

Mains Marathon Compilation

December, 2019

General Studies 1

- Q.1) Comment on the rising incidents of sex crimes against women in Indian society. What are various laws and safeguards available against such crimes in India?
- Q.2) "Several women poets have contributed to the Bhakti movement." Illustrate.
- Q.3) "B. R Ambedkar is called the father of our constitution." In light of this discuss his major contributions in shaping a modern India.
- Q.4) "Populism is a threat to democracy and national interests." Illustrate with examples.
- Q.5) What are 'marine heatwaves'? Discuss what causes such waves and its ecological impact.
- Q.6) 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons.
- Q.7) "The UN development report indicate that prejudices and social beliefs obstruct gender equality." In light of this discuss what measures should be taken to reduce the gender inequalities in the Indian society?
- Q.8) Discuss various initiatives taken so far by the Government towards gender equality in India. Why such initiatives have had a limited impact?
- Q.9) Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase.
- Q.10) "Urban infrastructure is critical for development of the cities and surrounding areas." In light of this discuss various reasons for growth of slum areas in India. Also discuss various issues associated with it.
- Q.11) "Population stabilisation efforts need to address existing socio-cultural barriers and ensure multi-sectoral participation." Comment.
- Q.12) To what extent globalization has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain.
- Q.13) Discuss the significance of the Vaikom Satyagraha and the self-respect movement in modern Indian history.
- Q.14) Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology.

General Studies 2

- Q.1) "Pushing for greater autonomy for States and protecting federalism is need of the hour, if India has to emerge as a major economic super-power." Comment.
- Q.2) "Although altruistic organ donation is important to save precious life, illegal organ trade is a threat to any society." Discuss.
- Q.3) What are salient features of Motor Vehicle Act, 2019? Do you think it would help in reducing ever rising number of road accidents?
- Q.4) What do you understand by 'creamy layer'? Examine the feasibility of extending the concept of creamy layer to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India.
- Q.5) Discuss the features of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. How it would help in ensuring health of Indian citizens especially poor?
- Q.6) What is a quasi-judicial body? Analyse various advantages and disadvantages of these bodies.
- Q.7) What do you understand by 'trade corridor'? Examine whether Kartarpur corridor should be converted into a trade corridor between India and Pakistan.
- Q.8) Comment on the ordinance making power of the President of India. Also discuss the various safeguards which can help to prevent possible misuse of such power.
- Q.9) What are salient features of Citizenship amendment Bill, 2019? Discuss its need and significance.

- Q.10) "Protection of Privacy is must in the age of rising cybercrimes." In light of this critically examine salient features of the 'Data Protection Bill, 2019'.
- Q.11) "There are many structural flaws in Indian higher education system." Examine.
- Q.12) Infant mortality rates in India are still one of the highest in the world with significant regional variations. Elaborate.
- Q.13) What are human rights? How far do you think the NHRC has been able to fulfill its mandate in preserving these rights.
- Q.14) "Despite its potential, the mid-day meal scheme has been unable to make a transformative impact." Discuss.
- Q.15) "The efficiency of the Indian railways has dropped to its lowest in the last decade, according to recent CAG report." In light of this discuss whether privatisation of railways would help increasing the efficiency of Indian railways?
- Q.16) Almost six years after the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 not much progress has been made in implementing various provisions of the act. Examine. Also discuss various issues involved in the functioning of lokpal.
- Q.17) What do you understand by the term 'Asian century'? Discuss the importance of India-China relations in realising Asian century.
- Q.18) Discuss various methods used by the Farmers organizations to influence the policy-makers in India. How effective are these methods?
- Q.19) "Right to Speedy Justice" is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. In light of this discuss the various issues faced by Indian judiciary in speedy deliverance of justice. Also suggest some measures to improve judicial efficiency.
- Q.20) "Defection politics undermines the very essence of democracy." Comment.
- Q.21) "Rising sexual abuse crime against children is a shame for whole nation and a threat to future of the country." In light of this discuss the need and significance of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- Q.22) Comment on the significance of farmers union in India. What are various challenges faced by them?
- Q.23) "The newly passed amendment to the Citizenship Act redefines the way migrants can become Indian citizens." In light of this discuss various concerns related to it. Why such an amendment is needed?
- Q.24) Discuss various reasons behind Brexit. How Brexit would impact India?
- Q.25) Critically analyse the progress made in resolving stressed assets since the enactment of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Suggest some measures to improve it further.
- Q.26) What measures have been taken by the government to create a conducive environment for the disabled community? Discuss various reasons for limited impact of such initiatives.
- Q.27) What are the salient features of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan? Discuss various issues related to the scheme.
- Q.28) What are the important functions of the Finance Commission? Discuss the terms of reference of the 15th finance commission and various apprehensions about it.
- Q.29) "Section 124A of IPC has become as a tool of oppression to suppress the voice of many" Do you agree? Discuss whether it should be scrapped from India's law book or not.
- Q.30) "Growing Chinese presence in Indo-Pacific region demands a proactive Indian foreign policy." Comment.
- Q.31) "Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative." In light of this discuss the measures taken

by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?

Q.32) Discuss various issues related to labour laws in India? Suggest some measures to resolve these issues.

Q.33) It is said that 'capital punishment provides neither justice nor deterrence against any crime'. Do you agree? Justify your answer.

Q.34) "Crime rate against Scheduled castes and scheduled tribe remains high despite various safeguards in place." Examine.

Q.35) Discuss various measures undertaken by the government to curb and control black money. To what extent have these measures been able to address the problem of black money in India.

Q.36) "There is an urgent need to reform the criminal justice system in India." Discuss in light of recent failures of criminal justice in India.

Q.37) How effective has the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana been? Examine. Also, discuss its significance.

Q.38) With India and the USA coming closer to each other in the international arena, new challenges have emerged in India-Iran relations. Discuss.

Q.39) Discuss the objectives of Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY). Critically examine its success and failures.

Q.40) The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding joint session of the two houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reasons thereof.

Q.41) Discuss the role played by State Legislative Councils. How are they different from the Rajya Sabha? Also examine their usefulness for Indian states.

Q.42) A faulty implementation of the NRC could create a human rights issue of unimaginable magnitude. Comment.

Q.43) A greater participation of women in police and judiciary, would help to reduce the violence against women in society. Comment.

Q.44) 'Securing personal data is the key to making India truly digital'. In the light of this statement highlights the salient features of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. Also mention the concerns raised against the bill. Suggest measures to address the same.

Q.45) What is good governance? Discuss recent findings of Good Governance Index report in India. Suggest some measures to improve the governance in Indian states.

Q.46) What are the objective and salient features of National Nutrition Mission? Discuss various challenges to National Nutrition Mission and how to tackle the same.

Q.47) Bring out the philosophy of the Indian polity as enshrined in the preamble of the Indian constitution. Also discuss various changes made to preamble since its adoption in Indian Constitution.

Q.48) Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizens a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy.

GENEREAL STUDIES 3

Q.1) What is antimicrobial resistance? Discuss the issues around antimicrobial resistance in light of the recent government ban on colistin in the poultry industry.

Q.2) What is meant by recession? What steps has the Government of India taken so far to tackle the current ongoing recession in the country? (GS 3)

- Q.3) Discuss the progress made so far in campaign against AIDS in India. What are various government measures taken against AIDS and how to tackle it further?
- Q.4) What are liquid crystals? Discuss in brief the characteristic useful features of liquid crystals and their great range of applications in diverse fields.
- Q.5) What is naxalism? Discuss various reasons of naxalism and government efforts to root out naxalism from the country.
- Q.6) What are the salient features of the draft Seed Bill, 2019? Discuss various concerns related to the bill.
- Q.7) What is 'virtual autopsy'? Discuss various advantages and disadvantages of virtual autopsy.
- Q.8) "The problem with global environmental policies is that the climate treaties focus on symptoms, rather than the cause." Elaborate.
- Q.9) "India has emerged as a global leader in the fight against climate change." In light of this discuss various government initiatives to tackle climate change and its consequences.
- Q.10) What are the reformative steps taken so far by the Government to make food grain distribution system more effective?
- Q.11) Comment on the significance of e-NAM initiative as a tool to resolve some of the agricultural issues in India.
- Q.12) What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency.
- Q.13) "In the absence of scientific planning and implementation, measures like Jal Shakti Abhiyan may not be successful." Discuss in the light of looming water crisis across India.
- Q.14) Explain how vaccines work? Discuss the significance of vaccination and mention various challenges regarding vaccination in India.
- Q.15) What is 'digital divide'? What are its implications? Also suggest measures to bridge the digital divide in India.
- Q.16) "Climate change and unprecedented floods resulting from cloud bursts have facilitated the introduction of aquatic invasive alien species into new habitats in India." Discuss the threat posed by invasive alien species on native ecosystem and how it should be tackled.
- Q.17) How has golden rice been developed? Write a note on its importance in human nutrition.
- Q.18) Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?
- Q.19) What do you understand by the term disinvestment? Critically examine the policy of disinvestment in India.
- Q.20) "Indian economy is undergoing a Four Balance Sheet (FBS) problem". Examine. Also suggest some measures.
- Q.21) The current economic slowdown is a result of both cyclical and structural factors. Comment.
- Q.22) What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming this bottleneck?
- Q.23) According to the recent World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2020, the participation of women in the labour force is among the lowest in the world. What are various reasons for this? Suggest some measures to reduce gender gap in India.
- Q.24) What are various reasons for growing cancer burden in India? Suggest some measures to address the same.
- Q.25) What is OLED technology? How it is different from LED? Discuss its various uses.
- Q.26) Give an account of looming water crisis situation in India. Discuss how Atal Bhujal Yojana would help in preventing water crisis situation.

- Q.27) What are functional foods? How functional foods can help in resolving India's malnutrition and farmer's issues?
- Q.28) In order to arrest the slowdown in the economy, India needs to make their policies people-centric rather than growth-centric. Comment.

GENERAL STUDIES 4

- Q.1) "Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding." Comment.
- Q.2) Differentiate between retributive justice and restorative justice. Discuss why restorative justice is as important as retributive justice?
- Q.3) The Citizens' Charter is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizens' Charter.
- Q.4) "Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
- Q.5) "Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people's participation in the governance system are interdependent." Discuss their relationship with each other in context of India.
- Q.6) Discuss the Right to Information Act's role in fostering a more informed citizenry and an accountable government so far. What are the various concerns related RTI act?
- Q.7) What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government.
- Q.8) What is meant by constitutional morality? How does one uphold constitutional morality? Discuss its importance in public services.
- Q.9) What do you understand by public service? List out the principles of Public Life as recommended by the Nolan Committee in this context.
- Q.10) Honesty as a policy always comes with a price. The path of honesty, like dharma, is straight yet seldom simple. It often turns out to be tortuous, consumes more energy, sometimes even damaging the vehicle because of unfavourable road conditions. The honest, however, go on regardless, perhaps driven by an inner force that borders on recklessness. Elaborate. Discuss the importance of honesty in civil services.

General Studies 1

Q.1) Comment on the rising incidents of sex crimes against women in Indian society. What are various laws and safeguards available against such crimes in India?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Reasons for rise in sex crimes against women in India. Legal measures available for women against such crimes.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is the most dangerous country for sexual violence against women, according to the Thomson Reuters Foundation 2018 survey. India's National Crime Records Bureau reported about 339,000 crimes against women including 38,947 rapes in 2016. Sex crimes against women are on rise due to various reasons. Although there are many laws available for safeguard of women against such crime, they have failed to protect women in India. Recent incidents of Hyderabad sexual assault, Nirbhaya case are reflection of this.

Reasons for sexual crime problem in India: In recent years, New Delhi has earned the title of "rape capital" of India, with more than 560 cases of rape reported in the city, but violence against Indian women is widespread and has deep roots.

1. **Few female police:** Studies show that women are more likely to report sex crimes if female police officers are available. India has historically had a much lower percentage of female police officers than other Asian countries. In New Delhi, just 7% of police officers are women, and they are frequently given inconsequential posts that don't involve patrol duty, according to the Times of India.

2. **Not enough police in general:** There aren't enough police dedicated to protecting ordinary citizens, and the officers often lack basic evidence-gathering and investigative training and equipment.

3. **Blaming provocative clothing:** There's a tendency to assume the victims of sexual violence somehow brought it on themselves. In a survey, 68% of the respondents said that provocative clothing is an invitation to rape. In response to the recent gang-rape incident, a legislator in Rajasthan suggested banning skirts as a uniform for girls in private schools, citing it as the reason for increased cases of sexual harassment.

4. **A lack of public safety:** Women generally aren't protected outside their homes. Many streets are poorly lit, and there's a lack of women's toilets. Women who drink, smoke or go to pubs are widely seen in Indian society as morally loose, and village clan councils have blamed a rise in women talking on cellphones and going to the bazaar for an increase in the incidence of rape.

5. **Stigmatising the victim:** When verbal harassment or groping do occur in public areas, bystanders frequently look the other way rather than intervene, both to avoid a conflict and because they on some level blame the victim. Male politicians contribute to the problem, making statements that make light of rape or vilify rape victims' supporters.

