

# IMPORTANT NEWS ARTICLES & EDITORIAL FOR UPSC THURSDAY, 16TH MAY 2024

**Edition: Patna (The Hindu & Indian Express)**

## Table Of Contents

<p><b>Syllabus: GS-I: Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and development issues. (Indian Express)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government must heed alarm bells in Niti Aayog report that glaps in cancer detection (page 8) (Indian Express)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Syllabus: GS-II: Statutory regulatory and various quasi-judicial bodies.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues relating to development and management of Social Sectors/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources. (Indian Express)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Testing of Ethylene residue in all spice shipness to Singapore, Hong Kong mandatory (page 11) (Indian Express)</li> <li>• Trouble with a cease fire (page 8) (Indian Express)</li> <li>• Next government's things-to-do (page 9) (Indian Express)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Syllabus: GS-III: Infrastructure, Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, investment models, Exports-Imports. (Indian Express)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security challenges and their management in border areas-linkages of organized crime with terrorism. (The Hindu)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• India's merchantise trade gap widens to 5-month high in Apr (page 11) (Indian Express)</li> <li>• Manipur accounted for 97% for displacements in South Asia (page 9) (The Hindu)</li> </ul>

## GS-I : Government must heed alarm bells in Niti Aayog report that glaps in cancer detection

- **Its WELL-KNOWN THAT spotting signs of cancer at an early stage** significantly increases the possibilities of surviving the disease. In India, government projects, including the National Programme for the Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease and Stroke, recognise this necessity. These programmes have given special emphasis to checking for cervical, oral and breast cancers—they constitute a third of all cases of the disease in the country before symptoms appear. Yet, successive National Family Health Surveys have revealed that a very small percentage of people in the vulnerable age group—those over 30 years of age—get screened for malignancy.
- **Turning 1,50,000 health and wellness centres (HWCs)** into nodal points for cancer detection under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) could have proved to be a game changer. The introduction of screening facilities at these primary healthcare centres could have reduced accessibility-related problems to a great extent. But a Niti Aayog report has flagged "huge gaps" in the performance of these HWCs. Less than 10 per cent of these centres had completed one round of screening for non-communicable diseases, including cancer, says the report. incurred losses while trading in the F&O segment. The average loss was pegged at around Rs 1.1 lakh.
- **The SEBI Chairman had, last November, expressed surprise** over people trading in this segment, despite the odds not being in their favour. In 2023, a report titled "Gamification of Indian equities" by Axis Mutual Fund had estimated the derivatives to cash volume ratio in India at 422. In comparison, the ratio was 36 in the case of Germany and nine for the US. The report had attributed the surge in derivatives trading to changes in the contract structure, higher leverage, and the ease of trading facilitated by trading apps. In the coming years, as more individuals join the labour force, more will channel their money into the stock market. They will need to be educated not only about the workings of the market, but also about the risks stemming from various investment products.
- **In the recent past, the stock market regulator has taken** action in the case of financial influencers, asked small and mid cap funds to conduct stress tests, and spoken about froth in certain segments of the market. It must continue to place investor protection front and centre. **THE SIGNS** Government must heed alarm bells in Niti Aayog report that flags gaps in cancer detection. In recent years, India has done well in piloting low-tech approaches to cancer screening that can be delivered at scale by community-level workers. AB-PMJAY makes use of these technologies. Global experience shows that the trust enjoyed by grassroots-level professionals is a big positive when it comes to screening people for diseases that may not show any symptoms.
- **The government, therefore, did the right thing in roping in ASHA workers** in its project. However, it does not seem to have invested adequately in the next steps. Given the low awareness of the disease, it was imperative that these frontline professionals were educated about cancer prevention protocols and trained to use the screening techniques.
- **Much before the NITI Aayog's study, analyses conducted** with smaller sample sizes had underlined that ASHA workers should be sensitised to risk factors, symptoms and, in fact, the need for screening itself. These studies also emphasised the need to improve the working conditions of these low-paid and overburdened workers. The AB-PMJAY also refers to such imperatives. The NITI Aayog's study underlines that the upgrades have not been undertaken in adequate measure. The Union Ministry of Health has designated the Noida-based National Institute for Cancer Prevention and Research as a training hub. The institution's expertise must be summoned for screening malignancy. Experts agree that such instruction can be given online and professionals receiving such training can educate others. Reducing India's cancer burden will require efforts in several directions.

