Law has its own limitation in bringing social change. In this context, critically evaluate the efficacy of steps taken to empower women and weaken the grip of patriarchy around them. (250 words)

Approach

- Describe social change by law through illustrations.
- Provide examples where the law has been successful in bringing social change by attacking patriarchal practices.
- Give illustrations where the law has failed to deal with patriarchy effectively.

Introduction

- Law has been the chief instrument of social change in Indian society through the ages. For instance, it has played a role in empowering women through laws like equal pay for equal work, affirmative action through law for political participation etc.

Body

Successes of law in bringing social change in the institution of patriarchy

- **Social and Political Rights**: Under the Constitution, women have equal rights as men, enabling them to take part effectively in the society. Article 14(equality before law), 15( prohibition of gender discrimination) and 16( equal opportunity in the matter of public employment) women have equal constitutional rights as men. Political empowerment of women has been brought by the 73rd and 74th amendments which reserve seats for women in Gram Panchayats and Municipal bodies.

- **Economic Rights**: There has been series of legislations conferring equal rights for women which are denied in patriarchal society. These legislations have been guided by the provisions of the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy. Laws to improve their condition in matters relating to wages, maternity benefits, equal remuneration and property/succession etc. have been enacted to provide the necessary protection in these areas.

continued...
...continued

- **Social Justice**: Certain areas like domestic violence and sexual harassment of women at the workplace try to address the imbalance created by patriarchal social norms.

1. Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prevention of Misuse) Act and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act prevent the violation of justice and humanity which begins from the womb.

2. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was passed to prevent the evil practice of giving and taking of dowry.

- **The suppression of immoral traffic act, 1956** more popularly known as “SITA” was enacted to prohibit exploitation of women with a view to earning money. Subsequently, this Act was renamed as the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 wherein sexual exploitation and abuse of the female for commercial gain was made punishable.

- **The central government passed the Sati Prevention Act, 1987** for prevention of the commission of “sati” and its glorification. This enactment came to be passed after the Roop Kanwar case in Rajasthan, when a young widow was burnt alive as a “Sati”. Thus through law act of ‘Sati’ was criminalized which was culturally sanctioned rooted in patriarchy.

**Limitations of Law as an instrument of social change**

- Women participation in politics is negligible. Their representation in the Lok Sabha is far below the expected numbers. The 73rd constitutional amendment has created new challenges like ‘sarpanch pati’ (Husband of elected women acting as de-facto sarpanch) bring out the limitations of law as social change...
Legal protections like Equal Wages Act have failed to change the status quo. There is significant gender wage gap, on average, women are paid 34 per cent less than men, a recent report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) has found.

PCPNDT Act has failed to deter foeticide in most of the north Indian states where patriarchy is of highest intensity e.g in Haryana, where sex ratio is only 879.

Recently, Supreme Court in Sabrimala temple entry case ruled that banning the entry of women into the shrine is gender discrimination and the practice violates the rights of Hindu women. However, the implementation of this decision led to massive protests by conservative section of society, bringing in to light the ineffectiveness of law as instrument of social change to empower women against the institution of patriarchy.

Conclusion

- Law is a powerful instrument to bring social change however its efficacy is dependent upon the ability to implement the law by state authorities.
- Further, cultural component of social change is a slow and evolving process, rapid social change tend to produce social conflicts which was visible in protests against Sabrimala verdict.
Do you agree that the caste system as an integral part of the Indian society has changed in its form and representation in recent times? Explain. (250 words)

Approach
- Describe the caste system as a salient feature of Indian society.
- Highlight change in form and representation of the caste system through illustrations.
- Give way forward.

Introduction
- Caste as a social stratification system is a salient feature of Indian society. Traditionally, caste system is defined as a system of hierarchically arranged endogamous social groups according to purity and pollution of occupation which is hereditarily fixed in India. To a very large extent caste system has changed in its form and representation in recent times.

Body
Change in Caste system’s form and representation
- Change in the occupational role: Due to industrialization and urbanization, the hereditary association between occupation and caste has been broken. An individual is free to choose his occupation.
- Inter-caste marriage: The relevance of endogamy feature of caste is decreasing as there is an increase in inter-caste marriages.
- Caste as a tool for political mobilization: Caste identity is being used for political mobilization. Eg. Bahujan Samaj Party. Further, most of the political parties allot tickets after taking careful analysis of caste arithmetic of region.
- Caste as pressure groups: Caste is being used as pressure groups for seeking favourable changes in policies e.g. demands for affirmative action by Patels of Gujarat, Marathas of Maharashtra and Jats of Haryana.
- Social and behaviour change: Traditionally, under the caste system, elaborate restrictions related to food sharing have been followed. In recent times, these restrictions are getting diluted due to various factors like migration, modern values, westernization, globalisation etc.

continued...
Constitutional safeguards for equality (Article 14), against untouchability (Article 17) and discrimination (Article 15) have largely attempted to remove the hierarchical manifestations of the caste system in the country. Supported by these measures, in recent times the legislative orientation towards caste system is changing.

Increasing caste associations: Caste is playing an important role as a basis for the formation of new groups. These caste associations are important agencies for the mobilization and coordination of collective effort to achieve the goals of their members.

Conclusion

While the manifestation of the caste system has changed to a large extent in recent times, the system itself has not changed much.

For example - even though untouchability and caste-based discrimination is barred under the Constitution of India, occupations like manual scavenging have the majority of workers from lower castes.

