

## UPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS NOTES 27-09-2023

### Ephemeral Plant



Blooming is often associated with the spring season. Yet, certain plant species wait throughout the year to bloom only during the monsoon because they love rain. Such plants are termed ephemerals.

### Ephemeral Plant

An ephemeral plant is one marked by short life cycles.

They are of two types annual and perennial.

### Annual ephemerals

Annual ephemerals form new individuals every year and are seen for a very short period.

They form seeds at the end of their life cycle, remaining dormant till the next year.

### Perennials

Perennials have a source like a tuber or a bulb in the soil, so it is the same individual, but the other parts (stem, flowers) are newly formed.

### Types of Ephemerals based on Growth Strategies

#### Spring Ephemeral

Spring ephemeral refers to perennial plants that emerge quickly in the spring and die back to their underground parts after a short growth and reproduction phase.

## **Desert ephemerals**

Desert ephemerals are plants which are adapted to take advantage of the short-wet periods in arid climates.

## **Mud-flat ephemerals**

Mud-flat ephemerals take advantage of short periods of low water.

## **Weedy Ephemerals**

In areas subjected to recurring human disturbance, such as plowing, weedy ephemerals are very short-lived plants whose entire life cycle takes less than a growing season.

In each case, the species has a life cycle timed to exploit a short period when resources are freely available.

## **Primary Job: Preserving ecosystem**

The primary job of these flowers is to act as an important source of nectar and pollen for native pollinators.

Their presence in all microhabitats on a plateau ensures the appropriate presence of soil and, most importantly, water.

Quite a few of them are threatened due to land use change, and expansion of roadways and infrastructure.

## **A mega national event named SHAKTI-2023 at IGCAR, Kalpakkam**

A mega national event named SHAKTI-2023 (Sthree in HVACR & Architecture and Key in Transforming the Industry) was organized by Indian Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air conditioning Engineers (ISHRAE), Kalpakkam Chapter and Indian Women Scientist's Association (IWSA), Kalpakkam Branch in association with Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam on 26th September 2023 at IGCAR, Kalpakkam, under the theme on "Women in Technological Advances and Social Upliftment".

Dr. B. Venkatraman, Distinguished Scientist and Director, IGCAR presided over the function. In his presidential address he emphasized on achieving cleaner India by fruitful collaboration among forums of scientists, engineers and academia towards the research and development of green technologies.

Shri Yogesh Thakkar, National president ISHRAE, in his address mentioned about ISHRAE's contribution in achieving net zero emission by 2070 through decarbonisation.

Dr. K. Rajalakshmi Menon, Distinguished Scientist & Director, Centre for Air Borne Systems, DRDO inaugurated the function. In her inaugural address she highlighted the indigenous development of Airborne Surveillance Systems and implementation of efficient thermal management.

Dr.Kalpna Balakrishnan, Dean (Research), Dept. of Environmental Health Engineering, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, in her keynote address stressed upon the importance of monitoring and controlling household air pollution in rural India and its mitigation.

Dr. Jayanthasri Balakrishnan, Motivational speaker and Scholar from Coimbatore, in her special address pointed out the duty of empowered women to conduct the outreach programs to pave a way for social upliftment.

SHAKTI-2023 has been a great event with participation of 300 delegates.

### **Ms. Waheeda Rehman to be honoured with 53rd Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award**

Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur has today announced that legendary actress Ms Waheeda Rehman will be honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2021. Informing the decision, the Minister has said that he felt immense happiness and honour in announcing this award for her stellar contribution to Indian Cinema.



The Minister has highlighted that Ms Rehman has been critically acclaimed for her roles in Hindi films, prominent among them, Pyaasa, Kaagaz ke Phool, Chaudhavi Ka Chand, Saheb Biwi Aur Ghulam, Guide, Khamoshi and several others. On her acting prowess, the Minister has said that “in her career spanning

over 5 decades, she has essayed her roles with extreme finesse, leading to a National Film Award for her role as a clanswoman in the film Reshma and Shera. A Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awardee, Waheeda ji has exemplified dedication, commitment and the strength of a Bharatiya Nari who can achieve the highest level of professional excellence with her hard work.”

