



Be Mains Ready

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Be Mains Ready

Day - 1

GS - III

Economy
& Agriculture

10th June 2019

Question

To tackle agrarian distress in a sustainable manner, direct income support to farmers needs to be complemented with reforms in agri-marketing and trade policies. Examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give brief description of proposed Direct Income Support.
- Describe agri-marketing and trade policies reform which can be complemented to provide long term solution for present agrarian crisis.

Fodder Points

- Recently policy think tank **NITI Aayog** proposed an **upfront direct income subsidy** through DBT (direct benefit transfer) to farmers to provide relief to farmers facing agrarian distress. This will also help in enabling farmers to invest the finances in their required areas of need. State specific examples can also be given, like: **KALIA Scheme (Odisha), Rythu Bandhu (Telangana)**.

Problems

- As long as the agricultural produce does not get fair and remunerative price through **reforms in agri marketing and trade policies** agricultural crisis will not be solved.
- The **present APMC Act** restricts the farmers from selling their produce to processor/manufacturer/ bulk processor, exporter, bulk retailer outside the market yard and the produce is required to be channeled through regulated market.
- Poor farmers may typically get as little as 25% of the prices that consumers finally pay for their produce. The intermediaries between farmers and consumers are the major beneficiaries rather than the growers and end consumers.

Reforms

- **Contract farming** is crucial to promote food processing and to provide technical and financial support and quality input to smallholders.
- The **Model APMC Act** circulated to States/UTs during 2003 provides for contract farming agreement and its model specifications. 20 states amended their APMC Act to make provision for Contract farming but only 12 notified the rules. **These rules should be notified by states which have amended APMC acts and those states which not yet amended the act need to act swiftly.**

- **Direct Sale by Producers to Processing Industries/Exporters/Bulk Buyers** - The producer should be free to enter into direct sale without the involvement of other middlemen outside the market yard in the market area under the relevant provisions of the concerned Act. These changes in marketing and trading will break the monopoly of middle men and will ensure farmers are able to get fair prices for their produce.
- **De-link the provisions of compulsory requirement of shop/space for registration** of traders/market functionaries. At present only the traders/commission agent owning a shop/godown in the regulated market are allowed to purchase produce in the market.
- This practice of compulsory licensing of commission agents/traders in the regulated markets has led to the monopoly of these licensed traders acting as a major entry barrier in existing APMCs for new entrepreneurs, thus, preventing competition.
- **Take fruits and vegetables out of APMC Act.** Let producers have the right to sell to anyone they choose including integrator, village cooperative, or in APMC Mandi.
- Implementation of **e-NAM** and **e-trading** in all States.
- **Promoting Cooperatives for marketing.** The Amul Dairy Cooperative is an outstanding example of how farmers empowered themselves through cooperation.
- India's **agriculture exports** were without proper policy backup, which did not create additional value for farmers. To ensure profit for farmers government has unveiled **Agriculture Export Policy, 2018** that imposes no restrictions on export of organic and processed products providing institutional ways for market access and settling quality claims.

Question

Faster growth, but marred by inequality, will have little meaning unless agriculture takes a central position in the policy reform agenda. Comment. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly highlight inequality that exists in India's growth scenario and explain the role that agriculture can play in bringing inclusiveness in Indian society.
- Discuss the issues that impede agricultural growth.
- Discuss various government interventions related to agriculture
- Provide a way forward prescribing the need for a policy that promotes diversification of agricultural labour to other sectors.

Fodder Points

- India has sustained the **rapid growth of GDP** for most of the last two decades leading to the doubling of **per capita incomes** in 12 years but agricultural growth remained subdued (below 4%).
- Also according to the Oxfam report, India's top 1% of the population now holds 73% of the wealth.
- Importance of agriculture in inclusive growth: Every percentage point of growth in agriculture is at least two to three times as important in alleviating poverty as the same growth in other sectors.
- **Key issues in agriculture that impede farmer income growth:**
 - Productivity issue and rising input cost
 - Market irregularities
 - Lack of intersectoral linkages
 - Policy dilemma: The rise in farmer income will come from high yielding crops like dairy, horticulture etc. but government policy is still cereal centric
 - Issue of disguised unemployment

➤ **Key government interventions:**

- Government's call for doubling farmer's income by 2022
- Swaminathan MSP(1.5 times of previous MSP) provided by the government to farmers
- Recent schemes like PM KISAN yojana can be quoted.
- Government efforts in the promotion of food processing industry.
- Reforms in agri marketing like model APMC, e-NAM etc.
- Push to horticulture, organic farming and food processing with policy support.

➤ **Ashok Dalwai committee** report on doubling of farmers income.

- Need for government to develop capacity in another sector of the economy so that diversification of the workforce can take place and more inclusiveness in society can be brought.

Question

If the country is to achieve its strategic and development objectives, it cannot afford to have a shrinking manufacturing sector. Comment. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Provide some data that highlights persistent slowdown in India's industrial sector and briefly highlight the significance of manufacturing in the growth profile of a country.
- Highlight issues in current manufacturing setup of India
- Provide way forward prescribing reforms in India's industrial sector.

Fodder Points

- Stagnant share of manufacturing in India's economic profile i.e. 18.2% in 2019 and it was near 18% in the 1980s.
- Also, a comparative analysis of other emerging economies can be stated: like China and Brazil to establish the significance of manufacturing in economic growth.
- Key issues in India's manufacturing sector:
 - Acute skill shortage
 - Land and environmental clearance problems
 - Rigid labour laws
 - No attempt at self-regulation by the industry against corrupt practices
 - Infrastructure Deficit
 - High Cost and Non-Availability of Commercial Bank Credit
 - Premature de-industrialization due to the dumping of manufactured good from developed countries.

Reforms needed in India's manufacturing sector

- Promotion of Indian small and medium enterprises
- Industries to take lead in Skill India
- Vocational training to be made part of the school curriculum.
- Structural reforms by the government: for example GST is a step in the right direction but needs to be more simplified
- Promotion of sunrise industries
- Policy, financial and regulatory support to startups in manufacturing sector through start-up India, Stand-up India, SEZs etc. National Investment and Manufacturing Zones
- The alternative funding mechanism for large infrastructure projects.
- Labour laws reforms

Summarize answer by stating economic survey 2018 recommendation that India must now switch to the export-led economy for economic growth, but export-led growth has to be backed by strong manufacturing setup.

Question

What are the steps that need to be taken to promote sustainable agriculture and food security in the wake of climate change? (250 words)

Approach

- Establish link between food security and climate change.
- Importance of sustainable agriculture in the context of food security challenges posed by climate change.
- Give an idea of climate change and how will it impact agriculture.
- Suggest ways to ensure food security and sustainable agriculture with relevant examples.

Fodder Points

Climate change and food security

- At the heart of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are targets to end hunger, achieve food security, and improve nutrition.
- According to the definition given by the World Food Summit in 1996, there are three main **dimensions to food security: food availability, access to food, and food absorption.**
 - **Food availability:** India's food production, is highly vulnerable to climate change largely because the sector continues to be highly sensitive to monsoon variability and production is severely constrained by low yield growth.
 - **Access:** Displacement, loss of livelihood or damage to productive assets due to any extreme weather events will have a direct impact on household food security because of production shocks and declines that are projected under future climate change.
 - **Absorption:** Change in climatic conditions could lead to a reduction in the nutritional quality of foods (reduced concentration in proteins and minerals like zinc and iron). This will accelerate the largely neglected epidemic known as "hidden hunger" or micronutrient deficiency.

Reforms needed and Government Interventions

- The government of India has launched the **National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA)** to promote sustainable agriculture and to ensure food security.
- **Resilient Intercropping System:** To deal with delayed monsoon alternate crops of short duration varieties like black gram, groundnut can be grown etc. That will help in maintaining a source of income if the monsoon is delayed.
- **Zero tillage:** Adoption of Zero Tillage will reduce the loss and increase the production. Zero-till (ZT) sowing minimizes losses due to lodging of wheat (bending of the stem).
- **Efficient water use:** Efficient water and nutrient management should be done to enhance efficiency. Methods like drip-irrigation must be used in place of flood irrigation to save water.
- **Climate tolerant crops:** The government should incentivize farmers to use climate-tolerant crop varieties. It will help farmers to deal with crop failures due to climate change. E.g. Pokkali Rice in Kerala which is a saline tolerant rice variety.
- **Crop Diversification:** Crop diversification refers to the addition of new crops or cropping systems to agricultural production on a particular farm. Crop diversification helps in agriculture sustainable and helps in maintaining ecological balance.

- **Urban Agriculture:** Urban agriculture, urban farming, or urban gardening is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around urban areas. This can address major dimensions of food security.
- **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF):** Practice like ZBNF leads to improvements in yield, soil conservation, seed diversity, quality of produce, household food autonomy, income, and health.

Question

More than a year after the e-waste management rules were notified, there is little evidence that it is being implemented. Examine the causes behind India's problem of e-waste and the reasons due to which rules have been ineffective. (250 words)

Approach

- Explain what is e-waste and state key features of the e-waste management rules in India.
- State causes behind e-waste generation.
- List the loopholes in the rules and their implementation.
- Suggest steps that can be taken to manage increasing e-waste in the country.

Fodder Points

- **E-waste** is categorized as hazardous waste due to the presence of toxic materials such as mercury, lead and brominated flame retardants (which are considered as hazardous waste according to the Basel Convention).
- The **Global E-Waste Monitor, 2017** published by the United Nations University estimated that India generates about 2 million metric tonnes of e-waste (2016) annually.
- Of the total e-waste produced in 2016, only 20% (8.9 MT) is documented to be collected properly and recycled, while there is no record of the remaining e-waste.
- E-waste in India is regulated under **E-waste (Management) Rules 2016** which replaced the E-waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011.

Reasons for Huge e-Waste in India

- **Consumerist culture:** Consumption and production of electrical and electronic equipment have increased with higher levels of disposable income because of urbanization and industrialization.
- **Affordability and necessity:** ICT devices are becoming more affordable. Many people own multiple devices. Replacement cycles for mobile phones and computers, and also for other devices and equipment, are becoming shorter.
- **Illegal import of E-waste:** 50% to 80% of e-waste collected by the US is exported to India, China, Pakistan, Taiwan and a number of African countries because of the availability of cheaper labour for recycling.
- The **Indian Information Technology (IT) sector** is one of the major contributors to the global economy. At the same time, it is responsible for the Generation of the bulk of E-waste or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) in India.
- **Lack of infrastructure** and processing technology for return, recycle and reuse of the e-waste.
- **Lack of awareness** of hazards of e-waste on the environment and health.

Loopholes in the Rules

- The rules **do not focus on technology transfers** for the recycling of electronic waste. Also, lack of an updated inventory of e-waste generated makes it difficult to quantify the e-waste recycled and disposed of. This is not taken into account by the existing rules.
- **Lack of sufficient e-waste management infrastructure** which has not been focussed upon by the rules.

- **Implementation problems:** No independent mechanism in place to check or verify the claims made in authorizations. The robust rules are flailed by the slack implementation.
- **Producer Responsibility:** The law states that the responsibility of producers is not confined to waste collection, but also to ensure that the waste reaches the authorised recycler/dismantler. However, there is no monitoring system and there is no guarantee that the waste collected by producers does not go to unauthorised recyclers.
- **Unorganised sector:** The rules do not take into account the problem of ill-equipped skilled labour to handle e-waste recycling. Most Indians end up selling their e-waste to the informal sector, which poses severe threats to human lives, with its improper and highly hazardous methods of extracting the trace amounts of precious metal from it and handling e-waste for profit.
- **Consumers' accountability:** No information is provided along with the product packing about the e-collection center for the product sold. The responsibility of the consumers' is not specified along with the product.
- The **deposit refund scheme (DRS)** that aids the recycling of the product is not operational in India.
- **Informal sector and lack of incentive:** The rules mandate an individual to drop the e-waste at an authorised collector, but do not provide any incentive against it. This forces e-waste to end up with the informal sector and loses track on further recycling.
- **Lack of holistic planning:** E-waste management rules are not in line with the problems that have emerged because of the promotion of government initiatives like 'Make in India' and 'Digital India'.
- **Lack of reliable e-waste data** at the country level.

Remedial Measures

- **Incentives:** Similar to Japan and Taiwan, an effective take-back program providing incentives for producers to design products that are less wasteful, contain fewer toxic components and are easier to disassemble, reuse, and recycle may help in reducing the wastes.
- **End-of-life management** should be made a priority in the design of new electronic products.
- **Training:** There should be training programs and effective methods to improve the job quality and satisfaction level of workers in the recycling industry.
- **Infrastructure:** Institutional infrastructures, including e-waste collection, transportation, treatment, storage, recovery, and disposal, need to be established, at national and/or regional levels for the environmentally sound management of e-waste.
- **Collection centers:** Establishment of e-waste collection, exchange and recycling centers should be encouraged in partnership with private entrepreneurs and manufacturers.
- Management of E-waste will help address the SDGs related to environmental protection (Goals 6, 11, 12, and 14) and health (Goal 3). It will also address Goal 8 that focuses on employment and economic growth since the sound management of e-waste can create new areas of employment and drive entrepreneurship.

Question

The environmental thinking in India needs to go beyond enacting rules and regulations to a greater focus on outcomes and results that emerge from a sense of shared understanding and common purpose. Discuss. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly discuss with examples how rule of law is not enough in dealing with an environmental issue.
- Provide measures that instill a sense of shared understanding and common purpose for the environment in the society.
- Give a suitable conclusion on steps taken in this regard and what can further be done at every level.

Fodder Points

- The environment is a Residuary list subject. In pursuance of this, parliament enacted many laws like Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Environment Protection Act 1986, Air Pollution Act 1981 etc.
- But in spite of all these acts environmental condition in India remains very dismal:
 - The World Health Organization reports that thirteen of the 20 most polluted cities are in India.
 - According to World Bank economy-wide cost of environmental degradation is estimated to 5.7 per cent of India's GDP
- Thereby signalling this command and control approaches that India has deployed cannot sufficiently address current environmental and natural resource problems
- So a new framework for environmental governance is required, that is multilevel, multi-actor, based on ecosystems and outcomes rather than on mere compliance.

The environmental framework should in-cooperate following principles

- **Adopt the Principle of Subsidiarity**
 - Since many environmental issues are local and regional in nature, addressing them requires the involvement of local regional jurisdictions and the engagement of local people.
 - For that reforms in urban local bodies are needed to better manage waste, both institutional and technical.
 - Intergovernmental transfers as suggested by 14th Finance Commission should be promoted.
 - Empowering the Inter-State Council would help to advance this agenda.
- **Prioritize Mitigation of Air and Water Pollution**
 - Reduction of waste and wastewater at the source;
 - Onsite treatment where possible;
 - Recycling of wastewater as water for non-consumptive use;
 - The air quality situation in Indian cities is grave, as is the case in several water bodies;
 - In this context, States should strengthen the pollution control boards to take action against violators and impose penalties and charges, also investment should be made in the board's resources and capacity;
 - Public investments at the state level are required to increase the availability of bus fleets, metros, and informal public transport such as improved electric auto rickshaws;
 - For affluent areas in cities and metropolitan areas, congestion tax or vehicle quotas;
 - The central government should urgently introduce reforms to manage waste and wastewater.
- **Adopt Green Accounting in National and State Income**
 - The conventional treatment of these environmental resources, being free, has resulted in their overuse and exploitation.
 - Green income accounting seeks to modify income accounts to incorporate the use or depletion of environmental and natural resources
 - The key objective of such accounting is to make visible the use of environmental resources in economic production; until now, their use has been invisible
 - The environmental framework should reflect an understanding of the interrelationships of food, energy, and water, and the linkages between ecosystems and human well-being.
- Management of the environment refers not to actually managing the environment, which is not possible, but to influencing and shaping the interactions of humans and their activities with the environment. That can not be done only by rule of law, it has to be backed by a civic culture based on harmony between economy and environment.

Question

How does globalization impact money laundering? Examine the recent policy efforts by the Government of India to tackle the problem. (250 words)

Approach

- Start the answer by drawing the link between money laundering and globalization.
- Briefly explain how globalization impacts money laundering.
- Examine the recent policy efforts taken by the government.
- Give a way forward.

Introduction

- Money laundering is the process of making large amounts of money generated by criminal activity, such as drug trafficking or smuggling, appear to have come from a legitimate source.
- The growth in international trade, the expansion of the global financial system, the lowering of barriers to international travel, and the surge in the internalization of organized crime have combined to provide the source, opportunity, and means for converting illegal proceeds into what appears to be legitimate funds.

Body

Impact of Globalization on Money Laundering

- **Easy interlinkages of financial institutions** have made the three F's-finding, freezing and forfeiting of criminally derived income and assets-all the more difficult.
- **Rapid developments in financial information:** Easy information sharing facilitates the inclusion of illegal money into the international banking system, which further makes it difficult to identify its origin.
- **Development of financial infrastructure** along with technological and communication advancement allow money to move anywhere in the world with speed and ease.

Policy efforts by the Government of India to tackle the problem

- India is a full-fledged **member of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**. It helps India to build the capacity to fight terrorism and trace terrorist money and to successfully investigate and prosecute money laundering and terrorist financing offences.
- **Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002** (amended in 2005, 2009, 2012, and 2018) imposes an obligation on banking companies, financial institutions, and intermediaries to verify the identity of clients, maintain records and furnish information in the prescribed form. It seeks to:
 - Prevent and control money laundering
 - Confiscate and seize the property obtained from the laundered money; and
 - Deal with any other issue connected with money laundering in India.
- **Financial Intelligence Unit – India (FIU-IND)** is a central agency that
 - receives financial information pursuant to the country's anti-money laundering laws;
 - analyses and processes such information;
 - and disseminates the information to appropriate national and international authorities, to support anti-money laundering efforts

- **The Black money (undisclosed foreign income and assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015** was enacted to deal with the menace of the black money existing in the form of undisclosed foreign income and assets by setting out the procedure for dealing with such income and assets.
- **Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016** aims to expand the definition of Benami Transactions and specifies the penalty to be imposed on a person entering into a Benami transaction.
- **Anti-money laundering/counter financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) –guidelines for general insurers, 2013:** Each insurance company has to establish and implement policies, procedures, and internal controls/audit in its AML/CFT program. Insurers are also required to maintain records of their transactions under these guidelines.
- Apart from the above-mentioned efforts, the **Vienna Convention and the Basel Committee's Statement of Principles** aim to curb the problems of money laundering at the global level.
- Anti-Money Laundering Global Task Force (GTF-AML) of GOPAC (Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption) also works with anti-money laundering experts, and organizations such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Interpol etc. and has developed a complementary approach to combating money laundering globally.

Way Forward

- Establishment of comprehensive enforcement agencies
- Promote cashless digital transaction with regulating and monitoring infrastructure in place.
- Ensuring strict implementation of the KYC norms.
- Spreading financial awareness among the common masses about money laundering.

Question

To what extent the social welfare measures adopted by the Government of India in the insurgency-hit region have borne the desired fruits? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly describe the Government's approach to deal with the insurgency.
- Give the social welfare measures adopted by the Government.
- Suggestion/Way Forward.

Introduction

- Left-wing Extremism in Central India and insurgency in Northeastern states aimed at greater autonomy or outright secession are the two major regions in India facing insurgency for various socio-political reasons.
- The Government's approach to deal with insurgency has focussed in the areas of security, development, ensuring the rights and entitlements of local communities, improvement in governance, public perception management and also managing of law and order situation.
- According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, incidents of violence have seen a sharp decline while the geographical spread of LWE violence also shrunk from 76 districts in 2013 to 58 districts in 2018.

Body

Government's Measures in Insurgency-hit Areas

- **Social Welfare measures adopted by the Government**
 - The Ministry of Home Affairs has been tasked with the monitoring of Aspirational districts programme in 35 LWE affected districts.

- Skill development and education are critical challenges in insurgency areas and Government is running several schemes to impart local population education and skills so as to boost the socio-economic status of local people.

➤ **Infrastructure**

- There has been greater emphasis on strengthening the connectivity in insurgency areas.
- To fill critical gaps in Public infrastructure and Services e.g. medical facilities in the form of primary health centres, primary and secondary schools; Government has started **Special Central Assistance (SCA)** for 30 most LWE affected districts.
- Physical infrastructure relating to water supply, power and connectivity enhancing tourism and social infrastructure relating to primary and secondary sectors of education and health are being improved through the **North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)**, a 100% centrally funding scheme.
 - 10% of the Annual Plan Budget of 52 Ministries of the Union Government is earmarked every year for spending in North Eastern region since 1998-99 to ensure dedicated and focussed implementation of development reports.

➤ **Trust Building**

- For building trust and effectively bringing out the human face of forces and local people, Central Police Forces conduct various civic activities in the welfare of the local people e.g. **Civic Action Programme (CAP)**.
- Demands of various ethnic groups in the northeastern states for development and for autonomy in managing their affairs are being addressed by the Government.
- Rehabilitation is important to bring out former rebels into the mainstream and weakening the insurgency. The **issues relating to rehabilitation** of people affected by militancy, bringing underground outfits to the mainstream through negotiations, confidence-building measures etc. are also being actively pursued.
- Even though various interventions that bore fruits in tackling with LWE, certain government interventions have backfired, creating a more complex situations such as **Salwa Judum** where tribal youths were deployed as Special Police Officers - or as 'Koya Commandos', - in the fight against the Maoist insurgency. Arming the tribal youth went against various Constitutional principles and led to disturbance and instability in an already vulnerable situation.

Way Forward

- As per internal security experts, the operations have to be coupled with an effective development agenda for people vulnerable to join Maoist ranks and the current numbers from LWE areas are proof that the strategy is working.
- There is a need to enhance the implementation capacity of these states, merely allocating central funds will not resolve the developmental issues of these areas.
- A focussed programme like '**Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme**' under the monitoring of NITI Aayog may be launched. Similar approaches like convergence, collaboration and competition can be used to spur development in these areas.

Question

Closer co-operation and intelligence-sharing are needed between the countries to fight the new age terrorism which has global reach and sophisticated tools at its disposal. Discuss. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly define terrorism and state with examples of how a new version of terrorism has evolved.
- Discuss the reasons that led to the emergence of new age terrorism.
- Suggest way forward how countries should tackle this threat.
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

- Terrorism is the unlawful use of—or threatened use of—force or violence against individuals or property to coerce or intimidate governments or societies, often to achieve political, religious, or ideological objectives.
- However, with the convergence of organised terrorism a lot of new forms of terrorism has been originating:
 - Narco-terrorism
 - Financial terrorism
 - Cyber terrorism
 - Use of biological warfare and chemical weapons
 - Threats posed by the nuclear black market and nuclear terrorism
- Also, new age terrorism got transformed from being regional to trans-national due to ease of communication and transport, spread of internet and social media which enabled radicalisation and recruitment of vulnerable youth across borders.

Body

Reasons for the emergence of new age terrorism

- **The advent of social media and the Internet:** Social Media and the internet has made a regional phenomenon into a global one.
 - With increasing reach of social media, radicalisation becomes very easy; also social media is being used for the recruitment process of terror outfits.
- **Increased cyber capabilities provide new revenue sources:** For example- **Bitcoins**
 - The anonymity offered by bitcoins provides a secure route to do a safe and secure way for terror financing.
 - Also, an intricate network of money laundering provides terror financing.
- **State-sponsored terrorism:** Terrorism is being used by nations to fulfil their strategic gains. For eg: the proxy war in middle east, Pakistan harbouring terrorism on its soil.
- **Use of religion:** In name of religion, people are being driven towards terrorism.
- **Decentralised form of terrorism:** Growing intolerance and hate crime in society have led to an increase in phenomena of lone wolf attack.
- **Globalisation:** Globalisation has made a borderless world, which has led to the free flow of people, ideas and capital.

With growing trans-nationalism of terrorism, it is difficult for one nation to have a check at these transnational activities. Hence it requires cooperation between law enforcement and intelligence agencies of several nations.

Steps that can be taken by the international community to deal with this global issue

- Urgent adoption of **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism by the UN.**
- Strengthening of financial bodies like **FATF and UN.**
- **Intelligence sharing agreements** can be signed between the nations:
 - Like India has signed intel sharing network with China, Iran, USA, Israel, UAE etc.
 - World leaders can negotiate a global body for Intelligence sharing, like Five eyes.
- A multilateral regime under aegis of UN has to be established over ownership and control over the internet.
- Use of **big data analytics** for enhanced intelligence discovery.
- All these steps should be taken in light of human right also.

Terrorism today has become a global issue like climate change, poverty, gender inequality. If nations don't act now in unison than terrorism can consume whole humanity.

Question

Examine the objectives and significance of National Supercomputing Mission in India along with the challenges involved. (250 words)

Approach

- Give a brief idea on India's Supercomputing Mission.
- Mention its objectives.
- Enumerate its advantages and challenges.

Introduction

- National Supercomputing Mission is an important initiative by the Government of India to boost indigenous efforts at improving supercomputing capability for socio-economic development of the nation.
- The mission is jointly steered by the Ministry of Electronics and IT and Department of Science & Technology.

Body

Objectives of the Mission

- **Strengthening Institutional Capacity:** The Mission aims to empower the national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities.
- **Pooling supercomputing resources:** These supercomputers will also be networked on the national supercomputing grid over **the National Knowledge Network (NKN)**, Academic and R&D institutions, as well as key user departments/ ministries, would participate by using these facilities and develop applications of national relevance.
- **Capacity Building:** The mission includes the development of highly professional **High-Performance Computing (HPC)** aware human resource for meeting challenges of development of these applications.

Significance

- It will provide significant qualitative and quantitative improvement in R&D and higher education in the disciplines of Science & Technology.
- The mission will bring India into the select league of advanced countries such as the US, Japan, China and the European Union (EU) which share top supercomputing machines in the world.
- Supercomputing facilities will enable India to build capabilities in areas such as **designing vehicles, aeroplanes, massive structures like high rise buildings and bridges, infrastructure, the discovery of new life-saving drugs, discovery and extraction of new energy sources including oil, natural gas etc.**
- **It will enable more accurate weather forecast** as well as real time tracking of natural phenomenon, timely warning of cyclones etc.
- It would be an enabler for the **Digital India** vision of the Government by making available huge data storage space and linking systems together.
- The mission envisages manufacturing of supercomputing systems in India contributing to Make in India and generating employment.

Challenges

- There has been a **continuous delay in implementing programme**.
 - **India lacks highly skilled workforce** for supercomputer development.
 - **India needs to work on policies** to attract talent from all over the world as well as retaining the indigenously available talent through financial and other incentives.
 - **India is facing a funding crunch** for the mission.
 - While India's stronghold is in the field of software development, it has to **depend on imports to procure the hardware components** required for building supercomputers

Conclusion

- National Supercomputing Mission is a timely effort to ensure India does not lag in new area as Industry 4.0 transforms the way of doing work, equipping Indian R&D establishment to develop and master newer technological applications to resolve developmental challenges India is facing.

Question

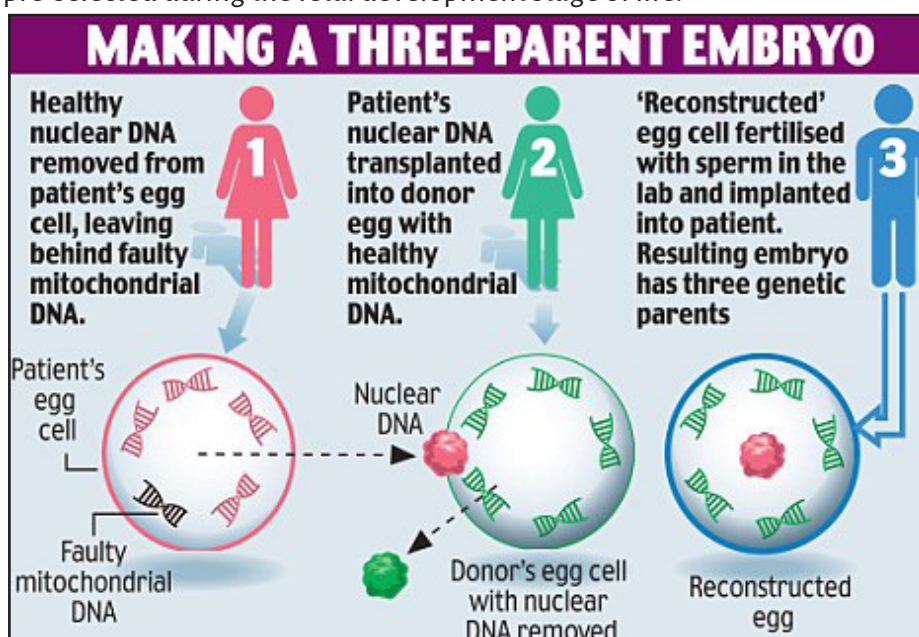
What do you understand by the term designer babies? Explain along with its related advantages and concerns. (250 words)

Approach

- Define designer babies, briefly explain with an example.
- Discuss the merits of designer babies.
- Discuss the demerits of designer babies.
- Conclude suitably.

Fodder Point

Designer babies: The term “Designer Baby” was taken from “Designer clothing”. Similar to the way clothes can be designed according to our preferences, the Designer babies envisages Genetic Engineering of Babies where their genetic makeup is pre-selected during the fetal development stage of life.



The goal of this process is to eradicate specific defects which are present in the child's genome for eg: defective mitochondria which can be cured by gene editing involving a 3-parent-child.

As with all novel technologies, there are some pros as well as cons of having a designer baby.

Merits of designer babies

- **Increases life expectancy:** By editing out an unborn baby's defective genes and only retaining the healthy genes, the baby will grow up healthier. Therefore, you may increase their overall life expectancy.
- **Treatment for incurable diseases:** It might help prevent genetic diseases such as Alzheimer's, Huntington's Disease, down syndrome, Spinal Muscular Atrophy, and many others.
- **Ease of living:** Instead of pushing the child to study hard and do well in the academic field, his/her's mental capabilities can be enhanced before the child is even born.
- **Domino effect in Medical science:** Designer babies will be possible by advancement in Gene-editing technology, which in turn can lead to new advancements in other areas of medical science.
- **Treats societal discrimination:** Physical attributes of a person like colour, physical makeup etc. sometimes are the reason for prejudice in society. By genetic engineering of a child, these physical attributes can be easily modified.

Demerits of designer babies

- **Safety issue:** The technology used is not 100% safe yet.
 - It is only in the experimental stages at this point.
 - Genetics are not always a hundred per cent sure, which means that it is very likely possible that error may come up at some point in the future in case of designer babies
 - Also, an accidental error could give rise to some new form of illness
- **Against the rights of the child.** With the process of creating a designer baby, essentially there is in change the life and mind of a living human being without taking the person's permission or choice, as a foetus is no way in a position to give its consent.
- **Social disparity:** Designer babies would most likely be better looking, smarter, etc. This would create "classes" between designer and non-designer babies.
 - Also, most people will seek out good-looking, intelligent babies with other optimum characteristics, everyone will be relatively similar.
- **Ethical dilemma:** It is almost the same as carrying out an abortion when you have plenty of choices to eliminate the unwanted ones.
 - Sometimes parents do it for money they will get as compensation for donating the stem cells and have no thought whatsoever of the baby.
- **Genetic doping:** Allowing designer babies may encourage Gene doping. Genetic doping involves inserting DNA for the purpose of enhancing athletic performance.
- **Bio-Weapon:** Designer babies can lead to a scenario where a human can be reared like animals so that it can lead to the formation of genetic bioweapon.
- **Disruption in human evolution:** Designer babies will bring an irreversible change in human evolution, as till now human are evolved on the basis of natural selection,

Genetic engineering is a novel concept, which holds immense possibilities that can help mankind beyond imagination, but such type of interventions should be assimilated in human life till the extent they provide ease of humanity not the destruction of it.

Question

What are Fixed Dose Combinations (FDCs)? Mention their advantages and disadvantages in the Indian context. (250 words)

Approach

- Explain Fixed Dose Combinations.
- Explain the advantages of FDCs for India.
- Explain the possible disadvantages of FDCs for India.
- Conclude by providing a way forward for FDCs.

Introduction

- A fixed-dose combination (FDC) drug contains two or more active drugs in a fixed dosage ratio.

Body

Advantages of FDCs in India

- FDCs improve patient compliance, simplify therapy and maximise the benefit from the synergistic effects of the two medicinal products given together.
- **Treatment of infectious diseases:** India has a large population of people suffering from infectious diseases. FDCs are particularly useful in the treatment of infectious diseases like HIV, malaria and tuberculosis where giving multiple antimicrobial agents is the norm.
 - FDCs are also of use in chronic conditions especially when multiple disorders often co-exist.
- **Affordability and accessibility:** FDCs offer specific advantages over the single entity preparations, such as increased efficacy, and/or a reduced incidence of adverse effects, possibly reduced cost and simpler logistics of distribution relevant to situations of limited resources as in the case of India.

Disadvantages of FDCs in India

- **Side effects:** There are increased chances of adverse drug effects and drug interactions if medicines are combined instead of being taken separately.
- **Drug resistance:** Unnecessary use of combination drugs makes the human body resistant to treatment.
- **Irrational usage:** The easy availability and affordability encourage irrational and indiscriminate use by peoples. Irrational use of FDCs of antibiotics is among the major causes of antibiotic resistance in India.
 - FDCs are often prescribed to cover up for diagnostic imprecision encouraging the practices of **quack doctors**.

Conclusion

- Drugs Technical Advisory Board is a statutory body constituted under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 advises Central and State government on technical matters related to drugs and cosmetics.
- Government constituted **C.K. Kokate Committee** to examine the safety and efficacy of unapproved FDCs. It has recommended prohibiting the production and consumption of these drugs.
- Apart from the regulation of irrational usage of FDCs, the government needs to make people aware of the safe usage of FDCs.

Question

Instances of fire tragedies are the result of lack of preparedness at the various regulatory and organisational level. Comment. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly mention recent instances of the fire tragedy in India with some facts and findings.
- With some examples explain how fire accidents are the result of a lack of preparedness at the regulatory and organizational level.
- Provide way forward highlighting ways to strengthen preparedness at both regulatory and organizational front.

Introduction

- As per **India Risk Surveys 2018**, India is the **third largest** country in terms of fire accidents and had faced numerous fire accidents in the past few years like fire explosion in a cracker factory in Warangal and ESIC Mumbai Hospital, a massive blaze in Lucknow hotel and the recent fire tragedy at a coaching institute in Surat is a clear indication of the lack of preparedness at various regulatory and organizational level.

Body

Lack of preparedness at the organizational level

- **Poorly stored goods** reduce the effectiveness of sprinkler systems.
- **Increasing vulnerabilities due to poor planning:** Inflammable materials used in interiors, inadequate fire escape routes, narrow bylanes, congested building plans.
- **No monitoring mechanism** to check fire safety norms, building plan rules are being adhered to by the builders and residents.
- **Lack of adequate resources and infrastructural facilities** in terms of fire safety:
 - Based on a 2011 study, 65 percent deficiency was reported in **fire stations**.
 - According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, in 144 towns with population over 1 lakh, there is a huge deficiency of **fire fighting infrastructure**.
 - 78 percent of the budget allocated to buying **fire safety equipment** and rescue vehicles went unused across the state between 2010 and 2015.
- **Public awareness** (DOs & DON'Ts), conduct of **regular mock exercises** and **evacuation drills** are not conducted regularly.
- **Fire safety workforce** is not trained on a regular basis and lacks modern techniques, skills and real-time environmental understanding in the absence of fire training institutes.
- **Vulnerability analysis** is mostly not done.

Lack of preparedness at the regulatory level

- Unclear provisions of **fire safety audit**
- Violation of **safety norms** by high rise buildings
- Lack of **Uniform fire safety legislation** in some of the states.
 - Fire service is a state subject and has been included as a municipal function in the XII schedule of the Constitution.

- Fire services in some states like Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, etc. are under the respective concerned municipal corporations. In other remaining states, it is under the department of Home Ministry.
- **Firemaster plans** are not being updated or revamped.
 - Only 30% of the cities in India have any master plan.

Laws and Government Interventions

- **The National Building Code of India, 2016:** covers the requirements for fire prevention, life safety in relation to fire and fire protection of buildings.
- **The Model Building Bye Laws, 2003:** Point-specific responsibility for all fire-related clearance rests with the Chief Fire Officer. The Chief Fire Officer shall issue the 'No Objection Certificate' from the viewpoint of fire safety and means of escape, after satisfying himself that all the fire protection measures have been implemented and are functional as per approved plans.

Way Forward

- **Regular fire safety audit** of critical fire prone establishments like (like high rise buildings, multiplexes in congested areas)
 - Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment (HIRA) to be implemented and adhered to.
- **Modernization** of fire equipment:
 - Financial support and assistance in augmenting and modernizing the fire departments.
- **Awareness programs:**
 - **Fire fighting workshop and fire safety drills** once in six months at the residential colonies, schools, and such other institutions/organizations should be conducted.
- **Proper demarcation of entry and exit points** in crowded buildings, **installation of fire fighting equipment** and their **regular maintenance**, periodic renewal of **No-objection certificates** by building owners in order to ensure fire preparedness.

Conclusion

- Summarize answer with the recommendations **13th Finance Commission** on fire safety and organization.
- All Municipal Corporations with a population of more than one million (2001 census) must put in place a **fire hazard response and mitigation plan for their respective jurisdictions**
- A portion of the grant allocated by the commission to the Urban Local Bodies may be spent on revamping **the fire services in their jurisdiction.**
- The ULBs may extend financial support to State Fire Services Department in this effort.

Question

Disaster resilient infrastructure is a crucial driver of economic growth and development. Explain. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly discuss the need for disaster resilient infrastructure.
- Discuss how it will augment economic growth and development
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

- Natural hazards like floods, earthquakes, typhoons, and climate change – pose growing risks to development.

- When infrastructure fails during a natural disaster, it can interrupt vital services, also it deploys already scarce capital in disaster recovery and rehabilitation. Thus, there is a need to build Disaster resilient infrastructure.
- **Resilient infrastructure refers to a system's ability to anticipate, absorb, and recover from a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner.**
- Making infrastructure disaster-resilient encompasses structural and nonstructural measures.
 - **Structural measures:** Actions taken in the aftermath of disasters have major impacts on processes that follow for example flood control systems, protective embankments, seawall rehabilitation, and retrofitting of buildings.
 - **Nonstructural measures** refer to planning ahead for disasters and investing in resilience to reduce vulnerability to multiple hazards.

Body

- **Disaster-Development Co-relation**
 - Disasters set back development programming, destroying years of development initiatives.
 - Unplanned development programmes can increase an area's susceptibility to disasters.
 - Disasters affect the vulnerable section of society the most. Thereby further adding to their miseries and delaying their development process.
- There is a strong need to integrate development and disaster strategies. **Disaster risk reduction should become an integral part of the planning process.**
- According to the UN office for disaster risk reduction every \$1 invested in disaster resilient infrastructure can save up to \$7 or more in response and recovery cost.
- However, making infrastructure resilient to natural disasters is a daunting challenge:
 - Because of the **vast area of coverage** that includes transport, electricity, water supply and sanitation, and buildings and other structures.
 - **A huge fiscal cost will be required** in making current infrastructure disaster resilient.
 - The government can explore the **alternative mode of funding** apart from public expenditure in disaster risk reduction.

Other steps that can be taken

- **Disaster Impact Assessment** must be made a mandatory part of Environment Impact Assessment.
- The government needs to develop a **disaster atlas of India** for better preparedness and mitigation measures.
- The government needs to provide **insurance cover to people who are more vulnerable to disasters.**
- **Disaster management approach needs to be more decentralised** at the level of Panchayati Raj institutions and local urban government, as suggested by the Sendai Framework and 14th Finance Commission.

Conclusion

- It is age-old wisdom that prevention is better than cure, any investment towards disaster risk reduction will add to India's socio-economic development.

Question

India is the 10th most disaster-prone country in the world. Explain the measures taken by the government to improve both, the disaster preparedness and response towards it. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly explain the reasons for India's disaster vulnerability.
- List the measures taken by the government for disaster preparedness and response.

- Explain the challenges and issues related to government measures.
- Suggest a way forward.

Introduction

- India is the 10th most disaster-prone country in the world with 27 out of the 29 States and all of the seven Union Territories being most vulnerable.
- About 60% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of various intensities, over 40 million hectares is prone to floods, about 8% of the total area is prone to cyclones, and 68% of the area is susceptible to drought.
- Some challenges to disaster preparation and disaster response in India are:
 - geo-climatic conditions combined with a high population density
 - urbanization and industrialization,
 - development within high-risk zones,
 - environmental degradation and climatic changes
 - absence of an institutional framework at the Center/State/District level,
 - poor intersectoral coordination,
 - lack of an early warning system,
 - slow response from relief agencies,
 - lack of trained/dedicated search and rescue teams,
 - Poor community empowerment

Body

Government Measures for Disaster Preparedness and Response

- India was one of the pioneering countries to establish a three-level disaster management institutional setup. **Disaster Management Act, 2005** laid down institutional, legal, financial and coordination mechanisms at the National, State and District levels.
- **The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)** for capacity building and the **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** for response purpose have been set up under the Act.
- With **National Disaster Management Plan (2016)** India has aligned its National plan with the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**, to which India is a signatory.
 - The plan aims to significantly decrease the losses of life, livelihoods, and assets in terms of economic, physical, social, cultural, and environmental.
 - It aims to maximize the ability to cope with disasters at all levels of administration as well as among communities.
- **Environmental measures:** Measures have been taken for environmental protection to ensure climate-change adaptation, vulnerability reduction, and post-disaster relief, recovery and reconstruction aspects of disaster management.
- **Economic measures:** State Disaster Response Fund which is supplemented by National disaster response fund, has been constituted by each state under the provisions of Disaster Management act 2005.
 - It was constituted based on the **recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission**.
 - The government of India contributes 75% and 90% of the total yearly allocation of SDRF to general states and special category states respectively.
 - India has built a **seed storage facility** with over 5,000 seed accessions at Chang La in the Himalayas to ensure food security in the face of any calamity.
 - Also, the government is promoting the growth of **climate resilient crops** like millets.
- **Social measures:** Government's approach to disaster preparedness and response increasingly focus on Community Based Disaster Management.

- Through awareness generation, capacity building, social mobilisation and financial support the government encourages community evolved plans for designing infrastructure in vulnerable areas.
- The **traditional wisdom of local communities** is being given the due consideration in the formulation of disaster planning.
- **Technological measures:** National Disaster Management Services (NDMS) was conceived by NDMA during 2015-16 for setting up of **Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) Network** connecting MHA, NDMA, NDRF etc. to provide the failsafe communication infrastructure and technical support for Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) operations across the country.
- NDMA through **Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC)** has prepared **Upgraded Earthquake Hazard Maps and Atlases** for the country for better planning and policies.
- NDMA has taken up a project for **disaster risk management by establishing GIS Server** and creation of a database to integrate data obtained from various stakeholders to increase disaster preparedness, mitigation, damage assessment, response and relief management efforts.
- Major disasters like Kerala Floods and responses to it are being analysed and studied by the government to both understand and test the disaster preparedness of the country.
- Regional Response Centres and Emergency Medical Relief Divisions have been set up in all the states to provide emergency communication and medical response.

Loopholes in the measures

- A performance audit of the disaster preparedness by CAG revealed that the National Disaster Management Authority was found ineffective in its functioning in most of the core areas.
 - It neither had information and control over the progress of work at the State level nor was it successful in the implementation of various projects.
 - Coordination between NDMA and nodal Ministries for various disasters needed to be improved.
 - Roles and responsibilities amongst the apex bodies at the national level also needed to be clearly specified.
- Disaster Management in India has been more concerned with responsive measures than with the preparedness.
- The development policies are **not people-centric**.
 - For eg: The latest **Coastal Regulation Zone notification** does not take into consideration the issues put forth by the fishermen in these regions.
- Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are virtually non-existent and even where such SOPs exists, the authorities concerned are unfamiliar with it.

Way Forward

- **Public-private partnerships** can be looked as alternative modes of disaster financing.
 - Eg: **Surat Climate Change Trust**, a collaboration between the private sector and the urban local body in Surat, Gujarat.
- **Risk-transfer mechanisms and insurance** should be scaled up to support risk reduction.
- There is a need to **expand capacity-building activities** on disaster management within departments so that they include all stages of the disaster cycle, rather than the current emphasis on emergency response.
- There is a need for **decentralised planning, implementation and monitoring and control** of the disaster preparedness planning and response.
- Disasters are no longer to be considered as occurrences that are to be managed through emergency response services. So, there is a need to foster a culture of prevention and identification of the key issues to be addressed especially in the development process.
- A strategy aimed at **holistic human development integrating the sustainable development goals** is the way ahead to reduce the country's vulnerability towards disasters.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

Day - 7

Essay

16th June 2019

A. Climate change is changing international politics.

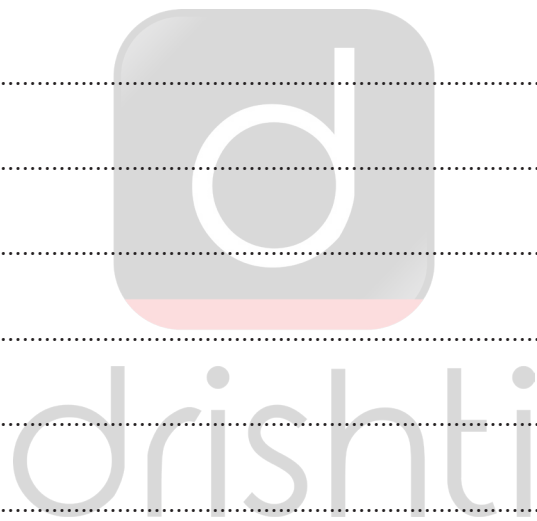
B. The measure of a man is what he does with power.

C. Without realising social democracy, political democracy cannot be achieved.

My Notes...



drishti



Question

Discuss how 'Right to Information' has helped in furthering the goals of democracy and explain the impediments still remaining in its implementation. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain the link between 'RTI' and goals of democracy like accountability, transparency, openness, check on arbitrariness, participation, etc.
- Describe the challenges in the implementation of RTI.
- Conclude by providing way forward.

Introduction

- Right to Information mandates timely response to citizen requests for government information. It has made access to information both a citizens' right and at the same time the government's duty.

Body

'Right to Information' and goals of democracy

- **Accountability:** RTI promotes accountability of government by promoting a transparent and open government.
- **People participation:** RTI is a powerful tool that strengthens democracy and promotes good governance by enhancing the citizen's ability to participate in the process of governance.
- **Reduces corruption:** RTI reduces corruption and arbitrary administrative actions.
- **Responsive:** Responsive governance is hallmark of democracy and 'RTI' promotes responsive governance.
- **Citizen empowerment:** RTI empowers the citizen by giving him legal right to hold public authorities accountable for their work.

Impediments in the implementation of RTI

- **Low public awareness:** In general there is low awareness about the 'RTI'; further the awareness level is low among the disadvantaged communities such as women/sc/st/rural population etc.
- **Constraints faced in filing applications** like Non-availability of User Guides for RTI implementation for information seekers,
- **Inconvenient submission channels for RTI application** e.g. inadequate efforts have been made to receive RTI applications through electronic means i.e., on email/ website etc.
- **Inconvenient payment channels for submission of application fees:** Majority of PIOs use cash and demand drafts, which causes inconvenience to citizens.
- **Non-friendly attitude of the PIOs:** The attitude of civil services towards 'RTI' is still not positive. This bureaucratic resistance discourages information seeker.
- **Poor quality of information provided:** It is observed that incomplete and inaccurate information provided by the PIOs to curtail the statutory rights under 'RTI'.
- **Constraints faced in inspection of records:** PIO discourage physical inspection of records even when it is allowed by RTI act.

- Inadequate trained PIOs and First Appellate Authorities
- Failure to provide information within the stipulated time of 30 days.
- **Pendency of RTI applications:** There is huge number of pending RTI application. The total number of pending RTI requests in 2016-17 was 11,29,457.
- **Violence against information seeker:** There have been instances of attack and assault on information seekers.

Way Forward

- Engagement of civil society organizations like NGOs in building awareness.
- Promoting a culture of transparency through training among civil servants.
- Promotion of greater voluntary disclosure of information held with public Authorities.
- The person demanding information under the RTI should be emboldened and secure. Police authorities in States have to be sensitive to this and take effective steps to prevent the occurrence of such incidents.

Question

What is the citizens' charter? What are its significance and limitations in a democracy like India? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly explain the concept of citizens' charters.
- Explain the significance and limitations in the Indian context.
- Suggest some reforms.
- Give a way forward.

Introduction

- Citizen's Charter is a tool for facilitating the delivery of services to citizens with specified standards, quality, time frame etc. with commitments from the Organisation and its clients.
- This also includes expectations of the Organisation from the Citizen for fulfilling the commitment of the Organisation.
- The Citizen's Charter is not legally enforceable and, therefore, is non-justiciable.
- Improving the quality of services, offering a choice for the users wherever possible, standards specifying what to expect within a time frame, value for taxpayers' money, accountability of the service provider (individual as well as Organization), transparency in rules, procedures, schemes and grievance redressal and making the service delivery participative are some principles of service delivery.

Body

Significance of Citizens' Charter in India

- It empowers the citizens in relation to public service delivery and is significant for a large democracy like India.
 - It is emphasised on citizens as customers by ensuring that public services are responsive to the citizens they serve.
- The concept of Citizens' Charter enshrines the trust between the service provider and its users. **It enables greater responsiveness of officials towards the public.**
- It holds the public official accountable for the power entrusted in him and enables the right sense of duty in spending public money collected through taxes and in providing citizens with necessary services.

Limitations of Citizens' Charter in India

- **Devoid of participative mechanisms:** End-users, Civil society organizations and NGOs are not consulted when Charters are drafted.
- **Poor design and content:** Charters are not very meaningful and succinct, there remains an absence of critical information that end-users need to hold agencies accountable. Also, Charters are rarely updated making it a one-time exercise, frozen in time.
- **Lack of public awareness:** only a small percentage of end-users are aware of the commitments made in the charters since effective efforts of communicating and educating the public about the standards of delivery promise have not been undertaken.
- **Measurable standards of delivery are rarely defined** making it difficult to assess whether the desired level of service has been achieved or not.
- **Organizations do not adhere to their Charters** since there is no citizen friendly mechanism to compensate the citizen if the organization defaults.
- **The tendency to have a uniform charters for all offices under the parent organization.** Charters have still not been adopted by all Ministries/Departments. This overlooks local issues.

Way Forward

- Decentralised framing of charters, wide consultation processes, precise and firm commitments of service delivery standards to the citizens, redressal mechanism in case of default, periodic evaluation and better engagement of civil society are some of the reforms that can make citizens' charters more effective in India.
- A Citizens' Charter cannot be an end in itself, it is rather a means to an end - a tool to ensure that the citizen is always at the heart of any service delivery mechanism.
- Drawing from best practice models such as the Sevottam Model (a Service Delivery Excellence Model) can help CC in becoming more citizen centric.

Question

Which are the seven essential principles of public service that serves as a guide for civil servants? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly mention what is public service.
- Write in brief about the need of principles in public service.
- Enumerate the seven principles of public service.
- Conclude with importance of few other principles desirable in a public service.

Introduction

Public service is a service which is provided by the government to people, either directly (through the public sector) or by financing private provision of services. Citizens expect public servants to serve the public interest with fairness and to manage public resources properly.

Body

- It can be said that Public service is a public trust. To uphold this trust and avoid the misuse of public offices, most advanced countries have prescribed a Code of Ethics for public servants.
- There are seven basic principles given by Nolan, in his famous report of Committee of standards of Public life in Britain and it is universally applicable for holders of public office.

The Seven Principles

The Nolan committee promotes Seven Principles of Public Life that serve as a guide for civil servants:

- **Selflessness:** Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.
- **Integrity:** Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.
- **Objectivity:** In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
- **Accountability:** Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
- **Openness:** Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- **Honesty:** Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- **Leadership:** Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Conclusion

Apart from these essential principles given by the Nolan committee, many values like Impartiality, Transparency, Courage of conviction, Probity, Accountability, Empathy towards weaker sections etc. are expected from a public servant as well. Moreover, in the era of rapid transformation in society, more needs to be done to promote and reinforce standards of conduct in public bodies, in particular through guidance and training, including induction training.

Day - 9

GS - IV

Ethical Issues
in Corporate
Governance

18th June 2019

Question

What is Corporate Governance? What are the ethical issues with Corporate Governance in India? Suggest measures to improve Corporate Governance in India. (250 words)

Approach

- Describe corporate governance.
- Enlist the ethical issues with Corporate Governance in India.
- Suggest measures to improve Corporate Governance in India.
- Give a conclusion by underlining the significance of corporate governance.

Introduction

Corporate governance essentially involves balancing the interests of a company's many stakeholders, such as shareholders, senior management executives, customers, suppliers, financiers, the government, and the community.

Body

Ethical issues with Corporate Governance in India

- **Conflict of Interest:** The challenge of managers potentially enriching themselves at the cost of shareholders e.g. recent case of former ICICI bank head Chanda Kochhar approved a loan to Videocon for a quid pro quo deal for her husband.
- **Weak Board:** Lack of diversity of experience and background represents a major area of weakness for these boards. There have been questions about board performing in the larger interests of the shareholders. In case of IL&FS, not a single red flag was raised by any board member.
- **Separation of ownership and management:** In case of family-run companies, the separation of ownership and management remains a key challenge in majority of companies including some of India's top ones.
- **Independent directors:** Independent directors are partisan and are not able to check promoters unethical practices.
- **Executive Compensation:** Executive compensation is a contentious issue especially when subject to shareholder's accountability. Executive compensation needs to stand the test of stakeholders' scrutiny.

Suggestions to improve Corporate Governance in India

- Implement the recommendations of Uday Kotak Panel, such as:
 - Minimum 6 directors to be on board of listed entities; every listed entity to have at least 1 independent woman director
 - More transparency on appointment of independent directors and should play a more active role on the boards.
 - Audit Committee must review use of loans/adv/ investment by holding co in arm over Rs 100 crore.
- **Diverse boards are better boards:** In this context, 'diverse' is all-encompassing, including gender, ethnicity, skills and experience.
- **Robust risk management policies:** Adoption of effective and robust risk management policies for better decision making as it develops a deeper insight into the risk-reward trade-offs that all Corporations face.
- **Effective governance infrastructure:** Policies and procedures which guide ethical behaviour should form the base of any organizational behaviour. Ensure separation of the line of responsibility between board and management.
- **Evaluation of the Board's performance:** The Board should consider addressing weaknesses uncovered in board evaluations, enhancing their governance processes.
- **Communication:** Facilitating shareholder communication with the board is key. There is a need to provide a contact person with whom shareholders may discuss any issue.

Conclusion

In a growing economy like India corporate governance is critical for attracting investment both from domestic and international sources.

Question

The Government is mulling corporate literacy exam for independent company directors. Highlight the role of independent company directors in good corporate governance. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly introduce idea of corporate literacy exam for independent company directors.
- Elaborate on the role of independent company directors in good corporate governance.

Introduction

- As per section 149 (6) of The Companies Act, 2013, Independent Director means any director other than a managing director or whole-time director or a nominee director.
- The government reportedly wants to introduce a qualification exam for independent directors. Online assessment will cover basics of Indian company law, ethics and capital market rules, among others.
 - This development comes at a time when several top banks are dealing with myriad accusations of improper lending, alleging lapses in their audits, for instance- Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) crisis, ban on Deloitte Haskins & Sells which failed to warn of mounting risks etc.

Body

Role of independent company directors in good corporate governance

The current law states that a company's board strength should comprise at least a third of independent directors. Their main responsibility is to function as a watchdog independent of a firm's influence and safeguarding the interests of minority shareholders amongst others.

- **Independent judgment:** Independent directors bring independent judgment to bear on the board's deliberations.
- **Objectivity:** While evaluating the performance of the board and management of the company bring an objective view.
- **Monitoring performance:** Scrutinizing, monitoring and reporting management's performance regarding goals and objectives agreed in the board meetings
- **Protecting stakeholders:** Independent directors safeguard the interests of all stakeholders, particularly the minority shareholders; and balance the conflicting interests of the stakeholders.
- **Risk management and financial control:** Independent directors satisfy themselves about financial controls and systems of risk management and check on the integrity of financial information
- **Remuneration:** Establishing the suitable levels of remuneration of senior management, executive directors etc.
- **Improving corporate credibility and acting as a watchdog:** Independent directors reports on the matters concerning the unethical behaviour, actual or suspected fraud or violation of the company's code of conduct or ethics policy.

Way Forward

- Under Companies Act and SEBI rules independent directors can be held personally liable for acts of the company carried out with their knowledge or when an independent director did not act diligently.
- Application of these rules along with the proposed exam should ensure an independent director is not merely perceived as a plum appointment that is accompanied by little responsibility.

Question

What do you understand by corporate social responsibility? What is its significance in the present Indian context? (250 words)

Introduction

- "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)" can be referred to as the corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare.
- The term generally applies to companies' efforts that go beyond what may be required by regulators or environmental protection groups.

- It is a concept that holds an enterprise accountable for its impact on all relevant stakeholders by continuing its commitments to behave fairly, transparently and therefore sustainably.
- India became the first country to statutorily provide for CSR through its Companies Act 2013 by inserting clauses on compliance, enforcement, conformity, disclosure and auditing.
- The provisions explicitly state that companies with a revenue of Rs.1,000 crore and more or those with a profit of Rs.5 crore and more or a net worth of Rs.500 crore or more are required to spend a minimum of 2% of their net profits over the preceding three years on any field ranging from rural development, women empowerment, promotion of arts, relief and infrastructure building.

Body

Significance of CSR in India

- **Engages Corporates in the Development process:**
 - The responsibility of a corporation to contribute to local development differs fundamentally with the nature and scope of activities of a welfare state.
 - Involving corporate sector is an effective way to provide services, especially in India where massive development work is required to reach acceptable living standards.
- **Helps build brand of a company:** CSR also serves as an additional force to expand work and rebuild brand, image and goodwill of a company.
- **Empowers the communities:** ensuring accountability from the corporates for their consumption of resources shared by the communities.
- **Can help achieve sustainable development goals:** CSR aligns private enterprises to the goal of sustainable global development by providing them with a more comprehensive set of working objectives than just profit alone.
- **Moral Responsibility:** Corporate sector is dependent on wider society for its business. Business managers have a moral responsibility to protect the interests of society and look after the welfare of their different stakeholders apart from providing goods and services.
- **Attracts better human resources:** CSR is seen to be a great way to attract good talent and to retain them. Social initiatives are a good way to satisfy the emotional and social needs of employees by helping them contribute towards the good of society.
- **Meeting consumer expectations:** Consumers have become more aware of their rights and are also more demanding. They protest against corporate adopting unethical practices and support and reward socially responsible corporate e.g. corporate ensuring no child labour or adopting green policies are appreciated.
- **Efficient allocation of available resources:** Large organization have the human talent and financial resources to solve societal problems, hence they should be socially responsive. They are also more efficient and ensure a business and result oriented approach towards social projects.