Though caste groups like Khap Panchayats have been brought under the scrutiny of the judiciary, the expression of social exclusion and maintaining the caste-based division by the communities has however not vanished but has changed to become more subtle.

For example - The matrimonial advertisements are frequent in the newspapers that especially demand brides and grooms from particular communities.

Even religions that do not follow caste systems like Muslims and Christianity have observed caste-like discrimination. Dalits who have converted to Christianity have separate graveyards in States like Kerala.

Considering that these divisions offer solidarity and psychological strength to various marginalized groups, even if the caste-based discrimination is diffused through the legislative enforcement the divisions of identity will be difficult to erase.
Social empowerment in India needs to focus on reinforcing the dignity of different sections of society. Comment. (250 words)

Approach
- Describe social empowerment and its importance for the deprived sections and society as a whole.
- Mention the relatively deprived sections in India and means of reinforcing the dignity of different sections of society.

Introduction
- Social empowerment is the process of developing a sense of autonomy and self-confidence, and acting individually and collectively to change social relationships and the institutions that exclude socially disadvantaged sections and keep them in poverty.
- The social empowerment of different sections of population removes the age old discrimination and suffering received by the weaker section and enables creation of a just, egalitarian and democratic society. This reinforces the principles and values of the constitution enshrined in preamble, fundamental rights and various other schedules.
- The empowerment also contributes to the overall strength of a nation through economic contribution of all the sections, removing differences and friction among different communities and bringing harmony which works in tandem to social security and economic strength.

Body
The socially disadvantaged groups in India include the SCs, STs, OBC, minorities and women.

Broader goals for ensuring dignity to socially disadvantaged
- Providing enabling environment: Social empowerment of these sections include creating an enabling environment that is conducive for these groups to exercise their rights freely, enjoy their privileges and be able to lead a life with confidence and dignity. For instance, institutions, public spaces and private relationships are free of biases and discriminations
- Removal of disparities: Ensuring removal of disparities, eliminating exploitation and suppression and providing protection to the disadvantaged groups through laws, institutional set-ups, positive discrimination to create a level playing field for all communities.

continued...
• Inclusive growth: Ensuring that developmental benefits reach the socially disadvantaged through equitable distribution of resources at all levels.

• Participatory development process: Ensuring the involvement of the socially disadvantaged groups in the process of planning not merely as beneficiaries but also as participants in the formulation of need-based projects, as well as their implementation.

Agents of social empowerment

• Education: Education is the basic requirement and the most effective instrument of social empowerment. Right to Education Act 2009, declared education as a fundamental right for children of 6-14 years of age.

• Economic empowerment: Economic empowerment of the weaker sections of SCs, OBCs and minorities is being carried out through promotion of employment and income generating activities e.g. Skill India, Stand Up India for SCs/STs and women.

• Social Justice: The Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955, and the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PoA Act) are two important legislations to address the problems of social discrimination, prevalence of social evils like untouchability and the increasing cases of exploitation and atrocities against disadvantaged groups

• 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments: These amendments provide reservations for SCs/STs/OBCs/women paving way of their political empowerment by providing reservations in institutions of local governance of both rural and urban areas.

• Gender budgeting: Gender Budgeting is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that the benefits of development reach women as much as men. It ensures focused spending on health, nutrition, education needs of women.
**Tribal sub-plan:** The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) is a strategy for the rapid Socio-economic development of tribal people. It forms a part of annual Plan of a State/UT.

**Minorities social empowerment:** Minorities are empowered through schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJK) which is designed to address the development deficits of the identified Minority Concentration Areas, Nai roshni for women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks etc.

**Conclusion**

- Socially disadvantaged groups often lack the skills and confidence to engage in community decision-making due to traditional social barriers.
- Therefore it is important to specifically target marginalised groups in order to ensure that they can be socially empowered ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.
1. Explain the significance of the Royal Indian Navy uprising for India’s freedom struggle. How was it different from other movements that took place before it? (250 words)

Approach

- Give a brief introduction of RIN Mutiny.
- List the causes of mutiny.
- Explain its significance in India’s independence movement.
- Conclusion

Introduction

- The Royal Indian Navy (RIN) uprising was a revolt by the Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) who had faced a lot of hardships during the Second World War and when the war was coming to an end, the ratings were left with no certainty about their jobs.

Body

Causes of RIN Mutiny

- Racial discrimination (unqual pay for Indian and British soldiers), unpalatable food and work conditions, abuse by superior officers, arrest of a rating for scrawling ‘Quit India’ on HMIS Talwar, INA trials, use of Indian troops in Indonesia and the demand for their withdrawal were some of the reasons behind the RIN mutiny.
- It was under these conditions that the mutineers captured several ships and anchored them at Bombay harbour.
- The rebellious ratings hoisted the tricolour, crescent, and the hammer and sickle flags on the mast of the rebel fleet. Other ratings soon joined and they went around Bombay in lorrys holding Congress flags threatening Europeans and policemen. Crowds brought food to the ratings and shopkeepers invited them to take whatever they needed.
- The revolt got extensive support from several other quarters, including elements of the Royal Indian Air Force and local Police services and spread from Karachi to Calcutta.

