

1 Arab league

- **What is it?:** The Arab League or Leagues of Arab States is a 22 member organisation with membership in both Asia and Africa.
- **Note:** The Relations with Arabs dates back to ancient times when traders, scholars and diplomats would often traverse the Arabian Sea and the land routes linking India to West Asia and the Arab peninsula.
- **Relevance in the Present World**
 - Most of India's external trade passes through the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, and the Gulf of Aden.
 - About 60% of India's crude oil imports.
 - More than 50% of fertilizers.
 - 9 million Indian diaspora in this area.



2 State development Loans(SDL)

- *State Development Loans or SDLs are issued by the State Governments to fund their fiscal deficit. Each state can borrow up to a set limit.*
- The RBI manages SDL issues.



Do you feel SDL borrowing is to bypass FRBM norms?

3 Ethanol Blending

Note

- Ethanol Blending involves mixing ethanol with petrol to create a cleaner, more sustainable fuel. ***Initially, the target was 5% blending, which has now been increased to 20% blending.***

Benefits

- Reduces hydrocarbon emissions, making the atmosphere cleaner (***GHG emissions from the use of sugarcane- and maize-based ethanol are 65% and 50% lower than those of petrol, respectively.***)
- Saves precious foreign exchange by reducing demand for imports.
- Ensures an alternate source of income for farmers.

Challenges

- It can lead to a food security crisis due to food crop diversion and water usage for sugarcane cultivation.

