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GS 2: POLITY, GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS/INSTITUTIONS

1. In Manipur, AFSPA reimposed in 6 police station areas

Context: A year after the start of ethnic violence in Manipur, the centre on Thursday reimposed the disturbed areas status under the Armed Forces (special powers) Act (AFSPA) in the jurisdiction of six police stations in the state's valley areas, including violence-hit Jiribam. The disturbed areas status, which was in place for all of Manipur except 19 police stations in the Meitei-dominated valley areas from where it was withdrawn between April 2022-2023, has now been extended to the jurisdiction of Sekmai & Lamsang police stations in Imphal west, Lambai in Imphal east, Moirang in Bishnupur, Leimakhong in Kangpokpi and Jiribam police station.

Key points

- **Overview:** The Ministry of Home Affairs issued the notification, citing the volatile situation in Manipur and instances of active participation of insurgent groups in heinous acts of violence.
- **About AFSPA, 1958:** An Act to enable certain special powers to be conferred upon members of the armed forces in disturbed areas in the State of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura that lies in the Northeastern sector.

Power to declare areas to be disturbed areas under Section 3 of the Act - Governor of that State or the Administrator of that Union territory or the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, declare the whole or such part of such State or Union territory to be a disturbed area.

Special powers of the armed forces under Section 4 - Any commissioned officer, warrant officer, non-commissioned officer or any other person of equivalent rank in the armed forces is given "special powers" under AFSPA, although they must be exercised with extreme caution.

- **Reasons for Rise of Insurgency in Manipur:** *Forced Merger* - The rise of separatist insurgency in Manipur mainly attributed to perceived discontent over alleged "forced" merger of Manipur with the Union of India and the subsequent delay in granting it full-fledged statehood.

Rise of Militancy - The later years saw a slew of militant outfits being formed, including the People's Liberation Army (PLA), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), and Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), among others.

Spillover Effect of Greater Nagalim Demand - The Naga movement in neighbouring Nagaland spilled over into Manipur's hill districts with the NSCN-IM controlling most of it while pressing for "Nagalim" (Greater Nagaland), which is perceived in the valley as a "threat" to Manipur's "territorial integrity".

Valley-Hills Conflict - While the hills account for nine-tenths of Manipur's geographical area, they are sparsely populated, with most of the state's population concentrated in the valley.

Naga-Kuki Conflict - In the early 1990s, the ethnic clashes between Nagas and Kukis led to the formation of several Kuki insurgent groups, which have now scaled down their demand from a separate Kuki state to a Territorial Council.

- **Way forward:** *Good Governance* - Good governance needs to be instituted in the state through a transparent government, fair judiciary system, respect for the rule of law, and the provision of the minimum basic amenities like hospitals, schools, police stations, etc.

Border Management - Before initiating any kind of counter-insurgency policy/operations, the Indo-Myanmar international border needs proper management.

Engaging With People - The connectivity and intermingling amongst the diverse communities of Manipur with mainland India should be made more effective to encourage national integration.

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2. Leverage similarity, complementarity in Nigeria

Context: On November 16-17, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits Nigeria, Africa's most populous country and second largest economy. Thanks to a shared Commonwealth legacy and similar challenges, the two multi-ethnic, large developing democracies face identical issues: improved governance, socio-economic development, terrorism and corruption. At the same time, they have complementarity in such strategic areas as hydrocarbons, defence, institution building, health care and education. Leveraging this milieu of similarity and complementarity can catapult the Abuja Summit from "successful" to "historic". India's hard and soft power in Nigeria might look impressive, but it has lost ground over the past decade.

