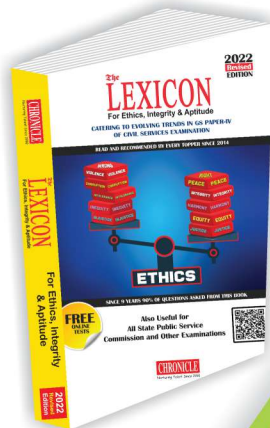


Civil Services
CHRONICLE
 THE NO. 1 MAGAZINE FOR IAS ASPIRANTS SINCE 1990



Mains Preparation: A New Pedagogy

100 Mains Topics *with*
Mock Q&A *General Studies*
Paper I-IV

**Issue-based Content with
 Multidisciplinary and
 Interdisciplinary Approach**



Articles

- ✓ ASEAN & India's Indo-Pacific Vision
- ✓ Indigenization of Technology in India
- ✓ WTO & India: Changing Dynamics
- ✓ Critical Information Infrastructure
- ✓ India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy
- ✓ Environmental Performance Index 2022
- ✓ Global Climate Governance: An Evolutionary Perspective
- ✓ 14th BRICS Summit
- ✓ World Mental Health Report 2022



Tete-a-Tete with Pragma
CSE 2021 (Rank 91)

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with
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ASEAN & India's Indo-Pacific Vision

The Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions have long been hubs of economic expansion and are among the most active in the entire world. Thus, these areas continue to see changes in geopolitics and geostrategic alignment. These changes bring both opportunity and difficulties. While, on the one hand, the region's economic expansion creates opportunities for collaboration to reduce poverty and raise millions of people's living standards, on the other hand, the emergence of material or economic and military, powers necessitates avoiding the growth of mistrust, error, and behavior based on a zero-sum game.

■ Satish Kumar Karna

Southeast Asia is a crucial conduit and portal to the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions since it is located in the middle of them. As a result, it is in ASEAN's (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) best interest to take the initiative in developing their economic and security architecture and to make sure that these dynamics will continue to promote stability, peace, and prosperity for the people of Southeast Asia as well as the larger Indo-Pacific region, which includes the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean.

30 Years of Dialogue Relations between ASEAN and India

On June 16, 2022, India hosted a Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) to mark 30 years of dialogue relations between ASEAN and India.

Agenda for the Meeting

- Foreign ministers emphasized the value of relations between India and ASEAN throughout the conference.
- They emphasized ASEAN's contribution to India's Act East Policy's vision of a larger Indo-Pacific.
- They discussed the ASEAN-India Partnership's current state.
- The COVID-19 and the topics of health, connectivity, trade and commerce, capacity building, and education were discussed.
- They also talked on the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-implementation. Additionally, they discussed significant regional and international happenings.

Indian Ideas about the Indo-Pacific

India's Vision

- India's view on the Indo-Pacific is centered on "inclusivity, openness, and ASEAN centrality and unity." As a result of ASEAN Centrality, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is required to take the initiative, be in charge of developing a shared vision, and be in charge of putting that vision into action.

- **ASEAN Centrality** has had unwavering support from India. With ASEAN Centrality as its foundation, India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific policy complement one another.
- India is attempting to harmonize its Act East Policy with the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific through the Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) and Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) initiatives (AOIP).

India & ASEAN Geography

- For India, the Indo-Pacific region, which also includes the Pacific Island nations, runs from the eastern coast of Africa to Oceania (from the coastlines of Africa to those of the Americas).
- In addition to hosting the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium, India has taken an active role in organizations like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), the East Asia Summit, the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus, the ASEAN Regional Forum, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and the Mekong Ganga Economic Corridor.
- India is attempting to interact with the nations of the Pacific Islands through the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIIC).

India's Plan for the Indo-Pacific

Significance

- Two-thirds of the world's economic production and 60% of the world's population are thought to be concentrated in the Indo-Pacific region.
- 90% of India's own trade flows on its waterways, while half of all global trade passes through the area.
- It is significant to us that the economic trend has changed from the Atlantic to the Indo-Pacific.
- In actuality, the world as a whole depends on the security, stability, peace, and prosperity of the region.

Global Climate Governance: An Evolutionary Perspective

A very active campaign has been going on for the last two years to get every country to sign on to a net-zero goal for 2050. It is being argued that global carbon neutrality by 2050 is the only way to achieve the Paris Agreement target of keeping the planet's temperature from rising beyond 2°C compared to pre-industrial times. Current policies and actions being taken to reduce emissions would not even be able to prevent a 3–4°C rise by the turn of the century.

■ Chandrakant Singh

At the recently held COP26 Summit in Glasgow, Indian Prime Minister for the first time pledged for **net zero emission by 2070**. China has announced plans for carbon neutrality by **2060**, while the US and EU aim to hit net zero **by 2050**.

Net-zero, which is also referred to as **carbon-neutrality**, does not mean that a country would bring down its emissions to zero. Rather, net-zero is a state in which a country's emissions are compensated by absorption and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Absorption of the emissions can be increased by creating more carbon sinks such as forests, while removal of gases from the atmosphere requires futuristic technologies such as carbon capture and storage

Net Zero: Why is it necessary?

The science shows clearly that in order to avert the worst impacts of climate change and preserve a livable planet, global temperature increase needs to be limited to **1.5°C above pre-industrial levels**.

