

**1. Centre bearing full duty cut burden: FM (Page no.- 1)**

**GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)**

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on Sunday, said the entire duty reduction in petrol and diesel announced on Saturday had been done out of the road and infrastructure cess (RIC) component of the taxes levied on petroleum products, and the entire burden of the tax cuts was hence being borne by the Centre.

Allaying concerns that the duty cut will lower the devolution of taxes to the States, Ms. Sitharaman said the basic excise duty on petroleum products, which is shared with the States, had not been touched.

**2. Food security does not need this 'surgical strike' (Page no.- 6)**

**GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)**

The Government of India announced a sudden ban on export of wheat on May 13, 2022, a few days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi had stated that "at a time when the world is facing a shortage of wheat, the farmers of India have stepped forward to feed the world". Even a day before the export ban came into effect, Government officials were looking out for possible export locations, indicating that there were no plans for control of wheat exports. With the latest announcement, the Government has sent out confusing policy signals.

**3. India needs to keep an eye on its myopia prevalence (Page no.- 6)**

**GS Paper- 2 (Social Justice)**

Millions of young children are growing up short-sighted every year because of myopia. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that there were nearly two billion people with myopia in 2010 — a quarter of the human population. By 2030, they project myopia prevalence to reach 3.3 billion people. While East Asia and the Pacific have been reporting some of the highest numbers for a decade now, current estimates out of India do not yet reflect this trend. It may mean we have time to act and save the sight of our children.

**4. Wheat confusion(Page no.- 6)**

**GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)**

India, which surprised the world with its decision to bar wheat export with immediate effect, appears to be on the defensive now after its May 13 announcement. Initially, the Centre had amended the order by allowing export consignments registered in the Customs Department's systems and handed over for examination on or prior to May 13. Addressing a UN "Global Food Security Call to Action" ministerial meeting a few days ago in New York, Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan emphasised that the restrictions made allowance for countries that had food security needs, a position articulated earlier by Commerce Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam.

**5. Iran's regional centrality and isolation(Page no.- 7)**

**GS Paper- 2 (IR)**

A recent essay in Foreign Affairs argues that "Tehran has not achieved any of its lofty ambitions, but it has made progress towards them – and it is feeling emboldened by its recent successes". It argues that "Iran is both self-assured and deeply insecure", "displays external vigour that conceals ultimately incurable internal maladies", has "built its foreign policy on the twin pillars of confronting the United States and Israel" and is "closer to realising its vision than it was a decade ago". Yet, despite its success in cultivating militant groups across West Asia, there are tangible signs that it has overreached and that two-thirds of young Arabs in

the region now view Iran as an adversary. The essay concedes that “Washington’s perception of Iran has suffered from four decades of estrangement and strategic narcissism”. Given the geopolitical and historical backdrop of Iran, does this reflect the totality of the country’s interests and strategic perceptions?

**6. Nature has the answers (Page no.- 7)**

**GS Paper- 3 (Environment)**

International Day of Biodiversity was celebrated on May 22. It gave us an opportunity to appreciate the wonder of biodiversity and renew our commitment to nurture and protect all the many forms of life with which we share our planet. We are a nation so defined by the richness of life around us that the words ‘diversity’ and ‘India’ have become synonymous. Our ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity has been greatly influenced by the unique features of our land, climate and geography, as well as the forces of migration and evolution. These forces have enriched our land with a multitude of species of plants, animals, and other organisms.

**7. Poor recovery, increasing delays mar IBC resolution process(Page no.- 7)**

**GS Paper- 3 (Indian Economy)**

When a business turns sick, it starts defaulting on its loan payments and the creditor tries to recover the debt through various means. The recovery process is essential on two counts – one, to recover the maximum amount possible from the defaulter, and two, to do it as soon as possible so that the amount can be freed-up to issue fresh credit. Poor recovery of claims and inordinate delays in resolving bad assets were the problems that plagued the older recovery mechanisms such as SARFAESI, Lok Adalats, and Debt Recovery Tribunals.

**8. Understanding the process of issuing LOCs (Page no.- 8)**

**GS Paper- 3 (Internal Security)**

On April 5, the Punjab and Haryana High Court passed omnibus instructions to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Bureau of Immigration (BOI) to serve a copy of an issued LOC to the affected person, state the reasons for issuing the LOC and provide a “post-decisional opportunity”. The Supreme Court however, stayed this particular paragraph of the High Court order.

After several businessmen fled the country after defaulting on loans, the MHA in 2018 brought changes to the 2010 guidelines authorising executives of all public sector banks to generate LOCs against persons who could be detrimental to economic interests of the country.

Many citizens have moved courts to get the LOC quashed.

**9. The rise of AI chips (Page no.- 9)**

**GS Paper- 3 (Science & Tech.)**

AI chips with their hardware architectures and complementary packaging, memory, storage and interconnect technologies, make it possible to infuse AI into a broad spectrum of applications to help turn data into information and then into knowledge.

The use of AI chips for NLP applications has increased due to the rise in demand for chatbots and online channels such as Messenger, Slack, and others that use NLP to analyse user messages and conversational logic.