## GS-II : Testing of Ethylene residue in all spice shipments to Singapore, Hong Kong mandatory

- **INDIA HAS made the testing and sampling** of Ethylene Oxide (EtO) residue for all spice shipments to Singapore and Hong Kong mandatory from May 7, the commerce and industry ministry said on Wednesday. The ministry said that a techno scientific committee conducted a root cause analysis, inspected processing facilities and collected samples for testing in accredited labs after reports on recall of India spice products from Singapore and Hong Kong. The Spice Board India has taken steps to ensure the safety and quality of Indian spice exports to Singapore and Hong Kong.
- **The Board organised a stakeholder consultation involving** over 130 exports and associations such as All India Spices Exporters Forum and the Indian Spice and Foodstuff Exporters' Association," the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement. The ministry added that guidelines for EtO treatment has also been "reiterated" to all exporters. A government official said that rejection rates of spices are low and that export sample failures are one off in nature.
- **"The rejection rate of spices is less than 1 per cent MSCI May** review: 13 stocks added, three companies excluded ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, MAY 15 late for MSCI INC has included domestic stocks including Canara Bank, JSW Energy Mankind Pharma and NHP in its Global Standard Index, resulting in an increase in the country's weight in the index to close to 19 per cent from the current 18.3 per cent. MSCI indexes are globally tracked by investors who allocate funds based on the weightage given to countries and market stocks. With addition of these stocks the MSCI Global Emerging Market (EM) Index, the country is expected to have a net inflow of upwards of around 8 per cent from 2015 until October 2020. However, since November 2020, we have more than doubled our representation, currently standing at 18.3 per cent," he said.
- **The rise in the country's weight in the index is** due to India's standardised Foreign Ownership Limit (POL) in 2020; robust performance by Indian equities, particularly in the midcap segment, leading to numerous inclusions in every review, and relative underperformance by other EM packs, especially China. "We should anticipate many more inclusions in the EM Index. With a consistent flow from domestic institutional investors) now steady FDI inflows, the country is expected to have a net inflow of upwards of around 8 per cent from 2015 until October 2020. However, since November 2020, we have more than doubled our representation, currently standing at 18.3 per cent," he said.
- **In a statement to Reuters, the regulator, New Zealand Food Safety,** said it is aware of the overseas recalls. REUTERS said of the total quantity exported by us to major jurisdictions. India exported about 14.15 million tonne of spices in FY24 and 200 kg, is a small quantity that has been recalled," a commerce ministry official said. The official added that the sample failure for Indian exports remains low at 0.1 per cent to 0.2 per cent while sample failure for imports from other countries is at 0.73 per cent. "One sample being impacted is not a big issue," the official said, adding that India also rejects samples from many countries at times. The official added that EtO is a fumigant type of product that is used during transportation and that some amount of pesticide is allowed in the process of food management. Different countries also have prescribed varying limits of chemicals that can be present in food, the official said. Hong Kong on April 5 banned four products of Indian manufacturers MDH Pvt. and Everest Food Products Pvt. in the country citing presence of pesticide, ethylene oxide. The products included MDH's Madras curry powder, sambhar masala mixed masala powder and curry powder mixed masala.