Noting that the award to the veteran actress comes close to heels of passing of Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam, the Minister has stated that “At a time when the historic Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam has been passed by Parliament, her being awarded with this lifetime achievement award is a fitting tribute to one of the leading ladies of Indian Cinema and one who has dedicated her life after films to philanthropy and the greater good of society.”

The award will be presented during the 69<sup>th</sup> National Film awards ceremony.

## **National Commission for Scheduled Castes submits its Annual Report 2020-21 & 2021-22 to the President of India**

As per the mandate given to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes under Article 338 of the Constitution, it is the duty of the Commission to present to the President annually & at other times as the Commission may deem fit, reports upon the working of the Constitutional Safeguards of the Scheduled Castes. The reports may include recommendations for the measures required to be taken by the Union and the States for the effective implementation of those safeguards and other measures for the protection, welfare and socio-economic development of the Scheduled Castes.



Accordingly, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes headed by Shri Arun Halder, Vice-Chairman, Shri Subhash Ramnath Pardhi and Dr. Anju Bala, Members has submitted its Annual Report 2020-21 & 2021-22 on 26.09.2023 to the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan. The reports contain various

recommendations on the issues entrusted to the Commission regarding the protection of Constitutional Safeguards of the Scheduled Castes as enshrined in the Constitution of India.

## Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar National Awards presented

### 82nd CSIR Foundation Day

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today presented the Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar National Awards to eminent Scientists below the age of 45, at a largely attended function at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has, in a written message, extended his heartiest congratulations to all the winners of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize and extended his greetings and best wishes to everyone associated with CSIR for the success of the 82nd CSIR Foundation Day.

Dr Jitendra Singh read out the written message sent by the Prime Minister, who could not be physically present because of preoccupations.

The Prime Minister's message hailed CSIR for playing a prominent part in serving the society, industry and the nation. The message, in particular, mentioned the Aroma Mission, strides in floriculture, the Purple Revolution ushered in through Lavender cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir, laying of Steel Slag roads along border areas of the country are just some instances of CSIR's contribution in meeting national aspirations.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister, the CSIR could become the mainstay of STI journey in Amrit kaal to make India a Global Tech-Hub and the 100th year of CSIR in 2042 could trigger the glory of 100th year of Independent India in 2047.

PM, who is also the President of CSIR, in his message said, said that the period till 2047 when we will celebrate the centenary of our independence, is an opportunity to fulfil the vision of building a strong, inclusive and self-reliant India and it is in this context that the role of institutions such as CSIR assumes greater relevance.

The Prime Minister said, the 82nd Foundation Day holds a special relevance for CSIR, following the success of Chandrayaan-3, since CSIR was among the many different organisations that made significant contributions to the mission. He added that the indefatigable efforts of our space and science ecosystem have showcased to the world that even the sky is not the limit for us. We are making every effort to complement the efforts of scientists by providing all the resources and also fostering a dynamic and favorable research ecosystem, the Prime Minister noted.

The Prime Minister said, our nation and its people have always been blessed with a scientific temper and an inquiring mind. He said, the speed as well as the scale of research and innovation by our scientists and technologists, particularly during the pandemic, has convinced the world of our unlimited potential to work for global good.

The Prime Minister said, for centuries, science has played a crucial role in finding solutions to seemingly intractable problems and unlocking new potential. He said, Science and Technology have helped transform every sphere of activity, be it medicine, communication, space, transportation, infrastructure, agriculture or knowledge. He also added that the mega-exhibition of CSIR showcasing the technological achievements of the last ten years will inspire one and all.

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Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also Vice-President of CSIR, said India is seeing sea changes in the way S&T is being spearheaded and organized to address not only national aspirations towards socioeconomic growth but also global positioning.

## Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah chairs 31st meeting of the Northern Zonal Council at Amritsar in Punjab



Northern Zonal Council has an important place from the point of view of development and security of the country, with 21% of the country's land and 13% of the population, more than 35% of the food grains are produced in the Northern region. The majority of personnel in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Army, guarding the country's borders, come from the states and Union Territories in the Northern Zonal Council.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government has been successful in cracking down on narcotics and terrorism. Modi government is committed towards strengthening the security system on the border, soon anti-drone system will be deployed on our country's borders

Home Minister requested all the member states of the Northern Zonal Council to resolve their disputes related to water sharing with an open mind and mutual discussion. Home Minister asked all the member states to pay special attention to issues like cooperation movement in the country, dropout rate of school children and malnutrition, terming them as collective priority

Not even a single child should remain malnourished in the country, it is the responsibility of all of us to reduce the school dropout rate, and, giving impetus to the cooperative movement will help in taking more than 60 crore people of the country towards prosperity. Shri Amit Shah urges all member states to adopt natural and organic farming, as it will be hugely beneficial for the farmers of the

country. On the call of the Union Home Minister, the Northern Zonal Council welcomed the spectacular success of Chandrayaan-3, the worldwide appreciation of India's leadership and global welfare at the G20 Summit and the historic Women's Reservation Bill passed by the Parliament.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah chaired the 31st meeting of the Northern Zonal Council at Amritsar, Punjab, today. Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana & Himachal Pradesh, Lt. Governors of Delhi, Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh, Administrator of Chandigarh, Senior Ministers from member States, Union Home Secretary, Secretary, Inter State Council Secretariat, Chief Secretaries from the member States in the Northern Zone and other senior officers from the States and UTs and Central Ministries & Departments participated in the meeting.

Shri Amit Shah said that in the last 5 years, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the role of zonal councils has changed from advisory nature to action platforms. He said that Northern Zonal Council has an important place from the point of view of development and security of the country, with 21% of the country's land and 13% of the population, more than 35% of the food grains are produced in the Northern region. Shri Shah said that the majority of personnel in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and Army, guarding the country's borders, come from the states and Union Territories in the Northern Zonal Council.

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Union Home Minister assured all possible help from the Centre to the Himachal Pradesh government to deal with floods situation in the state and said that the whole country is standing by Himachal in this hour of crisis. On the call of the Union Home Minister, the Northern Zonal Council welcomed the spectacular



success of Chandrayaan-3, the worldwide appreciation of India's leadership and global welfare at the G20 Summit and the historic Women's Reservation Bill passed by the Parliament.

While appreciating the role of the Zonal Councils, he mentioned that though the Zonal Councils are advisory in character, but over the years, they have proved to be a significant factor in promoting healthy bond of mutual understanding and cooperation in various spheres. The Zonal Councils provide the opportunity for personal inter-action at the highest level amongst the members and serve as a useful forum for resolving issues of difficult and complex nature in an atmosphere of amity and goodwill. Through discussion and exchange of views, the Zonal Councils help in developing a coordinated approach among the States on important issues of socio and economic development. The Zonal Councils also discuss and make recommendations on issues of common interest of the States.

Union Home Minister, ShriAmit Shah mentioned that, the meetings of the 5 Zonal Councils are now being convened regularly by the Inter State Council Secretariat of the Ministry of Home Affairs with the cooperation of the State Governments. He observed that there has been substantial increase in the number of meetings of the Zonal Councils and its Standing Committees. Since June 2014, in the last 10 years, total 54 meetings of Zonal Council & its Standing Committee have been held making the frequency more than double in comparison to the meetings held during the 10 years from the year 2004 to May 2014.

