



# **MAINS ANSWER WRITING CONSOLIDATION**

## **May 2025**



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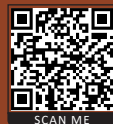
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## GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-1

### History

1. How did Bhakti literature shape Indian culture, and what was the nature of its expression across regions?

(250 words)

#### Approach:

- Briefly describe the Bhakti movement and its literary tradition.
- Discuss its impact on Indian Culture, language, social reform, art forms, and religious harmony with emphasis on its nature.
- Conclusion suitably.

#### Introduction:

The **Bhakti movement**, which emerged (7th- 12th C) in South India and later spread across the subcontinent, sparked a **spiritual and cultural shift** that emphasized **personal devotion over ritual**. Bhakti literature deeply influenced **Indian culture**, uniting regions through devotion while reflecting **local traditions in diverse forms**.

#### Bhakti Literature Shaped Indian Culture:

- Vernacular Languages and Literature:** Bhakti poets chose regional languages such as **Tamil (Alvars)**, **Marathi (Tukaram)**, **Hindi (Tulsidas)**, **Kannada (Basavanna)**, and **Assamese (Shankardeva)** to challenge the elitism of Sanskrit.
  - This not only democratized **religious discourse** but also laid the foundation for **regional literary canons** and future nationalist vernacular movements.
- Cultural Intimacy:** Gave rise to devotional music forms like **dohas (Kabir)**, **abhangas (Tukaram)**, **kirtanas (Chaitanya Mahaprabhu)**, and **padas (Mirabai)**, which resonated with oral traditions, folk idioms, and local musical styles.
  - Inspired classical dance and music traditions such as **Carnatic** and **Hindustani music** (Tyagaraja in Carnatic).

- Subversion of Social Orthodoxy:** Through lived examples and teachings, Bhakti saints like **Ravidas (dalit by caste)** challenged caste rigidity.
  - Their works did not merely denounce inequality but redefined spiritual legitimacy as arising from **bhava (devotion)** rather than **jati (birth)** or **kula (lineage)**.
  - Women saints like **Akkamahadevi** and **Mirabai** expressed devotion outside patriarchal norms.
- Interfaith Dialogue and Pluralism:** Kabir's **nirguna bhakti** rejected idol worship and rituals, while echoing Islamic monotheism.
  - Yet without fully embracing either tradition, forging a **synthetic spiritual vocabulary** that spoke to both Hindus and Muslims amid rising religious polarization.
  - Shared values with Sufi traditions, promoting tolerance and communal harmony.

#### Nature of Bhakti Expression Across Regions:

Region	Key Features	Prominent Saints
South India	Early origin (6 <sup>th</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> century), emphasis on devotion to <b>Vishnu and Shiva</b> .	Alvars and Nayanars
Maharashtra	<b>Varkari tradition</b> , focused on <b>Vitthala worship</b> , use of abhangas (devotional poetry).	Sant Tukaram, Sant Dnyaneshwar
North India	Nirguna (formless) and Saguna (with form) traditions, emphasis on <b>Ram and Krishna bhakti</b> .	Kabir, Tulsidas, Surdas
Karnataka	<b>Lingayat/Veerashaiva movement</b> , strong rejection of caste and ritualism.	Basavanna, Akka Mahadevi
Bengal and Odisha	Emphasis on emotional devotion to Krishna, influenced local Vaishnavism.	Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, Jayadeva

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### Conclusion

Bhakti literature plays a role in shaping Indian culture by integrating the spiritual with the social, the artistic with the literary, and the individual with the collective. Its regional diversity laid the foundation for a more inclusive and humanistic Indian society that still remains deeply relevant.

2. Critically assess the impact of colonial land revenue settlements on India's agrarian economy, and patterns of land ownership. (250 words)

#### Approach:

- Introduce the three major colonial land revenue settlements (Permanent, Ryotwari, Mahalwari).
- Explain their impact on agrarian economy and also discuss changes in land ownership patterns such as rise of landlords/zamindars, etc.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

The Permanent, Ryotwari, and Mahalwari land revenue systems introduced by the British were more than mere instruments of taxation, they redefined India's agrarian structure. Aimed at maximising British revenue, they disrupted traditional landholding and had lasting effects on Indian agriculture.

#### Body:

System	Region(s)	Key Features
Permanent Settlement (1793)	Bengal, Bihar, Odisha	Fixed revenue, Zamindars as landowners; hereditary rights; zamindari system.
Ryotwari System (Early 19th C)	Madras, Bombay, Assam, parts of Punjab	Direct settlement with cultivators (ryots), revenue fixed periodically.
Mahalwari System (1822 onwards)	North-Western Provinces, Punjab, parts of Central India.	Village or 'mahal' as unit; revenue assessed collectively; joint responsibility.

#### Impact on Agrarian Economy:

- **Revenue First Approach:** The British prioritized **fixed revenue over peasant welfare**, treating land chiefly as a **fiscal resource**.
  - ◆ The **Permanent Settlement fixed land revenue**, ignoring crop **fluctuations** and led to rising rents, **agrarian distress**, **absentee landlords**, and little incentive for land improvement.
  - ◆ Moreover, the **lack of security of tenure** disincentivized peasants from adopting better farming practices.
- **Peasant Indebtedness:** In the **Ryotwari system**, direct tax collection from **peasants** involved **high and inflexible demands**.
  - ◆ This pushed many into debt, leading to land loss, increased dependence on moneylenders, and **fragmented holdings**.
- **Food Insecurity & Agricultural Commercialization:** These settlements promoted cash crop cultivation (e.g., indigo, cotton, opium) **over food grains**, **harming food security**.
  - ◆ Additionally, **Mahalwari settlement** assessed revenue on **village communities** and **concentrated power in the hands of village elites**, marginalizing ordinary cultivators.

#### Changes in Land Ownership Patterns:

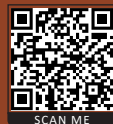
- **New Class of Landlord:** The Permanent Settlement entrenched **zamindars as landowners and tax collectors**. It created a **landed aristocracy**, often **absentee landlords**, incentivized to extract maximum rents, this resulted in a **feudalist agrarian structure**.
- **Erosion of Customary Rights:** Traditional village communal ownership and hereditary land rights were undermined. The settlements **legalized private ownership**, which facilitated land sales and transfers, often disadvantageous to **small farmers and tribal communities**.
- **Increase in Tenancy and Sharecropping:** Many cultivators **became tenants or sharecroppers** under

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**oppressive terms**, intensifying rural inequality and insecurity of tenure.

- ◆ Finally, the rise of **non-cultivating landlord classes** and the growing population of landless tenants.

- **Lasting Effects:** These settlements entrenched **structural inequalities**, created **class divisions in rural India**, and contributed to agrarian unrest, including peasant revolts like the **Santhal rebellion and Deccan riots**.

- ◆ The agrarian distress aggravated famines, as observed during the **Bengal famine of 1943**, where rigid revenue demands worsened vulnerability.

### Conclusion:

Colonial land revenue settlements restructured land ownership towards landlord dominance, displacing traditional communal systems, thereby sowing seeds of chronic agrarian distress and social stratification.

## Geography

3. Analyze how the characteristics of the troposphere make it the principal layer for weather phenomena.

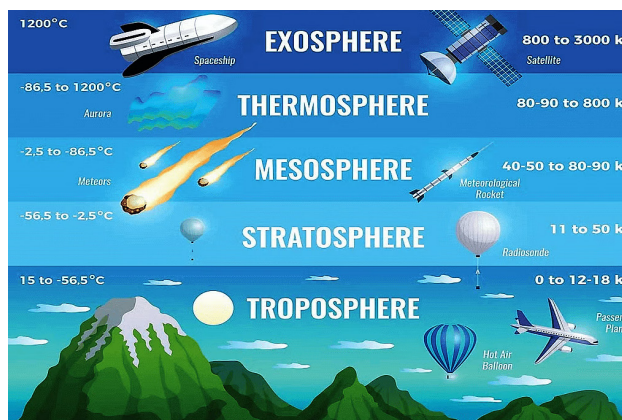
(150 words)

### Approach:

- Begin with a brief definition and vertical extent of the troposphere, explain its structural and compositional features.
- Highlight how these features facilitate weather processes like cloud formation, and precipitation.
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction:

The troposphere is the **lowest layer** of Earth's atmosphere, extending from the surface up to around **8–18 km** depending on latitude and season. It contains **about 75% of the atmospheric mass** and almost all water vapor, making it the primary arena for **weather phenomena** such as clouds, precipitation, and storms.



### Body:

#### Troposphere: Key Characteristics Relevant to Weather Phenomena

- **Temperature Gradient and Lapse Rate:** In the troposphere, temperature decreases with altitude (about 6.5°C per km), causing warm air to rise.
  - ◆ As it rises, it cools and condenses, forming clouds and releasing heat, which further drives upward motion, crucial for storms and cyclone development.
  - ◆ E.g, **Indian Monsoon** driven by **pressure gradients** and **moisture transport** within the troposphere.
- **Planetary Boundary Layer Dynamics:** The lowest part of the **troposphere** is the Planetary Boundary Layer, which is directly influenced by surface processes like **evaporation**, **friction**, and **terrain heating**.
  - ◆ It is characterized by **turbulent mixing**, which regulates **local wind patterns**, **pollutant dispersion**, and **microclimate variations**.
- **Composition of Gases:** The troposphere holds nearly all atmospheric water vapor, driving the hydrological cycle (rain, snow, fog) and regulating humidity.
  - ◆ It also contains **78% nitrogen**, **21% oxygen**, and trace gases like **CO<sub>2</sub>** and methane, which absorb infrared radiation and contribute to the greenhouse effect, influencing Earth's temperature.

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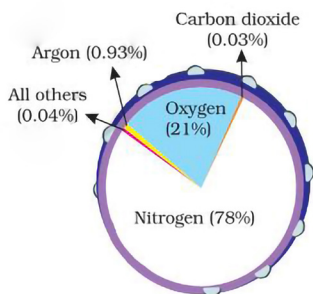
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- **Cloud and Storm Formation:** All **cloud types**, from **cirrus to cumulonimbus**, form within the troposphere.
  - ◆ Violent weather events like **thunderstorms**, **tornadoes**, and **tropical cyclones** originate in this layer due to the presence of **instability, moisture**, and **lift**.
- **Tropopause as a Lid:** The **tropopause** marks the upper boundary of the troposphere and acts as a **thermal lid**, preventing vertical mixing beyond it.
  - ◆ This containment ensures that **weather remains confined to the troposphere**, making it the only layer where such phenomena dominate.

#### Conclusion:

The **dynamic and unstable nature** of the troposphere, with its **rich moisture content**, **thermal gradient**, and **active wind systems**, makes it the **cradle of all weather phenomena** on Earth. Understanding its behavior is crucial in enhancing **agricultural planning**, and **disaster preparedness** in a warming world.

- Western Disturbances are crucial to India's winter rainfall pattern, yet their variability poses both opportunities and risks for Indian agriculture. Discuss. **(150 words)**

#### Approach:

- Define Western Disturbances and their importance in providing winter rainfall to northwest India.
- Discuss their opportunities to Indian agriculture and also analyse the risks due to variability like drought from deficient rains, etc.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

Western Disturbances (WDs) are extratropical cyclonic storms originating over the Mediterranean Sea, traveling eastwards across West Asia and the Himalayan region, bringing winter precipitation primarily to northwestern India. These weather systems are vital for India's winter cropping pattern and water availability.

#### Body:

##### Opportunity for Indian Agriculture:

- **Source of Winter Rainfall:** Winter WDs are further known to contribute to approximately **40%–50%** of the total annual precipitation over the **western Himalayas**.
  - ◆ This rainfall supports the Rabi crops- wheat, barley, and mustard, critical for India's food security.
- **Supporting Food Security:** The **Rabi season contributes more than 60% of India's total food grain production**. Adequate WD precipitation ensures **soil moisture recharge** necessary for sowing and sustaining these crops through critical growth phases.
- **Groundwater Recharge:** Winter precipitation from WDs replenishes shallow aquifers and groundwater, crucial in **arid and semi-arid regions of northwest India**. Given groundwater irrigates more than half of the Rabi crops, WDs indirectly support irrigation needs.
- **Climatic Cooling and Frost Mitigation:** WDs induce **lower temperatures and cloud cover**, reducing frost risk in the Himalayan foothills, thus protecting sensitive crops and orchards.

##### Variability and Associated Risks:

- **Erratic Occurrence and Drought:** WDs show variability in their **frequency, timing, and intensity**, driven by larger climate phenomena such as **El Niño, Arctic Oscillation, and North Atlantic Oscillation**, adversely impacting Rabi crops.
  - ◆ Deficient or delayed western disturbance rainfall can cause **drought-like conditions, lower soil moisture**, and reduced sowing, ultimately resulting in crop failure and decreased foodgrain production.

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- **Flooding and Crop Damage:** Conversely, intense WDs may cause excessive rainfall or hailstorms, leading to **waterlogging, damage to mature crops, and delayed harvest**. Flooding in Punjab and Haryana due to heavy WD precipitation has resulted in crop losses.
- **Impact on Livestock and Farming Practices:** Variability in winter rains affects fodder availability and pasture quality, influencing livestock productivity in rural areas dependent on rainfed agriculture.

### Conclusion:

Effective adaptation through improved forecasting, water management, insurance, and resilient agricultural practices is essential to harness the benefits and mitigate the risks posed by Western Disturbances to India's agrarian economy.

## Indian Heritage and Culture

5. Examine how the spiritual and emotive principles enshrined in the *Natya Shastra* have guided the evolution of Indian classical dance forms. (150 words)

### Approach:

- Briefly introduce the *Natya Shastra*, its importance in the context of Indian performing arts, and its core principles.
- Explore how the *Natya Shastra* shaped the spiritual and emotional foundations of classical dance and influenced regional dance forms.
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction

The *Natya Shastra*, composed by **Bharata Muni** between 200 BCE and 200 CE, is the foundational text of Indian classical dance. It lays down spiritual and emotive principles that continue to shape classical dance as both **an expressive art and a medium of spiritual communication**.

### Body:

#### Spiritual Principles in *Natya Shastra*: The Foundation of Dance

- The *Natya Shastra* views dance as a **divine creation by Lord Brahma**, combining **elements from the four Vedas** to promote spiritual insight and moral learning.

- It also emphasizes that dance is a form of **devotion** and **spiritual expression**, as the art form is believed to have been created by Lord Shiva as **Nataraja**.

◆ Dance, thus, serves as a vehicle for **spiritual awakening** and **communion with the divine**.

◆ For example, **Kathak**, originating in North India, was traditionally performed in temples as a form of **storytelling and devotion to Lord Krishna**, symbolizing the eternal dance between the divine and the human soul.

#### Emotive Principles and Rasa: Conveying Emotions Through Dance

- The *Natya Shastra* outlines **Rasa** as the **emotional essence** that dance evokes in the audience, with **nine key Rasas** like **shringara** (love), **veera** (heroism), and **bhayanaka** (fear), etc. These are brought to life through **Bhavas**, the emotions conveyed by the dancer.

◆ The text identifies eight primary Bhavas such as **rati** (love), **soka** (grief), and **utsaha** (energy), expressed through facial expressions (*angika*), hand gestures (*hasta*), and body posture (*sthana*), forming the expressive foundation of classical dance.

◆ For example, **Kathak** uses **ghungroos** and **rapid chakkars** to portray joy and divine love, especially in Radha-Krishna narratives.

○ In **Odissi**, the graceful **tribhangi posture** conveys devotion and beauty, often in praise of Lord Jagannath.

Dance Form	Key Influence of <i>Natya Shastra</i>	Emotive and Spiritual Aspects
Bharatanatyam (Tamil Nadu)	Expression ( <b>abhinaya</b> ) and narrative storytelling.	Mudras and expressions convey rasas like <b>Shringara (romance)</b> and <b>Veera (heroism)</b> ; devotion to Lord Shiva and other deities.

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Kathak (North India)	Narrative expression (abhinaya) and rhythm (tala).	Emotive expressions like Shringara (love) and Karuna (compassion); <b>Sufi and bhakti influences.</b>
Kuchipudi (Andhra Pradesh)	Integrates acting with dance.	Emphasizes spirituality and devotion in performances dedicated to mythological stories
Manipuri	Deeply rooted in devotional themes from Natya Shastra.	Focus on Shringara (love) and Adbhuta (awe) through graceful movements and gestures in Raslila and devotional narratives.

### Conclusion:

As dance continues to evolve, the principles of the Natya Shastra remain pivotal in preserving the essence of these art forms, ensuring their relevance in the modern world while honoring their ancient spiritual and emotive roots.

6. The architecture of the Vijayanagara Empire represents a high point in the cultural history of South India. Comment. (150 words)

### Approach:

- Briefly introduce the Vijayanagara Empire and its historical context.
- Discuss the key features of Vijayanagara architecture and explain how it stands out within the broader context of South Indian culture. Also, highlight its cultural and historical significance.
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction

The **Vijayanagara Empire (1336–1646 CE)**, founded by **Harihara and Bukka of the Sangama dynasty**, rose as a **cultural stronghold** in South India amid Deccan's political turmoil. Known for its architectural brilliance, the Vijayanagara Empire produced some of the **most remarkable and unique buildings in South India**, merging diverse regional styles.

### Body

#### Vijayanagara: A Cultural High Point

- **Fusion of Architectural Styles:** **Vijayanagara architecture** uniquely blended South Indian traditions (**Chalukya, Chola, Hoysala, Pandya**) with Indo-Islamic elements, especially visible in court structures. This fusion created a vibrant architectural identity.
- **Temple Architecture:** Temples like **Virupaksha, Hazara Rama, and Vittala in Hampi** are known for their **towering gopurams, intricately carved granite pillars, and monolithic sculptures**. The Vittala Temple stands out for its **56 musical pillars**, showcasing engineering brilliance.
- **Courtly and Secular Architecture:** Royal buildings such as the **Lotus Mahal, Queen's Bath, and Kamala Mahal** used granite and mortar, combining Hindu and Islamic styles with decorative arches and geometric designs, reflecting the empire's grandeur.
- **Use of Materials:** Unlike the Hoysalas, who favored softer materials like soapstone, **Vijayanagara architects opted for harder, more durable granite**, which contributed to the lasting quality of their structures.
  - ◆ This choice of material is especially noticeable in the construction of temples, royal buildings, and fortifications.
- **Engineering and Urban Planning:** The **city of Hampi** is an example of advanced urban planning. The city was designed with wide roads, grand gateways, and well-planned gardens and public spaces.
  - ◆ The **Pushkarni or royal water tanks**, built using **chloritic schist slabs**, exhibit intricate stone craftsmanship, demonstrating a unique blend of functionality and beauty in water management.

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### Cultural and Historical Significance of Vijayanagara Architecture

- **Symbol of Cultural Revivalism:** Vijayanagara architecture represented a cultural assertion of **Hindu identity**, art, and temple worship in response to the northward Islamic expansion.
- **Integration of Religion, Politics, and Art:** Temples were not just places of worship, but **centers of social, economic, and political life**, legitimizing royal authority and promoting social unity.
- **Lasting Legacy:** The stylistic elements introduced during this era deeply influenced **subsequent South Indian temple architecture**, particularly in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
  - ◆ **Hampi**, the capital city, is today a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, drawing global attention to the grandeur of Vijayanagara's architectural and cultural achievements.

### Conclusion:

The architecture of the Vijayanagara Empire **represents the zenith of South Indian cultural and artistic expression**. It exemplifies a unique amalgamation of various regional styles and cultural influences, both religious and secular. The empire's architectural achievements **continue to be celebrated for their engineering, artistic, and cultural brilliance**.

### Indian Society

7. Critically analyse the continuity and transformation of traditional social values in contemporary Indian society. (250 words)

#### Approach:

- Define traditional social values in the Indian context and briefly outline their significance in Indian society.
- Identify the key social values that have persisted over time and their role in contemporary society.
- Analyze how these traditional values have transformed due to various modern influences.
- Summarize the dual nature of continuity and transformation.

### Introduction:

Indian society is a **melting pot of diverse traditions**, deeply rooted in a **rich tapestry of values and practices** that has witnessed both continuity and change over time. While many traditional norms endure, modern forces like **globalization and modernization** have reshaped social practices, reflecting its evolving nature.

### Body:

#### Continuity of Traditional Social Values:

- **Respect for Elders:** Respect for elders remains a key cultural value, with the **joint family system** still being prevalent in many rural areas and even in urban families.
- **Family-Centric Social Structure:** The **family** continues to be the primary unit of social organization.
  - ◆ **Marriage and family obligations** are still highly regarded, with the **arranged marriage system** largely intact, particularly in smaller towns and rural India. This system, rooted in tradition, still plays a critical role in upholding familial bonds.
- **Caste-based Social Hierarchy:** Despite the legal abolition of **untouchability** and the **caste system** through the **Indian Constitution**, caste still plays a significant role in Indian society, especially in rural areas.
  - ◆ **Caste panchayats** and caste-based identity remain strong, even in contemporary times.
- **Community and Hospitality:** The value of **hospitality** remains intact, with the famous Indian proverb, "**Atithi Devo Bhava**" (The guest is God), still being practiced, especially in rural settings.

#### Transformation of Traditional Social Values:

- **Individualism & Consumerism:** One of the most significant changes is the growing influence of **individualism** in urban India.
  - ◆ Modern influences like **Western culture, education, and global connectivity** have led to an erosion of the **joint family system**, giving rise to the **nuclear family structure**.