## GS-II : Trouble with a ceasefire

- **Benjamin Netanyahu's immediate worries** are not the hostages but saving himself from the arrest warrant of the International Criminal Court and his government. After weeks of delay, in a surprise move, Hamas accepted the ceasefire deal at last. Hamas's sudden agreement may not have pleased Netanyahu and some of his cabinet members, who are adamant about more fighting hitting constant dead ends. Strangely, Hamas has been playing tough its leaders, many of them to think they have on a ceasefire deal violent extremists, seem "won" the war because Israel seems to have lost in Gaza. This is bizarre, keeping in mind the magnitude of destruction and loss of life Palestinians have endured.
- **The mastermind of the October 7 attacks, Yal shya Simwar**, is safe in Gaza's tunnels and recently emerged for sunlight. He has managed to keep more than 130 hostages in captivity and is the final authority on the deal from Hamas's side. He does not seem concerned about a ceasefire deal even if there is a famine-like situation for ordinary Gazans. He appears to be banking on more strategic failures by Israel and the delegitimisation of the tragedy of October 7. Much to Simwar's liking, many "progressive world" are naive-minded people standing for a "free Palestine" without much condemnation of his religious ideology or violent means employed by him in the name of liberation.
- **Moreover, the Israeli army has failed to catch him for** over seven months and the US and European countries have warned Israel against increasing ground operations in Rafah, where three to four battalions of Hamas are reportedly intact. As reflected in the ongoing student protests in the US and other places, many have blamed Israel for the calamities faced by civilians in Gaza. Benjamin Netanyahu's immediate worries are not the hostages but saving himself from the arrest warrant of the International Criminal Court and his government.
- **After MAY 16, 1984, FORTY YEARS AGO BUSH REASSURES INDIA US VICE PRESIDENT** George Bush said his country's friendship with Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka did not mean that there was a US plan to encircle India. Bush said, "We do not want to see India threatened" He reiterated his country's firm commitment to a strong and united India. The US did not interfere in good relations between India and Pakistan and was deeply in Pakistan, he said and Mary Allen, were handed over by their captors to the Jaffna bishop, Rev Deodupillai. Reports said the American couple were hale and hearty. The Allens were kidnapped from their residence at gunpoint on May 10 by members of the People's Liberation Army. **PM ON TERROR PL HOSTAGES FREED THE KIDNAPPED AMERICAN** couple, Stanley National Democratic Alliance leaders that the **PRIME MINISTER MRS Indira Gandhi** told the government was taking all necessary steps to curb violence and terrorism in Punjab.
- **The government, she said, was greatly concerned about the Punjab situation**, Mrs Gandhi said the government was maintaining informal New Delhi weeks of delay, in a surprise move, Hamas accepted the ceasefire deal at last. Netanyahu and his war cabinet had already instructed the army to evacuate more than 2,00,000 people from Rafah and move in with ground forces. Hamas's sudden agreement may not have pleased Netanyahu and some of his cabinet members, who are adamant about more fighting. War is often a means to politics, are many on the Israeli side and the Palestinian side rejecting the ceasefire. So soon after Hamas' agreement the details of this are still vague—there were more popular protests against Netanyahu, families and friends of hostages have been blocking significant highways in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. sitting in front of ministers' homes and offices for an immediate ceasefire. The Israel.

Democracy ylostitute, a prestigious think tank found that more than 56 5 per cent of Israelis want their government to make a deal and not military operations in Rafah or out any carry out a other parts of Gazalf this deal goes through, Israel will receive 33 hostages (both dead and alive) in the first round, and round, which will see another 30-odd the ceasefire has s to stay for t thened the hostages set free. It will go a long way for families of hostages and for the people of Gaza who also rejoiced when the news came out that Hamas is agreeing to a ceasefire.The writer is associate professor and director. Centre for Isruel Studies, Jindal School of International



