the impacts of the export ban?

Surge in Wheat Inflation:

Post the wheat export ban in May 2022, wheat inflation increased from 9.22% to a high of 15.7% by August 2022.

It further accelerated to a concerning 25.4% by February 2023.

Market Uncertainty: The sudden bans led to unpredictability in the market, affecting both traders and consumers.

Rice Inflation Stagnation: Despite the non-basmati rice export ban in July 2023, when inflation was at 13%, it only slightly reduced to 12.5%.

Consumer Panic: The abrupt export ban of non-basmati rice alarmed not just local consumers but also the African and Indian diaspora in the U.S.

Implications for Farmers: These rapid government measures impacted farmers, who had to face the consequences of these policy decisions.

What should be done?

Well-Strategized Approach: Instead of "knee-jerk" reactions, a well-thought-out strategy is needed to address inflation effectively.

Rational Trade Policy: The policy should aim to balance both consumers' and producers' interests, ensuring fair prices without harming the farming community.

Consider Farmers: While making policy decisions, the implications on farmers, who bear the brunt of abrupt actions, must be factored in.

Avoid Sudden Bans: Rather than sudden export bans, which create market panic, a gradual approach, like phased export duties, might be more effective.

Study Impacts: Before implementing new policies, their potential impacts on inflation and the overall market should be closely examined.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

59. [Growth needs more electricity](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Growth needs more electricity**” published in the “**Business Standard**” on **18th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Infrastructure

News– The article explains the issues related to the electricity sector in India.

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

The growth of thermal electricity capacity has come to a halt. Data from the **Central Electricity Authority** indicates that **thermal capacity** increased from **100 GW in 2005 to 300 GW in 2018** but has since stagnated.

The **Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)** data on **capital expenditure projects** also shows a similar stagnation since 2019.

Obtaining funding for new thermal power plants is no longer feasible. The **ESG revolution** has closed off avenues for financing new **carbon-intensive electricity generation** projects worldwide.

India is at a critical juncture where all capacity growth in the electricity sector must come from **renewable sources**.

There is growth in **solar and wind capacity**. The **CMIE capex data** shows that identifiable projects completed between 2015 and 2023 amount to approximately **4 GW per year for solar and 2 GW per year for wind**.

This raises concerns about whether the electricity sector is aligning with the **requirements for robust economic growth**.

The **existing electricity sector infrastructure** is tailored to the **old paradigm of thermal dominance**. This presents challenges.

There is **substantial variation** among Indian states. States like Gujarat and Rajasthan have made **significant progress** in adding solar capacity. Other important consumption states like Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have **not performed** as well.

In several Indian states, **electricity policy** doesn't receive the **necessary attention**, as there are more fundamental challenges to tackle.

Overhaul of the grid to achieve decarbonization also presents a challenge. Renewables pose challenges to the conventional **electricity grid and market structures**. Many grid operators are not enthusiastic about incorporating more renewables.

Another issue is the **level of trust** from private investors. A **power generation project** necessitates a **trusted and predictable environment** over a 20-year span.

The Indian electricity sector faces significant government failure like **unpaid bills, contract breaches, and interference in private professional transactions**, such as restrictions on “**open access**.”

The Indian private sector is willing to invest in renewables in states like Gujarat and Rajasthan, it remains cautious in most other states.

What should be done?

Economic policymakers in each Indian state must outline a clear plan for the **transformation of distribution, transmission, and market structures** required for renewables

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Without addressing the fundamentals of **distribution and electricity market structure**, the grid won't be prepared for **decarbonization**. A substantial amount of **policy work and financial investment** is needed for this **one-time transition**.

Significant changes in **distribution and market structure** are necessary. It involves solutions like **transitioning to private distribution companies** for urban regions.

Market mechanisms should be designed to encourage **private-to-private contracts**. Private generators prefer dealing with **industrial buyers or private distribution companies** rather than relying on **long-term power purchase agreements**.

Implementing **market mechanisms** with **time-of-day pricing** can incentivize **storage and demand-side responses**.

Distribution companies operate as monopolies. It requires regulation to prevent **monopolistic pricing**.

Establishing **regulatory capacity** is crucial. A weak **regulatory framework** will lead to private sector demands for **higher risk premiums**.

[60. Clean aviation will take more than just biofuels](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Clean aviation will take more than just biofuels**” published in the “**mint**” on **18th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Environment

Relevance- Biofuels for aviation sector

News– Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri recently said that the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) could turn India into a major producer and exporter of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

Why adoption of sustainable biofuels is the best option for the aviation industry to achieve carbon neutrality?

In 2022, aviation was responsible for **2% of all carbon emissions**. It will increase rapidly unless the aviation industry discovers a way to reduce its **carbon footprint**.

Developing **electric planes** on the scale of **commercial jetliners** remains a **technological challenge**. These planes would require **exceptionally lightweight batteries**. Creating an **airframe design** capable of taking off solely on electric power is a significant hurdle.

Therefore, the industry's current best option for achieving carbon neutrality is the widespread adoption of **Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs)**, coupled with **carbon capture technologies**.

What are challenges in achieving carbon neutrality through Sustainable Aviation Fuels?

One of the critical concerns is the **capacity to supply SAFs**. Traditional biofuels often rely on large quantities of **agricultural produce**, such as crops like sugarcane and corn,

These crops are diverted from **primary agricultural purposes** like food production. As a result, there are limitations on the available output.

There are **alternative biomass sources** for SAFs, including **bio-waste** like used cooking oil, forest residue, agricultural waste, and municipal refuse. However, ensuring an adequate supply of feedstock will still be a challenging endeavour.

The **production process** for sustainable biofuels is **lengthy and complex**. It makes them **more expensive** than traditional jet fuel.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

SAFs have a **lower energy density**. It means that **larger volumes** are required to refuel aircraft. Similar to **battery technology**, these factors present **significant hurdles** to the widespread adoption of SAFs.

The **true test of SAFs** will materialize when carbon trading gains significance. At that point, **comprehensive track records** will emerge

Many questions the validity of **SAFs' assertion** of an **80% reduction in emissions**, even under the best-case scenario.

What more should be done?

The strategy is to begin with a **small proportion of biofuel**, perhaps as low as 1%. It should be mixed with **regular jet fuel**. There should be a **gradual increase in bio-content** as aircraft adapted for SAFs become more prevalent.

The adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAFs) will necessitate **robust regulatory measures**. This process has already commenced globally.

Carbon offsets have gradually become a part of the equation through the **Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation** established by the UN's leading authority in this sector.

Indian airlines operating international flights will be required to **adhere to these norms** within the next five years.

61. [India's tea industry needs policy liberalization for rejuvenation](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**India's tea industry needs policy liberalization for rejuvenation**” published in the “**mint**” on **18th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3 – Indian Economy – Issues related to industrial policies

News– The article explains the status of the tea industry in India and issues faced by it.

What are some statistics related to the tea industry?

The Indian tea industry holds a **significant position on the global stage**. It ranks as the **second-largest tea producer** worldwide.

The annual production of tea is **1.3 million tonnes**. India is the **third-largest exporter**. It is generating **approximately \$1 billion in revenue** each year.

What are the issues faced by the tea industry?

Approximately **85% of the tea** produced is **consumed domestically**. India's **per capita tea consumption** is around 800 grams per year. It is one of the **lowest in the world**.

India does not produce some of the **newer tea categories**, such as **Kenyan yellow tea**, which has gained popularity as a recent trend.

Exports of tea have remained stagnant. The tea industry has faced **downward price pressures**.

The number and acreage of large, regulated tea growers have either **remained static or declined**. Their **market share** has decreased **from 60% to below 50%** at present.

The current **highly regulated Tea Growers (RTG) model** is outdated. **Statutory requirements** mandating labour housing, schooling, and various other facilities on the tea estate are no longer **necessary or cost-effective**.

The existing **tea auction model** compels the transportation of tea to a limited number of auction centres and involves multiple cumbersome processes.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

This model not only consumes time but also adds an **unnecessary cost** of approximately ₹7-10 per kilogram to the tea sold. It results in a **significant volume of unsold stocks**. Only about **40% of the total tea production** is sold through tea auctions.

Way forward for tea industry

Standardization and Classification: There is a pressing need for **standardization and classification** of tea in India. Currently, there are reportedly around 800 types of tea manufactured or sold in the country.

Promoting Tea as a Health Drink: Rather than focusing solely on supply, there should be a concerted effort to promote tea as a **healthy beverage**.

Conversion of the Tea Board: The Tea Board should undergo a transformation into an entity dedicated to **promoting tea consumption and exports**. There is a need to relinquish its **regulatory powers**.

Industry-Managed Voluntary Tea Auction Centers: The existing **tea auction houses** can be reimagined as voluntary tea auction centres managed by the industry. Tea producers interested in selling their products can do so voluntarily by paying a fee.

Establishment of Standardization Agencies: There is a need for establishment of agencies tasked with **developing and standardizing norms** for the tea industry, following the model of the **Indian Standards Institution (ISI)**.

These agencies should also **handle promotion and certification**, like the functions of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

Diverse Marketing Channels: Indian tea should be permitted to be **marketed freely** through various global channels, including direct sales, e-commerce, tea auction houses, commodity exchanges, and more.

Other reforms: There is a need to modernize the **RTG Tea-Estate Model** and revamp the **Tea Auction Model**.

It is now opportune to transform the **Indian Tea Act of 1954**, shifting its focus **from regulation to a developmental and facilitative approach**.

All the existing mandates, such as **compulsory labour housing** and the **mandatory requirement** of selling 50% of tea through auction houses, should be eliminated.

[62. Flight to self-sufficiency-AF orders are increasing domestic production](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Flight to self-sufficiency-AF orders are increasing domestic production**" published in "Business standard" on 19th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- investment model

News: Airbus gave the first C-295 plane to the Indian Air Force (IAF). India will make 40 more with Tata's help. This will create many jobs in India. The C-295 is better than older planes and has many uses. India is also ordering more engines for new aircrafts.

About Airbus deliver to India

Airbus delivered the first C-295 aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

The aircraft is part of a 56-plane order to replace the ageing HS-748 Avro fleet.

The initial 16 C-295s will be assembled in Seville, Spain.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) will manufacture the remaining 40 in Vadodara, India, by August 2031.

C-295 has versatile roles including troop transport, medical evacuation, and disaster response.

How will this impact India's aerospace industry?

New Private Sector Role: For the first time, a private firm, Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL), is trusted by the defence ministry to fully assemble a military aircraft.

Local Manufacturing: TASL will manufacture and assemble 40 of the C-295 aircraft in Vadodara by August 2031.

Shift of Work: 96% of Airbus's work in Spain will move to India, undertaken by the Tata consortium.

Detailed Production: TASL will produce 13,400 detailed parts, 4,600 sub-assemblies, and seven major component assemblies in India.

Employment Boost: The project is set to create 15,000 direct jobs and 10,000 indirect jobs in the next decade.

Evolving Aerospace Ecosystem: This initiative will significantly develop and strengthen India's aerospace ecosystem.

63. [Empowering MSMEs for export success](#)

Source: The post is based on the article "**Empowering MSMEs for export success**" published in **Business standard** on 19th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- industrial policy and their effects on industrial growth.

News: The article discusses the potential of India's MSMEs in global trade, highlighting their challenges in scaling and exporting. It suggests reforms, like leveraging e-commerce and simplifying regulations, to help MSMEs capture a larger share of the global market and boost India's exports.

What is India's MSME potential in global trade?

Significant Contributor: MSMEs account for 27% of India's GDP and provide 110 million jobs.

Untapped Global Market: Despite their domestic contribution, they tap into just a small fraction of the global market. For instance, India's toy market is valued at \$1 billion, whereas the global market stands at \$300 billion.

E-commerce Opportunity: The rise of e-commerce platforms can help MSMEs access global customers. However, India's current e-commerce exports are only \$2 billion, in contrast to China's 8% of total exports via e-commerce.

Export Potential: If reforms are implemented, MSMEs could contribute over \$100 billion towards India's targeted exports of \$1 trillion by 2030.

What are the major challenges faced by MSMEs in India?

Size Limitation: 85% of MSMEs, described as "dwarfs", have existed for over 10 years but still employ fewer than 100 employees, indicating limited dynamism.

Struggle in Global Market Access: India's share in global merchandise exports is around 2%, with MSMEs contributing just 6% of Indian exports. Only about 1% of MSMEs are exporters, suggesting a challenge in capturing the global market.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Small Scale Impediments: For a typical small business, navigating logistical, financial, and compliance complexities of exporting is difficult.

Regulatory Challenges: Existing financial regulations put undue compliance burdens on MSMEs. For instance, a carpet stored in a US warehouse faces pricing limitations—it can't be discounted below 75% of the declared value if demand is low, or priced higher than 125% if demand is high. This reduces the flexibility MSMEs have in responding to market demands.

Lack of Simplified Export Processes: MSMEs need to interact with multiple government interfaces for compliance processes, making exports cumbersome. There's no consolidated source of information for them. Even though a portal has been proposed to post the G20 meeting to gather information, integrating all compliance processes into this portal remains a pressing need.

What should be done?

Separation of Roles: Present regulations should be revised to let “exporter” and “product owner” be separate. This change can simplify collaborations between small enterprises and aggregators, allowing the latter to manage most compliance aspects.

Revise Financial Rules for Exports: Financial regulations, formed in an era focused on controlling every dollar of foreign exchange, should be updated. These outdated rules impose a burden on MSMEs. An example is the limitation on dynamic pricing for goods like carpets stored abroad.

Introduce a “Green Channel”: To speed up Customs clearance for e-commerce exports, a “green channel” should be established. This has been successful in China since 2014.

Unified Trade Portal: Launch a comprehensive trade portal that amalgamates all export-related information and processes. Currently, MSMEs lack a reliable source of export info and encounter multiple government touch points.

64. [A chocolate nudge can serve a public purpose](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**A chocolate nudge can serve a public purpose**” published in “Live mint” on 19th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- Banking

News: The State Bank of India (SBI) is using behavioral cues and AI technology to detect potential loan defaulters. It is employing a friendly approach, like home visits with chocolates, to encourage repayments, which has shown positive results amid rising loan demands.

What new strategy is SBI using?

SBI's New Strategy: Behavioral Cues

SBI observes behaviors of borrowers to predict potential defaults.

The bank found a strong correlation between clients ignoring reminder calls and defaulting on their loans.

As a response, if a borrower doesn't answer calls, SBI sends an executive for a surprise visit with chocolates. This friendly approach serves as a polite reminder of their dues.

This method has successfully reduced retail loan defaults, showing its effectiveness.

SBI's New Strategy: AI Technology

The bank has collaborated with two fintech firms to leverage AI tools.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The aim of this partnership is to help reduce loan defaults further.

By integrating technology with their strategies, SBI aims to keep defaults down in an ever-evolving banking environment.

What are its implications?

Behavioral Approach: By observing that clients who ignore reminder calls often default, SBI has found a new way to anticipate potential non-payment.

Friendly Intervention: Sending an executive with chocolates for a home visit serves as a polite memory jog. This method has proven effective in reducing retail loan defaults.

Involving Technology: SBI's collaboration with two fintech firms equipped with AI tools suggests a tech-driven future for banking solutions and default management.

Possible Emotional Impact: While personal contact might work for many, it could exert additional pressure on those genuinely struggling to pay.

Changing Recovery Tactics: Given past industry scandals involving coercive recovery methods, SBI's novel approach is exemplary and could inspire a change in recovery tactics industry-wide.

65. R S Sharma on PM-WANI's potential to transform India's digital public infrastructure

Source– The post is based on the article “R S Sharma on PM-WANI's potential to transform India's digital public infrastructure” published in “The Indian Express” on 19th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Infrastructure – Digital Infrastructure

News– The article explains the PM-WANI scheme of Indian government

How has the state of connectivity has undergone a significant transformation over the past seven years?

There is **proliferation of mobile phones, extensive 4G network coverage**, substantial reduction in pricing, and the widespread **adoption of smartphones**.