Currently, the Earth is already about 1.1°C warmer than it was in the late 1800s, and emissions continue to rise. To keep global warming to no more than 1.5°C – as called for in the Paris Agreement – emissions need to be reduced by **45% by 2030** and **reach net zero by 2050**.

Why India is objecting to Net Zero by 2050?

Although India has agreed for net zero by 2070, however, it objected for **net zero by 2050**. Due to following reasons:

- India argued that, the developed nations have contributed the bulk of cumulative emissions so far, and continue to emit at a level disproportionate to their share of the global population with their inadequate efforts in climate mitigation. While developing nations' share in cumulative emission is so far comparatively less. India emitted **1.9 tonnes of CO₂ per head** in 2019, compared with 15.5 tonnes for the US and 12.5 tonnes for Russia that year. Thus, the responsibility to go net zero relies on developed nation first rather than on developing nation. This idea is based on **Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)**.

- India also argued that its emissions are likely to grow at the fastest pace in the world, as it presses for higher growth to **pull hundreds of millions of people out of poverty**. No amount of afforestation or reforestation would be able to compensate for the increased emissions. Most of the carbon removal technologies right now are either unreliable or very expensive.
- The net-zero goals does not figure in the **2015 Paris Agreement**, the new global architecture to fight climate change. The Paris Agreement only requires every signatory to take the best climate action it can. Countries need to set five- or ten-year climate targets for themselves, and demonstrably show they have achieved them. Implementation of the Paris Agreement has begun from 2021. Most of the countries have submitted targets for the **2025 or 2030 period**. India has been arguing that instead of opening up a **parallel discussion on net-zero targets** outside of the Paris Agreement framework, countries must focus on delivering on what they have already promised.

CBDR-RC

The principle of **Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)** outlined in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), recognises that countries (known as Parties) have different duties and abilities to address the negative impacts of climate change, but all countries have an obligation to address climate change.

At the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, the CBDR-RC was officially enshrined in the UNFCCC treaty on Climate Change. **Article 3 (paragraph 1)** of the UNFCCC states: "The Parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Accordingly, the developed country Parties should take the lead in combating climate change and the adverse effects thereof". The CBDR-RC principle also applies to certain areas such as adaptation, technology transfer, finance, and capacity building; thus by applying the CBDR-RC principle Parties can meet their UNFCCC obligations.

Indigenization of Technology in India

Technology is a key component in accelerating progress in the modern world, as nations compete fiercely for the best resources in the military, economics, and infrastructure. The ability of the person who operates the machines to understand technology, though, is much more crucial. As a result, governments around the world who want to see their country succeed place a high priority on indigenizing technology and switching to new technologies.

In a significant development that represents India's prowess in indigenization of technology, the country's first 5G test bed was launched in May this year allowing businesses and startups to test and certify their products locally and lessening reliance on facilities outside. Startups and other industry players had to travel abroad to test and certify their products before they could be installed in a 5G network due to the lack of a 5G test bed. A crucial step toward independence in the direction of vital and contemporary technologies is the 5G test bed. Eight institutions, led by IIT Madras, have worked together to construct the 5G test bed as a multi-institutional collaborative effort.

India has been striving towards indigenization of technology for quite some time now. Apart from helping the country achieve its vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat, indigenization has significant imperatives in the Indian context.

Why Indigenization is the Need of the Hour?

Innovation

- It preserves the technological know-how and promotes the innovation and spin-off technologies that frequently result from it.

Employment Creation

- Defense production will result in the development of satellite industries, which will then open up employment possibilities.
- According to government estimates, a reduction in defense-related imports of 20–25 per cent might directly result in the creation of 100,000–120,000 more highly skilled employment in India.

Lowering the Fiscal Deficit

- India is the world's second-largest importer of weapons (after Saudi Arabia). The budget deficit rises as import dependency increases. India purchases 60% of its weapon systems from foreign markets despite having the fifth largest defence budget in the world.
- India is able to sell its domestically produced military hardware to its neighbors.



Security Imperative

- Indigenization in the armed forces is essential for maintaining national security.
- To avoid the dangers posed by recurrent ceasefire violations, such as those in the Uri, Pathankot, and Pulwama attacks, indigenous people must be empowered.
- India needs to provide its own defences independently and self-sufficiently because it is surrounded by hostile neighbors and porous borders.

Strategic Capability

- An independent and self-sufficient defence as well as other sectors will elevate India to the status of a major world power.

Nationalism

- Innovative defence/other equipment development have the potential to foster nationalism and patriotism, which will in turn reinforce the Indian armed forces' sense of integrity and sovereignty as well as their trust in one another.

Importance of Indigenization of Technology

- **Economic Development:** The process of indigenization is essential for a developing economy to become a developed one.

WTO & India: Changing Dynamics

Trade delegates made strategic moves during the WTO's six-day ministerial conference to deprioritize their national interests in order to benefit the common good. There was also quiet but critical compromise between the US and China that settled the question of Beijing's ability to sidestep patent rights under the WTO's new intellectual-property waiver.