## GS-III : India's merchandise trade gap widens to 5-month high in Apr

- **However, one looks close, the picture** is net that grather ending in 2018- In the five year period -19 (pre-Covid, the ecun d 4.19 lakh crore in terms of yalded mal GDP However in the ending 2023-24 next five yea mars lakh added just crore as the pandernuc darupted economic activities sor the r This should be the nest government the starting point There are areas that five areas thrd in The first is reviving private in vestment.
- **The government has been very active on** the capes finut which has kept the Dock tidang in the infastructure front Heavy investments in mads and railways Through backwant bekages have driven growth in sectors s sectors such as steel, cement, machunery mals, fut this is only and chemic the story. The private sectio doit part, Private compa nies tut on profit native and return on capital is the primary metus for any invest ment decision. But, for return to be mran ingful, demand u necessary. The PLI scheme has had limned The aps 1.1 the agents that tea then sightly command 21 Of 2014 they are befind 2001 wenn wed 105 e 200mors that have and Phases 103. The tine, then turnout higher in noly tituencies with the hand (4 Uttarakhand whe war poem grat than mes in 2010 the gemwhwerw.
- **The drop in tumout in wate won by the NDA** in 2019 had a more than two-fold drop in tumout as compared to seats wan by the INDIA bloc In seate won by the BJP in 2019 the drop pintune which is similar to the 14 pp droge in turnout in seats w INDIA in 2019. Within NDA, there is not much differmer in the drop in turnout in seats won by the BJP as against seats won by other NDA partren-21 pp drop and 2.6 pp drop respectively As against this there has been a sligit increase in tumout (0.5 pp) in seats which were held by non aligned parties Next government's things-to-dosa good 2.9 points lower Maharashtra MP Rajasthan and Gujarat are the other big stars where the tumout drop-among women fun been higher than men resulting in higher mes-women gap Only in four major states o far has women's turnout seen a higher in cmase than men (Assam, Chhuttigarh and Kamutaka) or has seen a lower decmase than the decene among men West Remal What conchinions can we draw?
- **Fist there national patjat many specific factors that ant leading to** fans in the block of ang INC an Belangan the simsitune in Kamataka and ty of state and national elections andhra the higherede long standing state lievel parties and the f of the population with the first Chef may have med the tes going phases in the find earland and Wind Bengal the turnoues με την άνομης thas in the raffier phases, which may denser the hean wems, the final tuo 20134 will not be too different than in 2016 Howeves the causes of the turtout staying within this high range of more than 15 per cut seem more localland and variegated than in 2019 The were resentfience with the than adhyamIt has to create jobs, turn around farms and make India part of global supply chainshold savings have been deciming.
- **While taking a harder look at the existing tax structures, the the** g government can also recno sider the old tax scheme and provide har ther avenues for savings The third action point in not directlyder the control of the government as it rehas been visible in the mobile phone, solar panels sectors, and I partly in electric vehi cles su far. Widening schemes schemes fo for SMEs can the PU to include be something that should be taken up. Providing incentives tike investment allowance would worth experimenting with.
- **The second focus ama shunald be an in creasing** household consumption Household consumption in the last last few years- has been volatile the government's part, it can fill up all the the pent up demand haring the pandemic led to a surge sors and partly need to be fo That's why we manufactured goods. for m touram sectors doing w mand fun hospitale spitality and However de consumer goods has not quite taken

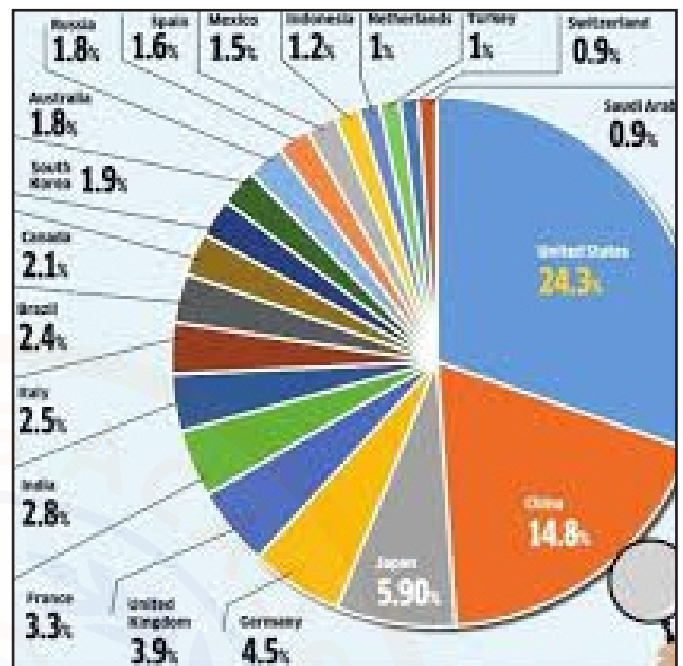
off. In fact the plus capacity in one reason that investments in this sector have been muted. Add to this high inflation and demand has been further compressed. Rural demand too has been weak as farm output was affected last year due to suboptimal employment generation.