Supportive policies like Net Neutrality and the emphasis on developing **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** have also played a crucial role in advancing the **Digital India initiative**. It has led to a substantial rise in **digital transactions**.

What are the challenges for connectivity in India?

This expansion has also given rise to a **substantial increase in data requirements**. Presently, the **average data consumption** per person in India is **19.5 GB per month**.

The **total data traffic** handled by mobile networks surpasses the **combined data usage** of the mobile networks in the United States and China.

Consequently, there exists a **significant disparity** between the **demand for data and its affordability**. It is particularly among low-income households and rural areas in India.

What are some facts about PM-WANI?

In a concept like the **PCOs of the past**. It establishes millions of **interoperable Wi-Fi hotspots** known as **Public Data Offices (PDOs)**.

These PDOs would serve as **shared infrastructure** for delivering **last-mile broadband connectivity in affordable packages** costing between Rs 5 and Rs 10.

The idea was successfully tested and presented to the Department of Telecom (DOT) as **Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (WANI)** in March 2017.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

In December 2020, PM-WANI was approved. It eliminated the **need for licences or permits** to commence operations. **COVID-19 pandemic** halted progress. Now, the operators, known as **Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOAs)**, have resumed their work.

In the past year alone, more than **150,000 Wi-Fi hotspots** have been installed by PDOAs.

There has been the introduction of various entities such as **PDO, PDOA, app providers, and a central registry**. Thus, an **open and scalable framework** has been established.

What is the potential of PM-WANI?

This framework creates **business opportunities for aggregators**. It allows for the **unbundling of internet distribution** at the last mile without the need for **additional licensing fees**.

It lays a strong foundation for delivering **affordable internet access** to a significant portion of society.

Currently, India has one of the **lowest home broadband penetration** rates globally. PM-WANI offers a **golden opportunity** to accelerate the **penetration of high-speed unlimited internet** and bridge the **digital divide**.

PM-WANI also fosters the **growth of local micro-entrepreneurs**. These **local service providers**, operating from small shops, neighbourhood businesses, and even households, can supplement their monthly incomes.

It benefits **ISPs and telecommunications companies** as they can **sell more bandwidth** by transforming their end customers into retailers.

66. [Green Tax, Black Mark – on EU' CBAM](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Green Tax, Black Mark**” published in the “**The Times of India**” on **19th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment.

Relevance- Issue related to climate change and green economy

News– Starting October 1, India’s steel and aluminum exports to the European Union will face uncertainty and increased costs due to the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) introduced by the EU in April this year.

How will CBAM impact Indian firms?

The EU will roll out CBAM in **two stages**.

The first phase is the **transition period**. It commences on October 1, 2023, and runs until December 31, 2025.

During this phase, Indian companies must provide **extensive data** related to **production and emissions** for products exported to the EU. The **data requirements** are **exceptionally detailed**.

The EU has proposed substantial penalties for **non-submission or incomplete data**. It will be a challenge for many small and medium-sized firms.

Second stage will start from January 2026, the **CBAM tax burden** will be implemented. The **estimated cost** is equivalent to a tariff ranging from 20% to 35%. It will increase the **cost of exports**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What are some facts about CBAM?

Initially, CBAM will be applied to **specific sectors** such as steel, aluminium, fertilisers, electricity, cement, and hydrogen. However, the EU plans to progressively expand the **scope of CBAM**. By 2034, it will **encompass all products** from all countries.

CBAM was introduced to address the issue of **carbon leakage**. It prevents EU companies from relocating to countries with **less stringent emission regulations**.

The **EU's Emissions Trading System** sets **emissions reduction targets** for most power and industrial installations. Those exceeding the **emissions limit** are required to **purchase emission allowances** through auctions. Market determines the price of these allowances.

CBAM aims to compel polluting companies to **improve their emissions** while **detering relocation** by increasing the cost of imports.

What are concerns related to CBAM?

CBAM essentially divides the world into two categories: **CBAM-charging countries and others**. Companies dealing with countries subject to CBAM must adopt **cleaner technologies** or face significant taxes, while trade with the rest of the world **remains unaffected**.

This division is expected to **disrupt existing global supply chains** and lead to **increased trade expenses**.

The tax imposed by CBAM exceeds the **maximum tariff levels** that countries are committed to under the World Trade Organization. Consequently, post-CBAM, **WTO tariff commitments** lose their significance for the EU.

Moreover, FTAs will become **one-sided**. If India and the EU establish such an agreement, EU goods will enter India **without duties**, while Indian exports to the EU will still face **taxes ranging from 20-35%**.

Way forward for India

Develop a calibrated retaliation mechanism (CRM)- For instance, in March 2018, when the **US imposed import tariffs** on India's steel and aluminium, India responded by **increasing tariffs** on 29 specific US products.

This involved **precise calculations** to ensure that India collected equivalent revenue from US products as the US did from Indian steel and aluminium.

Calibrated Retaliation Mechanism (CRM) offers several advantages, including **swift implementation**. India can easily adjust **product lists and tariff levels** to align with the actions of the EU. CRM could be used to **counteract the impact** of these schemes on Indian exports.

Rename specific existing levies – India could reclassify certain duties as carbon taxes. It will allow companies to offset the tax paid in EU, reducing their overall tax burden.

Other steps- Firms should consider hiring an energy auditor to prepare data in the format prescribed by the EU.

In the long term, larger firms may contemplate **establishing two production lines** for the same product. One can cater to **carbon tax markets** like the EU, and the other to serve the **rest of the world**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

[67. Ships Of State – on India’s Naval Strength](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Ships Of State**” published in the “**The Times of India**” on **19th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Internal Security

Relevance- Issues related to armed forces

News– Indian navy has ordered 68 warships and vessels.

What are the challenges faced by the Indian navy?

Strength- Currently, India’s navy boasts **132 warships** alongside 143 aircraft and 130 helicopters. The target is to increase the fleet to a minimum of **175 warships by 2035**.

In contrast, China already possesses the **world’s largest navy**. It comprises **355 warships and submarines**. The projections indicate that this number will **expand to 555** within the next five to six years.

Production- It is widely acknowledged that **India’s shipbuilding rate** is very low. While China constructs approximately 14 warships annually, India manages only four.

There has been an improvement in **construction speed**. But the **retirement of older ships** continually puts India at a disadvantage.

For instance, despite the induction of **five Scorpene submarines**, the navy falls short by eight submarines compared to the target of 24 by 2030.

Indigenization- India has achieved **90% indigenization** in the **float component** of warships but has fallen short in the **propulsion and fight components (weapons and sensors)**.

Operational- India’s **strategic presence** spans the **Indo-Pacific** from Africa to the western Pacific. So, establishing **navy-led joint theatre commands** is crucial.

However, the process of **establishing theatre commands** has been slow.

What should be done?

There is a pressing need to enhance the navy’s capital budget, expand the technical foundation for warship construction and recognize the economic benefits of warship building.

A **strong political push** is needed to expedite this process. There should be a greater emphasis on increasing the **navy’s capital budget** and **diversifying the technical expertise** in warship construction.

Furthermore, warship construction can have a **multiplier effect**. One shipyard job creating up to six jobs in related industries.

[68. Where has India’s record wheat and rice output gone?](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Where has India’s record wheat and rice output gone?**” published in the “**mint**” on **19th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Agriculture

Relevance- **Agriculture** pricing and marketing

News– The article explains the recent policy steps taken by the government for wheat and rice procurement and marketing and their impacts on inflation

What is the inflation scenario in the country?

Food inflation is unlikely to ease soon, primarily due to persistently **high inflation in cereal prices**, particularly wheat and rice.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

In August, cereals contributed almost as much to the **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation** as tomatoes. It accounted for **15.49%** as compared to **15.51% for tomatoes**.

In August, rice CPI inflation stood at **12.5%**, despite the **government's ban on non-basmati rice exports**, the sale of rice from its stockpiles, the imposition of a **20% export duty on parboiled rice**, and the establishment of a **minimum export price for basmati rice**.

What are the recent policy measures by the central government for wheat procurement and marketing?

The government claims there has been a record production of wheat for this year and the previous year.

Despite this, the government has placed bans on wheat exports since May 2022 and on the export of atta and similar products since August 2022.

There are also restrictions on traders, millers, wholesalers, and retail chains from holding more than 3,000 tonnes of wheat. Smaller retailers and shops have a limit of 10 tonnes.

Despite these measures, the government has only managed to **procure 26.1 million tonnes of wheat**. It is falling short of the **current target of 34 million tonnes** for the rabi season. These measures did not significantly **improve procurement**.

It led to widespread concern procuring wheat at such **elevated prices** for its free food program.

Purchasing wheat at **market rates** would have placed an **unsustainable burden** on the treasury.

To reduce prices, the government sold wheat from its reserves at prices lower than the **economic cost**.

This strategy succeeded in dragging down market prices to the **minimum support price (MSP)** level. It resulted in wheat **CPI inflation** dropping to slightly above 9% by August.

What's causing this high inflation?

According to an analysis by agricultural economist Ashok Gulati, **non-basmati rice exports** surged from 1.38 million tonnes in 2019-20 to 6.4 million tonnes in 2022-23.

According to Gulati, these exports occurred at prices lower than the **minimum support price (MSP)**. It is implying that rice from the free food program is **leaking out** of the country in significant quantities and leading to **higher domestic prices**.

What will be the impact of any policy missteps at this juncture?

Food inflation and supply disruptions have the potential to spill over into the broader economy.

Elevated retail inflation might compel the central bank to **raise interest rates**. It will harm **India's economic recovery** and increase the government's already **substantial borrowing costs**.

This could pose a threat to **fiscal consolidation**. Furthermore, **depressing farmer incomes** is counterproductive as it reduces consumption expenditure in the economy.

Way forward-

The most effective way to guard against shortage is to **import wheat**. This strategy was employed in 2016-17 when the late Ram Vilas Paswan was in charge of food supplies. **International wheat prices** are currently manageable.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

69. Environmental humanities: the need to expand our understanding of nature

Source: The post is based on the article “**Environmental humanities: the need to expand our understanding of nature**” published in “The Hindu” on 20th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment- Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment.

News: The article discusses the importance of incorporating environmental humanities into mainstream academic conversations. It highlights the valuable narratives of marginalized communities in India and questions the traditional Western viewpoint on nature and the environment that has dominated for so long.

What is the role of Environmental Humanities?

Role of Environmental Humanities:

Holistic Understanding: It looks beyond just science to understand human and non-human interactions, promoting sustainable coexistence.

Addressing Academic Bias: Environmental humanities confront the bias against “soft sciences” in institutes that focus primarily on hard sciences.

Challenging Mainstream Views: The discipline critiques the absence of discussions on human-nature interactions and social justice in mainstream environmental debates.

Incorporating Indigenous Insights: It warns against a singular understanding of nature and stresses the value of multiple indigenous perspectives on the environment.

Embracing Diverse Narratives: The field underscores the importance of marginalized community narratives, such as those of the Dalits and tribal groups, for a complete understanding of nature.

Recognizing Non-human Importance: Environmental humanities shifts the focus from just humans, giving significance to non-humans in environmental discourse.

How does India view the relationship between the nation and nature?

Intrinsic Connection: In India, nature is deeply entwined with society and culture, leading to a unique perspective of the nation through the lens of nature and ecology.

Two Predominant Perspectives:

Universal Ecology: One view sees the nation as a place where nature is a common ecological reality for all citizens.

Diverse Affiliations: The other view recognizes multiple perspectives defining the nation in connection to nature, emphasizing cultural ties and diverse notions about ecology.

Role of Ecological Nationalism: It's used to justify either the utilization or restriction of natural resources, seeing nature as either a boon or a barrier for national progress.

Contesting Modern Utilitarian Models: The authors credit today's environmental challenges to utilitarian progress models which extract resources, disregarding traditional Indian narratives.

How can Environmental Humanities enhance our understanding of nature?

Valuing the Environment's Agency: By acknowledging the environment's intrinsic worth and agency, the field moves away from a purely utilitarian view of nature.

Highlighting Interplay Through Narratives: The discipline enriches understanding by examining stories of rivers, landscapes, plants, animals, and community perspectives.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Tied to Social Justice: It recognizes that environmental problems cannot be separated from social injustices and discrimination faced by marginalized communities.

70. Simultaneous polls: do States have a say?

Source– The post is based on the article “**Simultaneous polls: do States have a say?**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **20th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian Polity

News– The Union government on September 2 set up a committee under the leadership of the former President of India Ram Nath Kovind to look into the feasibility of simultaneous polls to State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha.

What are three distinct methods outlined in Article 368 for making amendments in the constitution?

Simple majority- The amendments are made through a **simple majority of members present and voting** in each House of Parliament. These provisions are exempt from the **scope of Article 368**.

Examples of such provisions include amendments related to **Article 4** (pertaining to changes in the organization of States), **Article 169** (concerning the abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in States).

Special majority- This entails the presence and affirmative vote of **at least two-thirds of the members** in each House of Parliament, along with the **support of a majority of the total membership** in each House.

Special majority and ratification by states- It necessitates both a ‘**special majority**’ and the **ratification by at least one-half of the State legislatures**.

What are the entrenched provisions of the constitution?

The constitutional provisions that necessitate ratification for their amendment are explicitly detailed in Article 368(2). They primarily relate to the **federal structure** of the Constitution.

1 .Any alteration in the provisions concerning the **election of the President of India (Article 54 and 55)**.

- Any modification in the **scope of executive authority** vested in the Union or State governments (**Article 73 and 162**).
- Changes in the provisions governing the **Union judiciary or the High Courts (Articles 124–147 and 214–231)**.
- Amendments affecting the distribution of legislative and administrative powers between the
- Union and the States (**Article 245 to 255**).
- Modifications to any of the Lists outlined in the **Seventh Schedule**.
- Alterations to the representation of the States in Parliament (**Article 82**).
- **Amendments to Article 368 itself**.

What were the debates in the Constituent Assembly regarding ‘entrenched provisions’?

B.R. Ambedkar supported the idea of requiring **State ratification** for the **amendment of specific constitutional provisions**. It ensures that the **core federal structure** of the Constitution remains intact.

Dr. Ambedkar, was not in favour of allowing the Central Parliament to **amend articles** related to **administrative, legislative, financial, and the executive powers** of the provinces, without granting any **voice to the provinces or States**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

He cautioned that allowing all constitutional amendments through a simple majority vote would undermine the principle of the separation of powers.

Can a constitutional amendment be struck down if not ratified?

Kihoto Hollohan versus Zachillhu (1992)– A challenge was made to the constitutional validity of the **Tenth Schedule** of the Constitution, which was introduced by the **Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act, 1985**.

The challenge was based on the argument that the amendment had not been **ratified by the States**. The Tenth Schedule included a provision, **Paragraph 7**. It sought to **exclude the jurisdiction** of all courts.

The amendment brought about changes in the **jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the High Courts**. This aspect required **ratification by half of the States**.

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court upheld the overall **validity of the Tenth Schedule** but declared **Paragraph 7 invalid** due to the lack of ratification.

Union of India versus Rajendra N. Shah– The Supreme Court ruled against certain provisions of the **Constitution (97th Amendment) Act, 2011**. The amendment had introduced **Part IX B** into the Constitution to regulate co-operative societies.

The Court unanimously determined that this amendment should have been ratified by **at least half of the State legislatures**, since it dealt with a subject that fell under the exclusive authority of the States.

What is the viewpoint of the Law Commission?

In August 2018, the **Law Commission of India, headed by Justice B. S. Chauhan**, issued a **preliminary report**. It stated that holding simultaneous elections is **not feasible** within the **current framework of the Constitution**.

The Commission emphasised that a constitutional amendment of this nature would need **ratification from at least 50% of the States**.

What is the viewpoint of experts on amendments proposed by the Law Commission?

According to **P.D.T Achary**, for simultaneous elections to occur, all existing State Assemblies, which currently have varying tenures, would need to be **dissolved**.

This could happen through two methods: either the ruling government in a State **voluntarily recommends dissolution**, or there is a **breakdown of constitutional machinery**.