6. **Encouraging rape victims to compromise:** Rape victims are often encouraged by village elders and clan councils to "compromise" with the family of accused and drop charges or even to marry the attacker. Such compromises are aimed at keeping the peace between families or clan groups. What's more, a girl's eventual prospects of marriage are thought to be more important than bringing a rapist to justice.

7. **A sluggish court system:** India's court system is painfully slow, because of a shortage of judges. The country has about 15 judges for every 1 million people. This lead to delay in justice.

8. **Low status of women:** Perhaps the biggest issue, though, is women's overall lower status in Indian society. Patriarchal mindset and feudal mindset has led to women being tagged as burden and an object.

Laws and safeguards for women against such crimes:

1. **Section 354** of the IPC criminalises any act by a person that assaults or uses criminal force against a woman with the intention or knowledge that it will outrage her modesty. Such an act is punishable with either simple or rigorous imprisonment.

2. **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013:** To ensure women's safety at workplace, this Act seeks to protect them from sexual harassment at their place of work. 36 % of Indian companies and 25% among MNC's are not complaint with the Sexual Harassment Act according to a FICCI report.

3. **National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO):** The government in 2018 launched the National Database on Sexual Offenders (NDSO). The database contains entries of offenders convicted under charges of rape, gang rape, POCSO and eve teasing. The portal as of now contains 440,000 entries of cases that have been reported since 2008. It's managed by the National Crime Records Bureau. The database is accessible only to the law enforcement agencies for investigation and monitoring purpose.

4. **Fast track courts:** As a result of the 2012 Delhi gang rape case, the Indian government implemented a fast-track court system to rapidly prosecute rape cases.

5. **Marital rape:** Marital rape is not a criminal offence within Indian legal framework, except during the period of judicial separation of the partners. Forced sex by husbands upon wives does have legal consequences in Indian matrimonial law, in that it can be treated as a matrimonial fault, resulting in dissolution of the marriage.

6. **Education programmes:** In 2017, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare unveiled resource material relating to health issues to be used as a part of a nationwide adolescent peer-education plan called **Saathiya**. Among other subjects, the material discusses relationships and consent.

7. **The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act:** The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 was enacted to provide a robust legal framework for the protection of children from offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography. The framing of the Act seeks to put children first by making it easy to use by including mechanisms for child-friendly reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through designated Special Courts.

Way forward:

Article 21 of our constitution ensure right to live with dignity for women. Sexual crimes are against right to live with dignity and violation of fundamental rights. Oppression in all of its forms is among the root causes of sexual violence. Sexual violence is preventable through collaborations of community members at multiple levels of society in our homes, neighbourhoods, schools, faith settings, workplaces, and other settings. We all play a role in preventing sexual violence and establishing norms of respect, safety, equality, and helping others.

Q.2) “Several women poets have contributed to the Bhakti movement.” Illustrate.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Mention about women in Bhakti movement. Contribution of women poets in Bhakti movement.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Bhakti movement refers to the theistic devotional trend that emerged in medieval Hinduism and later revolutionised in Sikhism. It originated in the Tamil south India (now parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala), and spread northwards.

Women in Bhakti movement:

1. The contribution of women writers in different languages during that period deserves special attention. Women writers like Ghosha, Lopamudra, Gargi, Maitreyi, Apala, Romasha Brahnavadini, etc. right from the days of the Vedas, focused on the image of women in mainstream Sanskrit literature.
2. The songs of Buddhist nuns like Muttaand Ubbiriand Mettika in Pali express the torment of feelings for the life left behind.
3. The Alwar women poets, like Andal and others, gave expression to their love for the divine.
4. Lal Ded, the Muslim poetess from Kashmir Lalded & Habba Khatun, represented the sant tradition of bhakti and wrote Vakhs (maxims), which are peerless gems of spiritual experience.
5. Meera Bai, in Gujarati, Rajasthani and Hindi (she wrote in three languages), Avvayyar, in Tamil, and Akkamahadevi in Kannada, are well known for their sheer lyrical intensity and concentrated emotional appeal.

Contribution of women:

1. Their writings speak to us about the social conditions prevailing at that time, and the position of woman at home and in society. Behind their mysticism and metaphysics is a divine sadness.
2. If we examine the role of the women in the bhakti movement, we can see that women exploited the religious emotion to deal with patriarchy and created an alternate space for themselves.
3. They challenged patriarchy and the mortal man to whom they were tied in a relationship of marriage by extending the definition of love to God and understanding his relation with them in terms of a lover, a wife, a mistress, a friend and a servant.
4. It is the large-scale participation of women that gave the movement the character of a mass movement. Religion was the only space which was open to women in medieval times.

Through this legitimate space women could define their actions and aspirations and participate in public gatherings, visit pilgrimage places, compose their own songs and through bhakti directly reach God. In this way they sowed the seed that women could be agents of their own religious emancipation.

Q.3) “B. R Ambedkar is called the father of our constitution.” In light of this discuss his major contributions in shaping a modern India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Major contributions of Ambedkar to modern India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Besides Gandhi, BR Ambedkar has emerged as the epitome personality of modern India. In framing the constitution of independent India, he played a leading role. He was appointed as the Chairman of the constitution drafting committee in 1947. Ambedkar was a wise constitutional expert, who had studied the constitutions of about 60 countries. And for his contributions he is recognised as the “Father of the Constitution of India”.

Major contributions of Ambedkar to modern India:

1. **Education:** According to B.R. Ambedkar, it is the education which is the right weapon to cut the social slavery and it is the education which will enlighten the downtrodden masses to come up and gain social status, economic betterment and political freedom. In 1923 Baba Saheb founded 'Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha' to spread education among marginalised and to improve their economic conditions. Thus, he played a major role in education of marginalised.
2. **Changing hierarchical structures of Indian society:** Dr. Ambedkar devoted his whole life to fight for the annihilation of caste by proliferating a movement against the evils of the caste system. He made all his efforts to change the hierarchical structures of Indian society and restoration of equal rights/justice to the marginalised and abolition of untouchability.
3. **Bringing Untouchables to the mainstream of Indian society:** His programs were focused on mainstreaming the Untouchables into Indian society. His ideas & programs set forth concrete proposals for the removal of untouchability and the empowerment of the downtrodden. Dr. Ambedkar demanded justice to untouchables and other weaker sections of the society via making provisions in the Indian Constitution.
4. **Framing an inclusive and secular Constitution:** The text prepared by Ambedkar provided constitutional guarantees and protections to individual citizens for a wide range of civil liberties, including freedom of religion, the abolition of untouchability, and the outlawing of all forms of discrimination. He was an exemplary force behind drafting the Hindu Code Bill which made the uniform provisions for equal treatment within the confines of family, particularly for women.
5. **Upliftment of marginalised:** Ambedkar advocated extensive economic and social rights for women and won the support of the Assembly to introduce a system of reservations for members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and Other Backward Class in the civil services, schools, and colleges. He laid emphasis on religious, gender and caste equality.
6. **Fundamental Rights:** The imprint of Ambedkar is visible in fundamental rights of equality, reservation for Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes, National Commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and Directive Principles of State Policy etc. The caste discrimination still rampant, but is certainly on the decline plane.
7. **Economic Contributions:** RBI was conceptualised and formulated by Ambedkar as he was a trained economist. The importance of waterways was also thought over by Ambedkar. Indian government in 2015 upgraded waterways to the national waterways after borrowing from his vision.

Ambedkar's essence lies in heralding a systemic change, instead of craving for political freedom. To bring this in and practice his philosophy in true sense of the term, along with massive socio-political awareness, economic strength of the Dalit community must be enhanced. The annihilation of the caste may take longer, but steps towards the same should be continued.

Q.4) "Populism is a threat to democracy and national interests." Illustrate with examples.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. How populism is a threat to democracy and national interests? Measures to tackle populism.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Populism refers to a range of political philosophies that emphasise the idea of the people and against the privileged elites. When important concerns of the people are not addressed by the elites, the populist movements form to challenge the establishment. There are multiple consequences of populism.

Populism: a threat to democracy and national interests:

1. **Again representative institutions:** Populism often turns against representative democracy. Populists reject pluralism. This threatens democracy and unity in diversity. **For example**, growing protectionism in the world and measures against migrants are seen as reflected in the recent rise in the number of H1B visa.
2. **Authoritarianism:** Populist movements are often led by charismatic leaders and have little internal democracy and accountability. These leaders tend to develop personality cults and, when they come to power, they often turn authoritarian.
3. **Against democratic defence:** Populism is a threat to democracy primarily because it holds the potential of providing the state with a moral status that it otherwise lacks. **For example**, Trump stance against minorities is supported by Americans and minorities rights are being suppressed.
4. **Weak opposition:** Populist often claim absolute moral superiority and possession of the whole truth. That makes them reject the legitimacy of the opponent. It erodes the respect for the dignity of political opponents and of minority groups and weakens the culture of reasoned debates. This leads to suppression of dissent which is an expression of discontent in the democratic process.
5. **Majoritarian nationalism:** Populism of the right, tends to acquire the form of majoritarian nationalism, unconstrained by minority rights. Thus minority voices are suppressed and denied fundamental rights. This was seen **in recent times** in America where ethnic branding of Mexicans and Latinos as criminals is done.
6. **Corruption and abuse:** It often results in a decline in rational debate about political issues. There is a high risk of corruption and abuse of power. **For example**, Political parties now see an opportunity to formalise and institutionalise such allurements and regard the median voter as a commodity to be purchased in the political marketplace.
7. **Divisive:** Populist Nationalism is divisive and affects the unity of the country. It causes damage to cohesiveness in the society by exploiting majority emotions. America first is a slogan in order to garner popular support, without paying heed to others.

8. **Hostility:** Populism is hostile to ethnic, religious and racial minorities, and inhospitable to new migrants. This endangers peace and security in the society. **For example,** In U.S and Europe immigration issue leading to leaders taking populist decisions like Mexican wall, not allowing refugees into the country etc.

9. **Social polarisation:** The populists exploit loopholes and issues in order to polarise society. They try to divide people along religious, racial or linguistic lines to win elections through majoritarian tactics. Indian politics is replete with **numerous examples of political parties** competing in promising individual benefits such as social welfare pensions, loan waivers, housing, free power, etc.

Measures to tackle populism:

1. Social media should be regulated and held accountable for damaging a pluralistic, fact-based and hate-free political debate, in the same way as traditional media.
2. Civil society organisations defending human rights and equality against populism should agree on a common agenda and strategy across identity politics divides.
3. Participatory and deliberative platforms and initiatives (citizens' assemblies, forums) should be embedded into the decision-making processes to balance the oligarchic tendencies of electoral democracy.
4. Political parties (established and emerging) should seek to propose inclusive visions and programs that deliver benefits for all citizens, not only for a part of the voters.

There is no doubt that division in the face of an organised populist threat is problematic. Only rational thinking rather than impulsive feelings and anger can solve the problems of our times. Democracies work best when we remember that there is no one people or party or politician has a monopoly on knowing what the people want.

Q.5) What are 'marine heatwaves'? Discuss what causes such waves and its ecological impact.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are marine heatwaves?

Body. Causes of marine heatwaves. Ecological impact of marine heat waves.

Conclusion. Way forward.

A marine heat wave is usually defined as a coherent area of extreme warm sea surface temperature that persists for days to months. Marine heatwaves happen when sea temperatures are warmer than normal for an extended period. MHWs have been observed in all major ocean basins over the recent decade. These marine heat waves have caused devastating impacts on marine ecosystems. Substantial progress in understanding past and future changes in marine heat waves and their risks for marine ecosystems is needed to predict how marine systems, and the goods and services they provide, will evolve in the future.

What causes marine heatwaves?

1. The most common cause of marine heat waves are ocean currents which can build up areas of warm water and air-sea heat flux, or warming through the ocean surface from the atmosphere.

2. Normally, sunlight passes through the atmosphere and heats the surface of the ocean. If there are weak winds this warm water doesn't mix with the cooler waters below. It sits on top and continues to heat leading to marine heat waves.

3. A new report from the United Nations says surface temperatures for the world's oceans are rising at an alarming pace, causing marine "heatwaves" and accelerating sea levels that threaten fishing economies.

Ecological impacts of rising marine heatwaves:

1. Marine heat waves affect ecosystem structure, by supporting certain species and suppressing others. For example, after the 2011 marine heatwave in Western Australia the fish communities had a much more "tropical" nature than previously and switched from kelp forests to seaweed turfs.

2. Marine heatwaves can change the habitat ranges of certain species, such as the spiny sea urchin off southeastern Australia which has been expanding southward into Tasmania at the expense of kelp forests which it feeds upon. Rogue animals can also find their way well outside their normal range, following the warm waters of a marine heatwave.

3. Marine heatwaves can cause economic losses through impacts on fisheries and aquaculture.

4. Biodiversity can be drastically affected by marine heatwaves. In 2016, marine heatwaves across northern Australia led to severe bleaching of the Great Barrier Reef.

5. There are severe impacts on marine ecosystems from marine heat waves including from the base of the food chain plankton, which everything in the ocean relies on, to higher trophic levels.