Way Forward

- With increased integration of world capital and improvement in communications, ethics has become all the more integral to corporate behaviour.
- There should be **thrust on local area development**, as industries are located in India on the basis of the research of raw market availability, transportation costs and, crucially, the co-operative attitude of the local government.
 - Intimate knowledge of the needs of the locality would even be beneficial. Hence, localisation of CSR should be emphasised upon.
- To undertake long-term projects there needs to be certainty in the CSR budget, fluctuating performance implies fluctuating CSR allocations. This can jeopardize a CSR initiative initiated earlier. Pooling resources among companies can address this issue.

Day - 10

GS - IV

International
Relations –
Ethical Issues

19th June 2019

Question

What is the meaning of 'International Morality'? Mention its importance and discuss the Rohingya issue in this context. (250 words)

Approach

- Describe 'international morality' and its broader dimensions applicable in today's geopolitics.
- Highlight its importance vis-a-vis current problems of trade wars, disturbance in middle east, nuclear arms race, muscular positioning of China, refugee problem etc.
- Elaborate on the need for 'international morality' in dealing with the case of Rohingya refugees.

Introduction

- **International morality** is an area of international relations theory which concerns the extent and scope of ethical obligations between countries.
- Ethical questions are central to the study of international relations as issues like war and peace, international trade, international laws and global organizations; global climate change etc involve many ethical questions.

Body

Importance of International Morality

- **Peaceful world:** Morality in international affairs enhances probability of a peaceful world order without wars and violent incidents and promotes the welfare of people.
- **Just world order:** It promotes democratic world order based on equality where developing nations will have equal representations in important global institutions like IMF, World Bank, UN etc.
- **Human Rights:** International morality protects human rights by curbing unnecessary wars and violent conflict. Further helping people suffering from conflicts e.g. Syrian refugees allowed in Europe.
- **Justice and equity:** International morality promotes justice and equity by supporting poor countries e.g. Climate justice recognizes responsibility of rich nation in climate financing.

Need for 'international morality' in dealing with the case of Rohingya refugees

The Rohingya living in the Rakhine State of Myanmar were forced to flee their homes due to violence to Bangladesh and India. They were subject to discrimination for years and not recognized as citizens.

- **Human rights:** Rohingya issue is intricately related to human rights of refugees. Neighboring countries like Bangladesh and India have moral responsibility to provide these refugees with food and shelter.
- **Political asylum:** Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that everyone has the right to seek and enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. This raises the question of accountability of countries refusing protection to Rohingyas.
- **Violation of international humanitarian laws:** According to Amnesty International the Myanmar army committed extensive violations of international humanitarian law. Such transgressions at institutional level demands

International action in spirit of 'International morality' e.g. UN Security Council issued a presidential statement calling for an end to the violence and for the restrictions on humanitarian aid to be lifted.

Way Forward

- Need for 'International morality' is gaining significance in an increasingly global and conflict ridden world.
- Excessive focus on 'national interest' is cause of increasing conflict e.g. ensuing trade war between the USA and China has put global economy recovery in danger. In a highly integrated world, national interest needs to be tempered with International morality, and the stakeholders should desist from narrow viewpoints which hampers growth of all.

Question

In a fast integrating technologically driven world with melting borders, international ethics framework for all is wishful thinking. Critically analyse. (250 words)

Approach

- Describe international ethics.
- Bring out the reasons in difficulty in arriving at international ethics framework for all.
- Through critical analysis, show how international ethics framework for all can still be possible.
- Give a suitable way forward.

Introduction

- **International ethics** is an area of international relations theory which concerns the extent and scope of ethical obligations between countries.

Body

Challenges for international ethics for all in technologically dynamic globalized world

- **National interest:** Global ethicists attribute the failure to develop a global ethics to selfish national interest. According to them political drivers of state action at the domestic level are relentlessly local.
- **Dynamism:** The world is constantly changing. Today the rate of that change has become so rapid as to require development of new approaches and decisions which are consistent with the times. Further difference in development level makes uniform international ethics difficult for all.
- **Diversification:** Differences in cultures, nationalism, ethnic differences revives debate of ethical relativism as communities live in a morally pluralistic world each of which acts upon different principles.
- **Possibility of conflicts:** In a globalized world ethical systems, whether local or global, are also heavily competitive, since they are constantly bidding for adherents, seeking to hold on to doubters and to ward off attacks.

Possibility of International ethics

- **Global Cooperation:** In global era there is increasing cooperation between nations e.g. arriving at SDGs and Paris climate change deal giving hope about development of International ethic.
- **Global challenges:** Globalized world is throwing global challenges like global terrorism, climate change, global economic slowdown which needs global cooperation through agreed up on international ethical framework, absolute 'national interest' approach only escalates conflicts.
- **Common interest:** International ethics stresses on common interests between nations and build the international sphere on the basis of idealist values that are of common interests to nations participating in any international

issues and problems enhancing possibility of their coming together. For instances, on issues like climate change, climate finance, terrorism, trade policies, refugee crisis there is an imminent need of global consensus based on ethical principles and human values.

Way Forward

- International ethics require equality among nations and respect for their sovereignty.
- International ethics must enable all nations to participate more actively in shaping and building good international community to ensure sustaining peace, equity, welfare of all and consensus building through peaceful means on common issues.

Question

As an international organisation committed to global peace, has the UN been able to ensure international ethics? Examine along with reasons given in support of your answer. **(250 words)**

Introduction

- International ethics concerns with ethical obligations between countries. Issues like wars, state backed ethnic conflicts, terrorist attacks, nuclear arms proliferation etc. involve questions of international ethics e.g. whether a particular war is 'just war'.
- The United Nations was established in 1945 to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and one of its main purposes is to maintain international peace. Yet on many occasions it has failed in its mission as well as in ensuring international ethics for establishing peace.

Body

Reasons for failure of UN to build International ethics

- **Competing blocks:** UNSC at present is too undemocratic and concentrates power in 5 permanent members who use their veto power to satisfy their own and allies 'national interest' without any ethical considerations e.g. in Syria competing blocks are fighting for territorial control.
- **Lack of reform in UNSC:** The Security Council's membership and working methods reflect a bygone era. Though geopolitics has changed drastically, emerging nations are demanding more representative quota in UNSC which is important for enhancing its legitimacy. Greater sharing of power would help in reaching consensus on common issues quickly and democratically. It will also ensure condemnation of unethical actions without any favours or bias, thus creating a moral pressure on the perpetrating state.
- **Failure to invoke R2P:** In 2005, the UN and its member states collectively sanctioned 'Responsibility to Protect (R2P)', R2P's core tenant decrees on every sovereign state an obligation to safeguard its inhabitants from mass atrocities, and the duty may fall to the wider international community. In Rohingya's crisis UN failed to invoke R2P as China opposed action.
- **Failure to convince P-5 countries:** UN ability to tackle peacekeeping challenges and thus protecting human right depends on its capacity to persuade big powers to take the UN seriously. However, UN has failed in this pursuit to build a case for International morality vis-à-vis hard national interest.

Way Forward

There is a dire need for reforms in United Nations based on equality and democratic spirit. An organization built on the moral principles of equality and representation will promote international ethics and world peace.

Question

What do you understand by ethics and what are its determinants? How is ethics different from values? (250 words)

Approach

- Introduce by defining ethics.
- Elaborate its determinants in human action.
- Now define values and list down the difference between ethics and values.

Introduction

- At its simplest, ethics is a system of moral principles. They affect how people make decisions and lead their lives.
- Ethics is concerned with what is good for individuals and society and is also described as moral philosophy. The term is derived from the Greek word ethos which can mean custom, habit, character or disposition.

Body

Ethics covers the following dilemmas:

- How to live a good life
- Our rights and responsibilities
- The language of right and wrong
- Moral decisions - what is good and bad?

Determinants of Ethics: These are the factors which decide whether the action being judged is ethical or not. Most of the moralists agree that to judge the goodness or badness of any particular human act, three elements must be weighed from which every act derives its morality. They are:

- **The object of the human act:** The object is usually regarded as the primary factor for the moral judgement of a human act. An act is generally classified as morally good, bad or indifferent from the viewpoint of an object. For a morally good act, the object of it must be good.
- **The circumstances contextualising the human act:** Circumstances can make an otherwise good action better for e.g. giving food to a person who is almost dying of starvation.
 - They can make an otherwise indifferent, a good act. For e.g. sitting with a person who is feeling lonely.
 - At the same time, they can also make an act which is evil in its object to be worse. For e.g. robbing a beggar from his/her only meal of the day.
- **The end or the intention of the agent in performing a human act:** A good intention can make an act better. for e.g. helping a poor person to start a small business with the intention of making him independent.

Values: Values refer to the important and enduring beliefs or principles, based on which an individual makes judgements in life.

The fundamental differences between ethics and values are described in the table given below:

Basis for Comparison	Ethics	Values
What it does?	Restricts	Motivates
Meaning	Ethics refers to the guidelines for conduct, that addresses questions about morality	Value is defined as the principles and ideals, that helps them in making judgement of what is more important.
What are they?	It is a system of moral principles, that guides our action.	It functions as a stimulus for thinking.
Consistency	Uniform	Differs from person to person
Expresses	What is morally correct or incorrect, in the given situation.	What we want to do or achieve.

Conclusion

- While ethics is consistently applied over the period and remains the same for all human beings. Values have an individualistic approach.
- Ethics are the set of rules that govern the behaviour of a person, established by a group or culture. Values refer to the beliefs for which a person has an enduring preference.
- Ethics and values together lay the foundation for sustainability. Establishing ethics for an organisation can determine its core values.

Question

What are the three primary schools of thought in Ethics? Explain Conduct Ethics and its types. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain the meaning of theories of ethics.
- Describe conduct ethics and its various types.
- Give a conclusion.

Introduction

- Ethical theories provide a basis for decision-making when ethical issues are involved. These theories represent the viewpoints from which individuals or organizations seek guidance from, as they make decisions.
- The three primary schools of thought in Ethics are:
 - **Consequentialism**- based on the outcome of an action
 - **Deontological**- based on duty or obligation to act
 - **Virtue**- based on moral characteristics of performer e.g. honesty, integrity etc.

Body

- **Conduct Ethics:** In conduct ethics, the focus is on the conduct of a person rather than the character of the person.

Types of Conduct ethics

- **Consequentialism:** This is further divided into Utilitarianism, Hedonism, and Egoism.
- **Deontological Approach**

Utilitarianism

- The core idea of utilitarianism is that evaluation of actions as morally right or wrong depends on their effects.
- Utilitarian approach believes that the purpose of morality is to make life better by increasing the number of good things (such as pleasure and happiness) in the world and decreasing the number of bad things (such as pain and unhappiness).
- This approach is criticized for the difficulty in attaining full knowledge and certainty of the consequences of our actions. Through this approach, the rights of minorities are more likely to be sidelined.

Hedonism

- Hedonistic theories identify pleasure and pain as the only important elements to describe morality.
- Indian philosophical approach of Charvaka school (Lokayata) advocates hedonism.
- Through hedonism, activities like drug abuse, alcoholism etc can be justified as ethical.

Egoism

- Egoism approach to ethics argues for maximizing one's own self-interest as it is in human nature to avoid pain and it is irrational for a man to ignore his self-interest.
- Egoism cannot explain actions which are not guided by self-regarding desires. E.g. say a soldier throws himself on a grenade to prevent others from being killed. It does not seem that the soldier in this situation is pursuing his perceived self-interest.

Deontological approach

- This approach to ethics focuses on the rightness or wrongness of actions themselves, as opposed to the rightness or wrongness of the consequences of those actions (Consequentialism) or to the character and habits of the actor (Virtue Ethics).
- Immanuel Kant, the foremost proponent of Deontology, considered moral duty as an unconditional obligation, regardless of one's will or desires, and regardless of any consequences which might arise from such action.

Conclusion

- Ethical theory is a mechanism for assessing whether a particular action or rule is ethically justified.
- Ethical approaches help in resolving ethical dilemmas at the individual and organizational level.

Question

Circumstances justify morality. Do you agree? Substantiate. (250 words)

Approach

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

Introduction

- Morality is the standard or code of conduct of society or group or individual to decide what is right or wrong behaviour.
- Certain ethical approaches tend to provide absolute guidelines for behaviour under all circumstances e.g. Deontological and Virtue approach.

Body

- In **situation ethics**, right and wrong depend upon the situation. There are no universal moral rules or rights - each case is unique and deserves a unique solution. Thus ethics according to this approach depends upon circumstances.
- In some times and places an action may be ethically wrong however in other situations it may not be so e.g. lying is ordinarily not in the best interest of interpersonal communication and social integrity, but is justifiable in certain situations e.g. lying to a person with violent intentions to protect someone.
- **Cultural sensitivity:** Action of individual or organization should be sensitive to circumstances, context, particularity, and cultural traditions. Every moral decision is required to demonstrate respect for individuals and communities and the things that they regard as valuable. This avoids impersonal ethics e.g. deontological approach.
- **Importance of motives or intentions:** The rightness of an action does not reside in the act itself but in factors like the totality of end, means or motive. For eg: stealing medicine to save someone's life.

- **Ethical relativism** supports the position that there are no moral absolutes, no moral right or wrong. This position would assert that our morals evolve and change with social norms over a period of time, thus giving primacy to circumstances.
- **Consequentialism** approach provides that right or wrong depends on the consequences of an act and that the more good consequences are produced, the better the act. Consequentialism is flexible and can take account of the circumstances.

Conclusion

- Although morality is justified by the circumstances in many cases, there can be instances when morality based on circumstances may produce dysfunctional outcomes. e.g. in Public services if an individual claims to act according to circumstances bypassing code of conduct produces inconsistency and problem of fixing accountability.
- It is important not to let circumstances dictate the morality each time, to avoid chaos in the society.

Day - 12

GS - IV

Case Study

21st June 2019

Question

You are a senior forest official who has recently been posted in a forest range which is also a tourist spot, famous amongst trekking enthusiasts and a pilgrimage center of local hill tribes. However, the trekking site is open only for males as the local tribal culture doesn't permit the entry of women to the hill site housing their deity.

Recently, the State High Court has ruled that the site should be open for all without any gender discrimination. Following this, there have been relentless pressure from womens' group to allow women at the trekking site, while local tribal group opposes the same. You fear that opening the site for women might lead to protests from tribals, compromising law and order situation and may also endanger the safety of trekkers to the site.

- (1) What are the options open to you in this scenario? Discuss along with their merits and demerits.
- (2) Which would be the most appropriate action that you would take in this situation and why? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Mention the stakeholders, values involved in the issue and laws / rules applicable. State the ethical dilemma involved in the issue in the introduction.
- State different options available along with their merits and demerits.
- Give arguments for adopting specific response among the available option.

Fodder Points

- **Stakeholders:** Tribal community, Women, NGO groups promoting the idea of gender equality, Government (executive and law and order machinery) for ensuring the rule of law and implementing constitutional right of equality
- **Values involved:** Equality, Preservation of tribal culture, Right to freedom of movement, Sense of duty of civil servants to promote public interest
- **Law/Rules/Rights involved:** Equality before law (Article 14), Equality of access to public places (Article 15), Right to conserve distinct Language, Script or Culture (Art. 350:-tribal rights), cultural or linguistic minority has right to conserve its language or culture (Art.29).
- **Ethical Dilemma:** Tribal Rights versus Value of Gender Equality.

Introduction

- As a Senior Forest official and public servant there I have a duty and obligation to implement the judgment of High Court. However, as tribal culture does not allow women to visit pilgrimage center there is possibility of

protest which may turn violent endangering life and property. Again it is my duty to protect life and property in the forest by ensuring that women get entry without protests.

Available options along with their merits and demerits

Option 1: Discourage women from going in close proximity of pilgrimage site to ensure peace in the area, and respect towards tribal culture.

Merits

- Peace in the area will be maintained.
- I will be able to discharge my duty of protecting life and property under my jurisdiction.
- Tribals will not be alienated as their cultural beliefs are respected and protected.

Demerits

- This alternative will be against the constitutional values of gender equality.
- This will be against the court order.

Option 2: Issue a stern warning to tribals to not oppose the women entry at any point in the entire region, with dire consequences if they disturb the peace or women safety in the region.

Merits

- This action is in accordance to the spirit of law and my call of duty.
- It is also according to constitutional value of gender equality.
- It will also save me from moral dilemma of going against my personal moral value of gender equality.
- Through this option, the High Court order would stand obeyed.

Demerits

- Tribal culture's sanctity being disturbed.
- Possibility of escalation of conflict as tribal community may see it as an attack on their cultural values.
- Possibility of life and material loss and disturbance in the area.
- May impact tourism in the long run due to disturbance in the area, affecting the local economy.

Option 3: Setting up meeting with tribal elders and convincing them about the need for women entry at the same time ensuring tight security measures.

Merits

- Persuasion through peaceful discussion is likely to mellow down tribal opposition without antagonizing them further.
- It will have a better chance of maintaining peace in area thus protecting life and property.
- It will help in promoting goal of women empowerment by making tribal community understand the rationale behind the court's ruling.
- It will be in line to constitutional values of gender equality and High Court directives.
- It will meet the goals of performing duty conscientiously and sensitively.

Demerit

- Trying to manage tribal discontent may not bear results in short term and there may still be possibility of protest and conflict, for which needed security measures have to be in place. It also runs the risk of compromising on tribal rights and minority rights (article 25). However, in the long run this would be the most appropriate approach.

Most appropriate action and reason for adopting it

- I will choose option 3 as most desirable option for the merits of this option far outweighs the demerits.
- This option satisfies my duty as a public servant and adherence to constitutional values. It also promotes rule of law.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

- A. Past serves as template to present and future.
- B. Indian Demographic Dividend: An Asset or Liability
- C. Geo-economics serves as means to achieve ends of geopolitics.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

Question

Social empowerment in India needs to focus on reinforcing the dignity of different sections of society. Comment. (250 words)

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

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

Broader goals for ensuring dignity to socially disadvantaged

- **Providing enabling environment:** Social empowerment of these sections include creating an enabling environment that is conducive for these groups to exercise their rights freely, enjoy their privileges and be able to lead a life with confidence and dignity. For instance, institutions, public spaces and private relationships are free of biases and discriminations
- **Removal of disparities:** Ensuring removal of disparities, eliminating exploitation and suppression and providing protection to the disadvantaged groups through laws, institutional set-ups, positive discrimination to create a level playing field for all communities.
- **Inclusive growth:** Ensuring that developmental benefits reach the socially disadvantaged through equitable distribution of resources at all levels.
- **Participatory development process:** Ensuring the involvement of the socially disadvantaged groups in the process of planning not merely as beneficiaries but also as participants in the formulation of need-based projects, as well as their implementation.

Agents of social empowerment

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

- **Economic empowerment:** Economic empowerment of the weaker sections of SCs, OBCs and minorities is being carried out through promotion of employment and income generating activities e.g. Skill India, Stand Up India for SCs/STs and women.
- **Social Justice:** The Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955, and the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PoA Act) are two important legislations to address the problems of social discrimination, prevalence of social evils like untouchability and the increasing cases of exploitation and atrocities against disadvantaged groups
- **73rd and 74th constitutional amendments:** These amendments provide reservations for SCs/STs/OBCs/women paving way of their political empowerment by providing reservations in institutions of local governance of both rural and urban areas.
- **Gender budgeting:** Gender Budgeting is a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that the benefits of development reach women as much as men. It ensures focused spending on health, nutrition, education needs of women.
- **Tribal sub-plan:** The Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) is a strategy for the rapid Socio-economic development of tribal people. It forms a part of annual Plan of a State/UT.
- **Minorities social empowerment:** Minorities are empowered through schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) which is designed to address the development deficits of the identified Minority Concentration Areas, Nai roshni for women by providing knowledge, tools and techniques for interacting with Government systems, banks etc.

Conclusion

- Socially disadvantaged groups often lack the skills and confidence to engage in community decision-making due to traditional social barriers.
- Therefore it is important to specifically target marginalised groups in order to ensure that they can be socially empowered ensuring inclusive and sustainable development.

Question

Do you agree that the caste system as an integral part of the Indian society has changed in its form and representation in recent times? Explain. (250 words)

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

Change in Caste system's form and representation

- **Change in the occupational role:** Due to industrialization and urbanization, the hereditary association between occupation and caste has been broken. An individual is free to choose his occupation.

- **Inter-caste marriage:** The relevance of endogamy feature of caste is decreasing as there is an increase in inter-caste marriages.
- **Caste as a tool for political mobilization:** Caste identity is being used for political mobilization. Eg. Bahujan Samaj Party. Further, most of the political parties allot tickets after taking careful analysis of caste arithmetic of region.
- **Caste as pressure groups:** Caste is being used as pressure groups for seeking favourable changes in policies e.g. demands for affirmative action by Patels of Gujarat, Marathas of Maharashtra and Jats of Haryana.
- **Social and behaviour change:** Traditionally, under the caste system, elaborate restrictions related to food sharing have been followed. In recent times, these restrictions are getting diluted due to various factors like migration, modern values, westernization, globalisation etc.
- **Constitutional safeguards** for equality (Article 14), against untouchability (Article 17) and discrimination (Article 15) have largely attempted to remove the hierarchical manifestations of the caste system in the country. Supported by these measures, in recent times the legislative orientation towards caste system is changing.
- **Increasing caste associations:** Caste is playing an important role as a basis for the formation of new groups. These caste associations are important agencies for the mobilization and coordination of collective effort to achieve the goals of their members.

Conclusion

- While the manifestation of the caste system has changed to a large extent in recent times, the system itself has not changed much.
 - For example- even though untouchability and caste-based discrimination is barred under the Constitution of India, occupations like manual scavenging have the majority of workers from lower castes.
- Though caste groups like Khap Panchayats have been brought under the scrutiny of the judiciary, the expression of social exclusion and maintaining the caste-based division by the communities has however not vanished but has changed to become more subtle. For example-
 - The matrimonial advertisements are frequent in the newspapers that especially demand brides and grooms from particular communities.
 - Even religions that do not follow caste systems like Muslims and Christianity have observed caste-like discrimination. Dalits who have converted to Christianity have separate graveyards in States like Kerala.
- Considering that these divisions offer solidarity and psychological strength to various marginalized groups, even if the caste-based discrimination is diffused through the legislative enforcement the divisions of identity will be difficult to erase.

Question

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

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

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

- **Social and Political Rights:** Under the Constitution, women have equal rights as men, enabling them to take part effectively in the society. Article 14 (equality before law), 15 (prohibition of gender discrimination) and 16 (equal opportunity in the matter of public employment) women have equal constitutional rights as men. Political empowerment of women has been brought by the 73rd and 74th amendments which reserve seats for women in Gram Panchayats and Municipal bodies.
- **Economic Rights:** There has been series of legislations conferring equal rights for women which are denied in patriarchal society. These legislations have been guided by the provisions of the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy. Laws to improve their condition in matters relating to wages, maternity benefits, equal remuneration and property/succession etc. have been enacted to provide the necessary protection in these areas.
- **Social Justice:** Certain areas like domestic violence and sexual harassment of women at the workplace try to address the imbalance created by patriarchal social norms.
 - Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prevention of Misuse) Act and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act prevent the violation of justice and humanity which begins from the womb.
 - The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was passed to prevent the evil practice of giving and taking of dowry.
- **The suppression of immoral traffic act, 1956** more popularly known as “SITA” was enacted to prohibit exploitation of women with a view to earning money. Subsequently, this Act was renamed as the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 wherein sexual exploitation and abuse of the female for commercial gain was made punishable.
- **The central government passed the Sati Prevention Act, 1987** for prevention of the commission of “sati” and its glorification. This enactment came to be passed after the Roop Kanwar case in Rajasthan, when a young widow was burnt alive as a “Sati”. Thus through law, ‘Sati’ was criminalized which was culturally sanctioned rooted in patriarchy.

Limitations of Law as an instrument of social change

- Women participation in politics is negligible. Their representation in the Lok Sabha is far below the expected numbers. The 73rd constitutional amendment has created new challenges like ‘sarpanch pati’ (Husband of elected women acting as de-facto sarpanch) bring out the limitations of law as social change
- Legal protections like Equal Wages Act have failed to change the status quo. There is significant gender wage gap, on average, women are paid 34 per cent less than men, a recent report by the International Labour Organization (ILO) has found.
- PCPNDT Act has failed to deter foeticide in most of the north Indian states where patriarchy is of highest intensity e.g in Haryana, where sex ratio is only 879.
- Recently, Supreme Court in Sabarimala temple entry case ruled that banning the entry of women into the shrine is gender discrimination and the practice violates the rights of Hindu women. However, the implementation of this decision led to massive protests by conservative section of society, bringing in to light the ineffectiveness of law as instrument of social change to empower women against the institution of patriarchy.

Conclusion

- Law is a powerful instrument to bring social change however its efficacy is dependent upon the ability to implement the law by state authorities.
- Further, cultural component of social change is a slow and evolving process, rapid social change tend to produce social conflicts which was visible in protests against Sabarimala verdict.

Question

Explain how the emergence of press in the 19th century, contributed to the growth of nationalism and struggle for independence in India. Also state the steps taken by the British government to suppress its popularity. **(250 words)**

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

Contribution of Indian Press

- The early phase of the nationalist movement from around 1870 to 1918 focussed more on **political propaganda and education** than on mass agitation or active mobilisation of masses through open meetings.
- **Connected the masses:** The newspaper's impact was not limited to cities and towns; these newspapers reached the remote villages, where each news item and editorial would be read and discussed thoroughly in the 'local libraries'. Through its wide reach the press connected the masses in the country.
 - Bal Gangadhar Tilak, through his newspapers, was among the first to advocate bringing the lower middle classes, the peasants, artisans and workers into the Congress fold.
- **Spread Awareness:** In these newspapers, government Acts and policies were put to critical scrutiny. They acted as an institution of opposition to the government. The press made people aware about the colonial exploitation.
 - The Indian National Congress in its early days relied solely on the press to propagate its resolutions and proceedings.

Restrictions by Government

- Government on its part had enacted many strident laws, such as **Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code**, which provided that anyone trying to cause disaffection against the British Government in India was to be transported for life or for any term or imprisoned up to three years.
- **Vernacular Press Act (VPA) of 1878** was designed to 'better control' the vernacular press and effectively punish and repress seditious writing.
 - Act came to be nicknamed "the gagging Act". The Act discriminated between English and vernacular press, and offered no right of appeal.

- Under VPA, proceedings were instituted against Som Prakash, Bharat Mihir, Dacca Prakash and Samachar. Amrita Bazar Patrika turned overnight into an English newspaper to escape the VPA. In 1883, Surendranath Banerjea became the first Indian journalist to be imprisoned.

Conclusion

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

Question

Why was Simon Commission appointed by the British government? What was the immediate response to the Commission by the Indians. **(250 words)**

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

Context

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

General Response of the Indians

- The announcement of Simon Commission evoked a sense of anger among the Indians.
- The exclusion of Indians from the all-white commission was seen a violation of the principle of self-determination, and as a deliberate insult to the self-respect of Indians.

- A nationwide bandh was observed and mass rallies were held. The commission was met with black flags and calls of 'Simon Go Back' wherever it went.
- The police came down heavily on protestors. In one such incidence of lathi-charge, senior leader Lala Lajpat Rai was severely injured and succumbed to his injuries. This further infuriated the masses and revolutionaries.

Response of Political Organisations

- The Indian National Congress in its 1927 Madras session decided to boycott commission at every stage and every form.
- Other parties like the Muslim League, Liberal Party, Hindu Mahasabha etc also decided to boycott the Simon Commission. However, Unionists in Punjab and Justice Party in the south decided not to boycott the commission.

Conclusion

- Simon Commission, led to acceptance of the challenge of Birkenhead by Indians to frame a constitution on its own, which resulted in Nehru report of 1929.
- Arrival of Simon Commission and its subsequent protests at pan India level united the Indians against the British might.

Question

Explain the significance of the Royal Indian Navy uprising for India's freedom struggle. How was it different from other movements that took place before it? **(250 words)**

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

Causes of RIN Mutiny

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

Significance of RIN Mutiny

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

Conclusion

- Though not inspired by political reasons, the RIN mutiny did have political consequences.
- It is one of the most important events in India's struggle for freedom, convincing the British government that it could no longer hold on to India.

Day - 17

GS - I

India After
Independence
+ World History

26th June 2019

Question

Examine how National Emergency of 1975 affected India as a democracy. Also, discuss the constitutional safeguards that were put in place in its aftermath to prevent the misuse of Emergency provisions in future. **(250 words)**

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

Impact on India as a democracy

- Declaration of emergency exposed the fault lines in Indian democracy which can be exploited to bring about a totalitarian rule.
- The **42nd constitutional amendment** act was enacted in 1976, during the period of internal emergency, which strengthened the union executive and led to the further centralisation of power. This amendment had four major purposes:
 - Exclude the courts entirely from election disputes;
 - Strengthen the central government vis-à-vis the state governments;
 - To give maximum protection from judicial challenge to social revolutionary legislation;
 - To curtail the interventions of judiciary in legislative matters. The amendments could not be questioned in any court on any ground; and there shall be no limitation on Parliament's power to amend the Constitution 'by way of addition, variation or repeal'.
- The **federal distribution of powers was suspended** and all the powers were concentrated in the hands of the Union government.
- Government assumed powers to **restrict or limit any or all of the fundamental rights** during the emergency. This included the right of citizens to move the Court for restoring their fundamental rights.
- All newspapers needed to get prior approval for all their materials to be published, known as press censorship.
- General elections, the very basis of democratic set up in the country, were suspended.
- Extraordinary **restrictions were placed on civil liberties**, particularly the freedom of speech and expression including the press.
- The government made blatant and extensive use of its power of **preventive detention**. Negating the judgment of several High Courts, the Supreme Court in April 1976 gave a judgment upholding the constitutional validity of such detentions during emergency.

Post Emergency Constitutional Safeguards

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

- **Article 74(1)** was introduced, according to which the President may require the Council of Ministers to reconsider any advice tendered to him, but the President has to act in accordance with the advice tendered after such reconsideration.
- **Article 226** was amended to restore the power of the High Courts to issue writs on matters other than the protection of fundamental rights.
- **Article 352** was amended to provide that the proclamation of Emergency can be issued only when the security of India or any part of its territory is threatened by war or external aggression or by armed rebellion. Internal disturbance not amounting to armed rebellion, shall not be a ground for such a proclamation of Emergency.
- It became mandatory for the President to issue a proclamation of emergency only after it has been communicated to him in writing by the cabinet.
- Proclamation of Emergency has to be **approved within a period of one month** (instead of two months) by resolution of both Houses of Parliament and has to be passed by a majority of the total membership of each house and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting in each house instead of a simple majority.
- For the **continuance of Emergency**, approval by resolution of both houses of parliament will be required **every six months**.

- Proclamation of Emergency will be **revoked whenever the Lok Sabha passes a resolution** for revoking the same by a simple majority.
- 10% or more Lok Sabha members can request a special meeting for considering a resolution for disapproving the Proclamation.

Conclusion

- Emergence of independent judiciary was one of the most important safeguards, apart from above legislative measures, which sought to protect the democratic ideals of the country.
- The fall of the government in the general elections, that followed the withdrawal of national emergency, paved the way for the new government which slowly worked its way to reinstate democratic principles in the country and put safeguards against arbitrary suspension of the same in future.

Question

How have the emergence of coalitions politics and defections been related to each other in post-independent India? State its significance. **(250 words)**

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

- In the years leading up to the fourth general elections (1964), the country witnessed major changes.
- The Congress government lost its popularity among the people in the face of economic crisis as a result of successive failure of monsoons, widespread drought, decline in agricultural production, serious food shortage, depletion of foreign exchange reserves, drop in industrial production and exports, combined with a sharp rise in military expenditure and diversion of resources from planning and economic development. This gave way to the rise of communist and socialist parties with their struggle for greater equality.
- Weakening of Congress system in Indian politics paved the way for the rise of coalition between different ideologies.
- Since no single party had got majority in the 1967 elections, various non-Congress parties came together to form joint legislative parties that supported non-Congress governments.
- This system of coalition politics provided a second power centre, but it also led to degradation of moral ideology of democratic process. It also led to a rise of opportunistic coalitions detrimental to the party on whose ticket they get elected and totally jettisoning their ideological commitments.
- After the 1967 general election, the breakaway Congress legislators played an important role in installing non-Congress governments in different States. Defection means an elected representative leaves the party on whose symbol he/she was elected and joins another party.
- The challenge after the emergence of coalition was to strike a balance between defections on arbitrary and whimsical grounds, and defections on sound ideological and moral grounds which were necessary for refraining the parties from acquiring absolutist tendencies and for encouraging a healthy coalition culture.

Conclusion

- The Anti-defection law, added to the Constitution as the Tenth Schedule by the 52nd amendment of 1985, came as a response to the issue of defection. It was further defined by the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.
- Though the legislation has not been able to control defections completely yet, it has ensured that healthy coalitions in the proper spirit of democracy are not curbed.

Question

Examine the decolonization process of the Korean peninsula and its significance in contemporary geopolitics. (250 words)

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

- Japan occupied Korea in 1910 and continued till 1945. The era witnessed cultural, political and economic subjugation of Korea by the Japanese.
- The resistance movements for e.g. March 1st movement, were ruthlessly crushed.
- It led to the emergence of several guerilla groups based in neighbouring countries of China and Soviet Russia which were seen sympathetic to Korean cause and were themselves antagonised with Japanese. For e.g., the provisional government of Korea was set up after the March 1st movement in Shanghai and Kim Il Sung emerged as a military leader of another guerilla group.
- With the surrender of Japan, northern Korea was occupied by Soviet forces while Americans occupied the Southern part.
- The Soviets and Americans failed to reach an agreement on a unified Korean government, and in 1948 two separate governments were established, each claiming to be the legitimate government of all Korea: the Republic of Korea in Seoul, in the American zone, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in Pyongyang, in the Soviet zone.
- On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces invaded the South. The Korean War drew in the Americans in support of South Korea and the Chinese in support of the North. Ultimately, the Korean War ended in a truce with Korea still divided into two mutually antagonistic states, separated by a heavily fortified "De-Militarized Zone" (DMZ).
- Thus decolonization of the Korean peninsula was achieved. But still the governments of the North and the South continue to toe different ideological paradigms. Furthermore, as a result of this dichotomy, the security of East Asia continues to remain vulnerable and the countries situated there, particularly Japan and South Korea find it prudent to continue with their military alliance with the US and at the same time create advanced defence capabilities for themselves.
- The US on the other hand, though situated across the Pacific is not likely to directly face the heat of this struggle, but surely is profoundly interested to maintain the power balance in the region. At present, reeling under heavy

economic sanctions of the US, the North is threatening the world with its nuclear weapons, but the US is not willing to concede anything unless the North agrees on complete denuclearization. In such a deadlock situation, China is trying to take advantage by engaging with the North to increase its influence in East Asia and create a challenge for US dominance in the region.

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

Conclusion

Thus, despite decolonization, the Korean peninsula continues to remain a theatre of a power game between the existing and emerging superpowers of the world. The manner in which these powers deal with the geopolitics in the Korean peninsula in the coming time will unfold the geo-strategic dynamics of the region.

Day - 18

GS - I

Art &
Culture

27th June 2019

Question

The historic structures in medieval India showcase the entire range of structures that catered to life. Discuss. **(250 words)**

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

- The arrival of Turks during the thirteenth century led to the introduction of- the architectural styles of Persia, Arabia and Central Asia. The salient features of these buildings were the domes, arches and minarets. So, during the course of time blend of islamic style with the Indian architecture culminated into Indo-Islamic architecture with syncretic features.
- **Many forts** were built with a **sophisticated defence system**. Most of these forts had ingenious water structures designed for harvesting and storage, including step-wells, elaborate reservoirs and channels.
 - **For example-** The famous Srirangapatna fort, also called Tipu's palace, in Mysore, Karnataka, was built in 1537 in Indo-Islamic style.
- **Architectural buildings like mosques for daily prayers**, (eg- the Jama Masjids) tombs, dargahs, minars, hammams, formally laid out gardens, madrasas, sarais or caravan sarais, Kos minars, etc., were constructed over a period of time.

- **For example** Quwwatul Islam Mosque at Delhi and the Qutub Minar with engravings of calligraphy both in the mosque and on the tower.
- **Some mosques have Islamic calligraphy and Quranic verses on the walls to assist worshippers in focusing on the Koran, as well as for decoration.** The Mecca mosque in Hyderabad and the Jama Masjid in Delhi illustrate these features.
- **Many grand mausoleums** were built in the memories of royal members. For example, the Taj Mahal, the mausoleums of Akbar (at Agra), Humayun (Delhi), Mohammed Adil Shah (Bijapur) etc.
- **Gardens with running water** like Nishat Bagh in Kashmir, Shalimar Bagh at Lahore and the Pinjore garden in Punjab were laid down.
- **Elaborate commemorative architectures** were built to glorify the kings. For example:
 - Buland Darwaza, a magnificent gateway was built in 1571-72 to commemorate Akbar's conquest of Gujarat.
 - The Vijay Stambha is an imposing victory monument located within Chittorgarh fort in Rajasthan, India. The tower was constructed by the Mewar king, Rana Kumbha.
- **In medieval India, temples were social hubs where people congregated.** Temples were also sites where the arts of dance, music and combat were honed and have been passed down for generations.
 - For example, Chennakeshava Temple, Karnataka; Adi Kumbeswarar, Tamil Nadu.
- **Many stepwells were built in medieval times.** Stepwells are wells or ponds with a set of steps. They may be multi-storied with a bullock turning a water wheel to raise the well water to the first or second floor.
 - They are most common in western India and are also found in the other more arid regions of the Indian subcontinent, extending into Pakistan.
 - The construction of stepwells is mainly utilitarian, though they may include embellishments of architectural significance, and be temple tanks.
 - Some of the examples of Baori in medieval times are: Rani ka Vav (Gujarat), Chand baori in Rajasthan, Agrasen ki Baoli in Delhi.

Conclusion

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

Question

The evolution of massive and ornate Indian temples can be traced to the simple rock-cut cave shrines. Delineate the growth of Indian temple architectural style since ancient times. **(250 words)**

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

Rock-cut Architecture

- The oldest rock-cut architecture is found in the Barabar caves, Bihar, which were built around the 3rd century BC. Other early cave temples are found in the western Deccan; these are mostly Buddhist shrines and monasteries, dating between 100 BC and 170 AD.

- The rock-cut Udayagiri Caves are among the most important early sites. The earliest preserved Hindu temples are simple cell-like stone temples, some rock-cut and others structural, as at Sanchi. By the 6th or 7th century, these evolved into high shikhara stone superstructures.

Gupta Age

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

Second Wave of Rock Cut Caves

- The construction of rock cut caves waned after the 2nd century CE, possibly due to the rise of Mahayana Buddhism and the associated intense architectural and artistic production in Gandhara and Amravati.
- The building of rock-cut caves were briefly revived in the 6th century CE, with Ajanta and Ellora caves, before finally subsiding under the rising influence of Hinduism that made stand-alone temples more prevalent.
- The Kailash Temple was created through a single, huge top-down excavation 100 feet deep down into the volcanic basaltic cliff rock.

Emergence of Medieval Temple Styles

- Medieval India had three main temple styles- Nagara, Dravida and the Vesara. In medieval India, it was common for an entire temple to be built on a stone platform with steps leading up to it. The ornate and fine carving on the rocks became more prominent during this time.
- Some of the examples are- Lakshmana temple and Kandariya Mahadeo temple of Khajuraho, the Shore temple at Mahabalipuram, the Brahadeeshwarar temple of Thanjavur, the Hoysaleswara temple, at Halebid in Karnataka and Konark Sun temple.

Conclusion

- The temple architecture in India is unique and it reflects the traditional values of the Indian culture.
- The temple architecture gradually evolved from the simple rock-cut cave shrines to massive and ornate ones.

Question

Examine the various architectural elements of the Mauryan empire and their significance. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give introduction of Mauryan empire.
- Enlist major architectural elements of Mauryan empire.
- Give conclusion.

Introduction

- **Mauryan empire is an important phase in Indian arts history.** By the fourth century BCE the Mauryas established their power and by the third century BCE, a large part of India was under mauryan control. Stone masonry is the important feature of Mauryan architecture.

- Ashoka emerged as the most powerful king of the Mauryan dynasty who patronised the Buddhist shramana tradition in the third century BCE.

Body

Construction of stupas and viharas as part of monastic establishments became part of the Buddhist tradition. Further stone pillars, rock-cut caves and monumental figure sculptures were carved at several places.

Ashoka Pillars

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

Rock-cut architecture

- Mauryans also patronised rock-cut architecture.
- The rock-cut cave carved at Barabar hills is a good example of Mauryan rock cut architecture.
- The cave entrance is decorated with a semicircle chaitya arch. An elephant is carved in high relief on the chaitya. The interior hall of the cave is rectangular; it also has a circular chamber at the back.
- The cave was donated by Ashoka for the Ajivika sect.
- Rock-cut elephant at **Dhauli**, Odisha – shows modelling in round with linear rhythm.

Stupas, Chaityas and Viharas

- Due to the popularity of Buddhism and Jainism, stupas and viharas were constructed on a large scale.
- Stupas were constructed over the relics of the Buddha at Rajagraha, Vaishali, Vethadipa and Pava in Bihar, Kapilavastu, Allakappa and Ramagrama in Nepal, Kushinagar and Pippalvina in Uttar Pradesh.
- The Great Stupa at Sanchi was built with bricks during the time of Ashoka and later new additions were made with stone.
- Stupas were elaborately built with certain additions like the enclosing of the circumbulatory path with railings and sculptural decorations.
- During the early phase of Buddhism, Buddha is depicted symbolically through footprints, stupas, lotus throne, chakra, etc. This indicates either simple worship, or paying respect, or at times depicts historicization of life events.
- The events from the life of the Buddha, the Jataka stories, were depicted on the railings and torans of the stupas.

Statues and Sculptures

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

Conclusion

Mauryan architecture is significant for its messages of non-violence and as a means to spread the moral and spiritual messages in the subcontinent.

Question

What do you understand by Operational Oceanography? Discuss its benefits for a country like India. **(250 words)**

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

- **Operational Oceanography can help countries multidimensionally like:**
 - Providing potential fishing zones advisories to fishermen, ocean state forecasts for mariners, Tsunami & storm surge early warnings
 - Providing warnings about hazards like coastal floods due to cyclones, storm impacts, harmful algal blooms and contaminants.
 - Providing with information about sea state conditions, optimum routes for ships, prediction of primary productivity, ocean currents, ocean climate variability, and modelling of and response to oil spills and dredging.
- **Apart from these benefits, Operational oceanography can aid India in various sectors like:**
 - It can help India to forge cooperation and improve engagement among the countries of the Indian Ocean, including South Asian and African states bordering the Indian Ocean.
 - It can also help India in achieving **Sustainable Development Goal-14 (SDG 14)** related to building marine scientific research capacity which will further fulfil India's commitment to support Small Island Developing States, and Least Developed Countries.
 - Also, operational oceanography is expected to increase ancillary development leading to employment generation in India.

Conclusion

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

Question

Explain cloud seeding, along with its applications, challenges, and concerns. (250 words)

Approach

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

Introduction

- **Cloud Seeding:** Cloud seeding is an artificial way to induce moisture in the clouds so as to cause rainfall. It is done by spreading either dry ice, or more commonly, **silver iodide** aerosols, into the upper part of clouds.
- There are three cloud seeding methods-
 - **Hygroscopic cloud seeding** disperses salts through flares or explosives in the lower portions of clouds. The salts grow in size as water joins with them.
 - **Static cloud seeding** involves spreading a chemical like silver iodide into clouds. The silver iodide provides a crystal around which moisture can condense.
 - **Dynamic cloud seeding** aims to boost vertical air currents, which encourages more water to pass through the clouds, translating into more rain.

Body

Applications

- **Agriculture:** It creates rain, providing relief to drought-stricken areas. E.g.: '**Project Varshadhari**' in Karnataka in 2017.
- **Power Generation:** Cloud seeding experiments have shown to augment production of hydroelectricity during the last 40 years in Tasmania, Australia.
- **Water Pollution Control:** Cloud seeding can help to maintain minimum summer flow of the rivers and dilute the impact of treated wastewater discharges from municipalities and industries.
- **Fog Dispersal, Hail Suppression, and Cyclone Modification:** "**Project Sky Water**" of U.S.A. in 1962 for weather modification through cloud seeding aimed at fog dispersal, hail suppression, and cyclone modification. During the winter the cloud seeding programme is used to increase the mountain snowpack so that additional runoff is received during the spring melt season. The seeding of cumulus clouds is to provide increased annual rainfall directly on the land.
- **Tackle Air Pollution:** Cloud seeding can potentially be used to settle down toxic air pollutants through the rain. E.g.: Recently, Central Pollution Control Board along with other researchers was mulling use of cloud seeding to tackle Delhi's air pollution.
- **Tourism:** Cloud seeding can transform typically dry areas much more hospitable to enhance tourism.

Challenges

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

- **Abnormal Weather Patterns:** It might ultimately change climatic patterns on the planet. Places that normally receive moisture might start experiencing drought due to the artificial process of adding chemicals to the atmosphere to stimulate rain.
- **Expensive:** It involves processes such as delivering chemicals to the sky and releasing them into the air by flare shots or airplanes, which involves huge costs and logistic preparation.
- **Pollution:** As the artificial rain falls, seeding agents like silver iodide, dry ice or salt will also fall. Residual silver discovered in places near cloud-seeding projects are considered toxic. As for dry ice, it can also be a source of greenhouse gas that contributes to global warming, as it is basically carbon dioxide.

Way Forward

- Despite several concerns and challenges, cloud seeding as a process is still into early developmental stages and therefore more research and study needs to be done. In the context of global warming, extreme climatic events, agricultural distress, cloud seeding as a solution cannot be rejected.

Question

What is Polar Vortex? How a change in polar vortex strength impacts the regions surrounding it. **(250 words)**

Approach

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

Introduction

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

Body

Impact of weakening of Polar vortex

- **Extreme cold temperatures:** The pocket of cold air from the poles is displaced, forcing it southward and bringing extreme-cold temperatures to USA's Northern Plains through the Midwest and even to Northeastern parts of the USA.

- Extremely cold weather **affects the flora and fauna** of the region.
- **Hazardous conditions:** Along with historically cold temperatures, affected areas receive heavy snowfall, which results in snow and ice build-up, as well as, reducing visibility along the roads resulting in many accidents and road closures. Frigid temperatures can pose serious safety problems for those living in extreme conditions.
- **Economic impact:** The US economy took a \$5 billion hit in recent weakening of polar vortex event. Because of the frigid weather, there is loss of productivity, higher energy consumption and a drop in consumer spending.
- **Cold weather in Northern India:** The unusually cold weather in the hill states of North India and parts of the plains, including the national capital, has been indirectly caused by the Polar Vortex weakening which swept across large parts of the US and Canada that is pushing various weather systems downwards according to experts.

Conclusion

- Although weakening of polar vortex is a well-documented, long-existing pattern, the recent event in the U.S. was less harsh compared with what used to happen during the winter. Scientists are looking at how warming temperatures will likely affect weather patterns like low-lying polar vortex winds.
- One single weather event isn't enough to prove climate change, but taken over time, as the Arctic continues to warm, cold snaps to the south from the polar vortex could increase for some time.



My Notes...



drishti



drishti

Day - 21

Essay

30th June 2019

- A. Education is the art of making man ethical
- B. Lateral entry into Civil Services: Restructuring Governance
- C. Social morality cannot trump constitutional morality.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

Question

Explain how the imperatives of 'development' have governed the attitudes towards tribes in India. Discuss how this has shaped the policies of the state. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce the concept of development.
- Write about its impact on tribes in India.
- List the constitutional provisions/government initiatives with respect to the protection of tribes.
- Highlight the conflict between development and tribal rights.
- Conclude with a solution-oriented approach.

Answer

- In general, development refers to economic development, particularly industrialization and urbanisation. This involved the building of large dams, factories and mines, especially in the tribal areas which are mineral rich.
 - This particular viewpoint of development is **exclusionary** in nature and therefore tribals have paid a disproportionate price for the development of the rest of Indian society.
- The imperatives of this form of development has certainly shaped the attitudes which have been detrimental to the tribals in India for the following reasons, also highlighted by the recent high-level committee headed by Prof. Virginius Xaxa:
 - **Private property:** The coming of private property in land adversely affected tribals, whose community-based forms of collective ownership were placed at a disadvantage in the new system.
 - **In-migration:** Many tribal concentration regions and states have also been experiencing the problem of heavy in-migration of non-tribals in response to the pressures of development. This threatens to disrupt and overwhelm tribal communities and cultures, besides accelerating the process of exploitation of tribals.
 - **Forced migration:** Development and urbanisation have often led to the loss of livelihood, massive displacement and forced migration of tribes.
 - **Laws and rules** that provide protection to tribes are being routinely manipulated and subverted to accommodate corporate interests.
 - **Violence:** Tribal protests are being met with violence by the State's paramilitary forces and the private security staff of corporations involved.
 - **Other issues:** Large-scale displacement of tribal people for development projects, exploitation and oppression by traders and money lenders, absence of an effective and sensitive civil administration, serious neglect and deprivation, widespread poverty and poor health and educational status.
- There are several provisions in the Constitution for safeguarding and promoting the interests and rights of the Scheduled Tribes. Few important provisions are:
 - **Fifth and Sixth Schedule:** Specific safeguards for schedule areas.
 - **Article 15:** Reservation in educational institution.
 - **Article 16:** Reservation in posts and services.
 - **Article 23:** Prohibits traffic in human beings and begar and other similar forms of forced labour.
 - **Article 24:** Prohibits employment of Children below the age of 14 years in any factory or mine or in any other hazardous activity.

- **73rd Amendment Act:** Reservation of Seats for Scheduled Tribes in Panchayats.
- Reservation of seats for Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People and Legislative Assemblies.
- **Article 46:** The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections including Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.
- Occurrence of all of the above despite the special Constitutional and progressive legislation, such as PESA, 1996 and FRA, 2006 for the tribal people reflects that the State certainly needs to change its attitude towards tribals and shape its policies accordingly.
- In the recent past, the government has shifted its focus on development by means of planned change and people's participation. It is now focussing on both aspects of integration and development. The provisions enshrined for Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Constitution are a testimony to this dual approach. It provides for development as well as for safeguarding and protection of their interests.
 - However, it is also important to note that contrary to what is claimed, the State is actually pursuing assimilation rather than integration for tribals.
- A policy of integration would provide space for protections and safeguards for their distinct identity, as enshrined in the Constitution. Thus, there is a need to re-orient development in tune with the tribal culture and to adopt a more humane approach to tribal development. That is, the idea of 'development' needs to be re-developed.

Question

Trace the changes in the women's movement in India from 19th-century reforms to the present times. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly explain how the women's movement started in India.
- List the important issues covered by the women's movements in India.
- State the changes in women's issues in different centuries.
- Explain contemporary women's issues.
- Conclude by summarising the impact of these movements.
- Give a way forward about the issues that need to be raised in future.

Introduction

- Women's movements in India have their genesis in deeply rooted backward traditions like sati, child marriage, or the ill-treatment of widows in the 19th century to issues of rape, dowry, domestic violence, unequal pay at work, sexual harassment at work, an unequal division of labour and low representation of women in politics in the more recent times.
- The women's question arose in modern India as part of the early 19th-century middle-class social reform movements. These issues varied across region, religion and class. The issues are constantly evolving and are embedded with the learnings from the issues raised in past. Issues like education and equal voting rights demanded in this movement became the tool for the next generation of women's movements.
- From education and awareness emerged the issues of skewed power structures in institutions like law, marriage and workplace. Changes in society due to technological advancement and globalisation have exposed different areas of patriarchy which are being considered by the ongoing women's movements like pinjra tod and #MeToo.

Body

Early movements

Early movements were largely led by men with little say from the women. Some of the issues raised in these movements were:

- **Discrimination based on traditional practices** in society on the grounds of humanitarian and natural rights.
 - For eg- the practice of Sati, deplorable treatment of widows raised by reformers like Raja Rammohun Roy and Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.
- **Demand for education**, however within the precincts of home and the curriculum included instruction in religious principles, training in the arts of housekeeping and handicrafts and rearing of children.
 - For eg- Reformers like Sir Syed Ahmed Khan and Dayanand Saraswati sought for women's education.
- Participation of women in the national movement also brought forward **issues of equal voting rights, the right to hold public offices etc.** The issues were inspired from the ideals of the national movement itself.
 - Eg- In 1931, the Karachi Session of the Indian National Congress issued a declaration on the Fundamental Rights of Citizenship in India whereby it committed itself to women's equality.
 - Also, the issues of equality, non-discrimination based on sex, employment found their ways in the Constitution of India.

20th-century Women's Movements

Starting from 1970s, these movements were mostly led by middle-class and educated women. The movements largely revolved around the issues of women's control over their own bodies, equal spaces in the social institutions like marriage and family and an acknowledgement for the dignity of their identity. Apart from this, movements like Chipko movement, led by women encompassed wider issues like environmental concerns.

- **Law became a major site of reform** and legislative changes were demanded in-
 - **Work opportunities** - equal pay for equal work, curbing workplace harassment
 - **Political participation** - reservation of seats in all levels of governance
 - **Health facilities** - abortion rights, maternity leaves and creche facilities at the workplace
 - **Distribution of resources** - inheritance rights
 - **Against social evils** like dowry, female foeticide, domestic violence
- Apart from autonomy on body, new sites of debate opened up, such as, the representation of women in popular media.

Women's Movements in the 21st century

The contemporary women's movements have become more inclusive and have gone beyond the binary of man and woman. The movements have transformed into the site of demand for dignity by various gender identities and not just women. For example, the demand for rights by LGBT community.

- **Technological advancement and globalisation have brought new spaces of power struggle** and the issues raised are-
 - Expansion in the definition of 'rape' and 'violence' in the legal context, and including marital rape in the context of rape.
 - Protection against cybercrime
 - Radical changes in the education system, social structures like marriage and parenthood; making them more gender sensitive.
 - Eg: the demand for recognising women as head of families, increase in paternity leaves, sexual autonomy, right to choose one's life partner etc.
 - A change in the system of governance to include the equitable allocation of resources and planning based on the perspective of gender, eg- gender budgeting.

Conclusion

Women's movements in India have affected various segments of society. The major impacts of these movements are reflected in-

- **Various legislations and policies like-** Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Harassment of Women at Work Place (Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal) Act, 2013, Maternity Benefit Act etc.
- **Formation of institutions** like the National Commission for Women.
- **Changes in social perception** and gender roles.
 - Eg, the temple entry movement where issues of menstruation and associated idea of pollution have been questioned. Religious practices like Triple Talaq have been opposed.

The contemporary movements are not only led by the victims of subordination themselves but also target more on bringing the issues from the fringes to the fore. For eg- discrimination faced by Dalit and Adivasi women, the double burden of home and farmwork faced by rural women due to the feminisation of agriculture etc.

In future, the rapid changes in Indian society can give way to movements based on emerging issues like change in existing family structure which is based on male dominance, which can further bring changes in laws and social perception relating to, marriage, divorce, succession and guardianship.

Question

Mob violence not only takes over the law and order but also besmirches the history and civics of a society. Comment. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly highlight the current spate of mob violence in introduction.
- Discuss the phenomenon of mob lynching vis-à-vis law and order, violation of rights (civics) and India's traditional pluralistic and composite culture characteristic.
- Give way forward.

Introduction

- There has been a spate of mob lynchings in recent times on mere suspicion of beef-eating, child kidnapping etc. in various parts of the country, fuelled by agency of social media, fake news, increased radicalisation and fanaticism in society, apathetic or incapable administration and a mercurial population.
- These events have raised questions on not only the institutional capacity to enforce law and order but wider questions regarding history and civics of Indian society, its social fabric and spirit of tolerance, brotherhood.

Body

Reasons

- It is the state's responsibility to enforce rule of law rather than people enforcing vigilantism resulting in mob violence. Moreover, state agency should be proactive against any such vigilantism and prevent such crimes at first instance.
- However, the problem of mob violence has continued to grow due to the following reasons:
 - Complicity or indifference of law enforcement agents.
 - Police reforms despite Model Police Act 2006 and SC instructions in Prakash Singh case remain unimplemented keeping police inept and under political pressure.
 - Failure of administration in taking timely and adequate action against such incidents, has allowed these crimes to grow with impunity in pockets of the country.
 - Failure of authorities to contain circulation of misleading messages and rumours, through social media.
 - Lack of awareness among masses who get influenced by such fake news and misleading rhetoric.

Concerns

- India has always prided itself on being a peaceful nation with a composite cultural ethos, where, since centuries different communities have resided alongside peacefully.
- However, the recent spate of mob lynchings has served to polarise this communal harmony. Mob lynching based on identity discriminates against a whole community and violates Fundamental Rights provided by the Constitution of India.
- Certain groups, religious minorities and Dalits, are particularly vulnerable to such crimes due to social prejudices and institutional apathy to weaker section, which is a blot on secular, inclusive cultural fabric of India and question mark on the ethos of our constitution. India's historical image as a tolerant, pluralist society is negatively impacted.
- Being a democratic, secular and plural society, India can ill afford to let such crimes continue with compunction, and the responsibility falls on both the government and society to bring in the sense of justice and security to its marginalised and minority sections.

Way Forward

- As recommended by the Supreme Court, the Parliament should enact a new anti-lynching law.
- The Court has directed state governments to appoint police officers, not below the rank of SP as nodal officers in charge of preventing mob violence. The implementation of this direction should be followed diligently.

Day - 23

GS - I

Modern India

2nd July 2019

Question

The role of Mahatma Gandhi was supported by the circumstances surrounding the Indian freedom struggle. Critically examine. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly highlight the role of Mahatma Gandhi in Indian Freedom struggle.
- Explain the additional factors besides role of Gandhi which aided Indian freedom struggle.
- To critically analyze the statement emphasizes the importance of Gandhi in Freedom movement.
- Give conclusion.

Introduction

- The success of Indian freedom struggle is usually attributed to the supreme spirit and leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. Yet, besides his contribution in the late 19th and beginning of 20th century there were many political currents which significantly aided Indian national movement.