However, the latter scenario is unlikely to occur for all States simultaneously.

Only remaining option is for the Union government to **amend Article 172**. It states that every legislative Assembly of every State shall continue for five years from its first meeting unless dissolved earlier.

P.D.T Achary states that amending this provision to **synchronise State elections with Lok Sabha polls** cannot be achieved without **infringing upon the federal structure** of the Constitution.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

71. [Let's not conflate microfinance with self-help group financing](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Let's not conflate microfinance with self-help group financing**” published in the “**Live Mint**” on **21st September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy

Relevance – Issue related to financial sector

News – The Reserve Bank of India made regulatory changes to the microfinance sector in March 2022. It issued warnings against excessive focus on business expansion in November 2022.

What is the divergence in perspectives between RBI and MFI industry regarding MFI sector growth?

- RBI is against **prioritizing growth** as a **mission of microfinance**. MFIs should serve as a tool for **economic development, poverty alleviation, and women's empowerment**. Whereas, Sa-Dhan, a representative body for the microfinance sector, views growth as essential for achieving these aims.
- RBI is not in favor of **MFIs growth** that would increase the **debt burden** on those who are already heavily indebted. On the other hand, MFI industry is advocating for **broader geographical expansion** and the **extension of formal credit** to areas where its impact is low.

What are Self Help Groups(SHG)s?

SHG model is a **collective of economically disadvantaged** rural women who are dedicated to assisting one another. They provide this support through **pooling of small savings**. The primary objective remains the **moral commitment to aid** one another.

The government has taken steps to support the SHGs through various **structured resources**, such as **village-level organizations, cluster-level federations, state-level rural livelihoods missions, and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission**.

The concept of a **joint liability loan** was introduced later in 1993, nearly two decades after the inception of the first SHGs. This **economic approach** was superimposed onto the pre-existing **social principle of mutual assistance**.

Government provides **interest subsidies** at a **low interest rate of approximately 12% per annum**.

What are some facts about MFIs?

MFIs establish **joint liability groups (JLGs)** primarily for **economic reasons** related to lending as a business activity.

Factors like **growth, scale, and efficiency** have guided the **natural evolution** of this **institutional structure**.

Over time, MFIs have invested in **advanced technology systems**, expanded their offices, hired staff, **standardized processes**, engaged in **marketing, and conducted fundraising**.

JLGs have come to include **economically disadvantaged women** who may not have **prior personal connections**.

Operational, compliance, management, and fundraising costs are currently financed through commercial bank debt. So, it is **economically unviable** for MFIs to conduct business at interest rates below 22% per annum.

MFIs do not **facilitate group savings**, and the state does not **provide direct support**.

What are the differences between SHGs and MFIs?

- SHGs begin with a **moral commitment** and incorporate **economic considerations**. MFIs begin with an **economic rationale** and integrate a **moral commitment**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

- SHGs offer their female members a practical model for **decentralized and contextually-aware decision-making, and empowerment**. The **business-oriented approach** of MFIs are unable to foster the same level of **trust, capacity building, and personal development**.

Way forward-

It is essential to recognize the **critical distinctions** between SHGs and JLGs.

Clarity regarding these differences will enable a **reevaluation of the MFI growth model**, and appropriate forms of **regulatory and state support** required to promote the sector's expansion.

72. All charged up: India's battery storage plans

Source– The post is based on the article “All charged up: India's battery storage plans” published in the “**mint**” on **21st September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Energy

Relevance- Issues related to energy storage infrastructure

News– The article explains the scenario of battery energy storage system(BESS) in India.

What is BESS?

BESS are smart systems. They use **algorithms** to **interact with the grid** and make decisions regarding **storing and releasing** of surplus energy.

These systems primarily **utilize lithium-ion batteries** due to their characteristics like, **high energy density, decreasing costs, and extended lifespan**.

How does a battery energy storage system work?

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) preserve energy generated from **sustainable sources** like sunlight and wind. It balances the supply and demand of renewable energy by releasing it **into the grid** when required.

Why is BESS critical for a global green switch?

Renewable energy sources have an **intermittent generation patterns**. It is because solar energy is available during day and heavy wind is also a seasonal phenomenon. It can cause **abrupt surges or declines** in power generation, leading to **power outages**.

It forces many utility companies to rely on **fossil fuel-based power plants**. BESS address this issue by **enhancing grid stability**.

Consequently, they offer the potential to decrease **dependence on fossil fuels**.

What is the current position of India in energy storage?

Current capacity- Currently, India has an energy **storage capacity** of **only 37 megawatt-hours (MWh)**.

Requirement- To achieve India's ambitious renewable energy goal of 500 gigawatts by 2030, the country will require **battery energy storage systems** with a **combined capacity exceeding 200 gigawatt-hours (GWh)**.

Projection for future- According to projections by the **International Energy Agency**, India's **storage capacity** is expected to **reach 200 GWh by 2040**. It will make it the largest in the world.

What's the plan of India to scale up storage?

1) Recently, the government approved a program aimed at establishing a **battery energy storage system (BESS) capacity of 4 gigawatt-hours (GWh) by the year 2030-31**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

The scheme **provides viability gap funding** to developers, amounting to ₹3,760 crore. This funding, limited to 40% of the project's cost, will be disbursed over a **three-year period spanning from 2023-24 to 2025-26**.

2) The government has introduced a **production-linked incentive scheme** worth ₹18,100 crore for the manufacturing of **advanced cell chemistry batteries**. This initiative is essential for achieving **self-sufficiency** in the **production of lithium-ion batteries**.

What's happening on this front globally?

According to **McKinsey**, the investment in battery energy storage systems (BESS) **reached \$5 billion in 2022**. It is three times the amount invested in 2021.

Global BESS market is currently **valued at \$55 billion**. McKinsey anticipates that it will expand to **reach \$150 billion by 2030**.

The **cost of lithium-ion battery systems** is projected to decrease **from the current \$151 per kilowatt-hour to \$59/KWh by 2030**

Experts predict that the **annual installation of BESS** will increase **tenfold between 2022 and 2030**. It will exceed **400 gigawatt-hours (GWh) annually** by the **end of this decade**.

[73. Taking a giant leap for a new ethics in outer space](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **“Taking a giant leap for a new ethics in outer space”** published in “The Hindu” on 21st September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

News: The author discusses the human instinct to explore and claim territories, like the race to the South Pole in the 1900s and current activities in Antarctica. They highlight the regulations in Antarctica and the need for similar rules in outer space. The author suggests India should lead in creating ethical space guidelines.

What is the human instinct to explore and claim territories in Antarctica?

Historical Race: In the 1910s, explorers like Roald Amundsen and Robert Scott raced to be the first to reach the South Pole. Amundsen succeeded on December 14, 1911.

Territorial Claims: Several countries, including Norway and Britain, have staked claims on Antarctica. For instance, Norway claimed an area named Dronning Maud Land.

Scientific Curiosity: 12 countries, such as Argentina and the US, established over 55 research stations in Antarctica, highlighting the human urge for knowledge.

Peaceful Usage: The Antarctic Treaty ensures that the continent is used for scientific research and peaceful purposes, showing a collective agreement on its value.

No Colonization: Unlike historical colonies, there are no native residents in Antarctica, and resources aren't extracted for the mother country. However, the presence of research stations indicates an undeniable human footprint.

What are the regulations in Antarctica?

Treaty Initiation: Following activities during the International Geophysical Year (IGY) in 1958, US President Dwight D. Eisenhower initiated an Antarctic Conference in 1959 with 12 countries active in Antarctica.

Nuclear Restrictions: Argentina proposed banning all atomic explosions in Antarctica. Initially, the US suggested banning only unnotified tests, but eventually agreed to the complete ban.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Focus on Peace and Research: The Antarctic Treaty emphasizes freedom of scientific research and mandates the peaceful use of the continent.

Demilitarization: The treaty prohibits nuclear testing, military operations, economic exploitation, and further territorial claims.

Monitoring Systems: Close monitoring systems are in place to oversee the activities of countries in Antarctica, ensuring its ecological integrity remains intact.

No New Territorial Claims: The treaty restricts countries from making any new territorial claims in Antarctica.

Why is there a need for regulation in outer space?

Territorial Claims: Like the race in Antarctica, there's potential for countries to claim territories in space, such as the moon.

Peaceful Use: Like Earth's natural landmarks, outer space destinations should be used for peaceful purposes only.

Moon's Environment: Regulations ensure that the lunar environment isn't disrupted or damaged.

Shared Resources: The moon and its resources are humanity's common heritage, requiring collective decisions about their use.

Control and Territory: Regulations help curb human desires for domination and first-arrival, promoting collaboration instead.

Avoiding Arms Race: There's a pressing need to prevent militarization and arms races in outer space, ensuring safety for all nations.

What should India's role be in space exploration?

Successful Missions: With the achievement of Chandrayaan-3, India has proven its capability in space exploration.

Collaboration over Ownership: India should view celestial bodies, like the moon, as partners in scientific advancement, not territories to claim.

Lead by Example: India can set a pace for global space agendas, emphasizing collaboration and peaceful exploration.

Ethical Leadership: Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized that Chandrayaan-3's success belongs to all of humanity. This perspective can guide India's future space endeavors.

Promote Peace: India can champion the non-militarization of outer space, aligning with international treaties.

Address Space Debris: India should advocate for and participate in efforts to manage and reduce space debris, ensuring outer space remains a safe environment for exploration.

[74. Navigating the evolving trade landscape](#)

Source: The post is based on the article **"Navigating the evolving trade landscape"** published in **Business Standard** on **21st September 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Indian Economy – Industrial Policy**

Relevance: **About changing Industrial policy**

News: World trade is changing significantly, with the US and EU governments shifting their focus from traditional trade policies to industrial policies.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

How are the US and EU governments shifting their focus?

US: The US initially embraced manufacturing outsourcing for profit but it unintentionally boosted China as a global manufacturing hub.

Hence, to counter China, the US imposed high import tariffs on Chinese goods during the Trump administration and targeted China's supercomputer and AI industries under the Biden administration.

Additionally, the US launched a major re-industrialization initiative promoting domestic production of semiconductors, critical minerals, electric vehicle batteries, and medicines. **Hence, the US shifted from prioritizing free trade to embracing industrial policy.**

EU: In 2023, the EU introduced significant regulations like the Deforestation Regulation and [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#), impacting global trade in agriculture and industrial goods.

The EU provides subsidies to its own industries while it also scrutinizes subsidies given by other nations. **This reflects the EU's aim to safeguard its economy and environment, potentially making it more challenging for other countries to compete.**

Read More: [Perspectives on industrial policy](#)

What is the situation of India?

China's global dominance in electronics design and manufacturing increased due to the collaborations with Western firms like Apple. **However, with the US seeking alternatives to China, India has emerged as a focus.**

In October 2022, US limited support for Chinese chip production below 16 nanometers. **Consequently, Apple shifted some of its production to India.**

This shift has resulted in India's smartphone exports, exceeding \$12 billion in 2022-23. **A similar trend is anticipated in the semiconductor sector**, particularly through partnerships with Micron.

However, **India must take more actions to boost manufacturing competitiveness and facilitate trade flows.**

What more actions can be taken by India?

1. **Remove arbitrage from manufacturing schemes** like special economic zones, export-oriented units, and Customs bond manufacturing, which offer different tax benefits and import duty structures.

2. **Sign only those FTAs that align with India's economic interests and avoid involvement in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework**, as it requires adherence to WTO Plus standards that might not be advantageous for India.

3. **Prioritize the domestic laws related to** digital trade, labor, environmental standards, agriculture, and tariffs before entering international commitments.

4. **Take prompt and determined action against unfair climate taxes** imposed by the EU by employing a carefully measured retaliation mechanism.

5. **Reduce Customs duties**, especially on imported goods, to stimulate manufacturing and exports. While certain items crucial for the "Make in India" initiative may maintain higher tariffs, the overall trend should be toward lower duties to enhance the export potential of the small-scale sector.

- **Streamline export processes using a single-window system through the National Trade Network (NTN).**

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

This integrated approach eliminates the need for exporters to engage separately with different departments, resulting in time and cost savings and empowering small businesses to participate in the export market.

- **There is a need to address the issue of energy imports**, which constituted 36.6% of India's total merchandise imports in FY2023 at a cost of \$260 billion. Projections indicate this bill could exceed \$1 trillion by December 2026.
- **Prioritize the removal of non-tariff barriers (NTBs)** to boost India's exports. NTBs often lead to increased scrutiny or rejection of Indian products.

Hence, to address this, India should upgrade domestic systems, engage in dialogues with partner countries, and be prepared to retaliate against unreasonable rules that obstruct Indian products.

75. Propelling India's development the right way

Source: The post is based on the article "**Propelling India's development the right way**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 22nd September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life; Awareness in the fields of Space.

News: The article focusses on India's progress in space and technology since the 1960s, despite initial skepticism.

Technological advancement hasn't eradicated poverty and inequality in the country. India needs to continue state support for technology and make economic growth inclusive by improving access to education for all.

How did India progress in space research?

Initiation in the 1960s: India began its journey into space research during the 1960s. At that time, many viewed this move as overly ambitious and even reckless for a young, struggling nation.

ISRO's Establishment: Before the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) was set up in 1969, India had a significant space science program. This was coordinated by the Department of Atomic Energy, founded in the early 1950s.

Global Recognition: Over the years, India's persistence in space research bore fruit. Notably, it became the first nation to land a rover on the moon's south pole. Following this success, India embarked on a mission to study the sun.

Vision of Pioneers: Leaders like Vikram Sarabhai envisioned using satellites for diverse applications, such as building a nationwide telephone system and offering agricultural and health education.

What are the major hurdles for India's progress in space and technology?

Persisting Inequalities: India's enduring societal inequalities have hindered broad-based development and access to higher education for the underprivileged, impacting economic and industrial growth.

Lack of Effective Intervention: The state's inability to effectively intervene and implement successful programs, like land redistribution, has perpetuated the disadvantages faced by oppressed communities.

Underinvestment in Education: The country's consistent underinvestment in basic education has replicated historical inequalities in the labor market, with privileged groups predominantly accessing better-paying jobs.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Misdirected Investments: Some argue that focusing on capital- and technology-intensive industries, being a labour surplus country, was a misdirection of resources.

Long Gestation Period for Technologies: The time required for new technologies to fructify, and the initial effort needed are substantial, causing reliance on unwavering public funding.

What should be India's path forward?

Reinstate State Support: India should renew efforts with state support to develop technological and industrial capabilities in emerging fields like semiconductors and biotechnology.

Promote Inclusive Growth: The country must intensify efforts to make economic growth inclusive, with a focus on making education, especially higher education, accessible to the dispossessed.

Reevaluate Investment Focus: A reevaluation of investment focus is crucial; the emphasis should be on sectors that align with India's comparative advantages and global needs.

Correct Past Mistakes: India needs to recognize and correct past errors in abandoning planning for industrial growth and misjudging the role of industrial policy in a globalised economy.

Address Persisting Inequalities: Tackling enduring inequalities and ensuring broader social development are essential for leveraging the nation's full potential in technology and industry.

[76. Unlocking MSME potential- Digital tools are crucial for expanding their reach and unleashing growth](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Unlocking MSME potential- Digital tools are crucial for expanding their reach and unleashing growth**” published in “Business standard” on 22nd September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- Industries (MSMEs) & GS3- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

News: The article discusses the challenges faced by small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in India, including access to finance and technology. It highlights a study showing that using e-commerce platforms can help these businesses reach a wider customer base and improve sales, especially those that are more productive and export-oriented. However, there is a need to address inequities and barriers preventing some MSMEs from adopting such digital platforms.

Why do MSMEs join e-commerce platforms?

Broader Customer Base: MSMEs get access to a wider range of customers, extending their market reach beyond geographical limitations.

Improved Sales: Many enterprises reported experiencing an increase in their total sales after integrating with e-commerce platforms.

Enhanced Profit Margins: MSMEs noted improvements in profit margins post-integration with digital platforms.

