



**9 PM**

# **Compilation**

**18<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2023**

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

### General Studies - 1

---

1. [Express View on Santiniketan's world heritage status: At home in the world](#)
2. [Legislating change- The Women's Reservation Bill must be implemented without delay](#)
3. [Slums in the urban ecosystem](#)
4. [People count – On the Issues of Census](#)
5. [A FRESH CANVAS FOR MEWAR ART](#)

### General Studies - 2

---

1. [It's time for India and Africa to deal with food and security issues together](#)
2. [Not Old Habits in New House, please – on functioning of parliament](#)
3. [33% Fairer – Political returns on passing the women's reservation bill look very good now](#)
4. [India is at a pivotal moment in its health-care journey](#)
5. [India trails in deceased organ donation](#)
6. [India-Middle East-Europe Corridor: The way to a new world order](#)
7. [The 'mantras' that powered success at the G-20 summit](#)
8. [Facilitating degrees within a degree](#)
9. [The Cauvery Water Management Authority should act](#)
10. [33%: The Details – Implementing women's reservation will need a lot of work](#)
11. [The Indo-Pacific power play](#)
12. [With G20-IMEC plan, the global order shifts to Eurasia](#)
13. [Canada needs to see India – not just the diaspora](#)
14. [Rice fortification can help tackle our problem of hidden hunger](#)
15. [Values Kota imparted: Anxiety and building a future on a butchered present](#)
16. [No BFFs Needed – India needs four things to secure strategic autonomy in foreign policy and more than one alliance](#)
17. [Climate finance must get beyond greenwashing and greenwashing](#)
18. [M Venkaiah Naidu on One Nation One Election: Together, for the greater good](#)
19. [Silent killer – India must get more people to keep blood pressure under control](#)
20. [Bench Strength – CJI must move fast to create permanent constitution benches](#)
21. [India and the great power contest in West Asia](#)
22. [Trudeau has shown irresponsibility in accusing India. He must answer](#)
23. [In these times, what meaning could a new Parliament have?](#)
24. [The suicide cluster in Kota is a public health emergency](#)
25. [Prachanda, the US, and China](#)
26. [South of the Godavari](#)

### General Studies - 3

---

1. [How Basmati in India is reaping the rewards of research](#)
2. [Why is the government pushing for regulatory mechanisms for OTT services?](#)
3. [Export bans and stocking limits: are they working?](#)
4. [Growth needs more electricity](#)
5. [Clean aviation will take more than just biofuels](#)
6. [India's tea industry needs policy liberalization for rejuvenation](#)
7. [Flight to self-sufficiency-AF orders are increasing domestic production](#)
8. [Empowering MSMEs for export success](#)
9. [A chocolate nudge can serve a public purpose](#)

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

10. [R S Sharma on PM-WANI's potential to transform India's digital public infrastructure](#)
11. [Green Tax, Black Mark – on EU' CBAM](#)
12. [Ships Of State – on India's Naval Strength](#)
13. [Where has India's record wheat and rice output gone?](#)
14. [Environmental humanities: the need to expand our understanding of nature](#)
15. [Simultaneous polls: do States have a say?](#)
16. [Let's not conflate microfinance with self-help group financing](#)
17. [All charged up: India's battery storage plans](#)
18. [Women's reservation Bill – imperfect but important](#)
19. [Taking a giant leap for a new ethics in outer space](#)
20. [Navigating the evolving trade landscape](#)
21. [Propelling India's development the right way](#)
22. [Unlocking MSME potential- Digital tools are crucial for expanding their reach and unleashing growth](#)
23. [Digital forensics: India's opportunity](#)
24. [Shyam Saran writes: BRICS is growing – and that doesn't hurt India's interests](#)
25. [A light-bulb moment for the Indian fan market](#)
26. [Ethanol – a saviour that gives savings](#)
27. [Hybridisation can spread gainful genes between species](#)
28. [Creators Vs Algos-Generative AI poses a serious copyright violation risk](#)

# General Studies Paper – 1

### General Studies - 1

---

#### 1. 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 **19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

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

### 2. 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.

**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.

### 3. 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.

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

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.