■ Sharmila Senthil Kumar

The WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference (MC12) took place from 12th to 17th June 2022 at WTO headquarters in Geneva. Ministers from across the world attended to review the functioning of the multilateral trading system, to make general statements and to take action on the future work of the WTO. The Conference was co-hosted by Kazakhstan and chaired by Timur Suleimenov, Deputy Chief of Staff of Kazakhstan's President.

The WTO Ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body in the WTO and it can change the existing rules/create new rules which are binding in perpetuity on its 164 members.

MC12: Agreed Deals

The 2022 WTO Ministerial Conference agreed to a package of trade deals addressing topics such as health, food security and reform.

WTO Reform

Members reaffirmed the foundational principles of the WTO and committed to an open and inclusive process to reform all its functions, from deliberation to negotiation to monitoring. Notably, they committed to work towards having a well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all members by 2024. The appellate body has been dormant since 2020 as the United States refused to agree the appointment of new judges.

Importance: The organization has struggled to deliver on its mandate for multiple reasons, including members failing to live up to notification requirements, impeding debate on new issues and objecting to the functioning of its dispute settlement mechanism.

Pandemic Response

The WTO Ministerial Conference decided that eligible countries could override COVID-19 vaccine patents until 2027.



The decision on whether to extend this to COVID-19 therapeutics and diagnostics was delayed for six months.

Although the intellectual property issue was a focus for campaigners, the glut in supply of vaccines means that some of the softer declarations on future pandemics were at least as interesting. These included recognition of the role of diversification of production and ensuring that

emergency trade restrictions are proportionate, transparent and temporary.

Members reiterated the importance of trade facilitation and the operation of cross-border services such as logistics, health services and IT in combating future pandemics. Noting the severe effect of border restrictions on tourism, countries encouraged dialogue to mitigate this.

Importance: A feeling that commercial considerations outweighed human health would be severely damaging to global trade. Countries need to ensure trade helps, and is seen to help, health outcomes.

E-commerce

Digital businesses were very worried that the conference might mean the end of a moratorium on tariffs on electronic transmissions, raising the prospect of higher costs for traded digital products and services. As it seemed likely that this might lapse, side discussions turned to possible retaliation by some countries on those who might impose such tariffs. In the end, the moratorium was renewed until at latest 31 March 2024. In addition, the General Council must hold periodic reviews, based on WTO reports on the "scope, definition, and impact" of the moratorium.

Importance: This agreement maintains relative freedom for digital trade yet takes developing countries' needs into account in response to concerns that a lack of information and clarity affects these countries' ability to commit to a permanent moratorium.

- [Critical Information Infrastructure](#)
- [World Mental Health Report 2022](#)
- [NITI Aayog's Report on India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy](#)
- [Environmental Performance Index 2022](#)
- [14th BRICS Summit](#)

Critical Information Infrastructure

On 17th June, 2022, the government declared the IT resources of ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and UPI managing entity NPCI as critical information infrastructure (CII). It implies any harm to them can have an impact on national security.

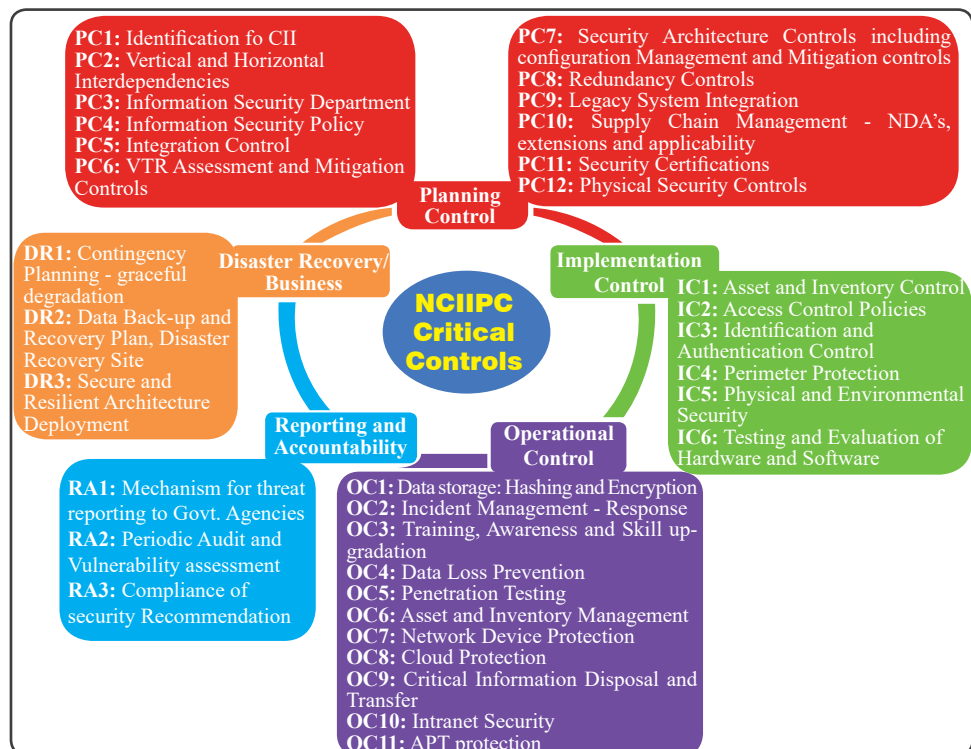
About CII

- According to the Information Technology Act of 2000 “Critical Information Infrastructure” as a “computer resource, the incapacitation or destruction of which shall have debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health or safety”.
- The government, under the IT Act of 2000, has the power to declare any data, database, IT network or communications infrastructure as CII to protect that digital asset.
- These are vital to the nations that their incapacity or destruction would have a devastating impact on:
 - ♦ National economic strength
 - ♦ National image
 - ♦ National defence and security
 - ♦ Government capability to functions
 - ♦ Public health and safety
- Any person who attempts to secure access to a protected system in violation of the law can be punished with a jail term of up to 10 years.