continued...
Significance of RIN Mutiny

- This revolt was different from the other revolts in the sense that, after 1857 it was the first time that the British realized that the Royal Indian forces were no more obedient to the British commands and were in concurrence with the overall defiant nationalist sentiments prevailing in the entire country.
- Mutinies are usually confined to a particular station, establishment or ship. However, this was the first instance when the entire service joined the revolt.
- Another different feature of the mutiny was that it was directed against the British government and not against superior officers – not a single officer, British or Indian, was harmed.
- Fearless action by the masses was an expression of militancy in the popular mind. Revolt in the armed forces had a great liberating effect on the minds of people.
- It was immediately after this revolt that PM Atlee dispatched the Cabinet Mission to India, so it is also inferred that the mutiny hastened the process of transfer of power to India.
- It is also important to mention that the revolt came to an end after the nationalist leaders, Sardar Patel and Mohammad Ali Jinnah on receiving a request to intervene by the British, issued a statement calling upon the mutineers to surrender.
- It displayed that the armed forces no longer obeyed the British authority rather it was the nationalist leaders who held sway over them. The RIN revolt was seen as an event marking the end of British rule.

Conclusion

- Though not inspired by political reasons, the RIN mutiny did have political consequences.
- It is one of the most important events in India’s struggle for freedom, convincing the British government that it could no longer hold on to India.
Why was Simon Commission appointed by the British government? What was the immediate response to the Commission by the Indians. (250 words)

**Approach**
- Give a brief introduction of Simon Commission.
- Give reasons and context for appointment of Simon Commission.
- Briefly explain the reception of Simon Commission by Indians.
- Conclude by explaining its importance for constitution framing by Indians.

**Introduction**
- Indian Statutory Commission, popularly known as Simon Commission was appointed by the British government in 1927 under the chairmanship of John Simon to review the workings of Government of India Act 1919 and suggest future measures. It consisted of 7 British Members of Parliament, including the Chairman.

**Body**

**Context**
- The Government of India Act 1919 introduced Dyarchy system to govern the British provinces in India.
  1. Under this system, the provincial subjects were divided into two categories- Reserved and Transferred.
  2. The transferred subjects were to be administered by the governor with the aid of ministers responsible to the Legislative Council.
  3. Reserved subjects, on the other hand, were to be administered by the governor and his executive council without being responsible to the Legislative Council.
- Further, the Act made a provision for a review committee on its working after 10 years.
- The Act of 1919 failed to meet the aspirations of Indians for self rule (dominion status).
- Although constitutional reforms were due in 1929, anticipating a change in government, the Indian Statutory Commission (Simon Commission) was appointed in 1927.

...continued...
The announcement of Simon Commission evoked a sense of anger among Indians.

The exclusion of Indians from the all-white commission was seen a violation of the principle of self-determination, and as a deliberate insult to the self-respect of Indians.

A nationwide bandh was observed and mass rallies were held. The commission was met with black flags and calls of ‘Simon Go Back’ wherever it went.

The police came down heavily on protestors. In one such incidence of lathi-charge, senior leader Lala Lajpat Rai was severely injured and succumbed to his injuries. This further infuriated the masses and revolutionaries.

The Indian National Congress in its 1927 Madras session decided to boycott commission at every stage and every form.

Other parties like the Muslim League, Liberal Party, Hindu Mahasabha etc also decided to boycott the Simon Commission. However, Unionists in Punjab and Justice Party in the south decided not to boycott the commission.

Simon Commission, led to acceptance of the challenge of Birkenhead by Indians to frame a constitution on its own, which resulted in Nehru report of 1929.

Arrival of Simon Commission and its subsequent protests at pan India level united the Indians against the British might.
Explain how the emergence of press in the 19th century, contributed to the growth of nationalism and struggle for independence in India. Also state the steps taken by the British government to suppress its popularity. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly explain the emergence of Press in India.
- State the contribution of press in nationalism and struggle for independence
- List the restrictions placed by the British government.
- Give a suitable conclusion.

Introduction

- Press in India started with the first newspaper, The Bengal Gazette or Calcutta General Advertiser, by James Augustus Hickey in 1780. Press in its initial phase was primarily an outspoken critic of the misdeeds of British administration and its officers.
- Some examples of early newspapers are: Payam-e-Azadi” or the Message of Freedom (1857) by Nana Saheb Peshwa, The Hindu and Swadesamitran by G. Subramaninya Aiyar, The Bengalee by Surendranath Banerjea, Voice of India by Dadabhai Naoroji, Kesari (in Marathi) and Maharatta (in English) under Balgangadhar Tilak.

Body

**Contribution of Indian Press**

- The early phase of the nationalist movement from around 1870 to 1918 focussed more on political propaganda and education than on mass agitation or active mobilisation of masses through open meetings.
- Connected the masses: The newspaper’s impact was not limited to cities and towns; these newspapers reached the remote villages, where each news item and editorial would be read and discussed thoroughly in the ‘local libraries’. Through its wide reach the press connected the masses in the country.
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak, through his newspapers, was among the first to advocate bringing the lower middle classes, the peasants, artisans and workers into the Congress fold.

continued...
Spread Awareness: In these newspapers, government Acts and policies were put to critical scrutiny. They acted as an institution of opposition to the government. The press made people aware about the colonial exploitation.

The Indian National Congress in its early days relied solely on the press to propagate its resolutions and proceedings.