Body

Circumstances which supported Mahatma Gandhi in building Indian freedom struggle

- **Rising tide of nationalism:** During the last decades of the nineteenth century factors such as growth of nationalist sentiments, emergence of new economic forces, introduction of railways, spread of education, the impact of modern Western ideas and culture and increased nationalist consciousness.
- **Foundation laid by moderates and extremists:** Indian National Congress laid solid foundation by political works by both the moderates and extremist leaders. Moderates' contribution through '**Drain of Wealth**' helped raise awareness of exploitation. Extremist idea of Swaraj and militant methods like boycott were also later implemented in Civil Disobedience and Non-Cooperation movement.

- **Experience of mass movement like Swadeshi movement:** Participation in the Swadeshi and anti-partition and the Home Rule movements during the opening decades of the twentieth century was a significant learning experience for masses which was later utilized by Mahatma Gandhi.
- **Exploitative policies of Britishers fuelled mass resentment:** The First World War in 1914 and British government's posture during WW I created unrest among the Indian people. This resentment was capitalised by Gandhi ji for the mass movements later on.
- **Legislations like Rowlatt Act and Jallianwala Bagh incidents:** British government brought repressive acts like Rowlatt Act, Amritsar's Jallianwala Bagh caused immense resentment among Indians setting stage for popular movements.
- **Emergence of socialist and communist parties:** Ideas of Marx and Socialist thinkers inspired many groups to come into existence as socialists and communists. These young nationalists, inspired by the '**Soviet Revolution**' began advocating radical solutions for economic, political and social ills of the country. Communist groups and workers' and peasants' parties, Trade unions remained an integral part of the national movement and worked along with the Congress.
- **Peasant movements:** The peasant movements of the 20th century were deeply influenced by and had a marked impact on the national freedom struggle. Mahatma Gandhi realizing their contribution integrated their struggle with national movements. Ex: Bardoli movement, Eka movement etc.
- **Indian National Army:** INA Prisoners of War (POWs) were brought back to India after the war to be court-martialed, a powerful movement emerged in their defence. In mid 1940s issue of INA also raised sympathy among serving military personnel thus weakening British government position in India.
- **Elections in Britain:** Although the war in Europe came to an end in May 1945, the Japanese threat still remained. The Conservative government in Britain led by Churchill was keen to reach a solution on the constitutional question in India.
- **Sporadic, localised and united mass action** by workers, peasants and states' peoples which took the form of a countrywide strike wave e.g. INA Release Movement, Royal Indian Navy (RIN) revolt, Tebhaga movement, Worli revolt, Punjab Kisan Morchas, Travancore peoples' struggle (especially the Punnappa-Vayalar episode) and the Telangana peasant revolt set the stage and created a feeling of imminent fall of British in India.

Gandhiji's Unique Contribution

Despite the presence of these situations, Gandhi ji had marked decisive impact on Indian national freedom movement as below:

- **Belief in the power of masses:** Gandhi permanently altered the approach of Indian National movement by insisting participation of masses like workers, peasants, students, women, middle class etc.
- **Unique Gandhian methods of protests:** His unique method of passive resistance was amenable to contribution from masses by simply refusing to follow British diktats. Through movement like Salt Satyagraha Gandhi inspired people to oppose unjust British laws and removing fear of colonial government from the minds of people.
- **Non violent struggle:** Gandhi's unwavering non-violent approach to mass movement dealt with brute oppressive machinery available with British government. The non-violent approach ensured Indian national movement remained a mass movement rather than an underground sporadic violent movement.
- **Gandhi's belief in secular values** prevented Indian national movement from turning into a civil war. His emphatic rejection of two nation theory based on religious identity also helped India to emerge secular nation post independence.

Conclusion

- Thus, despite the presence of circumstances which aided role of Mahatma Gandhi in Indian national freedom movement, he, through his unique and innovative approach to mass movement maneuvered Indian national movement successfully to achieve its aim of free India.
- His ethos of non-violent satyagraha also played an important role in post independent period as unsatisfied groups sought to find redressal through non-violent movements e.g. Chipko movement was inspired by Gandhian approach.

Question

Examine the reasons that led to the foundation of the Indian National Congress and its major objectives. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce briefly by stating facts with respect to the formation of INC.
- Give different views regarding the formation of INC.
- Describe the major objectives of INC.
- Give a conclusion.

Introduction

- In the later 1870s and early 1880s, a solid ground had been prepared for the establishment of an all-India organization.
- The final shape to this idea was given by a retired English civil servant, A.O. Hume, who mobilized leading intellectuals of the time and with their cooperation, organized the first session of the Indian National Congress in Bombay in December 1885.

Body

Views on reasons regarding the formation of Indian National Congress (INC)

- **Safety Valve Theory:** There is a theory that Hume formed the Congress with the idea that it would prove to be a 'safety valve' for releasing the growing discontent of the Indians. To this end, he convinced Lord Dufferin not to obstruct the formation of the Congress.
 - The extremist leaders like Lala Lajpat Rai believed in the 'safety valve' theory. Even the Marxist historian's 'conspiracy theory' was an offspring of the 'safety valve' notion.
- **Organization for Expression of Indian Demands:** Modern Indian historians dispute the idea of 'safety valve'. In their opinion, the Indian National Congress represented the urge of the politically conscious Indians to set up a national body to express the political and economic demands of the Indians. Historian Bipan Chandra observes that early Congress leaders used Hume as a catalyst to bring together such politically conscious Indians.

Major objectives of INC

- **A Pan India Organization:** To found a democratic, nationalist movement through a pan India organization.
- **Mobilize and Politically Educate People:** Congress aimed to increase awareness about the colonial exploitative policies as well as the political rights of Indians. To this end congress focused on demanding increased representation of Indians in councils, indianization of civil services etc.
- **Anti-colonialism:** Develop and propagate an anti-colonial nationalist ideology; promote friendly relations among nationalist political workers from different parts of the country.
- **Forward looking political and economic programme:** Formulate and present popular demands before the government with a view to unify the people over a common economic and political programme.
- **Promote Nationalism:** Develop and consolidate a feeling of national unity among people irrespective of religion, caste or province.

Thus the objectives of INC were not mere critique of British policies but also preparing a forward looking programme for improving conditions of Indians. Even though Moderates were not successful in their endeavor they laid the foundation of mass based independence struggle with the formation of INC.

Question

Highlight the differences and similarities in the approach of Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak in the struggle for freedom. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give brief introduction of Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak .
- Enumerate the differences and similarities in their approach towards freedom struggle.
- Conclude by describing their significance in the Indian national movement.

Introduction

Both Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak contributed and changed the intensity of India's struggle for freedom through their approaches toward the movement. These approaches, which were based on their respective ideologies and beliefs, had several similarities as well as differences.

Body

Similarities

- **Swadeshi and boycott of foreign cloth:** Both of them considered boycott of foreign cloth and strengthening of indigenous industries as very important step towards the struggle against the colonial rule.
- Both Tilak and Gandhi ji contributed to the integration of lower middle class, peasants, artisans and workers to the mainstream movement lead by the Congress.
- With the help of Poona Sarvajanik Sabha, Tilak initiated a **no-tax campaign** in Maharashtra during 1896-97. On similar lines, Gandhi ji launched a pan-India **civil disobedience** movement, withholding the payment of various taxes, most importantly the salt tax.
- Both the leaders **emphasised upon a demand for swaraj** or demand for self government in their respective struggles.
- Both Tilak and Gandhi ji **used Press** to propagate and spread their ideas on the colonial rule. They used the press to educate the common masses about the atrocities under the British rule.

Differences

- **Regard and approach towards the colonial law:** While Tilak's approach towards freedom struggle remained within the legal framework for the colonial law, Gandhi ji did not hesitate to step out of this framework.
 - Eg- While both of them were arrested on the charges of sedition, Tilak denied the charges, Gandhi ji pleaded guilty.
- **Violence as a means to achieve independence:** Gandhi ji's approach was completely based on the belief of non-violent means (satyagrah) to achieve independence'. Although, Bal Gangadhar Tilak ruled out the use of violence in attaining self rule, he was not a preacher of Ahimsa or non-violence. He said, 'passive resistance was the means to an end but was not the goal in itself'
- **Legislative Councils:** Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a member of the Legislative Council and used it to build the national movement. However, Gandhi ji never became a member of the Legislative Council and relied more on non-cooperation with the British government.
- **Political ideology:** While Tilak, an extremist, believed in the militant opposition to colonial rule, Gandhi ji, a moderate, believed in more gradual and persuasive approach towards the struggle for freedom.
- **Previous experience of popular struggles:** Tilak's political ideology lacked the groundwork of previous struggles which Gandhi ji had from his South African experience.

Conclusion

The difference in the outlook of both the leaders was due to different eras of political struggle they were working in. Similarly, the similarities underline their fundamental objective to challenge foreign British rule and establish self rule for Indians.

Question

The concept of federalism has continued to change its contours in Indian Polity. Analyse. (250 words)

Approach

- Describe federalism.
- Trace the changing nature of federalism and highlight the current trends in centre- state relations.
- Give a way forward.

Introduction

- A federal government is one in which powers are divided between the national government and the regional governments by the Constitution itself.
- The specific features of the federal system are dual government, written constitution, division of powers between two levels of government, supremacy of constitution, independent judiciary.

Body

The Constitution of India provides for a federal system of government. Despite structural rigidity of constitutional federalism, the practice of federation have continuously changed and evolved.

Changing Contours of federalism in India

- **Single party dominance:** The practice of federalism during 1950-66 was characterized by dominance of Congress as ruling party in centre and most states and as such major question of centre-state relations did not generally arise. After 4th general election, due to the emergence of regional parties, there were a number of conflicts between centre and states and states demanded higher autonomy in financial, legislative and administrative spheres.
- **Planning commission:** Setting up of Planning Commission in 1950 led to excessive centralization undermining the responsibility of states. Planning commission while it existed undermined the role of Finance commission a constitutional body in fiscal federalism.
- **Role of Governors and President rule:** Post 1966 there were growing conflict wherever different parties were in centre and state. Governor acted as agent of central government and his interference in state was objected by states. Use of **Article 356** (President's Rule) on Governor report was abused many times. **Sarkaria Commission** (1988) recommended appointment of Governors be made strictly non-partisan.
- **Interstate conflicts:** Interstate disputes regarding territorial disputes e.g. between Maharashtra and Karnataka on Belgaum, Interstate water disputes e.g. Cauvery water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka also emerged as new contour of federal system. Under Article 262, Parliament had the power to provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to water in Inter-State River or river valley. Parliament provided Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956 to deal with this issue.
- **Centrally sponsored Scheme:** States have opposed these schemes and see them as hindrance on their administrative autonomy. Further, tied nature of funding associated with these schemes is also criticized by states as they see CSS 'one size fits all model' which induced inflexibility in development process.

Recent changes

- **NITI Aayog:** The Government of India constituted the NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission instituted in 1950. It is an important evolutionary change from the past, NITI Aayog acts as the quintessential platform of

the Government of India to bring States to act together in the national interest.

- **Cooperative federalism:** In cooperative federalism the Centre and states share a horizontal relationship, where they cooperate in the larger public interest. NITI Aayog seeks to achieve cooperative federalism. It is an important tool to enable states' participation in the formulation and implementation of national policies.
- **Competitive federalism:** In competitive federalism, States need to compete among themselves to attract funds and investment, which facilitates efficiency in administration and enhances developmental activities. For instance, spirit of competitive federalism is integrated in Smart City Mission, Ease of Doing Business state rankings etc.
- **One Nation, One Election:** Recently proposed idea of conducting simultaneous centre and state election can have significant impact on federal relationship in India. Many regional parties have opposed the idea as anti federal.

Way Forward

- In **S.R. Bommai case (1994)**, the Supreme Court ruled federalism as 'basic feature' of constitution. It observed: "The states have an independent constitutional existence; they are not satellites or agents of the Centre. Within the sphere allotted to them, the states are supreme".
- In this context Centre and state should work in tandem in the spirit of cooperative federalism by working within their allotted sphere determined constitutionally.

Question

Examine the idea of socialism that India adopted after its independence. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Examine the conditions in which India got independence and challenges it faced
- Examine the backdrop in which India adopted the idea of socialism
- In conclusion, show the impact of socialism on India

Introduction

- Socialism is acknowledged as the cherished goal of the Indian political system in its constitution. Socialism lays emphasis on the welfare of the people, it seeks to ensure economic and political equality to the people and tries to remove exploitation of one class by the others.
- However, despite aiming for the same goals, India adopted socialism which drew inspiration from Gandhi and Nehru rather than Marxian socialism.
- Whereas 'Gandhian socialism' was based on satya, ahimsa, trusteeship and decentralisation and 'Nehru's socialism' was a liberal and a type of fabianist socialism, Marxian socialism emphasised on class wars and the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Body

- Indian socialism was not an ideological dogma, but a broad guide to the development and social change and accommodated a lot of other ideas, apart from core socialism, which were necessary for the development of India.
- Moreover, challenges like resource crunch for the free market, apathy to capitalism due to colonial experience, challenges of inequality, and a newly independent nation already on fringes further made adoption of socialism or capitalism in its absolute form impractical.
- India in its modified socialist pursuit relied on three pillars of development strategy—
 - **planning for rapid industrial and agricultural growth** which was not under the absolute control of State.
 - **a public sector to develop strategic industries**, which was to progressively become a self-sustained profit-making sector.

- **a mixed economy**- Mixed economy was preferred earlier due to lack of adequate resources, but the private sector was to work under a broad framework of planning.
- It **differed from core socialism** as it went for a mixed economy rather than complete government control, the public sector had hold on only core industries, industrialists participated in planning (Bombay Plan), emphasis was on industrialisation along with agriculture and the aim was to make the public sector a profit-generating sector rather than being just a welfare tool for income redistribution.
- However, India also **imbibed core socialism spirit** through planned economic development, initiation of land reforms, labor laws, progressive taxation, expansion of education and health and rapid expansion of the public sector.

Conclusion

- Despite its contributions to Indian economy and society through welfare policies, cooperative societies, planned growth, land reforms etc., socialism in India is yet to achieve all its intended objectives.
- Sluggish economic growth till the 1990s, mounting corruption, red-tapism and license raj of bureaucracy prevented industries and markets to grow to their full strengths and restricted foreign investment and competition due to inward-looking policies, a loss-making public sector and failure of trickle-down growth.
- Consequently, while retaining socialism as a principal constitutional value, as declared in Preamble, Fundamental Rights and DPSP, India didn't shy away from approaching a more liberal economy and means of distributive justice when needed. It smoothly transitioned to LPG reforms in the 1990s, opened its sectors and markets to global opportunities and competition, to continue its growth story keeping up with the changing times and needs.

Question

After independence, integration and unification of India proved to be a long ongoing process that was beset with challenges. Examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain the challenges to integration and unification of India after independence.
- Briefly state the steps taken by the government to resolve these challenges.
- Explain its significance in contemporary times.
- Conclude by stating the possible steps that can be taken to maintain the unity and integrity of the country.

Introduction

- Violence and displacement followed by the partition, integration of the princely states and redrawing of internal boundaries based on languages were some of the immediate challenges faced by India post-independence.
- To maintain the democratic aspirations of the newly formed nation state, the government took several steps such as- redivision of the territories of the state based on languages spoken by the people, convincing the princely states to integrate and including constitutional safeguards for the minority and marginalised communities.

Body

Challenges to the unification and integration of India

- **Accommodating the diversity of Indian society** by taking into account the regional aspirations of the people, balancing between the rights of different regions and linguistic groups to retain their own culture.
 - **Formation of the states** was not just a matter of administrative divisions. The boundaries had to be drawn in a way so that the linguistic and cultural plurality of the country could be reflected without affecting the unity of the nation.

- While the government felt that carving out states on the basis of language might lead to disruption and disintegration, the local leaders and people challenged this. Eg- the Vishalandhra movement caused great unrest and violence in the Telugu-speaking region.
- **Ethnic tension in North Eastern states:** Over 635 tribal groups in the region with distinct language and culture along with its relative isolation from the rest of the mainland, resulted into social-political disturbances and unrest for a few years.
 - The isolation of the region, its complex social character and its backwardness compared to other parts of the country have all resulted in the complicated set of demands from different states of the North-East.
 - The vast international border and weak communication between the North-East and the rest of India further added to the delicate nature of politics there. First Nagaland and then Mizoram witnessed strong movements demanding separation from India.
- **Developing democratic practices in accordance with the Constitution** by ensuring the development and well-being of the entire society and not only of some sections.
 - Partition had deepened the communal tension in the country and it was important to assure the minority communities of their equal protection of rights to avoid further communal divisions within the nation.
 - The discontent among these communities could destabilise the newly formed political system.
- **Integration of as many as 565 Princely states after independence.** These states became legally independent and were free to join either India or Pakistan or remain independent. However, this decision was left not to the people but to the princely rulers of these states.
 - The integration of these states was important for the unification of the country.

Steps Taken

- Under the **State Reorganisation Act 1956**, states were divided based on the linguistic and cultural differences between them. This ensured the united social life without losing the distinctiveness of the numerous cultures that constituted it.
 - The cooperative federalism enshrined in the constitution (Schedule VII) empowered the regional identity, aspirations and provided autonomy to the states to solve their specific regional problems.
 - At different points of time the Central Government created Meghalaya, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh out of Assam. Tripura and Manipur were upgraded into States too. Autonomous Councils were created to satisfy the smaller groups within the states without breaking the states down.
- **Constitutional safeguards for marginalised and minorities:** The adoption of the constitution of India highlighted the country's strong beliefs in equality, liberty and secularism (reflected especially in the Fundamental Rights), assuring the marginalised sections of equality and justice.
 - **Articles 29 and 30** specifically protect the cultural and linguistic rights of the minorities.
- The leaders of independent India, especially Sardar Patel, negotiated with the rulers of princely states firmly but diplomatically bringing most of them into the Indian Union through the instrument of accession.

Conclusion

- After independence, as a newly formed democracy, India came to terms with differences in society on several different lines and accepted the plurality of ideas and diverse ways of life. The challenges are still posed by the differences in the contemporary socio-political system of the country. These are reflected in continuing communal tension and intolerance towards the minorities and marginalised and also imperative in statehood demands.
- Contemporary Indian society and political system can learn from the way these challenges were dealt with by the leaders immediately after independence, with a strong faith in the democratic values enshrined in the constitution, diplomatic negotiations with the regional demands of the people and by realising the significance of diversity of the country to maintain its unity and integrity.

Question

Explain with examples, how temple towns represent a very important pattern of urbanisation in Indian history. (250 words)

Approach

- Introduce by giving an idea on temple towns of India with some prominent examples.
- Examine the pattern of economy, polity and subsequent urbanisation that developed in and around important pilgrimage sites
- Link the importance of these urban centres in contemporary times.

Introduction

- India has been culturally endowed with urban centres since Harappan civilisation which laid the foundation of urbanisation. In later centuries, the urban centres in India developed due to three main reasons, viz: a temple town, an administrative centre, a commercial town or a port town.
- Among these, temple towns represent a very important pattern of urbanisation, since it developed due to the patronage, grants and donations it attracted and the economy that was built around it in due time.
- Some significant examples of such towns are Thanjavur, Kanchipuram and Madurai in Tamil Nadu, Somnath in Gujarat, Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

Body

Growth of Temples towns as Urban Centres

- **Rich grants and donations:** The temples were built by rulers to demonstrate their devotion to various deities who endowed temples with grants of land and money to carry out elaborate rituals, feed pilgrims and priests and celebrate festivals. Pilgrims who flocked to the temples also made donations. This made these centres resource rich in due time.
- **Emergence of supporting economy:** Temple authorities used their wealth to finance trade and banking. Gradually a large number of priests, workers, artisans, traders, etc. settled near the temple to cater to its needs and those of the pilgrims.
- **Towns emerged around temples** such as those of Bhillasvamin (Bhilsa or Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh), and Somnath in Gujarat. Other important temple towns included Kanchipuram and Madurai in Tamil Nadu, and Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.
- **Pilgrimage centres** also slowly developed into townships. Vrindavan (Uttar Pradesh) and Tiruvannamalai (Tamil Nadu) are examples of two such towns.
- Similarly pilgrimage centre of **Golden Temple** developed into township of Amritsar and **Sarnath, Bodh Gaya, Kushinagar, Vaishali** as Buddhist and Jain pilgrimage centres formed the backbone of these towns.
- Ajmer (Rajasthan) was the capital of the Chauhan kings in the twelfth century and later became the suba headquarters under the Mughals. **Khwaja Muinuddin Chishti**, the celebrated Sufi saint who settled there in the twelfth century, attracted devotees from all creeds, thereby making it an important pilgrimage and urban centre.

Conclusion

- Apart from being the significant urban centres in yesteryears, temple towns continue to contribute in current times- economically through tourism, culturally by preserving heritage through their architecture, rituals, folklore and socially by integrating our past to the present.
- The Government of India has continued to engage these centres through various schemes like **PRASAD, Swadesh Darshan** to capitalise their potential and ensure their significance in our collective cultural memory.

Question

Regional cultures today are the product of complex processes of intermixing of local traditions with ideas from other parts of the subcontinent. Substantiate. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly write about regional cultures and their distinctive features.
- Write about the influence of local traditions on culture.
- Highlight how external influences impacted and changed the regional cultures.
- Support your arguments through examples.
- Conclude

Introduction

Regional cultures are often associated with distinctive kinds of language, architecture, literature, food, clothes, poetry, dance, music, painting etc. India is a nation of different races, ethnic backgrounds and religious beliefs. Such diversity is the result of local as well as intermixing of ideas from other parts of continents.

Body

- **Language:** Although Bengali is derived from Sanskrit, it passed through several stages of evolution. Also, a wide range of non-Sanskrit words, derived from a variety of sources including tribal languages, Persian, and European languages, have become part of modern Bengali.
 - Early Sanskrit texts suggest that the people of Bengal did not speak Sanskritic languages. From the third-fourth centuries BCE, commercial ties between Bengal and Magadha (south Bihar), led to the growing influence of Sanskrit.
 - During the fourth century the Gupta rulers established political control over north Bengal and began to settle Brahmanas in this area.
 - Thus, the linguistic and cultural influence from the mid-Ganga valley became stronger.
- **Architecture:** Many of the modest brick and terracotta temples in Bengal were built with the support of several “low” social groups. With the coming of the European trading companies, new economic opportunities led to improvement of their social and economic position. They proclaimed their status through the construction of temples.
 - When local deities, once worshipped in thatched huts in villages, gained the recognition of the Brahmanas, their images began to be housed in temples.
 - The temples began to copy the double-roofed (dochala) or four-roofed (chauchala) structure of the thatched huts. This led to the evolution of the typical Bengali style in temple architecture.
- **Literature and Script:** The rulers of Chera kingdom, part of present-day Kerala introduced the Malayalam language and script in their inscriptions. At the same time, they also drew upon Sanskritic traditions.

- Even the temple theatre of Kerala, borrowed stories from the Sanskrit epics.
- The first literary works in Malayalam, dated to about the twelfth century, are directly indebted to Sanskrit.
- A fourteenth-century text, the Lilatilakam, dealing with grammar and poetics, was composed in Manipravalam – literally, “diamonds and corals” referring to the two languages, Sanskrit and the regional language i.e. Malayalam.
- **Dance forms:** Major dance forms had their origin in local traditions, but over a period of time they got influenced by other factors as well to evolve in the present form.
 - Kathak is derived from “katha”, a word used in Sanskrit and other languages for story. The kathaks were originally a caste of story-tellers in temples of north India.
 - However, it began evolving into a distinct mode of dance in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries with the spread of the bhakti movement (external influence). The legends of Radha-Krishna were enacted in folk plays called rasa lila.
 - Further, under the Mughal influence, it acquired its present features and developed into a form of dance with a distinctive style.
- **Painting:** Originally, miniatures paintings were painted on palm leaves or wood to illustrate Jaina texts. With the influence of Mughals, the use of brilliant colours and portrayal of court scenes, scenes of battle or hunting, and other aspects of social life also started.
 - Further, themes from mythology and poetry were also depicted at centres such as Mewar, Jodhpur, Bundi, Kota and Kishangarh under Rajput patronage.
 - By the mid-eighteenth century, the Kangra artists developed a style which breathed a new spirit into miniature painting. The source of inspiration was the Vaishnavite traditions. Soft colours including cool blues and greens, and a lyrical treatment of themes distinguished Kangra painting.
- **Food Habits:** Traditional food habits are generally based on locally available items of food. Bengal is a riverine plain which produces plenty of rice and fish.
 - However, Brahmanas were not allowed to eat nonvegetarian food, but the popularity of fish in the local diet made the Brahmanical authorities relax this prohibition for the Bengal Brahmanas.
 - The Brihaddharma Purana, a thirteenth-century Sanskrit text from Bengal, permitted the local Brahmanas to eat certain varieties of fish.

Conclusion

From the above arguments, it can be seen how local traditions and external influences intermixed with each other to further enrich local cultures. Hence, it can be said that regional cultures today are the product of complex processes of intermixing of local traditions with ideas from other parts of the subcontinent.

Question

The construction of various architectural forms in ancient and medieval India demonstrated the power, wealth and devotion of the patron. Comment. **(250 words)**

Approach

- List the architectural forms in India that demonstrate power, wealth and devotion of the patron.
- Explain how these architectural forms show the patron's or ruler's influence on them.
- Conclude by giving a few examples of how in contemporary times the architectural forms reflect strength and ideals of the nation-state.

Introduction

From the pillars of Ashoka to Rajarajeshwara temple, the rulers from different times have used architectural forms to demonstrate their power, wealth and devotion. The architectural forms provided the rulers means to immortalise their beliefs and ideals, placing their reigns in the history of the land.

Body

Demonstration of Power

- Architectural forms were built **to mark the victory over rival rulers**.
 - Eg gateway **Buland Darwaza** was built by Akbar to commemorate his victory over Gujarat.
 - When the Chola king Rajendra I built a Shiva temple in his capital he filled it with prized statues seized from defeated rulers.
- These forms also **marked the expanse of a King's territory**.
 - Eg: **Ashokan pillars** from eastern India to far north-west to southern parts of the country mark the expanse of his empire.
- These architectural forms also demonstrated their claims to be **protectors of the** people they ruled, by generating employment for the artisans.
 - Eg- generations of artisans worked over several architectural forms like Ajanta and Ellora caves under various patrons.

Demonstration of Wealth

- The expenditure on the grand architectural forms **reflected the wealth acquired by the rulers** to imply the **prosperity and financial stability of the King's reign**. Eg- Taj Mahal and other monuments built during this time showcased the wealth and grandeur of Shah Jahan reign.

Demonstration of Devotion

- As each new dynasty came to power, kings wanted **to emphasise their moral right to be rulers**. Constructing places of worship provided rulers with the chance **to proclaim their close relationship with God**, especially important in the different ages of rapid political change.
- Rulers also offered patronage **to the learned and pious, and tried to transform their capitals** and cities into great cultural centres that brought fame to their rule and their realm.
 - Eg The dargah of Shaikh Salim Chishti (a direct descendant of Baba Farid) constructed in Fatehpur Sikri, Akbar's capital, symbolised the bond between the Chishtis and the Mughal state
 - Various Chaityas and Viharas (eg-Barabar caves) were built in the Mauryan empire to highlight the rulers' moral inclination.
- The architectural forms helped the rulers in the **propagation of their culture and beliefs**.
 - Ashoka propagated his **Dhamma** to the public through his inscriptions at various places.

Conclusion

The practice of expressing the wealth, power and devotion of the rulers has been transformed in contemporary times to express the ideals and identity of different groups. For eg- parks and monuments built by Dalit political leader Mayawati assert identity, power and devotion of the Dalits.

Question

Frequently occurring dust storms in India reflect increasing desertification. Highlight the causes of dust storm and what measures should be taken to prevent them? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain what are dust storms.
- List the causes of dust storms.
- State the measures to be taken to prevent dust storms.
- Conclude by providing solutions.

Introduction

- A dust storm or sandstorm is a meteorological phenomenon, which refers to the erosion, transport and deposition of dust and soil particles in the atmosphere by strong wind currents. They are a combination of sand, dust and wind. The fluctuation in their intensity, magnitude or interaction with each other makes them unpredictable and dangerous.
- Rapid desertification, unprecedented heat wave conditions, greater number of western disturbances, and low pressure winds have combined to trigger the massive dust storms across India.

Body

Causes of Dust Storms

- **Anthropogenic reasons:** The Global Assessment of Sand and Dust Storms reports concluded that 25% of global dust is anthropogenic emission.
 - Unsustainable land and water use, deforestation, overgrazing, depletion of water sources and industrial activities have triggered sand and dust storms in the country.

Climate Change and Associated Causes

- **Increased heating of atmosphere-** The weakening temperature gradient is causing the jet streams to meander rather than take a straight course which, in turn, affects the seasonality and movement of the western disturbances.
 - Additionally, steep increases in temperatures in the Western Himalayan region and the Tibetan Plateau have been linked to a further destabilisation of climatic patterns in the region.
- **Longer durations of Western disturbances-** The western disturbances are not only active over the Indian region for a longer period of time, but the jetstreams over the region have also strengthened.
 - The high levels of emissions in the Indo-Gangetic basin increase the temperature of the atmosphere by absorbing solar radiation.
 - This increase in atmospheric temperatures changes the vertical temperature gradient in the atmosphere and triggers a strong downward wind movement from the upper levels of the atmosphere, up to 12 km high.
 - These downward drafts join the jetstreams as they enter the subcontinent and strengthens them. This has resulted in the recent spate of storms.
- **Diverging Jet streams-** The jetstreams carried by western disturbances are not uniform in velocity across the band. The jetstream core seems to have undergone divergence in the upper levels which, in turn, causes a convergence of air lower down in the atmosphere. This is one of the contributing factors towards the intensity of the storms

Measures That Can Be Taken

- **Anthropogenic source mitigation:** Source mitigation may be the only way to reduce dust emission. Appropriate techniques that already exist at national and regional levels as part of sustainable land management need to be identified and scaled up, taking into account the synergies among the Rio Conventions and related mechanisms and initiatives.
 - Lack of vegetative barrier is making dust storms more intense. India needs to take up massive afforestation.
 - All dust generating activities—from digging of roads to construction need strict regulation.
- **Improving weather forecasting and monitoring infrastructure:** Early warning is a critical part in the dust storm impact mitigation.
 - It should enhance the ability of countries to deliver timely, quality dust storm forecasts, observations, information and knowledge to users.
 - Doppler radar can be used to detect dust levels close to the surface and horizontal wind velocities.
- **Increasing preparedness and resilience:** Dust storm should be fully integrated into multi-hazard management plans for disaster risk at all levels and across all sectors.
 - The dust storm management plans need to include coordinated emergency response measures and strategies across sectors based on systematic impact/vulnerability/risk mapping/assessment.

Conclusion

- Dust storms have socio-economic impacts on human health, agriculture, industry, transportation, water & air quality. Increased number of storms lasting later into the season also affect the progress of the monsoon as it reduces the strength of onrushing monsoonal winds which enter the subcontinent in the beginning of June.
- Although government has taken some steps in this direction like- integration of component of dust in the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting, improvements in satellite and 3-D imaging and adoption of NowCast models that have a constant eye on evolving weather from space, and can pick up signs of the storms around three hours in advance, more needs to be done.
- A massive wall of vegetation like the Great Green Wall that has been developed by China along the Mangolian drylands or a similar Great Green Wall in Africa's Sahel region, at the southern edge of the Sahara desert can be built by India to prevent land and wind erosion and to mitigate the impacts of dust storms.

Question

What are the earthquake swarms and how they are different from traditional earthquakes? Also give geographical distribution of earthquakes. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce the term Earthquake Swarms by giving a context.
- Explain Earthquake Swarms.
- Mention possible reasons for the phenomena.
- Briefly discuss traditional earthquakes.
- List how they are different from earthquakes caused by the movement of tectonic plates.
- Write about distribution of Earthquakes.

Introduction

- Recently Dahanu town in Maharashtra's Palghar district was hit by a series of low-intensity earthquakes, called as earthquake swarm.
- Earthquake swarm is a series of low magnitude earthquakes without a distinguished main shock, that occur in a localised region and over a period of time ranging from days, weeks to even months.

Body

- Earthquake swarm has been considered to be “an exceptional phenomena” which differs from the normal earthquakes. Dominant hypotheses that explain the occurrence of the swarm include the immediate influence of magma and groundwater (ex. intrusion into the fault), peculiar inhomogeneity of crustal structure and so on.
- When seismic energy piles up inside the earth and is released in small amounts from certain points, a series of earthquakes or swarms can occur.
- Sometimes, these rumblings of the earth are also accompanied by acoustic or sound emissions.
- Seismic activities can be classified into either a major quake followed by aftershocks, or an earthquake swarm.

Traditional Earthquakes

- Traditional Earthquakes are caused by disturbances in the interior of the earth and other causes. Primary causes of earthquakes are:
 - **Tectonic Movements:** Tectonic forces create tension and pressure and when the stress tends to be more than what the rocks of the earth can bear, the rocks break and are displaced from their state of equilibrium realising huge amount of energy.
 - **Volcanic Eruptions:** The volcanic eruptions are often very violent and cause vibrations in the earth's crust. E.g.: The Krakatoa that erupted in 1883 became the cause of a violent earthquake.
 - **Man-made:** Deep mining, underground nuclear tests, reservoir induced seismicity (RIS), extraction of fossil fuels, groundwater extraction, etc. may also release massive energy to cause tremors in the earth's crust.

Difference

- In general, within major earthquakes a maximum-scale quake is followed by a number of minor aftershocks. Meanwhile, the swarm earthquake is a series of quakes, similar in scale to the mainshock.
- The pace of subsidence in earthquake swarms is gradual relative to aftershocks in normal earthquakes, and the seismic activities are protracted.

Distribution

- Earth's major earthquakes occur mainly in belts coinciding with the margins of tectonic plates.
 - **Circum-Pacific Belt:** The most important earthquake belt is the Circum-Pacific Belt, which affects regions around the Pacific Ocean, i.e. New Zealand, New Guinea, Japan, the Aleutian Islands, Alaska, and the western coasts of North and South America.
 - **Alpine Belt (Himalayas and Alps):** A second belt, known as the Alpine Belt (Himalayas and Alps), mid-world mountain belt (Alpine Belt) extends parallel to the equator from Mexico across the Atlantic Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea from Alpine-Caucasus ranges to the Caspian, Himalayan mountains and the adjoining lands. This zone has folded mountains, large depressions and active volcanoes.
 - **Oceanic Ridges:** There also are connected belts of seismic activity, mainly along oceanic ridges, including those in the Arctic Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean, and the western Indian Ocean, and along the rift valley of East Africa.

Conclusion

- Earthquake swarms are often assumed to result from an intrusion of fluids into the seismogenic zone, causing seismicity patterns which significantly differ from aftershock sequences. However, neither the temporal evolution nor the energy release of earthquake swarms is generally well understood.
- The recent swarms in Maharashtra cannot be taken lightly as many major earthquakes in the region have been preceded by earthquake swarm activity. E.g.: The Latur and Koyna earthquakes in 1993 and 1967 killed almost 10,000 and 200 people respectively hit after series of swarms. Hence, required concern and preparation needs to be accorded to these swarms.

Question

How are integrated steel plants different from mini steel plants? What problems does the steel industry face? What recent developments have led to a rise in the production capacity? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Write what are the integrated and mini steel plants in the introduction part.
- Differentiate between the two.
- Enumerate the problems and recent developments taken to increase the productivity.

Introduction

- A mini steel plant is often incorporated with lower investments and can manufacture certain alloys of steel with some process help and raw materials from other steel plants.
- An integrated steel plant hosts all the processes in-house and can manufacture different types and forms of steel as the investment is huge and it serves as a large scale production house.

Body

Differences Between The Two Types Of Steel Plants		
Criteria	Integrated steel plants	Mini steel plants
Type of Producer	Primary producer, involves iron making, steel making, casting, roughing rolling/billet rolling and product rolling.	Secondary producer, produce carbon steel and alloy steel of certain specifications.
Size	Large and handle everything in one complex.	Smaller, have electric furnaces, used steel scrap and sponge iron.
Raw Material	Iron ore, limestone, and coal (or coke).	Iron from scrap steel, recycled from used automobiles and equipment or byproducts of manufacturing.
Products	Final products made by an integrated plant are usually large structural sections, heavy plate, strip, wire rod, railway rails, and occasionally long products such as bars and pipe.	Specialize in making coils of rod for wire-drawing use, or pipe, or in special sections for transportation and agriculture.
Investment	Investment is huge and it serves as a large scale production house.	Incorporated with lower investments.
Number in India	About 5 integrated SAIL plants.	Around 650 mini steel plants in India.

Problems faced by the iron and steel industry:

- **Capital:** Iron and steel industry requires large capital investment which is difficult for a developing country like India to afford. Many of the public sector integrated steel plants have been established with the help of foreign aid.
- **Low Productivity:** The per capital labour productivity in the country is at 90-100 tonnes for steel industry, whereas it is 600-700 tonnes per person in Korea, Japan, and other steel producing nations.
- **Low Potential Utilisation:** Durgapur steel plant makes use of approx. 50% of its potential which is caused by factors like strikes, shortage of raw materials, energy crisis, incompetent administration, etc
- **Huge Demand:** Huge chunks of iron and steel are to be imported in order to meet the demands. In order to save invaluable foreign exchange, productivity needs to be increased.

- **Inferior Quality of Products:** The weak infrastructure, capital inputs and other facilities eventually lead to a steel making process which is more time-taking, expensive and produces an inferior variety of steel products.

Recent developments led to a rise in the production capacity

- **Investments:** Steel industry and its associated mining and metallurgy sectors have seen a number of major investments and developments in the recent past. According to the data released by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), the Indian metallurgical industries attracted Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) to the tune of US\$ 10.84 billion in the period April 2000-June 2018.
- **Government Initiatives:** The Union Cabinet, Government of India has approved the **National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017**, as it seeks to create a globally competitive steel industry in India. NSP 2017 envisages 300 million tonnes (MT) steel-making capacity and 160 kgs per capita steel consumption by 2030-31. The Ministry of Steel is facilitating setting up of an industry driven **Steel Research and Technology Mission of India (SRTMI)** in association with the public and private sector steel companies to spearhead research and development activities in the iron and steel industry at an initial corpus of Rs 200 crore.

Way Forward

The steel industry's significance for our prosperity and welfare cannot be emphasized enough. The steel industry's products also play a crucial role in the development of the sustainable society.

Day - 27

GS - I

World History

6th July 2019

Question

The "Treaty of Versailles" signed as a treaty of peace, ironically, set the stage for another great war. Examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give background conditions which led to the treaty and its intent to bring peace.
- Briefly explain its consequences and how it was harsh on Germany.
- Rise of Hitler and Nazi party.
- Conclude by justifying whether the treaty can be held responsible for the second World war.

Introduction

The **Treaty of Versailles** was signed in June, 1919 in a hostile environment after the first World War intended to bring peace in Europe. It was based on the principles of Woodrow Wilson's 14 points speech (1918) which calls for self government, international peace and security through overall disarmament. However, when assessed on these principles, the treaty cannot be justified.

Body

The treaty can be seen as 'dictated peace' due to the following reasons:

- Germans were not allowed to be part of the negotiations.
- **Demilitarization:** Germany was forced to drastically reduce its armed forces to weaken its defence.
- **Reduction in territory:** The Treaty empowered the Allied States to control Germany's overseas colonies in China, Pacific and Africa and declared them as League of Nation of Mandates.

- It forced Germany to cede its territory to Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and return Alsace and Lorraine to France.
- **War Guilt clause:** Germany was solely held responsible for the war and its allies were held responsible for triggering war.
- **War Reparations:** Huge reparations were imposed on Germany aimed at keeping it weak economically.

Hence, it can be asserted that the treaty was harsh on Germany and served as a humiliation for the Germans. It brought many hardships for the German population and further deteriorated the entire geopolitical landscape of Europe.

Further Consequences of the Treaty

- Disintegration of German population into newly created nations was used by Hitler to justify German aggression and expansion before the second World War.
- **Impact on European economy:** It further posed severe risks to the entire European economy which led to the Great Depression of 1929 as argued by British economist John Maynard Keynes.
- The treaty could not satisfy the demand of all nations:
 - Britain wanted a lenient treaty with Germany because a prosperous Germany would serve as a market for British exports.
 - France demanded a harsher treaty so that French frontiers could not be threatened in future.
- Hence, the treaty was meant to weaken Germany and to bring peace enough to stop the spread of communism. The humiliating conditions of the treaty rankled Germans for years and in many ways led to the rise of Nazism in Germany. Hitler further used the nationalistic propaganda to imbibe hatred in Germans which culminated into the Jews holocaust during the second World War.
- The treaty could not contain the rise of extreme nationalism in fascist regimes of Italy, Germany and Japan which in turn led to the increased scramble for new colonies.
- Also, the treaty led to the **formation of the League of Nations** which failed to prevent actions of fascist regimes like invasion of Manchuria by Japan.
- The terms of the Treaty of Versailles were violated by Hitler which led to the formation of alliances like the Anti-Comintern Pact (1937) between Germany, Japan and Italy and the Non-Aggression Pact (1939) between Germany and USSR.
- Hence, the Treaty of Versailles failed to contain the competitive geopolitics and set the stage for WWII.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that the treaty was created more through fear and anger than forgiveness, compassion and a desire for rebuilding relationships and ensuring long lasting peace. Also, the treaty was never properly enforced so that Germany was able to rebuild its military and challenge the security of Europe all over again.

Question

Examine the role of World War I in reshaping the geopolitics of present day Europe. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Mention the consequences of WW I in creation of multiple geopolitical entities.
- Europe's transition from inter war period to the creation of European Union.
- Contemporary events giving relevance to WW I.

Introduction

First World War greatly impacted the political landscape of Europe due to the downfall of three empires and the emergence of new nation states. Later, the reorganization of internal borders was on the principles of 'economic viability' and geo-political interests and not on nationality, ethnicity and self determination as was promised earlier by the allied powers before concluding the peace treaties. Hence, it continues to be problematic in the 21st-century struggles for national identity and political autonomy.

Body

Consequences of World War 1

- The war led to the collapse of three empires, including the Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman and German empires and emergence of new nation states.
 - Creation of Turkey after dismemberment of Ottoman Empire.
 - Separation of Austria-Hungary.
 - Uniting Slav people under Yugoslavia by merging Serbia and Montenegro.
- The **Paris Peace Conference** created new political boundaries without much consultation with the local population.
 - **Treaty of Sevres** resulted in areas populated by Turks being given to Greece which resulted into conflict in Turkish mainland.
- **Decline of European supremacy:** Economically and militarily, Europe was surpassed by the United States which emerged as a world power.
- Hence, WWI set the stage for changing political map of Europe, which was further cemented by future events like World War II, peace treaties and emerging economic necessities.

Later changes

- **Inter war period:**
 - Rise of Nazi Germany under Hitler to avenge the humiliating Treaty of Versailles further destabilized European polity and culminated to Second World War.
- **Cold war period:** European states remained in a conflict zone band-wagoning USA against the Communist Russia. This phase was marked by events like division of Germany and rise and fall of the Berlin wall.
- **Rise of EU:** As a consequence of two great wars, there was a need for large scale reconstruction which forced nation states to work together and led to the birth of the European Community in 1957.

Contemporary Relevance

Russian President Vladimir Putin argues that the First World War left many Russians in the Soviet Republic of Ukraine which justifies Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Conclusion

World War I had not just impacted the European community in its early phase but the lessons learnt in the war continues to impact the current geopolitical events. Eg-

- **Rise of nationalism:** Nationalism was a significant cause of World War I. There has been a rise in the slogans like "Italy First," "Hungary First" and "America First, reflecting the rise of nationalism in the present time. It is also followed by a similar feeling of distrust towards the other countries as observed during the War.
- **Trade protectionism:** During World War I, many of the leading economies took shelter behind high tariff walls to halt the forces of globalization. Following the onset of an economic depression in the early 1870s, one industrializing

country after another turned against trade liberalization. Trade wars, colonialism and closed markets became the name of the geopolitical game. Similar trade protectionism is observed in the contemporary geopolitics in nations like the U.S, France and Britain.

Question

In place of colonialism as the main instrument of imperialism we have today neo-colonialism. Comment. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Define imperialism and colonialism.
- Explain the new modes of neo-colonialism through which imperialism is being extended today.
- Give conclusion.

Introduction

- Imperialism is a system in which a rich and powerful country controls other countries, or a desire for control over other countries.
- Colonialism is the practice of establishing territorial dominion over a colony by an outside political power characterized by exploitation, expansion, and maintenance of that territory.
- European colonialism began in the fifteenth century. Decolonization of European colonies took place in the years after World War II. However, the exploitation of former colonies is still undergoing through new instrument of neo-colonialism.

Body

Neo-colonialism as new tool of imperialism

- **Net importer:** Developing countries exported primary commodities to the developed countries, who then manufactured products out of those commodities and sold them back to the developing countries, thereby continuing to accumulate profit through unequal terms of trade and reducing developing countries to net importers.
- **Dependent economic structures:** These non industrialized countries are caught in a post colonial down spiral. They continue to specialize in one, or a few raw material exports. These nations are described as dependent economies and they seemed incapable of autonomously altering their economic structures.
- **International Finance institutions:** The establishment of WTO, in 1994, significantly constricted the trade policy space previously available to developing countries. Further, west dominated institutions like World Bank, IMF tend to control the economic policies of underdeveloped former colonies through restructuring of domestic economies as a precondition to bail them out from fiscal crisis.
- **Obsolete technology:** Developed countries through obsolete technological export to developing countries to keep their revenue stream running and, at the same time, keeping latter countries dependent.
- Multinational Companies (MNC's) from developed countries earn profits and monopolize markets through their deep pockets in developing countries.

Conclusion

Thus the essence of neo-colonialism is that the State which is subject to it, is independent in theory and has all the outward signs of international sovereignty. But in reality its economic system and thus its political policy is directed from outside.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

Question

Examine and compare the role of Governor and Lieutenant Governor in States and Union Territories respectively. Also bring out the significance and concerns related to these posts in a federal polity. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly introduce the powers and duties of Governor and LGs.
- Compare their roles citing constitutional provisions and SC/HC judgments.
- Explain the role played by them in either maintaining or undermining the federal nature of Indian state.
- Conclude by giving recommendations for their proper functioning.

Introduction

Indian political system has both unitary and federal features. This has made the office of Governor and Lieutenant Governor a necessity in a parliamentary form of government. They are an important link between the Union and the States and UTs, especially with a view to uphold the unity and integrity of the nation. However, the roles and responsibilities of the Governor differ from that of Lieutenant Governor.

Body

States : Governor

- The Governor is the chief executive head of state appointed by the President and acts as the 'agent of the Union'.
- Governor has executive, legislative, financial and judicial powers mentioned in Part VI of the constitution. Apart from constitutional powers, there are some discretionary powers of Governor as well.
- There are some states where Governor has special powers:
 - Special responsibility of Governor for some states mentioned in Articles 371-371-J in Part XXI of the constitution.
 - For example: for maintaining law and order(Nagaland), welfare of tribal people(Assam), etc.

UTs : Administrator

- As per **Article 239**, every Union Territory in India shall be administered by the President of India, through an administrator to be appointed by him. It is called Lieutenant Governor (LG) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Delhi and Puducherry. Thus, Lieutenant Governor is an administrator and not a constitutional head like Governor of states.

The functions and powers of a Governor and a LG are, more or less, the same. The LG, like the Governor, acts a titular head of the Union Territory. There are certain differences in their roles as well.
- The powers of LG are wider than that of a Governor in certain circumstances. This is because, in general, Governor of a state has to act solely on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers, whereas, the LG does not need the approval of the Council of Ministers on every matter.
- Chief Ministers of Delhi and Puducherry are appointed by the President and not by LG, whereas the Chief Ministers of states are appointed by the Governor.

Difference Between the Roles of Governor and LG

There is a difference not only in the role of Governor and LG but also between different LGs as well.

- The **LG of Delhi** has "Executive Functions" that allows him to exercise his powers in matters connected to public order, police and land.

- While the LG of Delhi is also guided by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, and the Transaction of Business of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993, the LG of Puducherry is guided mostly by the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963.
- The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1991 (amended article 239AA of the Constitution), as well as the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, has given Delhi with a special status, where the Centre, whose eyes and ears are the LG, has a much more prominent role than in Puducherry.
- Hence, it can be said that LG of Delhi enjoys greater powers than the LG of Puducherry. In the case of Delhi, since portfolios like land, police and public order fall under the domain of the Centre, of which the Lt. Governor is a representative, he holds more powers than a Governor.
- However, the role of Governors and LGs are criticized in certain circumstances.

Concerns

- **Power tussle** between Governor/LG and elected representatives:
 - Recent conflict between LG of Puducherry and the Chief Minister of Puducherry
 - Similarly, frequent conflicts between Delhi Chief Minister and LG.
- **Misuse** of their discretionary powers.
 - Governor of Arunachal Pradesh advanced the session of assembly by one month in 2016. Supreme Court in **Nebam Rebia v/s Union of India, 2016** held this unconstitutional and declared that the discretionary powers of the Governor has to be interpreted by applying harmonious construction between Article 163 and Article 154.
- Dissolution of Jammu and Kashmir assembly by Governor in 2018 on apprehension of horse trading.

Way Forward

- There is a need for definite clarity in the laws and constitutional provisions. For Ex: Article 239AA has been interpreted differently by Delhi Chief Minister and LG.
- Need of cooperation and coordination. Supreme Court in Feb 2019 (during the ruling on the limits of the L-G's powers in Delhi) had stressed the need for the LG as well as people's representatives to 'function in harmony within constitutional parameters'.
- Generally tussle is because of different political inclinations of the office holders. This results in failure of governance and hampers the democratic functioning of the state/UT.
- Hence, Governor/LG needs to play his role effectively to maintain constitutional provisions and bring peace and stability in the region keeping in mind overall national interests, and not partisan party interests.

The government as well as the LG should be true to the concept of democratic principles. Otherwise, the constitutional scheme of the country of being democratic and republic would be defeated.

Question

How has NITI Aayog fared in its role of promoting the spirit of federalism? Examine along with relevant examples. (250 words)

Approach

- Explain the vision of NITI Aayog and its key ideas in the introduction.
- Mention the positive role played by NITI Aayog through its schemes and programmes in promoting federalism.
- Mention its criticism and how it undermines the federal nature of Indian polity.
- Conclude by your own analysis about the role it had played.

Intro

NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission in order to promote the spirit of competitive cooperative federalism and enhancing participation of states in decision making. It envisaged the spirit of 'Team India' to reform the policy architecture to achieve the best outcomes.

Body

- The composition of NITI Aayog is aligned with its idea to give voice to the states in decision making. Its **Governing Council comprises of Chief Ministers of all states and Lt. Governors** of all UTs. It's one of the objectives is formulation of plans at the village level and aggregation at higher levels. Apart from institutional framework, its functioning is allied with its principles.
- Key achievements of NITI Aayog in promoting the spirit of federalism are discussed below:

Positives

- **Promoting competitive and collaborative federalism-** With the vision of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas' and to ensure inclusive growth, NITI Aayog conceptualized several government schemes and programs which enhanced State government's efforts. For example:
 - **Aspirational Districts Programme** with convergence (of Central & State schemes), collaboration (of central, state level officers) and competition among districts driven by a mass movement (Jan Andolan).
 - **'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' (EBSB)** to foster national integration by a co-ordinated mutual engagement process between States, Union Territories, and Central Ministries, by means of long-term inter-state engagements through cultural exchanges and educational programmes.
 - **Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH)** programme to initiate transformation in education and health sectors.

However, its role and functioning has also been criticized in the following terms:

Criticism

- Niti Aayog **does not have any financial power** and lacks the power of supporting the annual plan of states. Erstwhile Planning Commission had the power to allocate funds for developmental expenditure to address regional imbalances.
- NITI Aayog's **governing council is directly under the control of the Prime Minister** and the Prime Minister's Office- giving it in essence a centralized structure. The states could not exert pressure on the centre to accommodate their demands. Representatives of some states have boycotted it's meetings.
- Cases when **NITI Aayog sent direct instructions to District Collectors** bypassing state governments undermine the spirit of federalism.

Conclusion

- Inter State Council constituted under Article 263 of the Constitution, with appropriate modifications, can be an appropriate platform to overcome the lacunas left in the governance structure of NITI Aayog. Hence, both the institutions can play a critical role in building a New India by 2022.
- Though criticized as old wine in a new bottle but through its commitment to cooperative federalism, promotion of citizen engagement, participative and adaptive governance and continuously increasing use of developing technology, NITI Aayog definitely provides a critical directional and strategic input into the governance process.

Question

The Parliament recently passed the Constitution (One Hundred and Third) Amendment Act, 2019. Discuss the impact and various concerns related to this Act. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce the act
- Discuss its impacts
- Mention various Issues/challenges arising because of it.
- Suggest a Way forward

Introduction

- 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act reserves 10 percent of jobs and places in educational institutions for EWS citizens who fall into the 'general' category — those not specifically included in other categories such as SC, ST or OBC.
- It **amends Article 15** to additionally permit the government to provide for the advancement of “economically weaker sections”.
- It also **amends Article 16** to permit the government to reserve up to 10% of all posts for the “economically weaker sections” of citizens.
- The **10 per cent reservation will be in addition to the existing cap of 50 per cent reservation** for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, taking the total reservation to 60 per cent.
- The quota is targeted at economically weaker sections among the upper castes, with a **family income ceiling of Rs 8 lakh per annum** and who have **less than five acres of agricultural land**.

Impacts

- At present a large number of people remain under abject poverty, devoid of any source of income and education. The decision to bring in the 10% reservation is a welcome move which will **address the issues of educational and income inequality** in India.
- The proposed quota and the consequent constitutional amendment would give a **constitutional recognition to the poor from the upper castes**.
- Reservation has historically been associated with caste and generally the upper caste looks down upon those who come through reservation. The move will help in **removing the stigma associated with earlier reserved classes**.
- The act will, however, also open the Pandora's box of state legislations seeking to go beyond the permissible threshold currently pegged at 50%.
- This will also **intensify the various ongoing demands** by various groups like Jats, Marathas, Patidars for reservation.
- It may become a **political tool in the hands of political parties** to canvass for votes, rather than truly seeking its objective of socio-economic equality and will impinge on already strained public resources.

Issues

- The act contravenes both the Supreme Court ruling (**Indira Sawhney case 1992**) that reservation cannot exceed 50 per cent and the principle that backwardness for the purposes of reservation cannot be defined on economic status alone but must be rooted in social exclusion.
- The impugned amendment **fails to consider that Articles 14** (equality before law) and 16 (equality of opportunity in public employment) forms the basic feature of equality, and that they have been violated with the doing away of the restraints that were imposed on the reservation policy.
- **Income threshold is too high** to be limited to poverty.
- A formidable challenge is **determining economic backwardness** as current threshold is adopted without considering any report.
- With government already reeling under burden due to **scarce public resources**, more reservation will only aggravate the existing problem.
- Even after years of reservation policy, there are no substantial evidence to support the achievement of the original intent of affirmative action, as the benefits haven't filtered down to the last person covered under it.

Way forward

Providing reservation in a huge nation like India can never be a long term solution, instead greater emphasis should be laid upon creating jobs and educational infrastructure which is more sustainable measure of addressing poverty, income inequality and dignity of life to all.

Question

Social audit and good governance are two sides of the same coin. Comment. (250 words)

Approach

- Define social audit and explain how its helps in good governance.
- Mention some best practices in this direction.
- Conclude by giving relevant suggestions for institutionalizing social audits.

Intro

- **Good governance** focuses on a process of decision-making that is transparent, accountable, effective, and inclusive. Opening up government data to the public is arguably an essential ingredient for good governance. But If citizens lack the means to actually hold their governments accountable, attempts to foster good governance will likely fail.
- As defined in 2nd ARC report, **social audit** refers to engagement of stakeholders in measuring the achievement of objectives under any or all of the activities of government organization, especially those pertaining to developmental goals.

Body

- The whole process is based on the social engagement of people through Gram Sabhas and NGOs who evaluate and provide feedback to the government schemes. Therefore, effective social accountability is made up of three building blocks- voice, enforceability and answerability – which together forms a cycle.



- The following are the **merits of social audits** which help in good governance:
 - Brings greater accountability and transparency in the target programme.
 - Provides opportunity for grassroots actions against corruption and favouritism.
 - Prevents diversion of funds and makes policies more effective.

- Plays a significant role in redressing individual worker grievances.
- Helps in building social capital and trust in communities to articulate and share citizen's voice.
- Hence, social audits represent a bottom-up approach where citizens are critical agents of change.
- Realising the importance of a participatory approach in good governance, there have been many initiatives recently.
 - Meghalaya became the first state to enact the social audit law.
 - Social audits have been made mandatory in several government initiatives like:
 - National Food Security Mission (NFSM).
 - MGNREGA
 - e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project to strengthen e-Governance in Panchayati Raj institutions across India with dedicated a portal.
- Supreme Court ordered for providing robust infrastructural backup for social audits and called for effective implementation for CAG's guidelines in state run social audit units.

Conclusion

Hence, social audits coupled with RTI will bring in the much needed transparency and accountability in governance. Need of the hour is political will to provide legal backing and empowerment of local bodies and civil society groups to make social audits a success.

Question

What do you understand by grassroot governance? To what extent is it reflected in Indian governance system? (250 words)

Approach

- Define grassroot governance.
- Explain the need for citizen centric administration.
- Mention the steps taken by the government in this direction along with legislative and constitutional provisions.
- Give examples or best practices in Indian context.
- Conclude by giving importance of community in nation building.

Introduction

Grassroot governance is empowerment of the people at the lowest level 'antyodaya' as mentioned in John Ruskin's book 'Unto his last'. This inspired Mahatma Gandhi's concept of 'Su-raj' that is good governance. Citizens are the core of good governance and are inextricably linked to it.

Body

De-centralization and community participation are necessary for both good governance and inclusive growth. Also, as suggested by 2nd ARC report, good governance requires 'citizen centric governance'. Thus, there was a need to strengthen institutions of local self government.

The following reforms were introduced in 1992 to create a system of grassroot governance in the form of **Panchayati Raj institutions** at the rural areas and **Municipalities for urban areas, as third tiers of government.**

Panchayati Raj

- 73rd amendment introduced a uniform pattern of 3 tier panchayati raj system throughout the country which made the formulation of policies easier.

- Their prime responsibilities are to prepare plans for socio economic development of rural areas and to implement government schemes at local level.

However, even after 70 years of the existence of the republic, the Gandhian vision of 'village republics' as self sufficient villages remains a utopia. Following reasons can be attributed for this:

- Non cooperative attitude of bureaucracy and state governments.
- Lack of clarity of functions of gram sabha.
- Lack of adequate finances as pointed out by Economic Survey 2018.