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- This shift has given way to **single parent families**, where households typically consist of single parents and their children, reflecting changing societal values and lifestyles.
  - ◆ Younger generations are more inclined to pursue individual careers and personal goals, leading to a shift in priorities.
  - ◆ The rise of **consumer culture**, especially in urban areas, has led to an increased focus on **individual success, wealth accumulation, and status symbols**.
  - **Gender Roles:** Traditional gender roles that were rigidly defined are slowly undergoing transformation. Women's participation in the **workforce, education, and politics** has grown significantly.
    - ◆ For example, Female Labour Force Participation Rate has increased over the past seven years from **23.3% in 2017-18 to 41.7% in 2023-24** and Women's representation in Indian politics increased to 14% (Lok Sabha).
    - ◆ However, the concept of **gender-assigned 'pink collar' jobs**, which are often **lower-paying and predominantly associated with women** (such as nursing, teaching, and administrative roles), has persisted.
  - **Caste System:** The caste system, though still influential, has been undergoing significant **transformation**, especially with the influence of **education and economic mobility**.
    - ◆ **Inter-caste marriages** have become more common, particularly in urban spaces, contributing to the gradual erosion of rigid caste identities.
    - Despite increased inter-caste unions, **caste-based identities** sometimes persist, being reinforced in new ways, such as through **political affiliations, caste-based reservations, or community organizations**.
  - **Technology and Social Media:** The rise of **technology and social media** has transformed how Indians communicate, socialize, and view themselves.
    - ◆ Values around **privacy, identity, and expression** are rapidly evolving, leading to generational conflicts, especially regarding issues like **marriage, sexuality, and gender identity**.
- Balancing Continuity and Transformation:**
- **Legal Protections:** **Article 15** has empowered **Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs)** through affirmative action, providing reservations in education and government jobs.
    - ◆ **Article 21** has protected **LGBTQ+ rights**, notably through the decriminalization of homosexuality in the *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018)* case.
  - **Cultural Synthesis:** Indian society has historically managed to incorporate **diverse influences** while maintaining its core cultural values.
    - ◆ This process of **synthesis**, combining **traditional values** with **global perspectives**, has led to the creation of a unique **modern Indian identity** that values both **heritage and progress**.
  - The **Traditional Craft of the Thatheras**, a metalworking craft practiced in the **Jandiala Guru** region, continues to be passed down through generations, despite the pressures of modernization.
- Conclusion:**
- India's cultural heritage and modern values of equality and freedom must evolve together. Balancing **continuity** with **transformation** is key to fostering an **inclusive society**, ensuring both social cohesion and progress for all citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
8. Despite several policy measures and constitutional safeguards, manual scavenging continues to persist in India. Analyse the reasons for its continued existence despite legal bans and targeted welfare initiatives.

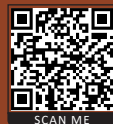
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**Approach:**

- Begin by highlighting the prohibition of manual scavenging and then set the context by acknowledging the persistence of the practice.
- Examine the government's initiatives to eliminate manual scavenging, analyze the factors contributing to its persistence, and propose effective measures to eradicate this practice.
- Conclude suitably.

**Introduction:**

Although **officially banned** since 1993 under the **Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act**, manual scavenging persists due to a complex mix of social, economic, infrastructural, and administrative challenges. Out of 775 districts in the country, 465 have not reported any cases of manual scavenging, indicating that the **practice still continues in 310 districts** (as of January 2025).

**Body:****Constitutional Safeguards and Policy Measures to Eradicate Manual Scavenging:****Constitutional Safeguards:**

- **Article 14:** Manual scavengers face discrimination, contrary to the promise of **equality for all**.
- **Article 17:** The practice is rooted in untouchability, which is abolished and forbidden by the Constitution.
- **Article 21:** The degrading and hazardous conditions of manual scavenging violate the **right to life and dignity**.

**Policy Measures:**

- **Legislative Measures:** PEMSRA, 2013 prohibits manual scavenging and mandates rehabilitation, including employment for next of kin and education for their children.
  - ◆ The **Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993** bans manual scavenging and construction of insanitary latrines.
  - ◆ The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 offer additional safeguards.

- **Schemes and Institutional Support:** **NAMASTE Scheme (2023)** promotes mechanized sanitation and rehabilitation, **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban 2.0)** allocates funds for mechanization and safer sanitation infrastructure.

- ◆ **National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation** offers financial and non-financial support to sanitation workers.
- ◆ **Rashtriya Garima Abhiyan** aimed at **social empowerment** and **dignity restoration** of manual scavengers through awareness, advocacy, and rehabilitation initiatives.
- ◆ **Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of Manual Scavengers (SRMS)** Focuses on self-employment and economic rehabilitation of manual scavengers.

**Despite these Measures, Manual Scavenging Persist due to following Reasons:**

- **Social and Cultural Factors:** Manual scavenging is deeply linked to **caste-based discrimination**, with marginalized communities, especially Dalits, forced into this degrading occupation.
  - ◆ **Persistent social stigma** and **cultural acceptance of caste hierarchies** contribute to the continuation of this practice despite laws.
- **Economic Constraints:** **Poverty and lack of viable alternative livelihoods** compel many manual scavengers to continue in this hazardous job.
  - ◆ Rehabilitation programs have been **inadequate** in providing sustainable employment or skill development, leading to economic dependence on manual scavenging.
- **Infrastructural Deficiencies:** Many regions still rely on **insanitary dry latrines** and outdated sanitation infrastructure requiring manual cleaning.
  - ◆ The slow pace of mechanization and **lack of availability of modern cleaning technologies** perpetuate the need for manual scavenging.

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- **Weak Enforcement and Governance:** Despite strict laws such as the **PEMSRA Act**, enforcement remains weak due to **poor monitoring, corruption, and lack of political will**.

- ◆ The comprehensive national survey mandated by the SC in ***Dr Balram Singh v. Union of India & Ors (2023)*** is yet to be fully realized, resulting in underreporting and inadequate identification of manual scavengers.

**To overcome these Challenges Following Measures Need to be taken:**

- **NHRC Recommendations:** Clearly distinguishes between **sanitation workers and manual scavengers in the 2013 Act**,
  - ◆ Regulating and empanelling the de-sludging market, ensuring **provision of safety gear and awareness workshops**, and offering financial support for innovations in hazardous waste cleaning.
  - ◆ Enhancing awareness and social inclusion to break caste stigma.

- **Adhere to Judicial Directions:** Strictly follow the guideline given by **SC in *Balram Singh* case** and conduct **periodic surveys** to ensure effective rehabilitation and protection of manual scavengers.
- **Tech Solutions:** Encourage wider use of innovations like **Kerala's robotic scavenger "Bandicoot"** by addressing financial constraints and resistance through subsidies, awareness campaigns, and training programs.
- **Infrastructure:** Upgrading sanitation infrastructure requires investing in better sewage and sewage treatment systems.

#### Conclusion:

Despite legal bans and welfare schemes, manual scavenging persists due to caste discrimination, poverty, poor infrastructure, and weak enforcement. Eradicating it requires stronger law enforcement, social reform to end stigma, better sanitation technology, and effective rehabilitation. A coordinated effort from all stakeholders is essential to ensure dignity and equality for affected communities.

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## GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-2

### Polity and Governance

9. Examine the role of the Vice-President of India as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha in upholding federalism and parliamentary discipline.

(150 words)

#### Approach:

- Briefly mention the VP's constitutional role as the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, focusing on federalism and parliamentary discipline.
- Discuss how the Vice-President supports federal principles and ensures decorum in parliamentary proceedings.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

The Vice-President of India holds the **second-highest constitutional office** in the country and serves **ex-officio as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Art 64)**. In this capacity, the Vice-President plays a crucial role in **upholding federalism** and ensuring **parliamentary discipline**.

#### Body:

#### Role of the Ex-Officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha in Upholding Federalism:

- **Representation of State Interests:** By overseeing discussions, the Vice-President as ex-officio chairman **prevents central interests from overshadowing state concerns**, especially on issues like **taxation (GST) and resource distribution**, thereby maintaining a **federal balance**.
- **Casting Vote: Article 100 of the Indian Constitution** grants the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha the **casting vote** in case of a tie during voting.
  - ◆ This power ensures decisions are made efficiently without deadlocks, **preventing central dominance** and **preserving state autonomy** in the legislative process.

- **Use of Special Powers:** The Rajya Sabha possesses unique federal powers, such as legislating on **State List subjects (Article 249)** or creating **All India Services (Article 312)**.

◆ The Chairman, as presiding officer, plays a key role in facilitating resolutions under these provisions with **procedural neutrality**.

- **Addressing Federal Concerns:** In his role as Chairman, the Vice-President plays a crucial part in mediating debates on key federal issues, such as the **Inter-State Council, Article 356 (President's Rule)**, and decisions affecting **state autonomy**.

#### Role of the Ex-Officio Chairman in Upholding Parliamentary Discipline:

- **Maintaining Order in the House:** Under **Rule 256 of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha**, the Chairman can **suspend a member for the remainder of the session** if the member's conduct is grossly disorderly or disregards the authority of the Chair.
- **Preventing Obstructionism:** The Rajya Sabha has faced criticism for obstructionism, such as debates on the **Land Acquisition Bill and GST**, the Chairman's **neutral and balanced approach** is key to enabling constructive debate while preventing legislative deadlock.
- **Power Related to Disqualification: Article 103** of the Constitution empowers the Chairman to decide on the **disqualification** of members under the **10th Schedule (anti-defection law)**.
  - ◆ The Chairman's role in this capacity is crucial for ensuring that the **integrity of the Rajya Sabha** is maintained by ensuring that members who defect from their political party are disqualified according to the law.
- **Committee Referrals and Deliberation:** Given the fall in productivity in recent years (74% from 2014–2021, even as low as 40% in 2018), the Chairman can encourage referring bills to parliamentary committees for thorough analysis and avoid rushed legislation.

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**Conclusion:**

As emphasized by the **Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions**, the Rajya Sabha plays a vital role in federal balance, and the Vice-President, as Chairman, ensures it remains a space for **mature debate, regional inclusion, and constitutional oversight**, core to a healthy federal democracy.

10. Evaluate the role of parliamentary committees in ensuring legislative oversight and policy accountability. (150 words)

**Approach:**

- Briefly explain what parliamentary committees are, and their significance.
- Examine the role of parliamentary committees by examining their functions.
- Conclude suitably.

**Introduction:**

Parliamentary committees form the **backbone of legislative functioning in India**, providing an essential mechanism for detailed scrutiny of bills, and government expenditure. Constituted under Articles **105 and 118 of the Constitution**, these committees enable Parliament to exercise effective oversight and hold the executive accountable. Broadly, there are two types of Parliamentary Committees- **Standing Committees** (Permanent), and **Ad Hoc Committees** (temporary).

**Body:****Legislative Oversight and Accountability:**

- **Financial Oversight:** Key committees like the **Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** and **Estimates Committee** scrutinize government spending, ensuring transparency and fiscal discipline. The PAC, uniquely chaired by an **opposition member, audits government accounts** and exposes financial irregularities.
  - ◆ The **PAC** investigated the **2G spectrum allocation case** around 2010–11, and highlighted serious procedural irregularities, lack of transparency, and violations of norms in the allocation of 2G licenses.
- **Legislative Expertise:** Committees provide a **forum for informed, technical examination** of bills and policies.

Bills referred to committees are studied thoroughly with inputs from external stakeholders and experts, ensuring comprehensive analysis.

- ◆ A **Joint Parliament Committee (JPC)** was constituted to examine the **Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016**, which was later enacted in 2019.
- **Acting as a Mini-Parliament:** Committees mirror the **party composition of Parliament via proportional representation**, facilitating bipartisan deliberations. This reduces political polarization, allowing for consensus-building in a confidential, less media-driven environment.
  - ◆ By bridging the knowledge gap between Parliament and the executive, committees improve legislative quality and governance responsiveness.
- **Accountability & Checks on Executive:** Although committee recommendations are **not binding**, they create a **public record and exert moral pressure** on the government to reconsider controversial provisions or administrative lapses.
  - ◆ Confidentiality fosters frank discussions, promoting effective oversight away from partisan theatrics.

**International Relations**

11. Analyse the key challenges and geopolitical hurdles India faces in its quest for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. (250 words)

**Approach:**

- Introduce the role of UNSC and India's claim for permanent membership.
- Discuss India's bid for permanent membership and also highlight key challenges India faces.
- Conclude with the need for reforms and India's potential contributions to global peace and governance.

**Introduction:**

The **United Nations Security Council**, formed in 1946, still reflects a post-WWII power structure through its **P5**

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**dominance.** With global dynamics shifting, **India**, backed by its population, economy, peacekeeping role, and multilateral commitment emerges as a strong **contender for permanent membership** but faces key **geopolitical obstacles**.

**Body:**

#### India's Credentials for a Permanent Seat in the UNSC

- **Key Contributor to UN Peacekeeping Operations:** India is the **second-largest troop contributor (250,000 personnel across 49 missions)** to UN peacekeeping missions since their inception.
- **Demographic and Economic Weight:** India is the **most populous country** (UN World Population Prospects), with over **1.4 billion people**, making its representation crucial in a democratic global order.
  - ◆ It is also the **world's 5th largest economy** by nominal GDP, and **3rd largest by PPP**, contributing significantly to global growth and trade.
- **Proven Nuclear Responsibility:** Despite being a nuclear-armed state, India maintains a **"No First Use"** policy and has voluntarily adhered to a **moratorium on nuclear testing** since 1998.
  - ◆ It is a member of key export control regimes like the **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)** and the **Wassenaar Arrangement**, reinforcing its commitment to non-proliferation norms.
- **Strong Record as a Non-Permanent Member:** India has served **eight terms** on the UNSC, where it chaired key committees, including the **Counter-Terrorism Committee**, and took principled stands on Afghanistan and maritime security.
- **Advocate of Global Reform:** India consistently champions **reformed multilateralism**, pushing for a more inclusive and representative global governance system.
  - ◆ Through **G-77, BRICS**, and the **India-Africa Forum Summit**, India amplifies the voice of the Global South.
  - ◆ Recent diplomatic engagements during G20 Presidency (2023) and Voice of Global South Summit (2023) enhanced India's global credibility.

#### Key Challenges and Geopolitical Hurdles to India's UNSC Bid:

- **P5 Resistance:** China poses the **most direct opposition**, driven by **strategic rivalry, border tensions, and its support for Pakistan**.
  - ◆ Other P5 members are **reluctant to dilute their exclusive status**, especially by sharing veto power.
- **Veto Power Deadlock:** Any reform involving veto power faces resistance.
  - ◆ While India supports equal rights for new members, **models offering permanent seats without veto** including the **African Union's Ezulwini Consensus**, seek veto abolition or parity, making negotiations more complex.
- **Regional Opposition :** The **Uniting for Consensus (UfC)** group, including **Pakistan, Italy, South Korea, and Argentina**, opposes the G4's bid, arguing it would reinforce power imbalances.
  - ◆ Pakistan, in particular, rejects India's candidature due to historic tensions and geopolitical rivalry.
- **Non-Signatory Status on Key Treaties:** India's non-signature on the **NPT** and **CTBT** is cited by some Western nations as a drawback, despite its strong non-proliferation record and advocacy for non-discriminatory global disarmament.
- **Stalemate in IGN Process:** Since its launch in 2009, the IGN (Intergovernmental Negotiations) **process** has seen **no formal text or agreement**, hindered by procedural hurdles and lack of consensus among member states.

#### Steps India Should Take for Advocating a UNSC Permanent Seat:

- Build **Broad-Based Diplomatic Consensus** with **G4 (with Germany, Japan, Brazil)** and **L.69 Group** to push inclusive reform agenda.
- Leverage Diplomatic Momentum from **G20 and Global South Engagements**.
- Capitalize on **P5 Support (from France, the UK, Russia)** while Managing China's Opposition diplomatically.
- Reaffirm India's nuclear responsibility and commitment to disarmament **to counter NPT/CTBT criticisms**.

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**Conclusion:**

India's push for a **reformed and representative UNSC** reflects the **multipolar realities** of the 21st century. For the UNSC to retain credibility, meaningful reforms including India's inclusion are no longer optional, but **imperative for equitable global governance**.

12. Evaluate the India-EU Free Trade Agreement negotiations, particularly regarding carbon border taxes and quality control orders, and their impact on bilateral economic relations. (250 words)

**Approach:**

- Briefly introduce the India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations and the significance of carbon border taxes and quality control orders.
- Examine the EU's carbon border tax proposal and quality control orders (QCOs), their impact on India, and how these issues affect India-EU trade relations and diplomatic ties.
- Conclude suitably.

**Introduction:**

India and the European Union (EU) are negotiating a **long-pending Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** with an aim to conclude it by 2025. However, **non-tariff issues** like EU's proposed **Carbon Border Tax (CBTs)** and India's expanding **Quality Control Orders (QCOs)** have emerged as significant points of contention, influencing the trajectory of bilateral trade and diplomatic engagement.

**Body:****Carbon Border Taxes (CBTs):**

- **EU Proposal:** It is a tariff on **carbon-intensive imports to the EU**, aimed at preventing carbon leakage.
  - ◆ Indian economic sectors like **steel, aluminum, cement, and fertilizers**, which are energy-intensive and heavily coal-dependent, would face increased export costs. This could undermine India's price competitiveness in the EU market.
- **India's Concerns:** CBAM is seen as a **non-tariff barrier** that disproportionately affects developing countries.

- ◆ India advocates a just and equitable transition, **seeking differentiated responsibilities** under climate frameworks.

**Quality Control Orders (QCOs):**

- According to the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs**, QCOs **aim** to protect public safety, environmental health, and prevent unfair trade practices.
  - ◆ India has notified 187 QCOs, covering 769 products for mandatory BIS certification.
  - ◆ These cover sectors including **electrical appliances, machinery, chemicals, and more**.
- **Impact on EU Exports:** EU exporters face compliance burdens due to India's expanding QCO regime.
  - ◆ Especially affected sectors include electronics, pharmaceuticals, and industrial machinery.
- **India's Response:** India believes that these quality checks, while important for consumer safety, could act as **non-tariff barriers** that limit access to the European market.
  - ◆ India seeks to negotiate more **flexible standards** and **mutual recognition agreements (MRAs)** on quality to facilitate smoother trade between the two regions.

**Impact on Bilateral Economic Relations:****Opportunities:**

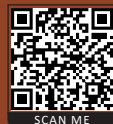
- QCOs can improve India's product standards, making them **globally competitive**.
  - ◆ A prime example is **Japan**, where strict internal regulations and robust quality control have led to the development of **globally recognized brands** like Toyota.
  - ◆ Aligning with CBT may boost **India's green credentials** and open climate-tech cooperation with the EU.
- With a **stable regulatory framework** and improved market access, EU companies may be more inclined to invest in India, particularly in sectors like **renewable energy, technology, and manufacturing**.

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**Short-term Strain:**

- CBAM and QCOs act as **regulatory hurdles**, slowing down FTA progress. Increased **compliance costs** for both Indian exporters and EU manufacturers.
- The EU seeks supply chain **diversification from China**, India is a key candidate. However, **unresolved regulatory barriers** could redirect investment elsewhere.

**Conclusion:**

While these non-tariff barriers may delay the agreement, they also provide a platform for both parties to address broader concerns related to **sustainability, trade fairness, and global competitiveness**. A balanced approach to these concerns will determine the future trajectory of India-EU economic relations.

13. Critically examine how India's neighbourhood policy seeks to balance strategic and security concerns with the objectives of regional economic integration. (250 words)

**Approach:**

- Briefly introduce India's neighbourhood policy and its dual goals of regional stability and integration.
- Examine how India balances strategic/security concerns with efforts toward economic integration, along with associated challenges.
- Conclude suitably.

**Introduction:**

India's '**Neighbourhood First**' policy, aims to foster a peaceful, prosperous, and stable South Asian region. This policy navigates the complex interplay between **ensuring strategic-security imperatives and promoting regional economic integration** through connectivity, cooperation, and multilateral engagement.

**Body:****Strategic and Security Concerns:**

- **Border and Territorial Security:** India shares contentious borders with **China (Line of Actual Control) and Pakistan (Line of Control)**, which have led to multiple conflicts, notably the **1962 Sino-Indian war** and ongoing tensions with Pakistan.

- ◆ India's policy prioritizes **maintaining peace and countering threats from terrorism, cross-border infiltration**, and external influence, particularly from Pakistan.
- **Managing External Influence:** China's increasing footprint in South Asia via the **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)** and projects like the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** challenge India's strategic interests.
  - ◆ India counters this by strengthening ties with other neighbours, providing alternative connectivity projects like the **Chabahar port (Iran)** and **Kaladan multimodal project (Myanmar)**.
- **Promotion of Regional Stability:** India supports democratic institutions and development projects to promote stability in immediate neighbours like **Nepal and Bangladesh**, which indirectly bolster regional security.

**Objectives and Efforts Toward Regional Economic Integration:**

- **Enhancing Connectivity:** India actively promotes regional connectivity via initiatives like the **Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) network** and the **India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway**.
  - ◆ These projects aim to ease movement of goods and people, reduce trade costs, and integrate markets.
- **Multilateral Frameworks:** India engages with regional organizations like **SAARC, BIMSTEC, and IORA** to promote economic cooperation, though SAARC's effectiveness is limited by Indo-Pak tensions. BIMSTEC serves as a more pragmatic platform bridging South and Southeast Asia.
- **Trade and Economic Cooperation:** Despite having the **lowest intra-regional trade globally (~5%)**, India pursues preferential trade agreements and aims to liberalize trade within South Asia.
  - ◆ Development assistance through programs like **ITEC and Vaccine Maitri** enhances economic goodwill and capacity building.
- **People-to-People Exchanges:** India fosters cultural, educational, and technological exchanges to deepen regional ties, thereby supporting economic integration and stability.

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Challenges	Way Forward
Security & Economic Openness	Implement <b>balanced border controls that secure security</b> without excessively hampering trade and connectivity.
Regional Conflict	Strengthen <b>bilateral relations with other neighbours to build regional cohesion</b> despite Indo-Pak tensions.
China's Growing Influence	Deepen ties with Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives; invest in alternative connectivity projects like Chabahar and BBIN.
Fragmented Regional Architecture	Practice pragmatic multilateralism via SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA, while <b>leveraging bilateral and minilateral diplomacy</b> .