Restrictions by Government

- Government on its part had enacted many strident laws, such as Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code, which provided that anyone trying to cause disaffection against the British Government in India was to be transported for life or for any term or imprisoned up to three years.
- Vernacular Press Act (VPA) of 1878 was designed to 'better control' the vernacular press and effectively punish and repress seditious writing.
  1. Act came to be nicknamed “the gagging Act”. The Act discriminated between English and vernacular press, and offered no right of appeal.
  2. Under VPA, proceedings were instituted against Som Prakash, Bharat Mihir, Dacca Prakash and Samachar. Amrita Bazar Patrika turned overnight into an English newspaper to escape the VPA. In 1883, Surendranath Banerjea became the first Indian journalist to be imprisoned.

Conclusion

- The Role of the press was significant as it acted as a breeding ground for discontent voices of India, which saw prevailing narrative of Colonial authorities as false and wanted to register their protest.
- Nationalist Leaders such as Tilak and Gandhi through their newspapers and editorials took advantage to reach to the readers of the remotest parts of India. Thus, generating a nationalistic feeling and mobilizing the masses to fight for freedom of a “Nation” – an imagination which already had grasped minds of masses in urban and rural areas alike.
Examine the decolonization process of the Korean peninsula and its significance in contemporary geopolitics. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly explain the decolonization of the Korean Peninsula.
- Explain the role of superpowers.
- Explain its significance in contemporary geopolitics.
- Give a conclusion.

Introduction

- The timeline of decolonization of the Korean peninsula consists of a struggle by the Koreans against the Japanese occupation of Korean Peninsula (1910-1945), followed by the dispute to retain influence in the East Asian region between the Cold War rivals—US and the Soviet Union in the aftermath of the Second World War and defeat of Japan.

Body

- Japan occupied Korea in 1910 and continued till 1945. The era witnessed cultural, political and economic subjugation of Korea by the Japanese.
- The resistance movements for e.g. March 1st movement, were ruthlessly crushed.
- It led to the emergence of several guerilla groups based in neighbouring countries of China and Soviet Russia which were seen sympathetic to Korean cause and were themselves antagonised with Japanese. For e.g., the provisional government of Korea was set up after the March 1st movement in Shanghai and Kim Il Sung emerged as a military leader of another guerilla group.
- With the surrender of Japan, northern Korea was occupied by Soviet forces while Americans occupied the Southern part.
- The Soviets and Americans failed to reach an agreement on a unified Korean government, and in 1948 two separate governments were established, each claiming to be the legitimate government of all Korea: the Republic of Korea in Seoul, in the American zone, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Pyongyang, in the Soviet zone.

continued...
On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces invaded the South. The Korean War drew in the Americans in support of South Korea and the Chinese in support of the North. Ultimately, the Korean War ended in a truce with Korea still divided into two mutually antagonistic states, separated by a heavily fortified “De-Militarized Zone” (DMZ).

Thus decolonization of the Korean peninsula was achieved. But still the governments of the North and the South continue to toe different ideological paradigms. Furthermore, as a result of this dichotomy, the security of East Asia continues to remain vulnerable and the countries situated there, particularly Japan and South Korea find it prudent to continue with their military alliance with the US and at the same time create advanced defence capabilities for themselves.

The US on the other hand, though situated across the Pacific is not likely to directly face the heat of this struggle, but surely is profoundly interested to maintain the power balance in the region. At present, reeling under heavy economic sanctions of the US, the North is threatening the world with its nuclear weapons, but the US is not willing to concede anything unless the North agrees on complete denuclearization. In such a deadlock situation, China is trying to take advantage by engaging with the North to increase its influence in East Asia and create a challenge for US dominance in the region.

China already has a strong presence in the Yellow Sea and the East China Sea and any military alliance with North Korea is going to extend its presence into the Sea of Japan creating a challenge for the Japanese—the US ally in that region. Though China has always tried to project, that its relations with the North are more economic rather than military, any military alliance cannot be ruled out.

Conclusion

Thus, despite decolonization, the Korean peninsula continues to remain a theatre of a power game between the existing and emerging superpowers of the world. The manner in which these powers deal with the geopolitics in the Korean peninsula in the coming time will unfold the geo-strategic dynamics of the region.
How have the emergence of coalitions politics and defections been related to each other in post-independent India? State its significance. (250 words)

Approach
- Briefly describe coalition politics and defection.
- State the relation between coalition politics and defection.
- Explain defection and subsequent degradation of democratic process.
- Give a way forward.

Introduction
- The elections of 1967 brought into picture the phenomenon coalitions. Another important feature of the politics after the 1967 election was the role played by defections in the making and unmaking of governments in the States.

Body
- In the years leading up to the fourth general elections (1964), the country witnessed major changes.
  - The Congress government lost its popularity among the people in the face of economic crisis as a result of successive failure of monsoons, widespread drought, decline in agricultural production, serious food shortage, depletion of foreign exchange reserves, drop in industrial production and exports, combined with a sharp rise in military expenditure and diversion of resources from planning and economic development. This gave way to the rise of communist and socialist parties with their struggle for greater equality.
  - Weakening of Congress system in Indian politics paved the way for the rise of coalition between different ideologies.
  - Since no single party had got majority in the 1967 elections, various non-Congress parties came together to form joint legislative parties that supported non-Congress governments.
  - This system of coalition politics provided a second power centre, but it also let to degradation of moral ideology of democratic process. It also led to a rise of opportunistic coalitions detrimental to the party on whose ticket they get elected and totally jettisoning their ideological commitments.

continued...
After the 1967 general election, the breakaway Congress legislators played an important role in installing non-Congress governments in different States. Defection means an elected representative leaves the party on whose symbol he/she was elected and joins another party.