Following suggestions can be given for their improvement:

- There is an urgent need for **devolution of 3Fs-** funds, functions and functionaries, to these institutions.
- **Kerala Panchayati Raj Act** should be made a model act for other states. Kerala government brought model code of conduct for civil servants towards panchayat institutions.
- **Capacity building of panchayat representatives** to enhance transparency and accountability.
- Government programmes like **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Gramodaya Hamara Sankalp, and Gram Uday** Se Bharat Uday aimed at empowering the panchayats are steps in the right direction.

Urban governance

- The **74th amendment act** gave constitutional status to municipalities. However, urban governance system remains neglected and there is not much change in quality of life in urban areas. This may be due to the following reasons:
 - No uniformity in municipalities. Many parallel agencies exist with overlapping jurisdictions.
 - Office of Mayor remains ceremonial. Real power lies with Chief Executive Officer (CEO) representing state bureaucracy.
- So there is a need for structural reform in metropolitan planning and governance. In the words of Isher Judge Ahluwalia, "smart cities are not possible without smart municipalities". Chinese model of urban governance where the provincial governments enjoy a lot of autonomy and attracts huge investments is a case in point.

Conclusion

- Hence, the concept of 'grassroot governance' in Indian context is limited in scope and is of unrealized potential. The governance system in both rural and urban areas needs an overhaul.
- The goal of 'maximum governance and minimum government' can only be realized if the people at the grassroots are actually empowered to create people-centric solutions for their own local problems.

Question

What are Common Service Centres? How do they promote the concept of good governance? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain Common Service Centres.
- Elaborate their benefits in general
- Examine how CSCs promote concept of good governance.

Introduction

- **Common Services Centre (CSC)** programme is an initiative of the Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY), that serve as access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.
- It is a strategic cornerstone of the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), as part of its commitment in the National Common Minimum Programme to introduce e-governance on a massive scale.

- CSC e-Governance Services India Limited is a Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC SPV) incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 by the MeitY, to monitor the implementation of the Common Services Centers Scheme. It provides a centralized collaborative framework for delivery of services to citizens through CSCs, besides ensuring systemic viability and sustainability of the scheme

Body

Advantages of CSCs

- The CSCs provide high quality and cost-effective video, voice and data content and services, in the areas of e-governance, education, health, telemedicine, entertainment as well as other private services.
- A highlight of the CSCs is that it offers web-enabled e-governance services in rural areas, including application forms, certificates, and utility payments such as electricity, telephone and water bills.
- In addition to the universe of G2C services, a wide variety of content and services that are offered are:
 - **Agriculture Services** (Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Veterinary)
 - **Education & Training Services** (School, College, Vocational Education, Employment, etc.)
 - **Health Services** (Telemedicine, Health Check-ups, Medicines)
 - **Rural Banking & Insurance Services** (Micro-credit, Loans, Insurance)
 - **Entertainment Services** (Movies, Television)
 - **Commercial Services** (DTP, Printing, Internet Browsing, Village level BPO)
- They promote the concept of good governance
 - **Accountability:** Accountability can be attained in governance by making the entire process simple, clear and transparent, giving high priority to the needs and issues of society, ensuring security and safety to citizens, and facilitating free flow of information.
 - **Transparency:** One important reason for the corruption is the unequal access to information or resources. The introduction of CSC scheme and ICT results in easy availability of information to everyone thereby promoting transparency.
 - **Participatory:** The CSC is positioned as a change agent - that would promote rural entrepreneurship, build rural capacities and livelihoods, enable community participation and collective action for social change - through a bottom-up model with focus on the rural citizen
 - **Effective and Efficient:** The objective is to develop a platform that can enable Government, private and social sector organizations to align their social and commercial goals for the benefit of the rural population in the remotest corners of the country through a combination of IT-based as well as non-IT-based services.
 - **Easy and integrated service delivery:** The CSC Scheme, will act as the front-end delivery points for Government, private and social sector services to rural citizens of India, in an integrated manner.
 - **Responsiveness:** The actors involved in the governance process become responsive when they are able to provide necessary services and information in a reasonable time frame. CSCs in India can ensure the timely delivery of services.
 - **Equity and Inclusiveness:** It ensures equal opportunity to all and also helps to ensure safety and security to the citizen. CSC due to its wider reach promotes inclusiveness.

Conclusion

Undertaking such a mammoth task calls for active participation and close interaction amongst various stakeholders such as State Governments, local bodies, opinion makers and agencies/ institutions involved or having interest, commercial or otherwise, in rural areas/ markets.

Question

Lack of access to resources accentuates and reinforces the socio-economic disparities faced by marginalised communities in India. Comment. (250 words)

Approach

- Introduce by giving constitutional basis for socio-economic equality for all.
- Describe the current status of the marginalized sections.
- Explain how lack of resources cause impediments in their growth.
- Conclude by giving positive outlook towards their role in nation building.

Introduction

- Indian constitution has laid down a framework for a democratic socialist state. **Article 38** provides for justice in all aspects of life, equality in status, social security and economic safeguards to the weaker sections of the society.
- However, there are certain communities which remain marginalized and continue to face discrimination in everyday life despite government efforts to empower them.

Body

Following communities can be regarded as marginalized communities in India based on their shared sense of collective identity and common burdens:

- **Scheduled Castes (SCs):** Being historically disadvantaged they continue to face social oppression. Their socio-economic disparities may be due to:
 - Lack of ownership of productive resources in farming. Most of them work as landless agricultural labourers.
 - Lack of access to quality education and subsequent opportunities for secure employment. As per Census 2011, literacy rate among SCs is 66.1% compared to national average of 73%.
- **Scheduled Tribes (STs):**
 - Tribal populations often live in remote locations making it a challenge to deliver basic services to them. The unawareness of rights often leads to further exploitation of them and the resources owned by them.
 - According to a World Bank report, STs are lagging nearly 20 years behind the average Indian population.
- **Religious minorities:** As per NITI Aayog's observations, religious minorities particularly Muslims lag behind others in terms of economic, health and educational parameters.
 - Muslims comprise 14.2% of India's population but account for 5% of students in higher education as per All India Survey on Higher education 2017-18.
 - Their representation in administrative and police services remains low.
- **Persons with disabilities (PwD)** face issues of accessibility of infrastructure and public transport. This hinders their right to secure education and livelihood opportunities.
 - Data from the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People show that 84% of seats for persons with disabilities lie vacant in top universities.
- **Transgenders** face barriers to healthcare facilities. Medical professionals lack transgender health care competency. They do not have access to quality education, employment, family and social ties which further isolates them from the mainstream development.

- **Senior citizens** have to face social isolation, poverty and distress due to neglect by families, digital illiteracy, lack of healthcare and insurance facilities.

Above analysis shows that despite several years of liberalization and economic progress, achieving equal access to resources and opportunities and the state of inclusive development remains an unaccomplished goal.

Hence, it can be said that lack of resources accentuates and reinforces the socio-economic disparities faced by marginalized communities in India.

Conclusion

Hence, we need to promote policies which can lead to multidimensional progress on the socio-economic fronts. This could be used as an effective tool to counter the social malaise of discrimination. The goal of 'Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas' can only be realized when the marginalized and the vulnerable are empowered to fulfill their true potential.

Question

Examine the advantages of Ayushman Bharat over its predecessors, along with its major challenges. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Write about the status of healthcare sector in India and the need for effective insurance based model.
- Briefly explain the aims, objectives and advantages of Ayushman Bharat.
- Compare it with other insurance schemes.
- Mention the challenges faced in rolling out such a scheme.
- Conclude by writing the relevance of such a scheme and its impact on lives of people.

Introduction

Health insurance penetration in India is dismally low, covering only about 29% of households surveyed under the **NFHS-4**. One of the aims of **National Health Policy 2017** is to achieve universal access to good quality health care services without anyone having to face financial hardship as a consequence. Hence, Ayushman Bharat scheme is a much needed step in the right direction.

Body

Following are the components and objectives of Ayushman Bharat Mission:

- **Health and wellness centers:** Under this, 1.5 lakh centers will provide comprehensive health care, for non-communicable diseases and maternal and child health services. These centers will also provide free essential drugs and diagnostic services.
- **National Health Protection Scheme (PM Jan Arogya Yojana):** Scheme to provide insurance based coverage to poor and most vulnerable sections of society.

It will subsume the on-going centrally sponsored schemes – Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY) and the Senior Citizen Health Insurance Scheme (SCHIS). However, there are certain improvements over its predecessors:

- **Enhanced reach and coverage:** It benefits 10 crore families (40% of the population), going much beyond a total of 3.6 crore families under RSBY. Also, coverage under RSBY was Rs.30,000 annually for healthcare. Under NHPS, it is upto Rs.5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.

- **Private hospital's participation:** Private hospitals can also empanel themselves to the scheme. Pre-determined packages for treatment have been provided.
 - Cost of surgeries like C-section and knee replacement will be fixed which will get reimbursed to the hospital by the government.
- Priority is being given to **strengthening primary healthcare**. 70% of allocated funds are being spent on upgrading health and wellness centers to provide comprehensive accessible healthcare.
- **Simple product design** which is easy to administer. It is an entitlement based scheme where beneficiaries are enrolled automatically based on deprivation criteria in the SECC database. There is no cap on family size and age of the beneficiaries.
- Scheme is entirely **cashless** and **nationally portable**. Hence, it will have a major impact on the most vulnerable migrant population.

However, certain challenges remain in the implementation of such a scheme which covers almost 40% of the country's population.

Challenges

- **Financial constraints:** Overall budget outlay for the scheme was Rs 2000 crore for 2018-19 which questions its feasibility. There needs to be a balance between the interests of the patient, the insurer and the hospital as well for the model to sustain. Hence, the prices of packages need to be rationalized accordingly.
- Though it improved access to health care, it may not reduce **out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE)** or health payment-induced poverty.
- **Infrastructural issues:** Hospital infrastructure, which includes beds and emergency care services, still remain defunct in most of the cities.
- **Human resource management:** Equipping the centers with trained health personnel and retaining talented human resources in rural and remote areas still needs to be done.
- Prevention of unethical medical practices and frauds while availing insurance facility still persist.

Past experience of RSBY shows that India lacks the institutional expertise and capacity to implement public health insurance schemes effectively at such a scale.

Conclusion

Ayushman Bharat is the largest government-funded healthcare scheme in the world. Even though there are challenges in the implementation of the scheme at such a large scale, yet it has a potential to change the lives of millions if properly implemented.

Question

What steps can be taken to make the present day education system more inclusive? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly explain the challenges faced by the present day education system that make it less inclusive.
- List the steps already taken in this direction and their limitations.
- Explain the steps that can be taken to make the system more inclusive.
- Conclude by stating the significance of having a more inclusive education system.

Introduction

- A more inclusive education system can provide better opportunities to all the citizens where everyone can contribute to the nation's growth, innovation, and progress.
- Prejudice and bias, based on gender, social and economic status, and special needs, among other factors, affect India's capacity to benefit from the present education system.

Body

Some of the causes for exclusion in the present education system are-

- Lack of access to schools, especially quality schools.
- Poverty, which plays a major role in both exclusion and discrimination.
- Lack of quality infrastructure, functional and secure toilets, and safe drinking water in schools in poorer areas.
- Social biases contributing to discriminatory practices.
 - For example, many communities believe that girls need not go through formal schooling.
 - Differential classroom seating based on caste, or only girls doing domestic chores in school.
- Exclusionary school curricula.
 - For some communities, curricula do not integrate what is familiar, valuable, or relatable to them, like using language and examples from culture more familiar to students from tribal communities.
- Exclusionary pedagogy exhibits a biased picture of life where the view of the powerful prevails
 - For example, the earning member of a family is almost always male in our textbooks; names of children in stories might not reflect all communities; there are almost no references to people that are differently-abled.

Steps that should be taken to make the education system more inclusive

- **Special Education Zones (SEZs):** As suggested in the draft National Education Policy, 2019, certain regions of the country with large populations from under represented groups should be declared Special Education Zones (SEZs).
 - All the schemes and policies, in these zones, should be implemented to the maximum through additional concerted efforts and funding from the Centre and States in order to truly change the educational landscape of these Zones.
- **Women:** The policies and schemes designed to uplift students from under represented communities should be especially targeted towards the girls as they form half of the excluded population from the mainstream education system.
 - Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samridhi Scheme, Kanyashree Prakalpa scheme of West Bengal are some of the steps taken in this direction. More policies can be framed on these lines.
- **Disabled:** As recommended by the Kothari Commission, disabled children need special education which will ensure equalization of educational opportunity. 78% of Indian population lives in rural areas without provision for special schools.
 - Teachers and students in mainstream schools should be sensitized and school infrastructure should be more inclusive towards the disabled students.
- **Children from tribal communities** often report finding their school education irrelevant and foreign to their lives, both culturally and academically.
 - **Corresponding changes should be introduced in the school curriculum** any biases in school curriculum should be removed, and more material should be included that is relevant and relatable to all communities, and which develops these human values.

- **Change in school culture:** All participants in the school education system, including teachers, principals, administrators, social workers, counsellors, and students, will need to be sensitised to the requirements of all students, the notions of inclusion and equity, and the respect and dignity of all persons.
- **Transgenders:** There is a need to address matters related to the education of transgender children and initiating appropriate measures to remove the stigma and discrimination they face in their life, including with respect to education.
- **Urban Poor:** The lack of literacy and proper schooling and playing opportunities, often leads children and adolescents turn to unfortunate and harmful activities, including petty crime and drugs; an estimated one third of street children are dealing with substance abuse.
 - The neighbourhood school concept under the Right to Education Act that relates to availability of a school within safe and accessible distance from the habitation where a child lives, is a progressive step.
 - Substance abuse, poverty, health issues, stigma and discrimination faced by these students due to their background should be taken into account by the education system.
- **More teachers, community counselors, translators should be encouraged** from underrepresented communities to enable a more understanding education environment in the country. Along with this, research should be encouraged in the areas of curriculum design and pedagogical methods.

Conclusion

- Steps already taken by the Government towards an inclusive education system such as targeted scholarships, conditional cash transfers to incentivise parents to send their children to school, providing bicycles for transport must be renewed and significantly strengthened for under represented communities across the country.
- Inclusion is not an experiment to be tested but a value to be followed. All the children have the right to education as they are the future citizens of the country.

Day - 32

GS - II

**Welfare
Policies**

11th July 2019

Question

Indian welfare policy making scheme is more focused towards social protection rather than towards capacity building. Comment. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Write in brief about welfare centric approach in India.
- Differentiate between the two approaches.
- Write about India's focus towards social protection.
- List drawbacks or loopholes in this approach.
- Write about capacity building approach.
- Conclude

Introduction

The Preamble and the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) of our Constitution establish a welfare state not only in principle but also through economic planning, thus securing to the Indian citizens justice—social, economic and political.

Body

- In general, there are two approaches for welfare policies, viz. capacity building and social protection.
 - The capacity building approach accepts that people's abilities are affected by external factors coming from interaction with other people, social arrangements, access to infrastructure and public services, opportunities to participate, etc.
 - Social protection approach means a set of public programs designed to mitigate or cope with the adverse effects of risks to income security and physical well-being.
- India has focused disproportionately on social protection in the last two decades, expanding existing social protection programs and creating new ones. Schemes like National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Ayushman Bharat saw higher public expenditures over the last decade.
- By contrast, the instruments of capacity building, such as primary education, public health, and water and sanitation, have languished.
- Probable reasons for India adopting this approach are:
 - Stronger electoral competition favors highly visible social protection programs. In comparison, improving public services is a long, arduous, and less visible task that might go unnoticed by the electorate.
 - Uneven economic growth led to renewed interest in redistribution, provided further justification for stronger social protection.
 - The scope of capability approach is quite vast, as it includes many factors like social and political processes, gender, inequality, discrimination of all types, social exclusion, disability, environmental conditions, personal and psychological factors, etc. With limited state capacity it becomes difficult to adopt a multidimensional approach of welfare.
- Having said this, there are many drawbacks with the social protection approach of welfare schemes:
 - Most of these initiatives depend on either land records or database based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), which are often patchy or outdated.
 - There are issues like discrepancies in the set of data, under-counting of the poorest, vested interest overstating the extent of their deprivation, tensions between those who are excluded, politicians may abuse these programs by converting them into instruments of patronage, end-up being elite captured, Gender disparity, etc.
- While, the capability approach is more fundamental and comprehensive in nature as it shifts the focus from the means (resources) to the ends (human well-being), by putting the people in the center. Anti-poverty programs must not focus on reduction of income poverty alone. Enhancement of human capabilities must also go hand in hand with the economic growth for it to be sustainable.

Conclusion

- India's approach is remarkable because in lower income countries, public services generally claim a much larger part of state resources than social protection does. It is only after universal provision of basic public services such as primary education, public health, drinking water and sanitation that most other countries embarked on an ambitious expansion of the welfare state.
- The state's role as a capacity builder as well as provider of social protection is both complementary. They must go together.

Question

While the PMFBY has improved upon its predecessors, it is yet to overcome its challenges. Examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Examine the reasons for which PMFBY was launched.
- Examine its advantages over previous crop insurance schemes
- Highlight its shortcomings and challenges in meeting its aims along with a way forward

Introduction

- In recent years, indebtedness, crop failures, non-remunerative prices and poor returns have led to agrarian distress, pushing many farmers to despair; about 39 percent of the cases of farmer suicides in 2015 were attributed to bankruptcy and indebtedness.
- To address agricultural distress and protect farmers from such vagaries the government launched **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)** as crop insurance scheme, replacing the previous **National Agricultural Insurance Scheme**.
- Under the scheme a uniform premium of 2% needs to be paid by farmers for Kharif crops, and 1.5% for Rabi crops. For commercial and horticultural crops premium is 5%.

Body

PMFBY has more farmer-friendly provisions than its predecessors due to the following reasons:

- It had **simplified provisions and reduced premium** for farmers which resulted in both **increased awareness** among farmers and increase in coverage of area and crops.
- The farmers premium has been reduced for all food and oilseeds crops and kept at a maximum of 1.5% for Rabi, 2% for Kharif and 5% for annual horticultural/commercial crops. The scheme is mandatory for farmers who have taken institutional loans from banks.
- It **promoted use of advanced technologies** to estimate losses accurately and accelerate payments to farmers.
- Due to capping of premium under erstwhile schemes, the sum insured was consequently reduced, as a result of which the farmers were denied the expected benefits and complete compensation for their crop loss.
 - However, under PMFBY, in order to provide **maximum risk coverage** to farmers, sum insured has been equated to Scale of Finance (SOF). As a result the farmers now get timely settlement of claims for entire sum insured, without any deduction and are being compensated for entire crop loss.

However, despite its superior performance, PMFBY suffers from the following:

- **Inadequate and delayed claim payment:** Insurance companies, in many cases, did not investigate losses due to a localised calamity and, therefore, did not pay claims.
- **Inadequate crop coverage:** Only main crops, like kharif and rabi, were brought under insurance scheme, leaving many crops out, promoting monoculture.
- **Coverage only for loanee farmers:** PMFBY remains a scheme for loanee farmers. Like previous crop insurance schemes, PMFBY fails to cover sharecropper and tenant farmers.
- **Poor capacity to deliver:** There has been no concerted effort by the state government and insurance companies to build awareness of farmers on PMFBY. Insurance companies have failed to set-up infrastructure for proper implementation of PMFBY.
- **Failure in climate vulnerable regions:** For farmers in vulnerable regions such as Bundelkhand and Marathwada, factors like low indemnity levels, low threshold yields, low sum insured and default on loans make PMFBY a poor scheme to safeguard against extreme weather events.
- **No grievance redressal mechanism** for farmers.

Way Forward

To ensure that benefits of PMFBY reach its claimants, following recommendations need to be implemented:

- Coverage of tenant and sharecropper farmers should increase.
- All important crops should be covered under crop insurance. Diversification of crops and mixed farming should be promoted.
- Damage caused by wild animals, fire, cold waves and frost to crops should also be considered at the individual level. Damage caused by unforeseen weather events like hailstorms should also be included in the category of post-harvest losses.
- PMFBY timelines from insurance coverage to claim payment should be strictly adhered to.
- Robust assessment of crop loss should be done through capacity building of state governments, involvement of PRIs and farmers in loss assessment, auditing and multi-level checking to ensure credibility of data and testing incorporating technology such as remote sensing, drones and online transmission of data.
- All PMFBY related data related to farmers must be available in the public domain and shared openly with farmers.
- Robust scheme monitoring and grievance redressal mechanism should be in place.

With these recommendations in place PMFBY can be a revolutionary scheme that would minimise agricultural risks related to weather and market, enable farmers to better invest his capital and may prove an important step in releasing governments' goal of doubling farmers' income by 2022

Question

The systemic flaw in India's welfare schemes is last mile delivery rather than the design of the schemes. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce by giving constitutional obligation to provide welfare support to the vulnerable people.
- Explain why implementation of schemes poses challenges in India.
- Mention if there are some issues at design level as well.
- Suggest ways to improve last mile delivery.

Introduction

The Directive Principles of State Policy puts certain obligations on the state to provide social welfare schemes for the vulnerable sections of the society. Such schemes are conceptualized at ministerial level and implemented at grassroot level.

Body

However, Indian government has often been criticized for inadequate implementation and last mile delivery of such schemes.

Implementation is hindered by factors like

- **Inefficiency of executives:** Reason of inefficiency can be attributed to improper monitoring, lack of accountability, corruption and misalignment of incentives. According to CAG Report 2013, MNREGA scheme failed in Bihar and Karnataka due to **misappropriation and subversion of funds**.
- **Political pressure** on executives which hinders their functioning.

- Excessive **workload on grassroots workers**. Anganwadi workers are expected to support schemes like ICDS, Beti Bachao Bati Padhao, etc. Despite this they face operational difficulties like improper service conditions, untimely payments, denial of EPFOs benefits, etc.
- Improper **work culture** and **unethical conduct of civil servants**.
- **Infrastructural issues**: Lack of adequate facilities across sectors like health, education, transport, etc further deteriorates the chances of success of welfare schemes.
- It can be said that there are several factors that hinders last mile delivery of welfare schemes in India. However, sometimes there are flaws in policy design stage as well.

Design flaws

- **Political bias in schemes**: Certain schemes are announced considering the political gains and not overall national interest. For ex: farm loan waivers across states were criticized by bankers as such practices are not good for the country's credit culture.
- **Beneficiary identification**: Use of SECC 2011 data which does not truly reflect the ground reality. Sometimes, those in need are left out.

Hence, the design flaws in the welfare schemes cannot be neglected. Both implementation and design of schemes are equally relevant.

Way forward

- The policies are made in ministries but implemented at state, district and village level. Hence, there is a need to strengthen grassroots governance. Also, proper feedback should be channelized to the policy makers to modify the systemic flaws.
- There are examples of successful implementation of schemes when the overall goal is collectively shared among the citizens. Government adequately tackled several diseases such as polio, malaria and HIV when the target was well publicized and clear.
- Apart from participation of citizens, the need of the hour is to **simplify procedures, incentivize performance, reduce red-tape and make the best use of technology** to achieve the desired goals. The efforts of the present government on the principle of "**Reform, Perform, Transform**" seems to be in the right direction.

Day - 33

GS - II

**International
Relations**

12th July 2019

Question

Contemporary geopolitics presses the need for strategic convergence between India and the US, but it should not come at the expense of neglect of Russia by India. Comment. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give historical aspect about India's relations with US and Russia.
- Explain how contemporary geopolitics is pushing India towards US.
- Mention some contentious issues between India and the US.
- Explain importance of Russia for India's strategic interests.
- Conclude by suggesting India's future course of action.

Introduction

The **Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation, 1971** marked India's inclination towards Soviet Russia during the cold war era. On the other hand, India US relations were marked with distrust and estrangement over India's nuclear program in the 1970s. However, Indo-US relations have warmed in recent years and cooperation has strengthened across a range of economic and political areas.

Body

Contemporary geopolitics forces India and US to come closer. This can be attributed to the following reasons:

- **Rise of revisionist China:** US considers India to be a chief security provider to counter the rise of China in the Indo-Pacific. Chinese adventurism in South China Sea gave momentum to the formation of the Quadrilateral grouping between India, USA, Japan and Australia.
- **Terrorism:** US President Donald Trump's policies are aligned with India's strong campaign against global terrorism. Designating Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar as global terrorist by UNSC signifies a new level of diplomatic cooperation between India and the USA.
- **Defence cooperation:**
 - Aggregate worth of defence acquisition from US has crossed over \$13bn.
 - Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) for co-production and co-development of weapon systems and platforms.
 - New defence agreements like Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), etc.

Hence, cooperation -with the US is in India's strategic interests. However, there are certain contentious issues between India and the US, which forces India to look beyond US. For example:

- US law **CAATSA** which imposes sanctions on India for buying **S-400 Triumf anti-missile system** which is critical for India's defence. India's Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Russia in March 2019 to lease another of its **Akula-Class attack nuclear submarine (SSN)** drew heavy criticism from the USA.
- **US protectionist trade policies** like ending **Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)** scheme for India has affected Indian exports to the USA. India-US conflict at WTO platform is another case in point.
- **Energy Security:** US sanctions on Iran which led India to stop oil imports from Iran threatening India's energy security and economic stability.

Hence, US leadership's unpredictable foreign policies forces India to reach out to its oldest ally Russia. Russia's importance for India can be understood from the following heads:

- Russia's support is very critical for the success of the **International North-South Corridor** and India's access to **Central Asia**.
- Russia led **Afghanistan** peace process is crucial for India since Afghanistan's geopolitics is linked with stability of the region.
- Russia has been India's oldest military ally and exporter of **defence** equipment. Russia's support is critical for the maintenance and upgradation of Indian military equipment.
- India can gain from Russia's coordination in the fields of critical **technology** like artificial intelligence, robotics, biotechnology, nanotechnology, outer space, energy sector, etc.

Also, it can be said that Russia's closeness with China and Pakistan is tactical, mainly induced due to western sanctions, whereas Russia-India partnership is strategic. Russia has always seen India as a balancer against China, this is reflected in India's inclusion into SCO, facilitated by Russia.

Conclusion

Therefore, Indian diplomats need to maintain a fine balance between USA and Russia and work for India's national interests without undermining its strategic autonomy. In the words of Henry Kissinger "In international politics, there are no permanent friends or enemies, only permanent interests."

Question

Analyse how SCO as a regional organisation presents both challenges and opportunity for India. Also, discuss the measures that India must take for strategic balancing with respect to SCO. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain the formation of SCO and its mandate.
- Mention the opportunities and challenges it presents for India.
- Explain the measures that India must take for strategic balancing with respect to SCO.
- Conclude by suggesting India's future approach towards SCO.

Introduction

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), or Shanghai Pact is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance. Its member countries include China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan. It is considered as a major regional organization connecting South Asian and Central Asian countries. SCO's latest summit was held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in June 2019.

Body

India joined SCO in June 2017. However, India's SCO membership poses certain challenges as well as opportunities for India.

Challenges

India has conflicting interests with other SCO members in the following terms:

- **Strategic balancing between USA and SCO:** India's inclination towards USA restricts it from openly criticizing the US trade war policies against China which rest of the SCO members strongly condemn.
- **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI):** Central Asian countries support **Gwadar Port and China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** as a potential passage for the landlocked states of Central Asia. However, India opposes BRI on grounds of sovereignty as CPEC passes through PoK.
- Other SCO members view **terrorism** from the angle of improving the situation in Afghanistan and not necessarily of curbing the terrorist elements emanating from Pakistan.
- Also through BRI and SCO, China will be successful in uniting Eurasia to challenge a united Europe. This scenario will prompt **China and Russia** to enter into a new era of **global strategic partnership**. This might not be in India's strategic interest.

Opportunities

- **Multilateral cooperation:** It provides opportunity to make the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure** more effective, and participate in efforts to bring **stability in Afghanistan**.
 - Central Asian countries back India's proposal for a **Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism**.

- **Connectivity:** SCO is a potential platform to **advance India's Connect Central Asia policy.**
- Huge potential to **improve economic, political and strategic ties:** India's bilateral trade with Central Asia stands at about \$2 billion only. There is huge potential to work in areas of hydrocarbon exploration and production.
- Also, the SCO is relevant for India to garner **support for UNSC reforms.**
- **China:** It provides a platform to counterbalance China's present dominance in the Central Asian region. Also, bilateral dialogues can help in averting Doklam like situations in the future.
- **Russia:** SCO further provides an opportunity for developing economic cooperation and to explore Russia's Far East region. Also, it can further boost Indo-Russian military partnership.
- **Pakistan:** Opportunity to diplomatically isolate Pakistan in the region. Pakistan can be pressurized against its illegitimate moves like banning its airspace for India and not allowing its territory for trade with Afghanistan. Due to such challenges, India has to take certain measures for strategic balancing with respect to SCO:
- India should use this platform for diplomatic gains against Pakistan and China with Russia's support by extending its influence in Central Asia and Afghanistan.
- India should use SCO to accelerate progress on the regional connectivity projects like:
 - International North-South Transport Corridor
 - Chabahar Port
 - Ashgabat Agreement

India can use its cultural ties with Central Asian countries to enhance people-to-people contact and further boost bilateral relations.

Conclusion

With subtle diplomacy and resolute action, India can counter the limitations and turn the membership into an opportunity. In this sense SCO provides another avenue for extending India's influence in its 'extended neighbourhood'.

Question

In shedding "hesitations of history", India's foreign policy seems to be moving away from "non-alignment." Comment. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly describe policy of Non alignment and its context.
- Talk about the historical stand India has taken over the years.
- Mention what led to the recent shift in the policy.
- Give examples highlighting recent shift having broad contours.
- Conclude by giving India's balanced approach.

Introduction

Non Alignment—its context

- The term Non alignment was coined by V.K. Menon in 1953 and was popularized by Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Policy of Non-alignment had its genesis in the backdrop of the Cold war, where the U.S. and USSR signified 2 power blocs of the era.
- India's Non alignment was about not joining any of the bloc and taking a balanced approach. It was to enable the domestic transformation of India from a poor and backward society and steer it away from any major global crisis.

Body

The term 'hesitancy of history' was used by ex-US president Barack Obama in 2015 when India moved towards US overlooking its traditional partner Russia.

- India has always had closer ties with USSR sharing a time tested friendship.
- Principles of social justice, equality and human dignity were borrowed from socialist model of USSR. Early nationalist leaders related more to soviet ideology.
- India also shared close diplomatic strategic and trade ties with the USSR.
- Treaty of friendship with the USSR in 1971, the country's largest arms supplier.
- However scenario has significantly changed since the disintegration of the USSR in 1991 and the emergence of multiple power dynamics.
- Economic needs of the fast developing India had to be supported by the opening of its economy and getting more foreign assistance.
- World that emerged post soviet era saw the rise of the US as both an economic and strategic power. It was difficult to pursue India's growth trajectory without engaging with US.
- India signed a nuclear deal with the US in 2008.
- India today is a signatory to 3 of 4 US foundational agreements that it signs with its strategic defence partners that is LEMOA, COMACASA and GSOMIA.
- US recently changed the name of its Pacific command to Indo-Pacific command.
- Globalization, growing interdependence, and the emergence of transnational challenges have pushed India to engage with multiple global partners.
- Emergence of economic powerhouse in form of China has also posed a new challenge in front of India.
- Departure of stance not only limited to US.
- India today has vibrant relations with Israel which were earlier marred with Palestinian considerations.
- India's traditional stance has always been of recognition of Arab rights of Palestine and limited relations with Israel.
- India is a member of QUAD which partners Japan, US, Australia and India. It looks to further Indian interest in pacific region creating a major power bloc in the region.
- India is also a member of major groupings such as BRICS, ASEAN and BIMSTEC etc. emphasizing Indian engagement in multiple global fronts.

Conclusion

- It would not be right to call it a departure from india's policy of Non alignment.
 - Indo-US trade dispute in the WTO, India's largest arms deal with Russia (S-400) despite of US's reservations, special window given by the US to Indian purchase of oil from Iran.
- Indian considerations in foreign relations are driven by their own strategic autonomy.
- Indian foreign policy is evolving to encompass the growing needs of its national security and prosperity.
- However Non alignment being India's own brainchild, it is unlikely that it will not be a part of India's near future foreign policy.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

- A. No longer just a balancer, India asserts itself as a major power in its own right.
- B. The most dangerous idea is silencing people.
- C. Gender equality is fundamentally a question of power.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

Question

What are the functions of Lokpal? How is it different from previously instituted anti-corruption bodies in India? (250 words)

Approach

- Give a brief background about Lokpal and its functions.
- Mention briefly about previously instituted anti corruption bodies in India.
- Explain how Lokpal's functioning is different from other anti corruption bodies.
- Conclude by giving the significant impact, that Lokpal as an institution can bring in the governance system.

Introduction

The government passed the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 after the massive upsurge in form the India Against Corruption movement. Earlier, several committees and commissions like the First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966), Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution headed by M.N. Venkatachaliah (2002), etc. recommended for the need of independent authorities to look into complaints against public functionaries.

Body

- The **Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013** provided for the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for the States. However, there already exist several institutional bodies to tackle the menace of corruption like the CBI, CVC, ED etc.
- The existing anti corruption system suffers from several deficiencies in India. Most of these bodies suffer from **lack of transparency and independence in their working**. Hence, to make governance more accountable, institution of Lokpal was appointed. It has a much wider scope and powers as compared to other existing anti-corruption bodies.

Some of the **key differences** pertain to:

- **Organizational structure:**
 - Lokpal is a multi-member body, with chairman as Chief Justice of India or the former judge of the Supreme Court or an eminent person. Other members include judicial members and members from SC/ ST/ OBC/ minorities and women.
 - However, no such restrictions are there in the eligibility of members in other anti corruption bodies like CBI, CVC. They are in fact dominated by senior IPS officers and other bureaucrats from within the government.
- **Wider jurisdiction:**
 - Jurisdiction of Lokpal includes Prime Minister (except on allegations of corruption relating to international relations, security, public order, atomic energy and space), Ministers, members of Parliament, Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of Central Government.
 - Lokpal uses CBI for investigation and has the powers of superintendence over, and to give direction to CBI. If Lokpal has referred a case to CBI, the investigating officer in such a case cannot be transferred without the approval of Lokpal.

➤ **Wider powers:**

- The Inquiry Wing of the Lokpal has been vested with the powers of a civil court.
- However, no such powers are given to CBI or the CVC. They work as investigating agencies.
- Also, CBI has divisions like the Special Crimes division and Central Forensic division which investigate cases related to criminal jurisprudence. Lokpal's jurisdiction is limited to anti-corruption cases only.

Conclusion

Thus, Lokpal has been given much wider powers and therefore much greater responsibility to weed out the malaise of corruption from Indian bureaucracy. The need of the hour is an empowered and independent ombudsman who may live up to the popular expectations.

Question

Speaker is regarded as the true guardian of the traditions of parliamentary democracy. Explain. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce by giving the essence of parliamentary democracy and the need for an impartial speaker.
- Explain the constitutional status of the office of speaker and its functions.
- Analyze the performance of Speaker with regard to the principles of Indian democracy.
- Give some suggestions to improve the situation in the way forward.

Introduction

While the members of Parliament represent the individual constituencies, the Speaker represents the full authority of the House itself. He/she symbolises the dignity and power of the house over which he/she is presiding.

Body

Position of Speaker

- The unique position is illustrated by the fact that he/she is placed very high in the Warrant of Precedence in our country.
- The Constitution of India provides that the Speaker's salary and allowances are not to be voted by Parliament and are to be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Speaker of Lok Sabha has been provided with wide powers derived from the Constitutional provisions, the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha and through the practices and conventions.
- Some of these are:
 - Speaker decides the agenda of the house and permits the passage of various parliamentary procedures like the motion of adjournment, the motion of no confidence, the motion of censure, etc.
 - Power to disqualify legislators under Tenth Schedule.
 - Speaker decides whether a bill is a money bill or not and her decision is final in this regard.
 - The Speaker presides over the joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.
 - She appoints the Chairman of all the parliamentary committees of the Lok Sabha and supervises their functioning. She herself is the Chairman of the Business Advisory Committee, the Rules Committee and the General Purpose Committee.

Therefore, it is expected that the holder of this office of high dignity has to be one who can represent the House in all its manifestations.

However, there are several instances when Speaker's role is criticized

- Misuse of **Anti Defection Law**: For e.g. In 2011, Supreme Court quashed the disqualification of few MLAs by Karnataka Legislative Assembly Speaker Mr. K.G. Bopaiah, criticizing that his decision did not meet the twin tests of natural justice and fair play.
- **Discretionary power**: Her power to declare bills as money bills is often criticized.
 - **Referring bills to Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DSRCs)**: Speaker uses her discretionary power to pass many important bills without proper discussion and references to DSRCs.
- **Appointment and tenure**: The speaker in India does not follow the practice of resigning from her political party which raises concerns of biases in her decision making.

Despite criticism, there were numerous examples of exemplary behavior by Speakers of different assemblies. The impartial role played by the Speaker of Karnataka in the current political crisis is a case in point. Hence, the Speaker needs to be politically unbiased and should abide by the constitution.

Conclusion

- The office of the Speaker in India is a living and dynamic institution which deals with the actual needs and problems of Parliament in the performance of its functions. In the words of Pt. Nehru "The Speaker represents the dignity of the House, the freedom of the House and because the House represents the nation, in a particular way, the Speaker becomes a symbol of nation's freedom and liberty."

Question

What are the constitutional safeguards to ensure the independence and impartiality of the Election Commission of India? What are the limitations to the functioning of Election Commission of India? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain significance of ECI in Indian democracy.
- Mention the constitutional provisions to ensure proper functioning of ECI.
- Explain the limitations in its working with examples.
- Conclude by giving certain recommendations to improve its working.

Introduction

The Election Commission of India is entrusted to conduct free and fair elections in India which are foundational for the democracy to sustain. Hence, the constituent assembly envisaged an autonomous institution under Article 324 of Indian constitution.

Body

- The Election Commission of India has the power to conduct the general elections of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and the offices of President and Vice President.
- Articles 324 to 329 of the constitution deal with the powers, functions, tenure, eligibility, etc of the commission and its members.

Constitutional safeguards to ensure its independence and impartiality

- The Chief Election Commissioner is provided with the security of tenure. He cannot be removed from his office except in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.

- **Service conditions** of the Chief Election Commissioner cannot be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.
- Any other election commissioner or a regional commissioner cannot be removed from office except on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Also, the Supreme Court in **Mohinder Singh Gill & Anr. v/s Chief Election Commissioner and Others 1977**, held that the powers of Election Commission are plenary powers with respect to the conduct of elections. The constituent assembly has left the scope for expansive residuary powers to deal with infinite varieties of situations emerging from time to time.

Though the constitution has sought to safeguard and ensure the independence and impartiality of the Election Commission, some **flaws in the structure of Election Commission** can be noted, such as:

- The Constitution has not prescribed the qualifications (legal, educational, administrative or judicial) for the members of the Election Commission.
- The term of the members of the Election Commission is not specified.
- Election Commissioners are not debarred from further appointment in government offices post retirement.

Some other **limitations** in its functioning include:

- **Lack of transparency** in the selection of Election Commissioners. No fixed criterion for promotion to Chief Election Commissioner from the post of Election Commissioner.
- Under Section 29A of RPA, Election Commission has the power to register but does not have the **power to de-register political parties** even for gravest violations.
- **Politicization of institution:** Events in the recent Lok Sabha elections raised questions on the credibility of the Election Commission. For e.g.
 - 22 Lakh voters were de-enfranchised and their names were missing in electoral rolls in Telangana Assembly.
 - Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa's recusal from attending the meetings of violation of Model Code of Conduct.
 - Failure to cut violence in West Bengal and alleged mishandling of the EVMs.

Suggestions

- There is a need for **constitutional protection for all three** of its members as opposed to just one at present. The two Election Commissioners can be removed by the government on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.
- There is a need for **financial autonomy** from the Law Ministry. Like the CAG and UPSC, the ECI wants its budget to be 'charged' to the Consolidated Fund as opposed to the current practice of being voted and approved by Parliament.
- **Law Commission** of India in its **255th report** suggested the **appointment of Election Commissioners by a collegium** consisting of Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India and Leader of the Opposition.

Conclusion

The Election Commission has been seen as a gold standard, a formidable institution which has led the largest democracy in elections. Its impartial functioning is critical not for the benefit of Indians but as a source of inspiration and a ray of hope for many fledgling democracies in other developing countries as well.

Question

Governance involves opening up of the arena of 'government' to multiple actors, mobilizing the collective efforts of government, private sector and the community. Discuss **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce by explaining the need for collective efforts of government and civil society.
- Mention about the role of other stakeholders in good governance.
- Conclude by mentioning the benefits of citizen-centric governance with examples.

Introduction

According to the Kautilya's Arthashastra, good governance comes with peace and order, which can be achieved through the collaboration of different actors in a community. Thus, good governance involves collective efforts of the government, the civil society groups and the private sector as well. It is therefore a form of governance that goes beyond government.

Body

Government is only one of the actors in governance. There cannot be over reliance on government for effective governance.

Issues involved in over-reliance on the government are

- Increase in government expenditure.
- Long delays in completion of certain projects leading to cost and time overruns.
- Dissatisfaction amongst the citizens if there is no effective grievance redressal mechanism.
- Possibility of social malpractices like corruption and abuse of power.

Governance involves citizens as active participants. Hence, to make governance more effective, participation of other organizations like **NGOs, private companies, Self Help Groups, Resident Welfare Associations** in urban areas, etc is also important.

As mentioned in the **2nd ARC report**, benefits of '**citizen centric governance**' include:

- It enables citizens to demand accountability.
- Makes government programmes and services more effective and sustainable.
- Enables the poor and marginalized to influence public policy and service delivery.
- Promotes vibrant grassroot democracy.
- Promotes egalitarian society by giving opportunity to the citizens to participate in philanthropic programmes.

Also, participation of citizens becomes advantageous not only to the citizens but to the government officials as well as it facilitates their work, receiving concrete inputs from the grassroot level. Hence, mechanisms like social audits should be promoted which represent a bottom-up approach where citizens are critical agents of change.

Few **examples of collective participation** are

- **Polio eradication programme:** Implemented at all levels by both public agencies and private clinics and hospitals in urban and rural areas and, at many places with direct citizen's involvement.
- Involving **private sector** using Corporate Sector Responsibility (**CSR**) initiatives to drive change in society.
 - The '**Adopt a Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan**' scheme for development and maintenance of tourist amenities at heritage sites.
 - **P&G India's** education program **Shiksha - Live, Learn & Thrive**, for child education.

- **Kerala's Operation Sulaimani**, a decentralized participatory project to address hunger in urban areas involving private restaurants and citizens.
- IAS Prashant Nair's initiative '**Compassionate Kozhikode**' using social media platform to mobilize the private sector and the community.

Therefore, the aim of governance is to secure maximum good of the maximum number of people through not just government efforts, but also the efforts of private organizations and the community.

Conclusion

Governance thus aims at improving the administrative structure and processes by making them efficient, effective and responsive. It is a two-way collaborative process between the providers and the recipients of services. This collaborative approach can help achieve government's motto of maximum governance, minimum government.

Question

What do you understand by governance? What are the essential principles of governance? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Define governance in normative terms.
- Explain the essential principles of governance.
- Conclude by giving suggestions to improve the overall governance.

Introduction

UNDP (1997) describes governance as "the exercise of political, economic and administrative authority to manage a nation's affairs. It embraces all of the methods—good and bad—that societies use to distribute power and manage public resources and problems."

Body

Governance in simple terms is the process of decision-making and its implementation in collective problem situations. Governance emphasizes not just routine implementation of policies and programmes but making the entire process accountable, democratic, participative and responsive to people's needs.

UNESCAP provides for eight **major characteristics of good governance**:



- **Accountability:** Taking responsibility of the actions and decisions. Governance lays emphasis on making all the organs of government accountable for the performance of functions. An organization or an institution is accountable to those who will be affected by its decisions or actions.

- **Transparency:** Information shall be freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions and their enforcement.
- **Responsive:** It emphasizes on timely delivery of services to the citizens and an effective grievance redress mechanism.
- **Equitable and Inclusive:** Governance should focus on social well being of the most vulnerable section of the society.
- **Effectiveness and Efficiency:** Sustainable use of resources to meet the needs of society and to obtain the optimum results.
- **Rule of law:** It emphasizes on fair legal frameworks that are enforced impartially.
- **People's participation:** Participatory governance provides opportunities for citizens to take part in decision making, implementation and monitoring of government activities.
- **Consensus oriented:** Good governance requires mediation of the different interests in society to reach a broad consensus on the best interests of the whole community and ways to achieve it.

Conclusion

Thus to achieve good governance, we need to overcome the crucial deficiencies in the governance system including non-availability of information to the people, lack of accountability, poor management of the public sector, lack of appropriate legal framework, etc. only then the quality of governance can be improved and sustained.

Question

The idea of Gram Swaraj has not materialized in its essence. Critically examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give a brief about Gram Swaraj.
- Critically examine how it has not materialized in its essence

Introduction

- The idea of Gram Swaraj is that a functional territorial unit, as small as a village, is a complete republic, independent of its neighbours for its own vital wants, and yet interdependent for many others in which dependence is a necessity. Thus, every village's first concern will be to grow its own food crops and cotton for its cloth.
- It should have a reserve for its cattle, recreation and playground for adults and children. Then if there is more land available, it will grow useful money crops, thus excluding ganja, tobacco, opium and the like.
- The village will maintain a village theatre, school and public hall. It will have its own water works ensuring clean water supply.

Body

Gram Swaraj has not materialized in its essence:

- **Adoption of western model of industrialization:** Gandhi ji was conscious of the fact that complete focus on industrialization would destroy the Indian society by eliminating our decentralized rural industries. Gandhi ji found the only way of bringing hope of good living to the rural people is by making the village the central place in the economic programme. But India adopted top down planning through Planning Commission.
- **Gram Swaraj not on priority after independence:** Gandhi ji wanted to revitalize village panchayat, that would ensure direct democracy at the grassroots level. But in the constitution of independent India revitalisation of village panchayat is primarily a matter of State Policy and it was mentioned only in the Directive Principles of State Policy (Article 40) and came to the fore only in 1992.

- **Lack of power with local institution:** The basic principle of gram Swaraj as outlined by Gandhi ji are Trusteeship, Swadeshi, full employment, bread, labour, self-sufficiency, decentralisation, equality, Nai Talim etc. but true decentralization and inclusive development is still absent.
- **Khadi model of self-sufficiency:** Khadi idea meant decentralization of production and distribution of the necessities of life. Khadi has to play an important role in the village economy of India, which yet not achieved its full potential, even though cooperatives/ Self Help Groups have had some success towards this goal.

However Gram Swaraj has materialized in its essence in many ways:

- **Constitutional status to Panchayat:** The 73rd Amendment Act 1992, which came into effect on April 24, 1993, is a watershed in the decentralisation process. The most significant aspect of this amendment is that it bestowed constitutional sanction to institution of Gram Sabha. This body can be effectively used as a stepping stone for attainment of gram swaraj or local self governance visualized by Gandhi.
- **Renewed focus on Khadi Model:** Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), announced on 15th August, 2008, for creation of employment in both rural and urban areas of the country. Also SFURTI (Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries) was launched in 2005 with a view to promote cluster development.
- **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA):** It is for developing and strengthening the capacities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for rural local governance to become more responsive towards local development needs, preparing participatory plans that leverage technology, efficient and optimum utilization of available resources for realizing sustainable solutions to local problems.

Conclusion

- Gandhi ji believed that India will have to live in villages, not in towns, in huts, not in palaces. He held this conviction by saying that "If village perishes, India will perish too".
- The task before us is to strengthen and revitalize local institutions and gradually move forward towards the Gandhi's concept of Gram Swaraj.

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GS - II

Social Justice

17th July 2019

Question

Nationwide strike by doctors recently, over the issue of violence against doctors, somewhere reflects the deeper malaise of inadequacies in health care system. Comment. **(250 words)**

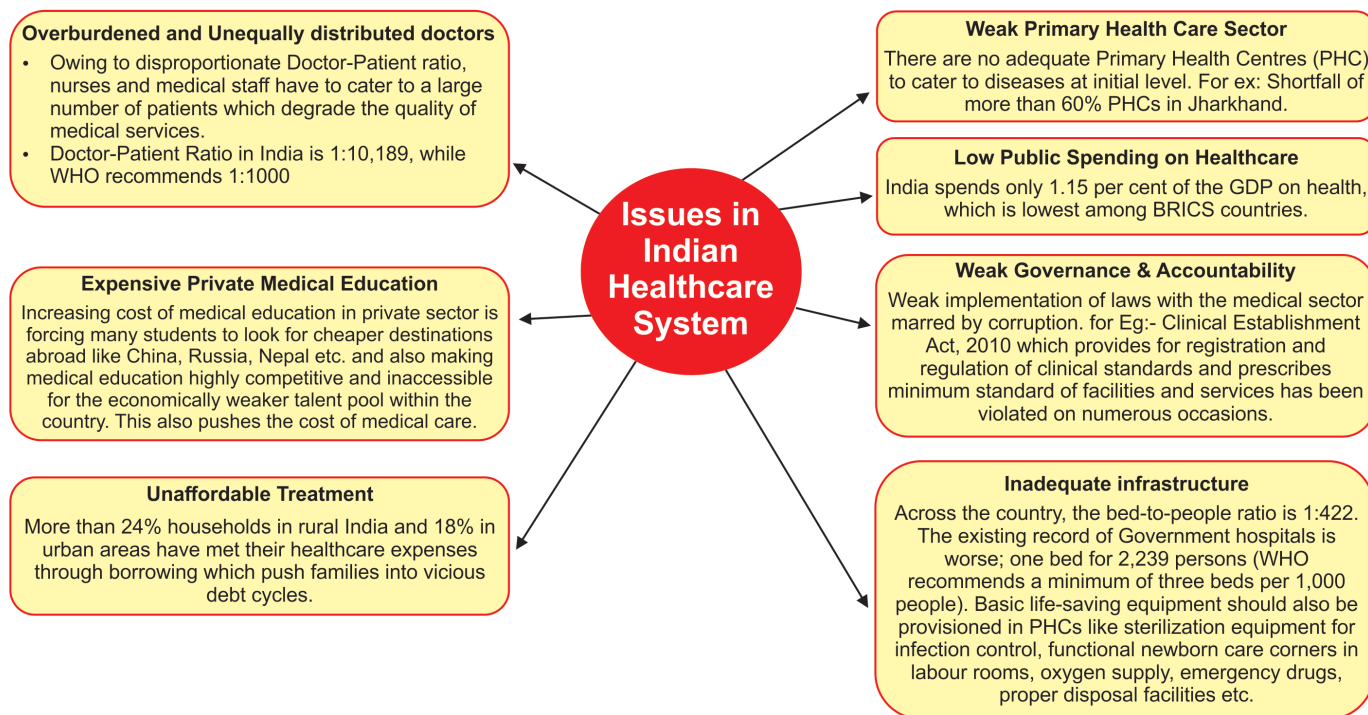
Approach

- Briefly mention some recent incidents.
- Mention challenges currently present in healthcare system
- Suggest remedial measures
- Include relevant data or survey report for value addition.
- Give a future course of action/ way forward.

Introduction

- The nationwide strike by doctors, which has been triggered by a brutal assault on a resident doctor in West Bengal, indicates the **systemic problems** in the healthcare sector.
- The **expensive and unaffordable treatment**, poor infrastructure, overburdened doctors and poor doctor patient ratio adversely affects **optimal attention** to patients which in turn creates trust deficit in doctor patient relationship and paves the way for violence against doctors.

Issues in Indian Healthcare Sector



Remedial Measures

- **Legal Framework:** Comprehensive legal framework with effective implementation mechanism is needed to deal with violence against healthcare personnel. For example: Medical Protection Act passed by West Bengal government fails to curb violence against healthcare personnel due to lax implementation.
- **Governance:** Creation of an All-India Public Health Services to strengthen the ailing medical sector.
- **Infrastructure and access:** The government needs to prioritize improving the essential infrastructure, lack of which results in casualties whose brunt is borne by healthcare staff and families of the patient. Moreover, the number of PHCs need to be increased to improve accessibility to basic healthcare for all. A provision in this regard has been made by Ayushman Bharat, under which 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres will be created.
- **Medical Education:** To achieve higher standards of medical education, we need to promote an equal distribution of resources, redesign curricula with stricter implementation and improved assessment methodologies, cut down cost and time on medical education; all of which will generate efficient medical graduates and paramedics which will consequently better health care delivery.
- **Use of Technology:** Artificial Intelligence will prove instrumental in enhancing accuracy in clinical insights, security, and could also be fundamental in reducing manual redundancy and ensuring fewer errors as we transition to a world of quality in care.
- **Universal Healthcare:** India came closer to universal healthcare through Ayushman Bharat scheme which provides 5 lakh healthcare insurance to 10 crore poor families, still a huge chunk of the population is left behind. The scheme needs to be universally applicable.
- **Improve the funding mechanism:** Fund flow should be regular and adequate. Projects should be clearly defined and target oriented so that funds can be matched to the results delivered. CSR and PPP can play an important role to improve funding.

Conclusion

To realize the goal of high standards of healthcare services it is imperative for government to increase the healthcare funding. National Health Policy, which commits to raise public expenditure on health to 2.5% of GDP, must pay as much attention to scaling up infrastructure and the capabilities of government hospitals.

Question

Education can play a central role in the transformation of India. Discuss in the context of Draft National Education Policy 2019. (250 words)

Approach

- Discuss the importance of education in India.
- Mention how the Draft National Education Policy is in line with this vision.
- Mention salient features of the policy and its significance.
- Conclude by few suggestions and explain how education can help in nation building.

Introduction

Education is one of the most powerful instruments for reducing poverty and inequality. It is also a key to enhance India's competitiveness in the global economy. Therefore, ensuring access to quality education for all is central to the social and economic development of India.

Body

Indian education system is currently suffering from several lacunae and the learning outcomes continue to decline. This is highlighted in several reports and surveys every year like the ASER (Annual Status of Education Report) survey, National Achievement Survey (NAS), etc. The Draft National Education Policy has been designed to overhaul this neglect in Indian education system.

The Committee chaired by **Dr. K. Kasturirangan** submitted the Draft National Education Policy which envisages India to become a knowledge superpower. It is based on the foundational pillars of access, equity, quality, affordability & accountability.

The draft policy focuses on the following aspects of education:

- **Pre-primary education:** It recommends that Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) for all children in the age group of 3-6 years be made an integral part of the Right to Education (RTE) Act.
 - It focuses on play and discovery-based learning and to ensure continuity in education from pre-primary to primary schools.
- **Reading and math skills:** It proposes redesigning of the school curriculum for Grades 1 to 5 to include dedicated mathematics and reading hours every day. It also proposes remedial classes for students who need help.
- **Higher education:** It aims to create world-class multidisciplinary higher education institutions across the country, based on a three-tier system:
 - Tier 1: Research institutions, Tier 2: Teaching institutions, Tier 3: Colleges which become autonomous degree-granting colleges.
 - It aims to increase GER (Gross enrolment ratio) in higher education to at least 50% by 2035.
 - It proposes opening up of National Research Foundation, which grants competitive funding for outstanding research proposals across all disciplines.
- **Curriculum and pedagogy:** The draft pitches for reconfiguration of curriculum and pedagogy with no hard separation of school content in terms of curricular, extracurricular, or co-curricular areas, and between arts and sciences.
- **Languages:** The draft recommends continuance of the three-language formula. But it has proposed flexibility in the choice of languages. Hindi and English are no longer the stipulated language that students must study from Grade 6.

Therefore, the policy advocates a reduction in curriculum load and reorientation of the curriculum to promote multilingualism, ancient Indian knowledge systems, scientific temper, ethical reasoning, social responsibility, digital literacy and knowledge of critical issues facing local communities.

Hence, it can be seen that the draft policy envisages a comprehensive and holistic view of education reforms - technical, legal, vocational, R&D innovation, teacher's education, etc.

Conclusion

- The provisions of draft policy are progressive ideas, but there would be roadblocks in their implementation. These mostly relate to funding requirements and governance architecture. The public funding in education needs to be gradually increased to at least 6% of the GDP.
- In the words of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam "Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge, knowledge makes you great." Thus, the vision of 'New India' can only be successful by investing in the young minds of the nation.

Question

Discuss the challenges related to higher education in India. Also suggest the corrective measures that need to be taken in this regard. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduction
- Challenges in higher education
- Corrective measures
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Higher education system plays an important role for the country's overall development which includes industrial, social, economic, scientific etc.
- Indian higher education system is the third largest in the world. The role of Indian higher educational institutes is to provide quality in the field of education, research etc. to empower youth for self sustainability.
- India's higher education Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) (calculated for the age group, 18-23 years) has increased from 11.5% in 2005-06 to 25.2% in 2016-17, but it is significantly less than the global average of 33%.

Challenges

- **Shortage of resources:** Bulk of the enrolment in higher education is handled by state universities and their affiliated colleges. However, these state universities receive very small amounts of grants in comparison
- **Unequal access:** There is a huge gulf between GER in the poor and the rich; enrolment of Muslims is lower compared to those of other religions at every level, both for males and females.
- **Lack of employable skills:** Only a small proportion of Indian graduates are considered employable. Placement outcome also drop significantly as we move away from the top institutes.
- Indian higher education **faces the problem of poor quality of curriculum.** In most of the higher educational institutes curriculum is out-dated and irrelevant.
- Apart from the highly recognized higher educational institutes in India most of the colleges and universities **lack in the basic and high-end research facilities.**
- Many institutes are running **without proper infrastructure and basic facilities** like library, hostels, transport, sports facility etc. which is desirable to rank the quality institution.
- There is no policy framework for participation of foreign universities in higher education.
- There is no overarching funding body to promote and encourage research and innovation.

Corrective measures

- There is a need to implement innovative and transformational approach from primary to higher education level to make Indian educational system globally more relevant and competitive.
- In higher educational institutes, industrial co-operation must be there for the development of curriculum, organizing expert lectures, internships, live projects, career counseling and placement.
- Higher educational institutes need to improve quality, reputation and establish credibility through student exchange, faculty exchange programs, and other collaborations with high- quality national and international higher educational institutes.
- Government must promote collaboration between Indian higher education institutes and top International institutes and also generates linkage between national research laboratories and research centers of top institutions for better quality and collaborative research.
- There is a need to focus on the graduate students by providing them such courses in which they can achieve excellence, gain deeper knowledge of subject so that they will get jobs after recruitment in the companies which would reduce unnecessary rush to higher education.
- Domain experts in their field should develop basic minimum standard in curriculum that will serve as a benchmark for institutions at the undergraduate and post-graduate levels.
- Post-secondary career options should be provided through skills/vocational training that should be integrated seamlessly with higher education and the skilling mission.

