

18 May 2022: PIB Summary for UPSC

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1. State of Inequality report in India

Syllabus: GS I, Society, Population and associated issues, poverty

Prelims: Economic Advisory Council - PM, State of Inequality Report

Mains: Estimating the extent of inequalities in India

Context: The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister has released the State of Inequality report.

About the State of Inequality report:

- This report has been written by the Institute of Competitiveness and is an assessment of both inclusion and exclusion in the country.
- It provides a holistic view of inequalities in the country.
- The report compiles information on inequities across sectors like health, education, household characteristics and the labour market.
- Inequalities existing in various sectors lead to multidimensional poverty.

Also get an understanding of the [Multidimensional Poverty Index](#) in the linked article.

- The report consists of two parts, economic facets and socio-economic manifestations that look after five areas that influence the nature and experience of inequality.
- It also offers a roadmap to reform strategies for social progress and shared prosperity.
- It produces a comprehensive analysis of the various prevalent deprivations in the country that impact the population and overall growth.
- It studies the differential treatments based on class, gender and region measuring the intensity of inequalities.
- Data given by the Periodic Labour Force Survey ([PLFS](#)), National Family Health Survey and [UDISE+](#), are utilised by the report.

Important Findings:

- For the first time, the State of Inequality report has emphasised income distribution to understand the capital flow.
- The report mentioned that wealth concentration as a measure of inequality does not determine the changes in the purchasing power of households.
- According to the data available from PLFS, there exist certain levels of income disparity.
- It was estimated that at different levels of employment categories, the highest percentage was of self-employed workers followed by regular salaried workers and casual workers.
- The share of self-employed workers was found to be the highest in the lowest income categories.
- The unemployment rate in the country was estimated to be 4.8% (2019-20) with a worker population ratio of 46.8%.
- Nutritional deprivation in terms of overweight, underweight and prevalence of anaemia along with low health coverage, high out-of-pocket expenditure remain areas of great concern.
- The gross enrolment ratio has increased at the primary, secondary and higher secondary levels of education.
- Improvements have been made in the access to sanitation and safe drinking water.

Recommendations:

- The report's recommendations include:
 - Creation of income slabs that provide class information
 - Establishing [Universal Basic Income](#)
 - Creating jobs
 - Increasing the budget for social protection schemes

2. International Museum Day

Syllabus: GS I, Indian Heritage and Culture

Prelims: International Museum Day

Mains: Necessity to restructure the museums in the country.

Context: International Museum Day has been celebrated as an iconic opportunity to understand the history and culture of India through museums.

Details:

- Every 18th of May is commemorated as International Museum Day.
- The Government of India has been actively involved in reviving the museums in the country, thereby conserving the rich heritage of our past.
- There are efforts to develop tribal museums as a tribute to the freedom fighters of the tribal communities and at the same time, make the country and the world aware of the scheduled tribes of India.
- The inauguration of the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Freedom Fighters' Museum in Ranchi was a historic testimony to acknowledge the contribution of tribal communities to the freedom struggle.

Know more about the [International Museum Day](#) by visiting the link.

3. National Policy on Biofuels

Syllabus: GS II, Governance, Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors

Prelims: National Policy on Biofuels, Biofuels

Mains: Significance of biofuels and their scope in India

Context: Amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels 2018 have been approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister.

The need for the amendment:

- National Policy on Biofuels 2018 has been amended with the objective of introducing and promoting advanced Ethanol Blended Petrol with up to 20% ethanol content across the country.
- The amendments also intend to enhance the production of biofuels as a welcoming move to adopt clean energy.