The challenge after the emergence of coalition was to strike a balance between defections on arbitrary and whimsical grounds, and defections on sound ideological and moral grounds which were necessary for refraining the parties from acquiring absolutist tendencies and for encouraging a healthy coalition culture.

**Conclusion**

- The Anti-defection law, added to the Constitution as the Tenth Schedule by the 52nd amendment of 1985, came as a response to the issue of defection. It was further defined by the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.
- Though the legislation has not been able to control defections completely yet, it has ensured that healthy coalitions in the proper spirit of democracy are not curbed.
Examine how National Emergency of 1975 affected India as a democracy. Also, discuss the constitutional safeguards that were put in place in its aftermath to prevent the misuse of Emergency provisions in future. (250 words)

Approach
• Briefly explain the effects of declaration of national emergency.
• Explain its impact on democratic set up.
• State the constitutional safeguards put in place after that.
• Give a suitable conclusion.

Introduction
• The national emergency was set in motion under Article 352 on June 25, 1975 on the grounds of ‘internal disturbance’ and was in place for 21 months till its withdrawal on March 21, 1977. Threat to national security and bad economic conditions were cited as reasons for the declaration.
• The order gave central government the authority to rule by decree wherein civil liberties were curbed. An external Emergency was already in place at the time of proclamation of national emergency.

Body

Impact on India as a democracy

• Declaration of emergency exposed the fault lines in Indian democracy which can be exploited to bring about a totalitarian rule.
• The 42nd constitutional amendment act was enacted in 1976, during the period of internal emergency, which strengthened the union executive and led to the further centralisation of power. This amendment had four major purposes:

1. Exclude the courts entirely from election disputes;
2. Strengthen the central government vis-à-vis the state governments
3. To give maximum protection from judicial challenge to social revolutionary legislation;
4. To curtail the interventions of judiciary in legislative matters. The amendments could not be questioned in any court on any ground; and there shall be no limitation on Parliament’s power to amend the Constitution ‘by way of addition, variation or repeal’.

continued...
The federal distribution of powers was suspended and all the powers were concentrated in the hands of the Union government.

Government assumed powers to restrict or limit any or all of the fundamental rights during the emergency. This included the right of citizens to move the Court for restoring their fundamental rights.

All newspapers needed to get prior approval for all their materials to be published, known as press censorship.

General elections, the very basis of democratic set up in the country, were suspended.

Extraordinary restrictions were placed on civil liberties, particularly the freedom of speech and expression including the press.

The government made blatant and extensive use of its power of preventive detention. Negating the judgment of several High Courts, the Supreme Court in April 1976 gave a judgment upholding the constitutional validity of such detentions during emergency.

Post Emergency Constitutional Safeguards

Prominent changes were introduced to place safeguards against misuse of Emergency provisions through the 44th constitutional Amendment Act:

- Article 74(l) was introduced, according to which the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider any advice tendered to him, but the President has to act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.
- Article 226 was amended to restore the power of the High Courts to issue writs on matters other than the protection of fundamental rights.
• Article 352 was amended to provide that the proclamation of Emergency can be issued only when the security of India or any part of its territory is threatened by war or external aggression or by armed rebellion. Internal disturbance not amounting to armed rebellion, shall not be a ground for such a proclamation of Emergency.

• It became mandatory for the President to issue a proclamation of emergency only after it has been communicated to him in writing by the cabinet.

• Proclamation of Emergency has to be approved within a period of one month (instead of two months) by resolution of both Houses of Parliament and has to be passed by a majority of the total membership of each house and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting in each house instead of a simple majority.

• For the continuance of Emergency, approval by resolution of both houses of parliament will be required every six months.

• Proclamation of Emergency will be revoked whenever the Lok Sabha passes a resolution for revoking the same by a simple majority.

• 10% or more Lok Sabha members can request a special meeting for considering a resolution for disapproving the Proclamation.

Conclusion

• Emergence of independent judiciary was one of the most important safeguards, apart from above legislative measures, which sought to protect the democratic ideals of the country.

• The fall of the government in the general elections, that followed the withdrawal of national emergency, paved the way for the new government which slowly worked its way to reinstate democratic principles in the country and put safeguards against arbitrary suspension of the same in future.
Examine the various architectural elements of the Mauryan empire and their significance. (250 words)

Approach
- Describe morality.
- Give arguments to show that sometimes circumstances justify morality using situational and consequentialism approach to ethics.
- Give a conclusion.

Introduction
- Mauryan empire is an important phase in Indian arts history. By the fourth century BCE the Mauryas established their power and by the third century BCE, a large part of India was under mauryan control. Stone masonry is the important feature of Mauryan architecture.
- Ashoka emerged as the most powerful king of the Mauryan dynasty who patronised the Buddhist shramana tradition in the third century BCE.