Conclusion

- There is a need to rethink about the current curriculum of the higher institutes, make it more inclusive and viable in present time.
- Enabling education that is relevant to the economy and society is very crucial.
- There is a need for development of human resources to be translated into action through vocational and professional education.
- In our culturally plural society, education should foster universal and eternal values, oriented towards the unity and integration of our people.

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GS - II

**Welfare
Policies**

18th July 2019

Question

PM-KISAN is aimed at boosting rural consumption and helping poor farmers recover from distress. Examine the challenges of PM-KISAN in this context. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce by mentioning the situation of farm distress and the need for schemes like PM-KISAN.
- Give details of PM-KISAN and how it aims to improve farmers' condition.
- Mention the challenges in rolling out PM-KISAN.
- Conclude by giving suggestions to improve its functioning.

Introduction

Indian farmers continue to suffer from distress sales and lack of financial support to improve their living conditions. Despite the government's aim to double the farmers' income by 2022, there are not many significant gains in productivity and their income.

Body

- The **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** was announced in budget 2019 as a direct income support to the farmers on the lines of already existing state level schemes like Telangana's **Rythu Bandhu Scheme** and Odisha's Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (**KALIA**) scheme.
- It aims to provide direct income support of **Rs 6000 a year**. Initially it was launched to provide support only to small and marginal farmers with cultivable land of up to 2 hectares which was later extended **to cover all farmers**.
- The direct income support can serve as an important tool for farmers **to overcome credit constraints** and would allow them to buy agricultural inputs like seeds, farm implements, livestock, etc.
- Its one of the objectives is to increase productive investment, access to markets and stimulate local economies.

However, there are certain **challenges and concerns** related to the scheme:

- **Inadequate income support:** Addition of just Rs 500 per month will not have much significant benefit for the farmers considering the rising input costs in agriculture.
 - Therefore, a welfare measure such as PM-KISAN can only be realised through financial support that provides farmers with adequate purchasing power to meet their daily basic necessities.
- **Price volatility:** Given the volatile market and price fluctuations in different regions, it is important to index the cash transfers to local inflation.
- **Grievance redressal:** The scheme does not provide a clear design of transfers and a framework for effective grievance redressal.
 - In the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, for instance, State governments still struggle to resolve complaints and curb corruption.
- **Failure in targeted delivery:** Even medium and large farmers are entitled for the benefits and not the tenants and sharecroppers who need income support the most.
- And finally, cash transfer is neither a substitute for the structural reforms needed in agriculture, nor does it adequately compensate the farmer for the risks and uncertainty of crop cultivation.

Conclusion

- PM-KISAN is an ambitious scheme that has the potential to deliver significant welfare outcomes. However, the government needs to resolve the governance constraints associated with the scheme. The current top-down approach needs to be changed in order to make it more participatory in nature.
- An alternative bottom-up strategy and well-planned implementation mechanism would allow weaknesses to be identified and rectified at the local level. The most effective modalities can then be scaled nationally to benefit the farmers.

Question

India suffers from the problem of both obesity and undernutrition. Critically examine the steps taken by India in resolving this double burden of malnutrition. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly mention some incidents of death due to malnutrition and some statistics related to obesity or constitutional obligation of the state to provide welfare support.
- Briefly explain the double burden.
- List the causes of the problem.
- Give a critical evaluation.
- Suggest some remedial measures.

- India also became one of 59 countries to **impose a tax** on sweetened beverages and the GST on soft drinks was increased from 32% to 40% in 2017. However, these measures need to be supplemented with an awareness generation campaign like **Eat Right India Campaign** to curb the consumption.
- **Fortification of food** by adding micronutrients to tackle hidden hunger is being promoted by FSSAI through government Schemes such as ICDS, PDS etc. However, the outreach of such measures is quite narrow.

Remedial Measures

- Ensure better coordination among various ministries
- Improve data collection on stunting and obesity
- Allow panchayats to have a bigger say in running welfare schemes
- Make welfare delivery mechanisms more accountable
- Diversify the Public Distribution System
- Revive and safeguard forests as sustainable sources of food
- Provide clinical counseling for overweight and obese children at primary care settings

The Global Hunger Index 2018 published jointly by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide has categorised India's nutritional status as "serious" and ranked India at 103th out of 119 countries.

Way Forward

This double burden of malnutrition needs to be addressed with an integrated action on malnutrition in all its forms. Addressing the double burden of malnutrition will be key in achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals** (in particular Goal 2 and Target 3.4) and the Commitments of the **Rome Declaration on Nutrition**, within the **UN Decade of Action on Nutrition**.

Question

Has India truly been able to make its society inclusive and participative for the differently-abled? Examine the given statement in the context of government welfare policies and interventions. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce by mentioning about the current status of PwDs and the need for their social inclusion.
- Mention the government initiatives undertaken to improve their condition.
- Conclude by giving the need for community driven solutions and suggest some other measures.

Introduction

Persons with disabilities (PwD) are one of the largest minority groups in India, who have suffered long years of neglect, deprivation, segregation and exclusion. As per Census 2011, the number of persons with disabilities in India is around 268.14 lakhs constituting 2.21% of the total population.

The government has taken several initiatives to improve the condition of PwDs. Some of them are mentioned below:

- Implementation of the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016**
 - This Act gave effect to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
 - As per this Act, no person can be discriminated against on the grounds of their disability (for example, in cases of career growth, promotions, transfers, etc) thereby providing an equal opportunity.
 - The Act increased the quota of reservation for PwDs from 3% to 4% in government jobs and from 3% to 5% in higher educational institutions.

- **Technology Development Projects in Mission Mode**
 - With a view to provide suitable and cost effective aids and appliances through the application of technology, the above scheme was launched in 1990-91.
 - Suitable Research & Development projects are identified and funded for developing aids and appliances.
- **Inclusive Education for the Disabled at Secondary Stage**
 - The scheme supports children with disabilities aged 14 or above for completing their secondary education from class 9 to class 12 in government, local body and government aided schools.
- **Accessible India Campaign**
 - It was launched for creating universal accessibility for PwDs in buildings, public transport, information and communication (ICT) ecosystem, etc.
- **Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)**
 - Financial assistance is provided to NGOs for projects relating to rehabilitation of PwDs.
- **Information and Communication Technology (ICT) initiatives**
 - A mobile app has been planned to be launched for providing information on disabled-friendly utilities in a city.
 - Sign languages are to be introduced in more than 25% of programmes, starting with Doordarshan to make television more disabled-friendly.
- **Awareness Generation and Publicity**
 - Providing wide publicity through electronic, print, film media, multimedia to the schemes and programmes are being run by the central government and state governments for the welfare of persons with disabilities.

Though the government schemes have made significant improvement in the lives of PwDs, some other measures need to be taken. Some of the recommendations of NITI Aayog include:

- **Undertaking Legislative, Policy and Institutional Reforms**
 - National Policy for PwDs 2006 needs to be revised to make it more relevant and comprehensive. States should be encouraged to develop their own disability policies similar to the Comprehensive Disability Policy Framework for Chhattisgarh.
 - Number of schemes administered by the DEPwD should be rationalised.
- **Strengthening Educational Opportunities**
 - It must be ensured that schools have at least one section of each class accessible under the Universal Design Guidelines.
 - Additionally, a module on sensitization should be made mandatory in teacher training courses.
- **Enhancing Employability**
 - Dedicated ITI Centers should be set up for PwDs according to the requirements of the private sector, to train them for self employment.
 - Authorized Share Capital of National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDCL) should be enhanced.
- **Establishing Important Institutions for PwDs**
 - Centres for Disability Sports should be opened.
 - Indian Sign Language, Research & Training Centre should be set up and 500 additional sign language interpreters should be trained.
- **Improving Access to Aids/Assistive technologies for PwDs**
 - Distribution of aids to senior citizens who live below the poverty line should be prioritised as a sizeable percentage suffers from age-related disabilities.
 - Unique Disability Identity Card (UDID) Project should be rolled-out creating an electronic database of PwDs across the entire country.

Conclusion

Though we have come a long way, we still have much to do to ensure an inclusive, barrier-free and rights based society for persons with disabilities through empowering them. Society needs to be sensitized about their needs and remove the stigma that they face. Social policies can become more effective tools to encourage people with disabilities to acquire social empowerment.

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GS - II

**International
Relations**

19th July 2019

Question

India needs to look at its Neighbourhood First Policy beyond South Asia towards maritime neighbourhood. Examine. (250 words)

Approach

- Introduce by showing India's growing stature in international geopolitical landscape.
- Explain India's Neighbourhood first policy and why it needs a relook.
- Mention about increasing Indian geopolitical interests in neighbouring maritime region.
- Suggest a course of action for Indian foreign policy towards its maritime neighbourhood.

Introduction

Since the time of Pt. Nehru, the architect of India's foreign policy, we can discern the long term ambition nurtured by India to gain the rightful place in the comity of nations. Today the status of India as an emerging power is being recognized in the world. India is seen as the 'net security provider' in the Indo-Pacific.

Body

The "neighborhood first" policy is the striking feature of New Delhi's diplomatic approach. It actively focuses on improving ties with India's immediate neighbouring countries. Till now it is primarily focused on land-borne neighbourhood countries of South Asia.

However, with the failure of major regional groupings of South Asia like SAARC and lackluster growth of BIMSTEC, India needs to engage with its maritime neighbourhood like countries of ASEAN and island nations of Maldives and Seychelles.

Importance of Maritime neighbourhood for India

- **Geo-strategically:** Indian ocean has now become the theatre of great power rivalry:
 - Growing China's assertiveness in the Indian Ocean in its Maritime Silk Road component of BRI (Belt and road initiative) project.
 - China building its naval bases in the name of the commercial centre like Gwadar port of Pakistan, Hambantota port of Sri Lanka, etc considered as string of pearl's theory.
 - India's agreement for naval cooperation with powers like USA and France in the Indo-Pacific region triggering a base race in the Indian ocean. India performing naval exercises like MALABAR exercise with US and Japan.
 - India is also developing a deep sea port at Indonesia's Sabang. It is strategically located near the Malacca Strait which is a major choke point and has huge potential for improving connectivity links with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well.

- **Geo-politically:** Indian Ocean is one of the world's busiest sea lines of communication.
 - It serves as an important commercial trade route but it is strategically important too.
 - Maritime boundary conflicts in the region like India-Sri Lanka fisheries dispute, Chagos Archipelago sovereignty dispute, and the South China Sea dispute makes the region vulnerable to geo-political rivalry.
 - With the failure of SAARC, countries like Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka align their geopolitical interests with the rising China. Hence, India has renewed interests in showing its maritime superiority in the Indo-Pacific by alliances like QUAD with US, Australia and Japan.
- **Geo-economically:** Indian Ocean harbours massive resources of the blue economy:
 - Fisheries, Rare earth metals, unexplored oil and gases etc.
 - The region has huge scope for marine tourism and trade opportunities. Strategically important passages like Strait of Malacca and Strait of Hormuz are part of India's extended maritime neighbourhood.
 - The regional connectivity projects in India's land-borne neighbourhood like the BBIN (Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal), India-Myanmar Trilateral Highway, etc are moving ahead at a snail's pace.
 - On the other hand, countries in India's maritime neighbourhood proposes huge investment opportunities for India like Oman (Duqm port), Seychelles (Assumption Islands), and even Iran (Chahbahar port).

Therefore, the above analysis shows that India's maritime neighbourhood has huge strategic potential which is still unexploited. India needs to continue its approach of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and gain diplomatic advantage wherever possible.

Conclusion

As India's capacities have increased, its interests and stakes have also increased. As an emerging power and as an aspirant for the permanent seat in the UNSC, India cannot afford to play the traditional stance of its foreign policy often described as 'sitting on the fence' and 'knee jerk reactions'.

Question

A strong India-Japan relation is important for peace in Asia-Pacific. Discuss. (250 words)

Approach

- Give a brief introduction on India-Japan relationship. It can be historical relevance or even recent enhanced engagement between the two countries.
- Write about the current situation in the Asia-Pacific region.
- In this context, highlight the importance of India Japan relationship and the need for increased cooperation between the two.
- Give some areas of concern between the two countries and its implications for the Indo-Pacific.
- Conclude by giving suggestions for the future course of action to improve the relations.

Introduction

- The depth of Indo-Japan relations can be gauged from the former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi's statement – "*India-Japan relationship is not limited to the marketplace, let us rediscover ourselves in each other's heart, it is in the largest interest of humanity. Thus, India Japan strategic partnership has global orientations.*"
- India and Japan form the two axial points of the Asia-Pacific region and collaboration between these can ensure peace in the area within these points.

Body

- While Indo-Pacific is a region defined by connectivity, it is also one of strong contestations and conflicts. China's actions in the South China Sea, even expanding claims in the East China Sea, its attempts to develop naval bases in the Indian Ocean, are some of the challenges to peace in this region.
- Hence, China's rise and its assertive policies provide a major impetus for deeper cooperation between India and Japan.

Major areas of Indo-Japan cooperation are-

- Geo-political cooperation through groupings like QUAD to counter the expansionist moves of China in the Indo-Pacific.
- Asia Africa Growth Corridor project as an alternative to China's BRI (Belt and Road Initiative)
- Various defence exercises (E.g. Malabar), investment in economy, Civil Nuclear Cooperation etc

Certain areas of concern for the relationship between both the countries which affects peace in the Asia-Pacific region:

- **Focused on countering China:** Both countries have border and hegemonic issues with China. So their policy stance hinges generally on China, rather than growing comprehensively.
 - China's partnership with Pakistan over CPEC attacks Indian sovereignty and the Senkaku island dispute questions Japanese sovereignty.
 - Other countries in the South China Sea have also become the victims of border issues.
 - The collaboration between the two countries can also strengthen ties with other smaller countries in the region to counter China's dominance.
- **Security ties:** Japan has offered neither military hardware nor technology to India. There seems to be a difference in perceptions about China. The stronger strategic ties between the two countries can stabilise the skewed power projection in the region.

Conclusion

- Today, India-Japan cooperation is even more relevant in the uncertain Indo-Pacific. Better engagement through groupings like Japan-USA-India (JAI) and Russia-India-China (RIC) can provide stability, growth and development in the foreseeable future.
- India's Act East policy and Japan's 'Vision for Free and Open Indo-Pacific' can offer peace and stability in the region against the rising instability due to dominance of China.

Question

India's engagement in the QUAD is a reflection of its evolving multi-polar foreign policy. Comment. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Describe India's core foreign policy goals and origin of QUAD.
- Highlight QUAD as reflection of India's multi-polar foreign policy.
- Give conclusion.

Introduction

- India is geopolitically placed in a hostile neighborhood, concentrating three nuclear powers i.e India, China and Pakistan.
- Also China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which has neocolonialist underpinnings mandates that India must go for strategic balancing.

- Both these factors and shifting geopolitical dimensions paves way for QUAD dialogue.
- QUAD is a group of four countries i.e. India, the US, Australia and Japan that started as a strategic dialogue in 2007 to check the growth of Chinese power in Indo-Pacific.
- However, it is the resurgence of the Quad that reflects the evolving multi-polar foreign policy on India in the context of China's growing assertive foreign policy.

Body

- China's assertion in South China Sea (SCS) compromises freedom of navigation. Through QUAD India seeks to **reassert rule based world order to counter China's growing power and assertion.**
- **Democratic, Cooperative and Peacekeeping endeavor:** The QUAD initiative is a group of four largest and powerful democracies in the world which values democratic, peaceful, rule based international order.
 - India held that the Quad was more about sharing democratic experiences than a security arrangement directed at China.
- **Emergence of Indo-Pacific:** USA under its pivot to China policy held Indo-Pacific region is now the world's most strategic location.
- Different nations are seeking to project their strategic power in the region. India's membership to QUAD should be seen in this light **as a counterbalancing initiative** to secure its own neighborhood.
- However, it is also important to note that though India is part of Quad, it is **not a formal alliance or any security architecture against China.**
- Moreover, **India is also associated with several forums** such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), BRICS etc. whose members face some sought of strategic competition from USA.
- It can therefore be said that India's growing engagement with QUAD in recent past is **not a reactionary measure to China's assertion** but is a **reflection of its evolving multi-polar foreign policy**, i.e. India has managed well to maintain strategic autonomy which is a pillar of multi polar world order.

Conclusion

The Quad remains a work in progress and its members are still in the process of defining its priorities. India seeks to promote the goals of its foreign policy through strategic partnership with multiple international organizations and QUAD is one such group to deal with emerging challenges in Indo-Pacific region.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

- A. The condition of women in a nation is the real measure of its progress.
- B. Four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets.
- C. Judicial overreach vs. judicial activism in India.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

Question

Doubling of farmers income cannot be realised without a thriving agriculture market. In this context, apart from focusing on increasing agriculture production, the government must focus on agricultural marketing reforms. Comment. (250 words)

Approach

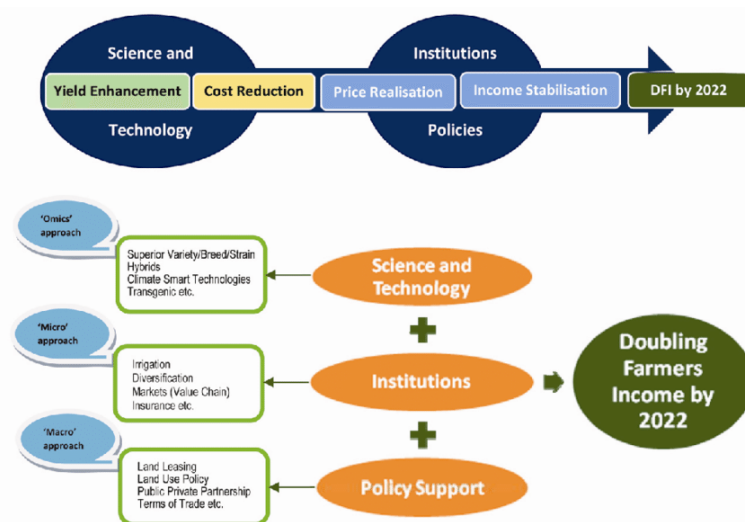
- Identify the keywords in the question to focus.
- Briefly point out recent incidents of agricultural distress.
- Point out the need for reforming agricultural sector.
- Highlight some ways of increasing production
- Identify the issues in agriculture marketing.
- Give solutions to address the issues.
- Any report or data for value addition
- Give a futurist way out to solve the crisis.

Introduction

- Recent incidents of farmers reportedly dumping their bumper produce of tomatoes and onions and emptying cans of milk into drains is a clear evidence of poor marketing scenario for agricultural produce in the country.
- Agriculture development in India has been viewed by and large in the context of increasing the output rather than welfare of the farmers.
- Under this perspective, the Government of India in 2016 announced to double the farmers income (DFI) by 2022 by shifting the focus from agricultural output and food security to income security.

Need

- To arrest the increasing farmers suicide.
- Checking rural migration to urban areas.
- Increase the productivity of farming sector.
- To make agriculture an attractive destination for farmers and job seekers



Strategy for Increasing Production

- Crop diversification
- Integrated Farming System
- Rapid diffusion of new technological approaches
- Emphasis on improving penetration of micro-irrigation.

The National Commission on Agriculture (1976) as well as the NCF (2006) had categorically emphasised that higher output alone will not provide higher income to farmers unless it is well marketed.

Issues In Agriculture Marketing

- Absence of marketing linkages or guaranteed buyback arrangements
- Inadequate storage facilities (particularly for perishable produce)
- High transport costs
- Cartelisation by traders
- Distress sales to meet urgent cash requirement
- MSP is announced for around 23 crops but government only procures 3 crops.
- Government procurement facilities are not uniform throughout the nation.
- Price volatility due to cycle of excess and shortages.

APMC

- APMCs technically have multiple buyers, but the system of open auctions for determining prices through transparent bidding is, in practice, non-existent.
- In most APMCs, buyers have to route all purchases through licenced middlemen and these middlemen charge a commission for their “services” — many times, both from the buyer and seller.

To rectify this APMC issue

- The Union Agriculture Ministry has formulated the Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (APLM) Act
- The Act seeks to expand farmers’ marketing choices — by allowing private markets (as against only APMCs), permitting direct bulk purchases from the farm gate, declaring warehouses or cold storages as deemed markets, and demolishing the existing concept of a “market area”
- But APLM Act is witnessing opposition, primarily due to the delineation of “market area”, which has a bearing on the earnings of APMCs.

Recommendations

- Single point levy of market fee
- Establishment of private market yards/ private markets managed by a person other than a market committee.
- Establishment of direct purchase of agricultural produce from agriculturist
- To promote and permit e-trading
- Single registration/ license for trade/ transaction in more than one market
- Storage and banking facilities near APMCs
- Promote FPOs in marketing
- Relax/abolish Essential Commodities Act(ECA)
- Creating sufficient infrastructure for storage, like godowns and cold storage, to prevent distress sale.
- Uniform government procurement policy across all major crops to shield farmers from price fluctuations.
- Promotion of food processing industries, that absorb and process the excess produce during bumper cycle, safeguarding farmers’ income and preventing food loss.
- Incentivise export through policy changes.

Reports for Value Edition

The **Dalwai Committee on Doubling Farmers' Income** has pointed out that the share of farmers in consumer's price is very low; which generally varies from 15 to 40 per cent, which was confirmed by the International Food Policy Research Institute and World Bank.

Suggestions

Shifting agriculture from State List to the Concurrent List.

Way forward

It is time to concede that production and marketing should march together in order to benefit farmers and consumers. Farmers need to be empowered to decide when, where, to whom and at what price to sell. The intermediary culture needs to be scrapped completely. The seasonal spike in prices of perishable commodities that pushes up the food inflation cannot be addressed without market reforms.

Question

Indian farmers face the double whammy of lack of knowledge of IPR on one hand, and dishonouring of contract on the other hand, against the big corporates, despite favourable legislation. Comment. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly mention the recent controversy.
- Highlight the IPR laws and the reason which increases farmers vulnerability.
- Mention some reasons for dishonouring of contracts by corporates.
- Recommendations to undo the malaise.
- An optimistic and futurist way forward.

Introduction

- **Norman Borlaug** regards IPRs in agriculture as **prescription for famines**. This reflects the potential of IPRs in agriculture to threaten the world food security.
- In India, so far in the area of seeds and plant genetic resources, innovation in both formal and informal system has so far been guided by larger societal good. But the recent controversy of PepsiCo suing the Gujarat farmers for growing the patented variety of potato, highlights the ethical concern of food production in respect of individual interest over societal good.

Agricultural IPR Laws

- According to **Seeds Act, 1968**: Seeds are outside the ambit of IPR, it is sui-generis right of the farmer.
- According to the **Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001 (PPVFR Act)**
 - Section 39 of the Act allows farmers to save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange, share and even sell farm produce including seed of a protected variety. But when it is sold, it cannot be packaged and branded as such.
 - The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act allows protection of plant varieties for some years if they are found to be distinct, uniform and stable.
 - Thereby the PPVFR Act seeks to protect the rights of farmers and communities using plant varieties with desirable traits, which they have conserved over the years

The major fallout of this favourable legislation regime is the unawareness of farmers about complex IPR laws due to low literacy, and economic status which prevents them to go for legal advice. The lack of initiatives on behalf of government to acquaint farmers about their rights increases their vulnerability many folds.

On the other hand, the institutional and monsoonal vulnerability of farmers is compounded by **dishonouring of contract** by corporates. The major reasons for dishonouring of contracts are discussed below:

- Lack of institutional mechanism for dispute redressal on matters of quality and other terms of contract.
- Poor literary status of farmers.
- Lack of uniformity on policy related to contract farming as agriculture is a state subject.
- APMCs which are designated as an authority for registration and dispute settlement in most states are marred by corruption and administrative inefficiencies which jeopardizes the contract enforcement.

Recommendations

- Promotion of farmers producer organisations which can take care of legal awareness and contracts.
- Community rights for farmers
- Creating awareness among farmers
- Encourage states to adopt the Model Contract Farming Act, 2018.
- Contract farming must mandatorily incorporate the provision of crop insurance to protect the farmer.

Conclusion

Though Indian government is under pressure from global trade regime to enforce strict IPR regime but a strict IPR policy is not advisable in Indian agriculture since India is an agrarian economy and a strong IPR will lead to creating a monopoly of a certain company in some commodity (like case of Monsanto in Bt cotton), which will certainly not be in India's national interest.

A revolution of the Indian agricultural sector is what the country is calling out for today. It is the responsibility of our policy makers to ensure food security for our growing population by protecting farmers rights in every way possible.

Question

What do you understand by feminisation of agriculture? Discuss the reasons associated with rise of this phenomenon. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly explain feminisation of agriculture.
- Write reasons and problems associated with feminisation of agriculture.
- Give solution to address the problems.
- Give an optimistic conclusion for empowering women in the agricultural sector.

Feminisation of agriculture refers to the increasing number of women in multiple roles as labourers, cultivators, farmers and entrepreneurs in the agricultural sector.

Reasons and problems of feminisation of agriculture

- According to the Economic Survey 2017-18, **migration of men** from rural to urban areas is one of the important reasons for the 'feminisation' of agriculture sector.
- According to agricultural census 2011, there has been a **24 per cent increase in the number of female agricultural labourers** between 2001 and 2011, from 49.5 million to 61.6 million. Women in rural areas, who do not own land, usually engage in agricultural labour activities.
- **Mechanisation of agriculture** has resulted in confinement of women to traditional roles such as winnowing, harvesting, sowing seeds and rearing livestock, which are low paying. This clubbed with the burden of household chores, and a lower wage rate than men, contribute to further economic disparity.
- An **increased work burden with lower compensation** is a key factor responsible for women's marginalisation in agricultural sector.

- Women farmers have **hardly any representation** in society and are nowhere visible in farmers' organisations or in occasional protests. They are the invisible workers without which the agricultural economy is hard to grow.
- The biggest challenge is the **powerlessness of women in terms of claiming ownership of the land** they have been cultivating. In Agricultural Census 2015, almost 86% of women farmers are devoid of property rights on land, perhaps on account of the patriarchal set up in our society. Further lack of ownership of land does not allow women farmers to approach banks for institutional loans as banks usually consider land as collateral.

Solutions

- Research shows that women with **access to secure land, formal credit and access to market have greater propensity in making investments** in improving agricultural productivity and food security and nutrition.
 - Therefore, provision of credit without collateral under the microfinance initiative of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development should be encouraged.
 - **Better access to credit, technology, and provision of entrepreneurship** abilities will boost women's confidence and help them gain recognition as farmers.
- As more women are getting into farming, they should be given **property rights in land**. Once women farmers are listed as primary earners and owners of land assets, their activities will expand to acquiring loans, deciding the crops to be grown, using appropriate technology which will elevate their place as real and visible farmers.
- A declining size of land holdings act as a deterrent due to lower net returns earned. The possibility of collective farming can be encouraged to make women self-reliant.
- Training and skills imparted to women as has been done by some **self-help groups and cooperative-based dairy activities** (Saras in Rajasthan and Amul in Gujarat), can be explored further through farmer producer organisations.
- It is important to have gender-friendly tools and machinery for various farm operations. Most farm machinery is difficult for women to operate. Manufacturers should be incentivised to come up with better solutions.
 - Farm machinery banks and custom hiring centres promoted by many State governments can be leveraged to provide subsidised rental services to women farmers.
- **Krishi Vigyan Kendras** in every district can be assigned an additional task to educate and train women farmers about innovative technology along with extension services.
- Government flagship schemes such as the National Food Security Mission, Sub-mission on Seed and Planting Material and the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana must include **women-centric strategies and dedicated expenditure**.
- When compared to men, women generally have less access to resources and modern inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides) to make farming more productive, which needs to be incentivised for women farmers through concessions and waivers and made accessible to them on priority.

According to Food and Agriculture Organisation, equalising access to productive resources for female and male farmers could increase agricultural output in developing countries by as much as 2.5% to 4% which can help in countering agrarian crises that India is currently facing.

Day - 44

GS - III

**Environment
& Ecology**

23rd July 2019

Question

Climate adaptation needs to be equally accompanied by climate mitigation. Discuss the statement in light of the role played by the forest in mitigating climate change? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce by defining climate change, its consequences and the need to adopt mitigation and adaptation techniques.

- Explain how forests are important tools for climate change mitigation.
- Mention about the current status of India's forests and efforts to expand the forest area.
- Conclude by mentioning about India's efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

Introduction

The rising global temperature fuelled by natural and anthropogenic factors like increasing greenhouse gases leads to climate change. The shifting weather patterns causes frequent floods, erratic rainfall, heat waves, threatens food security, and impacts the entire ecosystem. Hence, there is an urgent need to adopt climate change adaptation and mitigation techniques.

Body

- Climate change mitigation generally involves reductions in human (anthropogenic) emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs). Adaptation techniques are actions taken to manage the eventual (or unavoidable) impacts of climate change, for example by building dikes in response to sea level rise.
- While adaptation techniques are easier to adopt, they cannot be a substitute for mitigation strategies. Climate change cannot be addressed unless its causes are addressed. Hence, climate adaptation needs to be equally accompanied by climate mitigation.
 - For example, excessive sand mining and deforestation were among the reasons of Kerala floods in 2018. Mitigation strategies like prohibiting incompatible activities in Ecologically Sensitive Zones (ESZs) should have been adopted.

Forests have an enormous potential in mitigating climate change. Some of the benefits of forests include:

- **Forests help stabilize the climate.** They regulate ecosystems, protect biodiversity, play an important part in the carbon cycle, support livelihoods, and can help drive sustainable growth.
- They are most **effective in carbon sequestration** thereby reducing greenhouse effect. Trees and other vegetation fix carbon as part of photosynthesis and soil too holds organic carbon from plants and animals.
- **Mangrove** forests in coastal areas act as effective barriers to sea waves. They also prevent saltwater intrusion towards the land areas.
- Forests help in watershed protection, prevent soil erosion, and helps in restoration of lakes, marshes and other wetlands.

Way Forward

- To maximize the climate benefits of forests, we must keep forest landscapes intact, manage them more sustainably, and restore the degraded forests.
- As per IUCN, halting the loss and degradation of natural systems and promoting their restoration have the potential to contribute over one-third of the total climate change mitigation required by 2030.
 - Restoring 350 million hectares of degraded land in line with the **Bonn Challenge** could sequester upto 1.7 gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent annually.
- Adequate and predictable finance for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation in developing countries (**REDD+**) is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 13.

Conclusion

India's ambition of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024 should be aligned with its **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Climate deal. India pledged an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by the year 2030.

The **National Mission for Green India** as part of the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)**, which envisages restoration of 6 million hectares of degraded forest lands and expanding forest cover from 23% to 33% of India's territory, should be a top priority to mitigate climate change impacts.

Question

There has been an environmental disaster in making across the States. In this context, examine the importance and concerns related to Aravallis. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce by mentioning the importance of Aravallis.
- Explain the causes and impacts of illegal mining in the Aravallis and how it can be a potential environmental disaster.
- Mention the steps taken by the government for the protection of Aravalis.
- Conclude by giving a citizen centric approach for preservation of Aravalis.

Introduction

The Aravallis is a range of **fold mountains** spanning from Rajasthan to Delhi. The region is rich in biodiversity and is critical for the entire ecosystem. It acts as a region of natural groundwater recharge zone and also helps neutralize NCR's rising air pollution acting as 'lungs' for the region.

In February 2019, the Haryana legislative assembly passed an act to remove several hills of the Aravalli range from the category of "restricted area," making it available for construction and mining activities. However, the Supreme Court, through an order, promptly nullified the amendment.

Body

Rampant illegal mining of Aravalis has caused devastating impacts on entire ecology of the region. More than 25% and 31 hill ranges of the Aravallis in Rajasthan have vanished due to illegal quarrying. Some of its harmful impacts are as follows:

- Digging or mining to a great depth leads to puncturing of aquifers, which disturbs the water flow, results in drying of lakes and popping up of new ones creating an environmental imbalance.
- Many rivers originating in the Aravalli like Banas, Luni, Sahibi and Sakhi, are now dead. The hydrological system and consequent water table in the whole NCR region is under threat, with altered natural drainage patterns.
- Loss of biodiversity of the region. There has been a considerable decrease in the flora and fauna like leopards, striped hyenas, golden jackals, nilgais, etc.
- Increased Human-Animal conflict as natural forests along Aravallis are being lost.
- Mining and crushing leads to release of Particulate Matter (PM) which is a major reason for air pollution in the NCR region.
- Aravallis also act as barrier against the moisture laden clouds, thereby helping the NCR get sufficient rainfall, which will be under threat if Aravallis' destruction continues.
- Hence, such devastating impact on the region's ecology is nothing but a disaster in the making.

Efforts are being made by the government and the civil society groups for its preservation like:

- MoEFCC in 1992 issued "**The Aravalli Notification**" which prohibits setting up of new industries, mining, deforestation as well as construction activities, including roads and laying of transmission cables, without the prior permission from MoEFCC.
- In 2009, the Supreme Court banned all mining activities in the Aravallis. However, despite this ban Haryana government allowed construction projects in the region.

The State Governments should adhere to the '**precautionary principle**' laid down by the Supreme Court in 1996, Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v Union of India and Others case. It states that central and/or the state governments, while considering a project, must foresee environmental degradation and shall prevent such degradation without waiting for scientific evidence to show that there will be irreparable damage to the environment.

Conclusion

In 2009, the Municipal Corporation of Gurgaon declared it a biodiversity park and partnered with civil society groups like 'IamGurgaon', MNCs and residents to plant trees and restoration of the forest. This model should be followed and implemented to save the Aravallis and brewing concurrent environmental disaster.

Question

Examine the causes behind India's problem of e-waste and reasons due to which rules have been ineffective. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce briefly e-waste problem through relevant facts.
- Enumerate causes of e-waste.
- Describe the reasons for the failures of e-waste guidelines to control the problem.

Introduction

- The **Global E-waste Monitor 2017** by the United Nations University, states that India generates about 2 million tonnes of e-waste annually and ranks fifth among e-waste producing countries, after US, China, Japan and Germany.
- **E-Waste Management Rules, 2016**, provide that manufacturers of electric and electronic equipment must facilitate their collection and return it to authorized dismantlers or recyclers. However, there is little evidence that it is being implemented.

Causes of E-waste

- **Domestic use:** The decline in cost of consumer electronics, rise in middle-class incomes, and the increase in frequency at which devices are discarded. India has emerged as second largest mobile phone market which has created major problem for management of e-waste.
- **Illegal Import:** Hazardous and illegal e-waste is imported from developed countries under the garb of recycling. However, due to lack of monitoring there is no way to ensure imported material is sent back. A 2015 report by the United Nations Environment Programme says that China, India, Malaysia and Pakistan are the main destinations for large-scale shipments of hazardous wastes, including e-waste, in Asia.
- **Infrastructure problem:** Shortage of institutional infrastructures, including e-waste collection, transportation, treatment, storage, recovery and disposal, need to be established, at national and/or regional levels for the environmentally sound management of e-waste
- **Informal and Unscientific approach:** Over 95 per cent of e-waste recycling is done by the informal sector through unscientific methods to recycle e-waste.

Reasons for ineffectiveness of rules

- **Failure in implementation** of E-Waste (Management) Rules due to shortage of personnel in state and central pollution board.
- Rules allow for **refurbishing** of imported second-hand products. However, the nodal agency, the Central Board of Excise and Customs, lacks the human resources and the infrastructure to distinguish between a second-hand product and e-waste.
- There are **grey areas in the rules** as there is no mechanism to check whether products imported for refurbishing have been re-exported or not. Even if a fraud is detected the law is silent on the penal clause.
- The rules provide that the **responsibility of producers** is not confined to waste collection, but also to ensure that the waste reaches the authorised recycler/dismantler. But the annual returns filed by the producers are silent on this. Since there is no monitoring system, there is no guarantee that the waste collected by producers does not go to unauthorised recyclers.

- **Lack of awareness:** There is general lack of awareness about e-waste and rules governing their management. A 2015 survey by Toxic Links found that only 50 per cent people interviewed were “acquainted with the term e-waste”. Those interviewed were residents of India’s top 5 e-waste generating cities — Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Bengaluru.

Conclusion

- E-waste when dismantled and disposed unscientifically release extremely harmful gases or large particulates into the environment causing hazardous air pollution causing severe health hazards.
- Thus there is a need to implement the E-waste management rules 2016 effectively and deal with the problem of e-waste more holistically with proper monitoring mechanisms in place.

Day - 45

GS - III

**Internal
Security**

24th July 2019

Question

Examine how the problem in Kashmir is different from the Maoist insurgency or the insurgency in Assam, in the context of their root causes? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce by mentioning the root causes of insurgency in India in general.
- Explain the Kashmir problem contrasting it with the Maoist insurgency and insurgency in the North East.
- Conclude by suggesting the approach to handle the insurgency across the country.

Introduction

India had experienced several insurgency movements sweeping across the country, reflecting an acute sense of alienation on the part of the people involved. Broadly, these can be divided into movements for political rights (e.g. Assam, Kashmir and Khalistan [Punjab]), movements for social and economic justice (e.g. Maoist [Naxalite] and north-eastern states), and religious grounds (e.g. Ladakh). These causes overlap at times.

Body

The Kashmir problem is different from the Maoist insurgency or the insurgency in Assam in the following terms:

Aspirations of the people

- The Kashmir insurgency has roots in different perceptions of the people regarding the special provisions accorded to the state of Jammu and Kashmir via Article 370 of the Indian Constitution. It was aggravated by the protest movements since 1989 created to voice Kashmir’s disputes and grievances with Indian government particularly Indian military.
- Whereas, the Maoist insurgency originates from apparent discontent over agrarian reforms and exploitation of the local tribal population. Its stated objective is the overthrow of the Indian State and parliamentary democracy.
- In Assam, the tribal insurgent groups like BODO, ULFA have taken up arms to fight for their tribal identity which they feel is not getting due recognition and support within the State of Assam. It has its origins in the fear that continuous migration of persons from erstwhile East Pakistan and now Bangladesh will alter the demographic character of the State of Assam to the detriment of its indigenous people.

Involvement of other state and non-state actors

- The insurgency in J&K has been actively assisted by Pakistan's 'proxy war' against India which continues to exploit any discontent in the people of J&K. It directly supports the separatists and is involved in cross border terrorism and money laundering.
- Maoists have been reported to have got training from the LTTE and are actively seeking cooperation from insurgent groups in the North East, especially the PLA.
- Similarly, both the ULFA and BODO groups of Assam have been reported to receive training and arms from Pakistan.

Ideological differences

- The Kashmiri separatist demands are based on religious grounds based on Muslim identity giving it political overtones.
- Whereas Maoists draws inspiration from Mao Tse Tung's Communist movement to organize armed rebellion against the government. The Maoists have primarily exploited the governance deficit in the region leading to extreme poverty, unemployment, inequitable growth and poor criminal justice system.

Geographical extent and government's approach

- The Kashmir issue poses a challenge to the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity primarily due to its strategic location along the international border with Pakistan and China.
- Naxalism is primarily an internal security issue. It can be argued that the Left-wing extremism affected region is not so economic and strategically critical. It is rather perceived as a 'social problem' aggravated due to development deficit of the region.

Conclusion

- There is a need for a multipronged approach. Any approach to counter insurgency and militancy should not only be concerned with law and order problem rather should be based on the genuine concerns related to people's aspirations, and other factors like historical, geographical, development deficit, etc.
- There is a need to win the confidence of the people through psychological operations to delegitimize the movements while using hard power against the militants on a parallel front.

Question

The most difficult challenge for India is to tackle the fourth generation war, a warfare with an invisible enemy in which the civil society is both the battleground and the people that the State has to protect. Discuss in light of rising internal security challenges in India. **(250 words)**

Introduction

- Recently the Maharashtra Government arrested activists on grounds of their links with the Naxal movement and role in Bhima Koregaon violence. This event raises an internal security concern wherein to identify and fight the enemy is more complex than ever for the threats and challenges are within the society itself, a characteristic of Fourth Generation Warfare.
- The fourth generation warfare primarily relies on creating unrest and fissures within the society in the garb of 'cultural struggles' which ultimately leads to the disintegration of the society and the state. It pits nations against non-national organizations and networks that include not only fundamentalist extremists but ethnic groups, mafias, and narco-traffickers as well that works through indoctrination, brainwash of the vulnerable, disenchanted sections.
- It becomes more potent as the power of media and the process of public opinion formation in a free society has undergone radical change due to the Internet. Viral videos and false updates of communal clashes, riots, terrorist

attacks, etc. creating false frenzy and alarm. It has become easier to spread or even establish false narratives from anywhere in the world. This has equipped not only enemy states but also non-state actors to destabilize the country. E.g.: Indoctrination of youth through the internet and lone wolf attacks are becoming difficult to tackle.

Body

In this context, even traditional internal security challenges become more complex and potent.

- **Secessionist and separatist tendencies-** The pro-Khalistani militants in India as well as other countries want to revive militancy in Punjab. Similarly, the state of Jammu & Kashmir is in turmoil essentially because of difficulty in segregating militants from the society.
- **Naxal sympathisers:** In the garb of championing the human rights, a strong support mechanism has been built for overtly and covertly supporting the Naxals/Maoists who are waging a war against the country at the military, social, political and economic level.
- **Polarisation of the society-** The mushrooming of armed 'Senas' on caste and ethnic lines undermines the police and the administration. Loss of public confidence in the capacity of the state to protect their life and property is the primary cause of this dangerous development.
- **Hostile neighbourhood-** An unsettled border of India with China and Pakistan and increasing competition has the potential to turn competing influences and interests, into a rivalry.
- **Socio-political situation-** Discord amongst ethnic, religious and linguistic groups, criminalization of politics and demographic shift and movement add to the instability in the country.

However, Civil society is the only sphere that stands between the individual and the State. Here, individuals come together in webs of associational life. The overly broad concept of "internal security" combined with counterterrorism legislation and measures, must not adversely impact India's civic space by alienating civil society actors as it not only hinders India's economic development, undermines India's security but also shrinks democratic space.

Conclusion

- Therefore, it is State intelligence, and police which must be employed to counter such threats. The police force must remain constantly in the state of self-training, emphasize connecting with people, to tackle the "fourth generation" warfare with an invisible enemy.
- Moreover, the internal security problems should not be treated as merely law and order problems. They have to be dealt with comprehensively in all their dimensions and at all levels — political, economic and social. They are all interlinked. Striking the right balance is the key to success in meeting these challenges effectively. A comprehensive security policy that will be implemented effectively at all levels is the need of the hour.

Question

Examine India's vulnerability to cyber threats, especially to its critical infrastructure, along with steps taken by the government in this regard. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Mention latest facts related to cyber security in the country.
- List the different areas vulnerable to cyberthreat and state the reasons behind it.
- Explain the impact on infrastructure.
- List the steps taken by government.
- Conclude by listing more steps that should be taken in this direction.

Introduction

India is one of the key players in the digital and knowledge-based economy, holding more than a 50% share of the world's outsourcing market. Moreover, pioneering and technology-inspired programmes such as Aadhaar, MyGov, Government e-Market, DigiLocker, Bharat Net, Startup India, Skill India and Smart Cities are propelling India towards technological competence and transformation.

- India is already the third largest hub for technology-driven startups in the world and its Information and Communications Technology sector is estimated to reach the \$225 billion landmark by 2020.
- However, cyberspace is increasingly becoming a key domain besides air, sea and land warfare. This is evident from the results of a recent survey, according to which cybersecurity continues to be a major issue in India with 76% organizations hit by online attacks in 2018.
- Therefore, innovation in technology, enhanced connectivity, and increasing integration in commerce and governance make it very important to protect citizens' data confidentiality, integrity and privacy, public safety, business and economic development and national security.

Body

India's Vulnerabilities to Cyber Threats

- Internet of Things is adding a new dimension to the cyber security issue by cross-networking of personal data devices, electronic health records, medical devices and hospital networks - creating new opportunities for data theft, source code manipulation, and undetected access to target networks.
- **Large population, internet literacy and the rapid economic growth make India one of the most important countries from a cybersecurity aspect.**
- State sponsored cyber terrorism, non-state terrorist groups, corporate and individual hacktivists are engaged in different crimes, espionage, theft of patents, and other information assets.
 - Nations such as Russia, China, Iran, North Korea have in the past used cyber capabilities as an effective geostrategic tool for espionage, propaganda attacks, to target critical infrastructure systems, for intelligence gathering, and to support political and military objectives.
- Dependence on AI systems for civilian industries and national security - exposes them to breach of privacy, reliability, manipulation and misuse -which can damage critical infrastructure. Critical infrastructure are the assets that are crucial for the functioning of the economy and society.

Vulnerabilities to Critical Infrastructure

- Critical infrastructure under the cyber threats are:
 - Agriculture and Food
 - Public Health
 - Energy: Power Plants and Power Grids
 - Telecommunication
 - Chemical industry
 - Banking and Finance Sector
 - Water
 - Transportation: Postal and Shipping
 - Information and Technology Databases

Steps Taken by the Government

- **Information Technology Act, 2000:** Regulates use of computer systems, computer networks and also data and information in electronic format.

- Protection and resilience of critical information infrastructure with the **National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC)** operating as the nodal agency.
 - NCIIPC has been **created under Information Technology Act, 2000** to secure India's critical information infrastructure. It is based in New Delhi.
- **National Cyber Policy, 2013** that aims to
 - Create a secure cyber ecosystem.
 - Create mechanisms for security threats and responses to the same through national systems and processes.
 - Secure e-governance by implementing global best practices, and wider use of Public Key Infrastructure.
- **National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in)** functions as the nodal agency for coordination of all cyber security efforts, emergency responses, and crisis management.
- **Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative** was launched in 2018 with an aim to spread awareness about cybercrime and building capacity for safety measures for Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and frontline IT staff across all government departments.
- **National Cyber security Coordination Centre (NCCC)** was established in 2017. Its mandate is to scan internet traffic and communication metadata (which are little snippets of information hidden inside each communication) coming into the country to detect real-time cyber threats.
- **Information Security Education and Awareness Project (ISEA)**—raises awareness and provides research, education and training in the field of Information Security.
- **Online Cybercrime Reporting Portal:** To enable complainants to report complaints pertaining to Child Pornography/ Child Sexual Abuse Material, rape/gang rape imageries or sexually explicit content.
- **Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C):** To handle issues related to cybercrime in the country in a comprehensive and coordinated manner.

Way Forward: Steps to be Taken

- **Cyber Security Policy of 2013 must be reviewed** in the light of emerging cyber threats propagated by state sponsored international cyber terrorism, military espionage, corporate espionage and financial frauds by individual hackers and groups. The policy is incapable of resolving these issues now.
- Cyber security strategy must be able to **protect multiple digital intrusions at all levels:** military and corporate espionage, electronic attacks disrupting critical infrastructure, ICT and IoT systems and data privacy, integrity and security of its citizens.
- Currently the country has a number of agencies dealing with the issue of cybersecurity however, India needs to **set up a single point national cyber security agency overcome the multiplicity** in order to develop appropriate policy, strategy and action plan, linking key ministries.
 - The existing National Information Board (NIB), headed by the National Security Adviser (NSA), duly empowered, can play the role of an apex body in India.
- **Dissemination of best security practices, intelligence sharing, intrusion reporting and effective coordination** and partnership between private, corporate, government and international level organisations like the UN, the European Union and India's allies is the need of the hour.
- Institutions such as the NCC, NTRO, CERT should be **equipped with skilled manpower.**
- **Adequate funding should be provided** for strategic research and development. India must enhance its technological and investigative capabilities.

Conclusion

India has ranked 47 out of 165 nations on the Global Cybersecurity Index 2018, released by the International Telecommunication Union. This shows India's commitment to cybersecurity. Given the huge number of online users and continued efforts on affordable access, India can overcome the vulnerabilities to cyber threats by integrating **cybersecurity in every aspect of policy and planning.**

Question

Improvement in space technology, not only established India as a space power, but also has economic and geostrategic importance. Examine. (250 words)

Approach

- Introduce by giving India's achievements through decades of progress in space technology.
- Examine the economic benefits that these achievements have accrued to India.
- Show how, despite initial hesitation, India has now veered towards its geostrategic and military potential.

Introduction

- From innovating with limited resources in the 1960s to launching a record 104 satellites in a single mission and reaching Mars in its first mission, ISRO and India have come a long way in this space journey.
- After more than fifty years of ISRO's inception, India has just launched its second lunar mission-Chandrayaan-2 and is planning to launch its first-ever manned space mission, Gaganyaan and set its own space station by 2030. These are emblematic signs of India's will to step up its space policy.

Body

Apart from research and development in space, the space program has many economic benefits for the country. For example:

- **Remote- sensing services:** It finds applications in weather forecasting, disaster management, surveillance.
- **Satellite communications:** It provides services like DTH, Broadband, Telecommunications.
- **Navigation services:** With the launch of NAVIC two levels of positioning service will be operationalised i.e. the "standard positioning service", which will be open for civilian use, and a "restricted service" (an encrypted one) for military use.
 - The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) with an operational name of NAVIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation, which is an autonomous regional satellite navigation system that provides accurate real-time positioning and timing services.
- **Indirect benefits:** Technology developed for space finds application in day to day life. For example:
 - Heatshield: Used in heat isolation systems.
 - Cryogenic fuel Finds application in the medical field.
 - Electronic system fabrication
- **The commercial launch of other countries' satellite:** With India slowly establishing itself in the global space launch market through its commercial arm Antrix Corporation, it will be the source of forex earnings and goodwill for India.

Space is a dual-use technology and largely India's space program has remained civilian. But today India is gradually reorienting its space program towards national security.
- India has traditionally been opposed to using space for security-related functions. In fact, from early on, India played an active role in pushing to keep outer space beyond interstate conflicts.
- However, the real change in India's space policy orientation came after January 2007, when China conducted its first anti-satellite (ASAT) missile test.

- In this direction India also initiated some military space endeavour:
 - India launched its first dedicated defence satellite, GSAT-7 for the Indian Navy.
 - India has set up an “Integrated Space Cell (ISC)” within its Ministry of Defence
 - The CARTOSAT-2A, a dedicated satellite of the Indian Armed Forces, will also fall under the jurisdiction of ISC.
 - **Recently India conducted Mission Shakti which is an anti-satellite weapon(ASAT)**
 - **It targeted a live satellite (Microsat-R) in a low earth orbit.**
 - **India’s defence capability has got a further boost with the successful launch of the Electro Magnetic Intelligence Satellite (EMISAT)**
- India’s military pursuit in space is driving India to forge partnerships with countries such as Japan, and revise and strengthen old links with partners like the US and France.
- Further India’s space program is boosting India’s soft power. For example, launching of SAARC satellite.

Conclusion

All these steps have clearly placed India in an elite group of countries of global space powers. However, the development of new capabilities that help address India’s national security concerns should not replace the existing civilian capabilities.

Question

One of the most profound advances in the last decade of biomedical research has been the development of human induced pluripotent stem cell (hiPSC). Discuss the advantages and challenges of using stem cells in biomedical field. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce the topic by defining stem cells and research associated.
- Discuss the advantages and concerns related to it.

Introduction

- Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) are derived from skin or blood cells that have been reprogrammed back into an embryonic-like pluripotent state that enables the development of an unlimited source of any type of human cell needed for therapeutic purposes.
- Reprogramming of human cells to iPSCs was reported in November 2007 by two independent research groups: Shinya Yamanaka of Kyoto University, Japan, who pioneered the original iPSC method, and James Thomson of the University of Wisconsin-Madison who was the first to derive human embryonic stem cells.

Body

Applications of technology

- **Disease modeling and drug development:** An attractive feature of human iPS cells is the ability to derive them from adult patients to study the cellular basis of human disease. Since iPS cells are self-renewing and pluripotent, they represent a theoretically unlimited source of patient-derived cells which can be turned into any type of cell in the body. These cells have been generated for a wide variety of human genetic diseases, including common disorders such as Down syndrome and polycystic kidney disease.
- One of the main uses of HiPSC has been in **genetic disease modeling** in organs and tissues, such as the brain (Alzheimer’s, Autism Spectrum Disorders), heart and skeletal muscle (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Spinal Muscle Atrophy).
- **Other uses-** In organ synthesis, generation of red blood cells, clinical trials, as a anti-aging properties.

Concerns

- For putative regenerative medicine applications, patient safety is the foremost consideration. Standardized methods must be developed to characterize iPSCs and their derivatives. Furthermore, reprogramming has demonstrated a proof-of-principle, yet the process is currently too inefficient for routine clinical application.
- Despite numerous technical advances in the derivation of human iPSCs, relatively little is known about their molecular and functional equivalence to Embryonic Stem Cells (ESCs), which could affect their potential therapeutic utility.
- There are also ethical concerns related to stem cells, such as designer babies, intervention in human genetic pool etc.
- There are also concerns regarding risks and experimental interventions which may be irreversible.

Conclusion

Addressing this question will require a careful analysis of the genomic integrity of human iPSCs, as well as the development of optimized differentiation protocols and reliable assays to evaluate the functionality of iPSC-derived specialized cells.

Question

Antimicrobial resistance is one of the greatest threats we face as a global community. Explain what is antimicrobial resistance and discuss what steps can be taken to mitigate the problem of drug-resistant diseases. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Define antimicrobial resistance and brief mechanism how it is acquired
- Give reasons that aid in development of AMR
- Enumerate the interventions of government of India in this regard

Introduction

- Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is the resistance acquired by any microorganisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi, parasites, etc.) against antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, antifungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics) that are used to treat infections. AMR is one of the biggest threats to global health, food security, and development today.
- Microorganisms that develop antimicrobial resistance are sometimes referred to as “**superbugs**”. AMR leads to the growing number of infections – such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, gonorrhoea, and salmonellosis etc, which are becoming harder to treat as the drugs used to treat them become less effective.

Body

Reasons for the development of Superbugs and spread of AMR

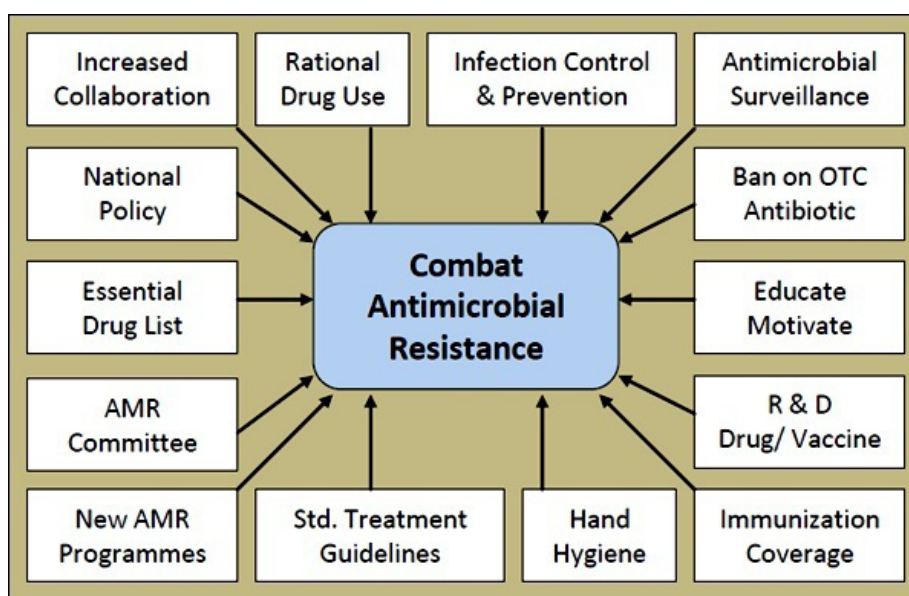
- **Antibiotic consumption in humans:** Unnecessary and injudicious use of antibiotic fixed-dose combinations could lead to the emergence of bacterial strains resistant to multiple antibiotics.
- **Social factors:** Self-medication, access to antimicrobial drugs without prescription and lack of knowledge about when to use them.
- **Cultural Activities:** Mass bathing in rivers as part of religious mass gathering occasions.
- **Antibiotic Consumption in Food Animals:** Antibiotics which are critical to human health are commonly used for growth promotion in poultry.

- **Pharmaceutical Industry Pollution:** The wastewater effluents from the pharmaceutical manufacturing units contain a substantial amount of antimicrobial drugs leading to contamination of rivers and lakes.
- **Environmental Sanitation:** Untreated disposal of sewage water bodies - leading to contamination of rivers with antibiotic residues and antibiotic-resistant organisms.
- **Infection Control Practices in Healthcare Settings:** A report on hand-washing practices of nurses and doctors found that only 31.8% of them washed hands after contact with patients

AMR in India

- AMR is of particular concern in developing nations, including India, where the burden of infectious disease is high and healthcare spending is low (just 1.3% of GDP)
- India is among the nations with the highest burden of bacterial infections. Consequently, the impact of AMR is likely to be higher in the Indian setting.
- The National Health Policy 2017 highlights the problem of antimicrobial resistance and calls for effective action to address it.

Steps that can be taken to mitigate the spread of antimicrobial resistance:



Steps taken by the Indian Government:

- It laid down **National Action Plan** on AMR resistance 2017-2021
- India has instituted **surveillance** of the emergence of drug resistance in disease-causing microbes in programmes on Tuberculosis, Vector-Borne diseases, AIDS, etc.
- Since March 2014 a separate **Schedule H-1** has been incorporated in Drug and Cosmetic rules to regulate the sale of antimicrobials in the country.
- India initiated **Red Line Campaign** that used red line on antibiotic packages to curb their over-the-counter sale
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (**FSSAI**) banned the use of antibiotics and several pharmacologically active substances in fisheries.
- The government has also capped the maximum levels of drugs that can be used for growth promotion in meat and meat products.

Conclusion

The world urgently needs to change the way it prescribes and uses antimicrobial drugs. Even if new medicines are developed, without behaviour change, antimicrobial resistance will remain a major threat. Behaviour changes must also include actions to reduce the spread of infections through vaccination, hand washing, practising safer sex, and good food hygiene.