6. There is a link between marine heat waves and harmful algal blooms. There was also some evidence of marine mammals that were eating contaminated fish and other things were suffering from the poisoning.

Satellite observations reveal that marine heatwaves have doubled in frequency between 1982 and 2016, and that they have also become longer-lasting, more intense and extensive. Along with the marine heat waves, temperature, sea level and acidity are increasing, while oxygen is decreasing in the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean has been unusual in terms of relatively low oxygen below the surface and yet having a relatively high surface production.

Q.6) 'Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing'. Explain by giving reasons.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Various government efforts. Reasons for failure of poverty alleviation efforts and existence of poverty.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Reducing poverty has become an international concern as SDG 1 targets to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index-2018 released by the UN noted that 271 million people moved out of poverty between 2005 and 2015 in India. Still a big part of the population in India is living Below the Poverty Line. As per Tendulkar Committee this estimation is around 21.9% of the total population of the country.

Various government efforts against poverty:

1. Removal of poverty has been a prime focus of Indian policy makers. Integrated Rural Development Program (IRDP) initiated in the early 1980s was one of the early poverty alleviation programmes.
2. Various Programs have been launched continuously, like Employment Generation Program, Income Support, Employment Guarantee (like MGNREGA) to eradicate poverty.
3. Schemes for providing utilities like housing, electricity etc. to people to ease the financial expenditure of the poor households.
4. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Housing for All by 2022 Scheme to provide housing to rural and urban poor is an example.
5. Indian Government's latest schemes like Start-Up India and Stand Up India are about empowering people i.e. making people, self-sufficient, to earn their livelihood.
6. No proper validation of the method has been made using closely prepared prospective studies.

Reasons for failure of poverty alleviation efforts and existence of poverty:

1. It is multi-dimensional menace which needs convergence, synergy from all level of institutions which we lack today.
2. Poverty has certain behavioural attributes like strong feeling of marginality, of helplessness, of dependency, absence of childhood as a specially prolonged and protected stage in the life-cycle, a strong predisposition toward authoritarianism, child marriage. These have not been suitably into policy convergence.
3. Climate change, Jobless growth, high inflation etc has reduced effect of government policies and efforts.
4. Modern digital divides also add up to the issues. World Development Report 2017 highlights India's lagging in encashing Digital dividend resulting Digital Divide. Thus poor are not able to reap the benefits of Digital Technologies.
5. Numerous already functional poverty alleviation programmes work in silos. There is no systematic attempt to identify people who are below poverty line and to determine and address their needs enabling them to move above the poverty line.
6. There are cases of corruption in identification of beneficiaries, and there is also a lack of authentic data at every level.
7. A typically low administrative capacity, coupled with problems of implementation at State level has often resulted in the under utilisation of funds.
8. Leakage at different levels has led to diversion of resources meant for deprived ones.
9. These programmes have focused on top to bottom approach, but such approach lacks coordination in decision making and causes clogging of funds and asymmetry in distribution.

Way forward:

1. Realistic Assessment of the present situation of poverty in the country in need of the hour.
2. Direct income transfer to needy is an immediate solution.
3. Taxing wealth of rich people to fund amelioration of poor in the country.
4. By improving social infrastructure and job opportunities in rural areas, migration to urban areas can be decreased, and thus urban poverty can also be decreased.
5. Investment in Agriculture by the government is necessary to decrease rural poverty. Subsidies address only short-term issues. Also, there is a need to develop technologies, with the help of which farmers can practice all weather agriculture.

Continuous Economic Growth is a prerequisite for the removal of poverty. Ultimately, political will is necessary to eradicate poverty from the country through the implementation of various schemes. Investment in infrastructure, overall, is needed to reduce the cost of utilities. China did so and witnessed the huge fall in the number of people in the poor category. More initiatives like Ayushman Bharat, that empower people, are required.

Q.7) “The UN development report indicate that prejudices and social beliefs obstruct gender equality.” In light of this discuss what measures should be taken to reduce the gender inequalities in the Indian society?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Mention prejudices and social belief against women. Their Impact. Measures needed to reduce gender inequalities.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Human Development Report (HDR) for 2019 has ranked India 129 out of 189 countries. Although India has improved one rank from the 130th position last year, However, for inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI), India's position drops by one position to 130. This indicates that gender inequalities are still high and not much progress has been made. Prejudices against women and girls still exist in Indian society at every level, and are root cause of gender discrimination, as mentioned by HDR.

Prejudices and social belief against women:

1. A culturally ingrained parental preference for sons (Son-Meta preference as per Economic survey 2018), emanating from their importance as caregivers for parents in old age is linked to poorer consequences for daughters.
2. The dowry system, involving a cash or in-kind payment from the bride's family to the groom's at the time of marriage, is another institution that disempowers women. The dowry is seen as an instrument to carry the burden of women by some group of people.
3. Prejudices like girls as 'paraya dhan' and one who produce only children and take care of kitchen lead to gender atrocities and inequalities.
4. Social belief that women are not fit to do male work (sexual division of labour), often lead to gender discrimination when it comes to employment.
5. Prejudices create incentives for parents not to have girl children or to invest less in girls' health and education. Such parental preferences are reflected in increasingly masculine sex ratios in India. This reinforces the inferior status of Indian women and puts them at risk of violence in their marital households.

What is the impact of gender inequalities?

1. Stereotypes hinder women's ability to fulfill their potential by limiting choices and opportunities.
2. They translate into practical policies, laws and practices that cause harm to women on the ground.
3. The effect of this on the mental and physical integrity of women which deprive them of equal knowledge, exercise and enjoyment of rights and fundamental freedoms.
4. Stereotypes justify gender discrimination more broadly and reinforce and perpetuate historical and structural patterns of discrimination.

5. Men suffer too because conforming to masculine roles of competitive and ambitious self-seeking can put pressure on them and deprive them of joy that can come from parenting and having intimate respectful relationships.
6. Prejudices and gender discrimination resulting from this have high costs in terms of development, impeded democracy, human rights denied and peace and security endangered.

What needs to be done to counter gender inequalities?

1. The phenomenon of gender stereotypes needs to be countered and fought in multiple areas- in laws and practices, mind-sets of people, justice systems, media and education, in different organisations and public authorities, in enterprises, and among individuals.
2. We need to create an enabling environment, specific institutions and systems, and individual champions and role model creation.
3. Temporary special measures, including quotas in parliament and political parties, judiciary, law enforcement agencies, executive and the corporate sector should be taken.
4. Rigorous and corrective education curriculum development, imparting education since early childhood to all levels, and considering both boys and girls should be accompanied by educational campaigns for adults. Development of special educational tools at all levels, including use of e-learning.
5. Encourage women and girls to enter into traditionally male-dominated fields of education and professions like armed forces, pilots, sciences, engineering, etc.
6. Enact laws that change mind-sets, like those against domestic violence and other gender-based violence, including sexual harassment at the work place and rape. Laws should criminalise such activities and high-rate of convictions against gender discrimination.
7. Allocation of adequate resources for programmes targeting the elimination of gender stereotypes, for example through advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns, and educational curriculum development.
8. Improvements in labour market prospects also have the potential to empower women.

There is clearly a need for policy initiatives to empower women as gender disparities in India persist even against the backdrop of economic growth. Studies find that while in the short run there is backlash by men as traditional gender roles are being challenged, the negative stereotype eventually disappears. This underscores the importance of sustained affirmative action as a way to reduce gender bias.

Q.8) Discuss various initiatives taken so far by the Government towards gender equality in India. Why such initiatives have had a limited impact?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Discuss various initiatives taken so far by the Government towards gender equality in India. Why these initiatives have limited impact?

Conclusion. Way forward.

The reality of gender inequality in India is very complex and diversified. Gender equality and women's empowerment have been recognised as key not only for the health of nations, but also of their social and economic development. Toward this, Article 14 and Article 15 envision for the equality to women, 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments have

provided 33% reservation for women in Panchayati Elections and many schemes and initiatives were launched by the government.

Various initiatives taken so far by the Government towards gender equality in India:

A. Legal provisions:

1. **Equal Remuneration Act, 1973** provides for payment of equal remuneration to men and women workers for the same work of similar nature without any discrimination. In order to ensure social security to the workers, including women in the unorganised sector, the Government has enacted the **Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act 2008**.
2. **The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961** regulates employment of women in certain establishments for a certain period before and after childbirth and provides for maternity and other benefits.
3. **The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013** has been enacted, which covers all women, irrespective of their age or employment status and protect them against sexual harassment at all workplaces both in public and private sector, whether organised or unorganised.
4. **Section 14 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956**, makes women absolute owners of their properties. The Act was amended in 2005 to give equal rights to women regarding inheritance of family property.

B. Government Schemes:

1. **Support to Training and Employment Program for Women (STEP)** to ensure sustainable employment and income generation for marginalised and asset-less rural and urban poor women across the country.
2. **Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK)** to provide microfinance services to bring about the socio-economic upliftment of poor women.
3. **National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW)** to strengthen the overall processes that promote all-round Development of Women.
4. **One Stop Centre** to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence.
5. **Sabla Scheme** for holistic development of adolescent girls in the age group of 11-18 years.
6. **Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY)** Scheme is being implemented as Conditional Maternity Benefit for pregnant and lactating women to improve health and nutrition status to better enabling environment by providing cash incentives to pregnant and nursing mothers to partly compensate wage loss both prior to and after delivery.
7. **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao(BBBP)**: To address the declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR) and related issues of empowerment of women over a life-cycle continuum. It is a tri-ministerial effort of Ministries of Women and Child Development, Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.
8. **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**, (erstwhile Maternity Benefit Programme) to contribute towards better enabling environment by providing cash incentives for improved health and nutrition to pregnant and nursing mothers.
9. **National Nutrition Mission (NNM)**: aims to attain a "Suposhit Bharat" and has also the objective of improving the nutritional status of pregnant women and lactating mothers and reducing anaemia among women along with children.
10. **Mahila e-Haat**, a unique direct online digital marketing platform for women entrepreneurs/ SHGs/ NGOs,
11. **Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra**, which will empower rural women through community participation to create an environment in which they realize their full potential,

Why these initiatives have limited impact?

1. **Limited role:** Women in Indian culture is shown as one with limited role of homemaker with status of mother, sister and wife. This lead to discrimination of women and inequalities.
2. **Illiteracy:** It is a big hindrance for various government initiatives. Lack of education in women has lead to poor literacy leading to the ender gap in literacy rate and higher education. Literacy rate of India in 2011 is 74%. The Male literacy rate is about 82% and Female literacy rate is 65.5% according to Census 2011 showing wide gender gap regarding literacy.
3. **Social bottlenecks:** Detrimental cultural practices like after marriage husbands dominating the family, never or rarely considered for any decision making, early marriage, patriarchal attitudes are also contributing factor to the persistent inequality.
4. **Gender equality seen in isolation:** Various policies and initiatives focus only on one gender and try to empower women without focusing on the opposite gender. This leads to the continuation of patriarchal mindset and hence inequalities.
5. **Law design:** The laws made are gender biased rather than gender neutral laws. Gender neutral laws would have better outcomes in reducing gender gap. For example, maternity benefit act provide provisions only regarding maternity leave and there is no provision for paternity benefits, which is equally important when it comes to nurture a child.
6. **Poor political representation:** Without political representation, gender equality can't be achieved. Political empowerment make women decisive and aware of women's rights. Hardly any steps for political representation of women. An Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women report, 'Women in Politics 2017' report that Lok Sabha have 64 (11.8% of 542 MPs) and Rajya Sabha 27 (11% of 245 MPs) women MPs.

Way forward:

1. Women literacy gap must be reduced by ensuring the safety of the women in the schools and through better infrastructure.
2. Increasing women's economic independence through improving financial literacy, access to financial services and assisting women to develop their employment prospects is important.
3. It is important to work on vulnerable populations to enable the realisation of sexual and reproductive health and rights.
4. Skill development through life skills education for low-income women equipping them with knowledge, skills and an understanding of their rights and entitlements enabling them to manage their lives better.
5. Improving the prevention of violence and violence response systems through community-based mechanisms and concerted sensitisation mechanisms.
6. The meaningful involvement of women and men affected by gender-based violence in the design and delivery of services and advocacy and policy response through the provision of technical assistance should be encouraged.

Gender equality should encompass men and women both. There is a need for change in societal mindset. Men and women should respect each other. Real education begins at home. It is the duty of parents and teachers to incorporate healthy values right from a young age.

Q.9) Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Mention the role played by women in freedom struggle.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Women's participation in India's freedom struggle began as early as in 1817. While women were involved in the political arena since the foundation of Indian national congress days (Annie Besant started Home Rule League) and especially during the Swadeshi movement but it was Gandhiji who initiated the mass participation of women in freedom struggle.