**Conclusion:**

India's neighbourhood policy is a complex balancing act seeking to harmonize its strategic-security imperatives with aspirations for regional economic integration. Continued efforts to resolve disputes, enhance connectivity, and deepen economic ties are crucial for fulfilling the vision of a **peaceful and economically vibrant neighbourhood**.

14. India's approach to refugees and migration has been guided by humanitarian principles but has also faced practical challenges. Discuss the challenges faced in balancing humanitarian concerns with national interests. (250 words)

**Approach:**

- Briefly outline India's historical and humanitarian approach to refugees and migration.
- Discuss humanitarian principles India follows, and also highlight key challenges and suggest measures to effectively address the issue.
- Conclude suitably

**Introduction:**

According to UNHCR, refugees are individuals **forced to flee their countries due to persecution, war, or violence**. While India is not a **signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol**, but offers shelter to those seeking asylum based on **humanitarian considerations**.

**Body****Humanitarian Principles in India's Refugee Policy:**

- Non-refoulement Principle:** India follows the principle of **non-refoulement** (not forcibly returning refugees) aligns with **customary international law**. India has **offered refuge based on moral and political considerations**, reflecting its pluralistic ethos and historical experiences.
  - Several groups, such as **Tibetan refugees**, have **received long-term settlement** rights and institutional support.
  - Additionally, India's humanitarian approach is visible in the **resettlement of refugees under UNHCR's** mandate and grant of **Long-Term Visas (LTVs)**.
  - The judiciary has also upheld refugee rights under the **ambit of Article 21 (Right to Life)** of the Constitution.

**Challenges in Balancing Humanitarian Concerns and National Interests:**

- Security Concerns:** Refugee influx, particularly from Afghanistan and Myanmar (Rohingyas), raises **fears of infiltration by terrorists and organized crime**.
  - The government's **refusal to grant citizenship or legal status to Rohingya refugees** stems from concerns over national security and demographic changes, especially in border states like Assam.
- Legal Vacuum:** India faces challenges due to the **absence of a national refugee law or policy**. This results in **ad hoc measures and inconsistent treatment** across different refugee groups, complicating administrative management.

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- ◆ While mechanisms such as the **UNHCR office in New Delhi** and the **Foreigners (Amendment) Act, 2019** offer some support, they only partially address these issues.

- **Resource and Economic Pressure:** Large-scale migration strains limited resources, infrastructure, and employment opportunities, especially in economically vulnerable regions. Public resentment occasionally arises, fueling social tensions and xenophobia, impacting refugee integration. For example, the Rohingya crisis.
- **Diplomatic Sensitivities:** Refugee situations often involve cross-border diplomatic challenges. For example, deporting Rohingyas or Sri Lankan Tamil refugees involves sensitive bilateral ties.
- **Internal Political Pressures:** Migration impacts domestic politics, especially in states like Assam, where identity and demographic concerns are politically charged. Balancing refugee rights with electoral politics and local sentiments complicates policymaking.

#### Balancing humanitarian and national interests

- Develop a **national refugee law** ensuring legal clarity, rights protection, and security safeguards.
- Enhance **institutional capacity for refugee management** and coordination with international agencies.
- Strengthen **border management and security vetting to address legitimate security concerns** without compromising humanitarian commitments.
- Foster regional cooperation within frameworks like **SAARC and BIMSTEC for shared responsibility in refugee crises**.
- Promote **socio-economic integration** through skill development and livelihood support to reduce dependency and social tensions.

#### Conclusion:

India's refugee and migration policy embodies a complex balance between compassion and pragmatism. Formulating a clear legal framework, enhancing institutional capacity, and fostering regional cooperation will be essential to harmonize humanitarian values with national interests.

## Social Justice

15. Discuss the structural and socio-cultural factors hinder transgender persons from effectively accessing welfare schemes in India. Also, propose specific measures to overcome these barriers and ensure their better inclusion. (250 words)

#### Approach:

- Define the challenges faced by transgender persons in accessing welfare schemes in India.
- Examine the systemic and social barriers faced by the transgender community and suggest inclusive policies, and better service delivery for their effective inclusion.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

Despite the Supreme Court's recognition of transgender persons as a 'third gender' and the **Transgender Persons Act, 2019**, government policies still follow a **gender-binary approach**. As a result, many of the 4.88 lakh transgender people (Census 2011) remain excluded from welfare schemes due to marginalization.

#### Body:

#### Structural and Socio-Cultural Barriers to Transgender Access to Welfare Schemes:

- **Lack of Legal Recognition:** Many transgender persons lack identity documents reflecting their gender, restricting their access to welfare schemes that require such verification.
  - ◆ Government systems largely follow **binary gender norms**, excluding transgender individuals from gender-specific benefits.
- **Social Marginalization:** Transgender individuals face social exclusion, limited public access, and harassment due to lack of inclusive facilities.
  - ◆ **In education**, bullying and discrimination lead to high dropout rates, with a **literacy rate** of only **46%** compared to the national average of 74%.
  - ◆ Transgender individuals in India face healthcare discrimination and a heightened vulnerability to HIV, with a 3.1% prevalence rate (UNAIDS).

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- They lack **dedicated healthcare facilities**, with only one such center in Hyderabad, which is now closed.
- ◆ Transgender individuals often face **economic marginalization**, pushing them into begging, sex work, or exploitative entertainment for survival.
- **Homelessness:** Family rejection and **lack of inclusive housing options** drive many transgender youth to homelessness, where they are vulnerable to abuse, mental health issues, and substance use.
- **Transphobia:** Pervasive transphobia, marked by fear, prejudice, and hostility toward transgender individuals results in widespread discrimination, harassment, and violence, both in public and private spaces.
  - ◆ Due to stigma, and constant marginalization, transgender persons often suffer from **anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation**.
- **Public Representation:** Negative portrayals in media and limited visibility in public discourse reinforce harmful stereotypes, deepening societal rejection and enabling further discrimination.

Policy Measures	Description
<b>Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019</b>	Aims to end discrimination in education, employment, and healthcare.
<b>National Portal for Transgender Persons</b>	<b>Online platform</b> for transgender persons to apply for Certificate and Identity card digitally.
<b>Garima Greh</b>	Provides shelter, food, medical care, and recreational facilities to transgender persons.
<b>National Council for Transgender Persons</b>	Established under the Transgender Persons Act to advise the government.

#### Measures to Overcome these Barriers:

- Welfare schemes should be designed to be **inclusive of the third gender**, with flexible documentation processes that accommodate **transgender persons**.
- Additionally, **promoting transgender inclusion** in policy implementation is essential, such as through

roles like **ASHA workers**, **Anganwadi workers**, and **Mahila Police Volunteers**, ensuring they have a prominent presence in community and health-related initiatives.

- Public service employees must be trained in **sensitivity** and **anti-discrimination practices** to ensure equal access to welfare services.
- Strengthening the **legal recognition of transgender identities** and improving social security provisions.

#### Conclusion:

A comprehensive and inclusive approach is essential, beyond just policies and regulations focusing on sensitising legal, administrative, and law enforcement systems to the specific challenges faced by transgender individuals.

16. Evaluate the twin role of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in asset creation and income security among the rural poor in India, along with their contribution to women's empowerment. (150 words)

#### Approach:

- Define SHGs, their significance in rural development.
- Explain SHG's twin role in asset creation and contribution to income security and also highlight SHG's impact on women's empowerment,
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction

**Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** in India have significantly contributed to **asset creation and income security** for rural poor while advancing women's empowerment. By **pooling savings and accessing microcredit**, SHGs enable members to invest in livestock, agriculture tools, and **small enterprises (e.g., tailoring, dairy farming)**, directly boosting household assets.

#### Body

##### Twin Role of SHGs:

- **Asset Creation:**
  - ◆ **Microcredit access:** NABARD's SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SSHG-BLP) disbursed approximately ₹209.29 crore in loans to 54.82 lakh SHGs during the FY 2023-24.
  - **Direct access to credit** has promoted income-generating activities like **livestock rearing, small-scale agriculture, and handicrafts**.

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- For example, **SHGs in Andhra Pradesh** facilitated **livestock acquisition, enhancing productive capacity**, and boosting household resilience against shocks such as crop failure and medical emergencies.

◆ **Savings and Capital Formation:** The savings linkage of SHGs is being undertaken at a **CAGR of 7.5%** over the last five years, thus accelerating **financial inclusion at the grassroot of the economy**.

- **Income Security:** SHGs promote **income security by encouraging diversification into micro-enterprises** such as food processing, handicrafts, and handloom.

◆ Regular savings and credit cycles create a **financial buffer, reducing dependence on informal lenders**.

- For example, the **MoU with Meesho** offers SHG members **marketing platforms and business training**, improving market access and **income opportunities**.

#### Contribution to Women's Empowerment:

- **Control over resources:** Women control about **70%** of the income generated from SHG activities, boosting their economic independence.
- **Entrepreneurship:** NABARD's **Micro Enterprise Development Programmes (MEDPs)** and **Skill Upgradation schemes (m-Suwidha)** equip women with skills and support to run sustainable farm and non-farm enterprises.
- **Social agency:** SHGs tackle gender-based issues like **discrimination, dowry, and domestic violence** through collective efforts.
  - ◆ For example, in Madhya Pradesh, **Sachet Didis and Siksha Sakhis** are ushering in **better health and education** opportunities for the women and girls.
- **Political participation:** SHG members are **three times more likely to contest local elections**, with many leaders from Rajasthan and Kerala being elected as Sarpanches, where they have influenced policies related to sanitation and education.

- ◆ A notable example is **Sampatiya Uikey**, a former Sarpanch who was elected to the Rajya Sabha, highlighting the successful political empowerment journey of SHG leaders.

Challenges	Way Forward
In Tamil Nadu and Delhi-NCR, SHGs producing handicrafts and food items <b>struggle with poor packaging, branding, and sales promotion</b> , limiting their reach in larger urban markets.	To boost market access, the government promotes e-commerce linkages like GeM and cluster development, <b>launching eight "Vocal for Local" GeM Outlet Stores</b> that help startups and self-help groups reach wider markets and increase sales.
Many SHGs <b>face delays and inadequate credit flow</b> ; e.g; in Haryana, members reported bank officials' indifference and refusal to open accounts or process loans for eligible groups.	Expand <b>digital lending platforms</b> , integrate SHG data with <b>Aadhaar and GSTIN for better credit targeting</b> , via MSME Samadhan portal.
Lack of adequate training in financial literacy, e.g; in <b>Ernakulam district (Kerala)</b> , <b>only 54% of SHG members</b> were aware of digital payment tools like UPI, suggesting a gap in digital financial literacy.	Enhance training programs <b>on digital tools, and financial management</b> . e.g; in Jharkhand, <b>Digital Didis</b> voluntarily promote digital literacy in rural areas.

#### Conclusion:

SHGs have demonstrated a **transformative twin role** in enabling asset creation and income security among the rural poor, strengthening these groups through policy support, capacity building, and inclusive governance is imperative for achieving India's inclusive growth and rural development objectives.



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## GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-3

### Economy

17. To what extent can gender budgeting serve as a tool for women empowerment in India? Discuss its status and key requirements for effective implementation.

(250 words)

#### Approach:

- Define gender budgeting and its role in empowering women, especially in the Indian context of persistent gender disparities.
- Discuss its impact on correcting structural imbalances, current status in India, and key requirements for effective implementation.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

**Gender budgeting**, introduced in India in 2005–06, refers to the application of **gender perspectives in the budgeting process** to promote gender equality and women empowerment. With women forming over 48% of the population, gender budgeting serves as a vital policy tool.

#### Body:

##### Role of Gender Budgeting in Empowerment:

- **Equitable Resource Allocation:** Gender budgeting ensures dedicated financial resources for women-centric programs, promoting gender equality.
  - ◆ The gender budget allocation has consistently increased, with **over ₹4 lakh crore allocated in 2025-26**, reflecting a commitment to reducing gender disparities.
- **Economic Empowerment and Inclusion:** Gender budgeting addresses **gender-based inequalities in education and employment**.
  - ◆ With women's workforce participation rose 42% (2023–24), gender budgeting supports further inclusion through employment and entrepreneurship schemes like **Skill India, DAY-NRLM**.

- **Safety and Equal Opportunity:** The **Nirbhaya Fund's** support for initiatives like the Safe Cities Project highlights the potential of gender budgeting in strengthening women's safety.

- ◆ Gender budgeting also promotes women's leadership, seen in schemes like **Stand-Up India**, where more than 81% account holders are women.

##### Current Status of Gender Budgeting in India:

- **Encouraging Development :** Gender budgeting has **expanded across 49 ministries**, including 12 new entrants like railways, ports, mainstreaming gender concerns beyond the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
  - ◆ More than 14000 **women help desks** set up, and headed by women officers.
  - ◆ **Safe City Projects** implemented in 8 metro cities for women's public safety.
  - ◆ 20.5% of MSMEs are women-led, employing 27 million people.
- **Challenges Persist:** Not all ministries have **Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs)**, and less than 30% of the total grants are reflected in the Gender Budgeting Statement.

##### Key Requirements for Effective Implementation

- **Timely Utilization and Accountability:** 76% of the **Nirbhaya Fund** has been utilized, and delays in Utilisation Certificates hinder full accountability. Tools like the **Gender Budget Statement and e-Shram Portal** aid in monitoring and assessing scheme impact.
- **Capacity Building:** Training ministries and state departments through **Gender Budgeting Cells (GBCs)** for better planning and execution.
- **Simplified Access to Finance:** Women benefit from collateral-free loans, alternative credit checks, and financial literacy (e.g., KCC, Mudra Yojana), while worker registration ensures social security and job protection.

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**Conclusion:**

Gender budgeting in India plays a crucial role in promoting women's empowerment by allocating resources to women-centric initiatives. With continued focus and effective implementation, it can help achieve **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)** ensuring equitable growth for women across sectors.

- 18.** Examine the role of MSMEs in India's economic growth and employment generation. What are the key challenges confronting the MSME sector, and how can they be addressed? (250 words)

**Approach:**

- Introduces MSMEs and explains their significance in India's economic development.
- Highlight their role in GDP growth and employment, discuss the challenges they face, and suggest policy measures to address these challenges.
- Conclude suitably.

**Introduction**

**Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** play a vital role in driving India's economic growth and job creation. **With 5.93 crore registered units**, they contribute significantly to manufacturing, exports, and inclusive livelihoods, particularly in rural and semi-urban regions.

**Body:****Role of MSMEs in Economic Growth and Employment Generation**

- **Employment Generation & Gender Equity:** The MSME sector employs over **12 crore people**, making it the **second-largest employment provider after agriculture**. This widespread employment generation contributes significantly to poverty alleviation and social stability.
  - ◆ Schemes like **PM Vishwakarma** and **Mudra Yojana** have boosted micro-enterprises and self-employment, with **20.5% of Udyam registrations** and **68% of Mudra loans** supporting women, promoting gender equity.
- **Contribution to GDP Growth:** MSMEs contribute about **30% of India's GDP** and **45% of manufacturing output**.

- **Strengthening Rural Economy:** Rural MSMEs reduce migration by creating local jobs and supporting agro-processing industries.
  - ◆ The **PM Vishwakarma Scheme** and **Self-Reliant India Fund** boost rural industrialization. The **Animal Husbandry Credit Guarantee Scheme (2023)** offers collateral-free loans to livestock MSMEs, enhancing India's dairy and meat sectors.

- **Boosting Exports:** MSME products account for **45.73% of India's exports in 2023-24**. Government initiatives such as **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** and the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI)** scheme have strengthened MSMEs' participation in global supply chains.

**Key Challenges Confronting the MSME Sector**

- **Formalization and Financial Constraints:** A significant number of MSMEs operate informally, limiting access to formal credit, insurance, social security benefits, and government incentives.
  - ◆ Only about **20% of MSMEs** have access to formal credit. Many rely on informal sources, which increases costs and limits growth.
  - Despite schemes like CGTMSE, only 2.5 crore out of 6.3 crore MSMEs have availed formal credit.
- **Regulatory Burden:** MSMEs struggle with **complex regulatory procedures and overlapping laws** in labor, taxation, and environmental compliance, which hinder business efficiency and innovation.
- **Lack of Skilled Workforce:** Most MSMEs use outdated technology, with only 45% adopting some form of AI and a **mere 6% using e-commerce platforms for sales**. This limits productivity and market reach.
- **Infrastructure Bottlenecks:** Poor road and rail connectivity, high logistics costs (**14-18% of GDP vs. global benchmark of 8%**), frequent power outages, and lack of industrial parks affect MSME competitiveness, especially outside core industrial states.

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- **Environmental Compliance Pressure:** Indian MSMEs emit **around 110 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually**. Compliance with global ESG norms and carbon taxes, such as Europe's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism, pose challenges, particularly for export-oriented units.

#### Measures to Address the Challenges

- **Strengthening Formal Credit Access:** To enhance credit access for MSMEs, **collateral-free lending should be expanded** through fintech and digital platforms.
  - ◆ Mudra and CGTMSE schemes should be integrated, and payment timelines strictly enforced through the MSME Samadhan portal.
  - Integrate MSME data with GSTIN and Aadhaar for better policy targeting.
- **Regulatory Simplification:** To streamline regulatory processes for MSMEs, a single-window clearance system should be implemented.
  - ◆ The **RAMP scheme** should be strengthened for deregulation, and **state-level MSME facilitation councils** established for faster grievance redressal.
- **Boosting Market Access:** To boost MSME exports, **leverage Free Trade Agreements** and cluster development, enhance e-commerce integration through **ONDC and GeM**, and offer subsidized branding and certification for global market access.
- **Technological Adoption:** Establish dedicated MSME tech hubs, expand **apprenticeship and skill development programs**, Scale up the **Digital MSME 2.0 initiative**, and promote the adoption of AI, IoT, and automation.
- **Improving Infrastructure and Supply Chains:** Developing raw material banks and promoting domestic manufacturing of key inputs can help tackle infrastructure lacunae.
  - ◆ Strengthen warehousing and logistics and encourage cluster-based procurement and bulk buying cooperatives.

#### Conclusion:

A coordinated approach involving policy reforms, digital adoption, market expansion, and enhanced institutional support is crucial for unlocking MSMEs' full potential and ensuring sustainable, inclusive growth.

#### Biodiversity & Conservation

19. What is the ecological significance of wetlands? Discuss the Ramsar Convention's approach with reference to wetland conservation efforts in India? **(150 words)**

#### Approach:

- Define wetlands and their ecological significance.
- Explain the Ramsar Convention's approach and its relevance to wetland conservation.
- Summarize the importance of wetlands and the need for continued conservation efforts.

#### Introduction:

Wetlands are **critical ecosystems** where water saturates the soil, supporting **diverse plant and animal life**. They provide essential **ecological, economic, and social benefits**. The **Ramsar Convention** was created (1971) to promote the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, focusing on those of international importance.

#### Ecological Significance of Wetlands:

- **Biodiversity Hotspots:** Wetlands support diverse ecosystems, hosting numerous species of flora and fauna, including **migratory birds, aquatic plants, and amphibians** contributing to the maintenance of biodiversity.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** Despite covering only about **5–8% of the Earth's land surface, wetlands store approximately 20–30% of the planet's soil carbon**.
  - ◆ This high carbon sequestration rate is due to the **waterlogged conditions that slow decomposition**, allowing for the accumulation of organic matter.
  - For example, Peatlands cover about **3% of the Earth's surface, but store almost a third of the world's carbon**, double the amount sequestered in all the world's forests.

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- **Water Filtration:** Wetlands act as natural water filters, **absorbing and breaking down pollutants such as excess nutrients**, heavy metals, and sediments, thus improving water quality and protecting downstream ecosystems.
- **Flood Regulation:** Wetlands function as **natural sponges** by absorbing **excess water during heavy rains**, thus reducing the risk of flooding. This helps in groundwater recharge and in maintaining water cycles.
  - ◆ Wetlands are important for the livelihoods of many communities, particularly through activities such as fishing, farming, and tourism.

#### Ramsar Convention's Approach:

'Wise-Use' Approach: The 'wise use' approach by Ramsar convention emphasizes the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetland resources, taking into account ecological, economic, cultural, and social aspects.

#### Wetland Conservation Efforts in India:

- As of February 2025, India has designated **89 Ramsar sites, covering over 1.5 million hectares**.
  - ◆ Key sites like **Sundarbans, Keoladeo, and Chilika** highlight India's rich wetland biodiversity.
- **National Wetlands Conservation Programme, Wetlands Rules 2017, and State Wetland Authorities** guide conservation and sustainable use.
  - ◆ **The National Lake Conservation Plan** focuses on restoring degraded wetlands through pollution control and habitat recovery.

#### Conclusion:

India's commitment to the Ramsar Convention, through its legal frameworks, community involvement, and restoration initiatives, demonstrates its dedication to **safeguarding these invaluable ecosystems for future generations**.

20. Discuss the effectiveness of India's climate change policies in meeting its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

(150 words)

#### Approach:

- Introduce India's Paris Agreement commitments and NDC targets
- Outline India's progress and major policies and initiatives aligned with NDCs
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction

India's NDCs under the Paris Agreement represent its commitment to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. India has pledged to reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by **45% by 2030** (from 2005 levels), achieve **net zero carbon emissions by 2070**, expand non-fossil fuel energy capacity to **500 GW by 2030**, and create an additional carbon sink of **2.5-3 billion tonnes CO2 equivalent** through afforestation (India's updated NDC, 2022).