Need for CII Classification

- World over governments have been moving with alacrity to protect their critical information infrastructure.

- IT resources form the backbone of countless critical operations in a country’s infrastructure, and given their interconnectedness, disruptions can have a cascading effect across sectors.
- An information technology failure at a power grid can lead to prolonged outages crippling other sectors like healthcare, banking services.
- In October 2020 as India battled the pandemic, the electric grid supply to Mumbai suddenly snapped hitting the mega city’s hospitals, trains and businesses.
- It underlined the possibility of hostile state and non-state actors probing internet-dependent critical systems in other countries.





Polity & Governance

- Electoral Reforms: EC mulls for One Candidate One Constituency
- Economic Impact of Select Decisions of the SC and National Green Tribunal
- Inter-State Council

Polity & Governance

Electoral Reforms: EC mulls for One Candidate One Constituency

Recently, the Election Commission (EC) proposed the Ministry of Law & Justice to limit the seats from which a candidate can contest to just one.

Earlier EC had made a proposal to the government in 2004 and 2016 to amend the provisions of the concerned Act to restrict the candidate to contest from one constituency.

LEGAL PROVISIONS

- **Section 33(7)** of the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, allows a person to contest a general election or a group of bye-elections or biennial elections from two constituencies.
- **Section 70** of the RPA specifies that a person who wins on both seats can hold on to one seat only.
- Prior to insertion of **clause 7 in Section 33** in 1996 it was possible for candidates to contest from several seats and later one person could contest only from two seats.

Rationale behind the Proposal

Waste of Resource and Time

- There have been several cases where a person contests election from two constituencies, and wins from both.
- In such a situation he vacates the seat in one of the two constituencies.
- This puts unavoidable financial burden on the public exchequer, the manpower and other resources for holding by-election against the resultant vacancy.

- Guidelines for Advertisements 2022
- National Statistics Day
- Computerization of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies

Plans/Policies

- National Air Sports Policy 2022
- Indian Railway Innovation Policy

Reports

- National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment Report 2021

News Snippets

Contradictory to Core Values of Democracy

- The multiple constituency situations affect the core values of democracy.
- A person who vacates the seat after getting elected also acts in contravention to the 'fundamental principles' of democracy.
- It is about ignoring the people's mandate.

Injustice to Voters

- It is an injustice to the voters of the constituency which the candidate is quitting from.
- Further, repeated elections also cause voters to lose interest in the electoral process.

Recommendations made by EC

Imposing Penalty

- EC proposed a hefty fine to be imposed on those vacating one of the constituencies and forcing a bypoll.
- For the members of state assemblies, they have to pay ₹5 lakh.
- For Parliamentarians, this penalty should be ₹10 lakh.
- The rationale behind the fine was to make the lawmaker bear some of the cost of the bypoll necessitated by their decision to fight from two seats.

Bearing the Financial Burden

- A system should be devised wherein if a candidate wins both the constituencies, then he or she would bear the financial burden of conducting the subsequent by-election in one of the constituencies.

Doing away with By-elections

- Another suggested reform is that in case a candidate wins from both the seats, then instead of conducting by-elections, the candidate securing the second-highest vote should be announced as the winner.



Social Issues

- Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2021
- First International Day for Countering Hate Speech

Indian Society

- Self-Help Groups

Social Justice

- One Nation One Ration Card
- National Initiative for Promoting Upskilling of Nirman

Plans/Policies

- Second Phase of Goal Program Launched

Reports

- State of Global Learning Poverty 2022
- Fourth State Food Safety Index
- Report on Performance Grading Index for Districts

News Snippets

Social Issues

Juvenile Justice Amendment Act 2021

Recently, the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR) has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court challenging the amendments made to the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2015.

- In 2021, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act-2015 as amended through Presidential assent.
- The Amendments made certain categories of offences against children non-cognizable.
- The Commission is challenging the 2021 Amendment to the extent it made the following categories of offences non-cognizable :
 - ◆ Use of children for drugs peddling
 - ◆ Use of children by terrorists
 - ◆ Exploitation of child employee
 - ◆ Cruelty against children.

Issues Raised by DCPCR

Violation of Fundamental Rights

- Specifically, the amendment under challenge is the one to Section 86 of the JJ Act, according to which crimes under the special law, with punishment between three to seven years, have been reclassified as non-cognisable.
- The Commission argues that such categorization violates Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution of India.

Contrary to Juvenile Justice Act 2015

- Such categorization is contrary to the scheme of the Juvenile Justice Act which is progressive in nature and protects children against all forms of exploitation.

Child Welfare Committees (CWC)

- CWCs' first instinct in most cases is to "talk and arrive at a settlement" without having to escalate the matter to the police.