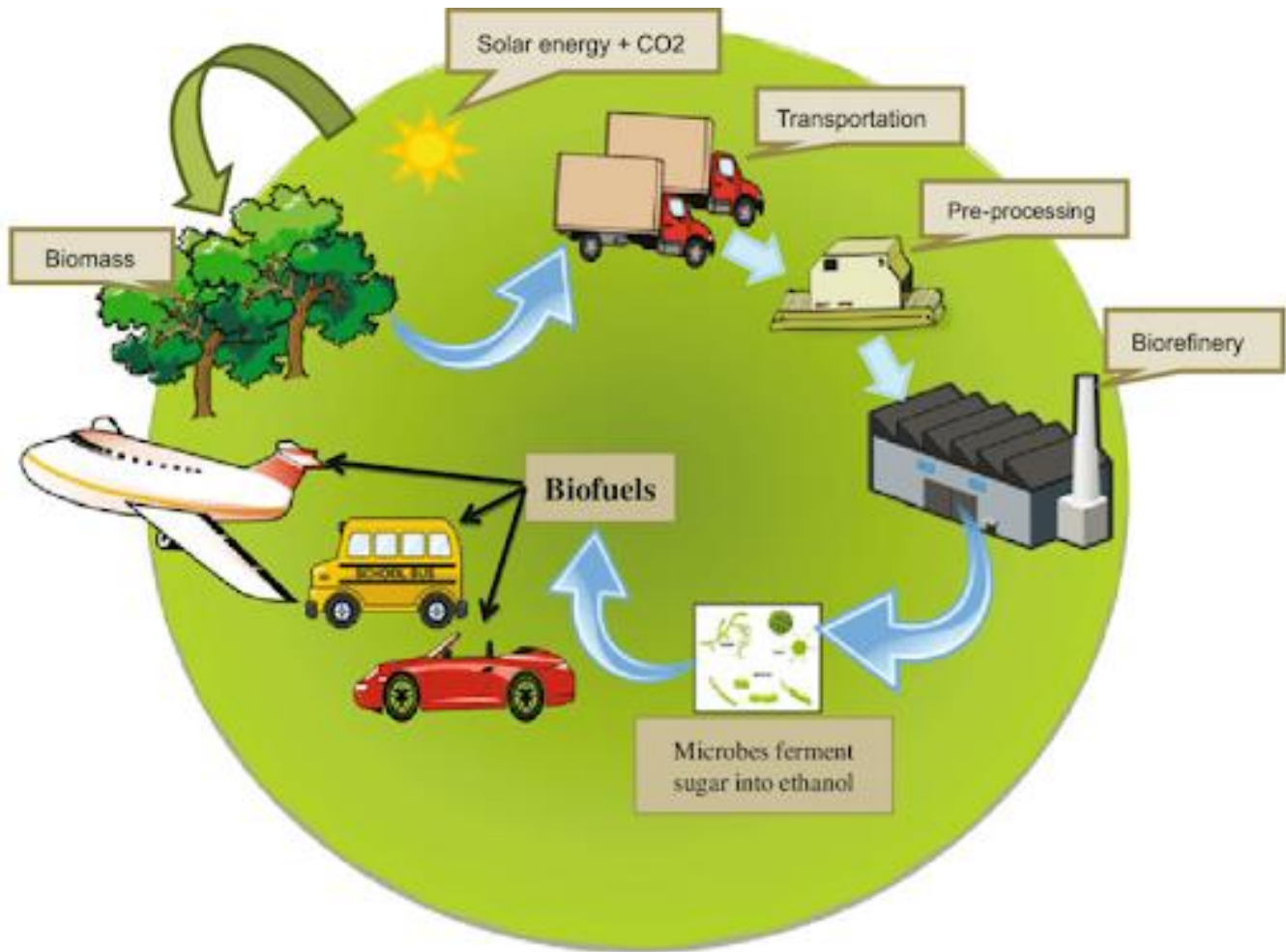


Image source: www.researchgate.net

Highlighting the amendments:

- Allow more feedstocks for the production of biofuels
- To advance ethanol blending target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol
- To promote the production of biofuels in the country under the [Make in India](#) programme by units located in the Special Economic Zone/Export Oriented Units
- Add new members to National Biofuel Coordination Committee
- Grant of permission for export of biofuels in specific cases

Read more about [National Policy on Biofuels 2018](#) in the linked article.

4. P8I Aircraft

Syllabus: GS III, Security, Various Security Forces and Agencies

Prelims: P8I Aircraft

Context: The Defence Minister on-boarded the Indian Navy's P8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft.

P8I: Salient Features

- The Poseidon series of Boeing consists of the most advanced aircraft that deliver the highest levels of quality, reliability and operability.
 - This multimission maritime aircraft is developed and produced by Boeing Defence, Space & Security.
 - P-8I is the Indian variant of P-8s.
 - They provide India's maritime warriors with a significant edge in the strategically important Indian Ocean region.
 - It plays a crucial role in coastal patrolling, search and rescue, anti-piracy and supporting operations.
 - The induction of this aircraft has significantly contributed to the surveillance operations of the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean Region.
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