#### Body:

##### India's Progress towards NDCs

- **Renewable Energy Expansion:** The renewable energy sector has witnessed rapid expansion, and its renewable energy capacity reached **220.10 GW (March 2025), up from 198.75 GW last year**, marking steady progress toward the 500 GW non-fossil fuel target under the '**Panchamrit**' goals.
  - ◆ This rapid scale-up is instrumental in meeting the target of **50% renewables** in electricity generation.
- **Emission Intensity Reduction:** India has already reduced its emissions intensity by approximately **29% between 2005 and 2020**, ahead of its 2030 target of 33-35%.
  - ◆ India, with per capita emissions far lower than developed countries, emphasizes the principle of "**common but differentiated responsibilities**", focusing on poverty alleviation alongside emission reduction.
- **Forest Cover:** India aims to increase forest and tree cover to **33% of its geographical area**, thereby enhancing carbon sequestration capacity.

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- ◆ Active afforestation and conservation programs contribute to the projected 2.5–3 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent carbon sink.

- **Climate Adaptation Strategies:** Climate adaptation strategies focus on agriculture, water resources, health, and coastal zone management to build resilience against climate impacts.

#### India's Efforts Aligned with NDCs

Policy/Initiative	Focus Area
National Action Plan on Climate Change (2008)	Eight missions covering solar energy, energy efficiency, sustainable habitats, water, Himalayas, green India, sustainable agriculture, and climate knowledge.
National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)	Supports vulnerable regions in adapting to climate impacts.
Mission LIFE	Mobilizes <b>1 billion Indians for environment-friendly governance</b> in 80% of villages and urban bodies by 2028.
State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs)	Customized climate action plans tailored to state-specific challenges.
PAT Scheme & UJALA Program	Promotes energy efficiency via market mechanisms and widespread LED adoption.
FAME-II Scheme	Supports electric vehicle adoption targeting 30% EV share in new sales by 2030.
Green India Mission	Increased <b>forest cover to 24.56%</b> , enhancing carbon sinks and ecological balance.

#### Conclusion:

India's climate change policies demonstrate substantial progress toward meeting its NDCs under the Paris Agreement. However, challenges related to development priorities, technology access, energy poverty, and governance must be addressed to sustain and accelerate this progress. Strengthening adaptation, enhancing public engagement, and deepening international cooperation will be critical for India's climate resilience and sustainable development.

#### Science & Technology

21. The commercialization of space and increasing private participation have created a new space economy. Discuss its significance for India and outline the role of ISRO in this evolving ecosystem. (250 words)

#### Approach:

- Define the space economy and explain how India's Space Sector Reforms 2020 have enabled private participation.
- Discuss its significance for India, outline the role of ISRO, and examine the challenges along with the measures needed to be taken.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

The **global space industry** is rapidly evolving with **increasing commercialization and private sector involvement**, giving rise to a dynamic **new space economy**. In line with this trend, **India's 2020 Space Sector Reforms** enabled **greater private sector participation**, driving accelerated growth, fostering innovation, and strengthening strategic and economic capabilities.

#### Body

##### Significance of the New Space Economy for India:

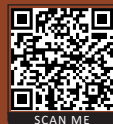
- **Economic Growth & Market Expansion:** India's space sector is projected to grow at a **CAGR of approx 48%** over the next five years, aiming to reach a market size of **USD 50 billion**.
  - ◆ The sector attracts growing private investment, with **venture capital funds** like **MGF-Kavachh** securing **₹2,500 crore** in the last three years, fueling innovation and domestic manufacturing.

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- **Reducing Import Dependency:** Currently, India's import costs for space technology components (like **electronics, carbon fibers, and solar cells**) are **twelve times its export earnings** in the sector.
  - ◆ Promoting indigenous space startups and private players can **reduce this dependency, boost domestic manufacturing**, and build self-reliance.
- **Shift to Demand-Driven Model:** Unlike the traditional **supply-driven model** centered around **government-led missions**, private participation enables a **demand-driven ecosystem** where space technologies **cater directly to commercial and societal needs**, including satellite data usage for **smart cities and precision agriculture**.
- **Global Competitiveness:** International players like **SpaceX and Blue Origin** have revolutionized space access by **drastically cutting costs and turnaround times**.
  - ◆ With initiatives like the **POEM program** increasing startup payloads on PSLV launches (from 6 in 2022 to 24 in 2024), India is positioning itself as a global space economy player.
- **Social and Strategic Benefits:** Enhanced **private sector participation leads to innovative solutions** addressing pressing socio-economic challenges, such as enhancing connectivity in rural areas, disaster preparedness, and environmental monitoring.
  - ◆ It also allows the **ISRO** to focus on **high-end strategic and interplanetary research**.
- **Collaborator and Partner:** ISRO partners with private companies for technology development and commercial production, exemplified by collaborations with **NSIL, HAL, L&T, and startups like Skyroot Aerospace and Agnikul Cosmos**, which have achieved significant milestones like launching **India's first private rocket**.
- **Capacity Building:** ISRO supports private space growth through initiatives like the **Atal Innovation Mission's** the ATL Space Challenge, space tech incubators, and mentorship by retired experts via IN-SPACE.
  - ◆ It also provides access to critical infrastructure like **launch vehicles and ground stations**.
- **Focus on Core Research:** By enabling private players to handle commercial launches and satellite production, ISRO can concentrate on **advanced research in interplanetary missions, deep space exploration, and strategic launches**, enhancing India's space leadership.

#### Challenges in Promoting Startups and Private Participation:

- **Regulatory Hurdles:** Overlapping approvals and **lack of an independent regulator**; ISRO functions as both operator and regulator.
- **High Risk & Uncertainty:** Long gestation periods and uncertain markets deter private investment.
- **Funding Issues:** Indian investors prefer safer sectors like **5G over risky fields like space tech**, limiting private funding.
  - ◆ ISRO's modest budget, less than a **quarter of schemes like PM-KISAN** restricts its growth.
- **Dependence on Imports:** India often imports advanced space-related services and **technologies while exporting or relying on low-skill, low-value goods**, highlighting a gap in domestic high-value capabilities.
- **Space debris & Security Concerns:** Increased private activity heightens risks of **foreign interference** and strategic threats.
  - ◆ Increasing **space debris** poses significant threats to satellite safety and national security, as collisions can disable **critical space assets**.

#### Role of ISRO in the Evolving Ecosystem:

- **Catalyst and Facilitator:** ISRO, through the **IN-SPACE**, facilitates **private sector access to infrastructure and regulatory support**. This enables startups and SMEs to carry out **end-to-end space activities** independently.
- **Regulator and Enabler:** ISRO and the Department of Space (DoS) act as regulators ensuring safe and efficient use of space resources
  - ◆ While promoting **non-governmental private entities (NGPEs)** through clear policies like the **Indian Space Policy 2023**, which allows **74% FDI** in satellite manufacturing and operations **under Automatic route**.

#### Way Forward:

- **Enact Space Activities Act:** Enact a **dedicated Space Activities Act** to provide legal clarity and support industry growth.

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- **Value Chain Mapping:** Analyze various segments to identify gaps, benchmark globally, and shape market-driven solutions.
- **Government Support:** Offer contracts to startups to stimulate demand and validate business models. Enhance funding mechanisms and reduce risk aversion among investors.
- **Capacity Building:** Strengthen academic and training programs, especially in systems engineering and space tech.
- **Sector Synergy:** Promote collaboration between startups, ISRO, and international players for expertise and market access.
- **Additional Measures:** Expand Technology Development Fund, introduce viability gap funding, and improve access to capital.

### Conclusion:

The commercialization of space and private sector participation are pivotal to India's emergence as a global space economy leader. ISRO's evolving role as facilitator, regulator, and innovator is critical to nurturing a vibrant space ecosystem that delivers economic, social, and strategic benefits to the nation.

## Internal Security

22. Critically examine the role of Indian intelligence agencies in countering terrorism. In light of existing challenges, do you think structural reforms are needed to enhance coordination?(250 words)

### Approach:

- Briefly introduce the role of intelligence agencies in countering terrorism.
- Discuss the existing intelligence agencies, identify key challenges faced by these agencies in countering terrorism, and also suggest reform for better coordination.
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction:

India's intelligence agencies play a crucial role in safeguarding national security, especially in countering terrorism. Agencies such as the RAW, the IB, and the NIA are at the forefront of intelligence gathering, and counter-

terrorism operations. Despite key successes, challenges like poor coordination hinder their effectiveness.

### Role of Indian Intelligence Agencies in Countering Terrorism:

- **Intelligence Gathering & Analysis:** RAW is responsible for gathering external intelligence, focusing on threats from neighboring countries like Pakistan and China, as well as groups like LeT and JeM, which were behind attacks such as the 2001 Parliament attack and 26/11 Mumbai attacks.
  - ◆ The IB monitors homegrown terror networks, including Indian Mujahideen and SIMI.
  - ◆ Established in 2009, the NIA investigates and prosecutes terrorism-related offenses, including bombings and bomb threats, with a nationwide mandate.
- **Preventive Measures:** Intelligence agencies use inputs to conduct preventive operations, including intercepting communications and deploying tactical forces to thwart attacks before they occur.
  - ◆ Agencies like the National Security Guard (NSG), supported by intelligence, respond to high-profile terrorist incidents, such as the Mumbai attacks of 2008, to neutralize immediate threats.
- **International Cooperation:** Indian intelligence works with global counterparts like the CIA(America), and Mossad (Israel) to track transnational terrorist networks, share intelligence, and engage in joint operations, especially concerning cross-border terrorism.

### Challenges Faced by Indian Intelligence Agencies:

- **Coordination Gaps:** Despite the establishment of the Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) to enhance coordination, gaps between central and state intelligence agencies persist, resulting in overlapping roles and missed opportunities.
  - ◆ Agencies often work in silos, weakening the overall intelligence system.
- **Inadequate Technological Capabilities:** India's intelligence agencies face challenges in keeping up with cyber-terrorism and online radicalization.
  - ◆ Agencies like the NTRO and DIA are still adapting to the complexities of big data surveillance, and real-time intelligence processing remains a work in progress.

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- ◆ Moreover, the lack of **specialist technical manpower**, such as data analysts, cyber experts, and language specialists, adds to the challenge.
- **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** Bureaucratic red tape significantly delays decision-making and hampers the swift dissemination and action of intelligence, particularly during high-stakes counter-terrorism operations.
- **Manpower Shortages: Recruitment issues and poor cadre management** further exacerbate these gaps.
  - ◆ Most agencies rely on deputations from the police and military, which has led to a lack of **dedicated intelligence officers** with the specialized training required for modern intelligence work, such as cybersecurity and counterterrorism operations.

#### Need for Structural Reforms and Enhanced Coordination:

- **Institutional Reforms:** A national-level **National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)** should be upgraded to facilitate seamless and swift data sharing among all intelligence and law enforcement agencies.
  - ◆ This can centralize the operations of various intelligence agencies, improving real-time information sharing.
  - ◆ The **Kargil Review Committee (1999)** recommended better intelligence sharing and improved coordination among agencies to counter cross-border terrorism.
- **Cyber Intelligence: Modernization of intelligence infrastructure** is vital, especially in **cybersecurity** and **big data analytics**. This can be achieved through **public-private partnerships**.
  - ◆ India can benefit by integrating AI-powered surveillance systems, such as **facial recognition and predictive analytics** to detect cyber-terror threats.
- **Human Resource Optimization:** Establish a **dedicated intelligence cadre** to recruit personnel with specific skills, such as **cybersecurity, technical analysis, and language expertise**.
  - ◆ **Partnerships with academic institutions and specialized training programs** will help build a skilled workforce capable of handling emerging threats.

- **Oversight Mechanisms:** A structured intelligence oversight should establish a **National Intelligence Oversight Committee (NIOC)** of senior political leaders and security experts for accountability, while the **National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)** continues its advisory role on strategic and internal security.

#### Conclusion:

A more **integrated** approach to intelligence work, along with better coordination between agencies, will allow India to better tackle the evolving nature of terrorism. Political leadership, committed to long-term reforms, is essential to drive these changes and ensure India's intelligence agencies can effectively counter terrorism in the future.

### Disaster Management

23. How does the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) contribute to reducing vulnerability in coastal states? (150 words)

#### Approach:

- Introduce the NCRMP and its objectives.
- Discuss key components and strategies implemented by the project and highlight the impact of the NCRMP in reducing vulnerability.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

The **National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP)** plays a crucial role in reducing the vulnerability of coastal states in India by enhancing cyclone risk mitigation. Implemented in two phases, the project focuses on building key infrastructure and improving early warning systems in cyclone-prone areas.

#### Components of NCRMP:

- **Early Warning Dissemination Systems (EWDS):** NCRMP has set up **state-of-the-art early warning systems** that include **alert sirens, satellite radios, and mass messaging** to provide reliable communication.
  - ◆ These systems ensure **last-mile connectivity** in disaster situations, particularly in **Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Goa, Karnataka, and Kerala**
- **Strengthening Infrastructure:** NCRMP also focuses on **underground electric cabling**, reducing the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to cyclonic damage.

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- ◆ For instance, **1,387.76 km of underground electric cabling** has been installed to ensure uninterrupted power supply during cyclones.

- **Cyclone Risk Mitigation Infrastructure (CRMI):** The project involves the construction of **multi-purpose cyclone shelters (MPCS), roads, bridges, and saline embankments**, which significantly enhance the **resilience** of coastal communities.

- ◆ A total of **795 MPCS** have been constructed, providing safe spaces for communities during cyclones.

- **Community-Based Disaster Risk Management:** The project includes extensive **capacity building** initiatives, training over **68,000 community representatives** in **disaster response skills**, such as **first aid**, and **shelter management**.

#### Impact of NCRMP on Vulnerability Reduction:

- **Improved Disaster Response Time:** The installation of **advanced warning systems** and **weather monitoring stations** has drastically improved the response time to cyclone threats, enabling faster evacuations and reducing casualties.
- **Enhanced Infrastructure Resilience:** Cyclone shelters, embankments, and retrofitted infrastructure have provided **safe havens for millions of coastal residents** during cyclones, thereby minimizing physical damage and loss of life.
- **Strengthened Community:** Through extensive **community engagement programs** and **disaster response drills**, NCRMP has empowered local populations with the knowledge and tools to protect themselves during emergencies, thus improving community resilience.
  - ◆ NCRMP strengthens livelihoods such as **fisheries, agriculture, and tourism**, which are often the hardest hit by cyclonic events.
- **Sustainability and Maintenance:** The project promotes **sustainability** through the formation of **Cyclone Shelter Maintenance & Management Committees (CSMMCs)** in each state.
  - ◆ These committees ensure the **maintenance and operational sustainability** of cyclone shelters through the establishment of **corpus funds** for long-term upkeep.

#### Conclusion:

The **National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP)** has significantly contributed to reducing the vulnerability of coastal states; however, the project must continue to evolve with climate change projections, addressing emerging threats and further strengthening resilience in coastal areas.

24. Indian cities face rising risks from both natural and man-made disasters. Discuss the need for integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) into urban planning and infrastructure. **(150 words)**

#### Approach:

- Define the increasing disaster risks faced by Indian cities due to urbanization and infrastructure challenges.
- Discuss the key challenges in urban disaster management and the need for integrating DRR into urban planning and outline measures for enhancing disaster resilience.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

Indian cities are experiencing rapid population and infrastructure growth, **increasing their exposure to natural disasters like floods and earthquakes**, as well as **man-made hazards such as fires and industrial accidents**. Despite progress in disaster management, resilience remains limited, **necessitating integrating DRR into urban planning** to build resilient, safer cities.

#### Body

##### Challenges in Urban Disaster Management:

- **Rapid and Unplanned Urbanization:** Cities expand into **floodplains, wetlands, and seismic zones** without proper regulation, increasing disaster risk.
  - ◆ **Bengaluru's flooding** is aggravated by **encroachments on stormwater drains** and **inadequate drainage capacity**, clear signs of poor urban planning that ignores floodplain management, a key DRR principle.
- **Weak Enforcement of Building Regulations:** Many urban structures **fail to comply with building codes or zoning laws**.

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- ◆ **The Morbi bridge collapse (2022)** in Gujarat was a stark reminder of the consequences of neglecting safety standards.
- **Fragmented Governance:** Multiple agencies handle disaster response and urban development with limited coordination, resulting in inefficiencies and gaps during crises.
- **Insufficient Early Warning and Communication Systems:** Disaster alerts often fail to reach vulnerable communities, such as **slum dwellers and marginalized groups**, limiting timely evacuation and preparation.
  - ◆ Lack of **early warning dissemination and last-mile connectivity** severely hampered rescue efforts and contributed to the high casualty toll during 2013 Kedarnath flash flood (NIDM and post-disaster assessments).
- **Public Participation Deficit:** Urban residents are often unaware or unwilling of disaster risks or preparedness practices, reducing community resilience and increasing reliance on reactive responses.

#### Need for Integrating DRR into Urban Planning and Infrastructure:

- **Systematic Risk Assessment:** Urban planning should be guided by **comprehensive hazard and vulnerability mapping** to identify **flood zones, seismic areas, and at-risk populations**.
  - ◆ Programs like PMAY must prioritize retrofitting and rebuilding slum housing to disaster-resilient standards, reducing risks for vulnerable communities.
- **Localized Urban Disaster Management Plans:** Cities must create disaster management plans tailored to challenges like **dense populations, infrastructure protection, and transport issues**, as required by the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
  - ◆ To address climate variability, they should **implement drainage systems, green infrastructure (e.g., permeable pavements, green roofs)**, and renewable energy solutions in line with the NAPCC to reduce risks from **heatwaves, and droughts**.
- **Building Resilience:** Urban planning regulations need to mandate disaster-resilient design in construction (earthquake-resistant structures, flood defenses), supported by **resilience audits before approval**.
  - ◆ Incorporating DRR into **model building codes and zoning laws** strengthens urban infrastructure sustainability.
- **Improved Coordination and Capacity Building:** A unified command and better coordination among disaster management authorities, urban local bodies, emergency responders, and civil society enhance preparedness and rapid response capabilities.

#### Policy Frameworks for Resilient Urban Planning:

- **Strong implementation:** Strengthen implementation of the **Disaster Management Act**, to ensure mandatory disaster preparedness and mitigation plans at urban levels.
- **Enforcement of Bye-Laws:** Enforce **Model Building Bye-Laws (2016)** to promote disaster-resilient construction and safer infrastructure in cities.
- **National Disaster Management Guidelines:** Utilize National Disaster Management Guidelines to conduct urban risk assessments, vulnerability mapping, and integrate DRR into all aspects of city planning and development.
- **Use of Technology:** Expand the Pan-India implementation of the **Common Alerting Protocol (CAP)-based Integrated Alert System** to ensure seamless, geo-targeted dissemination of disaster warnings across all urban and rural areas.
  - ◆ Utilize **Cell Broadcast technology** to deliver real-time, multilingual alerts directly to mobile users.
- **Participatory Resilience:** Awareness campaigns, participatory planning, and inclusion of local knowledge improve public readiness and foster resilience culture.

#### Conclusion:

Integrating DRR ensures that urban growth is sustainable, inclusive, and resilient to both natural and man-made disasters. Effective integration demands a **multi-sectoral approach involving policymakers, urban planners, emergency services, and citizens**, underpinned by strong legal and institutional frameworks.



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## GENERAL STUDIES PAPER-4

### Theoretical Question

25. Aristotle's concept of 'Virtue Ethics' focuses on the development of good character traits. How can this philosophy be integrated into the ethical framework of public service in modern democracies? (150 words)

#### Approach:

- Define Virtue Ethics.
- Explain how it can be integrated into modern public service ethics using relevant examples, values, and practical applications.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

Aristotle's **Virtue Ethics** emphasizes the cultivation of good character traits, focusing on moral excellence through habit. It is a framework that prioritizes personal development, which can be seamlessly integrated into the ethical framework of public service in modern democracies.

#### Body:

##### The Core of Virtue Ethics

- **Virtue Ethics** is centered on the development of virtues like **courage, honesty, justice, and wisdom**.
- According to Aristotle, moral virtues are developed through habitual action, aiming to achieve the **Golden Mean**, or balance between excess and deficiency.
- Unlike deontological or consequentialist ethics, Virtue Ethics focuses on the **moral character** of the individual rather than the rightness or wrongness of specific actions.

##### Integration into Public Service

- **Public Servants as Role Models:** For effective governance, public servants must embody virtues such as **integrity, accountability, and empathy**.
  - ◆ Aristotle's concept of achieving **moral excellence** can be applied to ensure that public servants are not only skilled but also morally upright.

- **Decision-Making in Governance:** Aristotle's idea of the **Golden Mean** can guide politicians and civil servants in decision-making.

◆ For instance, in matters of **resource distribution**, public servants can balance **efficiency** and **equity**, ensuring fairness without neglecting the practical implications.

- **Ethical Leadership:** Leaders who exhibit **moral virtues** inspire trust and credibility in the public.

◆ For example, the **leadership style** of figures like **Mahatma Gandhi** or **Nelson Mandela**, grounded in virtues of non-violence, honesty, and justice, exemplifies how Virtue Ethics can foster trust and unity in societies.

- **Public Policy:** Virtue Ethics also influences public policies that are centered on **human welfare and the pursuit of eudaimonia**.

◆ For instance, **social welfare policies** can be crafted with empathy and justice, ensuring that they reflect **moral integrity** while addressing societal needs.

##### Examples from Contemporary Public Service

- **Mahatma Gandhi's Leadership:** Gandhi's leadership in the Indian independence movement exemplified **Virtue Ethics**, especially his commitment to **truth** and **non-violence**.

◆ His focus on moral integrity over political power can be a guiding principle for public leaders today.

- **Modern-Day Civil Servants:** Ethical leadership is seen in **public officials** like **Kiran Bedi**, who exemplified **integrity** and **justice** while serving as a police officer in India.

◆ Such individuals demonstrate how **virtues** like **honesty** and **empathy** are vital in public administration.