Delay in Reporting

- With this amendment, if anyone goes to the police station to register a complaint, the police will refer them to a magistrate for permission.

Directions of Magistrate

- According to the Code of Criminal Procedure, once the crimes are rendered non-cognizable, the police will be able to register an FIR only on the directions of a magistrate and a complainant will first have to approach the magistrate concerned to start the process.

PRELIMS FACTS

Key Differences Between Cognizable and Non-Cognizable Offence

- The offence, in which the cognizance of the crime is taken by the police on its own, as it does not need to wait for court's approval, is known as a cognizable offence.
- Non-cognizable offence is the offence in which the police have no authority to apprehend a person for crime on its own, as explicit permission of the court is required.
- In cognizable offence, the police can arrest a person without any warrant. As against this, a warrant is must in the case of non-cognizable offence.
- In cognizable offence, court's order is not required to start an investigation. Conversely, in the non-cognizable offence, first of all, court's order should be obtained for undertaking an investigation.
- Cognizable offences are heinous crimes, whereas non-cognizable offences are not so serious.
- Cognizable offence encompasses murder, rape, theft, kidnapping, counterfeiting, etc.
- On the contrary, non-cognizable offences include offences like forgery, cheating, assault, defamation and so forth.
- For a cognizable offence, one can file FIR or make a complaint to the magistrate.
- Unlike, in case of non-cognizable offence one can only make a complaint to the magistrate.



Heritage Art & Culture

Art & Culture

- India's Cultural & Traditional Gifts to G7 Leaders
- Dharohar: National Museum of Customs and GST
- Pattachitra Painting

Art & Culture

India's Cultural & Traditional Gifts to G7 Leaders

Indian Prime Minister during his visit to Germany (to attend the G7 summit), gifted its leaders with various rich art and crafts - especially those that are related to Uttar Pradesh's 'one district, one product' scheme.

Following are the gifts presented to the G7 leaders:

Gulabi Meenakari Brooch and Cufflink

- Gulabi Meenakari is a GI-tagged art form of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh.
- A piece of pure silver is moulded into a base form, and the chosen design is embossed in the metal.
- The embossed shapes are then filled with crushed meena glass mixed with intriguing natural anardana (pomegranate seeds) glue.
- This is then baked to get a translucent coloured patch. What distinguishes it from other meenakari is the layer of white meena, which acts as an opaque canvas for hand-painted motifs.
- The motifs primarily use the colour pink (gulabi), which lends its name to the craft.

Platinum-coloured Hand-painted Tea Set

- These hand-painted tea sets are made in Bulandshahar district in Uttar Pradesh.
- The base form is hand painted and then baked at 1200 degrees Celsius.
- The embossed outlines are laid manually with a mehndi cone. Each shape is then separately filled with colour and baked again.

Hand-knotted Kashmiri Silk Carpet

- The Kashmiri silk carpets are made predominantly in the Srinagar area of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

- Deva Snana Purnima
- Ambubachi Mela
- Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela

History

- Kapilvastu Relics of Buddha
- Kempegowda: Architect of Bengaluru City

Personality

- Sant Tukaram

News Snippets

- These exquisite creations are hand-knotted on the warp threads, one at a time, in accordance to a strict code of colours in the order of their appearance in the pattern.
- Characteristically, all silk carpets have an amazingly innate attribute of displaying different colours when viewed from different angles or sides.
- Often the colours tend to have a day-and-night variation in shades that seem to impart an illusion of viewing two carpets instead of the actual one carpet.

Ittar Bottles in Zardozi Box

- These are crafted in Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow.
- The motifs are traditional Indo-Persian, lotus flowers hand embroidered with metal wire in blue and a pendant used in Kashmiri carpets, besides those from Awadhi architecture.
- This box contains the following: Attar Mitti, Jasmine Oil, Attar Shamama, Attar Gulab, Exotic Musk and Garam Masala.

Marble Inlay Table Top

- This marble table top with inlay work has its origin in Agra and is made of semi-precious stones with gradients in their colour, making it very similar to the Italian marble inlay work.
- The delicate process involves cutting and engraving of semi-precious stones on marble manually.

Marodi-carving Metal Pots

- This nickel-coated, hand-engraved brass vessel is a masterpiece from Moradabad, which is also known as the 'Peetal Nagari' or "brass city" of Uttar Pradesh.
- After casting the pot, the design that has to be engraved is first sketched on paper.
- An outline of the whole design is done with a fine engraving tool hammered with a wooden block.
- This particular type of engraving is called Marodi, owing to the curved lines used to fill up the negative space in this design.

ECONOMY WATCH

Banking & Finance

- Windfall Tax
- Twin Deficit Problem
- Strong Dollar and its Implication for India
- SEBI Panel on Hybrid Securities
- Surety Bonds
- BBB revamped into Financial Services Institution Bureau

Plans/Policies

- Five Years of Goods and Services Tax

Industry

- International MSMEs Day
- EASE 5.0 'Common Reforms Agenda' for PSBs
- Business Reform Action Plan 2020

Reports

- RBI Payment Vision 2025
- Report of the Regulations Review Authority 2.0

Miscellaneous

- Dutch Disease

News Snippets

Banking & Finance

Windfall Tax

On 1st July, 2022, India slapped a windfall tax on the country's oil producers and oil refiners who are exporting more due to the high international price of crude oil and refined products.