Role played by women in freedom struggle:

A. Before Gandhian phase:

1. Bhima Bai Holkar fought bravely against the British colonel Malcolm and defeated him in guerrilla warfare.
2. Maharani Velu Nachiyar (1730 – 1796) bravely fought with the British army decades before the 1857 Revolt. She probably remains the only queen to have defeated the British army successfully.
3. Gauri Parvati Bai who was queen of Travancore carried out reforms and emphasized on the need for education of girls thus in many ways helping women elevate from social and educational stigma.
4. The role of Rani of Ramgarh, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Tapasvini Maharani in the War of Independence (the Great Revolt) of 1857 was commendable.
5. During Swadeshi campaign their activities were limited to boycott of foreign cloth and picketing of liquor shops. A nationalistic cult around Bharat Mata (mother India) started to emerge which further necessitated the role of women.
6. In the second phase of women participation, the idea of Home Rule and constitutionalism became dominant. Some western women played a significant role in this. Annie Besant, who became the first woman president of Indian National Congress, launched Home Rule movement.

B. During Gandhian phase:

1. **Role in Gandhi led mass movement:** Many women played a proactive role in Gandhian movements. Kasturba Gandhi imprisoned for participating in Quit India Movement and consequently died in Poona Jail. Vijaya laxmi Pandit actively participated in all civil disobedience movement (1932,1941) and got arrested. Similarly, Indira Gandhi organized 'Monkey army' of youths.
2. **Social and Women Mobilisation:** Women played an important role in mobilisation by leading from the front and through their writings. Prominent women like Aruna Asaf Ali was the leading figure of Quit India movement and edited journal 'inquilab for mobilization. Similarly Raj Kumari Kaur was the founder of All India Women's Conference.
3. **Revolutionary movements:** Some Indian women also took revolutionary steps against imperial rule. Kalapana datta was the prominent revolutionary leader and was part of Chittagong armoury raid. Rani Gaidineliu led the naga nationalist movement against British and known as 'Queen of Naga'.
4. **Raising voice of freedom at International level:** Bhikaji Cama organized free India Society in UK and called as Mother India's first cultural representative of USA. Vijay laxmi

Pandit raised Indian voice at San Francisco UN meeting. Sarojni Naidu participated in round table conference along with Gandhi and Nehru.

5. **As Indian National Congress leaders:** Anne Besant, Irish lady and Sarojini Naidu emerged as an important national leader who later became the President of INC.

6. **Women Organisations:** In the third phase, women's participation in Non-Cooperation movement helped in incorporating women from all over India. Independent bodies of women such as Rashtriya Stree Sanghas were fused with District Congress Committees. It also saw inclusion of women from all sections – Hindu/ Muslim, widows, scheduled/marginalised sections.

7. **Through participation in various movements:** During Civil Disobedience, women volunteers participated in marches boycotts and prabhat pheris. Desh Sevika Sangh, patriotic groups within their association, was formed for passive resistance. Sarojini Naidu, Muhtulaxmi Reddy, Margret Cousins were put in jail. Bi Amma, the mother of Ali brothers addressed 6000 women to join men in picketing. In Andhra Pradesh, a vibrant Durgabai collected over a thousand devadasi to hear Gandhi's speech.

Hence Women played an indispensable role in Indian freedom struggle ranging from a figure of common person to lead the Mass movement and such contribution is non measurable and non-quantifiable. In a book called Mother India, the writer Katherine Mayo criticised the Hindu men and slave like condition of women within the family. Nationalists and reformers were compelled to focus on families and making the domestic space non-violent. Also, this criticism bound Indian men and women together to national honour.

Q.10) "Urban infrastructure is critical for development of the cities and surrounding areas." In light of this discuss various reasons for growth of slum areas in India. Also discuss various issues associated with it.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Factors responsible for growth of slums in India. Various issues related to the slum.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Slums are illegal urban settlements on public land and usually grow over a period of time in a constant and irregular manner. According to the United Nations agency UN-HABITAT, a slum is a run-down area of a city characterised by substandard housing and poverty and lacking in tenure security. Slums are considered as an integral part of urbanisation and as a manifestation of the overall socioeconomic policies and planning in the urban sector. They have emerged out of the urban development process and are unplanned, unintended settlements ignored in the whole process of urban development.

Factors responsible for growth of slums in India:

1. **Rural to Urban Migration:** Rural to urban migration is one of the primary drivers in the growth of slums in Indian cities. Urban centres which are not equipped to support additional population, fail to cope up with high influx of people which ultimately causes several problems such as housing shortages, unemployment, and development of slums.

2. **Limited access to financial resources:** Slum dwellers typically inhabit marginal locations such as dumping grounds mainly due to the low purchasing power of slum dwellers in formal land markets when compared with high-income groups. Further, the

urban poor lack access to formal financial resources to help them purchase new homes or maintain a new life in a new housing unit.

3. **Demand-supply of Housing:** The gap between growing demand for affordable urban housing and insufficient supply has encouraged the formation of slums. Whenever the demand surplus is not met by formal sectors, this gap is typically filled by an informal dwelling such as a slum

4. **Poor Urban governance:** A major factor for growth of slums use of rigid, often outdated urban planning regulations, which are typically bypassed by slum dwellers to meet their housing needs. Another issue is the failure of governments to incorporate slum dwellers as part of the overall planning process. This is often due to the inability of many governments to keep pace with urbanization because of ill-designed policies, lack of resources and corruption.

5. **Rising costs:** Rising material costs and labor costs resulting from labor shortage is another reason for the growth of slums as it makes developers unable to deliver affordable housing to the market.

6. **Lack of political will:** A lack of political will for developing slums can also be seen, as slums provide cheap and steady labour (party-workers) to political parties.

Various issues associated with slum areas:

1. **Lack of basic services/amenities:** The slums are characterised by lack of access to sanitation facilities and safe water sources, absence of waste collection systems, electricity supply, drainage. These are sometimes supplemented by lack of surfaced roads and footpaths and street lighting. According to Census 2011, among the slums in India-

- 58% have open or no drainage
- 43% must bring water from outside their communities
- 26% do not have access to clean drinking water
- 34% have no latrine within premises; 19% open defecate

2. **Substandard housing:** Slum areas are associated with a high number of substandard housing structures, often built with non-permanent materials unsuitable for housing and in dilapidated conditions.

3. **Overcrowding:** Overcrowding is associated with a low space per person, high occupancy rates, cohabitation by different families. Many slum dwelling units are overcrowded, with a large number of people sharing a one-room unit used for cooking, sleeping and living.

4. **Unhealthy living conditions and hazardous locations:** Unhealthy living conditions are the result of a lack of basic services, open sewers, lack of pathways, uncontrolled dumping of waste, polluted environments, etc. Further, slums come up in hazardous locations such as in proximity to industrial plants with toxic emissions or waste disposal sites.

5. **Poverty:** Low income and poverty is both cause and to large extent consequence of slum conditions. Slum conditions create barriers to human and social development. Low income characteristically means poor nutrition, elementary or no education, little or no medical care which undermines human capital development and slum dwellers are trapped in the vicious cycle of poverty.

6. **Social problems:** Slums are areas of social exclusion that are often perceived to have high levels of crime. Gender discrimination and violence towards women and children, substance abuse are rampant phenomena in slum areas. Also, women and children living in slums are prone to become victims of social evils like prostitution, beggary and child trafficking.

7. **Health:** Since slums are not connected to basic services such as clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities, residents are at great risk of contracting water-borne and respiratory diseases. High population density, lack of proper toilets and close proximity of homes allow diseases to spread quickly. People living in slum areas are also prone to suffer from

waterborne diseases such as typhoid and cholera, as well as from more fatal ones like cancer and HIV/AIDS.

Way Forward:

1. The focus should not only on building houses for the slum dwellers but also promoting livelihood options and social and economic infrastructure to develop the livelihood.
2. For effective urban planning, housing and population policies based on housing rights and the right to a clean environment must be established at all levels. These policies should be directed at inclusive cities and poverty alleviation
3. Attention must be paid to income generation, transport and empowerment of the beneficiaries to redress possible future problems
4. To upgrade the infrastructure and services providing water, power, and sewage connections to individual homes, the collection of solid waste, street lighting and neighbourhood security and police support.

Slums are growing and thereby denying right to live with dignity to many poor people. Poverty is the most significant reason behind the creation of slums. There is a need for future policies to support the livelihoods of the urban poor by enabling urban informal-sector activities to flourish and develop. Slum policies should be integrated within broader, people-focused urban poverty reduction policies that address the various dimensions of poverty.

Q.11) "Population stabilisation efforts need to address existing socio-cultural barriers and ensure multi-sectoral participation." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Existing socio-cultural barriers against population stabilisation.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India, with a current population size of 133 crore is the second-most populous country in the world. According to The World Population Prospects 2019, India is projected to surpass China as the world's most populous country by 2027. The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) recently said that it will draft the roadmap for Population Stabilisation in the country. Although many efforts have been made in the past like population policy, sterilisation drive, but such measures had limited impact on population stabilisation due to some socio-cultural barriers.

Existing socio-cultural barriers against population stabilisation:

A. Social barriers:

1. **Poverty:** The poor tend to have more children because child survival is low. Many poor families consider their children as assets. This is because they think that children can help support the family's income by working at an early age.
2. **Illiteracy:** Family health, child survival and the number of children a woman has are closely tied to the levels of health and education. With those having little access to health and education being caught in a cycle of poverty, leading to more and more children, and the burden that state control on number of children could impose on the weakest.
3. **Rural barriers:** Another factor that create problems in controlling population is that most of the population in India live in rural areas. However, family planning is not

extensively advertised in rural areas. Also, in rural areas, social and religious norms are more firmly followed. It has been observed that family planning is considered as an offence in most of the tribal and rural communities.

B. Cultural barriers:

1. **Social pressure:** Many families feel that male children are essential. Therefore this increased the birth rate exponentially. This was also termed in economic survey as son meta-preference.
2. **Early marriage:** Many individuals are pressured into marriage by society at a very early age. This also contributes to overpopulation.
3. **Perception against family planning:** As it is well documented in literature that India is a country of diverse cultures and people come from different family background therefore it is difficult to change the perception of people toward such norms like family planning. Many people see use of contraception as awkward and feel shy to talk about it.
4. **Patriarchal mindset:** In India, society does not give more importance on women's education and women's choice because of the financial conditions in some families and the religious and social norms. In such a case, educating women about family planning becomes an even more difficult task.

Way forward:

Certain measures can be taken to address the overpopulation. They are as follows:

1. **Spreading awareness:** It is essential to spread awareness among the public about the negative consequences of overpopulation. This can be done through adult education anganwadi, AASHA, media, etc. It is essential to provide free education to women at least till the college level so that they need not be dependent on their male counterparts for survival and are willing to participate in the workforce.
2. **Reduction of infant mortality rate:** It is essential to bring down the infant mortality rate. This is because, due to high infant mortality rates, many opt for increased birth rate to offset the loss.
3. **Women empowerment:** The success of family planning mainly depends on women and their status. Thus, it is crucial for women to get proper education so that they can decide on the number of children they want and be aware of the available birth control measures. In India, it is important for women to have equal rights to take decision about the number of children to be produced.
4. **Government schemes on par with efficient family planning:** Many opt for having children for the purpose of security during the later stage of life. If the government provides enough security through increased welfare schemes for the older population, people will opt for far lesser children.
5. **Promotion of the girl child:** India is a society where the male child has far more importance than their female counterparts. Therefore many families tend to continue having children until a male child is born. Government policies must focus on the increased promotion of female children to address this problem. Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme is a step in the right direction.

To summarise, Population escalation is a major issue around the world which has adverse impact on numerous environmental and human health problems. The effectual way to stop population growth is to implement family planning policies but the exact way to achieve need to remove socio-cultural barriers and multi-sectoral participation. India has 13% of unwanted fertility– the product of unwanted or unplanned pregnancy, mainly due to the lack of education, awareness, family planning services, etc. If this issue is addressed, India will have 30 million lesser people by 2030.

Q.12) To what extent globalization has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Positive and negative impact of globalisation on Indian culture.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is a diverse country and India's greatness lies in its unique culture. Globalisation is the process of expanding and accelerating the movement of ideas, people, capital and exchange of commodities (goods and services) over vast distances. India has also faced a significant impact on Indian cultural diversity in both positive and negative ways.

Impact on core of cultural diversity:

1. **Linguistic diversity:** The influence of transnational corporations has resulted in a central common language mainly English, which dominates regional dialects, and minority languages. But it has a positive dimension, where it had lead to Indians excelling in the services sector of the economy. Also, technology has helped preserve some of the dying artefacts, document local languages and also exposed Indians to various global arts/movies etc. **For example**, Flipkart and amazon is selling tribal artefacts, Channapatna wooden toys etc.
2. **Caste:** Though globalization has led to decreased emphasis on localised castes. Globalisation has led to the rise of lower castes by making them aware of their rights. People eat together, increased instances of inter-caste marriages are seen in the urban areas. But the socio-economic disparities in societies continues to cause conflicts, which are dominated by caste hegemony.
3. **Religious diversity:** In a globalised world where increased prosperity and materialistic pursuits have decreased the religion-based conflicts and superstition. It also had led to questioning the age-old exploitative traditions like Devadasi and Triple-talaq. Also though India is multi-religious but was dominated by Hindu's with globalization it has led to be polarised by few religions. Also, exposed India to religious fundamentalism.
4. **Racial diversity:** Globalisation to an extent has changed the racial demography to an extent with decreasing numbers of Mongoloid race. Migration within and outside India has to an extent changed the demography of Indian races.
5. **Women empowerment:** Globalisation has attacked the discriminatory tendencies and patriarchal mindset in India. It has helped in getting rid of practices derogatory to women and has helped in the rise of women and exposure of women related issues. **E.g.** globalisation has helped women to realise their rights and led to raise their voice against crime like dowry.