#### Conclusion:

In modern democracies, the integration of Aristotle's **Virtue Ethics** into public service ensures that public servants not only perform their duties effectively but also uphold **moral**

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values that promote **social welfare** and **justice**. By cultivating virtues like **integrity**, **empathy**, and **wisdom**, public service can strengthen democratic principles and foster a just society.

26. Corruption is often described as a moral failure that erodes the social fabric of a nation. In your opinion, what ethical principles should guide anti-corruption measures?

(150 words)

#### Approach:

- Introduce the answer by defining corruption as a moral and ethical failure.
- Outline key ethical principles that can guide anti-corruption efforts.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

Corruption reflects a **breakdown of ethical values** such as integrity, justice, and responsibility. It undermines **public trust**, weakens institutions, and damages the **moral fabric of governance**. Ethical principles must therefore lie at the heart of anti-corruption strategies.

#### Body:

##### Integrity and Honesty:

- Integrity ensures public officials remain committed to **truthful, fair, and lawful conduct** in all circumstances.
- **Honesty** in declarations, audits, and resource allocation builds **credibility and public confidence** in governance.
  - ◆ Example: The **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act** promotes institutional integrity through independent oversight mechanisms.

##### Accountability and Transparency:

- Ethical governance demands **clear responsibility for actions** and openness in decision-making processes.
- **Proactive disclosure of information** reduces the scope for manipulation, favoritism, and bribery.
  - ◆ The **RTI Act, 2005** empowers citizens to demand transparency from public offices, curbing corrupt behavior.

##### Justice and Fairness:

- Corruption disproportionately affects the poor, violating the principle of **distributive justice and equal opportunity**.

- Anti-corruption efforts should ensure **equitable access** to public services and impartial application of laws.

- ◆ Example: **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** minimizes middlemen and leakages, promoting fairness in welfare delivery.

#### Empathy and Public Service Ethos:

- Corruption thrives in a culture of **indifference to public suffering and personal gain-seeking behavior**.
- Promoting **empathy and service orientation** instills a sense of duty and care for public well-being.
- Ethical training in civil services encourages officers to act as **trustees of public resources**.

#### Courage and Moral Responsibility:

- Whistleblowing against corruption requires **moral courage** and institutional protection.
- Ethical frameworks must support those who uphold public interest, such as through the **WhistleBlowers Protection Act**.
  - ◆ Example: **Satyendra Dubey**, an IES officer who exposed highway corruption, exemplifies moral courage in action.

#### Conclusion:

Corruption is a serious ethical issue requiring **transparency, accountability, and justice**. High-profile scams highlight the need for strong laws like the **Prevention of Corruption Act** and **Whistleblower Protection Act**. Promoting ethical leadership and strict accountability can help build a corruption-free governance system and restore public trust.

27. How does the idea that 'forgiveness is the attribute of the strong' reflect strength of character in personal and societal contexts? (150 words)

#### Approach:

- Define forgiveness and its significance in personal and societal contexts.
- Explore how forgiveness demonstrates emotional strength and character in personal and societal context.
- Conclude suitably.

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**Introduction:**

**Forgiveness** is the **conscious decision to release feelings of resentment or vengeance** toward someone who has wronged you. It requires **inner strength, empathy, and a willingness** to let go of past hurts, not necessarily to excuse the wrongdoing, but to free oneself from the burden of anger and pain.

**Body:****Forgiveness in Personal Contexts:**

- **Emotional Strength and Control:** Forgiveness is not a **sign of weakness but of emotional resilience**. It requires individuals to rise above negative feelings such as **anger, resentment, and bitterness**.
  - ◆ For Example, **Buddhism**, through **Metta** (loving-kindness), promotes compassion and forgiveness to overcome suffering and emotional harm.
    - Incidents of **road rage and conflicts** based on minor misunderstandings are often fueled by impulsive anger and a **lack of emotional regulation**.
    - A forgiving attitude, on the other hand, allows us to navigate these situations calmly and build a more peaceful coexistence.
- **Psychological Well-being:** Forgiveness plays an important role in mental health. The **Dhammapada**, one of the central texts of Buddhism, teaches that harboring hatred and anger only leads to self-inflicted suffering.
  - ◆ Forgiveness liberates individuals from these emotions, allowing them to live a more peaceful and emotionally balanced life.

**Forgiveness in Societal Contexts:**

- **Social Harmony:** At a societal level, forgiveness plays a crucial role in **healing social wounds and promoting reconciliation**.
  - ◆ It reflects **strength of character** which helps in promoting community harmony.
  - ◆ **Mahatma Gandhi** believed in **non-violence and forgiveness** as essential moral principles. He lived

this ideal by choosing **peace over retaliation**, even in the face of brutal injustice under colonial rule.

- ◆ Similarly, Nelson Mandela believed that **forgiveness liberates the soul. It removes fear**, and he demonstrated its power by forgiving his oppressors after apartheid, using forgiveness as a means to heal a divided society and foster national unity.
- **Promoting Restorative Justice:** Forgiveness, coupled with accountability, enables restorative justice by **allowing wrongdoers** to make amends and reintegrate into society.
  - ◆ **Kant's philosophy** suggests that forgiveness allows for a moral renewal, where individuals and societies transcend their past wrongs and move toward moral excellence.

**Conclusion:**

In a world filled with conflict and division, the ability to forgive can transform conflict into opportunities for healing and understanding. Whether in personal relationships or broader societal contexts, it is a cornerstone of emotional strength and social resilience, paving the way for more harmonious interactions and a more compassionate, inclusive society.

- 28.** To what extent is the crisis of ethical values in contemporary society a result of a limited understanding of what constitutes a good life? **(150 words)**

**Approach:**

- Define the concept of the "good life" and how its narrow interpretation contributes to ethical crises.
- Discuss the role of materialism, individualism, and technological advancements in shaping contemporary ethical dilemmas.
- Conclude suitably.

**Introduction:**

The concept of the "good life" refers to an ideal state of well-being, fulfillment, and happiness. It is often viewed as a life that is meaningful, joyful, and aligned with one's values

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and desires. The ethical crisis in modern society can largely be traced to a narrow and materialistic conception of the good life, often equated with wealth, power, and external success.

### Body:

#### Materialism and Ethical Decline:

- **Consumerism and Material Success:** In modern societies, the pursuit of material wealth often dominates the idea of the good life, sidelining **ethical values like integrity and compassion**.
  - ◆ For example, **corporate corruption and environmental degradation** often arise from the overemphasis on economic growth and material success.
  - ◆ Bhutan's **Gross National Happiness Index** challenges this, valuing well-being over material growth.
- **Loss of Moral and Spiritual Fulfillment:** When society equates a good life with material wealth, it neglects the importance of moral virtues such as **honesty, kindness, and empathy**.
  - ◆ This narrow focus contributes to a crisis in ethical values, as seen in the rise of **unethical business practices (crony capitalism)**.
  - ◆ For example, political candidates with criminal backgrounds are fielded to influence masses, prioritizing control over character.

#### Breakdown of Social Ethics:

- **Self Centrism Over Collective Good:** In today's society, individualism often takes precedence over collective well-being. A narrow definition of the **good life emphasizes personal achievement and success**, sometimes at the cost of **others' rights or the common good**.
  - ◆ For example, the **growing disparity** between the rich and the poor reflects a shift away from the values of fairness, justice, and social solidarity.
- **Erosion of Community Values:** The diminished focus on community and social responsibility has contributed to a weakening of ethical values.
  - ◆ **For example**, businesses using **CSR** as PR tools while exploiting workers or harming the environment.

- ◆ The rapid expansion of the digital world has led to new ethical concerns that traditional moral frameworks struggle to address.
  - For example, social media often prioritizes **sensationalism and self-interest**, while reducing personal responsibility and empathy in interactions.

### Conclusion:

When success is measured by material wealth, and individual gain, ethical principles such as justice, fairness, and empathy are overlooked. To resolve this crisis, it is essential to redefine the good life by incorporating moral, social, and spiritual dimensions that promote collective well-being and responsibility.

29. What does the term 'voice of conscience' mean to you, and how can one train themselves to listen and respond to it effectively? **(150 Words)**

#### Approach:

- Define the term 'voice of conscience' and explain its significance in personal ethics and decision-making.
- Discuss how the voice of conscience guides moral judgment and ethical behavior and explain practical ways to cultivate the ability to listen to and act on conscience.
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction:

The '**voice of conscience**' is an **internal moral compass** that helps an individual discern right from wrong. It is the subtle but **powerful inner voice** that nudges a person toward honesty, fairness, and justice. This conscience is vital for personal integrity and social harmony because it promotes accountability and encourages ethical conduct even when external enforcement is absent.

### Body:

#### 'Voice of Conscience'

- The **voice of conscience** functions as an **ongoing self-regulatory mechanism**. It influences behavior by evoking feelings of guilt or remorse when one **contemplates wrongdoing and a sense of peace** when one acts virtuously.

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- According to **Immanuel Kant**, conscience is the **inner court of moral judgment**.
  - ◆ It is an **internal faculty** that judges the moral worth of one's actions and compels an individual to act according to duty and moral law.
- **Rousseau** saw conscience as a **divine instinct**, a natural guide within humans that directs them toward goodness and justice.
- Spiritually, conscience is seen as **Antaryami**, the divine inner guide or witness within all beings, and is closely linked to **Atman**, the pure inner self that leads one toward **Dharma** (righteousness).

#### Ways to Cultivate the Ability to listen and act on Conscience

- **Self-Reflection:** By reviewing one's decisions and emotions daily, individuals become more aware of their ethical motivations and lapses. Journaling emotions and dilemmas can deepen this insight.
- **Mindfulness:** Practicing **mindfulness** enhances **sensitivity** to internal cues such as unease or hesitation that indicate a moral conflict.
  - ◆ Being emotionally aware allows one to pause and assess the ethical dimensions of choices rather than reacting impulsively.
- **Moral Education:** Studying ethical philosophies, religious teachings, and the lives of exemplary figures strengthens moral reasoning. Learning about concepts such as justice, empathy, and duty enriches the conscience's guidance.
  - ◆ Developing **moral courage**, standing up for principles despite **fear**, **social pressure**, or **personal loss** is essential to responding to conscience meaningfully.
- **Seeking Dialogue and Mentorship:** Engaging with trusted mentors and peers in honest conversations about ethical dilemmas can clarify moral confusion and reinforce commitment to values.
- **Habitual Practice:** Conscience becomes stronger and clearer through repeated ethical decision-making. Making small, consistent choices aligned with conscience builds moral discipline and confidence.

#### Conclusion:

The voice of conscience is indispensable for a life of integrity and social responsibility. By consciously cultivating self-awareness, emotional intelligence, ethical knowledge, and courage, individuals can sharpen this inner voice and ensure that it shapes their decisions and actions.

30. How does corruption hinder national development, and what were Kautilya's views on tackling corruption within governance? (150 Words)

#### Approach:

- Explain how corruption impacts various facets of national development.
- Explain how corruption hinders growth, equity, and trust in institutions, and provide Kautilya's views and solutions from the Arthashastra.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

**Corruption** is one of the most pervasive and damaging challenges faced by nations worldwide. It undermines **economic prosperity**, **weakens institutions**, **exacerbates social inequalities**, and erodes public trust. **Kautilya**, in his book **Arthashastra**, offered timeless insights into the dangers of corruption and methods for its control.

#### Body:

##### Impact of Corruption on National Development:

- **Economic Consequences:** Corruption distorts markets by inflating costs, deterring investment, and diverting public funds from essential services, leading to inefficiency and slower economic growth.
- **Social Exclusion:** Corruption disproportionately harms marginalized and vulnerable groups by denying them access to social welfare schemes, justice, and opportunities.
  - ◆ For example, widespread diversion of **subsidized food grains under PDS** in several states weakens poverty alleviation efforts and harms equity and trust in welfare delivery.
- **Erosion of Rule of Law:** Corruption weakens democratic institutions by fostering patronage, nepotism, and clientelism.

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- ◆ Public officials prioritize personal gain over public interest, undermining the credibility of government and its ability to enforce laws equitably.

- **Political Instability and Conflict:** When corruption becomes systemic, it leads to **public disillusionment, protests, and sometimes violence.**

- ◆ It can destabilize governments and hinder long-term policy continuity, affecting national development trajectories.

#### Kautilya's Views on Corruption and Governance:

Kautilya's *Arthashastra* (4<sup>th</sup> century BCE) regarded corruption as a grave threat to the king's authority and the welfare of the state. His approach to tackling corruption was multifaceted:

- **Strict Legal Framework and Punishments:** Kautilya prescribed harsh penalties for corrupt officials, including fines, imprisonment, or even death, to act as strong deterrents.
- **Surveillance and Intelligence:** The king was advised to employ a network of spies and auditors to monitor officials' conduct, detect corrupt practices early, and ensure accountability.
- **Moral Education:** Kautilya emphasized training officials in ethical duties and fostering loyalty to the state and its people. He recognized the importance of cultivating integrity among administrators.
- **Checks and Balances:** The *Arthashastra* advocates dividing administrative responsibilities and implementing overlapping checks to prevent concentration of power that could facilitate corruption.
- **Public Welfare Focus:** Kautilya stressed that good governance must prioritize public welfare; any betrayal of this trust through corruption weakens the state's foundation.

#### Conclusion:

Kautilya's prescriptions anticipate many modern anti-corruption measures, including institutional transparency, independent oversight, and strong legal deterrence. His pragmatic approach blends ethical education with enforcement, underscoring that combating corruption requires both moral leadership and structural reforms.

31. In the context of the defense services, patriotism often entails a willingness to sacrifice one's life for the nation. What does patriotism mean in everyday civilian life? Illustrate your answer with examples. (150 Words)

#### Approach:

- Define patriotism and distinguish its expression in defense and civilian contexts.
- Elaborate on everyday patriotism's forms and provide contemporary and historical examples.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

Patriotism is a **deep-seated love** and devotion towards one's country, **embodying loyalty, pride, and a sense of belonging.** While in the defense forces, **patriotism** is often exemplified through the **ultimate sacrifice** of life for the **nation's sovereignty and security**, its meaning in everyday civilian life is **more nuanced and equally vital** for nation-building.

#### Body:

##### Dimensions of Civilian Patriotism in Everyday Life:

- **Civic Nationalism:** Patriotism in civilian contexts aligns with **civic nationalism**, emphasizing lawful, constructive actions like respecting the **rule of law**, **participating in democracy (e.g., voting)**, **paying taxes honestly**, and promoting social harmony.
  - ◆ For example, over 900 million voters took part in India's 2019 elections, the largest democratic exercise globally.
- **Social Contract Theory:** Civilian patriotism is grounded in **social contract theory**, where citizens uphold national values by respecting laws, engaging in democratic processes, and promoting social welfare.
  - ◆ Philosophers like **John Locke and Rousseau** emphasized citizens' duty to the common good, reflected in everyday patriotic commitments.
  - ◆ **In history**, leaders like **Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** practiced civilian patriotism through **non-violent movements** and national unity-building. Their contributions emphasized **moral and social responsibility as a civilian**, central to nation-building.

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- **Multifaceted Nature:** Patriotism in civilian life is a **sustained and diverse commitment**, reflected in everyday actions.

◆ E.g; during the Covid-19 pandemic, citizens following **safety protocols, volunteering for relief work**, and supporting **frontline workers** demonstrated sustained patriotism by contributing to the nation's well-being in non-military ways.

- **Respect for Pluralism:** Reflects India's diverse ethos and promotes inclusive social and economic development.

◆ **Example:** NGOs like **Goonj** working for disaster relief and rural development promote social equity, reflecting civilian patriotism through service.

○ Grassroots environmental activists **protecting forests and water bodies** demonstrate patriotic **duty to future generations**.

○ Modern entrepreneurs contribute significantly to nation-building by **driving technological innovation, creating jobs, and enhancing India's global competitiveness**.

### Conclusion:

Patriotism in civilian life is **not defined by battlefield heroics alone**; it is the foundation of a resilient, democratic society where each citizen plays a meaningful role in upholding national values and fostering collective progress.

### Theoretical Question:

32. Discuss the relevance of John Rawls's theory of social justice in the Indian socio-political context. (150 Words)

### Approach:

- Introduce John Rawls's theory of social justice.
- Discuss Rawls's principles of justice in the Indian context, linking them to constitutional provisions, and welfare schemes.
- Conclude suitably.

### Introduction::

John Rawls's theory of social justice, advocates **justice as fairness** through two key principles-**equal basic liberties**

**for all**, and **social and economic inequalities arranged to benefit the least advantaged (Difference Principle)**. His concept of the **"original position"** and **"veil of ignorance"** seeks impartiality in designing just institutions. Given India's diverse and stratified society, Rawls's framework has significant relevance for addressing socio-political inequalities and shaping inclusive policies.

### Body:

#### Relevance of Rawls's Theory in India

- **Normative Justification for Affirmative Action:** **Equal basic liberties for all and the difference principle are the two central principles of Rawls's theory**, which allows inequalities only if **they benefit the least advantaged**. This provides a strong philosophical foundation for affirmative action.

◆ For example, **India's reservation policy**, designed to improve access to education and employment for marginalized groups, aligns with Rawls's theory by promoting equity and uplifting disadvantaged communities.

- **Veil of Ignorance:** Rawls argues that social arrangements should be made behind a **"veil of ignorance,"** ensuring impartiality by keeping decision-makers unaware of their own social position.

◆ This encourages policies that **do not favour any particular group unfairly** but are made with the welfare of all in mind.

- **Redistribution of Resources:** Rawls advocates for redistributing wealth and opportunities to ensure that **inequalities serve to improve the situation of the least advantaged in society**.

◆ **India's MGNREGA embodies this principle by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment to rural households**, thereby reducing poverty and addressing structural economic inequalities.

- **Social Cooperation:** Rawls highlights social cooperation as essential for a just society. The **collective efforts of individuals and communities** help create systems that support **mutual benefit and social upliftment**.

◆ In India, the widespread **SHG movement**, especially among women, is a practical **manifestation of social cooperation** aimed at economic empowerment and social justice.

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- **Elimination of Discrimination:** Rawls emphasizes protecting fundamental human rights and eliminating systemic discrimination as foundational to social justice.

- ◆ The **SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989** seek to prevent discrimination and violence against marginalized groups, thereby promoting dignity and equality in line with Rawlsian ideals.

### Conclusion:

Despite ongoing challenges posed by **India's diverse social realities**, Rawlsian justice remains a guiding framework for a fairer society. Its emphasis on equal basic liberties, fair equality of opportunity, and prioritizing the least advantaged resonates with India's constitutional commitment to social justice.

### Case Study

33.

You have recently been appointed as a District Labour Officer in a state where tourism plays a key role in the local economy. During a routine check, you discover that a large hotel in the area has been violating the Minimum Wages Act by not paying its workers the mandated wages. The hotel owner is a powerful local political leader with strong ties to influential officials in the state. You decide to initiate a preliminary inquiry, as you have the authority to take suo-motu cognizance of such violations. However, when you approach the workers, none of them are willing to file formal complaints, fearing retaliation from the hotel management and the loss of their jobs. At the same time, your investigation catches the attention of higher authorities, who begin pressuring you to drop the inquiry, citing the hotel owner's political influence.

This situation presents an ethical dilemma. While the violation of workers' rights is clear, you face a conflict between your duty to uphold the law and the pressure from higher authorities to ignore the issue. The decision you make will have significant consequences, both for the workers and your career.

- Identify the issues involved in this case?
- Evaluate the following options and suggest preferred course of action, with reasons:

- Drop the matter as advised informally by higher authorities.
- Persuade the hotel owner to fix the violations.
- Submit a detailed report and seek formal directions.
- Serve notice and begin legal action under the Minimum Wages Act.

(c) What can be the recommended course of action?

### Introduction:

The case at hand reflects a **classic instance of exploitation** of a vulnerable section of society by employers. Despite legal provisions mandating the payment of **minimum wages** for work performed, employers often take advantage of workers' limited bargaining power. This power imbalance stems from factors, such as the **low-skilled nature of the job, lack of alternative livelihood options**, and absence of **financial security**.

### Body:

Stakeholder	Interest/Role in the Case
District Labour Officer	Duty-bound to uphold labour laws, ensure worker welfare.
Hotel Workers	Victims of wage exploitation; fear retaliation and job loss.
Hotel Owner	Politically influential; prioritizes profit and reputation.
Higher Authorities	May prioritize tourism and political pressure over legal enforcement.
State Government	Responsible for ensuring lawful governance and protecting both labour rights and economic interests.
Local Community	Dependent on tourism for employment; may be affected by fallout if the issue escalates.

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**(a) Identify the issues involved in this case?**

- **Violation of legal rights**, specifically the Minimum Wages Act and **erosion of trust in the system**, evident from workers' reluctance to demand their rights.
- **Administrative duty**, as the Labour Officer is legally and ethically bound to enforce the Minimum Wages Act.
- **Bureaucratic-political interference**, as higher authorities are informally pressuring the officer to overlook the matter.
- **Economic considerations**, where media exposure could negatively impact tourism revenue and the district's image.

**(b) Evaluate the following options and suggest preferred course of action, with reasons:****Option 1: Drop the matter as advised informally by higher authorities.**

- **Pros:** Maintains administrative hierarchy and avoids conflict and prevents potential repercussions such as punitive transfers.
  - ◆ Preserves the **district's tourism reputation** by dropping the matter and not allowing media interference.
- **Cons:** Perpetuates violation of **worker's legal rights** defined under minimum wage act.
  - ◆ Reflects **dereliction of duty** and may lead to future accountability.
  - ◆ Encourages similar exploitative practices by other employers.

**Option 2: Persuade the hotel owner to fix the violations.**

- **Pros:** It allows the hotel owner the **benefit of the doubt** and offers an opportunity to correct the situation voluntarily.
  - ◆ The issue might be resolved informally, avoiding a formal dispute, especially in cases where workers may hesitate to acknowledge the exploitation publicly.
- **Cons:** Lacks enforceability and may lead to continued or altered forms of exploitation.