India-Nigeria relations

- **6th India-Nigeria Joint Commission Meeting:** Both Countries agreed to strengthen the efforts in the sectors of power, renewables, transport, healthcare, fintech, agriculture and security, including people-to-people exchange, energy, mobility and consular cooperations. Stressed on expanding economic cooperation, especially trade and investment between the two countries.
- **About:** The Bilateral trade volume between Nigeria and India has fallen from US\$ 14.95 billion in 2021-22 to US\$ 11.8 billion in 2022-23. This is mainly because of a decrease in the volume of oil purchased from Nigeria.
- **India Nigeria Energy Cooperation:** Nigeria is one of the leading suppliers of crude oil to India about 12% of India's oil imports is based in Nigeria.
- **India Nigeria Development Cooperation:** Two agreements for extension of Lines of Credit @ US\$ 30 million for a gas-fired turbine electricity generation station in Cross River State of Nigeria and @ US\$ 31.05 million for 3 sub-projects including 2×60 MVA transmission substation, solar-powered streetlights and 50kVA mini-grids in Kaduna State of Nigeria are under implementation.
- **India Nigeria Defence Cooperation:** This is integral to the strategic partnership between India and Nigeria. Among the areas of cooperation include counterterrorism and counterinsurgency (CT/CI), sea piracy and exchange of visits between training institutes. India has been providing training, capacity building & supplying defence equipment to the Nigerian defence forces. The National Defence Academy at Kaduna symbolizes our army cooperation.
- **NRI/PIO Community in Nigeria:** The Indian community in Nigeria is estimated to be about 50,000 persons, including Indian nationals and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card holders.
 - *South-South Cooperation* - India and Nigeria play an important role in South-South cooperation. The struggle against colonialism and apartheid in the formative years after the independence of the two countries laid a strong foundation for the engagement of the two countries. In the multilateral organizations particularly the United Nations, G77 and NAM, both countries have been articulating the voice of the developing world in a coordinated and effective manner.

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3. The discovery of insulin and the 'Flame of Hope'

Context: The pancreas holds a unique position as both an endocrine and exocrine organ. It plays an important role in managing blood sugar levels through insulin. In human physiology, the endocrine glands act by releasing chemical messengers called hormones. They are produced in extraordinarily small quantities, ranging from 10^{-9} to 10^{-12} grams. Nervous and endocrine systems carry out a common mandate: to transmit the brain's instructions to peripheral organs and tissues. Unlike the nervous system, which operates through a network of neurons, the endocrine system executes the brain's orders across the body without an anatomical network.

Key points

- **Overview:** Sir Fredrick Banting's birth anniversary is observed as World Diabetes Day on November 14 every year as a tribute to the history behind the discovery of insulin — one of medicine's greatest breakthroughs.

- **World Diabetes Day:** The world's largest diabetes awareness campaign reaching over 1 billion people in over 160 countries.
Founded - In 1991 by the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization. It became an official United Nations Day with the passage of UN Resolution 61/225 in 2006. Every year on 14 November on the birth anniversary of Sir Frederick Banting. He discovered insulin in 1922 along with Charles Best.
Theme for 2024 - 'Breaking Barriers, Bridging Gaps' The theme aims to encourage public health institutions and other global institutions to facilitate better opportunities, infrastructure, manpower and financial support to promote diabetes education, so that the World Health Organization (WHO) diabetes coverage target can be achieved by the year 2030.
- **About Diabetes:** Diabetes is a chronic disorder that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. There are mainly 3 types of diabetes - type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes and gestational diabetes.
- **Diabetes Status in India:** 77 million people above the age of 18 years in India suffer from diabetes (type 2) and about 25 million are prediabetic (high risk of developing diabetes soon). More than 50% of people are unaware of their diabetes status which can lead to the following health complications if not detected and treated in time.
- **Smart Insulin for Diabetes:** The latest study introduces an engineered insulin molecule, named NNC2215, which includes a built-in "on-and-off switch" that allows it to automatically respond to fluctuations in blood glucose levels. Two Main Components of NNC2215 –
 - A Ring-Shaped Structure allows the insulin molecule to change shape depending on blood sugar levels.
 - A Glucoside Molecule resembles glucose in structure and helps control the activation of insulin.

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4. Climate change & trade

Context: A formal submission by China, India and some other countries to discuss climate change-related trade measures such as those introduced in the European Union (EU) delayed the opening of the UN climate conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Monday. Trade restrictions on grounds of promoting climate objectives are expected to trigger more problems, which will result in greater protectionism and disruptions in global supply chains. On the other hand, they could also lead to greater innovation in green technologies, and the adoption of higher environmental standards. However, countries with limited resources might find themselves at a great disadvantage.

Key points

- **Overview:** Climate change being one of the most pressing challenges of the 21st century poses significant risks not only to the environment, human health and food security, but also economic development.
- **Impact of climate change in economic development:** Reduced Agricultural Output: Climate change can severely disrupt crop cycles and cause low agricultural yield due to changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, pest infestation, soil erosion, water scarcity, and extreme weather events such as floods and droughts.