How this has diluted the diversity in India?

1. Unmonitored access to Western culture has led to increasing misrepresentation, stereotyping and the risk of loss of cultural and intellectual property rights.
2. Increased consumerism and availability of media has led to erosion of local cultural traits.
3. Under the influence of Western ideas of individualism there has been more homogenization of values and beliefs. Eg: Loss of local artefacts, promotion of western dressing, shift from local culinary habits etc.

4. English as a medium of mass communication has undermined the local languages. The development of literature is also impacted by this. Many tribal languages have been wiped out due to the use of a common tongue.
5. The globalisation generalised the taste and preferences of people relating to food, dance forms and Values. This undermines the peculiar features of various ethnicities like cuisines.
6. In the globalised and mechanised economy no art has remained local. Countries like China is flooding Indian market with the products which were local to India like toys making. This has impacted diversity in Art and handicraft as now we find the same kind of product all over India.
7. Increasing urbanization as a consequence of globalisation has resulted in migration of people from rural areas, resulting in the disintegration of the joint family system. A new trend of nuclear families with one or maximum two children has emerged in India.

India is a land of pluralism. The highly diverse nature of our culture is the uniting strength of India. As a result of globalization, women in India have become more aware of their rights and are now stepping out of homes to pursue not only schooling but higher education and jobs. Globalisation to an extent acted as a unifying force but monitored access would help India preserve its multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-caste society. Thus, it has both positive and negative influence overall.

Q.13) Discuss the significance of the Vaikom Satyagraha and the self-respect movement in modern Indian history.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Significance of Vaikom Satyagraha and the self-respect movement.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India's freedom struggle was not merely a fight against the British. Rather it was simultaneous fight against social evils and a struggle for a better society. Movements like Vaikom Satyagraha and Self Respect Movement played a prominent role in this and helped in Shaping Modern India. Vaikom Satyagraha was a mass movement that demanded lower caste persons to be given the right to use a public path in front of the famous Vaikom temple. The Self-Respect Movement was dedicated to the goal of giving non-Brahmins a sense of pride based on their Dravidian past.

Significance of Vaikom Satyagraha:

1. It was the first mass agitation for the cause of human rights in the country. It inspired later people and help them to fight for the cause of human rights.
2. The Vaikom Satyagraha was a testing ground for the Gandhian principles of Satyagraha. It was tested and proved as the most effective means for the first time.
3. This movement were helped in establishing equal rights and curbing discrimination against Scheduled Castes in Indian Society.

Significance of Self-respect movement:

1. Anti-Brahmanism and Self-respect Marriages were two important aspects of Self-respect Movement. The movement encouraged inter-caste and inter-religious marriages, along with that it also encouraged marriage ceremonies without Brahmin priest.

2. Post-independence, Tamil Nadu passed a law and become the first state to legalise Hindu marriage without Brahmin priest. Thus, it played an important role in religious reforms.
3. The monopoly of power and influence enjoyed by the Brahmins was slowly lost due to E.V.R.'s propaganda against orthodoxy. It was filled with the sense of self-respect and above all self-confidence, to fight against social injustice perpetrated by the Brahmins of the day.
4. The practice of having separate dining places for Brahmins in every hotel or earmarking separate eating places in public feasts was slowly given up owing to the agitation of the volunteers of the movement.
5. It was largely responsible for making an effective change in the social life of the vast majority of people through its ceaseless propaganda against superstitious beliefs, based upon religious traditions.
6. It was instrumental in Tamil Nadu to create awareness amongst themselves, as one community. The Self-Respect movement brought the message of the Tamil Nationalism to the masses.
7. Gender relationships were actively divorced from Brahmanical patriarchy and women's rights over their physical, sexual and reproductive choices were celebrated.

Self-Respect Movement was not a mere social reformist movement. It aimed at destroying the existing Hindu social order in its totality and creating a new, rational society without caste, religion and God. The movement was extremely influential not just in Tamil Nadu, but also overseas in countries with large Tamil populations, such as Malaysia and Singapore.

Q.14) Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Causes of Depletion of mangroves. Importance of mangroves in maintaining coastal ecology.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Mangroves are salt-tolerant vegetation that grows in intertidal regions of rivers and estuaries. They are referred to as 'tidal forests' and belong to the category of 'tropical wetland rainforest ecosystem'. Mangrove forests occupy around 2,00,000 sq km across the globe in tropical regions of 30 countries. India has a total mangrove cover of 4,482 sq km. However, more than 35% of the world's mangroves are already depleted. A scientific study reported that 100% of mangrove species, 92% of mangrove associates are under threat.

Causes of Depletion of mangroves:

1. **Sea level rise and coastal erosion:** Due to global warming, the sea levels are continuously rising. The rising sea levels have flooded large areas of mangrove forests. This has resulted in their depletion. This has been supplemented by continuous erosion by sea towards the land.
2. **Reduction in river water levels:** The mangroves are more prevalent in areas where the rivers meet the sea. The system requires a fine balance between salt and sweet water to survive. Reduction of river water due to dams has caused destruction of mangroves.

3. **Invasion by alien species:** Introduction of non-native and alien species of plants and animals are causing threat to the endemic species of the region. This has led to an imbalance in ecological structure, resulting in their depletion.
4. **Clearing:** Large tracts of mangrove forests have been cleared to make room for agricultural land, human settlements, industrial areas, shrimp aquaculture etc. As a result, mangroves get depleted to the tune of 2-8 percent annually.
5. **Over harvesting:** They are also overexploited for firewood, construction wood and pulp production, charcoal production, and animal fodder.
6. **Damming of rivers:** Dams built over the river courses reduce the amount of water and sediments reaching mangrove forests, altering their salinity level.
7. **Destruction of coral reefs:** Coral reefs provide the first barrier against currents and strong waves. When they are destroyed, even stronger-than-normal waves reaching the coast can wash away the fine sediment in which the mangroves grow.
8. **Pollution:** Mangroves also face severe threats due to fertilisers, pesticides, discharge of domestic sewage and industrial effluents carried down by the river systems.
9. **Climate change:** Unusually low rainfall and very high sea surface and air temperatures caused severe threats to the survival of mangrove forests.

Importance of mangroves in maintaining coastal ecology:

1. **Edge Effect:** The mangroves show edge effect, which means that they have large species diversity in comparison to marine or terrestrial ecosystem.
2. **Productivity:** Mangroves are among the most productive terrestrial ecosystems and are a natural, renewable resource. For instance, Sundarbans in the Gangetic delta supports around 30 plant species of mangroves.
3. **Ecological Niches:** Mangroves provide ecological niches for a wide variety of organisms. They serve as breeding, feeding and nursery grounds for fisheries and provide timber and wood for fuel.
4. **Natural Filters:** Mangrove forests act as water filters and purifiers as well. When water from rivers and floodplains flow into the ocean, mangroves filter a lot of sediments, hence protecting the coastal ecology including coral reefs.
5. **Resource:** They supply timber, firewood, medicinal plants and edible plants to local people.
6. **Employment:** They provide numerous employment opportunities to local communities and augment their livelihoods.
7. **Shock absorbers:** Mangroves act as shock absorbers. They reduce high tides and waves and protect shorelines from erosion and also minimise disasters due to cyclones and tsunami.

Given their importance, strict enforcement of the coastal regulation measures, scientific management practices and participation of the local community in conservation and management are essential for the conservation and sustainable management of the precious mangrove forests. The mangroves have an important role in sustaining and preserving coastal ecosystem. The threats posed by human activities can upset the natural balance and cause their depletion.

General Studies 2

Q.1) “Pushing for greater autonomy for States and protecting federalism is need of the hour, if India has to emerge as a major economic super-power.” Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Discuss the need of more autonomy and protecting federalism.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Indian economy is slowing down and is being pushed into state of recession due to various reasons. The government is being criticised for being over-centralised and thereby impacting working and smooth running of the economy. More autonomy and preservation of federalism is important in order to ensure effective running of the economy and inclusive growth.

Need of more autonomy and protecting federalism:

1. The Central government makes laws for the entire country but the diversity of the culture, the people and the states is overlooked. States then have to apply the law in the same form whether the state is Nagaland or Jammu and Kashmir. Sometimes it is very difficult to implement such laws. This hampers the progress.
2. To deliver change on the ground but also to prevent the national political system from imploding, there are compelling systemic reasons to revisit the issue of autonomy of the state to seemingly unrelated changes.
3. Regularisation and decentralisation have over the years disempowered the state governments by eroding their policy making space. A better policy can be formulated only when states are involved and policies are tuned to local needs.
4. Cooperative federalism promoted by the GST council is must be accompanied by autonomy to states to take more independent decisions. The cooperative federal system that has been envisaged by the founding fathers of the Constitution need to be encouraged.
5. If the nation has to grow stable and strong, the structural imbalance has to be addressed. The only way to do it is to give more autonomy to the states which is in line with the democratic trends reflected in the growth of regional economies.
6. Economic liberalisation has cause huge regional imbalances between states. A genuine economic decentralisation is thus needed to ensure equality and inclusive growth. Devolution under the Finance Commission also misses the need and opportunities of states, that could be better incorporated if given more autonomy.
7. The legislative powers under the concurrent list provide for both the state and union laws. But in situation of conflict union law prevails. It is better to follow, the NCRWC recommendations that the states must be consulted before any legislation under the concurrent list in order to avoid conflicts.
8. Geographically challenged states can't deliver the economic progress without a healthy dose of autonomy— fiscal as well as political economy, as their local and economic needs are different. E.g. Hill states need autonomy to develop in a sustainable way incorporating the local needs.
9. More autonomy should be given to the states to develop badly neglected infrastructure by taking decisions on their own.

What should be done?

1. First, the new framework of the Centre-state relations must be designed for an open economy that is driven by the private sector rather than the public sector.
2. The Centre should introduce rewards linked to performance against specific parameters.
3. A large number of central sponsored schemes have been introduced by the Government such as the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, National Rural Health Mission etc. So while such schemes are welcome and have benefited the states immensely, there is a need to make these schemes flexible so that states can tailor them to suit their own conditions.
4. The difficulties experienced by the states in implementation of developmental activity must be resolved through delegation of powers.
5. The centre needs to set better standards for the states to follow in their approach towards revenue generation and their utilisation.

Although Various indices to rank states based on their performance by the NITI aayog promote a sense of competitive federalism, more autonomy is needed. The states need to develop their own tax collection and utilisation mechanisms, while the centre needs to keep a stern eye on their resource application. The central government should encourage states to utilise their own resources. The political class is ought to provide better services to the taxpayers and increase the actual level of decentralisation, rather than only dealing with it on paper.

Q.2) “Although altruistic organ donation is important to save precious life, illegal organ trade is a threat to any society.” Discuss.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Organ donation scenario in India. Issue of illegal organ trade and reasons for the same.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Organ donation is the donation of biological tissue or an organ of the human body, from a living or dead person to a living recipient in need of a transplantation. Organ donation is done for a noble cause of saving one's precious life. Unfortunately, organ donation has turned into a business where poor are being cheated, incentivised, targeted or even trafficked for stealing organs and selling them.

Organ donation in India:

1. Globally, Spain has the highest organ donation rate at about 34 donors per million, while India has nearly 0.03 donors per million. In India, Tamil Nadu has a highest number of organ donations.
2. India needs an estimated 6 lakh kidney donations annually, only 6,000 kidney transplants take place. The number of heart transplants is just inching close to 500.
3. National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) under the ministry of health and family welfare was setup in 2014 to oversee the process of Organ transplantation.
4. Under Article 246 of the Constitution, public health and hospitals are within the legislative competence of states which makes every state has its own transplantation laws.

Altruistic organ donation:

1. It saves a precious life and help many families to sustain.
2. Altruistic organ donation usually involved a conscious and well think decision and thus is a noble way to save other's lives by donation of sometimes literally dead people.
3. But with rising demand and organ failures and rising accidents altruistic donation is not a sufficient and sustainable way to meet the demand of organ donation. There is need of developing artificial organs and tissues in the lab with technology and stem cell research.