Body
- Construction of stupas and viharas as part of monastic establishments became part of the Buddhist tradition. Further stone pillars, rock-cut caves and monumental figure sculptures were carved at several places.
  - Ashoka Pillars
  - Stone pillars can be seen all over the Mauryan Empire. The stone used in these pillars highly polished and well proportioned.
  - The top portion of the pillar is called capital and it typically has animal figures like bull, lion, elephant, etc. These capital figures are carved standing on a square or circular abacus. The abacuses are on the base which could be a stylized inverted lotus.
  - Example of pillars with capital figures: Sarnath, Basarah-Bakhira, Rampurva, Sankisa and Lauriya-Nandangarh. The Lion Capital at Sarnath is the most famous, It is also our national emblem.
  - Pillars had proclamations inscribed on them and were used to spread the message of the Buddha by Emperor Ashoka.

Rock-cut architecture
- Maurayans also patronised rock-cut architecture.
- The rock-cut cave carved at Barabar hills is a good example of Mauryan rock cut architecture.

continued...
• The cave entrance is decorated with a semicircle chaitya arch. An elephant is carved in high relief on the chaitya. The interior hall of the cave is rectangular; it also has a circular chamber at the back.
• The cave was donated by Ashoka for the Ajivika sect.
• Rock-cut elephant at Dhauli, Odisha – shows modelling in round with linear rhythm.
• Stupas, Chaityas and Viharas
• Due to the popularity of Buddhism and Jainism, stupas and viharas were constructed on a large scale.
• Stupas were constructed over the relics of the Buddha at Rajagaha, Vaishali, Vethadipa and Pava in Bihar, Kapilavastu, Allakappa and Ramagrama in Nepal, Kushinagar and Pippalvina in Uttar Pradesh.
• The Great Stupa at Sanchi was built with bricks during the time of Ashoka and later new additions were made with stone.
• Stupas were elaborately built with certain additions like the enclosing of the circumambulatory path with railings and sculptural decorations.
• During the early phase of Buddhism, Buddha is depicted symbolically through footprints, stupas, lotus throne, chakra, etc. This indicates either simple worship, or paying respect, or at times depicts historicization of life events.
• The events from the life of the Buddha, the Jataka stories, were depicted on the railings and torans of the stupas.

Statues and Sculptures
• Statues of Yakshas and Yakhinis are found at many places like Patna, Vidisha and Mathura. These monumental images are mostly in the standing position.
• One of the finest examples is a Yakshi figure from Didarganj, Patna, which is tall and well-built.
• In stupa architecture, there was ample space for the architects and sculptors to plan elaborations and to carve out images.

Conclusion
• Mauryan architecture is significant for its messages of non-violence and as a means to spread the moral and spiritual messages in the subcontinent.
The evolution of massive and ornate Indian temples can be traced to the simple rock-cut cave shrines. Delineate the growth of Indian temple architectural style since ancient times. (250 words)

**Approach**
- Give introduction of Indian temple architecture.
- Trace the growth of Indian temple architectural style through examples.
- Give conclusion.

**Introduction**
- The typical quality of early Indian architecture lies in the expression of spiritual contents through its temple architecture.

**Body**

**Rock-cut Architecture**
- The oldest rock-cut architecture is found in the Barabar caves, Bihar, which were built around the 3rd century BC. Other early cave temples are found in the western Deccan; these are mostly Buddhist shrines and monasteries, dating between 100 BC and 170 AD.
- The rock-cut Udayagiri Caves are among the most important early sites. The earliest preserved Hindu temples are simple cell-like stone temples, some rock-cut and others structural, as at Sanchi. By the 6th or 7th century, these evolved into high shikhara stone superstructures.

**Gupta Age**
- The Gupta period marks the beginning of Indian temple architecture. The Gupta period ushered in the practice of building with lasting materials, especially in dressed stone and brick.
- Their main characteristics of Gupta temples that had their bearing upon later developments, are flat roofed, square temple with a covered ambulatory around the sanctum and preceded by a pillared porch, sometimes with a second storey above, square temple with a low and squat sikhara (tower) above, rectangular temple with an apsidal back and a barrel vaulted roof above, circular temple with shallow rectangular projections at the four cardinal faces.
- Examples: Deogarh in Uttar Pradesh, Eran, Nachna-Kuthara and Udaygiri near Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh.

continued...
Second Wave of Rock Cut Caves

• The construction of rock cut caves waned after the 2nd century CE, possibly due to the rise of Mahayana Buddhism and the associated intense architectural and artistic production in Gandhara and Amravati.

• The building of rock-cut caves were briefly revived in the 6th century CE, with Ajanta and Ellora caves, before finally subsiding under the rising influence of Hinduism that made stand-alone temples more prevalent.

• The Kailash Temple was created through a single, huge top-down excavation 100 feet deep down into the volcanic basaltic cliff rock.

Emergence of Medieval Temple Styles

• Medieval India had three main temple styles- Nagara, Dravida and the Vesara. In medieval India, it was common for an entire temple to be built on a stone platform with steps leading up to it. The ornate and fine carving on the rocks became more prominent during this time.

• Some of the examples are- Lakshmana temple and Kandariya Mahadeo temple of Khajuraho, the Shore temple at Mahabalipuram, the Brahadeeshwarar temple of Thanjavur, the Hoysaleshvara temple, at Halebid in Karnataka and Konark Sun temple.

Conclusion

• The temple architecture in India is unique and it reflects the traditional values of the Indian culture.

• The temple architecture gradually evolved from the simple rock-cut cave shrines to massive and ornate ones.
The historic structures in medieval India showcase the entire range of structures that catered to life. Discuss. (250 words)

**Approach**

- Give a brief introduction of medieval Indian architecture.
- List the variety of structures constructed at that time.
- Justify how the structures reflected the everyday life of the period.