- ◆ Demonstrates **weak administrative resolve** to take appropriate action as time demands.
- ◆ Employers might find another way of exploiting, like in **terms of more working hours**.

**Option 3: Submit a detailed report and seek formal directions.**

- **Pros:** It could lead to formal **written directives**, enabling action through proper legal and administrative channels.
  - ◆ It would create pressure across the **administrative hierarchy to uphold the law**, ensuring accountability in case of inaction.
  - ◆ It may also compel the hotel owner to comply due to increased scrutiny.
- **Cons:** It could be perceived by higher authorities as a **challenge to their informal directive**.
  - ◆ If the higher authorities fail to respond or take action, it may **further embolden the employer** and contribute to a loss of public confidence in the system.

**Option 4: Serve notice and begin legal action under the Minimum Wages Act.**

- **Pros:** Upholds worker's legal rights and **strengthens trust in the administration**.
  - ◆ Sets a precedent and encourages others to assert their rights and **reinforces the rule of law**.
- **Cons:** It could damage the reputation of the hotel, especially if the matter gains public attention.
  - ◆ The employer might react hastily, potentially leading to **job losses for the workers**.
  - ◆ The move may be viewed by senior authorities as **defiance of their informal directive**, which could adversely affect the officer's career progression.

**(c) Recommended Course of Action: Combination of Option 3 and Option 4.**

- Initially, the most prudent step is to **submit a detailed report to the competent authority**, documenting the legal violations and seeking formal directions.

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- At the same time, it is important to ensure the **protection of the workers involved**.

◆ This includes **keeping their identities confidential**, **creating safe and anonymous ways** for them to report grievances, and, if necessary, using provisions under the **Whistleblower Protection Act** to shield them from retaliation by the employer.

- However, if no response or action is taken within a reasonable timeframe, the officer should then proceed to **exercise the powers under the Minimum Wages Act** by serving a notice and initiating legal action.

#### Rationale for Action:

- This **phased approach** balances **legal responsibility**, **ethical duty**, and **administrative prudence**, while also minimizing abrupt confrontation and protecting the rights of the workers.

#### Conclusion:

As a public servant, one's primary obligation is to uphold the Constitution and serve the public interest. Upholding workers' rights is not only a legal duty but also a moral imperative. Such actions reinforce the values of empathy, integrity, and impartiality, key traits of ethical civil service.

34. What are the key components of emotional intelligence, and to what extent can they be developed through learning and experience?

(150 words)

#### Approach:

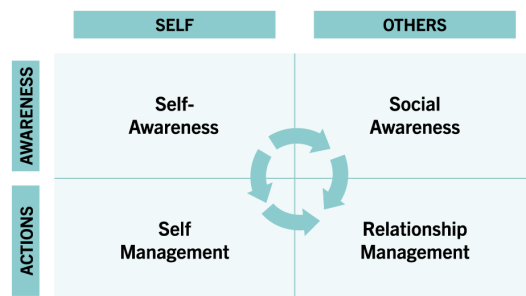
- Briefly define Emotional Intelligence (EI).
- Examine the core elements of emotional intelligence such as self-awareness, self-regulation, etc; how these can be cultivated through learning and real-life experiences.
- Conclude suitably.

#### Introduction:

Emotional intelligence refers to the **ability to identify and manage one's own emotions**, as well as the emotions of others. It is crucial for effective communication, leadership, and overall success in both personal and professional settings.

#### Body:

## 4 Core Competencies of Emotional Intelligence



- Self-Awareness:** Self-awareness is the ability to **understand and recognize one's emotions and their impact** on behavior and performance. Leaders who are **self-aware can make better decisions**, regulate their emotions, and enhance their performance.
  - ◆ **Example:** Leaders can assess their emotional triggers through **360-degree feedback**, enabling them to understand how their **actions are perceived by others**.
- Self-Management:** Self-management refers to the ability to control **one's emotions and impulses, particularly in stressful situations**.
  - ◆ Persons with strong self-management skills can respond thoughtfully rather than react impulsively, which allows them to maintain a positive outlook even during setbacks.
- Social Awareness:** Social awareness involves **recognizing and understanding the emotions of others**, as well as the social dynamics at play within a group or organization. This skill enables one to **practice empathy**, which is essential for effective communication and collaboration.

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◆ **Example:** A civil servant notices that women in a rural meeting are reluctant to speak due to cultural norms. Aware of the social dynamics, he **encourages them to open dialogue and ensures inclusive participation.**

- **Relationship Management:** Relationship management is the **ability to influence, mentor, and resolve conflicts effectively.** Persons with strong relationship management skills **can build and maintain positive relationships,** enhance teamwork, and **address conflicts in a constructive manner.**

◆ **Example:** A leader **addressing a workplace conflict promptly and respectfully** can prevent resentment, improving team dynamics and productivity.

#### EI Development Through Learning and Experience:

- **360-Degree Feedback:** Actively **seeking feedback from peers, subordinates, family** and supervisors to **uncover blind spots and leadership gaps.**
- **Journaling:** Reflecting on **emotional experiences** to understand their impact on decisions and interactions.
  - ◆ **Setting specific goals to target areas for growth,** such as improving social skills or motivation.
- **Active Listening:** Paying **full attention to others,** paraphrasing, and **using non-verbal cues** to show understanding.
- **Training and Courses:** Engaging in emotional intelligence workshops or community participation can **help deepen one's understanding and application of EI principles.**
- **Self-Reflection:** Regularly assessing emotional responses to different situations to **improve self-awareness and self-regulation.**

#### Conclusion:

Developing emotional intelligence enhances self-growth, leadership, and workplace relationships. Through practices like reflection and feedback, individuals can improve EI, leading to stronger communication, better teamwork, and overall success.

35. A man who won't die for something is not fit to live- Martin Luther King Jr. What does this quotation convey to you in the present context? (150 words)

#### Approach:

- Provide context for the quotation and explain its meaning.
- Discuss its relevance in the present day.
- Conclude with its impact on personal and societal responsibility

#### Introduction:

Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote, "*A man who won't die for something is not fit to live,*" emphasizes the importance of having a purpose or cause worth sacrificing for. It suggests that true living entails standing up for values, principles, or ideals that transcend personal gain or safety.

#### Body:

- **Ethical Perspective:** The quote aligns with **deontological ethics,** which prioritizes duty and moral principles over outcomes. It implies that individuals have a moral obligation to uphold values, even at great personal cost.
  - ◆ It emphasizes **selflessness, courage, and commitment to a higher purpose,** which are critical for personal integrity and societal progress.
  - ◆ It also resonates with **virtue ethics,** highlighting virtues like courage, integrity, and sacrifice as essential to a meaningful life.
  - ◆ It calls for unwavering commitment to constitutional values **such as justice, equality, and fraternity,** even in challenging situations.
- **Personal Sacrifice:** The quote underscores the value of **personal sacrifice for the collective good** whether in the pursuit of **human rights, environmental protection, or ethical governance.**
  - ◆ **Martin Luther King Jr.** endured imprisonment, and threats for **civil rights and racial equality in the US,** exemplifying how personal sacrifice can inspire systemic change.

#### Broader Implications in the Present Context:

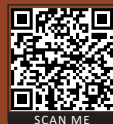
- **Social Justice and Equality:** The quote emphasizes a commitment to social justice, urging individuals, especially public servants to actively confront **caste discrimination, gender inequality, and economic disparity.**

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◆ **Example:** A civil servant in a rural area may face pressure to ignore bonded labor or caste-based bias but chooses to act ethically, showing empathy and upholding the rights of marginalized communities.

- **Environmental Stewardship:** In the context of escalating climate challenges the quote encourages individuals to uphold environmental protection, even against strong economic or political pressure.

◆ **Example:** An IAS officer reviewing industrial proposals may be pressured to overlook environmental violations but, driven by a **sense of duty**, prioritizes sustainability and public interest.

- This reflects intergenerational justice and upholds the principle of sustainable development, ensuring responsibility toward future generations.

- **Combating Misinformation and Polarization;** The proliferation of misinformation on digital platforms exacerbates societal divisions. The quote calls for standing up for truth and unity, even when it invites criticism or hostility.

◆ **Example:** A public official might need to counter false narratives during a crisis (communal tensions).

- The quotation encourages them to act with conviction, prioritizing public interest over personal safety or popularity.

### Conclusion:

In the present context, Martin Luther King Jr.'s quote urges individuals to identify causes worthy of sacrifice. The quotation also reminds us that ethical governance requires balancing idealism with pragmatism, ensuring that sacrifices for a cause are strategic and impactful.

36.

As the District Magistrate of a city with a sizable transgender population, you are confronted with a growing number of public complaints about aggressive begging by some members of the transgender community at busy traffic intersections. Commuters report feeling harassed or coerced

into giving money, and traffic police raise concerns about disruptions and safety hazards at junctions.

Upon investigation, you find that many transgender individuals have limited access to education or employment due to deep-rooted social stigma and exclusion. Several transgender advocacy groups acknowledge the complaints but assert that, for many in the community, begging remains the only viable source of livelihood given the persistent discrimination they face in mainstream employment sectors.

You are under pressure to act swiftly to restore public order and ensure road safety, but you are also mindful of the need to uphold dignity, rights, and social justice for a historically marginalized community.

- What are the key ethical dilemmas involved in balancing public order with the rights and dignity of transgenders? How do prevailing societal attitudes shape these dilemmas?**
- What policy interventions could you consider to address both the immediate concerns and the long-term welfare of the transgender community?**

### Introduction:

The case at hand concerns the **delicate balance** between safeguarding the rights of a vulnerable section of the population and ensuring the broader comfort of the community. It involves addressing the competing interests surrounding the **discrimination faced by transgender individuals** in social inclusion, or the livelihood methods they adopt.

Stakeholder	Interest
Transgender Individuals	Access to dignified livelihood, social acceptance, protection from discrimination.
Commuters	Uninterrupted and safe travel, reduction in harassment, and smooth traffic flow.
District Magistrate (DM)	Ensuring public order, upholding legal and ethical responsibilities, and maintaining social justice.

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State Government	Creating laws and policies that balance public order with the welfare of transgenders.
NGOs/Charitable Organizations	Providing support services, advocating for equal rights, and working on rehabilitation programs.

**Body:**

(a) What are the key ethical dilemmas involved in balancing public order with the rights and dignity of transgenders?

How do prevailing societal attitudes shape these dilemmas?

- **Right to Livelihood vs. Public Order:** Transgenders, due to limited socio-economic opportunities, often resort to **begging at traffic signals**.
  - ◆ While this is a source of livelihood for them, it sometimes causes **inconvenience to commuters**, contributing to **traffic congestion** and discomfort.
- **Administrative Duty vs. Humanitarian Responsibility:** The dilemma lies in enforcing laws effectively while ensuring marginalized communities are supported in achieving economic stability and dignity.
  - ◆ Maintaining public order is crucial, but it must be balanced with addressing the economic distress of transgenders.
- **The Paradox of Exclusion and Expectation:** A moral conflict arises when **society limits livelihood opportunities for transgender individuals**, yet **criticizes them for resorting to begging to survive**.
  - ◆ The core issue is striking a balance between **their right to earn a dignified living and the public's expectation for order** and a harassment-free environment.

**Societal Attitudes Shaping Ethical Dilemmas**

- **Discriminatory Mindset:** Society often **marginalizes transgenders due to deep-rooted prejudice** against their **nonconformity to traditional gender norms**, leading to **stigma, exclusion, and historical objectification** rather than recognition of their rights and dignity.

- **Non-Inclusive Approach and Social Exclusion:** Transgender individuals are often viewed as **unnatural** or ridiculed, **facing superstition and social fear**.

- ◆ Rejected by their families and society, many are driven to survival through marginalized means, which are then condemned by the same society.

- **Political Neglect:** Due to their small population, **transgender individuals often remain politically insignificant**, leading to legislative and administrative apathy.

- ◆ Their **concerns are rarely prioritized**, resulting in a lack of comprehensive policies for their upliftment and social integration.

(b) What policy interventions could you consider to address both the immediate concerns and the long-term welfare of the transgender community?

**Interventions for Immediate Concerns and the long-term Welfare:**

- **Setting up Designated Zones:** For immediate relief allocate specific areas in markets or public spaces where voluntary alms collection is permitted without disrupting traffic or public order.
  - ◆ Following the **Supreme Court's NALSA judgment (2014)**, the state should recognize transgenders as a **Third Gender** with equal rights to employment, education, and social acceptance.
  - ◆ As a **long-term solution**, focus on curbing **coercive begging** while safeguarding the transgender community's right to a dignified livelihood.
    - Sensitize law enforcement for **humane handling**, and **promote microfinance and self-help groups** to encourage entrepreneurship and reduce reliance on begging.
- **Emergency Support Services:** Establish temporary shelters and community support centers to provide **food, shelter, and healthcare** for vulnerable transgender individuals.
- **Implementing Skill Training:** Partnering with NGOs and government bodies to provide **targeted skill**

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development programs is crucial for long-term change. Focusing on leveraging legal aid under **NALSA act 2014**.

- **Initiating Public Awareness Programs:** Social mindset change is essential for sustainable integration. Awareness campaigns through **schools, colleges, media, and community outreach** can challenge prevailing stereotypes and foster respect and understanding.
- **Monitoring and Rehabilitation Programs:** A structured monitoring and rehabilitation framework is essential to ensure that transgender individuals not only receive support but are also gradually integrated into mainstream society.
  - ◆ E.g; transgender women in Gujarat enrolled in a **Garima Greh** received psychological counseling, and mentorship.

#### Conclusion:

Effective **rehabilitation, vocational training, and public sensitization** are key to moving beyond superficial measures towards **sustainable integration**. True social justice demands not just relief to the majority but **dignity and opportunity** for the transgenders as well.

37.

You are a young field athlete, proudly representing India in your debut at an international championship. While staying at the athletes' village, you accidentally enter the common restroom and see a few senior team members injecting themselves with an unidentified substance. Suspicious, you ask them about it. They explain that it's a 'recovery booster, a performance-enhancing drug (PED) that supposedly helps with endurance and muscle repair.

They further suggest that using it is common practice, especially in global competitions, and if you want to remain competitive and secure your place in the team, you should consider taking it too. Later, while contemplating whether to approach the coach, you learn from another junior athlete that the team coach is not only aware but has allegedly recommended its use, citing 'national interest' and 'medal pressure.'

(a) What are the key ethical dilemmas involved in this situation?

(b) What are the possible courses of action available to you in this scenario?

(c) What course of action would you choose and why?

#### Introduction:

As a young Indian track and field athlete making your international debut, you discover that senior teammates are using performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) with the coach's support. You are pressured to follow suit, forcing a choice between **personal integrity and career advancement**. This situation raises ethical challenges like **fairness, and the moral cost of success**.

Stakeholder	Role/ Interest
The Athlete (You)	The individual facing the ethical dilemma and making the decision.
Senior Team Members	Using PEDs and pressuring others to follow suit.
The Coach	Who may be aware of and potentially endorsing PED use.
Sports Federation/Anti-Doping Authorities	Responsible for enforcing ethical standards.
Other Junior Athletes	Peers who may be influenced by the actions.

#### Body:

(a) What are the key ethical dilemmas involved in this situation?

- **Integrity vs. Success:** The core dilemma lies in **balancing personal integrity with the pressure to succeed**. Using PEDs would violate ethical principles, but not using them might hinder performance and jeopardize the athlete's place in the team.
- **Loyalty vs. Ethical Conduct:** The dilemma reflects a clash between loyalty to the team, coach, and country, and the duty to uphold **ethical standards in sports**.

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- ◆ Pressure from seniors and the **coach to use PEDs fosters a sense of group obligation**, even when it conflicts with personal integrity. Justifying doping in the name of patriotism and medal expectations further complicates the issue, raising the ethical question.

- **Long-Term Consequences vs. Immediate Gain:** The dilemma between the immediate benefits of improved performance from using PEDs and the long-term health risks, potential disqualification, and damage to one's career and reputation.

**(b) What are the possible courses of action available to you in this scenario?**

#### Option 1: Using the PEDs

- **Pros:** Using PEDs may **offer immediate performance enhancement**, increasing the chances of success in the championship, **improving team standing**, and ensuring conformity with **prevailing team practices**.
- **Cons:** Using PEDs would constitute a **violation of ethical principles and personal integrity**, exposing the athlete to serious health risks.
  - ◆ Additionally, carry the **possibility of disqualification**, or a lifetime ban, ultimately damaging both career and reputation.

#### Option 2: Informal Warning to Athletes and Coach

- **Pros:** This approach involves **discreetly cautioning the athletes and the coach about the unethical and illegal nature** of using PEDs.
  - ◆ It allows them the **opportunity to self-correct** without immediate formal consequences.
    - By resolving the issue internally, this method **avoids potential media attention** and public embarrassment.
- **Cons:** However, such **informal warnings may not be taken seriously**, especially if PED use is normalized within the team.
  - ◆ There is also the risk of **retaliation or disciplinary action from the coach**. Moreover, if the doping continues and is later exposed, it could result in serious reputational damage to the country and the athlete.

#### Option 3: Lodge a formal complaint before the competition

- **Pros:** Filing a formal complaint with the **appropriate authorities (Sports Federation/Anti-Doping Authorities)** before the competition would ensure a level playing field and uphold the **principles of integrity and fairness in sport**.
  - ◆ It reflects a **strong commitment to ethical conduct** and adherence to anti-doping norms.
- **Cons:** Taking **abrupt action may deny the accused athletes and coach a fair chance to explain** or correct their behavior.
  - ◆ Such a move could **also attract unwanted media attention, potentially harming the morale of the team** and tarnishing the country's image.

#### Option 4: Report the Issue After the Competition

- **Pros:** Delaying the report until after the event allows **more time to verify facts, reflect on the situation**, and prepare for consequences without disrupting team performance.
- **Cons:** However, this **delay allows unethical practices to continue** and may result in doping being detected by external agencies, causing greater damage to India's global reputation and moral conflict.

**(c) What course of action would you choose and why?**

**Chosen Course of Action would be combination of Option 2 and Option 3:**

- **Initially**, the most prudent step is to **informally warn the senior athletes and the coach** about the unethical and illegal nature of using PEDs.
  - ◆ This approach allows the team members **an opportunity to self-correct and reflect on their actions** without immediate formal consequences or public exposure.
  - ◆ It helps to preserve **team morale, reduce potential backlash**, and maintain a constructive environment for change.
- **Simultaneously**, it is important to **document the observations carefully and prepare to submit a formal complaint** to the relevant sports authorities or anti-doping agencies if no corrective action is taken within a reasonable timeframe.

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- ◆ This ensures that if the **informal warning fails**, the issue can be escalated through proper channels to uphold fairness and integrity in the sport.

#### Conclusion:

As an athlete, the primary obligation is to uphold the values of **fair play, integrity, and health safety** in sports. By first encouraging **internal accountability** and then resorting to **formal measures** if needed, this strategy promotes a culture of **clean sportsmanship and commitment to and national pride**.

38.

As the Sarpanch of a village Panchayat, you oversee a government-run primary school that provides midday meals to its students. Recently, a new cook was appointed as per government norms, following due process and eligibility criteria. However, it emerges that the cook belongs to a Scheduled Caste community. A section of parents, influenced by caste prejudices, begins to prevent their children from consuming the meals. As a result, school attendance drops, raising concerns about the continuity of the midday meal scheme, teacher retention, and even the functioning of the school itself.

This situation threatens not just the education of children but also social harmony, inclusion, and the credibility of public welfare programs.

1. What are the ethical dilemmas faced by Sarpanch?
2. What steps can the Sarpanch take to resolve the caste-based conflict and restore school attendance?
3. How can different stakeholders support inclusive practices in public services?

#### Introduction:

The situation presents a complex ethical challenge where **caste-based discrimination** undermines both **children's education and social harmony**. The Sarpanch faces the **dilemma of upholding the constitutional values of equality and justice** while ensuring the smooth functioning of the education system. Resolving this conflict requires a **pragmatic approach** that promotes inclusivity without compromising the rights of any group.

Stakeholder	Role/Interest
The Sarpanch (You)	Ensuring the <b>continuity of the midday meal scheme</b> , and maintaining social harmony.
Parents	Concern for their <b>children's welfare</b> , but also driven by <b>caste prejudices</b> .
The Cook	Seeking to <b>perform their duties with dignity and support</b> the school's midday meal program.
Government Authorities	Ensuring the proper <b>implementation of educational programs</b> .

#### Body:

##### 1. What are the ethical dilemmas faced by Sarpanch?

- **Constitutional Morality vs. Social Prejudices:** The situation presents a conflict between the constitutional mandate to **abolish untouchability under Article 17** and the prevailing **caste prejudices within the community**. It reflects the deeper issue of social exclusion rooted in tradition.
- **Educational Access vs. Social Harmony:** Enforcing the **midday meal scheme risks alienating a section of the community**, potentially escalating tensions and further reducing school attendance
  - ◆ The dilemma lies in choosing between upholding the right of the cook to serve, versus satisfying the social pressure from the parents who oppose the cook based on caste.
- **Short-Term Compliance vs. Long-Term Impact:** The Sarpanch has to decide between implementing short-term measures (such as appeasing the parents) to ensure school attendance, or taking a firm stand for long-term social justice, which may create temporary unrest but strengthen the community's future social cohesion.

##### 2. What steps can the Sarpanch take to resolve the caste-based conflict and restore school attendance?

- **Sensitize the Parents:** The Sarpanch can organize community meetings (Gram Sabha) to educate parents

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about the **detrimental impact of caste-based discrimination** and the **legal rights of individuals from SC communities**.