Illegal organ trade- a threat to the society:

1. Organ trade in India like other problems such as child labor has a societal issue to it. It relates to the exploitation of the poverty-stricken people by alluring them with financial gains.
2. There has been exploitation of the donors from the lower income groups. The usual scenario driving these poverty-stricken people is desperation for monetary payments. Some are under pressure from loan sharks and others to pay off for some major family costs (eg. Marriage).
3. Like child labour and prostitution, the ethics of organ donations is much more complex in our country and these are part of the corrupt fabric of our society. The country provides many hamlets of poverty that are fertile area for any kind of exploitation.
4. The removal of the tissue or organ illegally threatens and impair the health or functional integrity of the donor. Donor many times are left dis-functional, which Impact their productivity and ability to earn.
5. The benefits expected to be given to the recipient bear an acceptable proportion to the harm likely to the donor. There are many issues around compensation for the donor, and benefits given are very less and often insufficient to run a family.
6. Illegal organ trade lead to violation of human rights and is mainly done by coercion, luring and mis-information. There have been at least two deaths of healthy young donors in the Liver programme and many donors have had long-term complications related to the donation process.
7. Further there are health concerns of organ donation and person may die. Person may become disable to carry on a healthy life impacting his life to live with dignity.

Reasons for illegal organ trade:

1. Organ scarcity is growing rapidly in because of increasing life-span and rise in number of organ failures due to lifestyle. A huge gap persists between demand and supply of organs in India. India has a donation rate of 0.5 per million which is one of the lowest in the world. This is leading to ever rising organ demands.
2. The major reasons for poor performance of Organ Transplant program is lack of awareness amongst public which has generally contributed for poor donor pool, but also lack of awareness, positive attitude and motivation amongst medical professionals.
3. Lack of organised systems for organ procurement from deceased donor led to such an illegal trade.
4. The law in India provides that a non-relative donor can be considered only if one is willing to offer an organ out of "affection and attachment" to the donee, or for a special reason, but never out of consideration of money. Such a provision virtually blacks out the possibility of getting a donor.
5. Though the TOHA law was envisaged with good intentions to ensure that the poor are not exploited but some stringent provisions in the law leads to illegal human organ trafficking.

What needs to be done?

1. Bringing law for Voluntary donation of an organ in exchange for a minimum stipulated amount of money.
2. India may adopt system of 'opt out' where organ donation will be automatic, unless an explicit request is made before death for organs not to be taken.
3. There should be a uniform legislative policy to increase organ donations. Though there are existing rules for the organ transplant system in the country, stricter implementation is the need of the day.
4. India should adopt the Spanish system of "presumed consent" where everyone, post death, is considered a donor unless one has opted out of the process in his life time.
5. There should be a centralized regulatory authority with jurisdiction to monitor the transplantation procedures as the authority constituted under the Transplantation of Human Organs Act 1994 does not have pan-India jurisdiction. With a proper monitoring mechanism in place that would make the system open and transparent.

Organ commodification is a serious exploitation as there can be endangerment to health. Recently there is a move by some physicians and policy makers in India to look at the possibility of making kidney sale a legal transaction by setting up some mechanism to protect them from the middle man or the brokers. These policy-makers should really re-examine the value of using financial incentives to increase the supply of organs for transplantation. Financial incentives for organ donation is likely to only lead to more exploitation. Without a quick cure for poverty, the transplant brokers will thrive and continue to operate and organs will continue to be bought from the poor and sold to the rich.

Q.3) What are salient features of Motor Vehicle Act, 2019? Do you think it would help in reducing ever rising number of road accidents?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Salient features of Motor vehicle act, 2019. How it will reduce accidents. Various issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

With growing urbanisation and rising incomes, the number of motor vehicles in India has been increasing steadily. An increase in the number of vehicles on roads, led to an increase in the number of road accidents. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) act, 2019 amended the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 to address various such issues like road safety, third party insurance, vehicle's health, and compensation for victims of road accidents.

Salient Features of the Act to ensure safer roads:

1. **Road Safety:** The Act include increase penalties for traffic violations. It will act as a deterrent.
2. **Vehicle Fitness:** The Act includes a provision that mandates automated fitness testing for vehicles. This will improve road safety by removing unfit vehicles.
 - The motor vehicles act also proposes penalty for deliberate violation of safety and environmental regulations.
 - The act provides regulation of the process of testing and certification of automobiles.

- It also proposes to bring agencies issuing automobile approvals to be brought under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and vehicle testing standards to be set.
3. **Environmental and road health:** The Act mandates the recall of defective motor vehicles if the defect may cause a threat to the environment, or the driver or other people on the road.
 4. **Road Safety Board:** The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 provides for the setting up of a National Road Safety Board by the central government. The National Road Safety Board will advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management.
 5. **Protection of Good Samaritan:** The Act incorporates Good Samaritan guidelines in order to help road accident victims. The act defines good samaritan as a person who provides emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a road accident victim and provides rules to prevent harassment of such a person. Such a person will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of an accident victim, caused due to their negligence in providing assistance to the victim.
 6. **Compensation for road accident victims:** The central government will develop a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour (time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury), during which the likelihood of preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest.
 7. **Compulsory insurance:** The act requires the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India.
 8. **National Transportation Policy:** The central government may develop a National Transportation Policy, in consultation with state governments. The Policy will establish a planning framework for road transport and will specify priorities for the transport system.
 9. **Taxi aggregators:** The Act defines aggregators as digital intermediaries or market places which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation purposes (taxi services). These aggregators will be issued licenses by state governments. Further, they must comply with the Information Technology Act, 2000.

How Motor Vehicle Act, would help in reducing ever rising number of road accidents?

1. Harsher penalties would protect the safety of road users as well as pedestrians.
2. It sends a clear message to the public that people must follow rules and laws on roads.
3. Since many people are afraid of being put to jail for such a long period of time and some car lovers cannot live without their driving license, they don't want to commit such a criminal offence.
4. People believe that tougher penalties can take dangerous drivers off the road.
5. A large number of vehicles, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers, in cities are without complete documentation as demanded by law. The amendment would help in reducing illegal vehicles and road accidents.

Motor Vehicle Act, 2019 may not lead to lesser road accidents as:

1. In this framework, punishment is seen as an end in itself. Very few punishment systems seek to change the offender's behaviour and help him to a new path.
2. Studies show that 60% of those who are set free after serving a prison sentence will be rearrested within three years. Studies in Canada show that more than 30% of those who drive under the influence of alcohol are repeat offenders. There is no reason to believe that this trend of repeat offence will be any better in India.
3. Most repeat crimes today are a game-like scenario where the offender tries several innovative ways to avoid the long arm of the law. Every time he successfully manages to dodge the law, there is a dopamine release that leads to jubilation. This dopamine high leads to an urge to repeat.

4. The few times you get caught, it is seen as being not smart enough. People who are caught and punished are not quietly learning to change their offending behaviour, but they quickly learn how not to get caught the next time.
5. Imposing penalties may only bring out a short-term effect to the problem. People will forget about it in the long run.
6. Traffic signals at road intersections are routinely faulty and take days before they are repaired.

Way forward:

1. Strict and effective enforcement of the amended rules in Motor Vehicle Act would surely help in curbing road-accident related deaths in India.
2. The central and state governments should work out proper plans to effectively implement the rules.
3. State governments should ensure transparency and provide a hassle-free experience for citizens at the Regional Transport Offices.
4. Vehicle manufacturers should update their technologies and adopt the best global practices regarding vehicles' and passengers' safety.
5. Simultaneously, the rise of Internet of Things-enabled, connected cars in India, which international auto majors are heavily investing in currently, can give a digital edge to road safety. With an array of embedded sensors informing drivers of other on-road cars, onboard analytics can give them real-time driving suggestions to avoid collisions.

The Standing Committee on Transport had observed that the majority of accidents being caused due to driver's fault may be erroneous. Other reasons for road accidents include fault of drivers of other vehicles, defect in condition of motor vehicle etc. Motor Vehicle Act, 2019 seek to address these issues through stringent penalties and provisions.

Q.4) What do you understand by 'creamy layer'? Examine the feasibility of extending the concept of creamy layer to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is creamy layer?

Body. Discuss arguments to against and in favour of extending creamy layer to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The creamy layer is a concept that puts an income ceiling on people availing caste-wise reservations in government jobs and education. The term was introduced by the Sattanathan Commission in 1971, which directed that the "creamy layer" should be excluded from the reservations (quotas) of civil posts. Till now, this is only applicable for reservations under the Other Backward Classes quota. SCs and STs are excluded since it was argued that their backwardness was based purely on untouchability for which economic improvement was not a remedy.

Argument in favour of application of creamy layer to SC/ST:

1. Introducing creamy layer and allowing SC/ST candidates to compete in the general category would help thousands to leave the space for the less privileged among them.
2. In **Balaji v/s State of Mysore**, it was held that 'caste of a person cannot be the sole criteria for ascertaining whether a particular caste is backward or not. Determinants such

as poverty, occupation, place of habitation may all be relevant factors to be taken into consideration.

3. Once a caste is considered to be backward it will continue to be backward for all other times. The government should review the test and if a class reaches the state of progress where reservation is not necessary it should delete that class from the list of backward criteria.

3. Also, by competing as non-reserved candidates, the well-qualified SC/ST group would corner a substantial number of open posts. So theoretically, SC/STs would end up garnering more posts than at present.

4. Supreme Court of India in **Nagraj vs Union of India**, ruled that the people belonging for SC & ST should be classified into groups and that the more advanced among these castes i.e. "the creamy layer" should be excluded of all the advantages of the affirmative action provided by the State to the most depressed and oppressed classes of people in India.

5. The **Mandal commission** was established in 1979 by the central government to identify the socially or educationally backward people. It used social, economic, and educational indicators to determine backwardness. But today are these reservations actually being stolen away by the creamy layer.

6. Reservations are nothing but means to prosper the vote banks of politicians. They are hindering the country's growth, development and competency in all aspects. Therefore it must be rationalised.

7. Fair and just reservations to uplift the people with poor conditions of life, those who don't have meals to eat, clothes to wear and no home to live in. The process of reservation should be such that it filters the truly economically deprived individuals and bring them all to justice.

Argument against application of creamy layer to SC/ST:

1. **Against Precedence:** It has been clearly stated in Indra Sawhney (1992) case, that any discussion on creamy layer "has no relevance" in the context of SC/STs.

2. **Representation:** Going by the creamy layer ceiling of Rs 8 lakh per annum, even "Group D" functionaries will come under the definition of creamy layer.

3. **Protection:** The SC/STs are given job reservations not because they are poor but because they are excluded. The Constitution made the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as a separate category of subjects to protect them from caste aggression. It was also to help them gain the strength they need to withstand it and to grow autonomously.

4. **A right and not a welfare:** The first part of Article 335 stipulates job reservations for SC/STs as a right of representation, not as a welfare measure. However, the creamy layer among SC/ST employees helps fulfil the second part of Article 335 that requires maintaining the "efficiency of administration".

The response to this question needs comprehensive analysis of all the dimensions vis-a-vis the social, economic and political stature of SC and ST. We don't need reservations based on castes or religion but only to actually provide aid to those who have minimal resources and merit should be given equal and due importance in admission procedures as well employment opportunities. This way we would be successful in removing caste discrimination and unite the economically rich together in helping the economically poor, irrespective of their castes.

Q.5) Discuss the features of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. How it would help in ensuring health of Indian citizens especially poor?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Key features of Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). How scheme would ensure health of Indian poor? Various challenges.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme having central sector component under Ayushman Bharat Mission under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW). PMJAY is a major national health reform to rapidly extend access to hospital care for 500 million poor and vulnerable people. It is touted as world's largest healthcare scheme.

Key features of National Health Protection Mission (AB-PMJAY):

1. AB-PMJAY provides a defined benefit cover of Rs. 5 lakh per family per year. This cover will take care of almost all secondary care and most of tertiary care procedures.
2. To ensure that nobody is left out (especially women, children and elderly) there will be no cap on family size and age in the scheme.
3. The benefit cover will also include pre and post-hospitalisation expenses. All pre-existing conditions will be covered from day one of the policy. A defined transport allowance per hospitalisation will also be paid to the beneficiary.
4. Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/private empanelled hospitals across the country.
5. The beneficiaries can avail benefits in both public and empanelled private facilities. All public hospitals in the States implementing AB-PMJAY, will be deemed empanelled for the Scheme.
6. Hospitals belonging to Employee State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) may also be empanelled based on the bed occupancy ratio parameter. As for private hospitals, they will be empanelled online based on defined criteria.
7. To control costs, the payments for treatment will be done on package rate (to be defined by the Government in advance) basis. The package rates will include all the costs associated with treatment.
8. For beneficiaries, it will be a cashless, paper less transaction. Keeping in view the State specific requirements, States/ UTs will have the flexibility to modify these rates within a limited bandwidth.

How scheme would ensure health of Indian poor?

1. The system will be cashless and largely paperless. This will prevent leakages and corruption in the scheme and would lead to targeted benefits.
2. The poor and vulnerable stand to benefit from the scheme. Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
3. It will be an enabler of quality, affordability and accountability in the health system. Ayushman Bharat is expected to advance India's pursuit of universal health coverage (UHC).

4. This will ensure all people can access quality health services when and where they need them, without suffering financial hardship, which is also one of the WHO South-East Asia Region's Flagship Priorities.
6. From the day PMJAY was launched, almost half of all eligible families are now covered for hospital care.
7. Another impact of the PMJAY will be rationalisation of the cost of care in the private sector. The scheme will also create lakhs of jobs for professionals and non-professionals — especially women.