- **This revolves around the private sector though, on the other hand** to increase consumption, the government has to work on and reconsider tax rates. The common view of individuals on the fiscal side is that it can be improved by lowering rates and rationalising the GST. It has also been observed that household consumption is not growing as fast as it should. Job creations, but only taking a small bite out of consumption, will not help. Investments in infrastructure, creating the required employment opportunities on a large scale, a decisive stance needs to be taken. The farm laws, which faced opposition, must be brought back on the table and should be discussed and discussed with various lobbies. A solution can be that an acceptable level of government participation in farming through state cooperatives must be actively considered. This is because any crop failure that precipitates an increase in prices becomes a cause for government intervention. Furthermore, the government's stance on agricultural trade needs to be clearly enunciated, which will provide wide more certainty to the farmers.
- **Having a standardised operating procedure for procurement and distribution** is absolutely necessary so that there is less scope for knee-jerk reactions. Lastly, the ban on futures trading in products like oilseeds, pulses and cereals should be revoked and greater space must be made for the market to operate as this has the potential to improve overall productivity through robust price discovery process. Fifth, making India an integral part of global supply chains. This would mean entering into more free trade agreements with large trading partners. In the last five years or so, there has been significant acceleration in services exports with the IT sector taking the lead in merchandise exports. This has been the needs the lead. But the same has to change is also expected that the government will work aggressively on lowering the fiscal deficit over the next few years, while the target of 4.5 per cent probably below GDP will most likely be achieved by 2025-26, the important thing is to move towards the 3 per cent mark. This will require deft balancing by the next government.
- **global demand in developed countries** and a sharp surge in gold imports, India's trade gap widened a five-month high of \$153 billion in April with a 10 per cent jump in imports and 1 per cent price in exports, data released by the commerce and industry ministry on Wednesday showed. While goods export in April this year a \$34 billion was 100 per cent higher compared to the \$34.52 billion in April 2003, imports surged at a much faster pace, widening the trade gap to \$19.1 billion in April this year compared to \$14.34 billion in April last year. Driven by a sharp surge in gold imports, total imports in April surged 10.25 per cent to \$54.09 billion compared to \$49.06 billion during the year ago period. "India's merchandise trade deficit widened sharply to \$19.1 billion in April 2024 from \$14.4 billion in the year-ago-month.
- **The widening in the non-oil deficit in April 2024 compared to April last year** was entirely driven by a tripling in gold imports, partly aided by the surge in prices. Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist Head Research and Outreach KRA Ltd said in gold EXPORTS UP 1%, GAP WIDENS TO \$19.1 Apr 2023 May 2023 Jun 2023 Aug 2023 Sept 2023 Oct 2023 - Smart Commemaz Eratury Ministry According to official data, gold imports jumped 208.99 per cent to \$3.11 billion in April this year compared to \$0.25 billion in April last year.
- **Imports in the 'petroleum, crude & products category** also jumped by 20.22 per cent to \$16.46 billion in April this year compared to \$13.69 billion last year. Nayar said that nearly half of the widening in the aggregate merchandise trade deficit between April 2023 and April 2024 was on account of the surge in the Nov 2023-2023-55-4.09 bn 5-19.1 bn 534.99 bn 2024-2024 Mar 2024-Apr 2024 value of gold imports amid the rise in global prices. "The main drivers of export growth have been electronic, organic and inorganic chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals and petroleum products have done well. These sectors have

done extremely well," commerce sec retary Sunil Barthwal said. "Gold imports are well within the average trend. It is not an exception and it is not alarming. Because of conflicts and geo-politics, central banks are buying gold.

➤ **There is a price effect too. As Ingrow cape AGGAM WALI Seer gal prom have a SOUMYAREN may appear very high tone Bantawal added On a sequential basis, imports AS INDIA DELHI April declined by \$3.19 billion other resuese while exports shn unk by Bot, the official data showed top executives While experts in March stood at companies hem \$417 billion, import came in at 15728 billion As far as services exports are trends seen onary forward paa disonance GDP powth concerned. India registered a sharp 14 per ont jump in April to \$29.57 billion compared to \$25.78 billion in April 2023, Imports also jumped 21.56 per cent to \$16.57 billion compared to \$13.96 billion Data showed that electronic variation betwcems over their private capand question bustness of copickongupinr.**

➤ **The Asian May Banalyst goods exports continued** their upward trend with a sharp 25.80 per cent jump to 526.51 billion in April compared to 52107 billion exports List April India's petro leum products exports also Jumped 3.30 per cent to \$6.61 bil lion compared to 56-42 billion However, engineering goods, which is among the biggest ex-port categories, slipped by 3.17 per cent to 58.66 billion com- pared to \$8.94 billion. Weak ex port trend in the gms and jew elry category continued as exports slipped by 6.90 per cent to \$22.57 billion in April 2024 compared to \$.