Innovation and Investment: Joining these platforms fostered innovation at the firm level, and many businesses invested in training, new equipment, machinery, and software.

New Products Launching: Integrated MSMEs reported the introduction of new products and improvements in existing product designs.

What are the challenges faced by MSMEs in India?

Access to Opportunities: Many MSMEs find it hard to access new markets and customers, which limits their growth.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Adoption of E-commerce: Informational barriers and limited capabilities prevent some MSMEs from integrating with e-commerce platforms, which could have expanded their market reach and improved profitability.

Skilled Labour: MSMEs face difficulties in finding and training skilled employees to leverage new business practices and technologies.

Inequality in Adoption: The selective adoption of e-commerce and digital technologies is creating inequities between integrated and non-integrated MSMEs, impacting overall industrial structure and competitiveness.

What should be done?

Invest in Technology: There should be investments in technology to help firms adopt e-commerce successfully.

Enhance Digital Skills: Providing training in digital skills is crucial for utilizing e-commerce platforms effectively.

Address Information Barriers: Efforts should be made to address informational barriers that prevent MSMEs from adopting new technologies.

Provide Support Services: Offering enterprise support, training, and infrastructure services will enhance the competitiveness of non-integrated MSMEs.

Enhance Access to Financial Services: Improving access to financial services will enable more MSMEs to benefit from e-commerce adoption.

77. Digital forensics: India's opportunity

Source: The post is based on the article “**Digital forensics: India's opportunity**” published in “Business standard” on 22nd September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life.

News: The author is discussing the growing importance of digital forensics, which involves analyzing digital devices to find evidence. He points out that while it is crucial for investigating crimes and protecting sensitive information, India is currently lagging in this field. However, new laws and a growing awareness are pushing developments in this sector in India, leading to opportunities for growth and advancements in digital forensic technology and practices.

What is digital forensics?

Digital forensics is a field focused on recovering and investigating information on digital devices and preserving it as evidence.

It's not just for solving crimes anymore; companies, like banks, use it to protect against threats.

What is the importance of digital forensics?

Solves Crimes & Protects Information: It unearths critical information, serving as a tool for finding evidence in criminal investigations and corporate threat protection.

Extensive Applicability: Used by various sectors like banks to plug security gaps, and by R&D labs to safeguard designs and patents.

Market Growth: The field is growing swiftly, expecting to reach \$30.78 billion by 2030, reflecting its rising importance.

Enhancing Security: Its development and application are critical in enhancing the security measures in place, helping to safeguard sensitive information in various sectors.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

How is India responding to digital forensics needs?

Educational Progress: Gujarat initiated India's first forensic science university in 2008, evolving into the National Forensic Sciences University.

Development of Tools: Centre for Development of Advanced Computing has developed India's first tool for computer digital forensics.

Encouraging Startups: An Ahmedabad-based startup is working on creating India's first digital forensics tool for smartphones.

Legal Framework Enhancement: The DPDP Act, 2023, has prompted advancements in digital forensics to meet legal obligations and avoid penalties.

Lab Notifications: The government is working to notify more labs as examiners of electronic evidence under the IT Act.

Improving Training: There's an emphasis on implementing standardised graded awareness and training programmes for the police, prosecution, and judiciary.

78. [Shyam Saran writes: BRICS is growing – and that doesn't hurt India's interests](#)

Source– The post is based on the article “**Shyam Saran writes: BRICS is growing – and that doesn't hurt India's interests**” published in “**The Indian Express**” on **22nd September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Regional and global groupings

News– The recent BRICS summit in Johannesburg, South Africa witnessed the joining of five major emerging economies.

What are some facts about BRICS expansion?

The group was formed in 2009. Initially it consisted of Brazil, Russia, India, and China, with South Africa joining a year later.

Six new members have been added: Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE.

There is also interest from **several developing countries** to join. It may lead to **further expansions**.

Initially, there were indications that India and Brazil were not particularly enthusiastic about such an expansion.

India was concerned that an **expanded membership** may bolster **China's influence** within the group.

However, it appears that the selection of new members was driven more by **political compromise** than by **agreed-upon criteria**.

Except for Iran, the new members have **significant relationships** with the West.

Why do developing countries want to join BRICS?

They want to protect themselves in an increasingly uncertain world characterised by **shifting political and security dynamics**. There is a prevailing concern about their **vulnerability to US sanctions**.

There may be an expectation that China will lead a shift towards an **alternative global currency**. It reflects growing frustration among developing countries that their **interests and aspirations** continue to be overlooked by developed nations.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

International institutions such as the **UN and multilateral financial institutions** like the IMF and the World Bank remain dominated by the G7. **Major emerging economies** are demanding a **greater say in global governance**.

What are the achievements of BRICS?

It has established the **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB)**. However, it conducts its business in US dollars, despite the group's stated objective of diversifying away from the dominant US currency.

BRICS has also created a **contingency reserve** that member countries can tap into in case of balance of payments issues.

What is the comparison between BRICS and G7?

Unlike the G7, BRICS lacks a strong **ideological alignment and cohesiveness**. The G7 has evolved over **five decades**. In contrast, BRICS has a relatively **short history of just 15 years**.

It faces more **internal disagreements** among its members as compared to G7. The rivalry between India and China is a notable example.

The G7 is a **closely-knit security alliance**. All its members are part of NATO and Japan is a **US treaty alliance**. In contrast, BRICS countries do not share a **unified security perspective**.

Why Western countries claim BRICS undermining the established international order created by the West are hollow?

Western nations themselves have been gradually **weakening and disregarding the rules and norms of this order**.

This includes the **gradual sidelining** of the United Nations, the adoption of **protectionist trade measures**, and an attempt to shift the responsibility for a **more sustainable energy transition** onto developing nations.

The application of the principles of the **"liberal international order"** has become selective.

It is essential for the G7 to engage with these emerging powers to formulate a new set of mutually **acceptable international rules**.

What are the options for India?

For India, a policy of **active participation in multiple international groups** has proven to be wise. Joining an expanded BRICS does not conflict with India's interests.

India does not need to make an **exclusive choice** between BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Quad, and **regular engagement** with the G7.

These engagements broaden **India's diplomatic options** and contribute to help India in an increasingly **polarised global landscape**.

79. [A light-bulb moment for the Indian fan market](#)

Source– The post is based on the article **"A light-bulb moment for the Indian fan market"** published in **"The Hindu"** on **22nd September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian Economy – Industries and industrial policies

News– The article explain the issue of energy efficiency of ceiling fans for sustainable energy transition

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Why ceiling fans are crucial for energy transition in India?

India has an objective of achieving a **45% reduction in harmful emissions per unit of GDP by 2030** compared to 2005. It necessitates a significant decrease in the **energy used** for economic activities.

Approximately **one-third of all electricity consumed** in India is attributed to households. The ceiling fans constitute around **25% of household electricity usage**, according to a 2020 survey by the **Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW)**.

The **India Cooling Action Plan** predicts that the number of fans in operation in India could double to **one billion by 2038**.

What are efforts by the government to improve the energy efficiency of ceiling fans?

The Bureau of Energy Efficiency mandated the **Standards and Labelling (S&L) program** for ceiling fans in May 2022. This marked a significant shift from the **voluntary program** introduced in 2009.

However, **'5-star' rated fans** are priced at twice the cost of regular, unrated fans. It is posing a **substantial barrier to adoption** in India's price-sensitive market.

To address this challenge, the **Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL)** is planning an initiative aimed at selling **10 million '5-star' ceiling fans**.

This program aspires to revolutionize the fan market in a manner similar to LED lamps under the **UJALA program**.

What should be the way forward for sustainable and advantageous transformation of the ceiling fan market?

Maintain a technology-neutral policy- Ceiling fans offer a **broader range of technologies**, each with its own **advantages and trade-offs**.

A policy that accommodates **multiple specifications** would be **more cost-effective** in the long term.

A **technology-neutral demand aggregation policy** should allow manufacturers to offer various technologies to consumers, **fostering competition** and ensuring **cost-effective market transformation**.

Strike a balance between price reduction and quality management- The significant price pressure on LED bulbs during the UJALA program led to the entry of **lower-quality products** into the market.

While replacing a light bulb is **relatively easy and inexpensive**, replacing a ceiling fan is **inconvenient and costly**.

Low-quality products could erode consumer trust in the new technology, prompting them to revert to **traditional fans**.

Development of high-quality domestic manufacturing capabilities- India has overlooked the importance of maintaining the **quality of local manufacturing** and reducing **reliance on imported components**.

India can capitalize on its **extensive domestic market** to achieve **economies of scale** for both finished products and components.

It is crucial to update **Indian quality and performance standards** to align with **international benchmarks**, ensuring that domestic manufacturers remain **competitive**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

More resources to enhance the standard and labeling program- It is estimated that at least **30% of India's ceiling fan market** operates **informally**. This segment is expected to be slow in **adopting new technologies** and will likely continue selling less efficient fans.

Therefore, the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency and its State-designated agencies** should leverage their **market monitoring authority** to ensure that products carrying **genuine energy performance labels** reach consumers.

[80. Ethanol – a saviour that gives savings](#)

Source- The post is based on the article **“Ethanol – a saviour that gives savings”** published in the **“The Indian Express”** on **22nd September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian Economy – Energy

News- The article explains the case of ethanol blending in India

Why are biofuels the need of the day?

Global crude oil prices are on the rise again. It is near the **\$100 per barrel mark**. India's reliance on crude oil and related products for imports reached **87.3% in FY2023**. It constitutes **25.8% of the nation's total import expenditure**.

India has the world's **third-largest demand** for crude oil and its derivatives. There is **substantial potential** for further growth in consumption.

Data from the **International Energy Agency** indicates that over the past decade, as much as 20 percent of India's overall **primary energy supply** has been derived from biomass.

What are efforts made by the government for promoting ethanol blending?

India initiated its **ethanol blending program** in 2003. However, progress was limited for more than a decade.

In 2022, India's blending program achieved a significant milestone by reaching **10 percent ethanol blending** in petrol.

Plans are to increase the **blending ratio to 20 percent (E20)** by the fiscal year 2025-26. In 2022, ethanol producers supplied nearly 430 crore litres of ethanol.

What are the challenges in case of ethanol blending?

Approximately 60 percent of **India's petrol demand** is attributed to two-wheelers. The remaining 40 percent comes from four-wheelers.

In a 2021 study focused on urban India by the **Council on Energy, Environment, and Water**, nearly 55 percent of respondents expressed a desire and need to own a four-wheeler.

A report from **NITI Aayog** also predicted a **45 percent growth in petrol demand by 2030** compared to 2021. In such a scenario, blending alone can only achieve a **minor reduction in overall petrol demand**.

Most of India's ethanol supply for the blending program is derived from **first-generation production**, utilizing sugars from food crops.

Investments have been slow in case of **second-generation (2G) ethanol production technologies**. There are 12 such facilities in various stages of **planning and construction**, but they are unlikely to contribute significantly to the demand for ethanol.

The cultivation of food crops relies on fertilisers and water. It requires heavily **subsidised energy**, such as natural gas and electricity, for production.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Climate change concerns suggest that both **rainfall and crop yields will** experience significant variations. It will make India vulnerable to **supply disruptions**.

What is the way forward?

India needs a **well-defined research and development strategy for second-generation (2G) technologies** before scaling up ethanol production.

The **primary policy focus** should be on slowing down **overall petrol consumption** in the economy and addressing **private demand for petrol**.

A targeted promotion of **electric vehicles in public transportation** and **pricing mechanisms** for the use of private vehicles in urban areas could facilitate the transition to higher levels of biofuels.

Investments and the capacity is needed to allocate the **necessary raw materials** for domestic ethanol production.

Biofuels and flex-fuel vehicles, which can primarily run on biofuels, need to be considered.

81. [Hybridisation can spread gainful genes between species](#)

Source: The post is based on the article “**Hybridisation can spread gainful genes between species** — this helps butterflies mimic signals” published in “Times of India” on 23rd September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment – Ecology- Species Evolution

News: The article discusses a researcher’s interest in species evolution, with a focus on hybridization, where species mix genes. They studied various organisms, particularly butterflies, and found that advantageous genes can transfer between species. This aids in mimicry, where non-poisonous species imitate poisonous ones for protection. Additionally, the article touches on the renowned case of the peppered moth, showcasing natural selection, and mentions observed shifts in butterfly habitats due to climate change.

How do species evolve?

Diverse view: There was a disagreement among different groups of biologists on how species evolved. Some said they had to evolve in geographic isolation, while others felt species could evolve in gene flow contact or in close proximity.

Hybridization: Species evolve by mixing genes through hybridization. Around 10% of animal species and 25% of plant species experience this mixing of genes between different species. In butterflies, this process can lead to the transfer of genes that affect color patterns.

Mimicry and Advantageous Gene Transfer: Butterflies use mimicry, copying the appearances of other species, to enhance survival. Some advantageous genes can transfer between species when they offer survival benefits through enhanced mimicry.

Natural Selection and Environmental Adaptation: The peppered moth adapted its color to its environment for survival, with black moths thriving in industrialized, sooty areas, exemplifying natural selection.

Climate-Driven Adaptation: Temperate-zone butterflies are moving northwards, adapting to new climates due to climate changes, illustrating species’ ability to adjust to changing environmental conditions.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

82. Creators Vs Algos-Generative AI poses a serious copyright violation risk

Source: The post is based on the article “**Creators Vs Algos-Generative AI poses a serious copyright violation risk**” published in “Times of India” on 23rd September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and technology- Awareness in the fields of IT, Computers, and issues relating to intellectual property rights.

News: The article discusses a lawsuit against OpenAI by the Authors Guild. They accuse OpenAI of copyright violation by using and replicating creators’ content without permission. This raises concerns about regulating generative AI globally.

What is the difference between earlier AI and Generative AI?

Earlier AI: It mainly focused on pattern recognition. It did not create new content.

Generative AI: Operates in two steps; 1) it gathers extensive data (often without permission) and then 2) synthesizes this data to create new content.

Can mimic the style of original creations, **for example**, writing in a style similar to a particular author or artist.

Developers like OpenAI are facing lawsuits from creative professionals, including authors and artists, for alleged copyright infringements.

Examples include ChatGPT, which can generate content resembling the work of specific creators, potentially affecting their market value.

Implications:

Generative AI has raised new concerns and challenges regarding copyright laws and regulations.

What should be done?

Formulate Unified Regulations: A convergence of international regulations on generative AI is essential to avoid a patchwork of interpretations by judiciaries in different countries.

Develop and Implement AI Regulations: The EU is working on regulations requiring generative AI to publish summaries of copyright material used.

Take a Lead in Regulatory Efforts: India, due to its role as a large creator of multilingual content, needs to lead in harmonizing independent regulatory efforts.

83. Managing flows – Govt’s dependence on foreign funds should be limited

Source: The post is based on the article “**Managing flows – Govt’s dependence on foreign funds should be limited**” published in **Business Standard** on 25th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy – Capital Market

Relevance: About JP Morgan’s decision to include Government of India (GoI) bonds.

News: JP Morgan’s recent announcement about including Government of India (GoI) bonds in its emerging market government bond index has generated significant excitement in financial markets and the government.

What does this mean for Indian bonds?

JP Morgan’s decision to include Government of India (GoI) bonds in its emerging market government bond index is expected to result in \$24 billion being deployed in GoI bonds, as India will have a weighting of 10% in the index.

As more assets track this index over time, the inflow of funds is likely to grow, and other indices may also consider inclusion GoI bonds over time, encouraging even active fund managers to increase allocation to GoI bonds.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What implications does this hold for the Indian economy?

The increase in demand for GoI bonds **will reduce the borrowing cost for the government**. Lower yields on GoI bonds could also benefit states and corporations by reducing their borrowing costs.

Additionally, **the influx of foreign capital can help finance the current account deficit**. These inclusions in international indices, which attract passive investment flows, are considered stable.

Moreover, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) began issuing GoI bonds to non-resident investors via the fully accessible route after a reference in the Union Budget 2020-21 indicated that certain bond categories would be fully open to foreign investors.

What are the risks associated?