- ◆ Using local community leaders to appeal for unity and social justice can help reduce prejudice.
  - **Highlighting Legal Rights:** Raising awareness about the **constitutional provisions (Art 14, 15, 17) and government schemes** designed to uplift marginalized communities can encourage support for the cook and reduce caste-based biases.
  - **Engage with the Cook:** The Sarpanch should ensure that the new cook is supported professionally and personally, reiterating the importance of their role in the school's operations.
    - ◆ The Sarpanch can build community trust by publicly affirming the **cook's qualifications and compliance** with government norms, while addressing concerns through **regular food quality checks and monitoring**.
  - **Take Firm Action if Required:** If caste-based exclusion persists, the **Sarpanch must uphold constitutional values** by ensuring the school functions without discrimination.
    - ◆ This may require taking a firm stand, including escalating the matter to higher authorities like the **District Education Officer**.
  - **Grievance Redressal Committee:** Set up a panel comprising parents, teachers, and marginalised sections representatives to address concerns transparently.
- 3. How can different stakeholders support inclusive practices in public services?**
- **Local Government (Panchayat):** The Panchayat can play a pivotal role in addressing **caste-based exclusion** by setting a **precedent for social justice within the village**.
    - ◆ It can also work with local authorities to ensure that the educational scheme continues without interference from caste biases.
  - **School Administration:** The school administration and teachers must support **inclusive practices by ensuring that all students**, regardless of caste, have equal access

to education and government-provided resources like the midday meal scheme.

- ◆ Teachers can foster inclusivity by creating an environment where **students are encouraged to accept diversity**.
- **Government Authorities:** The Education Department such as district education officers can ensure that the midday meal scheme is implemented as intended, **with regular monitoring of school operations** to ensure no caste-based discrimination takes place.
- **Community Leaders:** These leaders can serve as **influential voices to promote social harmony**, emphasizing the importance of **caste equality and the value of government welfare schemes**. Their support can go a long way in changing community attitudes and reducing caste-based exclusion.

### Conclusion:

The Sarpanch's strategy should prioritize **systemic change over quick fixes**. By combining **grassroots engagement**, institutional reforms, and stakeholder collaboration, the village can dismantle caste barriers while safeguarding education. This approach aligns with constitutional values and ensures sustainable social harmony

39.

A well-established Indian food products company recently developed a new product intended for the international market. After securing all necessary approvals, the company began exporting the product and proudly announced its success. It further assured consumers that the same high-quality and health-beneficial product would soon be made available in the Indian market.

Following due process, the product received approval from the relevant domestic authority and was launched for Indian consumers. Over time, the product gained significant market share and contributed substantially to the company's profits, both in India and abroad.

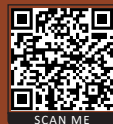
However, during a routine inspection, a random sample test revealed that the version of the product sold domestically did not comply with the standards approved by the competent authority. Further investigations uncovered that the company had been selling substandard products in India, including items that had been rejected for export due to quality issues.

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This revelation caused public outrage, tarnished the company's image, and led to a sharp decline in its profitability and consumer trust.

1. Identify and analyze the ethical issues present in this case. Discuss the competing values and responsibilities involved.
2. What actions should the competent authority take against the company?
3. What remedial measures can the company adopt to manage the crisis, regain consumer trust, and restore its public reputation?

#### Introduction::

The case involves an established **Indian food products company** that launched a **new product internationally**, assuring consumers of the same high quality in India. However, it was revealed that the domestic product **failed to meet regulatory standards**, causing decline in consumer trust and profitability. This raises ethical concerns about **corporate responsibility, consumer protection, and transparency**.

Stakeholder	Role and Interest
The Company	Responsible for restoring trust, repairing reputation, and regaining market share for long-term sustainability.
Consumers	End users concerned with receiving safe, high-quality products.
Competent Authority	Regulatory body ensuring public health and safety by enforcing compliance.
Investors/Shareholders	Financial backers focused on ensuring profitability, protecting investments.
Suppliers/Distributors	Provide ingredients and distribute products, while their interest lies in maintaining steady sales, as consumer backlash can reduce demand.

#### Body:

**1. Identify and analyze the ethical issues present in this case. Discuss the competing values and responsibilities involved.**

- **Lack of Transparency and Honesty:** The company misled consumers by assuring them that the product sold in India would be of the same high quality as the international version, but later it was discovered that the product did not meet the required standards.
  - ◆ This reflects a **lack of transparency and honesty in communicating product quality, which is an ethical violation**.
- **Violation of Consumer Rights:** Consumers have the **right to expect products that meet certain safety and quality standards**, especially when it comes to food products. By selling substandard products, the company violated consumers' rights to access safe, quality goods.
  - ◆ This **breach of trust compromises the ethical principles of consumer protection and fair treatment**.
- **Public Health and Safety Concerns:** Selling a product that was **rejected for export due to quality issues poses a direct threat to public health and safety**.
  - ◆ The ethical issue here lies in the **company's disregard for the well-being of consumers**.

**The Following are the Competing Values and Responsibilities Involved:**

- **Profit Maximization vs. Public Welfare:** The company's desire to maximize profits by cutting corners on product quality directly conflicts with its duty to safeguard public welfare.
  - ◆ While selling substandard products may yield higher short-term profits, it **jeopardizes public trust, consumer health, and long-term sustainability**, highlighting the ethical tension between financial gains and ensuring consumer safety and well-being.
- **Shareholder Interests vs. Consumer Protection:** The company's decision to sell substandard products may have been driven by the desire to increase short-term

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profits, benefiting shareholders who are primarily concerned with financial returns.

- ◆ However, **consumer protection requires the company to ensure its products meet safety and quality standards.** By neglecting these obligations, the company risks damaging its reputation and losing consumer trust, which can harm long-term sustainability.

## 2. What actions should the competent authority take against the company?

- **Immediate Investigation:** The competent authority must **launch an immediate and thorough investigation** into the company's failure to meet regulatory standards.
  - ◆ This includes **tracing the source of the issue** and identifying whether there was any **deliberate negligence or failure** in quality control.
- **Public Disclosure and Transparency:** The competent authority should require the company to **disclose the full details of the investigation**, including how the products were allowed into the market and what corrective actions will be taken.
- **Imposing Penalties & Product Recall:** The competent authority should **impose penalties on the company for violating food safety regulations.**
  - ◆ This could include **fines, product recalls, and possibly suspension of sales** until the company demonstrates compliance with standards.
- **Strengthening Regulatory Oversight:** The authority must review its regulatory mechanisms to ensure that **such discrepancies do not occur in the future.** This could involve implementing stricter product testing protocols and more frequent inspections.

## 3. What remedial measures can the company adopt to manage the crisis, regain consumer trust, and restore its public reputation?

- **Public Apology and Acceptance of Responsibility:** The company should issue a **public apology, acknowledging**

its failure and accepting full responsibility for the substandard product.

- ◆ By transparently explaining the situation and outlining corrective measures, the company can begin to **rebuild trust and** demonstrate a commitment to ethical business practices.
- **Voluntary Recall and Compensation:** The company should immediately voluntarily recall all affected products from the market and **offer compensation to consumers who purchased the substandard items.** This demonstrates the company's commitment to consumer welfare and safety.
- **Strengthening Quality Control Measures:** The company must overhaul its **quality control systems**, implementing stricter **internal checks and regular third-party audits** to ensure compliance with food safety standards. This should include more frequent product testing and better supplier management.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives:** The company should invest in CSR activities, particularly related to food safety and public health, to demonstrate its commitment to ethical practices and consumer welfare.
  - ◆ These initiatives could involve **public health campaigns or partnerships** with organizations focused on consumer education.

## Conclusion

The role of **both regulatory bodies and the company** is critical in resolving ethical crises. While **authorities** must **protect public interests**, the **company** must take **responsibility.** **Prompt corrective actions**, such as product recalls and transparent communication, along with stronger regulatory oversight, are essential to restore trust and ensure ethical conduct.



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## ESSAY

### 40. Blind belief in authority is the greatest enemy of truth.

#### Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- "Blind belief in authority is the greatest enemy of truth." **Albert Einstein**
- "There is nothing as purifying as knowledge." **Bhagavad Gita**
- "You cannot believe in God until you believe in yourself." **Swami Vivekananda**
- "The unexamined life is not worth living." **Socrates**

#### Theoretical and Philosophical Dimensions:

- **Nature of Truth:** Truth is not a static gift from authority but a dynamic outcome of critical inquiry.
  - ◆ Blind belief in authority reinforces **hierarchical power structures**, suppressing dissent and innovation.
  - ◆ It contradicts the scientific temper mandated by **Article 51A** of the Indian Constitution, which calls for inquiry and rationality
- **In Indian philosophy: Tarka Shastra (logic and debate)** promotes reasoned skepticism to uncover truth.
  - ◆ While the **Upanishads emphasize atma-vichara (self-inquiry)** to transcend dogmatic beliefs.
- **"Na hi jñānena sadṛśaṁ pavitram iha vidyate":** There is nothing as purifying as knowledge, this verse from **Bhagavad Gita** emphasizes on **purified knowledge** based on scientific and rational inquiry.
- **Satya-Graha:** The ethical principle of **satyagraha (truth-force)**, central to **Gandhian philosophy**, which prioritizes truth over obedience calls for rational truth.
- **The Kalama Sutta: A Buddhist discourse** emphasizing free inquiry and independent thinking.
  - ◆ It encourages people to evaluate teachings and practices based on reason and personal experience, rather than blind faith or tradition.
- **Theory of Banality of Evil:** Blind obedience sustains **authoritarian regimes**, as seen in **Orwell's 1984** or **Hannah Arendt's 'theory of banality of evil'**.

- ◆ Which examines how ordinary individuals, **driven by obedience and conformity**, can participate in **horrific acts** without necessarily being inherently evil.

#### Historical and Policy Examples:

- **Science progresses** through questioning established ideas, not blind acceptance. **Galileo's** advocacy of **heliocentrism** in the 17th century challenged the Catholic Church's **geocentric doctrine**.
  - **Mahavira**, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism, rejected blind belief in **Vedic orthodoxy**, advocating **Anekantavada** to embrace multiple perspectives.
    - ◆ His challenge to rigid priestly authority promoted intellectual freedom, influencing India's pluralistic ethos.
  - **Caste System**, sustained for centuries through blind belief in scriptural authority and hierarchical order.
  - **Adi Shankaracharya** (8th century CE) confronted blind adherence to ritualistic traditions within Hinduism.
    - ◆ Through **Advaita Vedanta** and debates with **Mimamsa scholars**, he emphasized self-inquiry and reason, revitalizing philosophical discourse and prioritizing truth over dogmatic practices.
  - The **Right to Information Act (2005)** empowers Indian citizens to question governmental authority, promoting transparency.
  - **PILs** highlight how citizens challenging state authority can lead to significant reforms in public welfare, E.g., **Right to Food case**.
  - **Whistleblower Protection ( Satyendra Dubey's case)** shows that exposing corruption or wrongdoing, despite authority's attempts to suppress the truth, can bring about necessary legal changes.
- #### Contemporary Examples:
- **Fake News & Deepfakes:** People believing social media content without verifying facts leads to communal violence and misinformation.

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- **Cult Followings in Politics:** Personality-driven politics often override institutional accountability.
- **Vaccine Hesitancy vs. Overtrust:** Both blind rejection and blind acceptance without inquiry lead to poor outcomes.

#### Conclusion:

A citizenry that blindly accepts what it is told becomes vulnerable to manipulation, exploitation, and moral decay. **Democracy, science, and progress** are built on dialogue, dissent, and rational inquiry. As the **Indian Constitution** begins with "We, the People," it entrusts truth not to rulers, but to collective, informed judgment.

#### 41. The enemy is fear. We think it is hate but it is fear.

##### Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- "The enemy is fear. We think it is hate; but, it is fear." **Mahatma Gandhi**
- "Fear arises from attachment and delusion; courage arises from dharma." **Bhagavad Gita**
- "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it." **Nelson Mandela**

##### Philosophical and Psychological Dimensions:

- **Nature of Fear:** Fear is a primal instinct, evolutionarily meant for survival but it often becomes irrational and counterproductive.
  - ◆ Hatred is often a **secondary emotion**, emerging from unaddressed **fear**, fear of change, fear of the 'other', or fear of loss.
  - ◆ **Xenophobia, communal hatred**, or even war often trace back to deep-seated fear.
  - ◆ While often destructive, fear can also be a **signal for reform or caution**. Fear of failure can **motivate preparation**, and fear of injustice can **spark activism**.
    - India's freedom movement was partly driven by **fear of cultural erasure**, but was transformed into a positive movement through **non-violence and moral vision**.
- **In Indian philosophy**, the **Bhagavad Gita**, describes 'a sage' as one who is **free from fear and anger**, suggesting that **overcoming fear fosters equanimity**.

- **Buddhist teachings** on **kleshas** (afflictions) identify fear as a **root cause of suffering**, fueling aversion and division.

- ◆ Fear of the **unknown**, be it societal change, economic instability, or cultural erosion manifests as hostility toward perceived threats.
- Addressing fear requires **empathy and understanding**, transforming it into courage and compassion.

- **In Gandhian philosophy**, Gandhi believed **fearlessness (abhaya)** to be the highest virtue for a satyagrahi. Non-violence itself requires inner fearlessness.
- **Modern Psychology:** The **Fight-or-Flight Response** explains how fear triggers emotional and physical reactions.

- ◆ But chronic or socially-induced fear (e.g., fear of judgment, failure) leads to anxiety, suppression, and even hatred.

##### Policy and Historical Examples:

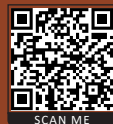
- **Political and Social Fear: Totalitarianism** thrives on fear of dissent, surveillance, and punishment. As **George Orwell's 1984** shows, when fear becomes institutional, freedom vanishes.
  - ◆ Nazi Germany's **anti-Semitic campaigns** fueled hatred by instilling **fear of economic loss and cultural dilution** among the majority.
  - ◆ **India's Partition:** Communal violence was largely driven by **fear of subjugation**, not merely hatred of the 'other'.
  - ◆ **Civil Rights Movements:** Leaders like **Martin Luther King Jr.** confronted not just racial hatred, but the **fear of integration** among dominant communities.
  - ◆ **Cold War Era:** The arms race was driven by mutual fear, not hatred—leading to decades of tension.
- **Personal and Ethical Perspective:**
  - ◆ **Moral Courage vs. Fear:** Fear often stops people from doing what's right. Ethical action requires **moral courage**—to speak truth to power or act with integrity under pressure.

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- E.g: **Whistleblowers** like India's Ashok Khemka show the difficulty of acting ethically in the face of institutional fear (fear of transfers, reprisals, or career setbacks).

- **Spiritual and Cultural Dimension:**

- ◆ In Indian traditions, fear is considered **an obstacle to dharma and moksha**.
- ◆ In **Bhagavad Gita**, Arjuna's fear on the battlefield is symbolic of human hesitation before moral action. Krishna encourages him to overcome fear through **duty and detachment**.
- ◆ Festivals like **Durga Puja** celebrate the **victory over fear**, symbolized by the goddess slaying the demon Mahishasura.

- **Economic and Developmental Angle:**

- ◆ **Fear of poverty, loss of livelihood**, or market instability often leads to **reactionary policies, hoarding, or populism**.
- ◆ Farmers may fear crop failure, pushing them to suicide—a tragic consequence of **policy gaps and economic insecurity**, not personal weakness.
- ◆ **Startup ecosystem**: Innovation thrives only when **fear of failure is de-stigmatized**. Countries with strong entrepreneurial cultures have low fear of failure.

#### Contemporary Examples:

- **Climate Change**: Fear of losing planet habitability is pushing **eco-anxiety**, but also driving **sustainability movements**.
- **Artificial Intelligence**: Rising fears over job loss, surveillance, and disinformation could result in **reactionary regulations** or **techno-skepticism**, unless addressed with **balanced governance**.
- **Terrorism & National Security**: Global fear post-9/11 led to surveillance, racial profiling, and erosion of civil liberties.
- **Social Media**: Fear of missing out (FOMO), fear of judgment, and cyberbullying impact mental health more than outright hostility.

#### Conclusion:

**Fear enslaves, courage liberates.** The true path to peace and justice lies in overcoming fear through empathy, moral clarity, and courageous leadership. As the **Upanishads** remind us "**Abhayam Vai Janaka Prāpnoti**"- **He who becomes fearless, attains liberation.**

#### 42. That government is best which governs least.

##### Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- "That government is best, which governs least." **Henry David Thoreau**
- Minimum Government Maximum Governance: **Indian Proverb**
- "Government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil; in its worst state, an intolerable one." **Thomas Paine**

##### Theoretical and Philosophical Dimensions:

- **Nature of Governance:**
  - ◆ The phrase "That government is best which governs least" signifies the **minimalist approach** to governance, where the state ensures basic law and order but refrains from excessive interference in the lives of its citizens.
  - ◆ **Classical Liberalism**: Advocates the idea of a **night-watchman state**, where the role of government is limited to protecting individual freedoms, property, and ensuring justice.
  - ◆ **Libertarian Thought**: **Libertarian Thought** advocates for **free markets, individual liberty, and minimal state regulation**, especially within the framework of **New Public Management**, which emphasizes efficiency, economy, and effectiveness.
  - ◆ **Friedrich Hayek**, a leading economist, argued that **too much state intervention** limits individual freedoms, which leads to inefficient markets and economies.
  - ◆ **Anarchism**: Some political schools of thought, such as anarchism, take this idea further, arguing that the **state is inherently coercive and unjust**, and its role should be reduced or eliminated altogether.

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### ● Indian Philosophy:

- ◆ The **Indian Constitution** offers a delicate balance between state intervention and individual freedoms with the idea of **decentralized government**.
- ◆ The concept of “**Minimum Government, Maximum Governance**” refers to a governance model where the role of the government is limited in terms of intervention, while at the same time ensuring that the government is highly effective in delivering services and fulfilling its responsibilities.
- ◆ **Swaraj (Self-Rule)**: Gandhi’s ideal state was based on the idea of **swaraj** or self-rule, where power is decentralized and exists at the local level.
  - He envisioned a **village republic** model where the smallest units of society, governed by their own people.
  - According to **Gandhi**, true self-rule could only be achieved when people had control over their own lives and local governance, free from the coercive power of a central government.

### ● Historical and Policy Examples:

- ◆ **Swatantra Party (1959-1974)**: Founded by C. Rajagopalachari, this party advocated **economic freedom** and **limited government intervention** in business and the economy.
- ◆ **Economic Liberalization (1991)**: The **liberalization reforms** under P.V. Narasimha Rao and **Manmohan Singh** focused on reducing state control over markets, encouraging private enterprise, and reducing unnecessary bureaucratic controls.

### ● Contemporary Examples:

- ◆ **Environmental Regulations**: Debates on **climate change regulation** showcase the tension between governing for the public good (e.g., environmental protection) and excessive regulatory frameworks that could harm individual freedoms or hinder economic growth.

- ◆ **Minimum Government, Maximum Governance; Digital governance (e-governance, Digital India)**, reducing red tape and ease of doing business, **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)** to eliminate middlemen and leakages in welfare delivery.
- ◆ **Startup India and MSME Reforms: Simplified compliance**, self-certification in labor laws, and tax incentives. Reflects minimal interference to foster **entrepreneurship and innovation**.
- ◆ **Privatization and Disinvestment Policy**: Ongoing efforts to reduce the role of the state in **non-strategic sectors** (e.g., Air India sale, privatization of PSUs). Encourages **market competition** and **efficiency over bureaucracy**.

### Conclusion:

The idea of “That government is best which governs least” underscores the importance of **minimal state interference** and **maximum individual liberty**. It suggests that while a **government’s role in protecting rights** and ensuring justice is vital, it should avoid unnecessary control over citizens’ lives.

### 43. Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good.

#### Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- “Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good-**Mahatma Gandhi**”
- “The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”-**Edmund Burke**
- “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”-**Martin Luther King Jr.**

#### Theoretical and Philosophical Dimensions:

- **Moral Responsibility**: Cooperation with good embodies the active promotion of justice and righteousness, while **non-cooperation with evil is the moral refusal to support or enable wrongdoing**. Both are essential for a just society.
- **Gandhian Philosophy of Satyagraha**: Gandhi’s principle of non-cooperation was a form of passive resistance, emphasizing that refusing to comply with unjust laws or practices is a powerful ethical stance and a duty to uphold truth (Satya) and non-violence (Ahimsa).

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- **Kantian Ethics:** Immanuel Kant's *categorical imperative* would argue that one must act according to maxims that can be universalized, this includes refusing to support evil, as doing so would make immorality universal.
- **Social Contract Theory:** Citizens have an **implicit contract to uphold the common good**, which includes opposing injustice and evil actively or passively by non-cooperation.
- **Theological Perspectives:** Many religious traditions, such as **Buddhism**, uphold the duty to reject evil and support good, emphasizing personal conscience and collective morality.
  - ◆ For instance, the **Buddha** taught the principle of **kusala (wholesome) and akusala (unwholesome)** actions, encouraging followers to cultivate **right speech, right action, and right livelihood**, components of the **Noble Eightfold Path**.

#### Historical and Policy Examples:

- **India's Freedom Struggle:** The Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22) led by Gandhi was a pioneering example of **mass non-cooperation with colonial rule**, emphasizing that refusal to cooperate with evil (colonial oppression) is as vital as cooperation with freedom and justice.
- **Civil Rights Movement (USA):** African Americans refusal to comply with **segregation laws** through actions such as **bus boycotts** and **sit-ins** was as pivotal as their active demand for equal rights.
  - ◆ These nonviolent acts of resistance, inspired and led by **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**, embodied the moral force of the movement.

#### Contemporary Examples:

- **Diplomatic Non-Cooperation:** India's boycott of the **SAARC Summit** for one decade is a clear act of **diplomatic non-cooperation** against Pakistan's support for terrorism.
- **Whistleblowers and Ethical Non-Cooperation:** Individuals who refuse to cooperate with corporate or governmental malpractice such as, Ashok Khemka fulfill a critical role in confronting evil.