## GS-II : Next government's things-to-do

- However, one looks closet, the picture is net thát ghtlarward ending in 2018- In the five year period -19 (pre-Covid, the ecun d 4.19 lakh crore in terms of yalded mal GDP However in the ending 2023-24 next five yea mars lakh added just crore as the pandernuc darupted economic activities sor the rThis should be the nest government the starting pointThere are areas that five areas thrd in The first is reviving private in vestment. The government has been very active on the capes finut which has kept the Dock tidang in the infastructure front Heavy investments in mads and railways Through backwant bekages have driven growth in sectors s sectors such as steel, cement, machunery mals, fut this is only and chemic the story. The private sectio doit part, Private compa nies tut on profit native and return on capital is the primary metus for any invest ment decision.
- **But, for return to be meaningful, demand u necessary.** The PLI scheme has had limnedThe aps 1.1 the agents that tea theen sightly command21Of 2014 they are befind 2001 wenn wed 105 e 200mors that have and Phases 103. The tine, then turnout higher in noly tituencies with the hand (4 Uttarakhand whe war poem grat than mes in 2010 the gemwhwerwThe drop in tumout in wate won by the NDA in 2019 had a more than two-fold drop in turnout as compared to seats wan by the INDIA bloc In seate won by the BJP in 2019 the drop pintune which is similar to the 14 pp droge in turnout in seats w INDIA in 2019.
- **Within NDA, there is not much differmer in the drop in turnout** in seats won by the BJP as against seats won by other NDA partren-21 pp drop and 2.6 pp drop respectively As against this there has been a sligit increase in turnout (0.5 pp) in seats which were held by non aligned partiesNext government's things-to-dosa good 2.9 points lower Maharashtra MP Rajasthan and Gujarat are the other big stars where the tumout drop-among women fun been higher than men resulting in higher mes-women gap Only in four major states o far has women's turnout seen a higher in cmase than men (Assam, Chhuttigarh and Kamutaka) or has seen a lower decmase than the decene among men West RemalWhat conchinions can we draw?
- **First there national patjat many specific factors** that ant leading to fans in the block ofang INC an Belangan the simsitune in Kamataka and ty of state and national elections andhra the higherede long standing state lievel parties and the f of the population with the first Chef may have med the tes going phases in the find earland and Wind Bengal the turnoutες με την άνομης thas in the raffier phases, which may denser the hean wems, the final tuo 20134 will not be too different than in 2016 Howeves the causes of the turtout staying within this high range of more than 15 per cut seem more localland and variegated than in 2019The were resentfiencewith the than adhyamIt has to create jobs, turn around farms and make India part of global supply chainshold savings have been deciming.
- **While taking a harder look at the existing tax structures, the** government can also recno sider the old tax scheme and provide har ther avenues for savingsThe third action point in not directlyder the control of the government as it rehas been visible in the mobile phone, solar panels sectors, and I partly in electric vehi cles su far. Widening schemes schemes fo for SMEs can the PU to include be something that should be taken up. Providing incentives tike investiment allowance would worth experimenting withThe second focus ama shunald be an in creasing household consumption Household consumption in the last last few years- has been volatile the government's part, it can fill up all the the pent up demand haring the pandemic led to a surge sors and partly need to be fo That's why we nanufactured goods. for m touram

sectors doing well demand for hospital services and consumer goods has not quite taken off. In fact, the plus capacity in one reason that investments in this sector have been muted. Add to this high inflation and demand has been further compressed. Rural demand too has been weak as farm output was affected last year due to tea substitutes to employment generation.

- **This revolves around the private sector though, on one hand to increase consumption,** the government has to work on and reconsider tax rates. The common need of individuals is to direct the fiscal side disposable income by lowering rates and rationalising the GST. It has also been observed that household positions provide job creations, but only taking a small push with consumption off, will investments create the required employment opportunities. For a decisive stance needs to be taken.