There are risks associated with tapping foreign savings to finance the fiscal deficit, even if the debt is denominated in the domestic currency:

Increased volatility in bond and currency markets: Even passive flows can exhibit significant volatility at times of macroeconomic instability. This could lead to heightened volatility in both bond and currency markets.

Upward pressure on the currency: An increased level of debt flows could also put upward pressure on the currency, affecting the competitiveness of India's tradable sector.

As a result, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may need to be more vigilant and intervene in the market to manage volatility.

What can be the way ahead?

First, if the idea is to lower the cost of money, it can be achieved by reducing the general government budget deficit, which will reduce the demand on domestic savings and bring down the cost of money and inflation.

Second, the fiscal deficit is usually higher in India than in its peers, which can crowd out the private sector. Increased foreign investment should not be seen as a way to run higher deficits. Instead, the government should be more disciplined.

Third, India needs to import capital for investment, but it has favored direct equity investment due to its advantages. Any shift from this stance should be carefully considered.

84. Swift death of the 'Green Consensus'

Source: The post is based on the article "**Swift death of the 'Green Consensus'**– Countries across the world are scaling back their climate ambitions from the high points of the past few years" published in "Business standard" on 25th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment- climate change

News: This article discusses how, between 2020-2023, global leaders aimed for "green growth" in economic recovery plans to combat climate change. However, by late 2023, this consensus seems fragile and potentially reversible due to various challenges and shifting political priorities in several countries.

How does the green growth consensus build after the pandemic?

Global Leaders' Agreement: After the pandemic, leaders worldwide leaned into greener recovery packages. For instance, Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act in the U.S. allocated almost \$370 billion for clean energy.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

China's Green Push: President Xi Jinping targeted newer, less carbon-intensive sectors. By 2023, China stood responsible for nearly half of the world's low-carbon spending. The nation's ambition was for carbon emissions to peak before 2030.

European Union's Roadmap: The EU quickly approved a \$1.2 trillion roadmap for green investments over the next decade, funded by new carbon tariffs on imports and member states' contributions.

Developing Countries' Initiatives: Countries like India, South Africa, Indonesia, and Vietnam initiated reforms. Notably, India aimed to triple its renewable energy by 2030 and targeted carbon neutrality by 2070.

Private Sector's Participation: Businesses worldwide focused on decarbonisation. Investments favored projects with high environmental, social, and governance (ESG) scores.

What are the challenges to the green growth consensus?

U.S. Political Turmoil: The United States faces the risk of having a climate-sceptic leader by 2025, which could reverse current green policies. The Inflation Reduction Act is also potentially weakened by compromises and lacks a carbon tax.

European Implementation Issues: Europe faces difficulties in green policy execution. Germany is reopening coalfields due to the Russian invasion, and there's a delay in the implementation of many provisions of the Green Deal due to objections from various sectors.

UK Policy Reversals: The United Kingdom, after a narrow election victory, has reversed many green policies, prioritizing voter appeasement over environmental considerations.

China's Re-evaluation: China is revisiting coal power due to power shortages and geopolitical conditions, approving new coal plants rapidly.

Depth of Global Commitment: The global commitment to green growth is questioned, as it seems the focus is more on economic growth and job creation, revealing a hesitancy to make genuine sacrifices for climate action.

85. The Job Question – on unemployment data

Source: The post is based on the article “**The Job Question**– An extensive study finds troubling facts hidden in good headline employment numbers” published in “Times of India” on 25th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- Employment

News: This article says India's economy recovered well after the pandemic with a 9.1% rise in GDP. But, jobs, especially for women and young graduates, didn't see the same recovery. Many women are in unpaid, self-employment roles. Youth unemployment is high, especially for educated people, suggesting many jobs are not quality. The article suggests this issue needs attention for India's future development.

How has India's economy recovered?

Economic Recovery

India's GDP rose 9.1% in 2021-22, marking a sharp recovery and surpassing pre-Covid levels to ₹149.25 lakh crore.

Employment Trends

The unemployment rate fell to 6.6% in 2021-22, over two percentage points lower than 2019-20, showing increased employment post-Covid.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Employment data showed an increase in both men and women working post-Covid.

Women's Employment

While more women are working, many are in self-employment and unpaid roles, indicating a structural deterioration in job quality for women.

Youth Unemployment

The unemployment rate for educated youth is over 20% until the age of 29, highlighting the lingering issue of job scarcity and quality for the young population.

Why addressing employment issues crucial for India's development?

Importance of Women's Employment: Addressing women's employment is crucial as many are relegated to self-employment and unpaid work, reflecting structural deterioration in women's job quality.

Youth Unemployment Concerns: Addressing this issue is vital to harness the potential of the young population.

Economic Stress: The 2% lower inflation-adjusted monthly earnings in 2021-22 compared to 2017-18 signal underlying economic stress, necessitating attention to job quality and opportunities.

Contribution to Development: Addressing these employment concerns is indispensable for leveraging the contribution of women and the youth, critical components for propelling India towards becoming a developed economy.

86. Our institutes of higher learning can produce a green generation

Source- The post is based on the article "Our institutes of higher learning can produce a green generation" published in the "mint" on 26th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment

Relevance- Issues related to green and sustainable economy

News-

How could the Indian higher education sector play a key role in achieving sustainability by using emerging technologies?

Optimise sustainability through technology: Utilising modern technologies has the potential to make **sustainability a mainstream focus** on university and college campuses.

A global survey reveals that **87% of climate leaders** consider artificial intelligence as a valuable tool in addressing climate change.

Campuses can employ **Internet of Things, sensors** to collect **real-time data** on energy and water consumption. It will lead to **identification of inefficiencies and data-informed decision-making**. **Machine learning algorithms** can analyse this data to optimise system operations

ML can identify suitable locations for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, optimise bike-sharing routes, and facilitate **data-driven sustainable architecture**.

The **combination of IoT sensors and big data analytics** can optimise energy and water usage while monitoring emissions across campuses through an **interconnected digital network**.

Implementing such solutions on a larger scale across Indian campuses can lead to **efficiency improvements** and uncover areas for enhancement. Furthermore, **digital twin technology** can create models of entire campuses for **sustainability scenario testing**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Role of behavioural change: The adoption of technology should be accompanied by initiatives that **incentivize sustainable behaviours** among the 40 million students and 1.5 million teachers in our higher education institutions.

Techniques like **gamification and social comparisons** can motivate individuals to conserve electricity, water, and paper, as well as increase the use of public transit.

India's 1,200 universities and 40,000 colleges should prioritise programs that engage students in **environmentally friendly habits**. The collective impact of **sustainable individual choices** can complement **institutional efforts**.

HEIs should make **sustainability a way of life**, aligning with the vision of **Mission LiFE**. Sustainability should be **integrated into curricula and campus culture**.

Green habits can be fostered through **experiential learning opportunities** like campus gardens, recycling drives, and student-led green projects.

Colleges and universities can enlist **notable alumni and public figures** as role models to advocate for **low-carbon lifestyles**. Conferences and competitions can encourage **environmental awareness** and generate innovative ideas.

Simple changes, such as placing visible recycling bins, can prompt **eco-friendly behaviours**. Public commitments through **green pledges and social media campaigns** can inspire youth to align their actions with their values.

India's HEIs should instil **green values, attitudes, and habits** to empower students to lead in **sustainability efforts** long after graduation.

What is the potential for achieving sustainability in the current Indian scenario?

Indian youth are already increasingly advocating for action on **climate change**. A study shows that **78% of them** feel capable of addressing climate-related challenges. This commitment is reflected in the efforts of young environmentalists and climate activists.

The adoption of **sustainable practices** within India's higher education sector is of paramount importance. By 2035, this sector is expected to encompass 80 million students and 3 million teachers.

87. Our chip-making game shows welcome realism

Source– The post is based on the article “**Our chip-making game shows welcome realism**” published in the “**mint**” on **26th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy

Relevance- Semiconductor manufacturing

News– Recently, India's electronics and infotech minister Ashwini Vaishnaw talked about focus on the emerging segment that remains largely unexploited in semiconductor manufacturing

What are some facts about 'compound semiconductors'?

It is the next major innovation. These chips are claimed to be more **energy-efficient** and offer **superior thermal conductivity**. It enables **faster processing speeds**.

However, their high production cost has limited their usage to **specialized applications** in fields such as **telecommunications, power equipment, and automotive technology**.

This segment holds **significant sales potential**, but its **growth trajectory** will depend on factors such as the availability of raw materials and the enhancement of **chip performance**.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Why does a strategic approach, focusing on a specific niche rather than competing with major chip manufacturers appear more realistic?

In **emerging fields** where all participants are still developing their capabilities, local chip producers in India have a better chance of **attaining global competitiveness**.

In contrast, the silicon industry is already **highly competitive**. **Substantial investments** are being made in fabrication facilities in the EU, US, and China, primarily aimed at reducing reliance on imports from Taiwan.

What are the challenges in achieving global leadership in a specific niche?

The semiconductor industry is influenced by **geopolitics**. China has restricted the **exports of gallium** in response to tech restrictions imposed by the US.

Gallium is a **key component** used in **chip production** and is found in bauxite and zinc ores. Other players like the Vedanta Group could potentially secure a supply source for gallium compound chips. However, the actual progress of **locally produced niche chips** in the chip-making process remains uncertain.

88. Unseal And Pause- NDMA finding that Joshimath has overshoot carrying capacity was expected

Source: The post is based on the article “Unseal And Pause- NDMA finding that Joshimath has overshoot carrying capacity was expected. There’s a huge lesson here” published in “Times of India” on 26th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- disaster management

News: This article discusses the overdevelopment in Joshimath, a town in Uttarakhand, raising concerns about land stability and disaster risk, due to the area’s high seismic activity and landslide occurrence.

What is the main concern in Joshimath?

Overdevelopment Issue: Joshimath in Uttarakhand is undergoing excessive development.

Carrying Capacity: The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has confirmed that the town’s development has surpassed its acceptable limits.

Risk Factors:

The region is in seismic activity zone V, indicating the highest level of seismic activity.

The state disaster management authority’s map marks it as an area with a high incidence of landslides.

Historical Concerns: About 50 years ago, a committee raised concerns about land subsidence in Joshimath. They recommended linking construction to the soil’s load-bearing capacity.

Recent Data: In 2023, over 1,100 landslides were reported in Uttarakhand till mid-September, a significant increase from 354 in 2021 and 245 in 2022. This suggests possible overburdening of the land.

What did the High Court say?

Questioned Secrecy: The High Court inquired why the information from NDMA was kept secret and submitted in a sealed envelope.

Importance of Transparency: It emphasized the need for governments to share critical information with the public openly.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Advocated for Open Collaboration: The court highlighted the value of open scientific collaboration to address and find solutions to such developmental and environmental concerns effectively.

What should be done?

Assess Carrying Capacity: Governments should conduct assessments to understand the carrying capacity of each region, especially in environmentally sensitive areas like the Himalayan states, to avoid overdevelopment.

Transparent Risk Assessment: There needs to be transparent risk assessments of infrastructure projects, considering the high seismic activity and incidence of landslides in regions like Joshimath.

Public Awareness and Transparency: Governments need to share crucial information openly with the public and avoid secrecy, as emphasized by the High Court, to ensure the residents are aware of the environmental risks and developmental challenges.

89. ExplainSpeaking: What's the link between GDP growth and employment in India

Source: The post is based on the article “**ExplainSpeaking: What's the link between GDP growth and employment in India**” published in “Indian express” on 26th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- growth, development and employment.

News: The article discusses the concern that India's focus on growing GDP isn't leading to enough job creation, particularly quality jobs. It mentions the SWI 2023 report, showing that high GDP growth hasn't equated to substantial employment growth, especially for women, and quality jobs are lacking. Policymakers are advised to prioritize employment-focused strategies, including potentially exploring green manufacturing, to ensure more Indians secure stable, well-paying jobs.

About the State of Working India (SWI 2023) report:

Conducted by: Azim Premji University's Centre for Sustainable Employment.

Data Utilized: Uses official employment and unemployment data, including Periodic Labour Force Surveys (PLFS), National Family Health Surveys (NFHS), Census 2011, and Economic Census 2013, among others.

Focus: Analyses the long-run relationship between GDP growth and employment in India, assessing impacts on different social identities: caste, gender, and religion.

What does the State of Working India (SWI 2023) report say?

Weak Relationship Between Growth and Employment: The SWI 2023 report indicates that the connection between GDP growth and employment in India is weak. Growth in GDP doesn't assure proportional job creation.

Employment Elasticity Declined: The report shows employment elasticity has consistently decreased between 1983 and 2017, meaning a 1% rise in GDP results in less than a 1% increase in employment.

Shift to Self-Employment (2017-2021): This period witnessed a surge in self-employment, often a result of inadequate hiring opportunities. In 2020-21, regular wage employment reduced by 2.2 million, while formal employment grew by 3 million and informal employment dropped by 5.2 million.

Impact on Different Groups: The employment benefits of growth aren't equally shared among genders, castes, or religions. Notably, women have been majorly disadvantaged in recent times.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

How can job creation in India be improved?

Enhance Labour-Intensive Manufacturing: Some argue that India should intensify efforts in labour-intensive manufacturing to spur job creation, even if initially just for domestic consumption.

Pursue Diverse Growth Strategies: The report suggests that India needs diversified growth strategies that focus not just on GDP growth but also on creating quality jobs and addressing employment elasticity.

National Employment Policy: The development of a National Employment Policy, as outlined in the previous SWI report, can address both the demand and supply of labour and improve the quantity and quality of employment in India.

Explore “Green” Manufacturing: There’s a discussion about exploring opportunities in green manufacturing, allowing India to redo its industrial evolution.

Address Structural Issues: Addressing structural issues in the economy related to caste, gender, and religion is crucial for equitable distribution of growth benefits.

90. There is a better way to capture the growth picture

Source: The post is based on the article “**There is a better way to capture the growth picture**” published in “Indian express” on 26th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- Indian economy

News: The author discusses India’s goal to become a \$5 trillion economy and the need for accurate GDP measurement. The article emphasizes updating the base year for national accounts statistics, which is overdue, to accurately reflect new economic activities and investments.

Is India’s GDP measurement accurate?

The author talks about the need for accurate GDP measurement in India. Currently, India’s GDP base year is 2011-12, making it outdated. An outdated base year might not capture new economic activities and investments made in recent years.

How can GDP measurement be improved?

Update Base Year: The GDP’s base year needs updating from 2011-12 to accurately capture new economic activities.

Use New Data Sets: Leveraging newly created databases from GST and digital payments will help in obtaining more accurate and current economic data.

Implement Supply Use Tables: These are critical for the validation of national accounts statistics, aiding in reconciling discrepancies in income and expenditure estimates.

Initiate Revision Process: Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation (MoSPI) and National Statistical Commission need to initiate the base year revision process immediately to avoid further delays and reflect the economy’s true status.

Form Advisory Committees: MoSPI should form committees with experts from various fields to guide the revision of the national accounts statistics efficiently and accurately.

Publish Relevant Surveys: Results of surveys like the consumer expenditure survey need to be published to assist in the base revision exercise.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Why is accurate measurement of GDP important for India's economic goals?

Reflects True Growth: It provides a true representation of India's economic growth and development, considering the substantial investments made in the last decade.

Captures New Activities: A precise GDP measurement ensures that new economic activities and private initiatives are adequately included, providing a realistic economic picture.

Informs Policy: Accurate data is pivotal for effective policymaking and strategic planning, helping in the realization of India's goal to become a \$5 trillion economy.

Attracts Investments: Reflecting the true economic status can enhance India's global image and potentially attract more foreign investments.

Citizen Participation: It enables more informed and active participation from citizens in economic activities and discussions, fostering cooperation towards national economic goals.

91. Tackling the various myths within the field of microbiome research

Source- The post is based on the article **"Tackling the various myths within the field of microbiome research"** published in **The Hindu** on **27th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Science and Technology

News- A recent evaluation published in Nature Microbiology challenges the popular beliefs about microbes.