The Northern Zonal Council in the 31st meeting at Amritsar discussed over total 28 issues. Some crucial issues concerning the member States in particular and the country as a whole were 'Issues related to sharing of inter-state river waters, Coverage of villages by Bank Branches/Postal Banking facilities, Effective implementation of Direct Benefit Transfer for Social Sector Schemes, issues relating to Punjab University, Road connectivity under PMGSY, Prevention of cyber-crimes, JalJeevan Mission, Resumption of Flights under UDAN Scheme, Speedy investigation of cases of sexual offence/rape against women and children, Implementation of the Scheme of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) for expeditious disposal of rape and POCSO Act cases, Strengthening of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Law purchase of Agriculture Land, etc.

## **Media reports claiming shortage of anti-TB medicines are ill-informed & Misleading**

Centre proactively undertakes regular assessments to evaluate the stock positions at various levels, from central warehouses to peripheral health institutes

There have been some media reports alleging shortage of anti-TB drugs in India

and questioning the effectiveness of such drugs under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). Such reports are vague and ill-informed, without any specific information on the availability of anti-TB medicines in stock.

The treatment of drug sensitive tuberculosis consists of two months of four drugs available as 4 FDC (Isoniazid, Rifampicin, Ethambutol and Pyrazinamide) followed by two months of three drugs available as 3 FDC (Isoniazid, Rifampicin and Ethambutol). All these drugs are available with sufficient stocks ranging six months and above.

The treatment regimen of Multi Drug resistant TB consists of usually four months of 7 drugs (bedaquiline, levofloxacin, clofazimine, isoniazid, ethambutol, pyrazinamide and ethionamide) followed by five months of 4 drugs (levofloxacin, clofazimine, pyrazinamide and ethambutol). In about 30% of persons with drug resistant TB, cycloserine and linezolid is required.

Procurement, storage, maintenance of stock and in-time distribution of anti-TB drugs & other materials are being done at the Central level under NTEP. In rare situations, States were requested to procure few drugs locally for a limited period by utilizing the budget under National Health Mission (NHM) so that individual patient care is not affected. Maharashtra has already procured Cycloserine Tablets centrally. Few States have delegated procurement to districts; accordingly, districts have procured wherever there is requirement.

## **BDT notifies changes to Rule 11UA in respect of ANGEL TAX**

The Finance Act, 2023, brought in an amendment to bring the consideration received from non-residents for issue of shares by an unlisted company within the ambit of section 56(2)(viib) of the Income-tax Act, 1961(the Act), which provides that if such consideration for issue of shares exceeds the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the shares, it shall be chargeable to income-tax under the head 'Income from other sources'.

Keeping in line with the commitment of the Government to involve stakeholders in the drafting of the law, suggestions and feedback were invited from stakeholders and general public on the Draft Rule 11UA for valuation of methods for calculating the Fair Market price vide Press Release dated 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.

Taking into consideration the suggestions received in this regard and detailed interactions held with stakeholders, Rule 11UA for valuation of shares for the

purposes of section 56(2)(viib) of the Act has been modified vide notification no. 81/2023 dated 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

**The key highlights of the changes in Rule 11 UA are:**

a) In addition to the two methods for valuation of shares, namely, Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) and Net Asset Value (NAV) method, available to residents under Rule 11UA, five more valuation methods have been made available for non-resident investors, namely, Comparable Company Multiple Method, Probability Weighted Expected Return Method, Option Pricing Method, Milestone Analysis Method, Replacement Cost Method.

b) Where any consideration is received for issue of shares from any non-resident entity notified by the Central Govt., the price of the equity shares corresponding to such consideration may be taken as the FMV of the equity shares for resident and non-resident investors, subject to the following:

(i) To the extent the consideration from such FMV does not exceed the aggregate consideration that is received from the notified entity, and

(ii) The consideration has been received by the company from the notified entity within a period of ninety days before or after the date of issue of shares which are the subject matter of valuation.

c) On similar lines, price matching for resident and non-resident investors would be available with reference to investment by Venture Capital Funds or Specified Funds.

d) Valuation methods for calculating the FMV of Compulsorily Convertible Preference Shares(CCPS) have also been provided.

e) A safe harbor of 10% variation in value has been provided.