- **The farm laws, which faced of opposition, must** a lot of opposition be brought back to the table and should be discussed and discussed with various lobbies. A solution can be that an acceptable Government participation in farming through state cooperatives must be actively considered. This is because any crop failure that precipitates an increase in prices becomes a cause for government intervention. Furthermore, the government's stance on agricultural trade needs to be clearly enunciated, which will provide wide more certainty to the farmers.
- **Having a standardised operating procedure for procurement** and distribution is absolutely necessary so that there is less scope for knee-jerk reactions. Lastly, the ban on futures trading in products like oilseeds, pulses and cereals should be revoked and greater space must be made for the market to operate as this has the potential to improve overall productivity through robust price discovery process. Fifth, making India an integral part of global supply chains.
- **The would mean entering into more free trade agreements** with large trading partners. In the last five years or so, there has been significant acceleration in services exports with the IT sector taking the case in merchandise exports. This has been the need of the hour. But the same has to change. It is also expected that the government will work aggressively on lowering the fiscal deficit over the next few years. While the target of 4.5 per cent of GDP will most likely be achieved by 2025-26, the important thing is to move towards the 3 per cent mark. This will require debt balancing by the next government.

## GS-III : Manipur accounted for 97% for displacements in South Asia

- Conflict and violence triggered 69,000 displacements in South Asia in 2023, with Manipur violence accounting for 67,000, according to a new report. The report by the Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) termed it the highest number of displacements triggered by conflict and violence in India since 2018. On May 3, 2023, a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in Manipur's hill districts to protest against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.
- **The march led to ethnic clashes between the Meitei and the Kuki communities**, ultimately claiming more than 200 lives. The Manipur High Court had in March last year called for recommendations to be sent to the Union government to recognise the Meitei community as a "Scheduled Tribe," an official status designed to protect minorities from marginalisation. The call was met with resistance from other local STs, including the Kukis. Land disputes were also an underlying driver of the tensions. "Protests turned violent in Churachandpur district on May 3, and the violence spread to other districts, including Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Tengnoupal, and Kangpokpi, triggering around displacements," the report said.
- **Chart 1 shows internal displacements in India each year**, between 2009 and 2023. An internal displacement refers to the forced movement of a person, within the borders of a country. This term refers to the events or occurrences that cause people to be displaced internally and not the number of individuals displaced. Also, the same set of people can be displaced several times over. More than three-quarters of the 69,000 displacements that took place within Manipur, but almost a fifth were to the neighbouring State of Mizoram and smaller numbers to Nagaland and Assam. As the violence escalated, the Union government imposed curfews, shut down the internet, and dispatched security forces. It also set up relief camps and established a peace committee for Manipur but the initiative was hampered by disagreements about its composition.
- **Chart 2 shows the internally displaced people currently living in India.** This term focuses on the individuals who have been displaced and gives the number of persons displaced at the end of every year. At the end of 2023, there were 0.61 million such persons in India. The report said that 68.3 million people worldwide were displaced by conflict and violence as of 2023. Over the past five years, the number of internally displaced people resulting from conflict has increased by 22.6 million, with the two biggest increases in 2022 and 2023. Map 3 shows the country-wise number of internally displaced persons as of 2023. Fighting in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Palestinian territories accounted for nearly two-thirds of new movements of people due to conflict in 2023.
- **Throughout 2023, there were six million forced movements** of people caused by the violence in Sudan more than in the previous 14 years combined. It is the second-highest number of forced movements within a year after Ukraine's 16.9 million in 2022. World over, in 2023, the number of internal displacements (occurrences) resulting from conflict was 20.5 million. Displacements can also happen due to natural disasters. If those numbers are included, the total internally displaced persons go up to a record 75.9 million (7.7 million by disasters) by the end of 2023.



प्रयास  
IAS ACADEMY

UPSC CSE TARGET 2024  
**ESSAY PROGRAM**

हिंदी माध्यम | ENGLISH MEDIUM

MODE: Offline & Online



UPTO  
**50% OFF\***

COMMENCING FROM  
**24<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024**



प्रयास  
IAS ACADEMY

**GS TARGET  
— COURSE —**

**FOR UPSC**

हिंदी माध्यम | ENGLISH MEDIUM

MODE: Offline & Online

COMMENCING  
FROM

**24<sup>th</sup> MAY  
2024**

ADMISSION  
OPEN

upto **50% OFF\***



प्रयास  
IAS ACADEMY

An Institute for UPSC & BPSC

# BPSC MAINS TEST SERIES

2024



• Exam Mode: Offline

• Language: Hindi Medium & English Medium

~~₹16,000/-~~

₹7,999/-+ GST



प्रयास  
IAS ACADEMY

## 70TH BPSC PRELIMS TEST SERIES 2024

25 TESTS

- 15 Full Length
- 10 Sectional



~~₹6,000/~~

₹ 1,799/+ GST