Question

What are the types of disasters India is exposed to? Examine along with primary reasons responsible for India's increased vulnerability to them, especially in the near future. **(250 words)**

Approach

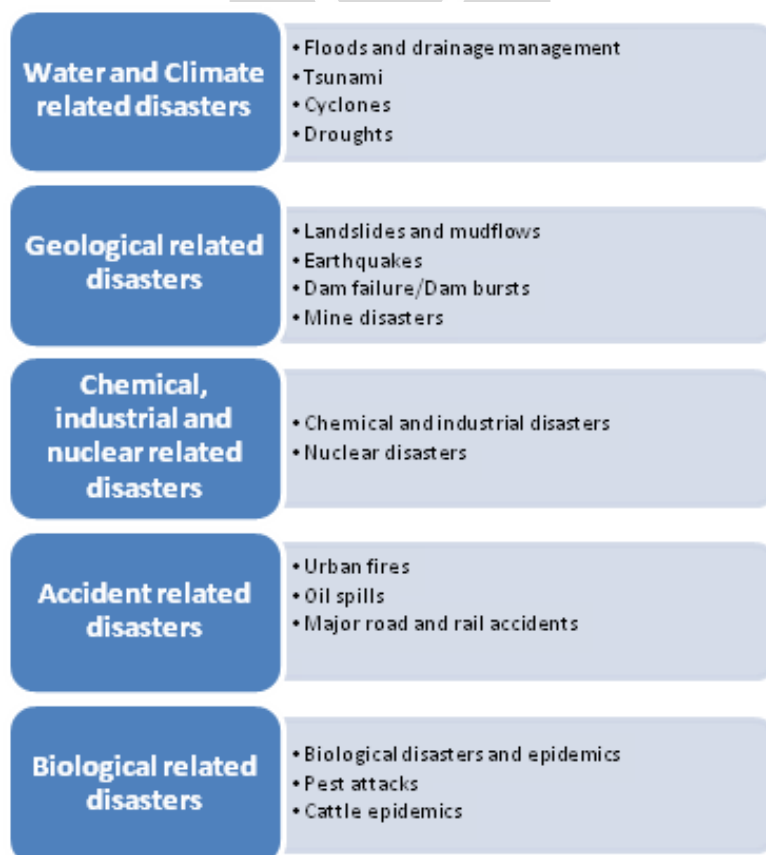
- Introduce by mentioning about India's geographic conditions which make India prone to disasters.
- Explain the different types of disasters India is exposed to.
- Mention the primary reasons making India vulnerable to such conditions.
- Mention the steps taken to improve the situation and suggest some reforms.

Introduction

India, being a geographically diverse country, faces severe risks of natural disasters. Lack of proper mitigation efforts further deteriorates the condition. Every year disasters like floods, landslides, fire incidents, etc cause severe loss of lives and damage to property.

Body

Some of the major types of disasters India is exposed to are:



Primary reasons for increased vulnerability to such disasters are as follows:

- **Geographic vulnerability:**
 - Around 59% of Indian landmass is prone to earthquakes of moderate to very high intensity.

- Hilly areas of Northern and North-Eastern Himalayas are at risk from landslides and avalanches.
- Close to 5,700 kms, out of the 7,516 kms long coastline is prone to cyclones and tsunamis.
- **Inadequate preparedness:** Government fails to take adequate measures beforehand which further aggravate the situation.
 - As per IIT Gandhinagar, nearly 50% of India faced drought in 2019 despite IMD's early forecast of an El-Nino year. Factors like flawed implementation of schemes which fail to check faulty water conservation structures, growing water intensive crops, overuse of groundwater, etc shows inadequate preparedness of the government.
- **Political reasons :**
 - Centre approved just 19% drought relief funds for States from 2015-16 to 2017-18 as part of financial assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
 - Lack of coordination among states prevents them from cooperating and taking preemptive measures. For ex: disputes related to river water sharing and inadequate dam safety management, leading to floods like Kerala floods of 2018.
- **Policy and governance failures:**
 - Fire accidents in public places like hospitals due to negligence and non implementation of existing mandatory fire safety norms.
 - Collapse of under-construction infrastructure projects like flyovers, metro tracks and residential buildings due to poor quality of construction, illegal addition of floors, etc.
 - Lack of adequate infrastructure to monitor and manage large crowd gathering resulting into stampede.

Disaster risks in India are further compounded by increasing vulnerabilities related to changing demographics and socio-economic conditions, unplanned urbanization, development within high-risk zones, environmental degradation, climate change, geological hazards, epidemics and pandemics.

Some of the **Government initiatives** to improve the condition of disaster risk reduction and response:

- NDMA has taken an initiative on **Earthquake Disaster Risk Indexing (EDRI)** for 50 important cities and 1 District in Seismic Zone IV & V areas.
 - This will be helpful in comparing the overall risk across large number of cities or region and also in prioritization of cities to implement appropriate disaster mitigation measures.
- NDMA through Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) has prepared **Upgraded Earthquake Hazard Maps and Atlases** for the country for better planning and policies.
- The **Aapdamitra scheme of NDMA** has provision for training 6000 community volunteers in disaster response in 30 most flood prone districts (200 volunteers per district) in 25 States
- Project on deployment of **Mobile Radiation Detection Systems (MRDS)** to handle Radiological Hazards in Metros/Capital Cities/Big Cities in India to detect unclaimed radioactive materials/substances and save public from its hazardous effects.
- Leveraging the **technology of Geographic Information System (GIS)**, NDMA have taken up a project for disaster risk management by establishing GIS Server and creation of database to integrate data obtained from various stakeholders to increase disaster preparedness, mitigation, damage assessment, response and relief management efforts.

Conclusion

India being a signatory to the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction** is committed to achieve the priorities and objectives through systematic and institutional efforts. India needs to continue its diligent efforts for disaster risk reduction as it has a pivotal role in supporting adaptation to climate change as well as sustainable development.

Question

Response to disasters must be proactive, not reactive. Discuss. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give brief description or definition of disaster.
- State and elaborate on the disadvantages of traditional reactive approach to DM.
- State and elaborate advantages of proactive approach to deal with DM.

Introduction

- Disaster is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.
- Primarily disasters are triggered by natural hazards or are human-induced, or as a result from a combination of both.
- In the traditional reactive disaster management approach, focus is on relief and rehabilitation in post disaster scenario. A paradigm shift has now taken place in disaster management, replacing traditional relief centric approach to holistic and integrated approach with emphasis on prevention, mitigation and preparedness.
- The four phases of disaster are 1) mitigation; 2) preparedness; 3) response; and 4) recovery.
- This model helps frame issues related to disaster preparedness as well recovery after a disaster.

Body

The major disadvantages of reactive approach to disaster management approach are:

- **Enhanced loss of life and material:** Reactive approaches focus on relief and immediate rehabilitation and ignore preventive disaster reduction policies. Such an approach causes higher amount of loss of life and material.
- **Absence of adaptive approach to different type of disasters:** For different types of disasters response measures may vary, which is not possible in reactive approach to disasters. Reactive approach remain 'one size fits all' approach to disaster.
- **Absence of Early Warning Systems** in reactive approach causes delayed response to disaster. The provision of timely and reliable information, through identified institutions, allows the community and the government machinery to reduce their risk and be prepared to face the hazard is essential.

Advantages of Proactive approach

- **Saving lives:** Statistical evidence suggests disaster prevention helps limiting loss of life to disasters in a number of developed and developing countries.
- **Protecting infrastructure and livelihoods:** The cost of property damage from disasters is prevented and curtailed through integrated disaster management approach emphasising prevention and mitigation.
- **Protecting the environment:** Increased disaster resilience in some cases been also helps in protecting and preserve the natural environment.

Conclusion

- Disaster does not emerge suddenly; it has a life cycle, which may take days, months or even decades to develop depending on its causative factors. A disaster thus needs to be examined as it will allow anticipating the crisis and thus preventing and mitigating it to the extent possible.
- Crisis can also be mitigated through measures, like better enforcement of building codes and zoning regulations, proper maintenance of drainage systems, better awareness and public education to reduce the risks of hazards etc.
- India has upgraded its disaster reduction capability according to 'Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction' which was adopted during the Third UN World
- Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan in 2015 for 25 years (2015-2030).

Question

India's zero casualty approach to managing extreme weather events has been a major contributor to the reduction of loss of life and resources from such events. Examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly explain the “Zero Casualty Approach” for managing extreme events.
- Elaborate the steps taken in this regard by giving examples from recent events.
- Give Conclusion.

Introduction

- India is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events due to monsoon characterised climatic conditions and presence of long coastlines. On its eastern coast, the Bay of Bengal is highly favourable for the formation of cyclones.
- To minimise the loss of lives and properties from these extreme events such as cyclones and the resulting storm surges, India has adopted the zero casualty approach. Recently, UN office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) appreciated the success of this approach in tackling Cyclone Fani in Odisha.

Body

India's zero casualty approach has been successful in managing extreme weather events due to

- **Effective Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery system** that are in consistence with the guidelines of Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction.
- Accuracy of *Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)*'s **Early Warning System** in predicting accurate timing of cyclone formation and its landfall enables the state to be disaster ready and minimise loss of lives and properties.
 - During Cyclone Fani in Odisha, IMD's **early warning enabled** the authorities to conduct a well-targeted evacuation plan that helped more than one million people to move into storm shelters safely.
- **Disaster Resilient Relief Infrastructure** such as cyclone shelters and Disaster Rapid Action Force, was set up to conduct rescue operation and distribution of relief. Effectiveness of these steps were seen during cyclone Phailin (2013), Hudhud (2014) and Fani (2019).
- **Clear Communication Plans** (Do and Don'ts)-Roughly 2.6m text messages were sent to locals in clear language before cyclone Fani hit, keeping those potentially affected alert.
- **Effective Coordination** among government agencies, local community groups and volunteer groups.
- **Effective role of National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP)**: During cyclone Fani, installation of lightning arresters constructed under NCRMP and mounted over cyclone shelters helped in achieving “zero death” from lightning associated with the cyclone.

Conclusion

- India has upgraded its disaster reduction capability according to the Sendai Framework For Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, that was adopted during the 3rd UN World Conference for disaster risk reduction held in Sendai, Japan in 2015. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), which is the apex body for disaster management in India, is effectively working towards Capacity Building Measures for better Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery during a natural or man-made disaster.
- Still, to build a safer and disaster resilient India, it needs proactive approach of all the stakeholders. Alongwith government-initiated measures, local public participation is necessary. For this, effective and timely awareness programmes are needed. Also, advance technologies such as GIS, Artificial Intelligence and advanced weather forecasting systems must be incorporated for timely and effective predictions of extreme weather events.

My Notes...



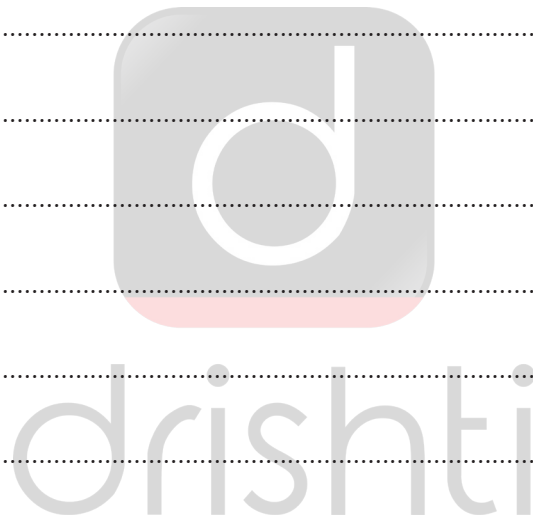
drishti



drishti

- A. A nation has no permanent friends, and no permanent enemies, only permanent interests.
- B. Compassion is the basis of morality.
- C. Religion is behaviour and not mere belief.

My Notes...





drishti

Question

What are Hypoxic Zones? List the causes and impact of its formation in oceans. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly describe the Hypoxic zones.
- Gives some underlying reasons for its formation.
- Mention the impact of formation of dead zones
- Any reports or data for value addition.
- Give some suggestions to reverse the present scenario
- Futuristic way forward.

Introduction

- **The National Science Foundation (USA)** reports that Earth currently has more than 400 oceanic dead zones, with the count doubling every decade.
- **Hypoxic zones** are **oxygen-starved** areas in the ocean or lakes are areas where very few or no organism survive. The regions facing such a situation essentially become biological desert.
- According to the recent report, “**Dead Zones: Devil in the Deep Blue Sea**”, a massive dead zone is located in the Arabian Sea, which is expected to be the world's largest.

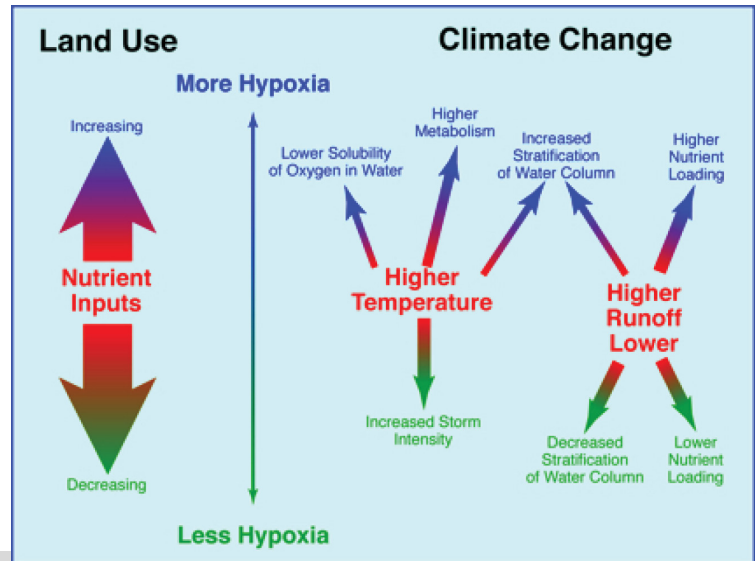
Causes

Hypoxic zones can occur naturally, but the major cause of concern among the world community are the anthropogenic sources. There are many physical, chemical, and biological factors that combine to create dead zones.

- **Natural Cause:** In the summer, northerly summer winds work together with the Earth's rotation to push oxygenated surface water offshore and this coastal water is replaced by low-oxygen but nutrient-rich waters from the depths of the continental shelf by a process known as **upwelling**. Once this nutrient-rich water reaches the ocean's sunlit layers, it fertilizes blooms of phytoplankton.
- **Eutrophication** i.e the process by which extra nutrients are added to the water bodies, stimulating an overgrowth of algae, which then sinks and decomposes in the water. The decomposition process consumes oxygen and depletes the supply available to healthy marine life
 - The sources of nutrient overloading are as follows
 - Fertilizers run-offs
 - Domestic Sewage
 - Industry
 - Burning of Fossil Fuel etc.
- **Global warming** increases the temperature of the ocean water which in-turn affects the oceans in the following manner:
 - Exacerbates the occurrence of harmful algal bloom
 - Lowers the solubility of oxygen.
 - Enhances **stratification** by heating surface waters, which in turn will promote hypoxia by preventing oxygenated surface waters from mixing to the bottom.

Impact

- **Effect on Marine Organism:** Nutrient over-enrichment results in enhancement of primary and secondary productivity and can cause individual organisms to experience a range of behavioral and physiological impacts including reduction in fitness or reproductive capacity, increased mortality and migration.
 - Increases the **metabolism** of marine animals.
 - Low oxygen level kills coral reefs.
- **Effect on Humans**
 - Elevated nutrient levels and algal blooms can also cause problems in drinking water in communities nearby and upstream from dead zones.
 - Harmful algal blooms release toxins that contaminate drinking water, causing illness in animals and humans.
 - Threatened global food supply and fisheries.
- **Economic Loss** due to reduction in potential for commercial fishing.
- Loss of Habitat and Biodiversity.



Remedial Measures

- Eliminate human-related nutrient pollution at their main sources.
- Better practices and accountability must be put in place to protect the ocean.
- Raising awareness about the importance of keeping the ocean clean to encourage positive habits and sustainable lifestyle.
- Funding research initiatives to understand the role of nutrients in formation of dead zones and to document the historical changes in nutrient loading.

The prevention and mitigation of dead zones needs a better knowledge base, using a quantification of nutrient inputs and modelling of future scenarios. Therefore investment in research and collective effort of world community are essential to reverse the present scenario.

Question

Napoleon was the child of French Revolution. Comment. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly mention about French Revolution.
- Mention the fundamental principles of revolution.
- Mention some of the pro-people steps taken by Napoleon.
- Conclude the answer by giving a criticism of Napoleon.

Introduction

- The French Revolution was a watershed event in modern European history which attempted to bring enlightenment principles to governance, creating a society that was rational and egalitarian. This revolution led to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte.
- **Robert Asprey** in his book, *The Rise of Napoleon Bonaparte*, perceives him as an **heir** to “**liberal vision**” of the French Revolution, but he also recognises Napoleon as “**a survivor of the Great Terror**”.

Body

- The role of Napoleon in French Revolution and aftermath is highly debatable in the European history.
- Napoleon can be regarded as the child of the French Revolution as during the initial period he promoted some of the ideas and aims of the revolution. French revolutionaries had the vision of making the people free by ending “absolute monarchy” which was supported by Napoleon and paved the way for his uprising.
- The earlier government (Monarchy) did not support the welfare of the people. As the new leader of France, Bonaparte introduced a new system of government aimed at making the society equal.
- During the early phase, he was able to preserve the basic principles of the French Revolution i.e. **Equality , Fraternity and Liberty**.
- He also introduced the **famous Napoleonic Code**, which included criminal code, military code & code of civil procedure and commercial code.
- Napoleon Bonaparte abolished “**serfdom and feudalism**” in the country in order to make the people free.
- Napoleon set up an elaborate system of schools, called **lycées**, which is still in use, and was a proponent for universal education.

Conclusion

Although Napoleon was a product of the French Revolution and maintained the image as a “son of the Revolution”, but idealism always fell to pragmatism as Napoleon’s main purpose was creating a strong unified France which gradually made him a despotic ruler.

Question

Examine the impact of global events on Indian freedom struggle and how India’s independence influenced other countries. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Discuss the impact the global events on Indian freedom struggle and how they shaped it in a definite way
- Discuss how India’s freedom and ideals inspired other countries to fight for their independence and other injustices.

Introduction

India’s independence from the British Raj can be said to be the most significant movement in its modern history. It went through phases of movements while being impacted by the events taking place in other parts of the world, and also influenced these events in turn.

Body

- **The First World War (1914-1918)** had a great impact on the National Movement in India:
 - **Resentment among the Indians:** The British government declared India as an ally and belligerent Indian people and resources were used in this war. It created great resentment among the Indians especially when they were not even consulted before joining the war.
 - The experience of war led to the surge of nationalism and the **rise of mass civil disobedience** when the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms’ failed to deliver on the expectation of swaraj/ home rule, which was a major hope that led to popular support for the British war effort.
 - **Anguish among the Muslims:** The British were fighting against the Turkish Empire which was ruled by the Caliph (Khalifa).The Muslims had great respect for the Caliph. The Indian Muslims joined the Caliphate (Khilafat) Movement for the defense of Turkey against the British.

➤ **Impact of Second World War and the National Movement:**

- The **Labour Party**, which had come to power in Britain after the end of the World War, lifted the ban on the Congress and elections were declared in India which paved the way for the powerful Indian leaders to come back in the game.
 - **Britain was economically exhausted after the war.** She was dependent on other countries to borrow food and raw materials for factories. The British, facing such grave problems back home, did not have the energy and resources to hold India and the enthusiastic Indians who were determined to achieve independence.
 - The **American government pressurized Britain to grant India its due independence** because the Allied Powers stood for freedom and democracy.
 - After the conclusion of the Second World War, people from all over the world developed bitterness towards imperialism and wars. They stood for rights, equality and humanity more than ever. They believed that granting India and the colonies independence would improve their economic condition and thus create welfare.
- **Impact of Russian Revolution:** New ideologies such as **Marxism** and **Socialism** inspired many socialist and communist groups and they attracted peasants and workers and made them an integral part of national movement.
- **Impact of French Revolution:** The Indian freedom struggle was inspired by the ideals of French Revolution, liberty, fraternity and equality, which worked as an awakening during the movement against British rule, and was later imbibed in India's constitution.

India's independence influenced other countries in the following ways

- India's independence in 1947 inspired nationalist movements and **provided a model for decolonization and independence** all over the world. By 1950, the old colonial order seemed to have lost its force, its historical relevance.
- India's independence **acted like a catalyst** for other countries to demand freedom. The British had to lose the colonies too, reducing the once mighty kingdom to a humble island.
- The change was most striking in **Africa**. France granted independence to almost all its African colonies in a single year, 1960; Britain, more gradually, from 1957 to 1965 (Libya-1951, Ghana-1957, Morocco-1956, Nigeria-1960)
- The influence was felt on **South East Asian countries** also (Myanmar-1948, Indonesia-1949).
- India's freedom struggle gave the **ideal of non-violence** to the world inspiring the leaders elsewhere in the world, most probably Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela being the most prominent.

Conclusion

India's freedom struggle and Gandhi's ideals of non-violence, truth etc. inspired the freedom struggles throughout the globe. Similarly, Indian national movement, and the country's socio-economic development did not take place in isolation. India won its freedom resting upon edifices of ideas and awakening that were inspired by major global events and leaders.

Day - 51

GS - I, II, III

GS1

30th July 2019

Question

What is six-day war and why was it fought? How has this war shaped history of the modern world? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly explain about the Six-Day war in the introduction.
- Mention the causes and the immediate reasons that triggered the war.
- Explain how it impacted the geopolitical situation in the Middle East and the rest of the world.

Introduction

The Six-Day War was a brief but bloody conflict fought in June 1967 between Israel and the Arab states of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. This war led to the emergence of Israel as a significant power in the region and shocked the Arab world of the severity of their defeat.

Body

The six day war can be considered as a consequence of several decades of political tension and military conflict between Israel and the Arab states.

The roots of the war lay in the very **creation of Israel in 1948**, which was followed by the First Arab-Israeli War. This also created Palestinian refugee crisis aggrieved by the military conflict.

Further conflict erupted in **1956** in the form of **Suez crisis** after the nationalization of the Suez Canal by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Hence, the Six-Day war can be seen as a consequential step of the ongoing geo-political rift in the Middle East.

Some of the other direct major **causes of the war** were:

- Cross border attacks in 1960s by Syrian-backed Palestinian guerillas against the Israel Defense Forces.
- Israel-Syria air and artillery engagement in April 1967.
- Amassing of troops by Egypt towards Sinai Peninsula. This was after Soviet Union intelligence inputs and in apprehension of a full scale invasion by Israel near its northern border with Syria.
- Support of USSR for the modernization of Egyptian and Syrian armies.
- In May 1967, Egypt banned Israeli shipping from the Straits of Tiran, the sea passage connecting the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba.

All these events led the Israel Defense Forces to initiate **Operation Focus**, a coordinated aerial attack on Egypt on June 5, 1967. This marked the beginning of the Six-Day war in the form of fierce air and artillery warfare.

The war ended with a U.N.-brokered ceasefire. However, it significantly altered the map of the Middle East and gave rise to other geopolitical tensions. Below are further **consequences of the war**:

- **Israel seized the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip** from Egypt, the **West Bank and East Jerusalem** from Jordan, and the **Golan Heights** from Syria.
- This put a question mark on the capabilities of Arab world. They met in Sudan in August 1967 and signed a resolution that promised “no peace, no recognition and no negotiation” with Israel.
- Led by Egypt and Syria, the Arab states later launched a fourth major conflict with Israel during **1973's Yom Kippur War**.
- Capturing West Bank and Gaza strip worsened the **Palestinian refugee crisis**. This laid the groundwork for ongoing political turmoil and violence in the region.
- Since 1967, the lands Israel seized in the Six-Day War have been at the center of efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. Even though Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in 1982 and withdrew from Gaza in 2005, the status of the Golan Heights and the West Bank continues to be a stumbling block in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

Conclusion

- The violence of the conflict has been the object of numerous international conferences at UN platforms. This has divided the modern world in dealing with historic rights, security issues and human rights of the Palestinians. While the Arab world generally supported the Palestinian cause, the western world led by USA always supported Israel's claims in the region.
- Hence, the conflict continues to shape the history of the modern world in the form of ongoing geo-political tensions like the one between US and Iran, the leader of the Muslim world.

Question

Discuss the contributions of Raja Ram Mohan Roy in the making of modern India. (250 words)

Approach

- Give a brief introduction of Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
- Explain his contributions in different fields and how it brought significant change in the lives of the people.
- Conclude how his legacy shall be continued and the need for reform today.

Introduction

Raja Ram Mohan Roy, '**the father of Indian renaissance**', was a man of versatile genius. The '**Brahmo Samaj**' established by him was the earliest reform movement greatly influenced by modern western ideas. As a reformist ideologue, Roy believed in modern scientific approach and principles of human dignity and social equality.

Body

His ideas and activities were aimed at political upliftment of the masses through social reform and to the extent can be said to have nationalist undertones. His major contributions can be understood in the following contexts:

Religious Reforms

- In 1803, he published his first book, '**Tuhfat-ul- Muwahhidin**' or 'Gift to Monotheists', in which he argues for monotheism (the concept of single God). He translated Vedas and the five Upnishads to Bengali to prove his conviction that ancient Hindu texts supported monotheism.
- In 1814, he founded **Atmiya Sabha** in Calcutta to campaign against idolatry, caste rigidities, meaningless rituals and other social ills.
- He **criticized the ritualism of Christianity** and rejected Christ as the incarnation of God. In Precepts of Jesus (1820), he tried to separate the moral and philosophical message of the New Testament, which he praised, from its miracle stories.

Social Reforms

- Roy established the **Brahmo Samaj** in August 1828, which acted against the evil practices that existed in the Hindu society.
- Roy was a crusader against the inhuman practice of Sati. He started **anti-sati struggle** in 1818 and cited sacred texts to prove that no religion sanctioned burning alive of widows, besides appealing to humanity, reason and compassion. His efforts were rewarded by the Government regulation in 1829 which declared practice of Sati a crime.
- Roy attacked **polygamy, child marriage, and the degraded state of widows** and demanded right of inheritance and property for women.
- He also campaigned against **caste system, untouchability, superstitions** and use of intoxicants.

Educational Reforms

- Roy did much to disseminate the benefits of modern education to his countrymen. He supported **David Hare's efforts to found the Hindu College in 1817**, while Roy's English school taught mechanics and Voltaire's philosophy.
- In 1825, he established **Vedanta college** where courses in both Indian learning and Western social and physical sciences were offered.
- Roy also worked as the editor of Bengali newspaper "**Sambad Kaumudi**" (1821) and the Persian newspaper "**Mirat-UI-Akbar**".

Economic and Political Reforms

- Roy condemned oppressive practices of Bengali zamindars and demanded fixation of minimum rents. He also demanded abolition of taxes on tax-free lands.
- He called for a reduction of export duties on Indian goods abroad and abolition of the East India Company's trading rights.
- He demanded the Indianisation of superior services and separation of executive from judiciary. He demanded equality between Indians and Europeans.

Conclusion

Therefore, Roy was much ahead of his times. His understanding of the international character of the principles of liberty, equality and justice indicate that he well understood the significance of modern age. These principles continue to inspire the idea of 'New India' today.

Question

What factors affect the location of iron and steel industries in India? Trace the change in the location of iron and steel industries in India since the early 19th century. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly introduce the iron and steel industries in India.
- Mention the factors affecting the location of iron and steel industries in India.
- Trace the changes in their location since early 19th century.
- Give conclusion

Introduction

- Iron and steel industries is one of the most important industries in India. This is a feeder industry whose products are used as raw material for other industries. India was the second largest steel producer in 2018 after China.

Factors affecting the location of Iron and steel industries in India

- **Raw materials:** Most of the large integrated steel plants are located close to the source of raw materials, as they use large quantities of heavy and weight losing raw materials. Eg: Concentration of iron and steel industry in Chota Nagpur region is due to the presence of iron ore in this region. **TISCO at Jamshedpur** gets coal from Jharia coalfields, and iron ore, limestone, dolomite and manganese from Odisha and Chhattisgarh.
- **Markets:** Since the products in iron & steel industries are heavy & bulky, transportation cost is high. Therefore nearness to market is important, especially for mini steel plants access to nearby markets is most important in order to minimize transportation cost. **TISCO in Jamshedpur is nearer to Kolkata** which provided a large market. **Visakhapatnam steel plant located near the coast** has excellent import-export facility.
- **Labour:** Availability of cheap labour is also important, most of the plants in Chota Nagpur region find abundant supply of cheap labour in the region.
- **Availability of water for cooling:** For e.g. Bokaro steel plant on the bank of river Damodar, Visheshwarya steel plant in Bhadravati, Karnataka is near river Bhadra.
- **Nearness to Industrial Town:** Mini steel plants, that use scrap metals as input, require recycling of waste metals and hence, are located mostly near industrial towns. For e.g. Steel plants in Maharashtra.
- **Government Policies:** Governments incentivise industries set up in backward regions. It provides subsidies, tax rebates and capital to influence the location of industries. **Bhilai Steel Plant in Chhattisgarh** was set up to remove the backwardness of the region.

- **Power:** Availability of power is another determinant for the industry location. TISCO and Bokaro steel plant get hydroelectricity from **Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)**. Bhilai Plant gets energy from Korba Thermal Station.
- **Transport:** Connectivity to raw material locations, markets and ports is another factor. **TISCO is well connected with railway to Kolkata, Mumbai Chennai. Durgapur Plant has Navigable Canal from Durgapur to Hugli and Kolkata Port.**

Changes in the location of Iron & Steel industries since early 19th century

- **Before 1800 A.D.** iron and steel industry was **located where raw materials, power supply and running water were easily available.**
- Later the ideal location for the industry was **near coal fields and close to canals and railways.**
- **After 1950**, iron and steel industry began to be located on large areas of flat land near sea ports. This is because by this time steel works had become very large and iron ore had to be imported from overseas.
- In India, iron and steel industry has developed taking advantage of raw materials, cheap labour, transport and market. All the important steel producing centres such as Bhilai, Durgapur, Burnpur, Jamshedpur, Rourkela, Bokaro are situated in a region that spreads over four states — West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Bhadravati and Vijay Nagar in Karnataka, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, Salem in Tamil Nadu are other important steel centres utilising local resources.

Conclusion

Iron and steel Industry is the backbone of manufacturing sector in India. With change in technology, demand patterns, international trade dynamics and energy sources the location of the iron and steel industry keeps shifting. However, due to industrial inertia the existing locations always remain relevant.

Day - 52

GS - I, II, III

GS2

31st July 2019

Question

Discuss the role that global forums like G-20 can play in tackling the global economic downturn that has been caused by events like Trade war, America first policy etc. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly explain the current status of the global economy.
- Explain the role of global forums and institutions in tackling the downturn.
- Give a way forward to overcome the situation and prevent any future crisis.

Introduction

Global economy has slowed to its lowest pace in three years. International trade and investment have been weaker than expected as per World Bank's June 2019 **Global Economic Prospects: Heightened Tensions, Subdued Investment** reports. The world economy is expected to grow at 2.6% down by 0.3% from January 2019.

Body

The global economy faces a number of complex challenges emerging from current events like rising protectionism, technological changes, and lower levels of trust in the core institutions threatening to fragment the international order that has governed the global economy.

There is a need to strengthen the role of global forums like the G20, and reform institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the WTO.

Role of global forums in tackling global economic downturn

- They provide a platform for bilateral and multilateral meetings to reduce tensions among the developed and developing countries and decide on a common pathway to limit the vulnerabilities.
 - For Ex: JAI (Japan-America-India), RIC (Russia-India-China) meetings at the G20 Osaka Summit 2019, which tries to address conflicting interests of various groupings on one platform.
- They guide and drive international policy frameworks. For e.g. India has made a strong case for adoption of the concept of 'significant economic presence' for taxing global digital companies at the 14th G20 summit held in Osaka, Japan.
- Events like WEF Davos Summit 2019 give an opportunity for multiple stakeholders like politicians, academicians, businessmen and other civil society groups to raise their concerns about events like Brexit or climate change.
- Forums like the G20 help in reshaping governance of global finance- as done by developing strict rules on the 'too big to fail' problem, increasing the lending capacity of the IMF and collecting richer information on the shadow banking system.
- Platforms like WTO provide voice to the lower income countries in the form of '**consensus based voting**' and help address the structural problems of global economic governance. The platforms provide opportunity for greater economic cooperation and resolving issues like deflating export prices, stagnating industrial productivity and unemployment in the developing world.

Conclusion

Thus, there is a need for a '**new multilateralism**', one that is dedicated to improving the lives of all the world's citizens and ensures that the economic benefits of globalization and technology are shared much more broadly. This can prevent future crises by developing capabilities to respond effectively.

Question

Without addressing the power-imbalance in **society**, a just society, particularly for women, cannot be envisaged. Discuss the role of the Indian Judiciary in this regard. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Describe the power imbalances in society associated with gender.
- Explain Judiciary's role in reducing the power imbalance.
- Discuss the significance of addressing the power imbalance in society.

Introduction

Indian society today is marked with stark power-imbalances among different sections of the community. There is an urgent need to empower these marginalized or excluded groups.

The idea of empowerment is not limited to political representation. It is a process to create an inclusive society, which could give a life of dignity to achieve the objectives of social, economic and political justice.

Body

Women, particularly face social exclusion in the patriarchal society in all aspects of life. It is not limited to denying positions of power in political institutions, rather has deep rooted existence in social institutions like family and society.

Indian judiciary has played a critical role in upholding the rights of women to ensure social, political and economic justice and ending the gender-based discrimination to address the power-imbalance in the society.

Some of the steps taken by the judiciary in this direction are:

- **Dealing with social power imbalance:** In various judgments, Supreme Court (SC) has ensured equality of various social rights like-right to worship, the right to choose one's life partner. It has constantly widened and refined the definitions of "marriage", "family" and other social institutions to rationalise the power structure.
 - **For eg- In its Sabarimala judgment**, it banned the restriction on women of menstruating age to worship thus, upholding the right to equality and dignity of the women under Article 14 and 15 of the Constitution.
 - It held the practice of Triple Talaq unconstitutional, paving the way for equality to be observed in the marriage.
- **Dealing with workplace power imbalance:** SC commissioned the Vishaka guidelines that defined sexual harassment at workplace and put the onus on the employers to provide a safe working environment for women.
- **Dealing with economic power imbalance:** It has helped invoke a debate around the equal protection of women's property rights through the various judgments.
 - For eg- in Mary Roy Vs State of Kerala, 1986, SC granted Syrian Christian women the right to seek an equal share in their father's property.

Conclusion

At several instances, the judiciary has guided the social attitude towards the need for a just and fair society, evening out the power structures. However, judiciary itself suffers from several inherent power imbalances. A lot needs to be done to empower women and other marginalised sections in society. Efforts in this direction cannot be limited to the public institutions but the society itself has to evolve to restructure the power sharing between the various groups.

Question

What are some of the structural problems in the administrative services in India? What kind of reform is needed for the smooth functioning of the government machinery? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce by mentioning the importance of civil services in governance.
- Explain the structural problems in the administrative services.
- Suggest some reforms and recommendations of various committees.

Introduction

Sardar Patel famously called the Indian Administrative Services (IAS) "the steel frame" of India's government machinery. It has played a critical role in formulation and implementation of strategies and programmes for the development and modernization of the nation.

Body

However, with changing times, there is a need for reforming the civil services as they have fallen short on the goals of neutrality and effectiveness due to the following reasons:

- Career-based civil services coupled with **excessive job security** have led to a sense of complacency and **lack of accountability** amongst civil servants.
- Goal displacement due to **emphasis on rules rather than results** – with rules becoming an end in themselves.
- The current system of **training for the civil services** does not adequately reflect changes in the socio-economic scenario and the emerging new challenges render conventional approaches and practices of administration obsolete and dysfunctional.
- The ivory-tower approach of civil servants due to **disconnect from ground realities** is reflected in their ineffective policy making. There is a marked lack of citizen-centric approach which is essential to understand and redress problems of the poor and the weaker sections.

- **Political interference** in the form of arbitrary and whimsical transfers to ensure administrative acquiescence prevents civil servants from acting neutrally.
- Promise of **post-retirement appointments** to statutory commissions, quasi-judicial tribunals, constitutional authorities or contesting election for a political office on the ticket of a political party prevent the civil servant from acting impartially.

Some of the **reforms needed** for the smooth functioning of the government machinery are:

➤ **Recruitment:**

- **Improve the teeth to tail ratio:** Promote an officer oriented culture and focus on expanding the number of officers.
- **Rationalization and harmonization of services:** Reducing the existing 60 plus separate services at the central and state levels. Recruits shall be placed in a central talent pool, which would then allocate candidates by matching their competencies and the job description of the post. (**NITI Aayog Strategy for New India@75**)
- **Nurture specialization:**
 - Internally officers may be encouraged to gain expertise in domain specific areas in the early stages of careers like Agriculture and Rural Development, Natural Resources Management, Industry and Trade, etc. (**Surinder Nath Committee 2003**)
 - Current system of rapid rotation of officers across ministries may be replaced by a system of longer postings to gain specialization.

➤ **Training:**

- With economic gravity shifting towards cities, training should be reoriented to focus relatively more on managing urban areas.
- Three mid-career training modules should be introduced for all services in the 12th, 20th and 28th years of service. (**Yugandhar Committee, 2003**)

➤ **Accountability:**

- Each department should lay down and benchmark services to be delivered, methods of grievance redressal and public evaluation of performance.
- A **Model Code of Governance** should be drawn up benchmarking the standards of governance to be made available to citizens. (**Hota Committee 2004**)
- **Performance budgeting** should be introduced for departments which are in direct charge of development programmes. (**1st ARC**)

➤ **Efficiency:**

- E-Governance should be emphasized upon, by the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to transform government, making it more accessible, effective and accountable. (**Hota Committee, 2004**)
- Each government department and agency should be ranked on the basis of their move to the e-office system, reduction of paper use, and citizen engagement through the electronic medium. (**Niti Aayog 3 yr agenda**)

➤ **Governance**

- **Citizen-Centric framework: Public access to information** should be increased through the use of ICT and RTI. RTI's management information system portal needs to be expanded to cover more public authorities, especially subordinate offices of ministries and public sector units.
- Capability and knowledge base of public authorities like CPIOs, appellate authorities, information commissions need to be upgraded on a continuous basis.

Reforms are a continuous process and several initiatives have been taken in recent years by the present government. These include, lateral entry at higher levels of government, the introduction of a multi-stakeholder feedback (MSF) performance evaluation, introduction of online mechanisms for appraisals and filing of various returns by employees, and strengthening training and merit based postings.

Conclusion

- The purpose of 'reform' is to reorient the civil services into a dynamic, efficient and accountable apparatus for public service delivery built on the ethos and values of impartiality, neutrality and effectiveness.
- Also, there is a need to shift from pre-eminence of governance to effective governance with a focus on decentralization and citizen-centricity. The civil servants, civil society organizations, and the private sector should act in coherence and as partners in the process of country's governance.

Day - 53

GS - I, II, III

GS2

1st August 2019

Question

Analyse the limitations faced by the model code of conduct in the digital age of political advertisement. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give brief introduction of Model Code of Conduct.
- Enlist and elaborate limitations faced by model code of conduct in the digital age of political advertisement.

Introduction

The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission that political parties have to follow while campaigning during elections. Earlier Election Commission held tight reins on election-time propaganda. However, the effective implementation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is facing challenges in today's digital era and explosion of various types of multimedia.

Body

Limitations faced by model code of conduct in the digital age

- **Blurring distinction of Private and Public:** Social media has blurred distinction between private and public.
 - New age tools like live webcasting, making election campaign related stuff go 'Viral', bringing in celebrities 'influencers' etc. have made implementation of MCC a complex task.
- **Accessibility:** Exponential growth of digital communication in India and non-regulation of social media due to concerns over freedom of speech, free internet, the challenge posed by social media for EC is significant. EC lacks resources as well as surveillance capacity to implement and punish the violation of MCC.
- **Jurisdiction issues:** Digital companies like Facebook are run by companies located overseas. Holding them accountable has become difficult for Indian agencies. EC faces similar challenge in preventing MCC violations.
- **Election expenditure:** Tracing money trails and poll expenditures is difficult in the digital age.
 - **Political advertisement on social media and lack of transparency** is another major challenge.
 - In March 2019 Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Google, ShareChat and TikTok presented a 'voluntary code of ethics'. Among other things, that involves insisting on transparency in political ads. Even though a small beginning has been made, full transparency will remain a challenge for the election commission.
- **Fake News:** Digital media is a potent source of unverified and deliberate fake news. One way to solve the problem can be by imposing a hefty fine per view of an advertisement that breaks the rules. EC needs to create a clear set of rules and stipulate fines.
- **Closed system like Whatsapp:** There are many gaps like closed systems such as WhatsApp, where users connect individually, are not covered by the election commission's guidelines.

Conclusion

Election commission recently has taken steps like all candidates are required to provide details of their social media accounts to the commission and take prior approval for all political advertisements on social media. Moreover, the model code will apply to all social media content. In spite of all these measures, effective implementation of MCC needs an entirely new approach with stringent focus on accountability of digital mediums.

Question

Self Help Groups in India help women empower other women, especially in rural India. Critically examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain Self help groups briefly.
- Elaborate the role of SHGs in empowering women.
- Discuss the related concerns.
- Give conclusion.

Introduction

A self-help group (SHG) is a voluntary association of men or women in similar economic conditions. The members of the group make small savings for a duration of time until they have enough capital in the group to start their own lending process. These funds can then be utilised for lending purposes (to members or other people). SHG movement in India gained momentum after 1992, when NABARD realised its potential and started promoting it.

Body

How SHGs empower rural women

- **Make rural women aware of their basic rights:** SHGs help rural women in getting educated and knowing their basic fundamental rights and laws.
- **Help rural women in getting employment:** The women SHGs play an instrumental role in arranging for various kinds of trainings for rural women relating to improved farming practices, livestock development, sewing, bookkeeping and general management. These trainings open up various employment opportunities for the rural women.
- **Boost self-confidence and enhance social status: SHGs help rural women become financially independent which in turn** builds their confidence and also enhances the social status of the family to which the women belong.
- **Increase community participation of the rural women:** Not only women SHGs educate the rural women but also increase their community participation.
 - They help the rural women in knowing their right to vote and even motivate them to take part in the local governance and village development process. This helps in their political empowerment.
- **Spreads awareness about social issues:** Rural India is still plagued by social evils like dowry system, child marriage, caste system, domestic violence, alcoholism, etc.
 - SHGs take the task of eliminating these evils by creating awareness, by promoting girl child education, conducting campaigns and meetings with the families of the rural women to bring about a social change.
- SHGs help in **inculcating the habit of saving and using banking facilities** among the members. The saving habit thus **strengthens the bargaining capacity of the women** and they are in a better position to acquire loans for productive purposes.
 - The women **gain from collective wisdom in managing their finances** and distributing the benefits among themselves.

- The SHGs play a major role in **sensitising more women to form SHGs** and in making them realise its importance in their empowerment.

SHGs helps in changing the gender dynamics of power within a family and ultimately the society at large. They now have greater say in the family matters and also are seen as stakeholders and partners in taking the community forward. The financial independence has eventually paved the way for societal upliftment of women and their voices.

Examples of SHGs helping women empowerment in India

- **Sewa Kaushal Vikas Kendra (SKVK) project in Uttarakhand** by SEWA International incorporates SHGs to drive change throughout the region by skill development and agriculture. It is a shining example of how women have moved forward not in fraternity, as a brotherhood but in their own unique sisterhood, lifting each other up, nourishing each other with love and support.
- Members of **Sorath Mahila Vikas Mandali (SMVM)**, an umbrella organisation connecting nearly 500 self-help groups (SHGs) in Gir region of Gujarat are fighting social taboos by helping widows to lead a better life.

Concerns Related to the SHGs in India

- **Ignorance of members:** Even though the authorities take measures for creating awareness among the group members about the schemes beneficial to them, still majority of the group are unaware of the schemes of assistance offered to them.
- **Inadequate training facilities:** The training facilities given to the members of SHGs in the specific areas of product selection, quality of products, production techniques, managerial ability, packing, other technical knowledge etc are not adequate to compete with that of strong units.
- **Lack of stability especially among women SHGs:** In the case of SHGs dominated by women, it is found that there is no stability of the units as many married women are not in a position to associate with the group due to the shift in their place of residence.
- **Weak financial management:** It is also found that in certain units the return from the business is not properly invested further in the units, and the funds diverted for other personal and domestic purposes like marriage, construction of house etc.

Conclusion

Self Help Groups empower women, in terms of better leadership, decision making, utility, and skill up gradation. Encouraging entrepreneurship through SHGs can help in eliminating the power imbalance in the society.

Question

The entire electoral exercise in India rests on three pillars — Article 326 of the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act 1950 and the Representation of the People Act 1951. Explain. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give introduction by mentioning about electoral exercise in the country.
- Mention the constitutional provisions under Art 326 and give its significance.
- Mention the provisions of RPA Act 1950 and RPA Act 1951.
- Give a way forward highlighting their impact.

Introduction

- **Election Commission** is the watchdog of **free and fair elections** in the country and **Article 324** of the Constitution provides for its establishment.

- The credibility of the electoral process has an important bearing on the healthy functioning of a political system.
- Holding of free and fair elections is the **sine-qua-non** of democracy. To ensure conduction of elections in free, fair and in an impartial manner, the constitution makers incorporated part XV (Art.324-329) in the constitution and empowered Parliament to make laws to regulate the electoral process.

Article 326 of the Constitution

- It provides that the election to the House of People and Legislative Assembly of States should be conducted on the basis of **adult suffrage** i.e citizens who are 18 years of age are entitled to vote.
 - This article of Constitution **ensures equality** among voters without any discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste or sex. It also reminds of the faith reposed by constitutional makers in the capacity of the masses.
 - Election Commission (EC), while warning political parties to fulfill their electoral promises remarks that “**If adult suffrage fails, violence is sure to come and no one will be able to stop it.**” This statement of EC highlights the importance of **Art. 326** in electoral process.

The Representation of the People Act 1950

- **Provisions**
 - It provides for the allocation of seats in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies and Legislative Councils of States.
 - It lays down procedures for delimitation of constituencies.
 - It lays down the qualification of voters.
 - It lays procedure for the preparation of electoral rolls and the manner of filling seats.
- **Significance**
 - The act provides for **direct election** for every Parliamentary constituency which ensures the intimate contact between the elector and representative, thus making the process more **participatory**.
 - It provides for delimitation of constituencies which ensures the incorporation of **changing dynamics of the increasing population** making the process more liveable.
 - The act strengthened the **federal polity** of the country by giving due representation to each state in the house of people.

The Representation of the People Act 1951

- **Provisions**
 - It regulates the conduct of elections.
 - It specifies the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of the houses,
 - It provides provisions to curb corrupt practices and other offences.
 - It lays down the procedure for settling doubts and disputes arising out of elections.
- **Significance**
 - The act is significant for the smooth functioning of the Indian democracy as it bars the entry of persons with criminal background into representative bodies, thus **decriminalizing Indian politics**.
 - The act requires every candidate to declare his assets and liabilities, and maintain an account of election expenses. This provision ensures the **accountability** and **transparency** of the candidate in the use of public funds or misuse of power for personal benefits.
 - It **prohibits corrupt practices** like booth capturing, bribery or promoting enmity etc., which ensures the **legitimacy** and **free & fair** conduct of elections which is essential for the success of any democratic setup.
 - The act provides that only those political parties which are registered under section 29A of the RPA Act, 1951 are eligible to receive **electoral bonds**, thus providing a mechanism to track the source of political funding and ensuring **transparency** in electoral funding.
 - The Article 326, Representation of the People Act 1950 and Representation of the People Act 1951 cover almost all the essential provision required to make any electoral process **efficient** and **accountable**. Thus, making the whole process more **accommodative** and **inclusive** along with paving the way for **participative democracy**.

Question

The government has relaxed the development controls along the coastline through CRZ Notification, 2018 recently. Examine the probable impacts of notification on the coastal economy and ecosystem. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly mention the key points of the notification.
- Explain the significance of the notification.
- Explain the economic and environmental impact of the notification.
- Conclude by stating the need for relaxing the development controls while taking into account the various economic and developmental concerns.

Introduction

- Nine states and four union territories in India have a sea-line border. A large population from these states depend on the sea for their livelihood.
- From mineral mining, defense activities, space centers to fishing and tourism, a wide range of economic activities are centered around the sea. Increasing infrastructure development, urbanization, and industrialization has led to unregulated waste generation and has disturbed the ecological balance of the region. The notifications to regulate the coastal ecosystem were first introduced in 1991 to address these emerging concerns.

Body

Coastal Regulation Zones (CRZ)

- The distance up to which development along rivers, creeks, and backwaters is to be regulated is governed by the distance up to which the tidal effect of the sea is experienced in rivers, creeks or back-waters.
- Coastal Regulation Zones are the coastal stretches within 500 meters of High Tide Line on the landward side. The various Coastal Regulation Zone grades represent the ecological sensitivity of a region in decreasing order with I being the most sensitive.
- These are classified into four categories include ecologically sensitive areas, substantially built-up urban areas, relatively undisturbed rural areas and the water area covered between Low Tide Line and 12 nautical miles seaward.
- Setting up of new industries and expansion of existing industries, manufacture or handling or storage or disposal of hazardous substances, mining, waste disposal are not allowed in these areas.

CRZ Notification, 2018

- The government has recently approved the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 2018 based on the recommendations of Shailesh Nayak committee to encourage construction of buildings and launch tourism activities in areas that are closer to the high tide line.
- The notification recommends that buildings can be constructed behind existing structures and roads, promotes housing infrastructure and slum redevelopment activities and tourism. It also recommends the reclamation of the seabed in the larger public interest such as bridges, sea-links on stilts, roads, important national installations related to coastal security, tourism.

Impact of Notification

- **Marine biodiversity:** Port construction and real estate development along with the weak environmental safeguards could damage fragile marine ecosystems of the inter-tidal areas. For example, excessive beach lighting is confusing and harmful to some marine species, including migrating turtles. Allowing reclamation of lands for specific infrastructure such as ports, bridges and fisheries-related structures can affect mangrove in the coastal areas.
- **The livelihood of small and traditional fishermen:** Fishermen along the coastline are not protected under the notification. The relaxation of development controls could subject them to severe commercial pressures. There was no consultation with coastal communities which can have serious impacts on livelihoods and ecology.
- **Employment generation:** The decision to allow construction and tourist facilities closer to the coast may boost employment and grow local business. It is in line with the Start-Up India initiative.
- **Temporary tourism** facilities such as shacks, toilet blocks, change rooms, drinking water facilities can increase the stress of tourism in the environmentally fragile area and can lead to further deterioration. The encroachment and pollution due to the increasing commercial activity can destroy the fishing grounds.
- **State-specific growth:** All activities except those requiring environmental clearances should fall under the ambit of the state and local planning bodies instead of being regulated by central policy. A delegation of the regulatory powers to the State can boost the cooperative federalism and can promote state-specific coastal area development and environmental protection.
- **Reduced time for disaster preparation:** Reduction in the No Development Zone to 20 meters can promote construction activities which can add to the vulnerability of these areas which are prone to environmental disasters like cyclones and Tsunami.

Conclusion

- As per the **M.S. Swaminathan** expert committee recommendation, Government should enact a law on the lines of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 to protect the traditional rights and interests of fishermen and coastal communities. The government should hold a wide range of consultation with local folks as they are better equipped for effective implementation of a policy.
- Any set of rules regulating human activity along India's 7,500 km coastline should ensure the long-term welfare of the millions of people who live in harmony with a fragile ecosystem.
- With a focus on sustainable development, Government should identify specific areas for such activity, assess its environmental impact, demarcate the area under the State's management plans, and fix responsibility for enforcement, particularly for pollution control.
- Balance must be maintained to promote the development and the sanctity of our coastal zones.

Question

Explain how India is lagging in the agri-logistics required to bring the produce from farm to markets. What steps can be taken to curb the post-harvest losses faced by the farmers? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give facts on agri-logistics infrastructure in India.
- Mention the shortcomings in farms to markets connectivity.
- Provide steps to be taken to curb the post harvest losses.
- Give Conclusion.

Introduction

- Agri-logistic infrastructure in India is far below the required standard and thus a major hurdle in ensuring the robust growth of agriculture sector.

- A 2011 report by a UN body, FAO, puts wastage in fruits and vegetables as high as 45% of produce (post-harvest to distribution) for developing Asian countries like India.
- **The Dalwai Committee on doubling farmer's income** has estimated that the country would require 30,000 markets, comprising wholesale and rural retail markets.

Challenges in agri-logistics in India

- **Limited reach of mandis:** On an average, a farmer needs to travel 12 kms to reach the nearest mandi and more than 50 kms in NE India while according to the recommendations by **National Farmers Commission**, availability of markets should be within a 5 km radius.
- **Too many intermediaries:** Large distance to mandis have led to the formation of long marketing channels, with multiple intermediaries, adding to the woes of the producers of perishable agri goods.
- **Inadequate infrastructure for storage:** There is a wide gap between the demand and supply of agri-warehouses.
- **Lack of cold storage infrastructure:** India's current cold storage capacity is barely sufficient for 10% of fruit and vegetables produced in the country.
- **Lack of sufficient transportation infrastructure:** Transferring goods from cultivation centres to processing centres or markets is an impediment. Due to inadequate transportation infrastructure, commodities get damaged through bruising and bad roads, spillage due to repeated loading, unloading and contamination, and heat and humidity in the absence of cold chain transportation.
- **High unsold perishable agri-products-** According to the Dalwai committee on Doubling of Farmers' Income, at the all-India level, the proportions of the produce that farmers are unable to sell in the market are 34%, 44.6%, and about 40% for fruits, vegetables, and fruits and vegetables combined.
- **Post harvest losses:** Most of the harvested grains, fruits and vegetables are stored in traditional structures, made of grass, wood or mud, without any scientific design that cannot protect crops against pests and decay.

Steps needed to curb post harvest losses

- **Using scientific storage facilities:** Tech intervention through improved storage structures and logistics can reduce post-harvest losses and increase farmers' revenues.
- **Warehousing receipts,** from certified warehouses, can be used as collateral for funding from banks and lending institutions to farmers to meet the post-harvest expenses.
- **Use of Rail network** About 1.9% of perishable fruits and vegetables are transported through rail, while 97.4% of the produce is transported through roads. This ratio needs to shift in favour of rail network. Railways are capable of covering longer distances in shorter times and can empower farmers by allowing them to expand their market reach specially the perishable crops.
- **Enhance market connectivity** by Strengthening **e-NAM** and rural **haats** that are now being upgraded to **Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)**
- **Food Processing-** Promote food processing industry in the country to reduce wastage of agricultural produce and minimize post- harvest losses. Schemes such as Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure and Modernization of Abattoirs are some of the recent steps by the government in this regard.

Conclusion

Government's aim of **doubling farmer's income by 2022** cannot be realised without addressing the issues related to agri-logistics. Issues in agri-marketing should be resolved as soon as possible with robust **Agriculture Produce and Livestock Marketing Act (APLMA)**. Curbing post harvest losses is extremely important to provide farmers due income for their produce. Besides It will also help in ensuring food security and nutritional requirement of the nation.

Question

How has the change in climate affected the cropping pattern in recent times? Elaborate on the potential and challenges of climate-resilient crops in the context of climate change. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly state India's vulnerabilities to climate change.
- Discuss the effect of climate change on cropping pattern.
- Elaborate the potential and challenges of climate resilient crops.
- Give conclusion.

Introduction

- India, with its diverse agro-climatic settings, is one of the most vulnerable countries. Its agriculture ecosystem, distinguished by high monsoon dependence, and with 85% small and marginal landholdings, is highly sensitive to weather abnormalities.
- Economic Survey 2017-18 had estimated that **climate change could reduce farm incomes by 15-18% on average**, and by as much as 20-25% in unirrigated areas without any policy intervention.

Body

Impact of Climate Change on Cropping Pattern

- Higher temperatures and changing precipitation patterns due to climate change will **severely affect the production patterns of different crops**.
- India's grain production is vulnerable to climate change. **Major crops such as wheat, rice, oilseeds, pulses, fruits and vegetables will see reduced yields** over the years.
- Studies have found that the **yields from grains such as millet, sorghum, and maize are more resilient to extreme weather**. Their yields vary significantly less due to year-to-year changes in climate and generally experience smaller declines during droughts. However, **yields from rice, India's main crop, experience larger declines during extreme weather conditions**.
- Though most crops will see reduced production, but climate change may also help **improve yields of soybean, chickpea, groundnut, coconut (western coast) and potato** (in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh).

Potential of Climate Resilient Crops

- Climate resilient crops would **help negate the threats of climate change** by adapting to extreme conditions.
- Climate exposure can be reduced through **agronomic management practices** such as:
 - inter and multiple cropping and crop-rotation
 - shift to non-farm activities
 - insurance covers
 - up-scaling techniques such as solar pumps, drip irrigation and sprinklers.
- They are **pest-resistant** and thus save loss to crop yields by pest attacks.
- Climate resilient crops **increase productivity and efficiency of inputs** (fertilizer and water use), and even have co-benefits for mitigation by reducing carbon emissions.

Challenges in Adapting Climate Resilient Crops

- **Subsistence Farming** with traditional methods slows down the adoption of new climate-smart agro-practices among Indian farmers.

- **Knowledge gap** among agriculture scientists, policy makers and farmers is too wide to change the cropping pattern immediately.
- **Lack of timely institutional initiatives** to direct and guide farmers for crop diversification.
- **Lack of research and academic interventions** in motivating farmers to adopt climate-resilient crops.

Conclusion

- Increasing the production of alternative grains in India can offer benefits for improving nutrition, for saving water, and for reducing energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.
- **The Sixth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** on “Global Warming at 1.5°C” distinctly propagates the need to strengthen and enhance existing coping capacity and to remain committed to the objectives of the Paris Agreement.
- There is an urgent need to **educate farmers**, reorient Krishi Vigyan Kendras and other grass-roots organisations with specific and **more funds about climate change and risk-coping measures**.
- With climate change being a phenomenon with such multiple levels of impact, a **more comprehensive strategy** to deal with its myriad effects needs to be developed.

Day - 55

GS - I, II, III

GS3

3rd August 2019

Question

What do you understand by the “gig economy”? What are its advantages and challenges over traditional economy? (250 words)

Approach

- Define gig economy, its manifestations followed by definition of traditional economy.
- Discuss the advantages of the gig economy in comparison with traditional economy. Substantiate with examples.
- Discuss the various challenges - in process of being tackled and untackled.
- Provide a brief conclusion summing up your response with an optional way forward.

Introduction

Derived from the word - gig, meaning job of short-term nature, gig economy refers to a labor market characterized by prevalence and use of freelance or contractual workers offering their service. The identifiable features of this economy are therefore as follows:

- Firms in this economy use information technology-enabled platforms, such as mobile apps on Internet-enabled devices, to facilitate peer-to-peer transactions.
- These platforms rely on user-based rating for quality control.
- They offer workers providing services via the platform flexibility in deciding their work hours.
- The firms mostly rely on workers to use their own tools to provide a service.
- The above differences mark it apart from traditional economy which relies on full time workers, rarely changing positions and focusing on a lifetime career. For e.g. Airbnb and Ola/Uber are platforms in gig economy offering services for stay-during-travel and cab services respectively while various hotel chains and traditional taxi services are their counterparts in traditional economy.