- Windfall tax will be 23,250 rupees per ton on oil producers and 6 rupees per liter on gasoline and jet fuel.
- The windfall tax on gasoil exports will be 13 rupees per liter.

About Windfall Tax

- A windfall tax is a one-off tax imposed by a government on a company. It is levied on an unforeseen or unexpectedly large profit, especially unfairly obtained.
- Now, international crude prices have risen sharply in recent months.
- The domestic crude producers sell crude to domestic refineries at international parity prices. As a result, domestic crude producers are making windfall gains.

Need for Levying Windfall Tax

- **Huge Amount of Profit:** State owned oil companies in India ONGC, Oil India and GAIL declared all-time high net profit of 258 percent, 123 percent and 112 percent respectively in the fiscal year 2021-22. This was possible as crude oil and gas prices shot up due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.
- **Cut in Central Excise Duty:** As the government has recently gone for cut in Central Excise Duty and considering that it is spending more on food and fertiliser, the big question is how the gap will be fulfilled?
- And one of the solutions could be levying a windfall tax on oil companies.

Impact

Negative

On Companies

- As the companies will now have to pay a cess of Rs 23,250 per tonne on domestic crude oil, their margins will get impacted.

On Fuel Price

- According to the finance ministry, this cess will have no adverse impact on domestic petroleum products/fuel prices.
- Further, small producers, whose annual production of crude in the preceding financial year is less than 2 million barrels will be exempt from this cess.
- No cess will be imposed on such quantity of crude that is produced in excess of last year production by a crude producer.
- This measure would not impact crude prices or the prices of petroleum products and fuels.

Positive

On Government

- The government had lost as much as Rs. 1 lakh crore in revenue owing to the cut in excise duty on crude oil earlier this year.
- Experts believe that the windfall tax on domestic oil-producing companies will help recover this amount.
- The benefits of a windfall tax include proceeds being directly used by governments to bolster funding for social programs.

Criticisms against Imposing Windfall Tax

- The one-off taxes, which by definition are imposed retrospectively, are seen as arbitrary, fueling uncertainty among businesses about future taxes.
- The imposition of windfall tax is branded as anti-investment and anti-business.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Space Science

- PSLV-C53/DS-EO Mission
- International Liquid-Mirror Telescope
- Scientists Detect New Fast Radio Burst

New Technology & Innovations

- Ultra-thin Heteroprotein Films
- Artificial Photosynthesis
- Major Breakthrough in Cancer Treatment

Defence Technology

- Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile

Government Policy/Initiatives

- Geospatial Self Certification Portal

News Snippets

Space Science

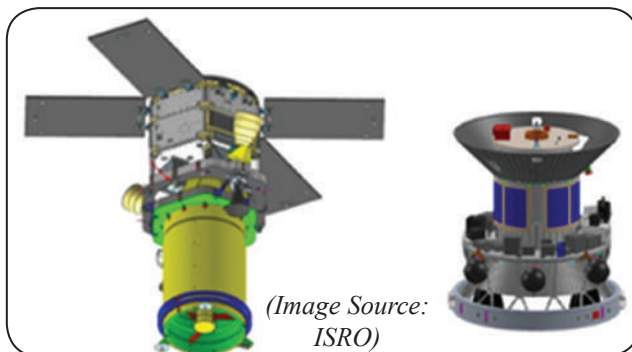
PSLV-C53/DS-EO Mission

On 30th June, 2022, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched three Singaporean satellites in a commercial mission of the New Space India Limited (NSIL) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

- This was the second launch of the year by ISRO. In February, the space agency placed an Indian Earth Observation Satellite in orbit.
- PSLV-C53 is the second dedicated commercial mission of NSIL.
- This was the 55th mission of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and 15th mission using PSLV-Core Alone variant.

Key Highlights

- **DS-EO:** The main payload of the mission was a 365 kg Singaporean DS-EO satellite, which is an electro-optic, earth-observation satellite capable of providing full-colour images for land classification and disaster-relief operations.



- **NeuSAR:** The 155 kg NeuSAR satellite is Singapore's first small commercial satellite capable of providing images in the day or at night under all weather conditions.
- **Scoob-1:** The third satellite was Nanyang Technical University's 2.8 kg Scoob-1, the first in the student satellite series for giving hands-on training for the university's satellite research centre.
- **In-orbit Experiments:** In addition to the international payloads, the rocket also carried six experiments in its fourth stage, including two from Indian startups Digantara and Dhruva Space.
- **POEM:** The PSLV Orbital Experiment Module (POEM) uses the spent fourth stage of the rocket as an in-orbit platform. It derives the power from the solar panels mounted around the PS4 tank and a Li Ion battery. It navigates using four sun sensors, a magnetometer, gyros & NavIC.
- It carries dedicated control thrusters using Helium gas storage. It is enabled with telecommand feature.
- After the primary mission, the PSLV 4 stage rides the POEM in-orbit. The stage will be generating power, stabilised with attitude control and also having certain experiments hosted by some of the young startups enabled by IN-SPACE.

International Liquid-Mirror Telescope

Recently, the International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT) was commissioned at the Devasthal Observatory campus owned by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital in Uttarakhand.