The notified Rule provides for expansion of the valuation methodologies to include globally accepted methodology and provide a broad parity to resident and non-resident investors.

**HOW RISING OIL PRICES CAN IMPACT INDIAN ECONOMY**



Brent crude surpasses \$93/bbl, OPEC+ production restraint and declining US inventories drive prices near 2014 highs. Analysts anticipate ongoing tightness due to demand outpacing supply and geopolitical uncertainties elevating risk factors.

### **Key factors influencing crude oil prices**

**Extended Oil Output Cuts:** Saudi Arabia and Russia, two major oil-producing countries, extended their voluntary oil output cuts by a combined 1.3 million barrels per day (bpd) until the end of the year. This move tightened the global oil supply, leading to a surge in international crude prices.

**OPEC+ Cuts:** In addition to Saudi Arabia and Russia's cuts, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies (OPEC+) had previously agreed on production cuts running until the end of 2024. These cuts further reduced the global oil supply.

**Brent and WTI Prices:** Brent crude futures were trading at \$93.22 per barrel, and US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$89.73 per barrel. These prices indicate the cost of oil in the international and US markets, respectively.

**US Dollar Strength:** The US dollar hit a 10-month high, which can have a negative impact on oil prices. Since oil is priced in dollars, a stronger dollar makes it more expensive for importers using other currencies, potentially reducing oil demand.

**Central Bank Policies:** The US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank signalled their commitment to fighting inflation, suggesting that tight monetary policies may persist. Higher interest rates resulting from such policies can slow economic growth, which in turn can curb oil demand.

**Russian Export Ban:** Russia had previously imposed a ban on gasoline and diesel exports, but it later softened this stance. Exports of certain products were allowed to proceed, which could influence the global oil supply.

**OPEC Demand Outlook:** OPEC revised its global oil demand forecast for 2023 but still anticipated higher demand compared to 2022. The 2024 demand outlook was also reduced. These demand forecasts can impact oil prices as they reflect expectations for future consumption.

**Supply Shortfall:** The market was facing a potential supply shortfall of more than 3 million barrels per day in the next quarter due to Saudi Arabia's extended output cuts. This shortfall was expected to be one of the largest deficits in over a decade.

## **Rising oil prices can have a significant impact on the Indian economy**

### **Current Account Deficit (CAD)**

Rising oil prices lead to higher import costs for crude oil, which India heavily relies on as a net oil importer. When the cost of importing oil increases, it contributes to a larger current account deficit. This deficit reflects the imbalance between India's earnings from exports and its expenditure on imports, particularly oil.

**A larger CAD puts pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves**, as India needs to pay for these imports in foreign currency (usually U.S. dollars). This, in turn, can weaken the country's currency value, affecting the exchange rate and making imports more expensive.

### **Inflation**

Elevated oil prices have a cascading effect on inflation in India. Higher oil prices result in increased transportation costs, impacting the entire supply chain.

When transportation costs rise, businesses often pass these costs onto consumers by increasing prices for goods and services. This, in turn, **fuels inflationary pressures, impacting the cost of living for citizens**. Inflation can erode purchasing power and reduce the real income of individuals and households.

### **Fiscal Deficit**

To shield consumers from the full impact of oil price hikes, the Indian government often subsidizes certain petroleum products, such as diesel and cooking gas. These subsidies help keep consumer prices stable but strain the government's finances.

As oil prices rise, the **fiscal deficit may increase due to the government's higher subsidy burden**. The fiscal deficit is the gap between government revenue and expenditure. A widening fiscal deficit can lead to increased government borrowing, which can have implications for interest rates and the overall health of public finances.