What are popular beliefs challenged by the evaluation published in Nature Microbiology?

The age of the field- The notion about microbiome research is that it is a recent development. But scientists had already documented the advantages of bacteria like Escherichia coli and Bifidobacteria as far back as the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The question of origin- Joshua Lederberg, a Nobel laureate in medicine, is often credited for coining the term in 2001. But the researchers had employed the term in its current context over a decade earlier. Researchers Whipps J.M., Lewis K., and Cooke R.C. had utilised the term in 1988 to describe a microbial community.

The number of microbes- There were widespread misconceptions pertaining to the scale of the microbiome. Number of microbial cells in a single gram of human faeces has been significantly overstated. According to the authors, the genuine figure falls within the range of 10^{10} to 10^{12} cells.

The mass of the microbiome- Numerous research articles claimed that the human microbiota weighs between 1 to 2 kilograms. But its actual weight is approximately half a kilogram or even less.

From mother to child- Contrary to certain beliefs, mothers do not transmit their microbiomes to their children during birth. While a few microorganisms are directly transferred during childbirth, they make up only a small portion of the human microbiota.

Danger associated with microbes- Some researchers have proposed that diseases arise from unfavourable interactions between microbial communities and our cells.

However, the evaluation suggests that the beneficial or harmful nature of microbes and its byproducts depends on the specific circumstances.

The authors acknowledged that diseases have been linked to alterations in the microbiome's composition, and such changes could potentially exacerbate certain conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Therefore, attributing a particular microbial profile or modifications in it to a specific disease is “extremely challenging.”

Standardised methods- There is a prevailing belief that standardised methods are necessary for facilitating comparisons between various studies. However, as per evaluation there is no flawless methodology. Opting for a single universal approach would mean overlooking the inherent limitations associated with that chosen method.

The culturable microbiome- Many believe that cultivating microbes from the human microbiome in a laboratory setting is challenging.

However, the authors say that scientists were able to culture a variety of microbiome species from the gut during the 1970s. They noted that the existing gaps in culture collections can be attributed to a historical lack of effort rather than inability to culture these microbes.

92. Experts weigh in on criticism of GDP methodology

Source: The post is based on the article “**Experts weigh in on criticism of GDP methodology**” published in **Business Standard** on **27th September 2023**.

Syllabus: **GS 3 – Indian Economy – Growth & Development**

Relevance: Flaws in India’s GDP calculation method.

News: Critics have pointed out flaws in India’s GDP calculation method since the 2011-12 base year revision from 2004-05. This article examines three experts’ views to understand the methodology amid these criticisms.

Why are critics highlighting GDP methodology issues after the shift to the 2011-12 base year, even though discrepancies on the expenditure side and deflator issues existed in the 2004-05 series?

First, the old GDP method employed physical indices, capturing real GDP effectively, while the new approach relies on price indices, better suited for nominal GDP.

In the past, numbers were inflated for nominal GDP, while the new method deflates them for real GDP. However, categorizing GDP for multiproduct firms is challenging in the new method.

Second, In India, production side GDP estimates are seen as the most comprehensive, while discrepancies are noted on the expenditure side. Hence, to mitigate discrepancies, supply-use tables (SUTs) can be employed.

Third, critics’ concerns seem unusual since the current GDP series is over 12 years old. The main issue should be updating the base year with recent indicators.

Should India consider Ashoka Mody’s suggestion to average GDP growth rates from both production and expenditure sides without discrepancies, even though it hasn’t done this previously?

First, unlike advanced countries like the US, India doesn’t measure both sides of GDP independently, so averaging both sides isn’t relevant for India.

Second, averaging across production and expenditure estimates is not a viable option and proper reference should be given from the UN System of National Accounts that permit such calculations.

Third, India has adopted the new system of national accounts, valuing GVA at basic prices and GDP at market prices.

Most sectors in India use the production approach for GDP calculation, but some rely on the income approach due to data challenges. Hence, balancing these methods can reveal discrepancies.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Did India's switch from factor cost to market prices as the GDP calculation methodology in the 2011-12 series represent a more suitable approach?

First, GDP was previously calculated at market prices, and GDP at factor cost is essentially GVA at basic prices, with minor differences related to taxes.

Second, India has always reported GDP at market prices. In the 2011-12 series, it introduced GVA at basic prices, aligning with international standards, by separating production taxes and subsidies from other taxes and subsidies.

Further, GVA at factor cost includes taxes and subsidies not directly related to production.

Third, it is difficult to say which measure of GDP is better as India adopted the new system of using GVA at market prices to conform to international standards.

Does the government claim that it first calculates real GDP in quarterly figures, suggesting that deflators' impact may be reduced?

First, the government calculates GDP using a mix of nominal prices and real prices, because the data that is available for different sectors is not always consistent.

Second, quarterly GDP is difficult to calculate because not all data is available for every quarter. The government uses a method called the Benchmark Indicator Method to project the missing data.

This is primarily done for estimates at constant prices, which are then deflated to get current price estimates.

Third, India has faced difficulties calculating GDP accurately due to problems with deflators. In the past, India used the WPI to measure inflation, but the rural and urban CPI is a better measure of inflation for households.

However, the WPI is still used most for measuring GDP, which means some of the problems with deflators will remain.

Should the Centre fix the gaps in GDP calculation when it revises the base year from 2011-12?

First, the UN-prescribed method for GDP calculation uses SUTs, which are time-consuming to produce and cannot be updated quarterly. To mitigate classification issues, SUTs should be generated annually.

Second, the government is enhancing GDP estimates with better data by shifting from the 2011-12 Employment and Unemployment Survey, conducted every five years, to utilizing the annual and quarterly Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) starting from April 2017.

Third, CPI and GDP base year revision is overdue. However, the existing methodology should be retained, but better databases like GST and MCA data should be used at national and state levels.

93. The Data Maze- An overhaul of the statistical system is urgent

Source: The post is based on the article "The Data Maze- It undermines economic policymaking. An overhaul of the statistical system is urgent" published in **The Times of India** on 27th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Agriculture- Marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints.

News: The article discusses concerns about unreliable agricultural data in India. Inaccurate farm output estimates affect decisions on imports, exports, and policy. Improvements are needed for

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

informed policymaking, and technology like digital surveys and satellites may help in acquiring more accurate data.

What problems are caused by unreliable agricultural data in India?

Import Scrambles and Decision Making: Inaccurate agricultural data leads to urgent, last-minute decisions, like unexpected import needs due to underestimated domestic production, as noted by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Mismatched Output Estimates: The GOI's wheat output estimate is about 10 million tonnes more than the market's for 2022-23, illustrating the discrepancies in agricultural data.

Export Bans and Domestic Prices: Unreliable data has led to the imposition of export barriers on rice and wheat despite an increase in production, affecting domestic prices.

Impact on Farmers and Reputation: Export bans due to unreliable data have negative consequences for farmers and undermine India's reputation as a reliable supplier.

Interest Rate Adjustments and Inflation: Inaccurate agricultural data complicates RBI's job of adjusting interest rates to control inflation, leading to potential economic instability.

What steps are being taken to improve data reliability?

Pilot Digital Crop Survey: GOI has initiated a pilot digital crop survey in 12 states, focusing on enhancing the reliability of data on crop acreage.

Advancements in Satellite Technology: ISRO's advances with satellites are being leveraged to possibly deliver more accurate and reliable agricultural data soon.

Emphasis on Real-Time Assessment: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has emphasized the importance of real-time assessment of likely yields of crops to avoid last-minute scrambles and make informed decisions on imports.

Why is there a need for updated statistical systems?

Accurate Policy Implementation: The delay in updating the census has impacted multiple data sets that rely on it for building samples, affecting the relevance of guidelines in schemes, like the allocation for women farmers.

Changing Business Models: With the consequential change over the last decade from traditional to digital models, there's a pressing need to ensure that the statistical system and GDP base year are current and reflective of modern transitions.

Accurate Data for Decision-Making: Updated and reliable statistical systems are crucial for making informed decisions on imports, exports, and domestic policies.

94. Green Hydrogen push will need to counter challenges

Source: The post is based on the article "Green Hydrogen push will need to counter challenges" published in "Indian express" on 27th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy- Infrastructure (renewable energy)

News: The article discusses India's efforts to use green hydrogen, a clean fuel, for buses. The government aims to make India a hub for this fuel, reducing reliance on imported fossil fuels and cutting emissions. However, producing green hydrogen needs a lot of water and electricity from renewable sources, which are challenges.

What is India's Green Hydrogen Mission?

Objective: To make India a hub for green hydrogen, a clean fuel.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Initial Steps: Tested two buses running on green hydrogen with plans to introduce 15 more by year's end.

Ambitious Target: Aims to produce 5 million tones green hydrogen annually by 2030.

Benefits:

Reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels, saving Rs 1 lakh crore.

Averting 50 million metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

What are the challenges in the production of green hydrogen?

Renewable Energy Needs: India needs to add about 100 GW of renewable energy capacity every year to achieve its green hydrogen goals.

Water Scarcity: The production process requires 8-9 litres of water per kg of hydrogen, posing challenges in water-stressed areas.

Limited Electrolyser Capacity: The current global manufacturing capacity of electrolysers is around 10 GW, but India may need six to 10 times the world's current capacity to meet its 2030 target.

Safety Concerns: Green hydrogen is highly flammable, creating significant safety and transport challenges.

How is India planning to overcome these challenges?

Development and Investment: India is investing in the development of electrolyser technology to enhance green hydrogen production capacity.

Collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation: The government is collaborating with Indian Oil Corporation to leverage its proven capacities for the green hydrogen vehicle project.

Addressing Safety Concerns: Initial hydrogen-powered buses will not be carrying passengers to tackle the safety concerns due to hydrogen's highly inflammable nature.

International Partnerships: The government is seeking to forge partnerships with other nations to gain more expertise and access to markets.

95. OSIRIS-REx's success, and Bennu's gift of knowledge from the heavens

Source: The post is based on the article "OSIRIS-REx's success, and Bennu's gift of knowledge from the heavens" published in "Indian express" on 27th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and technology- Awareness in the fields of Space

News: This article is about NASA's OSIRIS-REx mission, which collected rock samples from the asteroid Bennu and returned them to Earth, helping scientists learn about the solar system's history and how life may have started on Earth.

What is the OSIRIS-REx mission?

OSIRIS-REx Mission Overview:

NASA's project to study asteroid Bennu.

Aimed to collect and return rock samples to Earth.

Launched in 2018 and successfully collected samples from Bennu.

The mission faced many challenges, including initial project approval issues.

It's the "first American asteroid sample return in history."

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Significance of Bennu:

Discovered in 1999.

Believed to have formed between Mars and Jupiter.

Thought to hold clues about the solar system's history and Earth's life origins.

Comparative Note:

Unlike past Japanese missions, OSIRIS-REx brought back a considerable amount of material, offering more extensive insights.

Mission Outcomes:

Samples safely landed in Utah.

Detailed study results will be available in October, promising new understanding of our universe.

96. Why are tigers dying in Nilgiris district?

Source: The post is based on the article “Why are tigers dying in Nilgiris district?” published in “The Hindu” on 28th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Environment – Ecology and environment

News: This article discusses the concerning deaths of ten tigers, including cubs, in the Nilgiris since August. The reasons include factors like fighting, possible poisoning, and starvation. Officials are intensifying protection efforts, and conservationists express concern about rising tiger populations leading to increased human-animal conflicts. They also emphasize the need to restore degraded habitats.

What are the possible reasons for tiger deaths?

Starvation or Infection: Six cubs, believed to be two weeks old, possibly died due to starvation or umbilical infection.

Injuries from Fights: Several adult tigers were found dead with injury marks, suggesting deaths due to fights with other animals.

Poisoning: One larger male tiger is suspected to have been poisoned after consuming a poisoned carcass of a cow.

High Density of Tigers: The high density of tigers in the Mudumalai-Bandipur-Nagarhole complex is leading to more tigers moving to surrounding habitats, causing increased competition and more deaths.

Why are conservationists worried?

Concern for Missing Tigresses: Conservationists are worried about the inability to locate the mothers of the six dead cubs, raising concerns over their well-being.

Poaching Incidents: The arrest of four poachers from Rajasthan earlier in the year has heightened concerns over the safety of the tigers in the region.

Increased Human-Tiger Conflicts: The rise in tiger population in the Nilgiris Division raises fears of more negative human-animal interactions in the future.

Degraded Habitats: There's a pressing need to regenerate degraded habitats for the tigers' prey, as emphasized by conservationists, to ensure the well-being of the animals.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

How are officials responding?

Establishing Anti-Poaching Camps: To combat potential poaching, officials are establishing anti-poaching camps in six forest ranges surrounding Mukurthi National Park.

Annual Monitoring: The forest department is initiating annual monitoring of tiger populations in the Nilgiris Forest Division, focusing on various parameters to facilitate better management.

Enhanced Patrolling: Officials have increased patrolling around key tiger habitats in Mukurthi and Mudumalai to safeguard the tigers and address concerns related to their well-being.

97. What does a drop in household financial savings imply for India?

Source- The post is based on the article “What does a drop in household financial savings imply for India?” published in “The Hindu” on 28th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3 – Economy

Relevance- Issues related to savings and investment in the economy

News- The household financial savings data recently published in the latest issue of the RBI bulletin indicated that India’s net household financial savings rate had declined to only 5.1% of GDP in 2022-23, the lowest in decades.

What are the factors behind the decline in financial savings rate?

It can largely be attributed to an increase of around **2% of GDP in financial liabilities** in 2022-23 compared to both 2021-22 and 2019-20.

The largest component of these liabilities by a considerable margin is **bank loans**. **Borrowing from NBFCs** comes in a distant second, followed by **housing finance and insurance**.

Between the years 2020-21 and 2022-23, there has been a substantial decrease in the proportion of **household borrowing from banks**. The share of **borrowing for housing finance** has also decreased during this period.

However, there has been a significant increase in the share of **borrowing from NBFCs**. It has surged from 2.4% in 2021-22 to 15.2% in 2022-23.

What can be inferred from decline in the financial savings rate?

The decrease in **net household financial savings** primarily reflects an increase in the **financial obligations** of the household sector.

This shift is a consequence of households moving away from borrowing from **traditional banks**, and seeking loans from **non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)**.

Bank credit has experienced significant growth, a substantial portion of this expanded **credit flow** has been directed towards NBFCs, real estate, and personal loans rather than industrial purposes.

Furthermore, the **non-performing asset ratios** of both private and public sector commercial banks have notably improved.

It appears that there has been a substantial surge in the **demand for loans from households**. However, banks have adhered to **strict lending criteria**. These borrowers, who may not meet the **stringent creditworthiness requirements**, have turned to NBFCs.

As a result, banks have managed to **clean up their balance sheets** while transferring the **associated risk** to NBFCs.

However, it’s crucial to recognize that the **overall risk exposure of the financial sector** has not decreased. In fact, it has increased due to the **rising indebtedness** of the household sector.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Is there a substantial decrease in household savings rate?

The reduction in India's **net household financial savings rate** does not signify an **abrupt decline** in either the **household savings rate** or the **domestic savings rate**.

In 2021-22, both rates stood at **19.7% and 30.2% of GDP**, respectively. It is slightly higher than in 2019-20.

A **savings rate of 30.2%** also surpasses that of many other emerging market and developing economies. However, it falls short when compared to the rates achieved during most of the past two decades

98. Timeless quest- Benu sample can help human understanding beyond the immediate

Source: The post is based on the article "**Timeless quest- Benu sample can help human understanding beyond the immediate**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 28th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and technology- Awareness in the fields of Space

News: This article discusses NASA's OSIRIS-REx mission, which collected rock samples from the ancient asteroid Benu. The mission's goals include studying the solar system's history, understanding the origins of life, and learning how to prevent future asteroid collisions with Earth.

Why is Benu significant?

Ancient Origins: Benu settled into its present form and composition soon after the solar system's formation, offering insight into our cosmic history.

Potential Earth Impact: Benu could collide with Earth between 2178 and 2290, making it vital to study and devise prevention strategies.