Concerns/Challenges related to the scheme:

1. Major inequalities still remain. Millions of people across India are pushed into poverty because of out-of-pocket spending on health care, at least 4% of the population.
2. Getting prices right, because costs for the same procedure are likely to differ across hospitals because of quality, location and capacity.
3. Massive shortages in the supply of services (human resources, hospitals and diagnostic centres in the private/public sector).
4. Monitoring and ensuring accountability because Rastriya swasthya bima yojana lacked this mechanism that led to its poor implementation.
5. Infrastructure constraints to take on the additional patients from other States.

Way Forward:

There is need for real-time monitoring of implementation. This will allow problems to be detected early on, thereby enhancing accountability, as well as facilitating course corrections where necessary. There is a commitment in the National Health Policy to raise the percentage of GDP allocated to health from 1.2% today to 2.5% by 2022. This must be backed up by effective and affordable hospital care.

Q.6) What is a quasi-judicial body? Analyse various advantages and disadvantages of these bodies.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are quasi-judicial bodies?

Body. Various advantages and disadvantages of quasi-judicial bodies.

Conclusion. Way forward.

A quasi-judicial body is an entity such as an arbitrator or tribunal board which has powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law or judge. It is obliged to objectively determine facts and draw conclusions from them so as to provide the basis of an official action. Their powers are usually limited to a very specific area of expertise and authority, such as land use and zoning, financial markets, public standards etc. National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Minorities, etc. are examples of quasi-judicial bodies.

Advantages of quasi-judicial bodies:

1. **Lessen the burden of court:** These bodies reduce the burden of judiciary which is having huge number of pending cases.
2. **Expertise:** Generally, members of the bodies have necessary expertise and specialisation in the particular area which help immensely in cases. Thus expertise is a major advantage.

3. **Accessible:** These are easily accessible to common people and moreover these involve very low cost as compared to judiciary.
4. **Flexibility:** Judiciary generally refer to its old judgements but quasi bodies have flexibility to operate. They have flexible approach in dealing with the cases hence are approached frequently by the people.
5. **Suo moto Power:** Some of these bodies are having Suo moto power that is they can enquire on their own on proceedings. For example, National Human rights commission can initiate proceedings on their cases based on reports from media or their knowing of human rights violations.
6. **Autonomy of Functioning:** They are fully independent in their functioning outside the purview of executive. For example, NHRC can ask state governments for information related to any incident in lieu of Human rights violation happened in state.

Disadvantages of quasi-judicial bodies:

1. **Lack of independence:** Many organisations lack independence like judiciary thus affected from interference from executive.
2. **Toothless tiger (No Power to punish):** Most of these bodies are recommendatory in nature, like NHRC and CIC. They can't even award compensation or relief to the victims directly, but can only recommend. These bodies also lack enforcement mechanism & compliance to rules.
3. **Lack of manpower:** Many Quasi-Judicial bodies are under-staffed so proper and quick investigation is not being done.
4. **Add to cost and delays:** A person can again appeal in the court against the decision of the Quasi-Judicial body. This fades away the advantage of cost and time provided by the Quasi-Judicial body.
5. **Poor efficiency:** People if not satisfied with the decisions of the body always move to courts and hence low administrative efficiency and poor functioning of quasi-judicial bodies further increase the burden on courts.
6. **Partial justice:** Many members of these bodies are ex-bureaucrats without any training of law, this hampers the proper way of justice. Also, there is always a possibility of executive interference in their functioning which may result into partial decisions sometimes.
7. **Multiplicity:** Now a day's multiplicity of bodies and mushrooming of tribunals have made the judicial functioning complex.

Therefore, as a whole, quasi-judicial body is a good concept as it reduces the burden on Judiciary but there are some loopholes there in this system also. Govt should choose individual with both technical and legal knowledge and providing them with power to take decision will be a booster to this organ of Government.

Q.7) What do you understand by 'trade corridor'? Examine whether Kartarpur corridor should be converted into a trade corridor between India and Pakistan.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is trade corridor?

Body. Why Kartarpur corridor must lead to trade corridor? Various issues and challenges.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Trade corridors are integrated networks of infrastructure including highways, railroads and ports, to link cities or countries, designed to stimulate economic development within a country or between countries. When implemented, trade corridors are often one of a package of different measures including infrastructure development, visa and transport agreements, and standardisation. Given the situation between India and Pakistan, it is important that Kartarpur corridor must lead to economic ties and trade corridor must be established.

Why Kartarpur corridor must lead to trade corridor?

1. The India-Pakistan face-off in the recent period has impacted trade on both sides. In the wake of the Pulwama attack, India withdrew the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. More recently, post the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, Pakistan cut off diplomatic and economic ties with India.
2. In 2018-19, bilateral trade between India and Pakistan was valued at \$2.5 billion. In this period, India's exports to Pakistan accounted for \$2.06 billion and imports from Pakistan were at \$495 million. Both has declined.
3. With Pakistan deciding to completely suspend bilateral trade, cotton exports from India to Pakistan get affected the most, eventually hurting India's exports.
4. Border economies owe their existence to cross-border economic opportunities. These economies are hurt most by India-Pakistan face-off. E.g Amritsar is land-locked, and traditionally has no significant industry. Since 2019, 5000 families have been directly affected in Amritsar because of dependence on bilateral trade.
5. A larger look at trade activities between India and Pakistan reveals that import and export between India and Pakistan has been declining since 2014-15.
6. The major reason for the nominal impact of the trade suspension on India's businesses and economy is that a large part of the trade between the two countries takes place through the informal route, which means that the trade takes place through a third country. This hampers India's profits.
7. In the case of two countries, India-UAE-Pakistan is the primary channel for informal trading. In this process, trade is recorded between India and UAE and between Pakistan and UAE, but is not directly recorded between India and Pakistan.

Issues and challenges:

1. In the past, attempts have been made by numerous governments to enhance both people to people linkages as well as economic ties, but terrorist activities from Pakistan and politics has acted as an impediment. E.g. The decision to go ahead with the Kartarpur Corridor raised hopes of closer trade linkages, but the Pulwama terror attack in 2019, ensuing tensions, and the suspension of trade and people-to-people ties by Pakistan after the revocation of Article 370 dashed all such hopes.
2. There are apprehensions with regard to the corridor being a Pakistani intelligence conspiracy and would be used to increase Khalistani activities, which need to be removed.
3. Both India and Pakistan reached a new low of trust and confidence which is difficult to be plugged.

Way forward:

1. This initiative through both Punjabs could pave the way for "reconciliation" in South Asia. Business lobbies, as well as the state government of Punjab, could play a positive role in reviving economic ties. In the past too, state governments have played an important role.
2. Further, the Punjabi diaspora could play an important role in getting both Punjabs closer. In the past, civil society groups and intellectuals in the diaspora have played a pro-

active role in pitching for peace between East and West Punjab. Some members of the diaspora have already committed to investing in renovation of Sikh shrines.

Thus, the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor would hopefully play a role not just in fulfilling the desire of Sikh pilgrims to pay obeisance at the holy city of Kartarpur, but also pave the way for reduced tensions between New Delhi and Islamabad. Trade with Pakistan and access to markets in Afghanistan and Central Asia will provide the much-needed booster to the state's sagging economy.

Q.8) Comment on the ordinance making power of the President of India. Also discuss the various safeguards which can help to prevent possible misuse of such power.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Various issues associated with the use of ordinance. Safeguards to prevent possible misuse of such power.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Ordinances are temporary laws which can be issued by the President when Parliament is not in session. The President has been empowered to promulgate Ordinances based on the advice of the central government under Article 123 of the Constitution. President can promulgate an ordinance only when both the Houses of Parliament are not in session or when either of the two Houses of Parliament is not in session. However, the President exercises the power on the advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister. An ordinance may have retrospective effect and may be modify repeal any act of Parliament or even another ordinance. This unusual power has been given to the President, so that the Executive can deal with a situation of urgency.

Various issues associated with the use of ordinances:

1. The frequent use of ordinances poses threat to the sovereignty of Parliament which have been constituted as primary legislative body under the Constitution.
2. More often the power to make ordinances has been abused to subvert the democratic process. The government has used the power under Article 123 into a source of parallel law-making that is antithetical to the scheme of the Constitution.
3. If there is a possibility of a bill not being passed in the current session of Parliament, the government can take the ordinance route pending its approval by the Parliament during a later session. For instance, the ordinance on altering the Land Reforms Act in 2018 was enacted to make it easier to acquire land by the government for public purposes.
3. The ordinance has been re-promulgated again and again. The Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 was recently re-promulgated for the three time during the term of the 15th Lok Sabha. The practice of re-promulgation is termed as "ordinance raj", where ordinances are seldom brought before the legislature but are re-issued again and again.
4. Failure of governments at the Centre as well as states, to place ordinances before Parliament and state legislatures itself constitute a fraud on the Constitution, as observed by the supreme court.

Safeguards to prevent possible misuse of such power: The exercises of this power is subject to the following limitations:

1. **Against Re-promulgation:** The Supreme Court had already declared, in D.C. Wadhwa, that repeated re-promulgation of ordinances are unconstitutional. In Krishna Kumar Singh v. State of Bihar, it goes deeper and concludes that the failure to place an ordinance before the legislature constitutes an abuse of power and a fraud on the Constitution.
2. **Justiciable:** He can make an ordinance only when he is satisfied that the circumstances make it necessary for him to take immediate action. In Cooper case, (1970), the Supreme Court held that the President's satisfaction can be questioned in a court. Thus, the President's satisfaction is justiciable on the ground of malafide. Further in S.R. Bommai v. Union of India, the scope of Judicial Review was expanded and any action by the President taken without the relevant materials, would be considered to be in bad faith.
3. **Limited to Parliamentary laws:** His ordinance-making power is limited. An ordinance can be issued only on those subjects on which the Parliament can make laws.
4. **Cannot dilute fundamental rights:** An ordinance is subject to the same constitutional limitation as an act of Parliament. Hence, an ordinance cannot abridge or take away any of the fundamental rights.
5. **Parliamentary approval:** Every ordinance issued by the President during the recess of parliament must be laid before both the Houses of Parliament when it reassembles.
6. **Non-discretionary:** His power of ordinance-making is not a discretionary power, and he can promulgate or withdraw an ordinance only on the advice of the council of ministers headed by the prime minister.

Way forward:

1. As the Supreme Court has pointed out, the power to issue an ordinance is essentially an emergency power to be used only in extraordinary situations.
2. Parliamentary supremacy and the power of judicial review are the cornerstone of our democratic republic. The power to make an ordinance is to meet an extraordinary situation and it should not be made to meet political ends of an individual.
3. Though it is contrary to democratic norm for an executive to make a law but this power is given to the President to meet emergencies so it should be limited in some point of time.

The ordinance-making power of the President in India is rather unusual and not found in most of the democratic Constitutions of the world including that of USA, and UK. The exceptional power of law-making through ordinance cannot be used as a substitute for the legislative power of the state legislature.

Q.9) What are salient features of Citizenship amendment Bill, 2019? Discuss its need and significance.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. What are the Key features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019? It's need and significance. Mention various issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Citizenship is the natural right of any citizen of a country. Citizens of a nation enjoy particular civil and political rights in a sovereign state. Recently, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 seeks to ease norms for religious minorities from neighbouring nations (non-muslims) to get Indian citizenship by amending age-old Citizenship Act, 1955.

The amendment has been criticised for instilling fear among many that it will result in demographic change due to immigration.

Key features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019:

1. It proposes that Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan will not be treated as illegal immigrants even when they have entered India without valid documents.
2. It seeks to include a separate column in the citizenship form for applicants belonging to these 6 communities from those 3 countries.
3. They will not be deported as illegal immigrants under the Passport (Entry into India) Act of 1920 and the Foreigners Act of 1946.
4. The amendment reduces the period of residency from 12 years (as mentioned in the Citizenship Act, 1955) to 7 years, for acquiring permanent citizenship through naturalisation.
5. It also empowers the government to withdraw registration as OCI due to any violation of the Citizenship Act or any other laws.

Need and significance of the Bill:

1. Many persons of Indian origin including persons belonging to the six “minority communities” had been unsuccessfully applying for citizenship under the Citizenship Act of 1955 but were unable to produce proof of their Indian origin. Hence, they were forced to apply for citizenship by naturalisation which prescribes 12 years’ residency as qualification.
2. The Bill stated that such a long-drawn process denies illegal immigrants from these six minority communities of the three foreign nations “many opportunities and advantages that may accrue only to the citizens of India, even though they are likely to stay in India permanently”.
3. The amendment shortened the period of residency from 12 to seven years for gaining citizenship by naturalisation.
4. The Bill had also empowered the government to cancel registration as Overseas Citizen of India in case of any violation of the Citizenship Act or any other laws.