### **Trade Balance**

Rising oil prices mean that India needs to spend more on oil imports. This has a **direct impact on the trade balance, which measures the difference between the value of exports and imports**. When imports, particularly oil imports, increase due to higher prices, it can deteriorate the trade balance. A trade deficit, where imports exceed exports, can negatively impact the

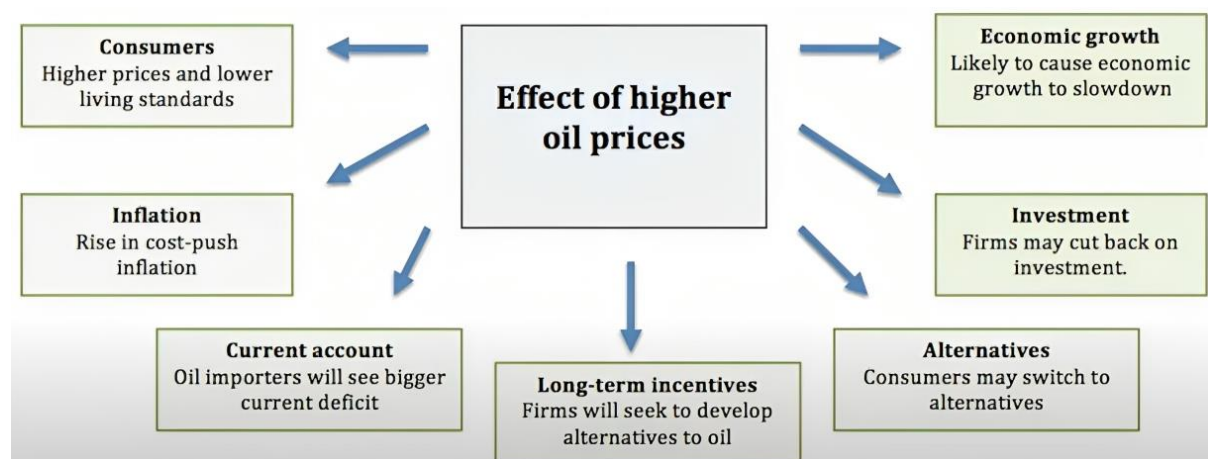
country's overall economic health and potentially weaken its exchange rate, making imports more expensive.

### Energy Costs

As oil prices rise, so do the costs of energy for industries, businesses, and households. This can have a direct impact on economic competitiveness. **Businesses may face higher production costs, leading to reduced profitability.** Households may see an increase in their energy bills, reducing disposable income. Higher energy costs can hamper economic growth by reducing both consumer spending and industrial production.

### Monetary Policy

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) may need to adjust its monetary policy in response to inflationary pressures caused by rising oil prices. One of the tools the RBI uses is interest rates. **If inflation rises due to higher oil prices, the RBI may consider increasing interest rates to control inflation.** Higher interest rates can impact borrowing costs for businesses and individuals. It can also influence investment decisions and consumer spending patterns, potentially slowing economic growth.



### Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR)

India has been actively **building strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs) as a strategic measure to enhance its energy security.** These SPRs are large underground storage facilities for crude oil that can be tapped into during times of supply disruptions or sharp price spikes. By maintaining strategic reserves, India aims to reduce its vulnerability to sudden oil supply disruptions, whether due to geopolitical tensions or natural disasters.

### Diversification of Energy Sources

India is making significant **investments in diversifying its energy mix by shifting towards renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power.** This diversification aims to reduce the country's heavy reliance on fossil fuels,

including oil. By harnessing renewable energy, India not only mitigates the impact of oil price fluctuations but also contributes to environmental sustainability and energy independence.

### Fuel Price Reforms

The Indian government has **implemented gradual fuel price reforms, moving towards market-based pricing for petroleum products.** Historically, fuel prices in India were heavily subsidized, with the government bearing a significant portion of the cost. However, these subsidies strained the government's budget and posed challenges during periods of high oil prices. By allowing fuel prices to respond more directly to international oil price fluctuations, the government aims to reduce the fiscal burden associated with subsidies and promote market efficiency.