Body

Gig economy benefits its users in the following ways in comparison with traditional economy:

- Lower prices for consumers than those offered by traditional players
- Flexible employment and additional sources of income for the workers
- Opportunities to exchange excess capacity for a fee on the market. For example, many services that hitherto could not be commoditized, such as renting out an unused part of your house to a guest for an overnight stay, are now in the realm of the market.
- Facilitates trust among buyers and sellers based on online review and feedback system.
- Employment generation: India, on account of huge young workforce, a decent lead in IT centric service economy, is a fertile ground for growth and spread of gig economy. It will benefit the economy by creating more jobs as well as by providing services at competitive prices for firms in India as well as across the world - hence adding fuel to the growth engine of our country.

The online and short term nature of the gig economy has also its own share of challenges as well:

- Review system is subject to manipulation which may hurt the trust that is vital to for engagement between sellers and buyers in absence of any face-to-face interaction unlike traditional economy.
- Temporary nature of transactions undermines the need to build long-term relationships between buyers and sellers.
- Lack of social security: Since workers need not be attached to any employer who contacts them for only a 'gig', the employer or the platform has no obligations that a traditional employer might have towards her workers, including paying wages when there is no work and contributing towards their social security.
- The absence of any regulation like minimum wage and presence of workers from across the world weakens workers' bargaining power considerably.

Conclusion

Given the fast-paced and technology driver lives in modern world, gig economy is here to stay. Yet it needs to adapt and evolve to sort out the challenges faced by it. The possible solutions may be as follows :

- Moving towards a more transparent and evolved mechanism for reviews and feedbacks.
- Globally agreed regulations to prevent exploitation of freelancers with regards to payments, contracts, etc.
- Better social welfare approach by governments across the world to make people better prepared for risks of gig economy- the financial resources which can be obtained in part from the cess on the 'gig platforms'.
- Creating formal interlinkages with traditional economy like freelancers offering training or assistance to employees of regular firms and vice-versa to generate more opportunities for both the freelancers and the regular employees.

Question

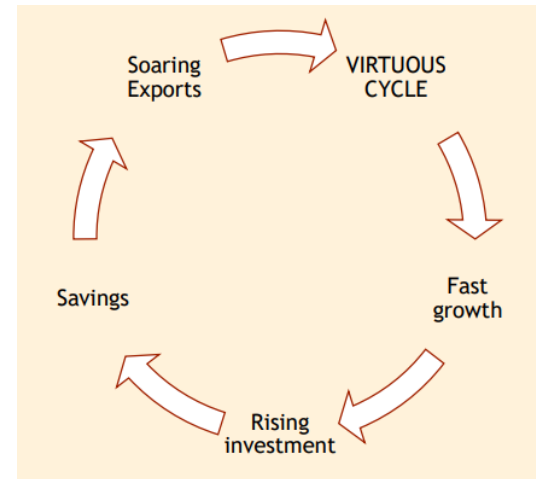
With reference to the Economic Survey 2018-19, what do you mean by 'Virtuous Cycle' of an economy? How will the virtuous cycle help Indian economy to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Define the virtuous cycle as mentioned under Economic survey 2018-19.
- Explain how this virtuous cycle will help Indian economy to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25.
- Give conclusion.

Introduction

- **Virtuous Cycle** refers to a self-propagating advantageous situation in which a successful solution leads to more of a desired result or another success which generates still more desired results or **successes in a chain**.
- According to **Economic survey 2018-19**, India's high growth requirements of 8 % real GDP growth rate to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25 can only be sustained by a **"virtuous cycle" of savings, investment and exports** catalysed and supported by a favourable demographic phase as is evident from the growth model of China and east Asian economies in recent times.
- Economic Survey makes the case for **investment as the "key driver"** that can create a self-sustaining virtuous cycle in India.



Advantages of virtuous cycle

- When the economy is in a virtuous cycle, investment, productivity growth, job creation, demand and exports feed into each other and enable **animal spirits in the economy** (ways that human emotion can drive financial decision making in uncertain environments and volatile times.) to thrive.
- The Economic Survey 2018-19 discusses the case of growth stories in China, Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea to highlight the issue of Gross Capital Formation – savings & investments contributing to GDP in these countries.
- Investment, especially private investment, is the "key driver" that drives demand, creates capacity, increases labour productivity, introduces new technology, allows creative destruction, and generates jobs.
- Economic Survey 2018-19 cites studies to show that **savings and growth are positively correlated** and their positive correlation is even stronger than that between growth and investment.
 - Some studies argue that as investment is risky, entrepreneurs are exposed to the risk of idiosyncratic business failure that leads to the loss of the invested capital. Therefore, savings have to increase more than investment to allow for the accumulation of precautionary savings.
- When examined in the full value chain, **capital investment fosters job creation** as capital goods production, research and development, and supply chains also generate jobs. International evidence also suggests that capital and labour are complementary when high investment rate drives growth.
 - The Chinese experience illustrates how a country with the highest investment rates also created the most jobs.
- **Capital investment enhances total factor productivity, which in turn enhances export performance.** Therefore, investment becomes crucial to enhancing export performance. **A strong correlation between growth in exports and GDP growth** has been seen for the high growth East Asian economies.

Conclusion

- To achieve the high real GDP growth rate over the years requires a different approach than traditional one that views job creation, demand, exports, and economic growth as separate problems.
- The new view proposed by Economic Survey 2018-19 states that these macroeconomic phenomena exhibit significant complementarities.
- **Understanding the "key driver" and enhancing the same enables simultaneous growth in each of the other macro phenomena.**
- Thus, India needs to cut real interest rates, ease labour rules, reduce capital gains tax on startup investments and encourage infant firms to grow at a sustained 8% rate to reach the GDP target of USD 5 Trillion by 2024-25. Also, **Dr Surjit Bhalla committee** recommendations needs to be studied and implemented where possible to enhance exports.

Question

Examine the role of behavioural economics in India to bring social change and achieve the policy objectives of welfare programmes. (250 words)

Approach

- Define behavioural economics
- Examine its role in bringing social change in India
- Mention how it helps to achieve the policy objectives of welfare programmes
- Give conclusions

Introduction

- Behavioural economics is a method of analysis that applies psychological insights into human behaviour to explain economic decision-making.
- It became more popular after the nobel prize for economics in 2017 was awarded to Richard Thaler for his works on behavioural economics.
- Businesses across the sectors use behavioural economics to attract customers. For example, **Google Ads** track online behaviour of consumers to know the likes and dislikes of person and float the ads accordingly.
- According to the Economic Survey 2018-19, the key principles of behavioural economics are '**emphasizing the beneficial social norm**', '**changing the default option**' and '**repeated reinforcements**'.
- Application of 'behavioural economics' can prove to be a valuable instrument of change in a country like India where social and religious norms play a dominant role in influencing behaviour.

Behavioural economics affecting social change in India

- Given India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage, social norms (that play a very important role in shaping the behaviour), can be utilized to effect behavioural change. Mahatma Gandhi proposed Seven Sins theory to influence people's behaviour towards positive social change.
- Programmes such as Swachh Bharat Mission, Jan Dhan Yojana, GiveltUp Campaign for LPG subsidy, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Khelo India Campaign provide testimony to the potential for behavioural change in India.
- It can **help in enhancing public participation in policies** such as gender equality, reducing crime and corruption, waste management, environmental concerns, animal welfare, road safety, building human capital, enhancing health and education parameters, etc.

Achievements of behavioural economics to achieve policy objective of welfare programmes

- **Swachh Bharat mission:** Bringing behavioural change towards sanitation. The Open Defecation Free Campaign has led towards a desired outcome.
 - **National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS)** 2018-19 found that 96.5% of the rural households that had access to a toilet, used them. The NARSS also re-confirmed the ODF status of 90.7% of villages.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)** to raise awareness about increading Child sex ratio and educating Girl Child. BBBP have brought positive results leading to **improvement in the child sex ratio in Haryana**, a state known for skewed sex ratio.
 - It used 'social norm' in its '**Selfie with Daughter**' initiative to celebrate the birth of girl child.
- **GiveltUp Campaign** lead to voluntarily giving up of **LPG subsidy** by the affluent class and thus large savings to the public money that could be utilised for providing free LPG connections to the poor under Ujjwala Yojana.
- Success of **Jan Dhan Yojana (JDY)** through dedicated government efforts and mass media campaign to increase financial inclusion and thus influencing people to increase their savings.
- **Use of socially and culturally identifiable names** for various recent schemes like Namami Gange, Ujjawala, Poshan Abhiyan among others has helped to build the affinity of the people for the scheme.

Limitations

- **Lack of sustained efforts:** The ultimate success of objectives such as gender equality, reducing corruption, honesty in tax compliance, waste management and prudent use of resources such as water for sustainable development needs sustained efforts for a long time period.
- **Lack of careful targeting:** Advertising campaigns such as the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme did not target other specific states where child sex ratios were already skewed (although it was effective in Haryana, which also has a very poor sex ratio.)
- The applications of behavioural insights appeared to be a result of **confirmation bias** (to the extent that past policies were viewed with a behavioural lens).

Conclusion

- While several Indian programmes have applied the principles of behavioural economics, there is still ample scope for leveraging these insights to enhance the efficacy of programmes in India.
 - Accordingly, the Economic Survey recommends **setting up of a behavioural economic unit in the NITI Aayog**.
 - It also strongly recommends that every programme must go through a '**behavioural economics audit**' before its implementation.
- Many incentive and mandate- based policies may be clubbed with a nudge effect to increase their efficacy. If it is implemented diligently then Indian policymaking will be transformed from BBBP to BADLAV (Beti Aapki Dhan Lakshmi Aur Vijay Lakshmi), from Swachh Bharat to Sundar Bharat, from "GiveltUp" for the LPG subsidy to "Think about the Subsidy", from tax evasion to tax compliance and the dream of New India can be realised.



Day - 56

Essay

4th August 2019

- A. Data is the most valuable commodity of the 21st century.
- B. The right to be left alone is the beginning of all freedom.
- C. Some are born great, others achieve greatness.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

Question

What do you understand by cognitive dissonance? Give some examples of situations where a civil servant may experience cognitive dissonance. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give in brief what you mean by cognitive dissonance.
- Why humans desire to reduce dissonance.
- Give some instances where a civil servant may experience cognitive dissonance.

Introduction

- The theory of cognitive dissonance was first presented by Festinger in 1957. Cognitive dissonance is a sense of internal anxiety that is experienced when a person holds two inconsistent cognitions.
- In other words, it is the mental stress or discomfort experienced by an individual who holds two or more contradictory beliefs, ideas or values at the same time, performs an action that is contradictory to one or more beliefs, ideas, or values, or is confronted by new information that conflicts with existing beliefs, ideas or values.
- An individual who experiences inconsistency (dissonance) tends to become psychologically uncomfortable, and is motivated to try to reduce this dissonance as well as actively avoid situations and information that is likely to increase it.

Body

- No individual can completely avoid dissonance. So people have to cope with dissonance.
- According to Festinger, the desire to reduce dissonance would be determined by the importance of the elements creating the dissonance; the degree of influence the individual believes he or she has over the elements and the rewards that may be involved in dissonance.

Some instances where a civil servant may experience cognitive dissonance

- An IPS officer who believes in non violence or doing no harm to anyone has to take decision of lathi charge or using pellet guns to disperse crowd faces such cognitive dissonance.
- Strict adherence to ethical conduct may cause problems in carrying out certain aims both in public and private life causing disaffection arising out of inability to reach goals. Being upright also pits the person against powerful vested interest, endangering his and his family's life, which may create inconsistency (dissonance) in civil servants' mind.
- **Development v/s Environment:** A public servant faces dissonance when she has to take decision on displacement of tribal population for any development project.

Conclusion

- A civil servant should always follow the constitutional moral values, code of conduct of services and act within ethical framework of public service in any case of cognitive dissonance.
- Emotional intelligence can be a tool for the public servants to deal whenever such situation arises.

Question

What does the following quotation mean to you in the present context?

“It’s easier to train aptitude than attitude.” **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly distinguish aptitude and attitude.
- Explain the given statement by giving suitable examples.
- Give conclusion.

Introduction

- Aptitude is a component of a competency to do a certain kind of work at a certain level while Attitude refers to a psychological response to a particular situation, person, thing or an issue. Attitude can be positive as well as negative.
- Aptitude relates with talent and competency of a person whereas attitude is associated with character or virtue.

Body

- Aptitude can be developed or changed through training and capacity building whereas attitude is relatively permanent. When people have the right attitude they are both motivated and adaptable which makes them more open to learning new skills. With the right attitude and enough effort most new skills can be mastered quickly.
- Whereas improving attitude is often about changing behaviors which is always much more difficult to do, as the person needs to be changed and without the right attitude this is unlikely to happen.
- We’re always going to face challenges, difficult times, and it’s in these moments that things like determination, tenacity and resilience come to the fore. Having the right skills but lacking the will to use them isn’t going to help us overcome the challenges and achieve success.
- A civil servant needs the right attitude to serve people. Without the will to serve, even the highly skilled and talented professional will not perform his duty to serve people. On the other hand, a civil servant with a negative attitude may indulge in deeds like corruption, harming the society and nation at large.
- A positive attitude directs and guides a civil servant to utilise his aptitude for the welfare of society. For example,
 - Recently, an IAS officer volunteered to collect **relief materials for the Kerala flood victims**.
 - District collector of Banka, Bihar has launched the **Unnayan Banka programme**, an interactive online-offline method that has **reinvented education using cutting-edge technology such as AI and big data analytics**. In fact, such has been the success of this brilliant project that the Centre is replicating it across 5,000 village schools in India. This incredible initiative beat Singapore to win the **International Innovation Award 2018** at the biennial Commonwealth CAPAM Conference.

Conclusion

Aptitude training can be done through measures focussing on skill development and capacity building, but to inculcate right attitude needs moral training and that is a slow process. The person needs constant motivation and dedication to develop the right attitude.

Question

What do you understand by attitude and aptitude? Examine the difference between the two. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Define attitude and aptitude.
- Bring out the major differences between the two.

Introduction

- Aptitude is a component of a competency to do a certain kind of work at a certain level while attitude refers to a psychological response to a particular situation, person, thing or an issue.
- Aptitude relates with talent and competency of a person whereas attitude is associated with character or virtue.
- Both attitude and aptitude are essential traits to succeed in any walk of life. However, they become more important in civil services for its impact on society.
- Having said this, there are a few vital differences between aptitude and attitude.

Body

Attitude	Aptitude
Attitude refers to a psychological response to a particular situation, person, thing or an issue. Attitude can be positive as well as negative.	It is a component of a competency to do a certain kind of work at a certain level.
It is associated with character or virtues.	It is associated with talent.
Attitude is a mental aspect.	Aptitude can be both physical as well as mental.
It is relatively permanent. However, if an attitude is undesirable in a modern society, it should be changed accordingly. E.g.: The government by various campaigns (advertisements) is trying to change the attitude of citizens for the success of Swachh Bharat Mission.	This can be changed and developed through training and capacity building.

A civil servant must possess both to adequately respond to any situation which is complex, multi-faceted and dynamic.

Day - 58

GS - IV

**Emotional
Intelligence**

6th August 2019

Question

Giving suitable examples, explain how the conflict of interest can result in erosion of the public's trust in civil servants.
(250 words)

Approach

- Introduce by mentioning about the relationship between public functionaries and the citizens.
- Explain the concept of 'Conflict of Interest' and how it affects this relationship.
- Give measures to be adopted to avoid conflict of interest.
- Conclude on the need to maintain high standards of governance.

Introduction

The fundamental principle in a democracy is that all public functionaries are trustees of the people. However, this trust in the civil servants may get eroded by their unethical behavior during conflict of interest situations.

Body

Conflict of interest situation arises when there is an actual or apparent conflict between public duty and private interest of a public official. In such a situation, an official's private interests could improperly influence the performance of official duties. Conflict of interest reduces public trust and confidence in the integrity and impartiality of public functionaries.

Public servants face conflict of interest due to the nature of their work:

➤ **Personal vs Professional**

- This is the most common type of conflict of interest arising due to the conflict between personal and professional life.
- Say, if a public servant is in charge of giving out contracts for a certain project and one of the applicants is a relative or friend.
- They also face conflict of interest due to demands of their dual roles while working as public officials and also being a private citizen while off duty. As a public official, who exercises official power by making decisions or taking action on behalf of the State or an authority, they have huge authority and resources at their disposal which they might be tempted to use as private citizen who seeks to pursue his/ her rights and interests. This may lead to corruption and nepotism if not resolved in the ethical way, thereby eroding public faith.

➤ **Conflicting Responsibility**

- Sometimes public servants are given additional charge, which might sometimes create a conflict of interest with the original line of duty.

➤ **Conflicting Organizations**

- Sometimes public servants are part of two separate organizations with apparently conflicting objectives and this might put them in certain conflict of interest.
- Many public servants also volunteer for NGOs during their service. NGOs and government organizations sometimes come at odds with each other.

As a civil servant, one has to adhere to the standards of civil service values like impartiality, efficiency, integrity and must show exemplary behavior. Thus, civil servants need to properly handle such conflicting interests and situations. This can be done by following the principles mentioned below, if such a situation arises:

➤ **Transparency**

- Declaring one's conflict of interest to the concerned authorities is the best way. One should recuse himself from positions of authority to avoid any conflict of interest.
- It helps civil servant to come clean and concerned authorities can decide further.

➤ **Assure integrity**

- The concerned authority should be assured of integrity and willingness to serve no matter what the decision is made on the declaration.

➤ **Maintain objectivity**

- If given the chance to continue working on that case, one should work with objectivity.

Other institutional measures to reform the governance system should be adopted. There is a need **to reduce discretion and codify procedure**:

- There is a need for legislation to make non-disclosure of a conflict of interest punishable.
- The recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Department of Personnel and Training should be implemented. It called for increasing the mandatory cooling off period to five years in post-retirement opportunities in the private sector after early retirement. This would ensure that no undue influence can be exerted by the retired bureaucrat.
- An open, public data platform enlisting all post-retirement appointments of civil servants will increase transparency.

Conclusion

Therefore, the moral obligation on public officials requires that the authority entrusted to them be exercised in the best interest of the people or in 'public interest'. The trust on civil servants should be maintained for efficient and effective governance.

Question

Empathy, efficiency, impartiality and incorruptibility are the values that should govern the conduct of present-day civil servants. Do you agree? Explain with suitable examples. (250 words)

Approach

- Introduce by giving the importance of ethical standards in civil services.
- Mention a framework governing the conduct of civil servants (Nolan Principles).
- Explain the foundational principles of civil services with examples.
- Conclude by giving moral duty of civil servants to work for betterment of the country.

Introduction

As per 2nd ARC report 'Ethics in Governance', a civil servant is only a 'public trustee' undertaking actions in trust of the public. Civil servants represent distinct character in society because of their role to transform policy of government into action which will not be possible unless they possess the core values known as 'foundational values' of civil services.

Body

The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, had said that civil servants should be empathetic, efficient, impartial and incorruptible and these are the guiding principles that form the bedrock of the higher civil services. The need of these values is mentioned below:

- **Empathy:** It is a value and psychological concept which deals with thinking, and feeling from others perspective, how they think and feel. If the emphasis is on service to the country, it is necessary to understand who are to be served- their needs, aspirations and their living conditions.
 - Gandhi ji's Talisman to think about the last man in need should be adopted in taking decisions.
 - For example, the latest guidelines under Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan to serve the differently-abled community are in line with the spirit of empathy.
- **Efficiency:** It means optimal resource utilization and effectiveness with respect to meeting targets.
 - Civil servants have the onerous responsibility to translate policies into programmes, to implement schemes on the ground. They provide most important link between legislation and implementation. Thus to minimize time and cost overruns, methodology of 'reform, perform and transform' should inspire civil servants to scale new heights in efficiency and transformational leadership.
 - 'Metro-man' E. Shreedharan implemented projects in record time, which later on became a model for other high speed train projects.
- **Impartiality:** It means being fair and non-discriminatory. A civil servant should not discriminate between citizens on the basis of their background, caste, religion, etc. They should give impartial advice to the government and should have impartiality towards any political party. Being impartial will help in achieving the broad vision of national integration and inclusive development.
 - It is a very essential attribute required when country is in chaos, tensions, and conflict situations like communal riots, violent agitations etc.



- **Incorruptibility:** It denotes the moral strength not to be persuaded to do something wrong. A corrupt system erodes the vitality of a robust country. The need for incorruptibility is because civil servants manage large public funds. Lack of probity in 2G scam, 2010 Commonwealth Games, Adarsh Housing Society scam, etc led to loss of public trust.

Conclusion

The 'Iron Man' of India, Sardar Patel, conceived 'Civil Services' as the steel frame of India. It is the duty of every civil servant today to make it a stainless steel frame, unsullied, shining and providing the support and glow for illuminating the lives of millions of Indians who are looking for ways to better their lives.

Question

Examine the role of emotional intelligence for an administrator in today's complex world. Also enumerate, with examples, the key attributes that an emotionally intelligent administrator should imbibe. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly define EI.
- Identify the role of EI for an administrator.
- Enumerate the key attributes that an emotionally intelligent administrator should imbibe.
- Give conclusion

Introduction

Emotional intelligence refers to the capability of a person to manage and control his or her emotions and possess the ability to control the emotions of others as well.

Body

Emotional intelligence is a very important skill in leadership. Daniel Goleman has given 5 elements of emotional intelligence, which also form the basis of core attributes an emotionally intelligent administrator should have:-

- **Self-Awareness:** Self-awareness is the ability to honestly reflect on and understand one's emotions, strengths, challenges, motives, values, goals, and dreams.
- **Self-Regulation:** It is about controlling one's emotions i.e. instead of reacting quickly; one can rein in one's emotions and think before responding.
- **Internal Motivation:** It includes one's personal drive to improve and achieve commitment to one's goals, initiative, or readiness to act on opportunities, and optimism and resilience.
- **Empathy:** It is an awareness of the needs and feelings of others, both individually and in groups, and being able to see things from the point of view of others.
- **Social Skills:** It refers to applying empathy and balancing the wants and requirements of others with one's own. It includes building a good rapport with others.

Application of EI by an administrator

- EI enables a leader to be conscious of personal limitations and use personal strengths to further the work of achieving organizational goals.
- It allows mental clarity that leadership demands for taking right decisions and deal with conflicting situations rationally.
- It helps in developing healthy working relationships by better understanding the strengths and weaknesses of co-workers and maintaining a healthy rapport with people.

- An empathetic individual can read emotional currents, picking up on nonverbal cues such as tone of voice or facial expression, thereby better understanding the needs and demands of other people and acting accordingly.
- It helps an administrator to persuade, convince, or impact others in order to get them to support a specific agenda or course of action.

Conclusion

The civil servant as an administrator has the responsibility to act as the vanguard of society. In this context, utilization of emotional intelligence skills can assist him\ her in the attainment of this goal and enhance the quality of decision-making to deal with complex situations effectively.

Day - 59

GS - IV

Moral
Thinkers

7th August 2019

Question

Socrates' model of the just state was that of a healthy organism, where all the parts function for the benefit of the whole, and the whole benefits the parts. Examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain Socrates model of the just state in introduction
- Relate this with that of a healthy organism.
- Give Conclusion

Introduction

In the second book of Plato's, Republic, Socrates believed that the justice of a human being will best be understood after one has considered the justice of a city or state. He introduces the **city-soul analogy** to explain the just or ideal state.

Body

- Socrates says that a society, like a human body is composed of parts/ organs, which are connected in similar ways.
- He says that the parts of a state are its citizens and in case of any pain or pleasure to any of the citizens, the state endures same feeling. That is, the "whole" feels the pain or pleasure along with the part that experiences it. The health of all the parts together constitute the health of the organism.
- By this analogy, it is clear that the well-being of all the citizens- including the marginalised and vulnerable sections such as children, women, elderly, disabled, downtrodden, minorities- determines the well being of the state. i.e. is, parts (Citizens) function for the benefit of the whole (State).
- On the other hand, any opportunity or threat for the state is an opportunity or threat to its parts i.e., its citizens. The well-being of the organism works for the well-being of all its parts. The society with an efficient government is like a healthy organism. Thus, the overall progress and development of the state works towards the betterment of its citizens. The fair and just nature of the state works for the overall benefit of its people. That is, the whole benefits the parts.
- Since a complete account of the health of the body is a complete account of the health of all of its parts, and vice versa: thus, any state will be called ideal or just, if its people are well. The prevalence of justice, fairness, transparency, compassion and empathy towards weaker sections determines the justness of the state. While the integrity, honesty, law-abiding, tolerance, and sense of duty among citizens determines the overall goodness of the state.

Conclusion

Modern nation-states can gain the administrative lessons from Socrates city-soul analogy to work towards the best interests of its people. Individuals can also learn to work for the best of their respective nation by performing their civic duties in a virtuous manner.

Question

“An action is moral if it is the outcome of a moral agent’s sense of duty.” Examine this statement in reference to Kant’s concept of moral duty. How is it different from consequentialism? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain the statement with reference to Kant’s Concept of moral duty.
- Differentiate this with the Consequentialism theory with proper examples.
- Give conclusion.

Introduction

- **Deontological theory of Immanuel Kant** considers an action as moral in virtue of its being a duty, i.e., ‘obligation or obedience to moral laws’.
- Kant’s moral theory arises from the belief that man is free and that his moral conviction is brought about by inner reasoning rather than external forces. He said that all morals are based purely on reason.

Body

- Consequences have nothing to do with moral obligation or duty which alone determines whether an action is moral or otherwise. Thus, moral **obligation is an end in itself rather than a means to an end**. For example, **telling the truth** is always right whatever its consequences is, thus telling the truth is a moral duty.
- An action which leads to undesirable consequences may be moral; and an action which leads to good consequences can be immoral. For example, a decision made in conformity with **fairness and justice** is always considered moral even if its result is undesirable.
- Kant said that the most important part of doing one’s duty is that the action one is performing is universalizable, applicable to everyone no matter their circumstances. This means that to perform one’s duty one must be reasoning logically and performing a **universalizable action**, one that is right in every situation under similar circumstances. Kant called this the **“Categorical imperative”**.

Deontological Vs Consequentialism

- Deontology focuses on the rightness or wrongness of an action based on universal moral laws and ignores its consequences. Whereas consequentialism focuses on consequences of an action. An action is right if it produces better consequence than alternative actions.
- Kant’s categorical imperative did not believe in the consequentialists’ theory of **“Ends justify means”**. The action is undertaken because of the very nature of the action itself and not because it is the means of achieving something else.

Conclusion

- Kant’s concept of duty is similar to the **Nishkama Karma** propounded by Bhagavat Geeta.
- Mahatma Gandhi also believed in duty-based ethics.
- Swami Vivekananda said, “devotion to duty is the highest form of worship to God”.
- Kant’s ethics has wide application in administration to guide actions of administrators that is based on moral and constitutional values.

Question

Though the growth of Nationalism is attributed to Western influence, Swami Vivekananda's nationalism is deeply rooted in Indian spirituality and morality. Discuss. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Define nationalism from western perspective and how was it different from Vivekananda's perspective
- In body, identify different dimensions/ values on which Vivekananda's nationalism was based and point where it diverged from western nationalism
- In conclusion, suggest how this idea of nationalism embodied India's culture more comprehensively and how it impacted India's freedom struggle and ideas of other freedom fighters and leaders.

Introduction

- The idea of nationalism came to India during **colonial rule** which embodied the **idea of loyalty to one's nation-state**, defined by territorial boundaries.
- Swami **Vivekananda's nationalism**, which took birth during the colonial rule and mass poverty and suffering, was based on **Indian spirituality, morality and religion** and considered nation to be composed of masses rather than territories.
- It relied on belief in nationalism as an effective and adequate instrument for the fulfillment of India's destiny.

Body

- Vivekananda's nationalism was premised essentially on **values of humanism and universalism**, cardinal features of Indian spiritual culture, which imparted to it greater depth and a philosophical and spiritual undertone.
- These values of nationalism were derived from his deep concern for the masses, ideas of freedom and equality through which one expresses self, and spiritual integration of all on the basis of universal brotherhood.
- Vivekananda felt that **Indian nationalism had to be built on the stable foundation of the past historical heritage** comprising religion and spirituality, through which Indians will draw pride and self-respect.
- His emphasis on the idea that 'religion in India has been a creative force of integration and stability', led him to revive eternal teachings of **Vedas and Upanishads to strengthen nation's growth and faith in its individuality**.
- Vivekananda's nationalism is also premised upon "**Karmyoga**" a system of ethics to attain freedom, both political and spiritual, through selfless service and readiness for supreme sacrifices in duty of motherland and countrymen.
- In this way, the idea of nationalism of Vivekananda was different from the materialistic and secular western form of nationalism which emphasized more on the idea of nation state.

Way Forward

Swami Vivekananda saw the spirituality as point of convergence for all religious forces of diverse India capable of unifying into a national current. Like Vivekananda, Aurobindo Ghosh and Mahatma Gandhi also realized that religion and spirituality are in the veins of Indians and worked for India's unification through awakening the force of religion and spirituality.

Day - 60

GS - IV

Public Service
Values

8th August 2019

Question

International laws and treaties act as the sources of ethical guidance in contemporary international relations. Critically examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce briefly by quoting facts that international laws and treaties act as the sources of ethical guidance.
- Explain its importance and shortcomings in contemporary IR.
- Give conclusion

Introduction

In this hyperconnected world that is now a global village, international laws and treaties act as the sources of ethical guidance to address the ethical issues involved in contemporary international relations.

- The **UN Charter** articulated a **commitment to uphold human rights of citizens** and outlined a broad set of principles relating to achieving 'higher standards of living', addressing 'economic, social, health, and related problems,' and 'universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.'
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10th December, 1948 sets out, for the first time, **fundamental human rights to be universally protected**.
- The **Geneva Conventions** comprise four treaties, and three additional protocols, that establish the standards of international law for **humanitarian treatment in war**.
- **1951 Refugee Convention** defines who a refugee is, and sets out the rights of individuals who are granted asylum and the responsibilities of nations that grant asylum.
- **Paris Climate Deal** under UNFCCC **ensures climate justice** by adopting CBDR (Common but differentiated Responsibility) principle in climate resolve.
- The **World Trade Organization (WTO)** and its **TRIPS agreement** address the ethical issues involved in global trade and Intellectual Property Rights.
- There are multiple laws and treaties to address ethical issues regarding the four **Global Commons**- The High Sea (UNCLOS), the Atmosphere, Antarctica, Outer Space.

However certain laws claiming to uphold international ethics have been criticised

- **Disarmament:** Countries like USA impose economic and other sanctions on countries like Iran to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons. Questions are raised that how it is ethical for a country to impose sanctions on others without discarding their own nuclear arsenals.
- **Humanitarian Intervention:** Ethical question is raised whether it is right for a country to interfere in the internal affairs of another country.
- **Climate Change:** Countries are still divided on the issue of CBDR.
- **Outer Space:** Space debris due to satellite race in outer space are not properly addressed.
- **Intellectual Property Rights:** Restrictive clauses of IPR deprive the poor and developing countries to access new technologies and life-saving medicines. Here ethical issue is between Commercial benefits vs Humane Causes.
- **Trade Negotiation/ Doha Round:** Whether developing countries are ethically and morally correct when they demand relatively higher concessions in international trade.
- **International Funding and Development Aids** come with certain **conditionalities** that may be morally wrong. E.g- IMF funded to bailout India's economic crisis in 1991 with the condition of Economic Liberalisation (LPG Reforms).

Conclusion

There is a need to establish universal ethical behaviour in international diplomacy to address the global complex problems like terrorism, climate change, removal of poverty and inequality and to establish global peace.

Question

Examine the types of value conflicts that may be present in public service. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly introduce the value conflicts in public service.
- Identify and explain the different types of Value conflicts present in public service.
- Suggest ways to handle value conflicts in public service.
- Give conclusions

Introduction

Public service involves complex and dynamic nature of work ecosystem where work culture constantly changes due to changing technologies, growing and changing public expectations, demographic changes and the effects of economic and social globalisation. In this environment economic, political and social values can come into conflict with the professional values of the public administrator.

Types of Value Conflicts

- There are broadly three different types of value conflict.
 - **Intrapersonal** value conflicts occur within the individual when he or she is faced with competing personal values.
 - **Interpersonal** value conflicts occur between individuals with different ambitions and goals.
 - **Individual-organisational** value conflicts occur when the values employed by an organisation are at variance with the personal values of an employee.
- Some **specific value conflicts** are:
 - Efficiency vs Equity: Emerges in the context of demands for greater cost-cutting while simultaneously providing quality services to all.
 - Cooperation vs Competition: Competitive edge of private sector as well as inclusivity in providing services to all sections. Eg: healthcare and educational system.
 - Rule-bound roles vs discretionary roles.
 - Dilemma in trying to reach a balance between the needs of different stakeholders.
 - The requirement to provide efficient and effective service within budget and to respond to growing public expectations.
 - Between adapting to changing circumstances and the need to maintain existing standards.
 - Free market economy versus accountability
 - Freedom of information versus Privacy
 - Information sharing versus Confidentiality (RTI vs Official secrets acts)
 - Managing up vs Managing down: Adhering to the demands of superiors and politicians vs needs of the general public.

Resolving Value dilemmas

- Value dilemmas can be resolved through the **use of ethical standards or frameworks**.
- While intrapersonal value conflicts require an almost exclusively personal self-assessment of work priorities, interpersonal and individual-organisational value conflicts can be resolved through the provision of clear value statements and the motivating capacity of 'value-centred leaders'.
- **Value Training:** Induction courses for new staff involving **case-studies** and role-play scenarios; **Value seminars and workshops** to explore the meaning and practical application of values to everyday workplace scenarios.

Conclusion

Value conflicts are inevitable, particularly in organisations performing multiple tasks and with a range of stakeholders. Rather than an impediment to progress, however, conflict can enhance the quality of decision making through problem identification and deliberation. The challenge for public servants is to cope with and manage conflict and simultaneously make decisions based on the appropriate value-set. For many public servants, managing conflict is something learned 'on the job', but training can assist in the process of prioritising values in times of crisis or difficulty.

Question

Discuss Kautilya's philosophy of "Yatha Raja Tatha Praja" (As the king is, so will be the people) in the context of today's political leadership in India. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give brief introduction of Kautilya's idea of "Yatha Raja Tatha Praja".
- Provide an illustration of "Yatha Raja Tatha Praja" in the context of present political leadership in India by enlisting important characteristics of Indian political system and how it influences people.
- Give conclusion

Introduction

- Kautilya, in his work Arthshastra, discussed issues of governance and theory and practice of corruption.
- According to Kautilya "Yatha Raja Tatha Praja" means the character of people in the kingdom will be same as that of the king. Thus a king possessing the qualities of leadership, accountability, intellect, energy, good moral conduct, and physical fitness, capable of taking prompt decision will inspire his people to ingrain these qualities.

Body

- Present day Indian political system is confronted with many political problems of serious magnitude e.g. criminalization, corruption, use of money and muscle power to manipulate electoral system, nepotism, dynastic politics.
- Political culture within India has characteristics like lack of commitment to political ideology, opportunistic defection, factionalism within parties, identity politics i.e. use of identity markers like caste, religion, language etc. to mobilize people.
- In recent times political parties are also blamed for spreading fake news, extremist ideas, intolerance on social media platforms.
- These political features tend to influence Indian people and as Kautilya remarked "Yatha Raja Tatha Praja", people tend to follow and reflect the character of its political leadership.
- Because of use of identity markers like caste, religion, language etc. to mobilize people there are increasing conflict within society along the fault lines of identity. The founding fathers of India gave the message of unity in diversity, but in recent times the diversity is being exploited to win elections. There are number of communal and caste riots where ordinary citizen is involved in criminal violence giving credence to "Yatha Raja Tatha Praja".
- Similarly tax avoidance has become a feature of Indian economy where ordinary citizens tend to avoid taxes through manipulation and hiding income sources. Such corruption is no different from political leadership which is involved in corruption and appropriating public money.
- Use of fake news in present Indian context is result of political parties awareness that prejudices against communities within ordinary people can be exploited through unverified unsubstantiated information for electoral gains. This is also being reflected in the society at present where people are reacting on unverified claims. For instance, mob lynchings, exodus of migrants from Gujarat and previously from Bangalore etc.

Conclusion

- Kautilya states that “In the happiness of his subjects lies the king’s happiness, in their welfare lays his welfare. He shall not consider as good only that which pleases him but treat as beneficial to him whatever pleases his subjects”
- Political leadership in India thus needs to introspect and work for the welfare of Indian people and should inculcate the qualities like leadership, tolerance, sacrifice, love, mutual respect for opposing leaders, integrity, moral responsibility, etc. These qualities will then be mirrored by the ordinary people.

Day - 61

GS - IV

Case Study

9th August 2019

Question

In a given scenario, a military team locates a terrorist cell preparing an attack expected to kill hundreds. They command a drone that can drop a bomb on the terrorists, preventing their attack. As the team readies the bomb, their cameras spy a little girl selling bread within the blast radius. Should they go through with their mission – killing the girl in order to prevent the deaths of many others?

- (1) Examine the options available to the military team, along with their pros and cons.
- (2) In this scenario, as the head of the military team, what course of action would you adopt? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce the case with the various aspects involved in it.
- Identify the stakeholders.
- Mention the options available to the military team.
- Choose the course of action to be chosen by you if you were the head of the military team.

Answer

The given case highlights on moral dilemma before a military team operating a drone that would drop a bomb to kill a terrorist cell, but with a collateral damage of killing a little girl selling bread. The dilemma is between the:

- **Utilitarian** perspective of providing “Greatest good to the greatest number of people” and thus choosing to drop the bomb to save hundreds of lives over the cost of the life of one little innocent girl.
- **Deontological** perspective of not launching the bomb that would kill the innocent Girl because “it is simply immoral to kill” even if the killing is done for good consequence of saving hundreds of lives.

Stakeholders

- Terrorist cell preparing for an attack
- Little Girl within the blast radius
- Military Team which is operating the drone.
- Hundreds of people whose lives are under threat.
- Nation/Society

(a) **Available options** to the military team are:

- Go ahead with the mission and **drop the Bomb:**
 - Pros- Save hundreds of people by killing terrorists and stopping them to launch any attack. This will fulfill their military duty of saving the nation from any terrorist attack. This will also bring appreciation to the military team from the community as well as from their organisation that would possibly bring them some rewards and promotions.

- Cons- This will kill an innocent little Girl as a collateral damage. It may remain a lifelong guilt for the team members who could not justify their inner conscience of killing the girl.

➤ **Abort the mission**

- Pros: It will save the innocent little girl.
- Cons: It will leave the terrorist cell who have the potential to kill hundreds of lives by launching attacks. Along with this, the military team may be levelled with the tag of failure and in every terrorist attack by these terrorists in the future, if any, will fill them with huge regret.

(b) As the head of the military team, I would have a moral dilemma between the **Positive duty** of potentially saving hundreds of lives by ordering to drop the bomb and the **negative duty** of killing an innocent little girl. My possible actions would be:

- I would prefer to **hold the mission on standby until the girl is out of the blast radius** since my conscience would not allow me to order to kill any innocent life. This decision may have disastrous consequences for the nation of potentially putting hundreds of lives at risk by letting go a terrorist cell. It would also bring an enquiry from my team to explain our actions.
- I would make every attempt to first move the girl out of the blast radius, if possible, as quick as possible and then drop the bomb. For this, if possible, I would contact the ground based local intelligence or police authority to detain the girl quickly and safely move her out of the blast radius. Or create any other distractions around the girl's location to drive her out of blast radius.
- If it is not possible by any means to move the girl out of the blast radius, I still would not order the dropping of the bomb since there still would be a chance to kill those terrorists in the future, but if the girl is killed, she could not be brought back. Further, any attack launched by those terrorists could be effectively neutralised by proper strategies to save those hundreds of lives. Thus, it still may be a win-win situation.

Question

You are posted as forest range officer in an area with a tiger biosphere reserve. Recently, due to construction of a highway, that passes through the biosphere reserve, the tiger habitat has shrunk, along with a spurt in tiger population. This has led to cases of tigers spilling out of forest area into the nearby villages, causing loss of cattle and human lives in these villages. Due to this, agitated villagers have begun killing and poisoning tigers.

- (1) Do you think action taken by villagers in this situation is right? Give reasons in support of your answer.
- (2) What are the options available to you to resolve this situation? (250 words)

Approach

- Introduce the case with constitutional provisions related to animal conservation.
- Present the Ethical dilemma posted in the case.
- Examine various stakeholders in this scenario and value and ethical principles that would come into play.
- Justify your viewpoint on villagers action.
- Give your opinion on future course of action to resolve the conflict.

Answer

- **Article 48(A)** of our Constitution imposes a duty on Government to protect the environment and safeguard forest and wildlife while **Article 51A** places the same obligation on the citizens. Therefore, it becomes our constitutional duty to protect the tigers.
- Killing anybody whether human being or any animal can not be justified on any ethical or moral grounds because **right to life** is a **universal right**.

- The ethical dilemmas involved in the case are:
 - **Development Vs Environmental Ethics:** The case presents a conflict between development and protection of environment. Here due to widening of roads in biosphere reserve, tiger habitat has been destroyed.
 - **Survival Vs Compassion toward animals:** Due to habitat destruction, tigers are encroaching into villagers territory which is the root cause for increasing conflict between the tigers and villagers which is resulting in killings from both sides to protect themselves.

Stakeholders

- Government
- Forest Department
- Villagers
- Civil Society

Ethical Values Involved

- Environmental Ethics
- Compassion toward animals
- Sentience

- (a) Killings cannot be justified on any ethical or moral grounds. Since there is a long history of peaceful co-existence of humans and wildlife in India, there is a need to delve deeper into the causes of crisis.
- The main cause of the increasing human and wildlife conflict is the encroachment of animals territory by increasing population and decrease of prey for wild species due to increased incident of disease among wild species.
 - Tigers, like all other wild animals, always tends to avoid people, and they attack only in defence if they are taken by surprise.
 - It is the human being who have encroached into their area. Therefore, killing them cannot be justified as laws of **nature** grants **inalienable right to life** to them also.
- (b) Being a forest range officer, it is my constitutional duty to protect the wildlife and a moral obligation to have compassion toward animals, therefore to resolve the crisis, I would prefer the following course of action.
- The immediate attention requires necessary steps to stop killing from both sides and ensuring the safety. The very first thing is to fence the boundaries of villages and provide tigers with food so that they do not attack the cattles or enter villages.
 - Secondly, killing tiger is a criminal offence under the **Wildlife Protection Act 1972**, therefore people responsible for killing must be charged under the law. This will send a strong message to villagers to avoid any further killing of tigers.
 - Thirdly, taking all the measures within the constitutional limits possible to compensate the villagers for their losses.
 - Fourthly, deploying the wildlife monitoring force equipped with adequate personnel, equipment and communication system to prevent any further attack from tigers on innocent villagers.

Long-Term Solution

- Rehabilitating villagers from the areas where the frequency of conflict is high.
- Secondly, creating appropriate corridors for wildlife to pass through, so that conflict may be minimised.
- Thirdly, protecting villagers from any loss by registering them under appropriate government plans such as **crop insurance** or **jivan bima** schemes etc
- Fourthly, involving villagers in **sustainable wildlife management**, thus ensuring alternate livelihood for them.

However, the key to resolving the conflict lies in the proper **sensitization of communities**.

Therefore, using principles of **behavioural psychology** so that villagers emotionally associate themselves with tigers as they enjoy a significant place in Hindu mythology as the **vehicle of Goddess Durga**. This might change the villagers viewpoint of treating tigers as their co-habitats on earth rather than an enemy species.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

- A. Diplomacy can and will matter; little is inevitable in international relations.
- B. Poverty is the worst form of violence.
- C. Nature (environment) shrinks as capital grows.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

Question

Critically examine the impact that the advent of social media has had on Indian society. (250 words)

Approach

- Briefly describe about social media in introduction.
- Give its positive and negative impacts on society.
- Mention the recent social media campaigns and their consequences on society.
- Conclude by giving steps that government should take to regulate social media.

Introduction

Social media plays an integral role in our lives today and has a huge bearing on society and individuals. Social media has revolutionized the way people communicate and socialize. It has become a new way of life for the 21st century generation.

Body

Some of the impacts of social media on society are:

- **Social Benefits:**
 - Platforms like Facebook, Whatsapp give opportunity to people to connect and socialize in digital way. It helps to connect people with similar interests in diverse fields like art, literature, sports, etc, thereby promoting social cohesion.
 - Platforms like LinkedIn provides opportunity for people to create business connections and helps companies recruit talented youth.
- **Administrative ease:**
 - Many e-Governance initiatives have been made possible by citizen participation through the use of social media. Ex: '**Tere Mere Beach Me**' of Kerala to clean beaches.
 - Government is obliged for quick redressal of grievances due to its transparent and wide reach. For Ex: Grievances related to food quality, cleanliness in Railways reported through Twitter are resolved immediately.
- **Economic Benefits:** It has opened new avenues for digital marketing by companies to sell their products and services online. It has also created opportunities for traders and retailers of tier-II and tier-III cities to better marketing and compete with MNCs.
- **Political Benefits:** It helps in mobilizing people and interest articulation by political parties. Independent candidates without much money and muscle power can run political campaigns through social media.
- **Other benefits:** Social media platforms can be used for awareness generation, disaster relief, crowd funding for a social cause, etc.

However, due to improper use of social media can have disastrous consequences for society. Some of its negative impacts are:

- **Spread of fake news:** Social media platforms are being used for spreading rumors, communal hatred, inciting mob-lynching, and even internet fraud.

- **Privacy Breach:** Government lacks control on companies operating from foreign countries who leak user data for monetary benefits.
 - The recent case of Face App manipulating user data with complex terms and conditions is a case in point.
 - Facebook's Cambridge Analytica case shows the inadequacies in regulating these companies.
- **Health problems:** Research shows that disconnect with the real world outside leads to negative health impacts like obesity, depression, anxiety, suicides, etc.
- Women facing trolling, cyber bullying, online abuse is a disturbing reality of social media.

Conclusion

- Social media is a double-edged sword. It has its own benefits but if misused, can disturb the social fabric of society. It is not only the government's duty to regulate it but the onus lies on civil society to be more aware and inquisitive about any illicit use.
- Even the social media companies are coming forward to launch campaigns to make users more aware. For ex: WhatsApp launched '**Share Joy Not Rumours**' to prevent the spread of fake news, Facebook launched **#SocialForGood** campaign to address issues such as cyber bullying, mental wellbeing, etc.

Question

Examine the different aspects and uniqueness of Indus Valley Civilisation in relation to its religion and social practices, along with suitable examples. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly introduce the Indus Valley Civilization.
- Give details of religious scriptures discovered in the regions of Indus Valley Civilization and their significance.
- Conclude the relevance of the religious and social practices of Harappan civilization.

Introduction

The Indus Valley Civilization flourished between 2700 BC and 1900 BC. The study of its town planning, socio-economic life, arts, script, religion, etc is of great academic interest. The archeological remains of Harappa continue to be a great source of evidence for the study of early human history.

Body

It is difficult to name the Harappan religion as its script has not yet been deciphered. The material evidence help us in interpreting the religious practices of Harappan Civilization. Some of them are:

- Pictorial motifs on seals, and copper tablets:
 - The chief male deity was **Pashupati (proto-Shiva)** represented in seals as sitting in a yogic posture with three faces and two horns. He is surrounded by four animals (elephant, tiger, rhino, and buffalo each facing a different direction). It is also an early form of one of the major deities of Hinduism.
 - The chief female deity was the **Mother Goddess** represented in terracotta figurines.
- Conical stone objects have been classified as **lingas** indicating **phallus worship**.
- They believed in ghosts and evil forces and used **amulets** as protection against them.

Some other unique features of Indus Valley Civilization in religious context are:

- **Absence of any temple** among the remains of the Indus Valley unlike Egypt and Mesopotamia.
- **Structures** have been assigned **ritual significance**. These include the Great Bath and fire altars found at Kalibangan and Lothal.
- Practice of **pot burials** found at Lothal sometimes with pairs of skeleton.

Conclusion

Thus, Indus Valley civilization indicates a predominantly secular civilization and the religious element, though present, did not dominate the socio-economic conditions prevalent then. It is believed that the Harappan religious practices influenced the later religions that developed in the Indian subcontinent- Jainism, Buddhism and Hinduism.

Question

Examine how India's freedom struggle impacted the art and literature during that phase. (250 words)

Approach

- Introduce by mentioning about India's rich cultural heritage.
- Explain the changes in the style and compositions of art and literature due to the freedom struggle.
- Conclude by giving their contribution in developing nationalism in India.

Introduction

India is known for its rich art and cultural heritage. As the society changes, so does the art and literature. Origin of great religions like Jainism, Buddhism, the ancient and medieval times were known for its religious influence on Indian art. Similarly, in the modern times, the avant-garde movement rooted in the pride of nationalism, transformed Indian art by bringing 'Swadeshi' values to it.

Body

The freedom struggle brought nationalist fervour and expression to Indian art and literature in the following ways:

Paintings

- The **Swadeshi movement** of 1905 led to the birth of the **Bengal School of Art** which originated at erstwhile Calcutta and Santiniketan.
 - In 1906, to oppose the partition of Bengal, **Abanindranath Tagore** painted the **Banga Mata/Bharat Mata** as a voice against western influence. Its four attributes - food, cloth, learning and spiritual knowledge were seen as objects of nationalist goals.
- The paintings were used as a tool to evoke the **glorious past of Indian history**. An example of such painting is 'The Passing of Shah Jahan' by Abanindranath Tagore as an homage to the **Mughal miniature tradition**.
- The romanticized style of '**company paintings**' was replaced by **Raja Ravi Varma's** paintings of Hindu divinities, mythological scenes and Indian life. They were recreated in dozens in his printing press and were distributed in middle class homes all across the country in the form of posters and calendar art.
- **Nandalal Bose** created a series of paintings which invoked and celebrated the spirit of Indian life and indigenous occupations. These posters rejected western material / style and instead, used Japanese calligraphy strokes, natural colours and rural-life scenes. For ex: posters for the Congress Committee's **Haripura-meet**.
- The **Kalighat style of painting**: Artisans and craftspeople (patua or scroll painters) infused their traditional knowledge with European techniques. They created souvenirs on religious themes (oriental art) mixed with contemporary society-the babu culture (Occidental art).
- Artists like Zainul Abedin created sketches to show the horrific conditions during the **Bengal famine of 1943**, which was a result of policies of the British government in India.

Music and Literature

The themes of poems, slogans, folk songs, and music shifted to political awareness and social issues, which were earlier based on religion, Sufism and love for their partner.

- Writers and poets such as **Rabindranath Tagore, Muhammad Iqbal, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya** used literature, poetry and speech as a tool to spread awareness against the atrocities by British on Indians and to provoke the thought of freedom to encourage people to fight for the country.
- Birth of novels was closely associated with social reform movements of the 19th century. **Vande Mataram**- mantra of Indian revolutionaries and nationalist leaders was written in Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya's Bengali fiction **Anandamath** in 1882.
- Novels were written to re-examine evil social customs and practices like untouchability, caste distinctions, denial of remarriage of widows, etc.

Conclusion

Therefore, these art and literature are hugely significant to the Indian Freedom struggle as they played a pivotal role in breaking British cultural supremacy, rebuilding self-identity and inspiring pride in indigenous practices amidst the masses.

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Question

Diversity of religion is both India's strength and weakness. Examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Mention about Indian values and its religious diversity in introduction.
- Explain how religious diversity is India's strength.
- Mention how religious diversity creates problems and can prove to be its weakness.
- Conclude how India can achieve constitutional goals by utilizing its religious diversity.

Introduction

Indian civilization values of **tolerance, cosmopolitanism and multiculturalism** gives a unique character to Indian culture. We have people belonging to a variety of ethnicities and religions. While 94% of the world's Hindus live in India, there are also substantial populations of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and adherents of folk religions. They all have the fundamental right to freedom of religion (Article 25-28) as well, making India a secular country.

Body

This religious diversity is India's strength in the following manner:

- It adds to India's rich **cultural heritage**. Diverse traditions and festivals like Eid, Christmas, Diwali give India a unique way of life. This diversity leads to rich music, dance, art and literature as well.
- It leads to **diversity in intellectual viewpoints** which helps to make laws more adaptable to societal values.
- India represents a model for international society in the current era marked with religious intolerance. Indian value of '**Vasudeva Kutumbhham**' can lead the world to peace and prosperity.
- Religious diversity gives opportunity for India to increase **people-to-people contacts** across the globe. This not only helps in expanding India's trade frontiers but also acts as backchannel diplomacy in crisis situations.

However, religious diversity creates a lot of **challenges** as well. Few of them are:

- It increases the chances of **communal disharmony**. Few people use hate speech to spread communal hatred which may lead to riots and tensions among people of different religions.
- Certain anti-national elements use **religion for illegitimate interests** like radicalizing youth to indulge in terrorist activities in the name of religion.
- **Accommodating diverse religious practices** that may not be suitable for the rest of the country. It may open a Pandora's Box to legitimize different religious practices.
- State interference in religious practices of minorities may disturb their autonomy and may hamper their belief in constitutional principles. Thus, the **conflict between constitutional morality** and religious morality poses difficult questions for the judiciary.

Conclusion

India represents the most complex amalgamation of various cultural identities. Religious diversity can be a boon or a bane depends upon the maturity of the society. If the citizens adhere to the constitutional principles of fraternity and brotherhood, only then India can truly achieve 'unity in diversity' and '**Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas**'.

Question

What do you understand by tropical cyclones and how are they formed? Also examine the impact of these cyclones on India. (250 words)

Approach

- Define tropical cyclone in the introduction.
- Explain the conditions of formation of tropical cyclones.
- Mention the impact of cyclone on India.
- Conclude by giving the importance of mitigation and adaptation techniques.

Introduction

Tropical cyclone is an intense circular storm that originates over warm tropical oceans and is characterized by low atmospheric pressure, high winds, and heavy rain. They are known by different names:

- Cyclones in the Indian Ocean
- Hurricanes in the Atlantic
- Typhoons in the Western Pacific and the South China Sea
- Willy-willies in Western Australia

Body

The conditions which favour the formation and intensification of tropical cyclone storms are:

- Large sea surface with a temperature higher than 27° C
- Presence of the Coriolis force, .i.e. distance from the equator
- Small differences in the vertical wind speed
- A pre-existing weak- low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation
- Upper divergence above the sea level system

They move from east to west in anti-clockwise direction in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

Cyclones in India

The geographic location of India makes it even more vulnerable to Tropical Cyclones. India's eastern coast specially is at high risk zone from the impacts of cyclone.

- Presence of higher temperature at Bay of Bengal and constant inflow of fresh water from rivers and rainfall creates ideal conditions for cyclone formation.
- Remnants of typhoons over Northwest Pacific move across the South China Sea to the Indian Ocean.

It has devastating consequences for life on coasts and the natural environment as can be seen during recent cyclones like **Cyclone Fani (2019), Titli (2018), Phailin (2013)**.

Below are the **major impacts of Tropical Cyclones on India**:

- Cyclone causes huge **loss of lives and damage to property** in the coastal areas.
- **Economic losses**: Loss of livelihood for the fishermen and negative impact on the tourism industry.
- **Damage to marine birds and animals**. Chilika lake, India's largest coastal lagoon and home to a large number of migratory birds is also at high risk zone.
- Impacts **entire social well being** of people along the coastal region. Schools, hospitals remain shut, damage to coconut plantations which takes years to grow again throws the lives of farmers off-gear every time a cyclone hits.

Conclusion

India has been engaged in constantly upgrading its disaster mitigation and adaptation techniques.

- The Odisha government, with support from **the World Bank Funded National Cyclone Risk Mitigation project**, increased disaster preparations including building shelters, evacuation planning, conducting drills and strengthening embankments.
- **Mission zero causality** has significantly reduced the loss of lives during cyclones.
- Still India has huge potential to **upgrade its technology** for better forecasting, tracking and warning systems.

New guidelines under **Coastal Zone Management Rules 2018** allowed extension of infrastructural works towards the sea coasts. This poses huge risks for threats like cyclones and thus requires reassessment.

Hence, there is a need to give priority to ecological sustainability and disaster mitigation instead of infrastructural development. Sustainable development should be the way forward.

Question

The 1969 bank nationalization did India more harm than good. Critically examine. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Write about the history of bank nationalization in the introduction.
- Mention its objectives and benefits for Indian economy.
- Mention the negative fallouts of the move.
- Conclude by giving its relevance for the ongoing banking reforms today.

Introduction

On 19 July 1969, Indira Gandhi government decided to nationalize fourteen of the India's major private sector banks. It is considered as the most radical change in the history of banking sector in India.

The decade of 1960-70 was marked with major events like two wars in 1962 with China and in 1965 with Pakistan, and two successive years of drought. The overall economy was in bad shape. In this backdrop, the decision of bank nationalization was taken.

Body

The major causes and objectives of bank nationalization were:

- **Financial inclusion:** Indian rural financial system was dominated by rich landlords, moneylenders and traders. 93% of household debt came from non-institutional sources.
- **Social welfare:** Lack of social protection like insurance facilities, investment options for old age, etc. in the rural areas.
- **Controlling private monopolies:** Private Banks were owned by limited number of people who dominated the credit market.

It had significant impact on the lives of people of lower strata of society. Major benefits of the bank nationalization move are:

- **Branches of the public sector bank** India rose to approximately 800% in deposits and advances took a huge jump by 11,000%.
- Government ownership gave the public implicit faith and immense **confidence about the sustainability of the banks**.
- Indian banking system reached the remotest corners of the country with the advent of **Lead Bank Scheme** where major banks were allowed to expand and lead a district.
- It had **multiplier effects** and even led to the success of the Green Revolution. It also promoted rapid growth in agriculture, small industries and export, encouraged new entrepreneurs in backward areas.

However, many political analysts argue that the move was suited for political gains of the government to show India's socialistic leanings with 'Garibi Hatao' as a household slogan at that time. It had many **negative fallouts** for the already crisis stricken economy at that time:

- It sown the seed of the **NPA crisis** that emerged since 2012. The credit bubble that grew under political patronage emerged out of government's control over Banks.
- It led to an incredibly **complex interest rate structure** with hundreds of interest rates for different types of loans. It increased corruption, bureaucratic inertia and license raj so that loans never reached the needy ones.
- The move was against market fundamentals. It reduced competition among the banks as they were forced to extend loans as per **priority sector lending norms**.
- **Dampened growth** in other sectors due to lack of credit to core industries.

