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## DAILY NEWS DIARY

Of

**06.01.2022**

# FOR PRELIMS AND MAINS

Warm Greetings.

- DnD aims to provide every day news analysis in sync with the UPSC pattern.
- It is targeted at UPSC – Prelims & Mains.
- Daily articles are provided in the form of Question and Answers
- To have a bank of mains questions.
- And interesting to read.
- Providing precise information that can be carried straight to the exam, rather than over dumping.

Enjoy reading.

THE HINDU - TH  
INDIAN EXPRESS - IE  
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TIMES OF INDIA - TOI



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## ESSAY PAPER

### Editorial

**Q- To sustain momentum in exports, government must reorient trade policy, steer away from protectionism. Discuss?**

**INTRODUCTION** = India's exports have continued their stellar performance with preliminary trade data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showing that merchandise exports rose to \$37.3 billion in December, recording a growth of 37 per cent over last year, and a similar increase over the pre-pandemic levels.



1. For the first nine months of the year (April-December), exports stood at \$299.74 billion, up almost 26 per cent over their 2019 levels.
2. Considering that India's exports have hovered around \$300 billion for several years, that this has been achieved in the first nine months alone, is welcome news.
3. It suggests that by the end of this financial year, exports may well end up touching the \$400 billion mark, though the rapid surge in Omicron cases in the US and European economies may yet impact orders in the weeks and months ahead.

#### Trends in the rise -

- The disaggregated merchandise trade data shows that excluding oil, exports for the first nine months of the year stood at \$257 billion, an increase of almost 25 per cent over the pre-pandemic levels.
- A sharp rise is observed across product categories in December — from engineering and electronic goods to textiles. This performance is in line with estimates that indicate that global trade has surpassed its pre-pandemic levels. According to a report by UNCTAD, the value of global trade in goods is about 15 per cent higher than before Covid struck, though trade in services is yet to recover to earlier levels.

- Over the same period, a sharp surge has also been seen in the country's imports. Merchandise imports rose to \$59.3 billion in December, up almost 50 per cent from the pre-pandemic levels.
- Over the entire April-December period, imports have risen by almost 22 per cent over the 2019 levels, leading to a widening of the trade deficit.
- Excluding oil and gold, imports in December were led by electronic goods, machinery and chemicals, which suggests a broad-basing of demand.

### **Way Forward**

To build on this momentum, and to increase India's share in global trade, the government must reorient its broader trade policy. There are already indications to this effect. Going by recent statements from the government, trade agreements with the EU, Australia, UK and UAE, among others, are being worked upon with greater urgency.

1. The government was moving towards gaining access to markets for textile products through free trade agreements.
2. The upcoming Union budget is also expected to focus more heavily on trade-related packages. The government should embrace free trade agreements, not shun them. It should seek greater integration with global supply chains.
3. It must pivot away from protectionism, bring down tariffs, and push forward with reforms that boost export competitiveness, and allow for deeper and more comprehensive trade agreements.

## **GS 2**

### **❖ International Relations**

#### **Q- Comment on how North Korea is destabilising the Indo-Pacific Peace?**

**BACKGROUND** = North Korea fired a ballistic missile into the sea, its first weapons launch in about two months and a signal it isn't interested in re-joining denuclearisation talks anytime soon and would rather focus on boosting its weapons arsenal.



**Impact -**

1. The launch came after North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un vowed to further strengthen his military capability — without disclosing any new policies toward the United States or South Korea.
2. The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said the ballistic missile launch “highlights the destabilising impact of (North Korea’s) illicit weapons program” but didn’t pose an immediate threat to U.S. territory or its allies.
3. The U.S. commitment to the defense of its allies, South Korea and Japan, remains “ironclad.”

China, North Korea and Japan, maintained an even-handed response to the launch, with Foreign Minister’s calling for dialogue and saying “all parties concerned should keep in mind the big picture (and) be cautious with their words and actions.”

## GS 3

### ❖ Environment

**Q- What is the significance of Chilika Lake in maintaining the niche biodiversity?**

**BACKGROUND** = Chilika Lake, the largest brackish water lake and wintering ground of birds in the Indian subcontinent, saw a million birds, including the uncommon Mongolian gull, visiting the waterbody this year.



1. As per the Water Bird Status Survey-2022 conducted in the Chilika, 10,74,173 water birds (107 species) and 37,953 individuals (76 wetland dependent species) were counted in the entire lagoon.
2. Last year, the count in the Chilika was over 12 lakh. Members who were part of the census also reported sighting the Mongolian gull.
3. The census was undertaken jointly by the Odisha State Wildlife Organisation, the Chilika Development Authority (CDA) and the Bombay Natural History Society. A total of 106 personnel, including bird experts from government- and non-government organisations, were deployed.
4. The lagoon was divided strategically into 21 segments for the census.

#### Influx of birds -

- A total of 3, 58,889 birds (97 species) were counted in Nalabana Bird Sanctuary — a decrease by 65,899 from the previous year.
- The decrease is attributed to high water level and presence of water in cultivated fields in adjoining areas. Water birds love to flock to large mudflats.
- Among the three pintail species of ducks –

1. The northern pintail (1,72,285),
  2. Gadwall (1,53,985),
  3. Eurasian wigeon (1, 50,843) accounted for over one lakh in this year's count.
- However, the population of gadwall and Eurasian wigeon was less than that of the previous year.
- There was a marginal decrease in the number of species such as the northern shoveler, tufted duck and red crested pochard.
  - An increase in the population of the northern pintail, common coot and common pochard was noticed.

“The increase in numbers for the greater flamingo at Nalabana mudflat indicates that the restoration at Nalabana is effective. This year's greater flamingo count was the highest in the last decade. It is largely due to appropriate management of mudflats.” Overall, the local resident species such as purple swamp-hen, purple heron, Indian moorhen, and jacanas were found in higher numbers.

Chilika Lake hosts birds migrating from thousands of miles away from the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Aral Sea, remote parts of Russia, Mongolia, Central and Southeast Asia, Ladakh and the Himalayas. The winged guests find the vast mud-field and abundant fish stock suitable to congregate.



**Q- With reference to Inter-State Water Dispute Tribunal, consider the following statements:**

- 1) Under the Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956, there is a provision for setting up of permanent tribunal for the adjudication of dispute between two or more states.
- 2) The decision of the tribunal would be final and binding on the parties to the dispute.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| a) 1 only       | b) 2 only          |
| c) Both 1 and 2 | d) Neither 1 nor 2 |



**Q- Which of the following was a part of the green revolution strategy?**

- a) High yielding variety seeds
- b) Chemical fertilizers and pesticides
- c) Irrigation
- d) All the above

**Answer: d**



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