**Introduction**

- Medieval Indian architecture accommodated the local and regional cultural traditions and social requirements, economic prosperity and religious practice of the time.
- Indian architecture is a synthesis of indigenous styles and external influences which has lent it a unique characteristic of its own. The medieval period saw the synthesis of Persian and indigenous styles of architecture.
- Structures meant for public activity including temples, mosques, tanks, wells, bazaars etc. were built- highlighting the combination of needs, imagination, capacities of the builders and capabilities of the workers.

**Body**

The arrival of Turks during the thirteenth century led to the introduction of- the architectural styles of Persia, Arabia and Central Asia. The salient features of these buildings were the domes, arches and minarets. So, during the course of time blend of islamic style with the Indian architecture culminated into Indo-Islamic architecture with syncretic features.

- Many forts were built with a sophisticated defence system. Most of these forts had ingenious water structures designed for harvesting and storage, including step-wells, elaborate reservoirs and channels.

For example- The famous Srirangapatna fort, also called Tipu’s palace, in Mysore, Karnataka, was built in 1537 in Indo-Islamic style.

- Architectural buildings like mosques for daily prayers, (eg- the Jama Masjids) tombs, dargahs, minars, hammams, formally laid out gardens, madrasas, sarais or caravan sarais, Kos minars, etc., were constructed over a period of time.

For example Quwwatul Islam Mosque at Delhi and the Qutub Minar with engravings of calligraphy both in the mosque and on the tower.

*continued...*
Some mosques have Islamic calligraphy and Quranic verses on the walls to assist worshippers in focusing on the Koran, as well as for decoration. The Mecca mosque in Hyderabad and the Jama Masjid in Delhi illustrate these features.

Many grand mausoleums were built in the memories of royal members. For example, the Taj Mahal, the mausoleums of Akbar (at Agra), Humayun (Delhi), Mohammed Adil Shah (Bijapur) etc.

Gardens with running water like Nishat Bagh in Kashmir, Shalimar Bagh at Lahore and the Pinjore garden in Punjab were laid down.

Elaborate commemorative architectures were built to glorify the kings. For example:
1. Buland Darwaza, a magnificent gateway was built in 1571-72 to commemorate Akbar’s conquest of Gujarat.
2. The Vijay Stambha is an imposing victory monument located within Chittorgarh fort in Rajasthan, India. The tower was constructed by the Mewar king, Rana Kumbha.

In medieval India, temples were social hubs where people congregated. Temples were also sites where the arts of dance, music and combat were honed and have been passed down for generations.

For example, Chennakeshava Temple, Karnataka; Adi Kumbeswarar, Tamil Nadu.

Many stepwells were built in medieval times. Stepwells are wells or ponds with a set of steps. They may be multi-storied with a bullock turning a water wheel to raise the well water to the first or second floor.

1. They are most common in western India and are also found in the other more arid regions of the Indian subcontinent, extending into Pakistan.
2. The construction of stepwells is mainly utilitarian, though they may include embellishments of architectural significance, and be temple tanks.
3. Some of the examples of Baori in medieval times are: Rani ka Vav (Gujarat), Chand baori in Rajasthan, Agrasen ki Baoli in Delhi.

Conclusion

• Thus, the historic structures ranging from military and defensive structures, mortuary, royal courts, mosques, temples showcased the entire range of structures that catered to life in the medieval period in India.
Approach

• Describe the phenomenon of Polar vortex.
• Enlist and explain its impact.
• Give conclusion providing possible linkage to Global warming.

Introduction

• A polar vortex is mass of cold, low-pressure air that consistently hovers over the Arctic. It’s called a “vortex” because it spins counterclockwise like a hurricane does.
• A similar polar vortex exists over the South Pole, but it is the northern polar vortex that can bring severe winter weather to the United States and Europe.
• When the northern polar vortex is strong, it keeps most of the air cooled by the Arctic in the polar region, resulting in mild winter temperatures in the middle latitudes of the eastern United States, and in northern Europe and Asia.
• But when the polar vortex weakens, the once-trapped cold air can meander throughout the top of the Northern Hemisphere, bringing polar temperatures and extreme winter weather to lower latitudes.
• A weak vortex means colder weather in the mid-latitudes, as lobes of the vortex start to move away from the Arctic region towards lower latitudes, exposing these areas, primarily Canada, US, Russia to extreme cold temperatures and accompanying storms.

Body

Impact of weakening of Polar vortex

• Extreme cold temperatures: The pocket of cold air from the poles is displaced, forcing it southward and bringing extreme-cold temperatures to USA’s Northern Plains through the Midwest and even to Northeastern parts of the USA.
• Extremely cold weather affects the flora and fauna of the region.

continued...
• Hazardous conditions: Along with historically cold temperatures, affected areas receive heavy snowfall, which results in snow and ice build-up, as well as, reducing visibility along the roads resulting in many accidents and road closures. Frigid temperatures can pose serious safety problems for those living in extreme conditions.

• Economic impact: The US economy took a $5 billion hit in recent weakening of polar vortex event. Because of the frigid weather, there is loss of productivity, higher energy consumption and a drop in consumer spending.

• Cold weather in Northern India: The unusually cold weather in the hill states of North India and parts of the plains, including the national capital, has been indirectly caused by the Polar Vortex weakening which swept across large parts of the US and Canada that is pushing various weather systems downwards according to experts.