**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.

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

### 4. 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.

### 5. 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



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

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.**

**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 Baksh, 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.

# General Studies Paper –2

### General Studies - 2

---

#### 1. 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.

#### **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.

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

### 2. 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 **18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.**

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

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.**

### 3. [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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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%.**

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

**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.

### 4. 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**.

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**.

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

### 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**.

### 5. 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.

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

### 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.

## 6. 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 **19<sup>th</sup> 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.



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

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.

**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.

### 7. [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.

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

**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.

**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.

### 8. 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.

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

**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. 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:

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

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.

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.

### **10. 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 **20<sup>th</sup> 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 **20<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

### 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.

**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.

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

It aims to create an enlightened democracy by removing entry barriers and fundamentally reshaping parliamentary democracy, giving Indian women their rightful place in Parliament.

### 11. 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**.

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.

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

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.

### 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.

## 12. 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**.

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

**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**.

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.



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

### 13. 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**.

**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**.

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

### 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**

### 14. 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 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.

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

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.

### 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.

### 15. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

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

### 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.

### 16. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### 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.**

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

### 17. 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.

**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.

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

18. 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**.

**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**.

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

### 19. 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 **22<sup>nd</sup> 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)**.

**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.

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

### 20. 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 **22<sup>nd</sup> 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 [Third Week] 2023

### 21. 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 [Third Week] 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**.

## 22. 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 [Third Week] 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](#)**

23. **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 [Third Week] 2023

### 24. 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 [Third Week] 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.

### 25. 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 [Third Week] 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.

### 26. South of the Godavari

**Source:** The post is based on the article "South of the Godavari" published in **Business Standard** on **23<sup>rd</sup> 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 [Third Week] 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.

# General Studies Paper –3



### General Studies - 3

---

#### 1. 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.

**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).

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

**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.

### 2. 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 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.

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

**Service Accessibility:** IMAI and BIF oppose any selective ban, emphasizing that OTTs play a crucial role in modern communication and should remain accessible.

### 3. 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.

**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%.

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

**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.

### 4. 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.

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

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

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**.

### 5. 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**.

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

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.

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.

## 6. 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.

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

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.

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**.

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

All the existing mandates, such as **compulsory labour housing** and the **mandatory requirement** of selling 50% of tea through auction houses, should be eliminated.

### 7. 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.

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.

### 8. 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.



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

**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.

**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.

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

### 9. 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.

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.

### 10. 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

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

### 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.

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.

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

### 11. 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**.

#### **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%**.

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

### 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**.

### 12. 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?

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

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.

### 13. 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.

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 of 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.

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

### 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.

### 14. 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.

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

### 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.

**Tied to Social Justice:** It recognizes that environmental problems cannot be separated from social injustices and discrimination faced by marginalized communities.

### 15. 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**.



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

### 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  
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**.

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**.

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

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.

### 16. 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)?

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**.

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

### 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**.
- 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.

### 17. 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.

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

### 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**.

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**.

### 18. 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.

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

### 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.

**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.

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

**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.

### 19. Navigating the evolving trade landscape

**Source:** The post is based on the article **"Navigating the evolving trade landscape"** published in **Business Standard** on **21<sup>st</sup> 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.

#### **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.

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

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).**

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.

### 20. 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.

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

**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.

**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.



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

21. **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.

**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.

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

**Enhance Access to Financial Services:** Improving access to financial services will enable more MSMEs to benefit from e-commerce adoption.

### 22. 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.

#### 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.

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

23. 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.

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.

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

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**.

### 24. 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

**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.

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

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**.

**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.

### 25. 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**.

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

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.

**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.

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

### 26. 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.

### 27. 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.

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

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.