Conclusion

- Former RBI governors **M Narasimham** (as early as the 1990s) and more recently **Raghuram Rajan and Urjit Patel** have called for governance reforms and asked that the government let go control of some banks, if not all. So the government should consider a couple of state-owned banks to meet social objectives while the rest slowly getting out of government control.
- India's goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2024 can only be achieved by resolving the ongoing crisis like non-performing assets, the inherent deficiency of public sector banking, the structure of non-banking financial companies and small- and medium-enterprises.

Question

The inefficient administration of justice has not only social but also economic costs. Do you agree? Substantiate your answer with arguments. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Write about the importance of the judiciary in a democracy.
- Write about the social and economic impacts of inefficient justice delivery.
- Give suggestions to improve the situation.
- Conclude by giving the need for effective judicial system and the approach to be taken.

Introduction

Judiciary is the key pillar of Indian democracy. Judiciary is not only the guarantor and protector of fundamental rights of the people but also plays a critical role in nation's growth. Thus, the constitutional principle of justice-social and economic can only be achieved when judiciary functions efficiently.

Body

Indian judiciary is facing acute crisis which has resulted in huge pendency of cases. The social impacts of such delays are:

- **Denial of 'timely justice' amounts to denial of 'justice' itself:** Timely disposal of cases is essential to maintain rule of law and provide access to justice. Speedy trial is a part of right to life and liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- **Erodes social infrastructure:** A weak judiciary has a negative effect on social development, which leads to: lower per capita income; higher poverty rates; poorer public infrastructure; and, higher crime rates.
- **Affects human rights:** Overcrowding of prisons, delayed justice thereby incarceration of poor, "violation of human rights".

The inefficient administration of justice has not only social but also economic costs. It affects the economy of the country as it was estimated that judicial delays cost India around 1.5% of its Gross Domestic Product annually.

Economic costs associated with ineffective judiciary are:

- It deters new investments in India. Poor contract enforcement tends to increase the risk and reduce the returns (increased legal costs), thus affecting the overall risk to return ratio.
 - India continues to fair badly in '**Enforcement of Contracts**' parameter of World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index.
- Pendency leads to spiraling legal expenses of Corporate India. Due to lack of **effective Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms**, big corporates prefer to take their arbitration to jurisdictions like Dubai and Singapore.
- **Poor contract enforcement** mechanisms also lead to spurt of informal and often illegal channels of dispute resolution. This creates problems such as increased **corruption** and the **undermining of the rule of law**.
- As per the Economic Survey 2017-18, pendency hampers growth, stall projects, hamper tax collection and escalate legal costs which lead to Increasing cost of doing business.

Following steps can be taken to improve the administration of justice:

- Increasing the number of courts and judges by filling up the vacant posts.

- Improving physical **infrastructure** and **digitization** of processes to reduce administrative delays.
- Courts may revisit the size and scale of their **discretionary jurisdictions** and avoid resorting to them unless necessary (this can help reclaim the Constitutional and Writ stature of the higher judiciary as originally envisaged).
- Downsizing or **removing original and commercial jurisdiction of High Courts** and enabling the lower judiciary to deal with such cases can also speed things up.
- Promoting rosters with **specialization** in higher judiciary. For example: Supreme Court's recent experiment with constituting an exclusive bench for taxation produced impressive results.

Conclusion

The fundamental requirement of a good judicial administration is accessibility, affordability and speedy justice. This will not be realized until and unless the justice delivery system is made within the reach of the individual in a time bound manner and within a reasonable cost. Therefore, continuous formative assessment is the key to strengthen and reinforce the justice delivery system in India.

Question

India's reluctance regarding negotiations for a separate treaty on Crime Against Humanity doesn't augur well with India's image as a champion of human rights. Analyse. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain the concept of Crime Against Humanity (CAH) in the introduction.
- Explain the reasons for India's reluctance regarding negotiations for a separate treaty on it.
- Conclude by giving reasons why India should engage in negotiations for the treaty.

Introduction

- Crimes against humanity are certain acts that are deliberately committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian or an identifiable part of a civilian population.
- It is an offence in international criminal law, and is part of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- World poverty, human-made environmental disasters, and terrorist attacks have thus been described as crimes against humanity.

Body

- In **State vs. Sajjan Kumar (2018) Delhi High Court** with reference to **anti-Sikh riots of 1984** held that neither 'crimes against humanity' nor 'genocide' has been made part of India's criminal law, a lacuna that needs to be addressed urgently.
- The court categorically stated that these kind of mass crimes "engineered by political actors with the assistance of the law enforcement agencies" fit into the category of crimes against humanity (CAH).

India is not a party to the Rome Statute, which means that it is under no obligation at present to enact separate legislation dealing with CAH. The **reasons for India's reluctance** regarding negotiations for a separate treaty on CAH are:

- Negotiations at the International Law Commission (ILC) seek to adopt the same definition of CAH as provided in the Rome Statute.
 - India is not in favour of using 'widespread **or** systematic' as one of the conditions, but prefers 'widespread **and** systematic', which would require a higher threshold of proof.

- Second, India wanted a distinction to be made between international and **internal armed conflicts**.
 - India's internal conflicts with Naxals and other non-state actors in places like Kashmir and the Northeast could fall under the scope of CAH.
- The third objection is related to the inclusion of the **enforced disappearance of persons** under CAH, which occurs when a person is secretly abducted or imprisoned by a state or a third party with State authorization.
 - India has signed but **not yet ratified** the **UN International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances**, therefore, it is under no obligation to criminalise it through domestic legislation.

Thus, India's domestic conditions compel India not to engage in negotiations at the International Law Commission (ILC).

However, to abide by the **constitutional principle of rule of law**, India should adhere to its image as a champion of human rights. Thus, turning a blind eye to such crimes against humanity reflects poorly on India's status as a democracy. Hence, India should show **political will** and constructively engage with the ILC, which would also, in the process, address the shortcomings in the domestic criminal justice system.

Conclusion

- India's policymaking has been motivated by the motto: **Think globally, act locally**, but in the case of crime against humanity India must follow **Act locally, Inspire globally**.
- So India's eventual adherence to the International Criminal Court and the Rome Treaty will act as a pathway for the renaissance for the future of human rights-oriented modes of Indian governance.
- It will be conceived as an endeavour to make **power more accountable, governance increasingly just, and the state incrementally ethical**.

Question

Malnutrition in India is a scar on India's pursuit of becoming a superpower. Discuss the reasons and challenges associated with the high level of malnutrition in India? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give facts in introduction to show that malnutrition is prevalent in India.
- Discuss reasons and challenges associated with the high level of malnutrition in India.
- Give conclusion.

Introduction

- The **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** ranked India at 103 among 119 countries in 2018, in view of the prevalent undernutrition situation.
- The **World Bank (WB)** has declared that with 40 percent of its workforce having experienced stunting as children.
- India has long been home to the largest number of malnourished children in the world. It is home to over **30.9% of all stunted children under five** - the highest in the world.

Reasons for the high level of Malnutrition in India

- **Extreme hunger and poverty** leads to inadequate access to food.
- **Less nutrients** in staple foods-rice and wheat.
- **Inadequate Infant and Child Feeding:** In urban areas, less than 46% are fed breast milk only for the first few months after birth.
- **Illiteracy and poor awareness:** Due to illiteracy and lack of awareness of parents about balanced diet, malnutrition in children occur as they fail to get critical nutrients.

- **Poor sanitation:** Open defecation, lack of pure drinking water supply, etc. are one of the major causes of malnutrition in children.
- **Social taboos:** Regarding women and girls keeps them out of financial and economic independence which results in their poor nutrition.
- **Intergenerational Transmission of Malnutrition:** Mothers who are hungry and malnourished produce children who are stunted, underweight and unlikely to develop to achieve their full human potential.

Challenges to address high malnutrition

- **Inter-state variability:** The states with higher malnutrition are the poorer ones and so the lack of budget is a major concern.
- **Lack of Effective Coordination** among different authorities at multiple levels.
- **Inadequate training to anganwadi workers,** who are the first ones to estimate malnutrition.
- **Lack of Awareness** among people about the adverse effects of sanitation and hygiene on health status is a major hurdle.
- **More problems in rural areas and urban slums** because of poverty, illiteracy, lack of hygiene, poor presence of government services, sanitation, etc.

Way Forward

- Effective implementation of **Poshan Abhiyan (National Nutritional Mission)** that aims to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anemia and low birth weight babies.
- Enhanced focus on **social welfare programmes** with increased budget.
- Improve access to public healthcare for poorer communities.
- Strengthen **MGNREGA** to ensure better food security
- Providing **Bio-fortified foods** to poor through PDS to raise their nutritional intake.
- Effective implementation of schemes on sanitation such as **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan** and ensuring clean drinking water supply to each household.
- Strengthening schemes for Women and Adolescent Girls- SABLA, ICDS, JSY, etc.
- **Multidimensional efforts** from all stakeholders- government, civil society, NGOs (such as Save the Children Foundation), academicians, etc.- is required in a comprehensive manner to fight the menace of malnutrition in India.

My Notes...



drishti



drishti

Question

Examine the failures at various levels that have led to the deaths of more than hundred children due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome in Bihar. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Briefly explain the outbreak of AES and its causes in the introduction.
- Discuss the lapses at multiple stages which led to the epidemic.
- Give a way forward to prevent any such incidence in future.

Introduction

- More than 100 children in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district have died of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in June 2019. Initially it was believed that the deaths were caused because of the consumption of litchi fruit which resulted in hypoglycemia (sudden drop in blood sugar levels), and further spread due to heat wave and lack of awareness.
 - However, later it was acknowledged that the two most critical causes for the deaths were— malnutrition and the inadequacy of primary health centers (PHCs).
 - Hence, the disease outbreak is not only an unfortunate natural phenomenon rather a case of governance failure.

Body

Major lapses that resulted into such incidents are:

- **Primary Health Centres**, the first point of healthcare for most AES patients are **ill-equipped** to deal with the disease.
 - Most of them do not have a virology lab or an adequate number of paediatric beds and glucometers to monitor blood sugar levels.
- **Not adhering to the Standard operating procedure to treat AES**, which mandates grassroots health workers, including auxiliary nurse-midwives, accredited social health activists, and anganwadi workers, to do daily household-level surveys to check children for JE/AES symptoms during the outbreak season from June to September.
- **Lack of preparedness** of the state government in terms of special nutrition programme for AES-prone areas (as undernourished children are more prone to the disease).
- **Inadequate Machinery**: Unavailability of doctors, beds, intensive care units, medical professionals to deal with an epidemic level situation.
- **Lack of investment in Research and Development** to effectively develop vaccines and treatment strategies as the region had witnessed similar outbreaks in the preceding years.

Way Forward

Following steps should be taken to prevent any such incidence in future:

- **Surveillance and monitoring of AES vulnerable region** for early diagnosis and treatment of disease.
 - AES can be contained if the child is administered dextrose within 4 hours of the onset of symptoms
 - 10% Dextrose infusion within the golden hours can speed up the pace of recovery.
- **Infrastructural and Institutional set up**: PHCs must be equipped with all necessary equipment and amenities that are crucial for diagnosing and treating AES patients.

- **Medical Research and Studies in AES prone regions** that are crucial for establishing a link between causes and symptoms of the disease must be taken into account for formulating a treatment strategy.
- Special nutrition programmes and mid-day meals must be implemented in the AES prone regions as it has been identified that toxins in litchi is just a triggering factor in the already malnourished children.
- **Awareness campaigns and symptom management** as a pre-emptive measure must be put in place for dealing with the AES cases.
 - State Government should learn from the **Dastak initiative (for treating Japanese Encephalitis) taken by Uttar Pradesh**, that has brought together health, rural development and primary education officials to promote clean drinking water, sanitation, vaccination and early referral to hospitals for treatment through symptom management.

Question

India's Indo-Pacific strategy reflects the neglect of strategically important Africa. Comment **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain about India's Indo-Pacific strategy in the introduction.
- Mention the importance of Africa for India in the Indo-Pacific and the neglect of Africa in India's strategy.
- Conclude by suggesting an approach that India should follow in its Africa outreach.

Introduction

- Geographically, Indo-Pacific refers to the Indian and the Pacific Oceans between the east coast of Africa and the American west coast and their several littoral countries.
- The region is of great strategic importance for India and has elevated India to a position of prominence in the region in the context of countering the rise of China. In this, Africa plays a key role in guiding India's Indo-Pacific strategy.

Body

Importance of Africa for India can be seen in the following areas:

- **Geo-Economic:** Energy security - Oil (Nigeria), the supply of Uranium (South Africa), huge mineral resources of Africa, growing population of Africa provides for new opportunities for goods and services exports from India.
- **Geo-Strategic:** Maritime security - East coast countries of Africa are important for peace and prosperity of the Indian Ocean region, trade relations across and beyond Africa and interests of Indian diaspora in Africa.
- **Geo-Political:** South-South cooperation, UNSC reforms, competition with China, cooperation in global issues such as climate change and WTO reforms.

Africa is witnessing a phenomenon called the **"New Scramble for Africa"**. Apart from the Western countries, the region is of renewed interest among the countries like China, India, Japan, and Korea which are competing for gaining strategic edge over others.

However, India's Indo-Pacific strategy shows neglect of Africa as is evident from the following:

- **India-US Relations:** India's approach is to ally with USA's ambitions to counter China as was observed in Shangri La Dialogue (2018). USA's vision of Indo-Pacific extends from west coast of India to West coast of the USA with India at the centre and thus shows lack of interest in Africa.
- India has put the **focus on ASEAN and 'Look East'** in every Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue and neglected African outreach.

- Though **trade between India and Africa** increased five-fold in the last decade, it has been declining in recent years. From \$US 71.5 billion in 2014-15 to \$US 56.7 billion in 2016-17 and further dropped to \$51.96 billion in 2016-17.
- It has been argued that **finalization of Mega Regional Trade Agreements (MRTA) like RCEP**, will negatively impact India-Africa bilateral trade due to erosion of preferences and increased competition in the MRTA markets.

Conclusion

- Hence, India's African policy has oscillated between passive and reluctantly reactive at best. India's long neglect and inadequate capacities has serious disadvantages vis-à-vis China's strategic push and economic muscle.
- The scale and speed of Africa's current transformation need to be a priority on India's strategic map.
- India needs to work upon its commitment to **Asia Africa Growth Corridor** in cooperation with Japan.
- Strategy to engage in multilateral development partnerships through platforms like **India-Africa Forum Summits** should be a key priority.
- India needs to leverage its diaspora to **increase people-to-people contacts**.
- India should not only engage with continental African nations but there should be a **renewed focus on the island nations specifically Mozambique, Comoros and Seychelles** due to their strategic location in the Indian Ocean.

Question

Examine how the Indian constitution is unique in its own way, despite being an amalgamation of other constitutions around the world. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about the spirit of the constitution.
- Mention the unique provisions of the constitution.
- Conclude by mentioning how it is an inspiration for other democracies.

Introduction

- Indian constitution is unique in its content and spirit. The makers of Indian Constitution faced the challenges of the diversity of many languages in many scripts, many faiths and customs, many races of all kinds and groups, many tribes and castes including the much-discriminated against communities.
 - Though borrowed from almost every constitution of the world, the constitution of India has several salient features that addressed these challenges and distinguished it from the constitutions of other countries.

Body

The salient features of the Indian constitution are:

- **Longest written constitution:** It is a comprehensive, elaborate and detailed document explicitly mentioning the rights, duties and other provisions contained in 448 articles in 25 parts and 12 schedules.
- **Blend of rigidity and flexibility:** Some constitutional amendments require special majority as per Article 368, while some provisions can be amended by a simple majority of the two houses of the parliament.
- **Federal system with unitary bias:** Constitution establishes a federal system of government along with a number of unitary features like single citizenship, All India Services, etc.
 - Indian model is based on cooperative federalism. The basic idea behind federalism is that it is a political contrivance to achieve good governance where units desire unity without uniformity.
 - Articles 371 to 371-J in Part XXI contain special provisions for eleven states to meet the aspirations of the people of these states.

- **Emergency provisions:** Indian constitution contains detailed provisions for three types of emergencies: National Emergency (Article 352), State Emergency (Article 356 and Article 365), and Financial Emergency (Article 360).
 - It converts federal structure into a unitary one without any formal amendment.
- **Parliamentary system:** Constitution provides for a parliamentary form of government where the Parliament is not the sovereign body unlike the British Parliament.
 - In India there is neither Parliamentary sovereignty nor judicial supremacy, rather constitutional supremacy prevails. There is a system of checks and balances between the Judiciary and the legislative organs of the government.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy:** Part-IV of the constitution contains principles classified into – Socialistic, Gandhian and liberal-intellectual.
 - Indian constitution not only provides for political democracy but also aims to establish socio-economic justice.
 - No other democracy in the world has **adopted 'welfare state' as its constitutional goal.**
- **Secularism:** Indian constitution embodies a positive concept of secularism i.e. giving equal respect to all religions or protecting all religions equally.
 - This is in contrast to the western model of secularism which connotes a complete separation between religion and state.

Conclusion

Thus, Indian constitution is a dynamic, living document designed to meet the aspirations of the people and is an inspiration for the rest of the emerging democracies of the third world.



My Notes...



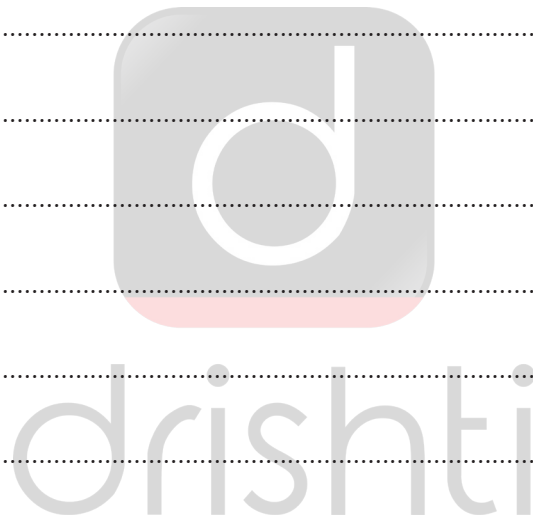
drishti



drishti

- A. Reforms in the international organization are necessities of new world order.
B. Nature is a living library of evolution and also a graveyard of civilizations.
C. No sustainable prosperity or security can be attained at the expense or marginalization of others.

My Notes...





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Question

Animal farming in India is largely pursued as a complementary activity or supplementary activity where livestock is integrated in the farming activity. Examine the role of livestock rearing in Indian economy. **(250 words)**

Approach

- In Introduction give data highlighting importance of livestock sector.
- Examine the role of livestock rearing in Indian economy
- Give Conclusion.

Introduction

- The agricultural system of India is predominantly a **Mixed Farming** model, which involves growing of crops as well as raising livestock.
- According to the **19th Livestock Census (2012)**, India has the world's largest livestock population.
- As of 2012, the contribution of livestock to Agricultural GDP is 25.6% and to the national GDP is 4.11%.
- It plays an important role in the national economy and in the socio-economic development of the country. It also plays an important role in the rural economy as supplementing family incomes and generating gainful employment in the rural sector, particularly among the landless labourers, small and marginal farmers and women's.

Role of livestock rearing in Indian Economy

- **Farmers' Economy:** The farmers in India maintain mixed farming system, i.e. a combination of crop and livestock where the output of one enterprise becomes the input of another enterprise thereby realize the **resource efficiency**. The livestock serve the farmers in different ways:
 - **Income:** Livestock contributed 16% to the income of small farm households as against an average of 14% for all rural households. From selling milk of cows and buffaloes; sell and purchase of animals- cattle, goat, sheep, camels, etc. also ensure profit realisation to farmers at the time of need.
 - **Employment:** Livestock provides livelihood to two-thirds of rural community. It also provides employment to about 9 % of the population in India.
 - **Food:** Livestock products such as milk, meat and eggs are an important source of animal protein to the members of the livestock owners.
 - **Social Security:** The animals offer social security to the owners in terms of their status in the society. The families especially the landless which own animals are better placed than those who do not.
 - **Draft Animal:** The bullocks are the backbone of Indian agriculture. The farmers especially the marginal and small depend upon bullocks for ploughing, carting and transport of both inputs and outputs.
 - **Dung:** In rural areas dung is used for several purposes which include fuel (dung cakes), fertilizer (farm yard manure), and plastering material (poor man's cement).
- **Poverty Alleviation:** Animal rearing has important role in reducing rural poverty. Incidence of rural poverty is less in states like Punjab, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Gujarat, and Rajasthan where livestock accounts for a sizeable share of agricultural income as well as employment.
- **Nutritional Security:** Livestock provides a number of products- milk and dairy products, eggs, meat, etc. that have high nutritional value than grains. Thus, the overall nutritional security is also safeguarded through animal rearing.

- **Gender Equity:** Animal husbandry promotes gender equity. More than three-fourth of the labour demand in livestock production is met by women. The share of women employment in the livestock sector is around 90% in Punjab and Haryana where dairying is a prominent activity and animals are staffed.
- **Inclusive Growth:** Livestock is more equitable than that of land. Small farmers possess more than half of the country's cattle as against 24% of land.

Conclusion

- However, India's livestock sector has many challenges- low productivity, animal diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease, lack of finance, socio-cultural conflicts regarding cattle trading (cow slaughter).
- The extent to which the pro-poor potential of livestock can be harnessed would depend on how technology, institutions, policies and financial support address the constraints of the sector.
- Government initiatives such as **National Livestock Mission, Rashtriya Gokul Mission**, etc. if implemented in letter and spirit would bring desirable result for the livestock sector.

Question

Why capturing visual of a black hole was a challenge? Discuss the significance of first visual from the Event Horizon Telescope. (250 words)

Approach

- In the introduction discuss the image captured by scientists and its background.
- In body examine why capture of black hole visual was a challenge, how it was solved.
- Discuss the significance.
- Conclude with future projects in this direction.

Introduction

- Astronomers have captured the first image of a black hole, heralding a revolution in our understanding of the universe's most enigmatic objects. Black holes were first predicted by Einstein's theory of relativity.
- Since then, astronomers have accumulated overwhelming evidence that these cosmic bodies exist, including recent detection of **gravitational waves** that ripple across the cosmos when pairs of them collide.

Body

- Black holes are bodies whose density is so great and gravity so strong that "light cannot escape from it." In such case, any endeavour to capture the visual of a black hole remained difficult. In doing so, scientist faced two main challenges:
 - Gathering enough light from a distant black hole.
 - Having enough magnifying power to resolve the details.
- These challenges were solved by using multiple large radio telescopes scattered throughout the world: by combining their observations, astronomers effectively created a single telescope with a lens as big as the planet. Further, all the signal were saved and synchronized within a microsecond, to get an accurate visual of black hole and rendered into a visual.

Significance of the image capture

This achievement will further bolster Einstein's theory of general relativity, which describes gravity as a consequence of the warping of space-time. And the newly unveiled images should help scientists better understand how black holes tick, and how the biggest black holes shape the evolution of their host galaxies. All these would prove essential to understand the origin of life on earth, and finding goldilocks zones: that is the liveable planets.

Conclusion

Though a great achievement in itself, there is a long road still to cover, which is being covered by many project like Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array (NuSTAR) , LIGO and Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) mission. The findings from these projects is expected to give further insight into working of celestial bodies.

Question

NITI Aayog has suggested that 40% of personal vehicles and public transportation in the country should go completely electric by 2030. Discuss concerns and challenges in this context. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Write about the aim of introducing the EV mobility programme in the introduction.
- Mention the challenges and concerns associated with it.
- Conclude by suggesting the approach to implement the policy.

Introduction

- India's Electric Vehicle (EV) mobility programme is in line with its strategy to reduce oil imports and carbon emissions. India's commitment to address the issue of climate change necessitates the adoption of alternative methods for environmental sustainability. By electrifying all the two-wheelers in use, India can avoid about 15% of the total transportation emissions and about 30% of particulate matter, curbing air pollution.

Body

There are certain concerns and challenges in achieving the target of 40% EVs by 2030.

Concerns

- **Overall carbon neutrality:** As warned by **International Energy Agency**, there will be a net increase in carbon emissions due to electric vehicles as India is largely dependent on its coal fired power plants.
- Also concerns related to **safe disposal of Lithium-ion battery** is a concern. India would end up generating tones of e-waste without proper recycling strategy.
- **Disruption of Automobile sector:** Declining sales of two and four vehicles have caused a drastic fall in the growth of the automobile sector leading to job losses. Hence, such a radical shift requires planning and implementation in phased manner.
- **Demand-Supply gap:** Public transport in India is expected to double by 2030. This requires an enabling electronic vehicle ecosystem that encourages domestic manufacturing of batteries and vehicles.

Challenges

- **Charging infrastructure:** Creating charging infrastructure at such a large scale is difficult to achieve in such a short period of time. Also, charging time of lithium ion batteries is long which could result in traffic congestion on roads.
- **Availability of batteries:** Absence of lithium-ion manufacturing units in India increases import dependence. Also, due to absence of rare earth mineral resources (lithium and cobalt), we will have to depend entirely on imports, particularly from China.
- **Affordability:** Market penetration of the electronic vehicle is expected to be low as compared to petrol vehicles, because of their high cost.
- **Localization:** Domestic companies are unable to avail the incentives and subsidies under **FAME II**, which requires companies to have products with more than 50% localization i.e. adapting a product or service specific to the local market.

Conclusion

Hence, a critical analysis and a step-by-step approach are required to implement the EV programme. The ecosystem for electric vehicles should be allowed to develop gradually and organically. From job losses to manufacturing and marketing challenges, all the factors should be considered by the policymakers. Alternative models should be pursued by investing in research and development primarily to make battery technology affordable and sustainable.

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20th August 2019

Question

What do you understand by Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)? What are the associated challenges and significance of EIA in India? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Write about Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- Mention its significance.
- List the challenges associated with EIA in India.
- Conclude

Introduction

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the study to evaluate and identify the predictable environmental consequences of a proposed developmental project.

The EIA notification 2006 establishes four stages for obtaining Environmental Clearance.

- **Screening:** to categorize a project by State Level Expert Appraisal Committees (SLEAC) and assess whether a project requires EIA or is exempted from EIA.
- **Scoping:** by the central Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) and SLEAC to determine comprehensive terms of reference for preparation of EIA report. At this stage NOC is granted by assessing the report on compliance with the prescribed effluent and emission standards.
- **Public Hearing:** Done to address the objections or suggestions of the local people. It is conducted by a committee with District Collector as the Chairperson and other members like officials of State Pollution Control Board (SPCB), representatives of Taluka and Gram Sabha, etc.
- **Appraisal:** The EAC and SLEAC scrutinize the final EIA report and, NOCs and then it is presented to MoEFCC.

Body

Significance of EIA

- EIA reports are a critical component of India's environmental decision-making process. Based on these reports, the Environment Ministry or other relevant regulatory bodies may or may not grant approval to a project.
- The EIA reports are also important to define measures that the project could take in order to contain or offset project impacts.
- For scientific assessment, the law mandates engagement of an accredited independent EIA consultant to undertake the study to ensure objectivity and transparency.
- The public hearing stage gives chance to the locals to raise their concerns thus helps in grassroots governance.

Challenges associated with EIA in India

Though it seems a very simplified process, but the whole process of EIA encompasses numerous structural and procedural challenges like:

- **Lack of awareness** among the local people, about the EIA process, their own rights and responsibilities.
- **Unavailability of EIA in local languages**, which helps in misleading the people.
- **Ignorance and corruption** among the officials involved in the EIA committee.
- **Loopholes:** Big MNCs circumvent EIA process by exploiting exemption provisions and loopholes in the law. Also, there is a lack of clarity in overall conductance of the Screening and Scoping processes.
- **Lack of Professionals:** Lack of availability of quality EIA professionals which lead to errors and omissions in the assessment.

Conclusion

Thus EIA is critical for environmental decision making process in India. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, our policy decisions should be based on scientific analytical assessments keeping a synergy between people and planet.

Question

Discuss the need and ways for redefining the fiscal architecture of India to strengthen the fiscal federalism. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain the structure of fiscal federalism in India and how it evolved over a period of time.
- Mention about imbalances in fiscal federalism and the need to bring reforms.
- Mention the steps that should be taken as a way forward.

Introduction

Federalism is the basic structure of Indian Constitution (SR Bommai Case). India's asymmetrical model of federalism influences the Centre-State financial relations as well. Centre state financial relations are dynamic and continuously changing as can be observed by steps like devolving 42% of funds to states on the recommendation of 14th Finance Commission, replacing Planning Commission by NITI Aayog, and recently by the introduction of GST.

Body

There are both horizontal and vertical imbalances in fiscal architecture in India:

- **Horizontal imbalance** arise because of differing levels of attainment by the states due to differential growth rates and their developmental status in terms of the state of social or infrastructure capital.
- **Vertical imbalance** arises due to the **fiscal asymmetry** in powers of taxation vested with the different levels of government in relation to their expenditure responsibilities prescribed by the constitution.
 - For ex: central government having a far **greater domain of taxation** (e.g., income taxes personal or corporate, taxing consumption of goods and services (CGST), taxing foreign transactions, etc).
 - Central Government collects around 60% of the total taxes, while its expenditure responsibility (for carrying out its constitutionally mandated responsibility such as defense, etc.) is only 40% of the total public expenditure.
 - Such vertical imbalances are even sharper in the case of the third tier government consisting of elected local bodies and panchayats.

Suggested reforms

India's Fiscal Federalism needs to be restructured around the **four pillars** namely Finance Commission, NITI Aayog, GST and decentralization in order to eliminate the inadequacies of vertical and horizontal imbalances.

- **Finance Commission** must be relieved from the dual task of dealing with provision of basic public goods and services and capital deficits. It should be confined to focussing on the removal of basic **public goods imbalance (Type I)**.
- **NITI Aayog:**
 - NITI Aayog should receive significant resources (1% to 2% of the GDP) to remove **regional and subregional disparities** among states by reducing **development imbalances** in the areas of infrastructure deficit.
 - **NITI should have an Independent Evaluation Office** to monitor and evaluate the efficacy of the utilization of revenue and capital grants.
- **Decentralization** can serve as the **third pillar** of the new fiscal federalism:
 - **Strengthening local finances** by creating a **consolidated fund** for urban local body/ Panchayati Raj institutions.
 - Centre and States should contribute an equal proportion of their **Central GST (CGST)** and **State GST (SGST)** collections and send the money to the consolidated fund of the third tier.
 - **State Finance Commissions** should be accorded the same status as the Union Finance Commission and the 3Fs of democratic decentralization (**funds, functions, and functionaries**) should be implemented properly.
- **Goods and Services Tax** should be simplified in its structure.
 - **Single Rate GST:** with suitable surcharges on "sin goods," zero ratings of exports and reforming the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) and the e-way bill.
 - **Transparency:** The GST Council should undertake reforms in an informed and transparent manner, by creating its own secretariat and independent experts.

Conclusion

Thus, the idea of competitive cooperative federalism in the spirit of 'Team India' is the key to achieve good governance and to meet the local aspirations.

Question

Economic decision-making and planning in India depend less on government and more on market forces. Critically examine its consequences on the Indian economy. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Write about the change in India's economic decision making from 'centrally planned economy' to 'open-market economy' in the introduction.
- Mention how economic decision making happens currently.
- Give positive and negative impacts of the current model.
- Conclude by giving India's vision to achieve economic superiority in the globalized world.

Introduction

India adopted a model of planned economic development since 1951, where state and public sector played a dominant role in economic decision making. However, due to poor implementation, the model failed in fulfilling the objectives of poverty alleviation and satisfaction of basic needs. This led India to adopt a mixed model based on open market forces with limited government intervention.

Body

Currently institutions like NITI Ayog, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Finance and Commerce Ministries do play a major role in economic decision making. But the decisions are mainly dependent on market forces to promote healthy competition and innovation among private players. Some of the major impacts of adopting the current model are:

Positive impacts

- **Free flow of capital:** Open market attracts foreign and domestic investments to undertake lucrative projects, despite risks and long gestation periods, leading to higher growth rates.
- **Stock market performance:** Increase in trading in corporate securities due to a favourable environment with an assurance of stable markets. For ex: exponential growth in mutual funds and insurance sector in India.
- **Political Risks reduced:** Investor confidence increases with government's intent to create a strong legal foundation to settle disputes and have fair and enforceable laws to increase 'Ease of Doing Business'.
- **Improved technology:** Open and competitive markets promote competition and supports innovation. This helps in faster technology adaptation. For ex: role of private players like Paytm, Phonepe in digital transactions, success story of India's telecom sector, etc.

Negative impacts

- **Against socialistic principles:** Market forces work to increase profits of capitalist class. Still millions live in poverty, debilitating inclusive growth.
 - For ex: WTO norms poses compulsions and restrictions on the government's food distribution and poverty alleviation programmes. Tonnes of foodgrains may rot in warehouses but can't be distributed to the poor.
- **Risks of global financial crisis:** In a hyper-globalized world, global markets shocks destabilize Indian economy. For ex: inability of government to control fuel prices due to unstable crude oil markets.
- **Threat to domestic manufacturing:** Excessive competition against MNCs with superior technology and large capital base is detrimental to India's MSME sector which employs the second largest number of people after agriculture. Hence, people's livelihood is directly affected by such models.
- **Inequality and unemployment:** With newer and faster technology, poor unskilled people in India which are slow to adapt to them face negative consequences. For ex: advent of gig-economy models in transportation sector like Ola and Uber not only posed a challenge to Indian traditional cab drivers but also hit the automobile manufacturing sector.

Conclusion

With a motto of '**Minimum Government Maximum Governance**', government should remain as an enabler and a facilitator rather than a regulator of sorts for unhindered growth and competition. The aim of \$5 trillion economy by 2024 can only be achieved by sustained economic growth where industries flourish in a supportive environment. However, excessive dependence on market forces may be detrimental to India's socialistic credentials. Hence government needs to intervene whenever need arises. For example : New e-Commerce rules to support domestic traders and retailers, cap on prices of medical equipment like heart stents and knee caps, Corporate Social Responsibility norms to indulge private players in social activities, etc are all steps in the right direction.

My Notes...



drishti



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Question

What do you understand by bioethics? Discuss issues related to bioethics in India. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Write about what you understand by bioethics.
- Discuss the issues related to bioethics in India

Introduction

Bioethics

- Ethical issues concerned with the biological aspects of life and how and when it starts is included in Bioethics.
- It is the branch of the ethics which consists of the analysis of specific, controversial moral issues such as abortion, animal rights, or euthanasia. It helps to use knowledge of moral principles to present dilemmas.
- The four common principles of Bioethics are:
 - **Nonmaleficence:** One should avoid causing harm. The healthcare professional should not harm the patient. All treatment involves some harm, even if minimal, but the harm should not be disproportionate to the benefits of treatment.
 - **Justice:** Benefits and risks should be fairly distributed. The notion that patients in similar positions should be treated in a similar manner.
 - **Beneficence:** One should take positive steps to help others. The healthcare professional should act in a way that benefits the patient.
 - **Autonomy:** One should respect the right of individuals to make their own decisions by respecting the decision making capacities of autonomous persons; enabling individuals to make reasoned informed choices.

Body

Issues related to bioethics in India

- **Euthanasia:** In India, euthanasia/ “mercy –killing” of terminally ill patients has been a controversial bioethical issue. Proponents of Physician-Assisted Suicide (PAS) feel that an **individual’s right to autonomy** automatically entitles him to choose a painless death.
 - The opponents feel that a physician’s role in the death of an individual violates the central tenet of the medical profession - a Life versus dignity. We allow Passive Euthanasia but we don’t allow Active Euthanasia.
- **Stem Cell Research:** The immense potential that has been shown by stem cells in the treatment of “degenerative, incurable and irreversible” diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s disease has brought them into the spotlight. The debate around stem cells as therapy includes socio, political, cultural and ethical issues. The concerns related to designer babies has raised serious bio-ethical issues.
- There was a public outcry over the delivery of **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine** administered to girls in Andhra Pradesh by an international foundation. The tribal department of the state had come out with an order that girls’ parents need not be contacted for consent and that principals of the tribal schools may provide consent. It is not ethical to administer the vaccine to minor girls without **their parents’ informed consent**.

- **Relaxed norms for clinical trials:** Government had come up with stringent regulations regarding clinical trials in 2013. Since 2014, these regulations are being gradually relaxed. Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has decided to waive off Phase III clinical trials except where it is specifically necessary if the drug has been approved in US, Australia, Japan, Canada or Europe, because of the bio-ethical issues involved.
- **Abortion:** The social, cultural, religious, legal and political context of abortion is complex. This is complicated by advances in medical technology. A range of prenatal diagnostic technologies and the emergence of preconception and genetics-based technologies more recently have made it possible to know the status of the foetus in terms of sex or other "abnormalities". This has encouraged women and their families to seek selective abortions including sex-based ones also.

Conclusion

Each situation is quite unique and complex. And, we have to negotiate with many factors before we really come with a final solution. The Bioethicist in the modern age should be sensitive to all these factors that play important roles in shaping Ethical values and principles in modern societies.

Question

Examine how an organisation's work culture impacts or imparts ethics towards society at large. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Write about the Work culture of an organisation.
- Explain the factors influencing the ethics of society at large.
- Define work culture and explain with examples of how it impacts societal ethics.

Introduction

- The work culture of any organization significantly impacts ethics of society at large. Work culture is regarded as a set of practices, values and shared beliefs within an organization. It has a significant role in the way an organization functions. It is a way of life at the workplace, the way culture is a way of life of society.
- Ethics form an essential part of the foundation on which a civilized society is built. Ethics of society is shaped not only by individual factors like values, attitudes of people but also by other situational factors like cultural norms, industry and organizational norms.

Body

The work culture of an organization impacts society in the following ways:

Quality of Human Resources

- Private organizations (MNCs) promote efficiency, workmanship, professionalism and a spirit of innovation among the employees which are critical for the growth of any society.
- Similarly, the public sector in India is known for its service motive and social ethos which helps in creating a socially just society.
- Competition within a hierarchical framework of any organization helps in nurturing leadership through rewards, punishments and incentives.

Foundational Values of Organization

- Organizations with elite orientation or aristocratic mindset and complacency or 'chalta hai attitude' inculcate similar attitude among the employees which is reflected in their behaviour outside the organization as well.

- Many organizations promote sensitivity towards marginalized sections by sensitive training targeted towards women, persons with disabilities, etc.
- Enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) norms in private organizations promotes the altruistic and egalitarian society. Moreover, CSR works oriented towards environment and nature conservation helps in promoting climate change sensitivity.

Ends and Objectives of Organization

- Organizations working purely on a profit basis neglecting the societal impacts of their work tend to create unethical attitude among people.
 - For eg.: Companies indulged in liquor and tobacco products work purely on profit basis without considering negative externalities.

Quality and Service Delivery

- The attitude and mindset of leaders of organizations tend to reflect on society as a whole.
 - For eg.: Japan's Total Quality Movement (TQM) of the 1930s initiated by Walter A. Shewhart implemented at Western Electric Company created the basis for Japan's rapid industrialization.
 - Similarly, it was the vision of Metro man of India, E Sreedharan which created one of the most successful metro projects ever, which is known for its service delivery and efficient working.

Conclusion

Thus, both society and the organization's work culture have a direct correlation. Both influence the ethical framework of people and are relevant to the social fabric of any society.

Question

Examine the following, along with relevant examples:

- (A) An action can be legally wrong but ethically correct and vice versa.
- (B) Under what situations, a person cannot be held as unethical despite his actions looking seemingly unethical or illegal. **(250 words)**

Approach

- Explain the difference between law and ethics with examples. Give the importance of ethical interpretation of laws for civil servants.
- In the second part, explain the conditions of ethical scrutiny of any action giving relevant examples.

A: It is not necessary that something legal is obviously moral. Legal means allowed by the state. For eg.: capital punishment, abortion, etc. Hence, ethics and law are not always the same.

Action can be legally wrong but ethically correct. For example:

- In the 20th century India, social reformers urged citizens to disobey laws in order to protest what they regarded as immoral or unjust laws. Peaceful civil disobedience was an ethical way of expressing political viewpoints.
- Abortion may be regarded as legally wrong, but for a rape victim, it may be allowed on ethical grounds.

Similarly, actions can be ethically wrong but legally correct. For example:

- Slave trade was legal in America earlier. But it is an unethical act.
- While slum settlements are required to be cleared legally, the human right to housing and shelter makes it unethical to do without creating proper alternative arrangements first.

In a mixed-cultured society like ours, public servants need to take a balanced stand involving both legal and ethical factors so as to discharge his/her duties effectively and for the common good.

A bureaucrat's duty is dynamic, which needs interpretation of laws. Thus, there is a need to inculcate 'ethical sensitivity' that is the identification of salient aspects of a situation that involves the "good" and the "bad" of public or society.

B: A person may act in a different way in different situations. However, any action can be ethically scrutinized only if it meets certain preconditions like:

- If it is done by **free will**: If a person has multiple choices, and freedom to pick one within those choices, only then we can debate it on ethical ground. **For eg:**
 - Elephants destroying crops in the fields resulting in man-animal conflict. Nature has designed elephants to act that way. Hence elephant's action can't be judged as ethical or immoral. He can't /shouldn't be punished for that.
- **Knowledge of consequences**: We cannot exercise 'free will' in an ethical/unethical manner, unless and until we have 'knowledge' of its consequence. **For eg:**
 - The train driver's action of not stopping the train in 2018 Punjab accident which killed more than 60 people who were trespassing the railway tracks during Dusshera, cannot be ethically scrutinized as he was given a green signal and was not aware of people standing on the track.
- **Voluntary action**: An action can only be scrutinized if it is done voluntarily without any external pressure or force. **For eg:**
 - Children's action of begging on the streets forcefully should not be considered immoral as they are not voluntarily doing it. Although the practice of begging is unethical.
- **Fear/Violence**: Any action done under fear or injury to self cannot be ethically scrutinized. If someone tries to kill/loot you and you kill/injure him in self-defence, you're acting under fear for your life. So, it's subject to legal scrutiny but not ethical scrutiny.
- **Habit/temperament**: Actions which are done as a consequence of one's own habit may or may not be ethical. **For eg:**
 - Since childhood, Japanese are trained to apologize profusely even for the slightest mistake or discomfort caused to another human. If an American executive working in Japan, doesn't behave in a similar fashion, it can't be termed as 'unethical' because it is not in American habits.

Hence, a person may not always be held as unethical despite his actions appearing to be unethical or illegal.

Day - 75

GS - III, IV

GS4

23th August 2019

Question

You are a senior forest official who has recently been posted in a forest range which has a wildlife sanctuary and pilgrimage center of local hill tribes. The sanctuary is a famous trekking site, but is open only for males as the local tribal culture doesn't permit the entry of women to the hill site housing their deity.

Recently, the State High Court has lifted this unofficial ban on women following which there has been pressure from women's group to open the trekking site for all, while the local tribal group opposes the same. You fear that opening the site might lead to protest from tribals, compromising law and order situation and endanger the safety of trekkers to the site.

(A) What are the options open to you in this scenario? Discuss along with their merits and demerits?

(B) Which would be the most appropriate action that you would take in this situation and why? **(250 words)**

Answer

The above case study reflects the following ethical dilemma:

- Community interest vs Gender parity.
- Freedom of religion vs Right to equality.

1. In this scenario the options that can be taken

Option 1: Ignore the High court order

Merit:

- Status quo will lead to stable law and order situation.
- Sanctity of religious sentiments of tribals can be maintained.

Demerit:

- It will lead to Contempt of court.
- It will endorse the patriarchal mindset, that activities like trekking are masculine exercise.

Option 2: Try to persuade the tribals by myself.

Merit:

- It will uphold Tribal's right to decide themselves about their choice of settlement.

Demerit:

- This option has very little chance to succeed, as the tribals are living with this religious narrative since ages.

Option 3: Implement the order, if tribals get violent, then the help of force should be taken

Merit:

- It will implement the court's order and upheld the principle of gender equality.

Demerit:

- It is against Teleological ethics as unethical means are used to lead to the desired end.
- By making Tribals submit to the judicial process which they did not consent to is a broader injustice.

2. The course of action

Since it is a social issue, the mere legal solution is not enough, it requires emotional intelligence.

- Steps that should be taken:
 - Involve civil society to undertake trust-building measures with the community.
 - Aware tribals about the law of the land, which guarantee gender equality
 - Police and other forces must be held on standby to avoid any escalation of the conflict.
 - Extension for executing the court's order can be asked, so that issue can be resolved amicably.
- However, Patriarchal attitudes cannot be changed overnight. therefore:
 - Few Tribal leaders can be roped in for a campaign strategy for creating awareness.
 - This would persuade people because the source of the message will have more credibility than district administration.
 - Tribals should be educated about gender parity.

Community interest and Individual freedom should be balanced, but the human right to dignity cannot be compromised. This can be achieved through a socio-political movement which will raise the consciousness of the masses against the menace of patriarchy while maintaining the sanctity of tribal culture.

Question

How could influence and persuasion contribute to desirable social and economic change in the country? **(250 words)**

Approach

- Introduce the answer by using a quote.
- Briefly explain persuasion and social influence.
- Using examples explain their contribution to bringing change in social and economic fields.
- Give a way forward.

Answer

- As famously said by **Plato** - "**What is honoured in a country is cultivated there.**"
- The above statement of Plato gave an insight into the importance of behaviour in bringing the desirable change.
- Indian society is **behavioural driven** where social and religious norms play a dominant role in shaping the **individual** as well as **societal behaviour** which further drives the social and economic change in the country.
- **Persuasion** and **influence** are behavioural tactics that influence an audience intentionally to encourage them to adopt an idea, attitude or course of action by symbolic means utilizing words, images, sounds etc, as people's actions are greatly influenced by other people in their environment. **Let us analyse the role of persuasion and influence in bringing social and economic change with the help of the examples:**
- For encouraging gender equality and tackling the menace of declining sex ratio, the government launched the **Beti Bachao Beti Pado (BBBP)** scheme which had used the behavioural tactics of persuasion and influence **by associating famous personalities with the campaign.**
 - The scope of the scheme can be further enlarged to accommodate the idea of **BADLAV (Beti Aapki Dhan Laxmi Aur Vijay Laxmi)** to represent change toward gender equality and further reap the benefits.
- Similarly, **wildlife conservation** can be promoted by emotionally associating people with them by highlighting their mythological significance. For eg: **Tiger** as the **vehicle** of **Goddess Durga**.
- For **Economic change**, it is essential to modify the social norm from '**evading taxes is acceptable**' to '**paying taxes honestly is honourable**'. This can be achieved by periodically informing people about neighbours or people living around paying taxes honestly or **public shaming** of eligible individuals who do not pay taxes.
- If leakages and targeting errors from welfare schemes are eliminated, a lot of economic resources can be productively used for growth. '**Give it Up**' scheme where people from **upper poverty line** were motivated to give up their LPG subsidy, has greatly influenced the societal outlook and thus paving the way for a more **just society**.
 - The base of the scheme can be further broadened by advertising and circulating the videos of the people who gave up subsidy or organising pledge ceremonies on special occasions, so as to motivate others and reinforce this feeling.

Therefore, **persuasion** and **social influence** are dynamic tools that holds a huge potential in a country like India with abnormally large rural background shackled in the age old traditions. If creatively used, they can change the whole social and economic scenario in the country.

Question

ABC Ltd. is a large transnational company having diversified business activities with a huge shareholder base. The company is continuously expanding and generating employment. The company, in its expansion and diversification programme, decides to establish a new plant at Vikaspuri, an area which is underdeveloped. The new plant is designed to use energy-efficient technology that will help the company to save production cost by 20%. The company's decision goes well with the Government policy of attracting investment to develop such underdeveloped regions. The government has also announced a tax holiday for five years for the companies that invest in underdeveloped areas. However, the new plant may bring chaos for the inhabitants of Vikaspuri region, which is otherwise tranquil. The new plant may result in increased cost of living, aliens migrating to the region, disturbing the social and economic order. The company sensing the possible protest tried to educate the people of Vikaspuri region and the public in general that how its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy would help overcome the likely difficulties of the residents of Vikaspuri region. In spite of this, the protests begin and some of the residents decided to approach the judiciary as their plea before the Government did not yield any result.

(A) Identify the issues involved in the case.

(B) What can be suggested to satisfy the company's goal and to address the residents' concerns? **(250 words)**

(A) The issues involved in the case

Despite the ABC companies **project being in concurrence** with the government policy, the project is **facing resistance** from the local people of the area.

The following can be the reason for this:

- **Trust-deficit** between the people and the industrial sector.
- **Xenophobia** is a built-in psychological tendency of human.
- **Unawareness or ignorance** of people of Vikas puri despite being an underdeveloped region.
- Another issue is the fear among people of a **rise in costs and changes in the social and economic order** with the development.

(B) Steps to resolve the conflict between the company's goal and the residents' concerns

- First and foremost there is a need to **bring behavioural change** in local people towards development.
 - Use of **Information, Communication and Education** approach.
 - The company needs to **bring awareness about the growth and prospects of better returns** for local people from the land, better education, healthcare and other benefits for the local people, **due to the project**.
 - Use of **Emotional Intelligence** to bridge the trust deficit between the residents and company.
- **Develop local leadership** and make them aware of government vision and schemes.
 - **Participation of locals in the decision-making**, will create confidence and remove the fear of change in the social and economic order.
- **Skill development programs** should be made part of the **CSR initiatives** of the company.
- Though these may be short term measures to tackle the conflict between development vs community, its long term solution lies in **Community-Driven Development (CDD) approach**.

Note: According to World Bank CDD is an approach that gives control over planning decisions and investment resources for local development projects to community groups.

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My Notes...



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Day - 77

Essay

25th August 2019

- A. Force is all conquering, but it's victories are short lived.
- B. People's participation is the essence of good governance.
- C. India and the policy of 'no first use' of nuclear weapons.

My Notes...



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Day - 78

GS - I, II, III, IV

GS1

26th August 2019

Question

1. Examine the impact of European influence on India's art and architecture. **(250 words)**
2. India is a young nation but an old country. Analyse. **(250 words)**
3. NAM was the only option available to recently independent countries like India at the height of the cold war. Examine. **(250 words)**
4. What is a demographic dividend? Has India been able to reap its benefits? **(250 words)**
5. Partition of India was only the final culmination of divide and rule policy of the British government. Critically examine. **(250 words)**

Day - 79

GS - I, II, III, IV

GS2

27th August 2019

Question

1. Critically examine India's commitment and challenges faced in relation to human rights. **(250 words)**
2. Discuss deficiencies in Indian policing system and suggest a way forward. **(250 words)**
3. 'India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back.' Discuss. **(250 words)**
4. Discuss the need and ways for redefining the fiscal architecture of India to strengthen the fiscal federalism. **(250 words)**
5. The draft New Education Policy can give impetus to national integration by addressing the concerns of linguistic regionalism. Comment. **(250 words)**

Day - 80

GS - I, II, III, IV

GS3

28th August 2019

Question

1. In the recent release of World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' 2019, India's improved ranking can be attributed to its Digital India programme. Examine. **(250 words)**
2. Critically examine the socio-economic measures adopted by the Government to eliminate the problem of left-wing extremism in India. **(250 words)**
3. Explain how Big data can play a significant role in enhancing our capabilities to manage disasters. **(250 words)**
4. Despite the declining share of agriculture and its allied sectors in national income, it continues to provide employability to a major segment of the population. Critically examine. **(250 words)**
5. What are Smart Food crops? Discuss its importance for Indian agriculture. **(250 words)**

Question

1. You are the director of a department that has recently been engulfed in the #MeToo campaign when two of the deputy directors working under you have been publicly named as sexual predators by two women in the department. As directed by the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, you are to initiate a committee of inquiry and submit the report within 90 days.

Before initiating the committee you are faced with two narratives, first, that this is not the first time both women have come forward with similar accusations; second, that you have known both the deputy directors and their families for quite sometime now, and you have noticed nothing in their behaviour that says they could have been the sexual predators as alleged.

Now, while the women want that you begin the inquiry process at the earliest, the deputy directors deny all charges and say that they want to pursue defamation cases against their main accusers. In all this, public pressure is against you, with the media discussing the case on a regular basis.

- (a) As a director of a department what will be your course of action for starting an official investigation? State the merits and demerits of whatever course of action you decide to follow.
- (b) Do you also agree that the sexual nature of a crime makes the crime ethically different and difficult (to handle) from other crimes? Give valid reasons to support your views. **(250 words)**
2. You are the senior manager in Indian Oil refinery. The Indian government has sent you to another country to apply for a tender for a big project. After arriving there you find out that the officials of that particular country do not pass a project without taking a bribe. You also get to know that the probability of other competing countries paying the bribe is quite high. India is a signatory to the United Nation Convention against Corruption.
- What suggestions can you give to the Indian government in this situation, especially when you know how important this particular project is for the country? **(250 words)**
3. Define the following terms: **(150 words)**
- (a) Altruism
- (b) Beneficence
- (c) Utilitarianism
4. Examine the principles of Panchsheel Treaty in the context of international ethics. How far are these principles relevant in today's world politics. **(250 words)**
5. Explain Gandhiji's Trusteeship model. What significance does it hold in contemporary corporate governance? **(250 words)**

My Notes...



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Be Mains Ready

Join our daily Mains program and Be Mains Ready – Starting from 10th June 2019

We have devised this program keeping two factors in mind

1. For those who have not joined our Mains Test Series this program is going to be the next best thing. Following this program is going to help you cover the most important areas of the syllabus meticulously and within a predefined time-frame. So, if you do not wish to join a mains test series, join Be Mains Ready and start preparing for Mains immediately.
2. For those who have joined our Mains Test Series, this program is going to help in preparing for each and every one of the scheduled tests.

Program Details

The *Be Mains Ready* program has been duly synced with our **Mains Test Series**. Our Test Series is starting from 15th June 2019 in both online and offline modes.

- ✓ Be Mains Ready will provide you with 3 practice questions every day. These questions will build up to the forthcoming Mains Test Series exam as per schedule. If you have not subscribed to the test series, you can still practice writing answers for these questions and cover the selected syllabus in time.
- ✓ In this program, the **Questions will be posted in the morning**, and in the evening (between 5 to 7.30 pm) we will be providing the **Approach and important Fodder Points** for these questions.
- ✓ We are doing this to provide you with a kind of flexibility (*and creativity*) to writing your answers in the way you want, while ensuring that you make use of the fodder points to enrich your answers with as many dimensions, examples, key facts as relevant to the given question.
- ✓ In this program, **Sundays have been scheduled for Essay** - which we believe is a comparatively easy area to score marks with sufficient practice, and hence should not be neglected at any cost. [*Please note that we will not be providing fodder for essays but we will help you with your doubts & queries via the comments section*]

Web Only Module

- ✓ We will continue providing you with 3 questions even during the weeks when there is no Mains Test Series exam scheduled. We are calling it **Web Only Module**. We are doing this to ensure your continuous answer writing practice and also to help you exhaustively revise the syllabus.

Revision

- ✓ We have also included Revision days in the schedule for you to have time to **pause, revise and consolidate your preparation** which is as important as practising answer writing everyday.
- ✓ Please note that in the last 4 days of the concluding week, there will be 5 practice questions dedicated to one paper of general studies each. [*We will not be providing fodder to these questions because we will already have shared fodder for these questions in earlier days*].

Important: The questions discussed in *Be Mains Ready* program will be different from the Mains Test Series program, though similar topics will be covered in both.



Date	Topics Covered	Module
10/6/2019	Economy & Agriculture	Test Module – 1 GS 3
11/6/2019	Environment & Ecology	
12/6/2019	Internal Security	
13/6/2019	Science & Technology	
14/6/2019	Disaster Management	
15/6/2019	Test	
16/6/2019	Essay	
17/6/2019	Probity in Governance	Test Module – 2 GS 4
18/6/2019	Ethical Issues in Corporate Governance	
19/6/2019	International Relations – Ethical Issues	
20/6/2019	Ethics Interface	
21/6/2019	Case Study	
22/6/2019	Test	
23/6/2019	Essay	
24/6/2019	Indian Society	Test Module – 3 GS 1
25/6/2019	Modern India	
26/6/2019	India After Independence + World History	
27/6/2019	Art & Culture	
28/6/2019	Geography	
29/6/2019	Test	
30/6/2019	Essay	
1/7/2019	Indian Society	Web Module – 1 GS 1
2/7/2019	Modern India	
3/7/2019	Post Independence	
4/7/2019	Art & Culture	
5/7/2019	Geography	
6/7/2019	World History	
7/7/2019	Essay	
8/7/2019	Indian Polity	Test Module – 4 GS 2
9/7/2019	Governance	
10/7/2019	Social Justice	
11/7/2019	Welfare Policies	
12/7/2019	International Relations	
13/7/2019	Test	
14/7/2019	Essay	
15/7/2019	Indian Polity	Web Module – 2 GS 2
16/7/2019	Governance	
17/7/2019	Social Justice	
18/7/2019	Welfare Policies	
19/7/2019	International Relations	
20/7/2019	Revise	



21/7/2019	Essay	
22/7/2019	Economy & Agriculture	Test Module – 5 GS 3
23/7/2019	Environment & Ecology	
24/7/2019	Internal Security	
25/7/2019	Science & Technology	
26/7/2019	Disaster Management	
27/7/2019	Test	
28/7/2019	Essay	
29/7/2019	GS1	Web Module – 3 GS 1, GS 2, GS
30/7/2019	GS1	
31/7/2019	GS2	
1/8/2019	GS2	
2/8/2019	GS3	
3/8/2019	GS3	
4/8/2019	Essay	
5/8/2019	Attitude & Aptitude	Test Module – 6 GS 4
6/8/2019	Emotional Intelligence	
7/8/2019	Moral Thinkers	
8/8/2019	Public Service Values	
9/8/2019	Case Study	
10/8/2019	Test – Ethics Whole Syllabus	
11/8/2019	Essay	
12/8/2019	GS1	Web Module – 4 GS 1, GS 2
13/8/2019	GS1	
14/8/2019	Revise	
15/8/2019	GS2	
16/8/2019	GS2	
17/8/2019	Revise	
18/8/2019	Essay	
19/8/2019	GS3	Web Module – 5 GS 3, GS 4
20/8/2019	GS3	
21/8/2019	Revise	
22/8/2019	GS4	
23/8/2019	GS4	
24/8/2019	Revise	
25/8/2019	Essay	
26/8/2019	GS1	Web Module – 6 GS 1, GS2, GS3, GS4
27/8/2019	GS2	
28/8/2019	GS3	
29/8/2019	GS4	
30/8/2019	Complete Test	
31/8/2019		