Proximity to Earth: Benu's orbit brings it relatively close to Earth every six years, making it accessible for study

Carbonaceous Composition: It is a carbon-rich asteroid, offering insights into the solar system's ingredients.

How does this mission contribute to science and safety?

Life's Origin Exploration: The mission participates in the timeless quest to find out where life came from, by examining asteroids believed to have delivered life-forming compounds to Earth.

Impact Mitigation Technologies: Studying Benu is pivotal for developing technologies and strategies to avoid its potential collision with Earth between 2178 and 2290.

Complementary Research: Working alongside Japan's Hayabusa missions, it enriches global scientific understandings of asteroids, building a comprehensive view of our cosmic neighborhood.

Read more: [OSIRIS-REx's success, and Benu's gift of knowledge from the heavens](#)

99. Drawing the line- Information aids public safety, and is not a trigger for panic

Source: The post is based on the article "**Drawing the line- Information aids public safety, and is not a trigger for panic**" published in "**The Hindu**" on 28th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- disaster management

News: Article discusses land-subsidence in Joshimath, Uttarakhand due to infrastructure projects, causing safety concerns. Reports reveal non-compliance to building codes and highlight need for sustainable development, public risk information, and informed policymaking.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What do the technical reports say about the sinking of Joshimath?

Non-Compliance to Building Codes: The Central Building Research Institute revealed that 99% of construction in the region isn't compliant with mandatory building codes, raising safety concerns.

Sensitive Geological Conditions: The reports emphasize the fragile geology of Uttarakhand, making it risky for city-like infrastructure projects.

Need for Monitoring: The National Institute of Hydrology highlighted the importance of monitoring springs, drainage systems, and areas of subsidence to understand their influence on land subsidence.

What are the recommendations for the future?

Adherence to Building Codes: The technical reports stress adherence to mandatory building codes to ensure structural safety in the unstable geology of the region.

Monitoring of Geological Aspects: Monitoring springs, drainage systems, and areas of subsidence is crucial to understand their influence on land subsidence.

Public Awareness and Information Dissemination: Information on risks should be widely disseminated, and the public should be made aware of the risks involved in the region.

Independent Scientific Counsel in Policymaking: The incorporation of advice from independent scientific counsel is essential to form policies that respect the geological limitations of the region.

Read more: [Unseal And Pause- NDMA finding that Joshimath has overshot carrying capacity was expected](#)

100. GDP doesn't mean much for economy

Source- The post is based on the article "GDP doesn't mean much for economy" published in "The Hindu" on 28th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Indian Economy – Indian economy and growth

News- The article explains the issues of overemphasis on growth for measuring the economic well-being of the population.

What are issues related to overemphasis on GPP for measuring the economic well-being of the population?

Just last month, nearly 20 million families sought minimum wage employment through the MGNREGA.

This high **MGNREGA demand** reflects the **economic hardship** faced by Indian households.

Some segments perceive **economic prosperity**. It's primarily a small, vocal segment of the population. This view is supported by factors like **continuous stock market growth**, the emergence of **billion-dollar startup unicorns**.

However, it's crucial to recognize that this celebration is **not representative** of the vast majority of the population.

The concern isn't just about the GDP data. It's about the concept of GDP being treated as the **ultimate measure of overall economic health**.

The economic well-being of millions of Indians cannot be accurately captured by GDP metrics. For instance, a fully automated semiconductor manufacturing plant may boost GDP but won't create **substantial employment opportunities** for low-skilled individuals.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Contrary to the conventional belief that high incomes for a few will benefit many, this **trickle-down effect** doesn't happen.

What is the way forward?

There's an urgent need for a fundamental shift in our **economic discourse and narrative**. This transformation must begin with political parties and their leaders, and it should be a bipartisan effort in the nation's interest.

The focus should shift from **headline GDP figures to labour market information**. This should be the primary concern for the political leadership, rather than **comparing GDP growth** during different tenures.

101. **Let us not resurrect the ghost of retro taxation**

Source: The post is based on the article "**Let us not resurrect the ghost of retro taxation**" published in **Live Mint** on **28th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indian Economy – Growth & Development, Taxation

Relevance: concerns with high GST on online casinos and gaming platforms.

News: The government's decision to impose 28% GST on online casinos and gaming platforms is having a devastating impact on the industry.

What are the issues involved?

Many companies are facing tax bills that are much higher than their revenue, and some are facing closure. It is also estimated that the industry could eventually owe around ₹1.5 trillion, including penalties.

The Indian government is demanding a huge amount of GST from online gaming companies, claiming that they have underpaid in the past. However, the companies argue that the government is applying the tax retrospectively, which is unfair.

Further, the government and online gaming industry are in a dispute over GST revenue definitions. **Companies claim only their service fees are revenue, while the government insists the total customer wagers count as revenue.**

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

What lies ahead?

Betting companies may have been interpreting tax rules in their favor. Since they were not licensed to hold public money, they should not have treated all inflows as revenues.

Further, their attempt to distance themselves from gambling and talk about gaming skills was also pointless, since their services are not essential.

However, the companies may have a case if the tax they are being asked to pay is found to be based on the new law passed this year. This is because it is not clear what the original law was, and they are being asked to settle past taxes.

Therefore, the government should be cautious in its arguments, as past incidents like the Vodafone case have shown that prioritizing revenue over principles can harm India's business-friendly image.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

102. **KEEPING Small Finance Bank (SFBs) AFLOAT**

Source– The post is based on the article “KEEPING SFBs AFLOAT” published in “The Business Standard” on 29th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy

Relevance- Issues related to banking sector

News– The article explains the issues related to Small finance banks (SFBs).

What are some facts about Small Finance Banks (SFBs)?

They are designed to promote **financial inclusion**, serve as **avenues for savings**, and provide credit to small businesses, marginalized farmers, and the informal sector through **technologically advanced, cost-effective operations**.

What are the challenges faced by Small finance banks (SFBs)?

Priority sector lending targets- SFBs have a **priority sector lending target** set at **75 percent** of their loan book, with a significant portion of it being **unsecured loans**. Meeting this target is challenging.

Alternative methods to bridge the gap, such as **securitization or co-lending** with non-banking financial companies, are not available to them.

In contrast, universal banks have a **priority sector lending target of 42 percent** of their loan book.

Higher cost of deposits- Another concern is the **higher cost of deposits for SFBs** compared to universal banks. This higher interest expense increases their overall funding costs.

Banking license requirements- Many initially saw SFBs as a stepping stone towards obtaining a **universal banking license**. The SFB operating guidelines mentioned their eligibility for transitioning to a universal bank after five years of operation. However, there is now a demand for a **detailed roadmap for the application and conversion**.

Raising of capital- Several prominent private equity firms have invested in the small finance bank sector. However, considering the **stock performance of SFBs**, raising additional capital may not be straightforward.

Structural issues- The structural issues had plagued the sector even before the pandemic. On the **liability side**, SFBs had **limited savings and current accounts** and heavily relied on bulk deposits and term deposits from cooperative banks.

On the asset side, a disproportionately large portion of their loans consisted of **unsecured microfinance loans**.

What is the way forward?

A paper titled “Performance of SFBs — An Early Reflection” in the RBI’s August 2021 bulletin suggested that factors such as **efficiency, leverage, liquidity, and banking business** are crucial for SFBs’ profitability.

SFBs should also have a **42 percent target priority sector lending target**. This change would help reduce the risk of concentration.

As per **Reserve Bank of India’s Internal Working Group (IWG)**, SFBs should be listed “within six years from the date of reaching a net worth equivalent to prevalent entry capital requirement prescribed for universal banks,” or “ten years from the date of commencement of operations,” whichever comes first.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

103. We should join the WTO's investment facilitation talks

Source– The post is based on the article “We should join the WTO's investment facilitation talks” published in the “mint” on 28th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Economy

Relevance- Issues related to WTO

News– On 6 July 2023, over 110 of the WTO 164 members concluded text-based negotiations on the Agreement on Investment Facilitation for Development (IFA).

What are some facts about IFA (Investment Facilitation Agreement)?

The primary goal of the IFA is to create a business environment that is favourable to investors.

The IFA primarily focuses on **FDI**.

It achieves this by implementing **transparent and predictable investment measures, streamlining administrative procedures** related to investment, and establishing **mechanisms for international cooperation**.

IFA does not cover areas like **market access, investment protection, government procurement, specific subsidies, or investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS)**. It contains safeguards to shield it from **international investment agreements (IIAs)**.

In essence, the IFA is not aimed at liberalising investment policies. Its objective is to simplify investment procedures.

IFA incorporates provisions for **special and differential treatment**, which adjust the **scope and timeline** of the agreement's implementation for developing and least developed countries based on their respective capacities.

The IFA also includes provisions for providing **technical assistance and capacity building** to these countries.

What is the difference between investment facilitation and investment promotion?

UNCTAD's Global Action Menu for Investment Facilitation draws a distinction between the two approaches.

While both aim to attract foreign investment, promotion places emphasis on showcasing a particular location as an **attractive investment destination**.

In contrast, facilitation concentrates on **simplifying the process** for foreign investors to establish or expand their businesses. **Investment facilitation** seeks to address practical challenges encountered by foreign investors.

What are issues faced by international investment agreements (IIAs)?

High-standard investment protection provisions have been included within international investment agreements.

Their **inconsistent interpretation** by various arbitration panels has constrained the **policy flexibility** available to host countries to regulate in alignment with their developmental priorities.

For instance, India has terminated its **older bilateral investment treaties (BITs)** and is in the process of negotiating new agreements based on its 2016 Model BIT text.

What is India's approach towards investment facilitation?

India does not fundamentally oppose the **concept of investment facilitation**. Recent **India-UAE agreement** in 2022 and the **India-Brazil BIT** in 2020, include provisions related to investment facilitation.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

India is also a participant in the **BRICS Understanding on Investment Facilitation** and signed a similar mechanism with the EU in 2017.

Why has India decided to not participate in the IFA (Investment Facilitation Agreement) talks?

- India is against utilising the WTO as a platform for **investment facilitation**, as it holds the misconception that **investment matters** fall outside the WTO's mandate. Instead, India prefers **bilateral negotiations** for investment provisions.
- India perceives the IFA as part of a strategy by developed nations to initiate **investment facilitation** within the WTO, possibly followed by the introduction of **contentious investment protection rules** at a later stage.
- India opposes **plurilateral agreements** within the WTO, as they bypass the **consensus decision-making process**.
- India is against the inclusion of '**Most Favoured Nation**' (MFN) provisions in the IFA due to past negative experiences, such as the repercussions faced after including an MFN provision in its Australia BIT.

How WTO's investment facilitation framework is a potential opportunity for India?

New Delhi has opened up foreign investment in most sectors, and participation in the IFA could advance the goal of attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). India is also a **capital-exporting country**, and involvement in the IFA could facilitate its overseas investments.

India has ambitious aspirations for achieving a **\$5 trillion economy by 2025-26**. Therefore, it is essential for the country to move beyond a mindset shaped by **historical experiences**, and actively engage in shaping the **global economic framework**.

104. **Swaminathan walked ahead of his time: scientific community**

Source: The post is based on the article "**Swaminathan walked ahead of his time: scientific community**" published in "The Hindu" on 29th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS3- Science and technology- Achievements of Indians in science & technology.

News: The article is honoring M.S. Swaminathan, a respected agricultural scientist from India who recently passed away. It discusses his significant contributions to agriculture, including developing high-yield crops and promoting innovative farming methods.

Who was M.S. Swaminathan?

M.S. Swaminathan was a respected figure in Indian agriculture, known for his roles as a scientist, researcher, academic, and administrator.

He was a professor at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, inspiring students like Trilochan Mohapatra with his encouragement and passion for agricultural research and findings.

His dedication to agriculture and his impactful work left a lasting imprint on various national agricultural science institutions like ICAR and IARI.

He maintained a lifelong commitment to discussing and contributing insights to agricultural research and developments.

What are his significant contributions to agriculture?

Developed High-Yielding Basmati Rice Varieties: This was a crucial contribution to food security.

Innovative Application of Mutation and Genetics: Used for improving various crops and increasing agricultural production.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Launched “Lab to Land” Programmes: These programmes were intended to bring research directly to the farmers.

Focused on Nutritional Quality: Through mutation of crops and bio-fortification, he aimed at enhancing the nutritional value of agricultural produce.

Supported States in Promoting Agriculture: He provided funding and support to various states to promote agricultural development and precision farming.

Advocacy through National Academy of Agricultural Sciences: Worked to promote agriculture and supported the establishment of a Central Institute for Women in Agriculture.

Research on C4 Carbon Fixation in Rice: His leadership at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) focused on cultivating rice with improved photosynthesis and water utilization capabilities.

Championed Farmers’ Cause: Advocated for fair prices, access to technology, and social justice within the agricultural landscape.

105. **Narco Taliban – Why Afghan meth is India’s big headache**

Source: This post is created based on the article ‘Narco Taliban’ published in **The Times of India** on 30th Sep, 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Internal Security

News: Methamphetamine, a strong illegal drug, is becoming more popular worldwide, with Afghanistan as a key source. This drug is replacing heroin.

Afghanistan has now become a hub for methamphetamine.

The UN office on drugs and crime (UNODC) has emphasized the increase in meth trafficking from Afghanistan.

What are the efforts taken by government to fight drug menace from Afghanistan?

Government has launched **Operation Samudragupt** to combat maritime drug trafficking from Afghanistan.

The amount of seized meth in India has seen a significant rise from 4.2 kg in 2018 to 357 kg in 2022.

What are the challenges in front of India?

According to the European Foundation for South Asian Studies, Afghanistan is transforming into a **narco-state**. Illegal drug has now become the **dominant economic sector**.

The **natural presence of ephedra plants in Afghanistan**, a key ingredient for meth, makes the situation even more challenging.

The **drug’s affordability** and India’s growing youth unemployment create a high-risk environment. There’s a risk unemployed youth might start using the affordable drugs.

106. **40th...Now What? India’s Innovation Index 2023**

Source: This post is created based on the article ‘40th...Now What?’ published in **The Times of India** on 30th Sep, 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Indian Economy – India’s Industrial Policies

News: India’s innovation rank in 2023 index is still too low.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

India's rise to 40th position in the World Intellectual Property Organisation's global innovation index.

India has jumped 26 places over the last ten years. It is an appreciable rise. However, India is still low, when compared to other countries.

What are the challenges?

First, Countries like Turkey, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Iran have seen even more significant progress.

Second, India's modest R&D expenditure poses challenges for its future competitiveness. The index points out that adhering to Moore's Law is becoming costlier. It anticipated the doubling of computer chip speed and capability every 18-24 months. Establishing factories for advanced chips requires investments exceeding \$20 billion.

Third, India has only 4 science and technology clusters in the top 100 globally, compared to China's 24 and the US's 21. While Japan, Canada, and South Korea also have 4 clusters, their populations are much smaller than India's.

Concentration of innovation and capital in cities like Bengaluru, Delhi, Chennai, and Mumbai indicates that a significant portion of India's potential remains untapped.

107. India's wildlife, decimated by hunting and forest exploitation, found succour in national parks

Source: This post is created based on the article 'India's wildlife, decimated by hunting and forest exploitation, found succour in national parks' published in **The Times of India** on 30th Sep, 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Biodiversity Conservation

News: Article discusses the evolution of forest and wildlife conservation efforts in India.

Evolution of the forest and wildlife conservation in India

Evolution of forest conservation

In the late 19th century, India witnessed massive deforestation, leading to discussions about setting aside land for ecological reasons.

The colonial government reserved about a quarter of India for forests, primarily in timber-rich regions like the Western Ghats and Central Provinces. It later became the foundation for national parks.

This was in response to concerns about sustaining the colonial military and railways, which relied heavily on forest resources.

Evolution of wildlife conservation

Concerns about wildlife conservation emerged in the 1920s, against the backdrop of rampant hunting. The first national park was established in 1936, but the destruction of forests and hunting persisted.