- **Boycott Movements:** Boycotts of companies engaged in unethical practices (environmental damage, human rights violations) demonstrate collective non-cooperation with evil.
- **Social Media Activism:** Campaigns like **MeToo call out evil (sexual harassment)** and **Black Lives Matters** urge non-cooperation with abusive systems.

#### Conclusion:

It complements active cooperation with good by dismantling structures that enable wrongdoing. As Gandhi said, to remain silent or complicit in evil is to betray the very foundations of morality and humanity. The balance of both active good and principled refusal ensures the flourishing of a just and compassionate society.

#### 44. A leader is a dealer in hope.

##### Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- "A leader is a dealer in hope." **Napoleon Bonaparte**
- "Praja sukhe sukham rajyaha prajanam cha hite hitam" (People's happiness should be King's happiness. Welfare of people is King's welfare). **Chanakya Niti**
- "The best way to predict the future is to create it." **Abraham Lincoln**

##### Philosophical and Psychological Dimensions:

- **Nature of Leadership:** Leadership is not just about **authority** or **decision-making** but about **inspiring hope**, guiding people through adversity, and creating a vision of a better future.
  - ◆ A leader instills **confidence** in people by showing a way forward even in times of uncertainty, thus acting as a "dealer in hope."
- **Psychological Insights:** According to **Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs**, self-actualization, or the realization of personal potential, is the ultimate need for individuals.
  - ◆ A leader, through **hope**, empowers individuals to reach their full potential by providing a sense of purpose, motivation, and direction.
- **Indian Philosophy:** leadership is often associated with the **principle of Dharma**, acting with righteousness and setting an example through one's actions.

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- ◆ **Bhagavad Gita:** “*Yad yad ācarati śreṣṭhas tat tad evetaro janaḥ*”, Whatever action is performed by a **great man, common men follow**. Whatever standards he sets, the world pursues.

- Shows how a true leader inspires and uplifts others, becoming a beacon of hope through example.

- ◆ **Lord Krishna** in the Bhagavad Gita demonstrates the significance of hope and action by urging Arjuna to perform his duty despite adversity, emphasizing **hope through faith**.

- ◆ **Shivaji Maharaj:** Faced Mughal dominance and political chaos in the Deccan. Offered hope to the Marathas and common people by establishing **Hindavi Swarajya** (self-rule).

- Created a strong, just, and resilient kingdom by rallying peasants and warriors alike.

#### Historical and Policy Examples:

- **Mahatma Gandhi's Leadership:** Gandhi's leadership during India's freedom struggle was marked by his ability to instill **hope** in the masses, even in the face of adversity.
  - ◆ His slogan “**Do or Die**” during the **Quit India Movement** exemplified how hope can galvanize people into action.
- **Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:** Oppressed communities faced deep discrimination. He Championed social justice, education, and wrote the Constitution. Gave marginalised communities hope for dignity and equality in a new India.
- **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam:** A time when India was still emerging in science and global stature.
  - ◆ Through his vision of “**Developed India 2020**”, inspired youth to dream big. Became a symbol of hope and progress, especially among students and scientists.
- **Winston Churchill:** In World War II, Churchill's speeches inspired the British public, famously declaring, “We shall never surrender.” His ability to communicate hope in the darkest times was key to Britain's resilience.

#### Conclusion:

Leadership is as much about instilling **faith** as it is about making difficult decisions. While authority and control are part of leadership, it is the ability to provide **hope, direction, and inspiration** that defines truly transformative leadership.

#### 45. The world is full of educated derelicts

##### Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- “Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil.”-**C.S. Lewis**
- “The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education.”-**Martin Luther King Jr.**
- “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.”-**Benjamin Franklin**

##### Theoretical and Philosophical Dimensions:

- **Educated Derelicts & Wisdom:** Individuals who have formal education but lack ethical grounding, critical thinking, or social responsibility, resulting in **wasted potential or harmful actions**.
  - ◆ Education is acquisition of knowledge or skills but **wisdom** is the **judicious application** of that knowledge toward good ends.
    - The absence of wisdom leads to dereliction despite education.
- **Human Capital Theory Critique:** Simply increasing education without developing values, critical reasoning, or emotional intelligence can produce graduates who are unprepared for ethical challenges or societal contributions.
- **Philosophy of Education (John Dewey):** Education must be experiential and holistic, fostering not only intellect but also empathy and civic sense. Failure leads to **educated derelicts**.
- **Ancient Indian texts like the *Bhagavad Gita* and *Upanishads*** emphasize that true enlightenment arises not from learning alone, but from self-realization, duty, and ethical living.
- **Socratic Critique:** Socrates warned against **mere accumulation of facts without self-knowledge and virtue**, emphasizing that knowledge must lead to moral improvement.

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### ● Causes of Educated Dereliction:

- ◆ **Commercialization of Education:** Focus on rote learning, degrees for jobs rather than holistic development leads to skill without soul. Neglect of ethics, social responsibility in curriculum causes a **moral vacuum**.
- ◆ **Disconnection from Real-World Problems:** Theoretical knowledge without practical or emotional engagement results in apathy or irresponsibility. Education is seen as a means to **economic mobility** rather than personal growth or societal contribution.

### Historical and Policy Examples:

- **Colonial Education in India:** Macaulay's education system produced clerks and bureaucrats without empowering critical thinking or social reform, leading to a class of **educated derelicts** complicit in colonial administration.
  - ◆ Rapid expansion of education **without adequate reforms in pedagogy and ethics** sometimes produced graduates who were underprepared for societal challenges.
  - ◆ Countries with **high literacy rates but low innovation or social progress** demonstrate gaps between education and effective, ethical citizenship.
- **Corporate Scandals:** Instances of **fraud, and corruption** show education without ethical grounding. Many graduates remain unemployed or underemployed, highlighting mismatch between education and market or social needs.
- **Social Media Misinformation:** Even educated people sometimes spread misinformation due to lack of critical thinking skills.
  - ◆ The presence of educated but ethically compromised leaders in many countries reflects this issue.

### Conclusion:

As education shapes future citizens and leaders, bridging this gap is essential for the progress of any society. The true measure of education lies not in degrees earned but in wisdom gained and the betterment of humanity that follows.

### 46. The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers.

#### Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- "The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more followers." Ralph Nader
- "Leadership is not about a title or a designation. It's about impact, influence, and inspiration." Robin S. Sharma.
- "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." John C. Maxwell.
- "Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others." John C. Maxwell

#### Theoretical and Philosophical Dimensions:

- **Nature of Leadership:** True leadership empowers others by fostering autonomy, growth, and resilience. By inspiring individuals to lead, it creates a **ripple effect** that ensures **long-term adaptability and innovation**.
- **Succession and Legacy:** The **ultimate legacy of a leader** is measured not by their personal achievements, but by the **leaders they leave behind** and the continuity of their vision.
  - ◆ Effective leaders mentor, delegate responsibility, and encourage critical thinking, enabling others to take ownership and innovate.
  - ◆ Great leaders share their vision, inspiring others to adapt and expand upon it, rather than imposing it rigidly.
- **Indian Philosophy and Leadership:** The **Bhagavad Gita** teaches the **concept of "Dharma" and "Swadharma"** where leaders must guide others to realize their own purpose and responsibilities.
- **Socratic Method:** Encourages questioning and dialogue, helping others discover knowledge and leadership within themselves.

#### Historical and Policy Examples:

- **Ashoka the Great:** Inspired and motivated by his **predecessors like Chandragupta Maurya**, Ashoka transformed from a fierce conqueror to a compassionate and moral leader after the Kalinga war.

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- **Guru Nanak:** Emphasized **self-realization and leadership rooted** in service and equality, inspiring followers to become spiritual leaders.
- **Mahatma Gandhi:** Inspired millions to become **leaders in their own right**, fostering a mass movement for independence and influencing global leaders like **Martin Luther King Jr.** and Nelson Mandela.
- **Swami Vivekananda:** Encouraged youth empowerment and independent thinking rooted in Indian culture and values. Inspired reformers, freedom fighters, and spiritual leaders who followed his path.
- **Education and Leadership Development:** Initiatives like the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Service Scheme (NSS) nurture leadership qualities among youth.
- **Corporate Leadership Models (CLMs):** Successful organizations promote leadership pipelines, mentoring, and empowerment rather than **command-and-control structures**.
- **Mission Karmayogi:** It supports leadership development through shifts focus from routine administrative tasks to strategic leadership roles. Prepares officers for complex decision-making, innovation, and public leadership.

#### Contemporary Examples:

- **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam:** Leaders like **Vikram Sarabhai supported and mentored visionaries such as Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**, who later emerged as an inspiring leader himself and carried forward the legacy of **nurturing future leaders through education and innovation**.
- **Ratan Tata:** Groomed **future business leaders within the Tata Group**, while promoting ethical business leadership in India.
  - ◆ His leadership style is often credited for **cultivating a culture of responsibility** and innovation.
- **Indra Nooyi (Former CEO, PepsiCo):** Focused on building leadership pipelines, promoted women and minorities to leadership roles. Known for mentorship and long-term leadership development within the organization.

- **Jacinda Ardern (Former PM of New Zealand):** Practiced inclusive leadership, gave voice to youth, women, and indigenous communities.

#### Conclusion:

Leadership that multiplies itself is the foundation of enduring success, innovation, and social progress. By empowering others to lead, true leaders create a legacy that outlasts their own tenure and transforms organizations and societies for the better. The greatest leaders are those who lift others to join them at the top, ensuring the torch of leadership is passed on, not hoarded.

#### 47. Freedom is the will to be responsible to ourselves.

##### Quotes to Enrich Your Essay:

- "Freedom is the will to be responsible to ourselves." Friedrich Nietzsche
- "Freedom means responsibility; that is why most men dread it." George Bernard Shaw
- "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." Thomas Jefferson

##### Philosophical and Theoretical Dimensions:

- **Concept of Freedom:** Freedom is not mere absence of restraint but the ability to act responsibly and ethically. Freedom is not **mere absence of restraint**, but the conscious choice to act ethically and accept consequences.
- **Social Contract Theory:** Freedom is balanced with social responsibility to maintain order and justice in society. Freedom without responsibility **leads to chaos**, **responsible freedom** strengthens democracy and social harmony.
- **Psychological Perspective:** Responsible freedom fosters autonomy, self-regulation, and personal growth. **Sartre's philosophy** stresses that freedom entails responsibility for one's choices and actions.
  - ◆ The **Bhagavad Gita** describes freedom (**Moksha**) as liberation through self-discipline and responsibility towards one's dharma. Karma Yoga teaches responsible action without attachment to result.

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- **Gandhian Perspective:** Gandhi saw freedom as a means to fulfill one's responsibilities to self, community, and humanity. Self-governance and discipline are prerequisites for true liberty.
- **Kantian Ethics:** Immanuel Kant argued that freedom is realized through self-imposed moral laws. Responsibility is the essence of freedom, as it enables ethical choice.
- **Authenticity:** True freedom is being true to oneself, even when it means defying social expectations or external pressures.
- **Moral Agency:** Free will implies moral responsibility, our choices are meaningful because we are accountable for them.

#### Historical and Policy Examples:

- **Democratic Societies:** The foundation of democracy is individual liberty balanced with civic responsibility, freedom of speech, for example, is paired with the duty not to incite violence.
- **The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** of South Africa exemplifies the idea that **true freedom entails taking responsibility for one's actions**, both individually and collectively.
  - ◆ The TRC process **encouraged perpetrators to acknowledge their wrongdoings and victims to voice their experiences**, fostering accountability and moral responsibility.
- **Constitutional Provisions:** Indian Constitution guarantees fundamental freedoms alongside duties (Article 51A).
- **RTI Act (India):** The Right to Information empowers citizens, but also expects them to use information responsibly for public good.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** The freedom to exploit resources must be balanced with responsibility to future generations.

#### Contemporary Examples:

- **Social Media:** The freedom to express is often misused without responsibility, leading to misinformation and polarization.

- **Entrepreneurship:** Societies that destigmatize failure foster innovation, but this freedom comes with responsibility to stakeholders and society.

#### Conclusion:

Freedom finds its highest expression in responsibility, towards oneself, others, and society. True liberty is not license, but the will to act with integrity, self-mastery, and a sense of duty. Only when individuals embrace responsibility does freedom contribute to justice, harmony, and progress.

#### 48. Justice is the first virtue of social institutions.

- "Justice is the first virtue of social institutions." John Rawls
- "The virtue of justice consists in moderation, as regulated by wisdom." Aristotle
- "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Martin Luther King Jr.
- "Justice that love gives is a surrender, justice that law gives is a punishment." Mahatma Gandhi.

#### Philosophical and Theoretical Dimensions of Justice

- **The Nature of Justice:** Justice refers to the **fair distribution of benefits** and burdens in society. From **Plato to Rawls**, theories of justice emphasize equitable treatment based on needs, rights, and contributions.
  - ◆ Rawls's theory highlights two core principles- **equal basic liberties for all, and inequalities arranged to benefit the least advantaged, ensuring not equal outcomes, but equal opportunities** to pursue individual goals.
- **Social Contract Theory:** Justice is integral to social contract theory, as articulated by **political philosophers like Locke, and Rousseau**, where individuals surrender certain freedoms in return for state protection.
  - ◆ Social institutions must uphold this contract by ensuring justice, failure to do so **undermines their legitimacy and risks social unrest**.
- **Bhagavad Gita:** In the context of Indian philosophy, justice aligns closely with the concept of "**Dharma**," or the righteous path.
  - ◆ The **Bhagavad Gita** speaks of individuals' duty to follow their ***Swadharma (personal duty)***, and in doing so, they contribute to the **collective justice of society**.

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- Justice in Indian philosophy, therefore, is not only about individual rights but also about contributing to the well-being of the larger community.

- **The Indian Constitution**, which enshrines justice as a **core value in its preamble**, aims to secure social, economic, and political justice for all its citizens. Articles like **14 (equality before the law)**, **15 (prohibition of discrimination)**, and **21 (right to life and personal liberty)** provide a robust framework for justice.
- **Buddhist Concept of Justice**: Justice, in Buddhist philosophy, is not simply about law but also about right conduct, right livelihood, and fairness in human interactions.
  - ◆ The concept of **Karuna (compassion)** leads to a justice system based on empathy and fairness, where the ultimate goal is to eliminate suffering.
- **Gandhian Philosophy of Justice**: Mahatma Gandhi's notion of justice was deeply rooted in **truth, and equality**. He envisioned a **just society where individuals treated each other with respect**, and the state was bound by the principles of fairness.

#### Importance of Justice in Social Institutions

- **The Role of the Judiciary**: The judiciary is often considered the guardian of justice in any society. In **democratic nations**, the courts play a pivotal role in ensuring that the laws of the land align with principles of justice.
- **The Role of Education Systems**: Education is a key social institution that embodies the principles of justice. It ensures equal access to knowledge and opportunities for personal growth.
- **The Role of the Police and Law Enforcement**: Law enforcement is an institution that **upholds justice by maintaining law and order**. However, for justice to prevail, law enforcement must operate impartially, without bias towards any group.
  - ◆ The relationship between police and society should be based on mutual trust, respect, and fairness.

#### Historical and Contemporary Examples of Justice

- **Landmark Judicial Interventions**: India's **pursuit of justice** has been shaped by landmark judicial interventions and progressive legislation that continue to **uphold and expand the principles of fairness and equality**.
  - ◆ **Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)** established the 'basic structure doctrine,' protecting the core values of the Constitution including justice, from parliamentary amendments.
  - ◆ **Vishakha Guidelines (1997)** created a framework to prevent sexual harassment at the workplace, promoting gender justice.
  - ◆ **Right to Education Act (2009)** guarantees free and compulsory education for children **aged 6-14, advancing social justice through equal educational opportunities**.
- **Social Justice Movements**: **Dalit Rights Movement** led by figures like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, this movement **fought for the abolition of untouchability and caste-based discrimination**, resulting in constitutional safeguards and social reforms aimed at justice for marginalized communities.
  - ◆ **The Women's Reservation act** reflects ongoing efforts to ensure political justice by increasing women's representation in legislatures.

#### Contemporary Welfare Schemes ensuring Justice Delivery:

- **Ayushman Bharat Yojana (PM-JAY)**: Provides health coverage, promoting social and economic justice by ensuring access to quality healthcare for marginalized populations.
- **Right to Education Act (RTE), 2009**: Guarantees free and compulsory education for children aged 6 to 14 years, focusing on equal educational opportunities and bridging socio-economic disparities.
- **One Nation One Ration Card Scheme**: Ensures **food security and social justice by enabling migrant workers and marginalized communities** to access subsidized food grains anywhere in the country, preventing exclusion due to migration.

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- **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019:** Provides legal recognition, protection from discrimination, and welfare measures for **transgender persons**, advancing social justice and equality for a marginalized community.
- **Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act (2006)** restores land rights to tribal communities, addressing historic injustice and promoting social justice.

#### Global Examples:

- **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (South Africa):** Post-apartheid mechanism aimed at **addressing past injustices and promoting national healing** through restorative justice.
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948):** Sets global standards for justice, equality, and human dignity, **influencing constitutional frameworks worldwide**.

#### Conclusion

Justice, as the first virtue of social institutions, is essential for the functioning and sustainability of any society. Without justice, social institutions lose their legitimacy, and social order is compromised. By embedding justice at the core of social institutions, **societies ensure their stability, harmony, and progress.**

#### 49. Freedom is the recognition of necessity.

- "Freedom is the will to be responsible to ourselves." Friedrich Nietzsche
- "Freedom means responsibility; that is why most men dread it." George Bernard Shaw
- "Freedom is the autonomy of the will, which is subject to self-imposed moral laws." Immanuel Kant

#### Philosophical and Theoretical Dimensions of Freedom

- **Freedom and Responsibility:** True freedom is **not about being unbound or unrestricted but about exercising one's will with a sense of responsibility.**
  - ◆ Freedom, in this sense, involves choosing actions that are ethical and **acknowledging the consequences of those choices.**

◆ **Immanuel Kant** also argued that true freedom exists within the **framework of self-imposed moral laws**, where individuals are responsible for their actions.

- **Existential Perspectives on Freedom:** From a psychological perspective, freedom is closely linked with personal growth and self-regulation.

◆ **The existentialist philosophy** argued that freedom involves accepting full responsibility for one's choices, acknowledging that freedom is both **liberating and burdensome.**

◆ The exercise of freedom requires an understanding of one's capacity to influence the world while also accepting the limitations of personal power.

- **Gita's Concept on Freedom:** In the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna instructs Arjuna that **freedom lies not in escaping duty** but in understanding and accepting one's dharma (moral necessity).

◆ Arjuna's dilemma represents a moment of crisis, and Krishna's guidance suggests that **true liberation (moksha)** arises from action aligned with one's role and the universal order, not from avoidance of responsibility.

- **Advaita Vedanta:** Adi Shankaracharya's **Advaita Vedanta** teaches that true freedom (moksha) comes not from indulging in material desires, but by **recognizing the illusion (Maya) and realizing the necessity of detachment and self-knowledge.**

- **Gandhi's Philosophy of Freedom:** For Gandhi, true freedom was the **ability to act in accordance with one's dharma (duty)**, which was rooted in self-discipline and responsibility.

◆ His concept of **Swaraj (self-rule)** was not only about political freedom but also about **individuals taking responsibility for their actions** and contributing to the nation's moral and social progress.

◆ He believed that **personal liberation could only be achieved through responsible actions** that contribute to the welfare of society.

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- **The Role of Democracy in Freedom:** The functioning of democracy relies on individuals recognizing the necessity of responsible choices that support social harmony.
  - ◆ A truly free society allows individuals to express themselves, but this freedom **must be exercised with accountability**, ensuring that the rights of others are respected.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Environmental stewardship is a critical form of responsible freedom, as the unchecked exploitation of resources undermines long-term ecological balance.

#### Historical and Contemporary Examples on Freedom

- **Social Reform:** In the early 19th century, Indian society was deeply bound by orthodox practices like *sati*, child marriage, and rigid caste hierarchies. Raja Ram Mohan Roy recognized that **true freedom for Indian society required reform, not rebellion** against tradition, **but thoughtful reinterpretation**.
  - ◆ Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the Constitution recognized that **legal-political freedom was not sufficient** unless **social and economic constraints** were addressed.
    - His **framing of the Constitution** was rooted in **understanding India's historical necessities** (caste, hierarchy, oppression) and **designing freedom accordingly**.
- **Freedom of Speech:** In democratic societies, freedom of speech is a fundamental right (article 19), however, this freedom comes with the **responsibility not to harm others**, as exemplified by the **limitations placed on freedom of speech**.
  - ◆ The recognition of necessity in this context means acknowledging that the exercise of freedom must not infringe on the rights and dignity of others.

- **Right to Information (RTI) Movement:** Recognizing the **necessity of institutional accountability**, citizens **used democratic tools** (petitions, hearings, legal frameworks) to create a movement that led to the RTI Act, 2005.
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO):** With limited budgets and technological constraints, India's space program had to operate under severe resource limitations. ISRO **recognized the necessity of low-cost, high-efficiency innovation**.
  - ◆ Missions like **Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission)** were successful **because constraints were acknowledged and internalized as design principles**.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR):** Entrepreneurs exercise freedom through innovation and risk-taking.
  - ◆ However, this **freedom comes with the responsibility of ensuring that their actions do not harm society**. Entrepreneurs must consider the societal and environmental impacts of their products and services, as seen in the rise of socially responsible businesses and the importance of **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**.

#### Conclusion

**Freedom**, when grounded in the recognition of structural, historical, or institutional necessity, **becomes meaningful, sustainable, and ethical**. Whether it's **social reform, constitutional design, grassroots activism, or scientific innovation**, Indian history and contemporary experience richly demonstrate this profound philosophical truth



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