- It is the first liquid-mirror telescope in the country and the largest in Asia.
- The handful of liquid-telescopes that were previously built either tracked satellites or were deployed for military purposes.



ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Climate Change

- Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate
- Climate Change Heating Up Indian Rivers

Climate Change

Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate

On 17th June, 2022, the meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF) was held virtually.

- It was attended by twenty three major economies across the world and the Secretary General of United Nations.
- The MEF leaders shared the initiatives being taken by them to deliver on their respective climate change commitments.
- The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change represented India at the meeting.
- The meeting aimed at galvanising actions that are to strengthen energy security and tackle the climate crisis, thereby building momentum for COP27.

Key Highlights of India's Address

- **Global Collective Action:** India highlighted its continued commitment to contributing towards global collective action to combat climate change.
- **Initiatives:** India's initiatives go beyond its borders, including the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI).
- **Renewable Energy:** India has already installed 159 GW of non-fossil fuel based electricity generation capacity. During the last 7.5 years, India's installed solar energy capacity has increased over 18 times.
- **Annual Per Capita Emissions:** India's annual per capita emissions are only a third of the global average and its cumulative greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are less than 4 percent, but India's climate targets are ambitious and reflect its commitment to the global good.
- **Checking Cumulative Emissions:** India said that without cumulative emissions in check, success with other environmental challenges, even if they are achieved, will not carry lasting value.

Pollution

- National Air Quality Resource Framework of India
- Microplastics in Antarctic Snow

Sustainable Development

- 'Ocean Promise': UNDP's Blue Economy Vision

Reports/Indices

- Sustainable Development Report 2022
- Renewables 2022 Global Status Report

News Snippets

- **Equity and International Cooperation:** India said that equity and international cooperation, leaving no one behind, hold the key to success, where those most fortunate must lead the way.
- No nation can undertake this journey alone. Right understanding, right thought and co-operative action need to set the path for the next decisive half a century. All nations must adhere to their fair share of the global carbon budget.
- **Panchamrit Goals:** The Panchamrit goals are being fructified through one of the largest clean energy development plans in the world.
- India is on track to meet its commitments, through adoption of low carbon policies across key sectors of its economy ranging from green hydrogen mission to e-mobility.
- **LIFE Movement:** India called upon the members of MEF to launch a global movement on LIFE, i.e., Lifestyle for Environment that was espoused by India's Prime Minister at the COP26 in Glasgow.

About MEF

- It was launched in 2009 by US President Barack Obama.
- It aims to facilitate dialogue among major emitting countries, both developed and developing, to garner the political leadership needed to advance efforts against climate change.

Climate Change Heating Up Indian Rivers

According to a recently published study, climate change may turn India's rivers into hostile environments for aquatic life by 2070-2100.

Key Highlights

- **Coverage:** The study covered seven Indian basins: Ganga, Narmada, Cauvery, Sabarmati, Tungabhadra, Musi and Godavari.



WORLD WATCH

International Relations

- India and Vietnam to Boost Defence Partnership
- India-Israel Relations

International Relations

India and Vietnam to Boost Defence Partnership

During the recent visit of India's Defence Minister to Vietnam, both countries agreed to boost bilateral cooperation, in particular defence partnership. Wide-ranging discussions on effective and practical initiatives to further expand bilateral defence engagements and regional and global issues were held between the two sides.

Key Highlights

India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030

- Both countries signed the 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030' to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation.
- It will significantly enhance the scope and scale of existing defence cooperation.

Mutual Logistics Support

- India and Israel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Mutual Logistics Support. This represents a major step towards simplifying procedures for mutually beneficial logistic support.
- Logistics agreements are administrative arrangements facilitating access to military facilities for exchange of fuel and provisions on mutual agreement simplifying logistical support and increasing operational turnaround of the military when operating away from India.
- This is the first agreement of its kind that Hanoi has entered into with any other country and elevates the standing of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) which Hanoi shares with New Delhi since 2016 (along with only Russia and China).

Defence Line of Credit

- Both sides agreed on the early finalisation of the USD 500 million Defence Line of Credit extended to Vietnam.

- West Seti Hydroelectric Project
- International North-South Transport Corridor
- I2U2 Summit

World Issues

- 48th G7 Summit
- New Non-permanent Members of UNSC

Reports/Indices

- Global Trends Report 2021

News Snippets

The credit will add substantially to Vietnam's defence capabilities while furthering the government's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World.'

Simulators and a Monetary Grant

- India will gift two simulators and a monetary grant towards setting up of Language and IT (Information Technology) Lab at the Air Force Officers Training School for capacity building of the Vietnamese Armed Forces.

Conclusion

India and Vietnam continue to have the most trustworthy relations in contemporary times with broader convergence of interests and common concerns. Bilateral defence engagements have expanded over a period of time to include wide-ranging contacts between the two countries, including Defence Policy Dialogues, military-to-military exchanges, high-level visits, capacity building and training programs, cooperation in UN Peace Keeping, ship visits and bilateral exercises.

India-Israel Relations

Recently, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister visited India. During his visit, various bilateral meetings were held. A wide range of issues concerning bilateral, regional and defence industrial cooperation were discussed during the meetings.

Key Highlights

Joint Declaration

- India and Israel presented a joint declaration marking 30 years of Israel-India relations. The declaration reiterated both countries' commitment to deepen defence ties.