Wildlife Protection Act was introduced in 1972, which banned commercial forestry and hunting in protected areas. In 1976, wildlife conservation became a shared responsibility between the central and state governments.

What were the challenges faced by conservation efforts?

The forest department's dual role in logging and conservation posed conflicts.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Officers faced threats from the hunting lobby and sometimes their colleagues.

What is the present state of conservation efforts?

Challenges: 1) Reduced Forest area and minimal growth in protected regions.

2) Poaching remains a concern in many areas.

3) Indian national parks differ from those worldwide due to land constraints and high population density.

4) to balance wildlife conservation with the needs of communities living around national parks

Significance: Species like rhinoceros, lions, tigers, elephants, and the brow-antlered deer have benefited from national parks.

The focus now should be on expanding protected areas and ensuring the robustness of wildlife protection laws.

108. Extended exclusion – on AFSPA

Source: This post is created based on the article 'Extended exclusion – on AFSPA' published in **The Hindu** on 30th Sep, 2023.

Syllabus Topic: GS Paper 3 – Internal Security

News: The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) will remain in effect in the hill areas of Manipur for another six months from October.

This decision comes amidst the ongoing violent ethnic conflict between the Meitei and the Kuki communities since May.

Why is the decision to extend AFSPA in the hill area criticized?

The decision to exclude the Imphal valley from AFSPA imposition has been criticised by many sections in the state. The army feels that absence of the law is hampering its operations against insurgent groups in the area. These groups may be using the unrest to gain a foothold in the State.

On the other hand, it is also being seen as another instance of the government's partisan conduct.

What is the rationale provided by the government for its decision?

The decision to maintain the status quo on 'disturbed areas' might be due to the challenges in assessing the ground situation amidst ongoing law and order maintenance.

What should be done?

Given the tensions between the community and the Assam Rifles, there's a risk of escalating conflicts. The Centre needs to prioritize reconciliation efforts between the two communities to prevent further deterioration.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

109. **On semiconductors, jugaad won't do**

Source: The post is based on the article “On semiconductors, jugaad won't do” published in **The Indian Express** on **30th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Indigenization of Technology, Growth & Development

Relevance: Benefits and challenges associated with setting up semiconductor fabrication unit in India.

News: India is finally building its first semiconductor fabrication unit, which is a significant advancement for the country, promising both economic and geopolitical advantages.

How has India's industrial policy evolved from the 1970s to the present day?

Unlike the 1970s when people had a negative view of a protected or tariff-controlled economy, today, there is more acceptance of industrial policies that support specific sectors, and protectionism is no longer seen negatively.

Further, India's economy has grown a lot in recent years. **It is now the third-largest economy in the world in purchasing power parity terms**, and people in India are consuming more goods and services.

What potential benefits can the new semiconductor fabrication unit bring to the country?

India is a leader in the design of semiconductors, and many Indians and people of Indian origin work for top tech companies around the world. However, India's manufacturing sector is still not very strong.

Therefore, India's new semiconductor fab has the potential to help the country make more parts and components, and to create more jobs for skilled workers.

What challenges are associated with establishing a semiconductor fabrication unit in India?

India needs a culture of excellence for semiconductor success. **Indian products often fall short in last-mile aspects like** packaging, after-sales service, and finishing touches due to “jugaad” instead of innovative solutions.

Further, **a lack of international standards has encouraged subpar products and boosted the repair industry's growth**. Additionally, irregular power supply issues have resulted in expensive captive power plant construction.

However, jugaad won't work for semiconductors as they can't handle power fluctuations, even the slightest interruption can lead to million-dollar losses.

Hence, **semiconductor manufacturing process must be perfect, packaging must meet high standards, and transportation impeccable**.

Must Read: [Semiconductor manufacturing in India: significance and challenges](#)

What can be the way ahead?

China spent decades moving up the value chain, while India is just beginning. Hence, to succeed, **India must link areas of excellence with the broader economy**.

Until this integration occurs, **new semiconductor fabs will need safeguards from market and government failures**, similar to the way ISRO was protected to achieve excellence, including lunar missions.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

110. As illicit trade booms, seizure mount

Source: The post is based on the article “As illicit trade booms, seizure mount: 3.5 tonnes of gold, 18 crore cigarette sticks and 90 tonnes of heroin caught in FY23” published in **The Indian Express** on 30th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS 3 – Internal Security – Linkages of Organized Crime with Terrorism

Relevance: Findings of the report related to organized crimes in India

News: A report titled ‘Hidden Streams: Linkages Between Illicit Markets, Financial Flows, Organised Crime and Terrorism’ has been released recently by FICCI CASCADE.

What are the key findings of the report?

Illicit Financial Flows – Value Gap India (2009-2018): India has faced significant financial losses from misinvoiced imports and exports, with import misinvoicing alone causing a \$9 billion loss in government tax revenue.

Additional losses come from uncollected value-added tax (VAT), customs charges, and corporate income tax.

Between 2009 and 2018, misinvoicing caused a total value gap of over \$674.9 billion, leading to significant revenue losses to the government.

Terror and Crime in India: Economic Impact of Violence for India: India spends a lot of money on fighting terrorism and crime because the country is facing a growing number of security threats. In 2021, it spent \$1170 billion at PPP, **equivalent to 6% of its GDP**.

Approximately 80% of these expenditures are dedicated to security measures. The report predicts that as India’s economy expands, the expenses associated with addressing terrorism and crime will also rise.

Organised Crime and Illegal Economy in India: As per data from the Global Organized Crime Index (2021), **India’s organized crime actors have a relatively low aggregate score** of 4.3, compared to the global benchmark of 5.2 among 122 countries.

However, **India’s criminal networks score is higher at 6, exceeding the 5.8 average** due to their widespread involvement in illegal activities, including drug and human trafficking, as well as the illegal wildlife trade.

Further, **India’s overall illegal economy** scores is at 6.3, surpassing the 5-country average among 122 surveyed. **(Chart 1)**

This implies that India has fewer criminal actors but a wider involvement in illegal activities like drug and human trafficking, as well as the illegal wildlife trade.

Drug Economy in India: India’s proximity to major drug-producing regions like the Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent has led the transportation and distribution of controlled substances.

In recent years, drug trafficking in India has surged, with over twice as many drug seizures in 2014-2022 compared to 2006-2013. **The report identified cannabis as the prevalent drug in India** along with synthetic drugs and heroin surpassing the global average.

What lies ahead?

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs Chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal stressed that combating illicit trade, including counterfeiting, smuggling, and tax evasion, is vital for preserving India’s economic stability.

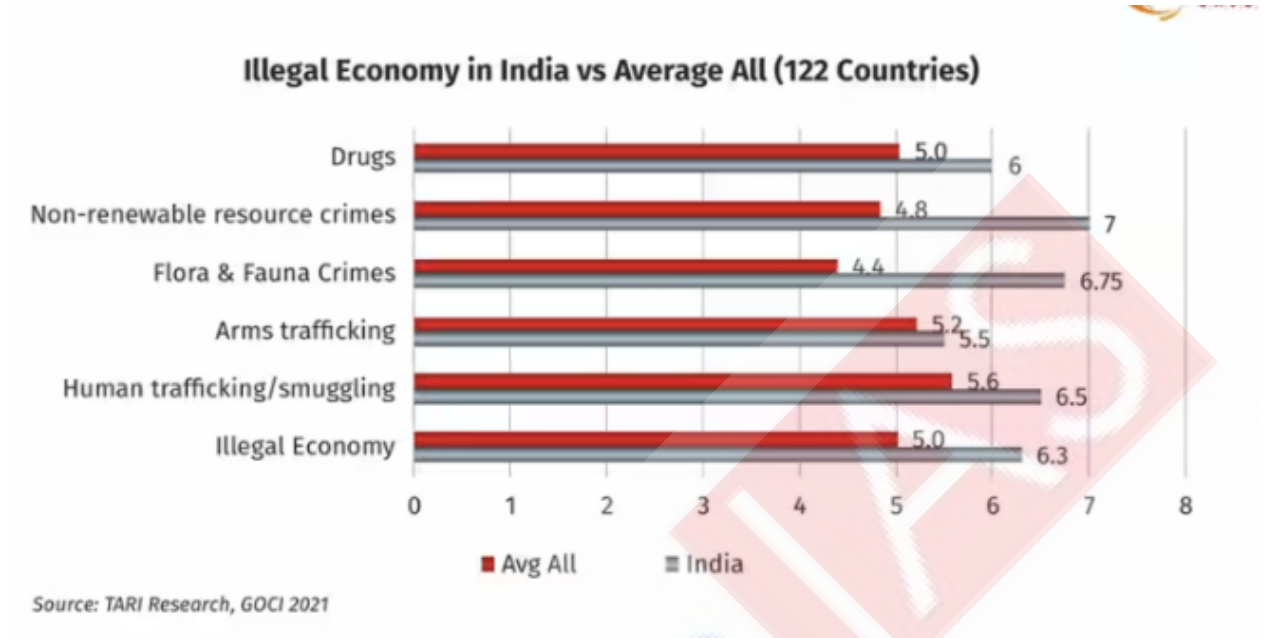


Chart 1

Source: The Indian Express

General

Studies

Paper – 4

General Studies - 4

1. Enhance board effectiveness to acquire a competitive advantage

Source– The post is based on the article “**Enhance board effectiveness to acquire a competitive advantage**” published in the “**mint**” on **4th September 2023**.

Syllabus: GS4 – Corporate governance

Relevance- Issues related to board of company

News– The article explains the the essential element to boost the effectiveness of the board of a company

What are some facts about the board of a company?

It pertains to the individuals who have been ‘chosen to **oversee a company** on behalf of its shareholders.’

Traditionally, boards have primarily emphasized **conformity with regulations and rules**. Recently, they have also emphasized **transparency and the principles of corporate governance**.

What are the ingredients that are critical for enhancing the effectiveness of a company’s board?

Familiarity with the Context: It is essential that they possess a good understanding of the **business context**.

Implementing a **structured induction plan** for board members is crucial. The operational team should provide them information about the **company’s purpose, strategy, and values**.

It is vital for the board to gain insights into the **company’s performance** in comparison to its competitors and engage with industry experts.

This process equips board members with the **necessary background information** for company discussions and decisions. It enables them to apply their **expertise** within the appropriate **business context**.

Clarity of Roles: The board’s role, beyond the **regulatory responsibilities**, encompasses **owning the corporate strategy, risk oversight, succession planning, and guiding the management**.

It is imperative to establish a **deliberate and limited overlap** between the board and management roles. It should be clearly defined.

The effective practice involves **creating role descriptions, identifying areas of overlap**, and then **establishing clear agreements** within the board, CEO and management team. This process should be **revisited annually**.

The selection of the right team, starting with the CEO, is likely the **most pivotal function** of the board.

Composition of the Board: Alongside role clarity, the **composition of the board** is a pivotal factor in determining its **effectiveness**.

A diverse and relevant blend of **skills, experiences, and perspectives** significantly enhances **the decision-making process**.

The initial step involves clearly **identifying the capabilities and experiences** required by the company. Subsequently, establishing a **distinct board-member value proposition** is crucial.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Board composition should be **viewed holistically**, as a team with **complementary individual capabilities** that can **function effectively** when working together.

Conduct of Meetings: The practical aspects of conducting board meetings play a significant role in enhancing **board effectiveness**.

Considerations include the **frequency of board meetings, time allocation** during these meetings, and the **quality of board discussions**. **There is a need to ensure that the same voices don't dominate every time, and the management team feels challenged and motivated**, rather than **criticized and demoralized**.

Some **effective practices** include involving all CXOs in board meetings, **shorter presentations**, conducting **structured briefings** by committees to the entire board, and delivering **periodic updates on business performance** to the board between meetings.

2. In-person teaching has value if it's led by values

Source: The post is based on the article **"In-person teaching has value if it's led by values"** published in **Live Mint** on **5th September 2023**. **Syllabus: GS 4 – Ethics Role of educational institutions in inculcating values**

Relevance: Roles of educational institutions and challenges associated with online education

News Recently, two teachers in Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka have been caught on camera making discriminatory remarks against Muslim students.

What do these incidents highlight about the situation of educational institutions?

These incidents highlight the growing presence of prejudice in our educational institutions, which were traditionally seen as places of compassion and promoters of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Inculcating values of openness used to be a teacher's duty. However, today, some have started expressing biases.

This leads to worries about students being exposed to such beliefs and highlights the need for steps to protect education from the influence of bigots.

What are the drawbacks of online classes compared to in-person teaching when it comes to instilling values in students?

The pandemic shifted schools online. While online classes were formal and safer, they were less effective for learning, lacking live classroom experience.

It was also noted that online classes couldn't compete with in-person teaching even when teachers were highly skilled at their jobs.

The best teachers are those who can make students interested, curious, and excited about the subject they are learning.

These teachers are able to create a stimulating and engaging learning environment, which is essential for student success. **Online classes cannot replicate this experience.**

In addition to academic knowledge, **students also need to learn important social and emotional skills, such as** empathy, respect, and grace.

These skills are best learned through modeling and interaction with others. Online classes cannot provide the same level of social interaction as offline classes, which is why they are not a complete substitute for traditional schooling.

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

What is the way ahead?

The Indian government is facing the challenge of educating millions of students at a low cost. **One way to do this is to use digital aids**, such as online learning platforms and hybrid models that combine online and offline learning.

However, it is important to ensure that these digital aids are bias-free and provide the best of both worlds, online and offline learning. **Ensuring unbiased education is crucial for instilling values and attitudes.**

3. Living in the age of moral dystopia

Source: The post is based on the article “**Living in the age of moral dystopia**– Conformism is the norm today. Humanism, justice, and freedom have all been consigned to the deep freeze, to be retrieved at some indefinable point in future” published in “The Hindu” on 5th September 2023.

Syllabus: GS4- ethics- human values (role of family, society and educational institutions in inculcating values.) & probity in governance

News: The author talks about how moral values are decreasing in India. They mention communal violence, government bias, and public apathy as examples. The author also points out that societal values are changing, and intolerance and injustice are becoming more accepted.

How are moral values and societal values decreasing in India?

Moral Values Change:

Broken Promises: Leaders and governments are increasingly failing to uphold their pledges. There’s no longer an expectation for them to keep their word.

Skewed Justice: Government actions, like demolishing buildings without legal procedures, indicate a move away from fairness and justice. The Punjab and Haryana High Court raised concerns about potential ethnic cleansing.

Gender Disrespect: The public humiliation of women in Manipur and the public support for the accused in the Kathua rape case show a declining respect for women’s rights and safety.

Public Indifference: Acts of violence, from lynchings to property destruction, are happening regularly. Many witnesses choose merely to record these acts, showing a lack of empathy and intervention.

Societal Values Change:

Decline in Communal Harmony: Yogita Bhayana’s act of helping a Muslim man rebuild his shop was criticized, signaling a reduction in societal appreciation for communal unity.

Historical Bias over Present Justice: There’s an undue emphasis on historical events and wrongs while current issues, like attacks on mosques in various states, are sidelined.

Desensitization to Violence: The frequency of violent incidents and the public’s passive response, such as simply recording them for social media, indicates a growing desensitization to brutality.

Destruction Celebrated: Some media segments hail the destruction of properties as “instant justice,” indicating a societal shift towards accepting brute force as justified.

How does this impact India’s fabric?

Impact on India’s Fabric:

9 PM Compilation for the Month of September 2023

Eroded Trust: With leaders not keeping their promises, faith in governance is diminishing.

Communal Harmony Threatened: Acts like the criticism of Yogita Bhayana, who helped a Muslim man, signal a strain on inter-community relations.

Selective Historical Preoccupation: The focus on ancient wrongs, while overlooking present-day issues like mosque attacks, creates division and neglects contemporary challenges.

Increased Desensitization: The passive response to violence, such as public recordings of brutal incidents without intervention, weakens societal empathy and compassion.

Skewed Justice Perception: Viewing property destruction as “instant justice” distorts the understanding of genuine justice and law.

Gender Disparities: Incidents like the humiliation of women in Manipur undermine the progress towards gender equality.