Disruption of the Fisheries Sector - Rising sea surface temperatures due to climate change can disrupt the distribution and behaviour of fish species.

Increased Health Costs - Climate change can increase the incidence and severity of diseases such as malaria, dengue, cholera, heat stroke, respiratory infections, and mental stress.

Damaged Infrastructure - Climate change can damage physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, railways, ports, airports, power plants, water supply systems, and buildings due to sea level rise, coastal erosion, landslides, storms, floods, and heat waves.

Reduced Industrial Output - Climate change can increase operational costs and reduce profits in the industrial sector due to factors such as new climate-friendly regulations, reduced utilisation of old stock, relocation of production processes and activities due to climate-related losses.

Energy Crisis - According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), India's primary energy demand will double by 2030.

Impact on Financial Services - Climate change can put pressure on financial services due to increased credit risk for banks and financial institutions. It can affect borrowers' ability to repay loans due to climate-related events such as floods, hurricanes, or droughts.

- **India's Initiatives:** *Panchamrit* - India has presented the following five nectar elements (Panchamrit) of India's climate action:

- Reach 500 GW Non-fossil energy capacity by 2030.
- 50% of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.
- Reduction of total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes from now to 2030.
- Reduction of the carbon intensity of the economy by 45% by 2030, over 2005 levels.
- Achieving the target of net zero emissions by 2070.

National Action Plan on Climate Change - It aims at creating awareness among the representatives of the public, different agencies of the government, scientists, industry and the communities on the threat posed by climate change and the steps to counter it.

- **Way forward:** Enhancing *Carbon Sequestration* - India can enhance its carbon sequestration potential by expanding its forest and tree cover, restoring degraded lands, promoting agroforestry, and adopting low-carbon farming practices.

Building Climate Resilience - India can build its climate resilience by strengthening its disaster management systems, improving its early warning and forecasting capabilities, investing in climate-proof infrastructure, developing climate-smart agriculture, enhancing health care services, and empowering local communities and institutions.

Driving India's Green Transportation Revolution - There is a need to promote electric vehicles (EVs) by establishing a robust charging infrastructure network and offering incentives for EV adoption.

Climate Smart Agriculture: There is a need to encourage sustainable farming practices by promoting organic farming, agroforestry, and precision agriculture.

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5. China top import source for India in 2024

Context: China was India's top import source with USD 65.89 billion, a 9.8 per cent year-on-year increase, worth of inbound shipments during the April-October period of this fiscal. Exports to China, however, dipped by 9.37 per cent to USD 8 billion. During the period, the top 10 export destinations of the country were the US, the UAE, the Netherlands, the UK, China, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Germany and Australia. The US emerged as the top export destination for the country with outbound shipments

increasing by 6.31 per cent to USD 47.24 billion. The top 10 import sources of India were China, Russia, the UAE, the US, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Korea, Switzerland and Singapore.