India-Israel Vision on Defence Cooperation

- Both sides adopted the India-Israel Vision on Defence Cooperation to further strengthen the existing framework of the Indo-Israeli defense cooperation architecture.

Exchange of Letter of Intent

- A Letter of Intent on enhancing cooperation in the field of futuristic defence technologies was exchanged.

100 Mains Topics with Mock Q&A

Mains Preparation : A New Pedagogy

A careful analysis of previous three years' Civil Services Main Examination question papers reveals that the questions are issue-based, open-ended and interdisciplinary in nature. Accordingly, in this special section, we have come up with curated content on a select list of topics for the upcoming Mains examination along with questions & answers.

- The topics included herein have been prepared keeping in mind those aspects from which questions are expected in the Mains examination.
- The topics comprise those issues which have multiple facets to them and many types of questions could be asked from them.
- The issues covered under questions and answers are those from which direct questions could be asked.
- The answers to the questions are as per the word limit prescribed by UPSC and represent the ideal answer writing technique.

Based on this theme, we will continue to publish Mains exclusive content on all expected topics in the forthcoming issues.

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GS Paper I**Indian History and Culture****Jallianwala Bagh Massacre****Rationale/Causes**

- **Passage of Rowlatt Act:** The Rowlatt Act (Black Act), passed on March 10, 1919, gave the government the power to detain or imprison anyone connected to seditious activity without a court hearing. This caused discontent across the nation. Indians' trust in the British justice system was seriously shaken.
- **Arrest of Notable Leaders:** In Amritsar, Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal, two prominent leaders who stood for Hindu-Muslim harmony, organised a nonviolent demonstration against the Rowlatt Act. On April 9, 1919, Dr. Satyapal and Dr. Kitchlew were being congratulated when O' Dwyer gave the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Irving, orders to make an arrest. This caused a commotion among the Punjabi populace.
- **Jallianwala Bagh Protest:** On April 13, 1919, the public had gathered to celebrate Baisakhi. In spite of General Dyer's orders prohibiting unlawful assembly, people gathered at Jallianwala Bagh, where two resolutions were to be discussed, one condemning the firing on April 10 and the other requesting the authorities to release their leaders. However, Brigadier-General Dyer headed to the Bagh with his troops and ordered them to open fire without giving any warning. This led to massive casualties.

Outcome

- **Martial Law in Punjab:** Martial Law was imposed in Lahore, Amritsar, Gujranwala, Gujarat, and Lyallpore two days after the slaughter. The declaration of martial law gave the Viceroy the authority to order the court-martial trial of anyone implicated in the revolutionary activities without delay. Tagore renounced his Knighthood when the news of the carnage spread across the country.
- **The Hunter Commission:** The Disorders Inquiry Committee was established on October 14, 1919, to investigate the killings. The Hunter Commission was the name given to it subsequently. In 1920, the Hunter Commission criticised Dyer for his conduct. The Commander-in-Chief directed Brigadier-General Dyer to resign from his appointment as Brigade Commander and informed him that he would receive no further employment in India as mentioned in the letter by Montagu to his Excellency.
- **Michael O' Dwyer's Assassination:** On March 13, 1940, at Caxton Hall in London, Udham Singh, an Indian freedom fighter, killed Michael O' Dwyer who had approved Dyer's action and was believed to have been the main planner.

Significance

- **Launch of Khilafat and Non-Cooperation Movement:** The Khilafat and Non-cooperation movements were started by Congress under Gandhiji's leadership in response to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, the unfair treatment of Turkey during World War 1, and the enactment of the Rowlatt Act.
- **United the Nation and Displayed Real British Character:** The first spark that ignited India's independence was Jallianwala Bagh. It was tragic for the victims as well as the colonial lords. It exposed a serious fault in their beliefs and outlook. They eventually had to leave the country they had hoped to rule for generations as a result of it.

Contributions of Raja Ram Mohan Roy**Contributions**

- **Bengal Sati Regulation, 1829:** Under William Bentinck's leadership, a law was established outlawing the Sati practise. Roy's and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar's tenacious opposition to sati led to its passage.
- **Equal Rights for Women:** He had also demanded equal inheritance rights for women while passionately opposing child marriage and polygamy.
- **Educational Reforms:** He advocated for modernising education and implementing a Western curriculum in particular. In line with this, he was against the Sanskrit College's foundation. He founded a number of significant educational institutions, such as Hindu College in 1817, Anglo-Vedic School in 1822, Vedanta College in 1826, etc.
- **Contributions to Religion:** He provided a Unitarian response to the Hindu Shastras from the Vedanta and the Mahanirvana Tantra as a Hindu Reformer. He established – Atmiya Sabha (Society of Friends) in 1814, Brahma Sabha in 1828, etc.
- **Freedom of the Press:** He petitioned the British for freedom of the press in 1829 and 1830. He published Sambat Kaumudi' (the Moon of Intelligence), 'Miratul- Akhbar' (the Mirror of News) etc.
- **Economic Reforms:** He was the first one to figure out that The East India Company was flowing approximately three million pounds a year from India to England. Plus, even though he hailed from a Zamindar background, he continuously fought against the fixed revenue for the cultivators in Bengal and opposed heavy export duties imposed on Indian goods.