Conclusion

• Although weakening of polar vortex is a well-documented, long-existing pattern, the recent event in the U.S. was less harsh compared with what used to happen during the winter. Scientists are looking at how warming temperatures will likely affect weather patterns like low-lying polar vortex winds.

• One single weather event isn’t enough to prove climate change, but taken over time, as the Arctic continues to warm, cold snaps to the south from the polar vortex could increase for some time.
Explain cloud seeding, along with its applications, challenges, and concerns. (250 words)

Approach

- Explain Cloud seeding.
- State its applications.
- List the challenges and suggest ways in which they can be tackled.

Introduction

- **Cloud Seeding:** Cloud seeding is an artificial way to induce moisture in the clouds so as to cause rainfall. It is done by spreading either dry ice, or more commonly, silver iodide aerosols, into the upper part of clouds.

There are three cloud seeding methods-

- **Hygroscopic cloud seeding** disperses salts through flares or explosives in the lower portions of clouds. The salts grow in size as water joins with them.
- **Static cloud seeding** involves spreading a chemical like silver iodide into clouds. The silver iodide provides a crystal around which moisture can condense.
- **Dynamic cloud seeding** aims to boost vertical air currents, which encourages more water to pass through the clouds, translating into more rain.

Body

**Applications**

- **Agriculture:** It creates rain, providing relief to drought-stricken areas. E.g.: ‘Project Varshadhari’ in Karnataka in 2017.
- **Power Generation:** Cloud seeding experiments have shown to augment production of hydroelectricity during the last 40 years in Tasmania, Australia.
- **Water Pollution Control:** Cloud seeding can help to maintain minimum summer flow of the rivers and dilute the impact of treated wastewater discharges from municipalities and industries.
- **Fog Dispersal, Hail Suppression, and Cyclone Modification:** “Project Sky Water” of U.S.A. in 1962 for weather modification through cloud seeding aimed at fog dispersal, hail suppression, and cyclone modification. During the winter the cloud seeding programme is used to increase the mountain snowpack so that additional runoff is received during the spring melt season. The seeding of cumulus clouds is to provide increased annual rainfall directly on the land.

continued...
• **Tackle Air Pollution:** Cloud seeding can potentially be used to settle down toxic air pollutants through the rain. E.g.: recently, Central Pollution Control Board along with other researchers was mulling use of cloud seeding to tackle Delhi’s air pollution.

• **Tourism:** Cloud seeding can transform typically dry areas much more hospitable to enhance tourism.

**Challenges**

**Potential Side-effects:** The chemicals used in cloud seeding might be potentially harmful. It does have the potential to harm plants, animals and people, or the environment as a whole.

**Abnormal Weather Patterns:** It might ultimately change climatic patterns on the planet. Places that normally receive moisture might start experiencing drought due to the artificial process of adding chemicals to the atmosphere to stimulate rain.

**Expensive:** It involves processes such as delivering chemicals to the sky and releasing them into the air by flare shots or airplanes, which involves huge costs and logistic preparation.

**Pollution:** As the artificial rain falls, seeding agents like silver iodide, dry ice or salt will also fall. Residual silver discovered in places near cloud-seeding projects are considered toxic. As for dry ice, it can also be a source of greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming, as it is basically carbon dioxide.

**Way Forward**

Despite several concerns and challenges, cloud seeding as a process is still into early developmental stages and therefore more research and study needs to be done. In the context of global warming, extreme climatic events, agricultural distress, cloud seeding as a solution cannot be rejected.
What do you understand by Operational Oceanography? Discuss its benefits for a country like India. (250 words)

**Approach**

- Define the term Operational Oceanography and its applications.
- Substantiate with examples, the benefits that India can have from Operational Oceanography
- Conclude by stating recent steps taken by India in this direction.

**Introduction**

- The operational oceanography is an activity of conducting systematic oceanographic studies towards providing information services to various sectors viz. fisherman, disaster management, shipping, ports, coastal states, navy, coast guard, environment, offshore industries for conducting their day-to-day operations.
- In simple terms, it is like weather monitoring and forecasting for the ocean which can provide estimates of essential ocean variables like sea level, temperature, currents, salinity etc. of the present and the future, as well as for the past.

**Body**

Operational Oceanography can help countries multidimensionally like:

- Providing potential fishing zones advisories to fishermen, ocean state forecasts for mariners, Tsunami & storm surge early warnings
- Providing warnings about hazards like coastal floods due to cyclones, storm impacts, harmful algal blooms and contaminants.
- Providing with information about sea state conditions, optimum routes for ships, prediction of primary productivity, ocean currents, ocean climate variability, and modelling of and response to oil spills and dredging.

continued...
Apart from these benefits, Operational oceanography can aid India in various sectors like:

- It can help India to forge cooperation and improve engagement among the countries of the Indian Ocean, including South Asian and African states bordering the Indian Ocean.
- It can also help India in achieving Sustainable Development Goal-14 (SDG 14) related to building marine scientific research capacity which will further fulfil India’s commitment to support Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries.
- Also, operational oceanography is expected to increase ancillary development leading to employment generation in India.

Conclusion

- Thus citing the importance of operational oceanography Indian government has inaugurated a UNESCO Category 2, International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography.
- The establishment of the centre would respond to the worldwide increasing need to build technical and management capacity to address marine and coastal sustainability issues and prepare the region for and react efficiently to marine natural hazards.