### Energy Efficiency Promotion

India has initiated various energy efficiency measures in industries, transportation, and households. **Promoting energy-efficient technologies and practices helps mitigate the impact of rising oil prices on energy costs.** This includes the adoption of energy-efficient appliances, improved industrial processes, and the development of energy-efficient transportation systems. Energy efficiency measures not only reduce costs but also contribute to environmental sustainability.

### Bilateral Agreements

India has actively pursued bilateral agreements with oil-producing countries to secure stable oil supplies and prices. These agreements can include **long-term contracts, preferential pricing, and assurances of a stable supply of crude oil.** By forging such agreements, India seeks to minimize the volatility in its oil supply and protect itself from abrupt price spikes in the global oil market.

### Challenges

#### Political Sensitivity

Fuel prices are highly politically sensitive in India. Any significant increase in fuel prices, whether due to international oil price fluctuations or government policy changes, can lead to public outrage and protests. This political sensitivity stems from the fact that fuel costs affect the daily lives of millions of Indian citizens. Balancing the need for economic stability and fiscal responsibility with public sentiment regarding fuel prices is a complex challenge for Indian policymakers.

#### Fiscal Constraints

The Indian government has historically subsidized fuel prices to shield consumers from the full impact of rising oil prices. However, these subsidies impose a significant fiscal burden on the government's budget. Subsidy expenditures divert resources away from other critical development programs, such as infrastructure, healthcare, and education. **Managing fiscal constraints while ensuring energy affordability for citizens is a delicate balancing act for the government**

### **Infrastructure Investment**

Transitioning to renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, requires substantial infrastructure investment and time. **Developing the necessary infrastructure**, including renewable energy generation capacity, energy storage solutions, and a modernized energy grid, is a resource-intensive endeavour. Additionally, the adoption of renewable energy technologies and practices often involves transitioning and retraining the workforce. Addressing these infrastructure challenges while meeting the growing energy demands of a rapidly developing nation like India is a significant long-term undertaking

### **Way Forward to navigate the challenges posed by rising oil prices**

#### **Energy Transition**

Continuing efforts to **transition towards renewable energy sources is crucial for India's long-term energy security and environmental sustainability**. This transition involves expanding renewable energy capacity, investing in research and development of clean technologies, and incentivizing the adoption of clean energy practices across industries and households. Moreover, promoting energy conservation and efficiency should complement this transition to reduce overall energy consumption

#### **Economic Diversification**

**Encouraging economic diversification beyond oil-dependent sectors** is essential for India's economic resilience. By promoting the growth of non-oil industries, such as technology, manufacturing, and services, India can reduce its vulnerability to oil price fluctuations. Diversification can also create job opportunities, stimulate innovation, and foster economic growth in sectors less reliant on oil imports.

#### **Enhanced Diplomacy**

**Strengthening diplomatic ties with major oil-producing countries** is critical for securing stable oil supplies and prices. By engaging in strategic dialogues and partnerships, India can work to ensure a steady flow of oil





imports, negotiate favourable terms, and minimize the impact of geopolitical tensions on energy security. Additionally, diversifying sources of oil imports can reduce dependence on a single supplier, enhancing energy resilience.

### **Public Awareness**

**Educating the public about the benefits and challenges of energy transition** is vital for garnering support for sustainable energy policies. Public awareness campaigns can help citizens understand the importance of reducing reliance on fossil fuels, the potential for job creation in the renewable energy sector, and the positive environmental impacts. An informed and engaged citizenry can encourage policymakers to prioritize clean energy initiatives and reforms.

### **Conclusion**

Rising oil prices present multifaceted challenges to the Indian economy, but the country has been taking steps to mitigate these challenges through strategic reserves, diversification, and market-based pricing reforms. The way forward involves continued efforts in energy transition, economic diversification, and diplomatic strategies to ensure energy security and stability in the face of fluctuating oil prices.