Key points

- **Overview:** In 2023-24, the US was India's largest trading partner, followed by China. China was India's top trading partner from 2013-14 till 2017-18 and in 2020-21. Before China, the UAE was the country's largest trading partner. The US was also India's largest trading partner in 2021-22 and 2022-23.
- **China shock:** China shock refers to the flooding of low-cost Chinese goods in the global market. This leads to a global slump in prices of the goods, causing job-losses worldwide.
 - *China Shock 1.0* - The entry of China in WTO, led to flooding of low-cost Chinese goods causing job losses in the US and other countries, including India. The motive behind US allowing Chinese entry into WTO, was to lead to political reform in China and increase US exports into China. However, 'China Shock' followed and the 'communist dragon' became the 'capitalist tiger'.
 - *China Shock 2.0* - China's exports have surged post-COVID, despite a global slowdown. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has noted that China's share of global exports has increased by 1.5 percentage points, while other major economies like the US, Japan, and the UK have seen a decline in their global export shares. These concerns are similar to the early 2000s, when China's WTO accession led to a surge in global exports, and damaged manufacturing sectors worldwide.
- **Sectors with most imports:** *India's renewable energy sector* - Despite investing \$4.5 billion in clean energy manufacturing, 80% of India's solar cells and modules are still imported from China.
Steel sector imports - In India, steel imports from China hit a seven-year high in 2024, while domestic steel exports have declined significantly. The influx of cheap Chinese steel is eroding profits for Indian manufacturers.
Electronic components import - Despite increasing investments in mobile phone manufacturing, India remains heavily dependent on China for electronic components. In FY24, India imported over \$12 billion in electronic components from China, comprising more than half of its total electronics imports.
- **India's increasing imports from China:** *Slump in prices on account of Chinese dumping*- China is using predatory techniques to dominate high-tech sectors like solar equipment, electric vehicles, and semiconductors. The dumping of these goods has led to a crash in their prices, leading to increased imports from China.
Chinese use of exports to stave off domestic economic crisis- China is relying on exports to drive growth to counter its domestic economic slowdown, property crisis, weak credit, and low consumer demand. This increase in export volume has led to a slump in prices of Chinese goods, making them attractive to import in countries like India.
Chinese dominance on global supply Chains- China dominates the global solar supply chain of most of the new technology products. This leads to increase in import dependency on China. For ex- China produces 85% of solar cells and 97% of silicon wafers, making it difficult for India to reduce its dependence on China for solar sector.
Lack of Domestic Capacity- In certain sectors, India has failed to develop the manufacturing scale or technical expertise needed to produce goods at the same quality or volume as China. For ex- The

reliance of Indian electronics sector on China for finished products and components like smartphones, semiconductors, and displays.

Technology and Innovation Gaps- China has developed advanced capabilities in high-tech sectors like electronics, telecom equipment, renewable energy (e.g., solar panels). However, India lacks the research and development (R&D) capacity to match the Chinese technological advancement, leading to reliance on Chinese products.

India's Industrial Policy Limitations- Challenges such as regulatory hurdles, infrastructure bottlenecks, and high input costs have slowed the growth of India's domestic manufacturing sector.

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6. Project to conserve Gangetic Dolphin gets nod

Context: A project for the conservation of the Ganga River Dolphin and another for assessing the environmental flow of the Chambal, Son, Damodar and Tons rivers were approved at the 58th Executive Committee meeting of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) on Thursday. The project will focus on raising awareness for dolphin conservation and community capacity building through training and have an estimated budget of Rs 1 crore. The project will involve studying the existing water stream and natural flow patterns, which will not only improve water quantity and quality but also document the biodiversity within these river systems, ensuring that their ecosystems remain balanced.

Key points

- **Overview:** The Ganga River Dolphin project titled 'Advancing Rescue System for the Protection of Stranded Ganges River Dolphins' aims to develop a specialised rescue vehicle, the 'Dolphin Ambulance', to assist dolphins in distress.
- **Ganga River Dolphin:** The Ganga River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*), also known as the "Tiger of the Ganges" was officially discovered in 1801.
Habitat - Ganges River dolphins historically distributed in major river systems (Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu) of India, Nepal and Bangladesh.
Features - The Ganges River dolphin can only live in freshwater and is essentially blind. They hunt by emitting ultrasonic sounds, which bounces off fish and other prey, enabling them to "see" an image in their mind. They are frequently found alone or in small groups, and generally a mother and calf travel together.
- **Importance:** They have significant importance because it is a reliable indicator of the health of the entire river ecosystem. The government of India declared it the National Aquatic Animal in 2009. It is also the State Aquatic Animal of Assam.
- **Major Threats:** Unintentional killing through entanglement in fishing gear. Poaching for dolphin oil, used as fish attractant and for medicinal purposes. Habitat destruction due to development projects (e.g. water extraction and the construction of barrages, high dams and embankments), pollution (industrial waste and pesticides, municipal sewage discharge and noise from vessel traffic).
- **Protection Status:** International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN): Endangered, Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972: Schedule I, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES): Appendix I, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS): Appendix 1

- **Related Government Initiatives:** *Project Dolphin* - The initiative got in-principal approval in 2019 at the first meeting of the National Ganga Council (NGC), headed by the Prime Minister. Project Dolphin is one of the activities planned under Arth Ganga, an ambitious inter-ministerial initiative of the government approved in 2019.

Vikramshila Ganges Dolphin Sanctuary has been established in Bihar.

National Ganga River Dolphin Day (5th October)

