

**1. Driving the Balkanisation of India(Page no.- 6)**

**GS Paper- 2 (Indian Polity)**

One of the reasons for celebrating the completion of 75 years of India is that it has survived as long. At Independence there had been scepticism whether it would. The chief doubter was Winston Churchill, who claimed that India was no more than a geography, the peoples of which the British had helpfully brought under one umbrella through conquest. But as we celebrate India's journey, it would do to recognise that today forces are at work that weaken its unity. In particular, two projects that appear to have the blessing of the present political dispensation at the Centre have the potential to actually destroy it.

**2. India must shift the discourse on abortion rights(Page no.- 6)**

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

Women, pregnant people and transgender persons in India struggle every day to exert their choice about birthing and their bodily autonomy. Yet, despite this bleak reality, netizens on social media in India claim that the country is more progressive than the U.S. on abortion rights because we have the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 ("MTP Act"). Such a self-congratulatory attitude is neither in good faith nor is it factually correct.

**3. Be wary of growing exports(Page no.- 7)**

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

The uncertainties in the global economic environment, significantly driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the resultant sanctions on Russia by the West, along with Sri Lanka's ongoing struggles to stay afloat amidst a deepening crisis, have all been believed to have created export opportunities for countries such as India. However, this well-celebrated export spike needs to be viewed with a pinch of salt.

**4. Diversifying plates for girls(Page no.- 7)**

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

Multiple studies show that adolescence is a nutritionally demanding phase of life. Even though both adolescent boys and girls face emotional changes during puberty, girls face more physiological demands and thus require a higher intake of macro and micro nutrients.

**5. Understanding the nature of U.S.-Taiwan relations (Page no.- 8)**

**GS Paper- 2 (IR)**

The President of the United States Joe Biden on May 23, gave an affirmative reply to a question on whether the U.S. will come to the aid of Taiwan militarily in case of an invasion by China. This has raised questions on whether the U.S. is shifting from its long-standing policy of strategic ambiguity over Taiwan to that of strategic clarity.

**6. The monkeypox virus: origins and outbreaks (Page no.- 8)**

**GS Paper- 2 (Science & Tech.)**

Monkeypox belongs to the poxvirus family of viruses and was first identified in monkeys way back in 1958. The present outbreak has a toll of over 220 confirmed cases spread across 19 countries.

A number of genome sequences in recent years from Africa and across the world suggest that there are two distinct clades of the virus — the Congo Basin/Central African clade and the West African clade.

The smallpox/vaccinia vaccine provides protection against the virus. While the vaccine has been discontinued in 1980 following the eradication of smallpox, emergency stockpiles of the vaccines are maintained by many countries.

**7. U.S. ramps up efforts to bring India on board with sanctions (Page no.- 10)**

**GS Paper- 2 (IR)**

Stepping up the U.S. effort to bring India on board with its sanctions against Russia, Washington has sent another senior official to discuss India's oil purchases and plans to use the rupee-rouble payment mechanism to circumvent sanctions.

U.S. Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes Elizabeth Rozenberg arrived in India on Wednesday ahead of meetings with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials in Mumbai, as well as officials of the Union Finance Ministry, Home Ministry and External Affairs Ministry in Delhi, officials said.