Issue related to the amendment bill:

1. **Violation of Right to Equality under article 14:** Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality to all persons, citizens and foreigners, differentiating between people on the grounds of religion would be in violation of the constitution. The Bill makes illegal migrants eligible for citizenship on the basis of religion. This may violate Article 14 of the Constitution which guarantees right to equality.
2. **Violation of Assam Accord:** Section 6A of the Citizenship Act relates to provisions for citizenship of people covered by the Assam Accord. The bill would undermine the rights of indigenous Assamese people and would be in violation of Clause 6 of Assam accord which ensures constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, to protect, preserve and promote the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people
6. **Conflict with NRC:** There is an apprehension that the Bill would be in conflict with the ongoing exercise to update the National Register of Citizens in Assam, for which the cut-off date is March 25th, 1971
7. **Vague procedure to cancel OCI registration:** The Bill allows cancellation of OCI registration for violation of any law. But the offences covered under this have not been mentioned, hence, OCI can be cancelled for petty offences.
8. **Fails on the tenets of international refugee law:** Although India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, granting refuge based on humanitarian considerations is arguably a norm of customary international law. The bill considers persecuted minorities as

migrants whereas word migration refers to the voluntary movement of people, primarily for better economic prospects. Contrarily, refuge is an involuntary act of forced movement.

Alleged illegal migration from Bangladesh has been at the heart of Assam's discontent. Not just the Muslim Bengali, but the Hindu Bengali has also been a reason for political mobilisation in the state. But only Hindu Bengalis are being favoured by the bill. While Hindus and Parsis, Sikhs, Buddhists and Christians might be naturalised, Muslims will not be offered the same advantage even if they are persecuted.

Q.10) "Protection of Privacy is must in the age of rising cybercrimes." In light of this critically examine salient features of the 'Data Protection Bill, 2019'.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Key Features of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. Various issues and analysis of the bill.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Data protection refers to policies and procedures seeking to minimise intrusion into the privacy of an individual caused by collection and usage of their personal data. In India, usage of personal data or information of citizens is regulated by Information Technology Act, 2000. Over the years, rapid technological advances have led to large volumes of data which is at risk of increasing cyber crimes. An example of this is the biometric identification and verification system of Aadhaar that enables the government to ensure targeted delivery of State benefits, such as LPG subsidies. For safeguarding Indian citizen's interest government has introduced 'Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019'.

Key Features of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019:

1. **Personal data definition:** The Bill defines 'personal data' as any information which renders an individual identifiable. Also it defines data 'processing' as collection, manipulation, sharing or storage of data. The Bill defines 'data principal' as the individual whose personal data is being processed and 'data fiduciary' as the entity or individual who decides the means and purposes of processing data.
2. **Territorial applicability:** The Bill include the processing of personal data by both government and private entities incorporated in India, and also the entities incorporated overseas, if they systematically deal with data principals within the territory of India. The central government may exempt Indian entities exclusively dealing with data principals outside the territory of India by a notification.
3. **Grounds for data processing:** The Bill allows data processing by fiduciaries if consent is provided by the individual. However, in certain circumstances, processing of data may be permitted without the consent of the individual.
4. **Sensitive personal data:** Sensitive personal data is defined in the Bill to include passwords, financial data, biometric and genetic data, caste, religious or political beliefs. The Bill specifies more stringent grounds for processing of sensitive personal data, such as seeking explicit consent of an individual prior to processing.
5. **Obligations of the data fiduciary:** The Bill lays down certain obligations on the data fiduciary who is processing personal data. These include:
 - Processing personal data in a fair and reasonable manner.

- Notifying the data principal of the nature and purposes of data collection and their rights among others.
- Collecting only as much data as is needed for a specified purpose, and storing it no longer than necessary.

6. **Data Protection Authority:** The Bill provides for the establishment of a Data Protection Authority (DPA). The DPA is empowered to:

- Draft specific regulations for all data fiduciaries across different sectors.
- Supervise and monitor data fiduciaries.
- Assess compliance with the Bill and initiate enforcement actions.
- Receive, handle and redress complaints from data principals.

7. **Cross-border storage of data:** The Bill states that every fiduciary shall keep a 'serving copy' of all personal data in a server or data centre located in India. The central government may notify certain categories of personal data as exempt from this requirement on grounds of necessity or strategic interests of the State.

8. **Transfer of data outside the country:** Personal data (except sensitive personal data which is 'critical') may be transferred outside India under certain circumstances.

Key issues and analysis:

1. **No guidelines for processing of data:** While the Bill places this obligation on all data fiduciaries, it does not specify any principles or guidelines for what constitutes a 'fair and reasonable' manner of personal data processing. The Justice Srikrishna Committee Report had suggested that courts of law and regulatory authorities should be allowed to evolve principles of fair and reasonable processing.

2. **Conflict of interest:** Selective reporting of data breaches will avoid the DPA from being burdened with high volume of low-impact data breach reports, and also not make the burden of reporting too onerous on the fiduciary. However, there may be a conflict of interest while determining whether a breach is to be reported, as the fiduciary is regulated by the DPA.

3. **Exemptions:** The Bill lays down certain obligations on all data fiduciaries for processing the data principal's information. However, the above obligations and safeguards do not apply if data is processed for the purposes of national security, prevention, investigation and prosecution of violations of a law, legal proceedings etc.

4. **Data processing for State functions does not require consent:** The Bill allows for processing of an individual's personal data without their consent if it is necessary for any function of the Parliament or state legislature. It is unclear what functions of the Parliament would necessitate such processing of data without the consent of the individual.

5. **Storage of data within the territory of India:** The Bill states that every data fiduciary shall keep a 'serving copy' of all personal and sensitive personal data in a server in India. The definitions of 'serving copy' and 'critical personal data' are not provided. It is unclear what is meant by a 'serving copy' of data.

6. **Powers and functions of the Data Protection Authority:** Enforcement of penalties and compensation orders of the DPA does not require a court order. The Bill does not specify that a court order would be required for the enforcement actions.

Way forward:

1. It is important to strike a right balance between digital economy and privacy protection. The law should encompass all the aspects- data collection, processing and sharing practices.
2. Privacy of individual is important for which data should be secured.
3. Government must incorporate suggestions from various stake holder over the draft bill.

4. Privacy should not be used to undermine government transparency. Data protection law should be framed such that it does not make government opaque and unaccountable

Data protection is must in the age of digital era. With right to privacy being a fundamental right and recent rise in risks to privacy of the individuals, data protection law is need of the hour. The the state must prevent and investigate digital crimes, prevent misuse of data and encourage data security through legislation. It is important to examine and put into place a robust regime for data protection. The creation of such a regime requires a careful and sensitive balance between individual interests and legitimate concerns of the state.

Q.11) "There are many structural flaws in Indian higher education system." Examine.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Various structural issues in Indian higher education system.

Conclusion. Way forward.

There has always been furore about about the quality of university education. With no university among the ranks of world class universities, India's higher education system is termed as poor, structurally flawed and underfunded. The latest 'India Skills Report' suggests that only 47% of Indian graduates are employable.

Structural issues in Indian higher education system:

1. **Teaching quality:** National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in its assessment report pointed out that 68% of institutions in India are of middle or poor quality. Recruitment of undergraduates as teachers, ad-hoc appointments and low pay scale, inadequate teacher training are all factors that have caused a deterioration in the quality of education.
2. **Vacancies:** Nearly 35% of professor posts and 46% of assistant professor posts out of total sanctioned strength remain vacant across the country.
3. **Financing:** India barely spends 2.5% of its budgetary allocations on education. This is far below the required amount needed to upgrade the infrastructure at public institutes. Nearly 65% of the University Grants Commission (UGC) budget is utilised by the central universities when the share of state universities in student enrolments is much higher.
4. **Privatisation and Regulation:** Withdrawal of public sector has left the space open for private institutions that have turned education into a flourishing business. Most of the teachers in private colleges are underpaid and overworked. There has been a rampant expansion in the number of colleges with scant regard for standards and quality. This phenomenon also shows the lapses in the regulatory structure which are riddled with corruption.
5. **Curriculum:** There is a wide gap between industry requirements and curriculum taught at colleges. This also renders graduates unemployable lacking in specific skill-sets.
6. **Autonomy:** Over-regulation by regulators such as UGC, MCI, which decide on aspects of standards, appointments, fees structure and curriculum has further deterred new institutions from opening campuses.
7. **Academic research:** India has barely 119 researchers per million of the population as compared to Japan which has 5300 and US which has 4500. Besides, in the US 4% of science graduates finish the doctorate, in Europe, this number is 7%, but in India barely 0.4% of graduates finish the doctorate.

8. **Faculty shortage:** Faculty vacancies at government institutions are at 50% on average. The problem lies in increased demand, and stagnant supply.

9. **Poor research:** Indian universities persist in separating research and teaching activities, depriving students of exposure to cutting-edge ideas. Monetary incentives for academia are practically non-existent, and Indian R&D expenditure at 0.62% of GDP is one of the lowest in emerging economies. It is not surprising, then, that Indian universities rank low in both research and teaching.

Way forward:

1. The goals of higher education, for that matter any education system of any country is expansion with inclusion, ensuring quality and relevant education. Government must ensure filling up of vacancies through more autonomy to the institutions.
2. To meet these challenges, there is a need for policy to identify the key issues involved, to build up on the earlier policies, and to take a step ahead.
3. Research cannot be improved merely by regulating universities, instead they need efforts to create enabling atmosphere for which it is imperative to grant more autonomy, better funding and new instruments to regulate work ethic.
4. New initiatives like Hackathon, curriculum reform, anytime, anywhere learning through SWAYAM, teacher training are all aimed at improving quality. These need to be effectively implemented.
5. As India wants to transform its universities into world class institutions, it must safeguard the interests of young researchers and thousands of temporary faculty members by expediting the permanent appointments in a time-bound framework and transparent manner.
6. Each state must establish an integrated higher education master plan to provide an excellent education for all its residents.
7. One of the fundamental changes India must institutionalise is a radically new compensation and incentive structure for faculty members. A flexibility to pay differential salaries based on market forces and merit must be part of this transformation.

The government released a Draft National Education Policy (DNEP) in 2019, which proposed ambitious reforms. The DNEP aims to double education spending to 6% of GDP, and close the research-teaching divide in higher education. Experts, however, are doubtful about whether the dramatic increases will be politically feasible, and whether the implementation of such reforms will be implemented successfully or not.

Q.12) Infant mortality rates in India are still one of the highest in the world with significant regional variations. Elaborate.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Mention high infant mortality rate in India and regional variations.

Conclusion. Way forward.

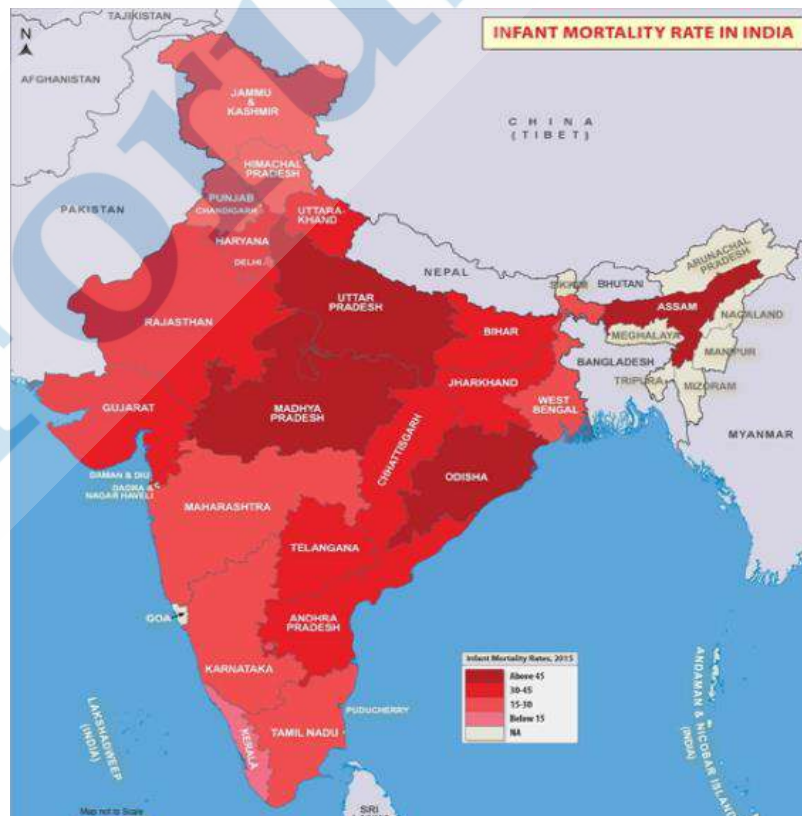
Infant mortality rate means the number of deaths of infants under one year old in a given year per 1,000 live births in the same year. This rate is often used as an indicator of the level of health in a country and of the quality of life in a community. High infant mortality has been a long-term issue in India due to various reasons like poor maternal health and inter-generational poverty in families.

Infant mortality in India:

1. According to the United Nations Inter-Agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation (UNIGME) about 8,00,000 infant deaths were reported in India in 2017, the lowest in five years. However, the infant death numbers still remained the highest in the world.
2. India accounts for 18% of global child deaths following a steady decline from 22% in 2012. Most children under five die due to preventable or treatable causes such as complications during birth, pneumonia, diarrhoea, neonatal sepsis and malaria.
3. Infant deaths were reported highest in the world in India, followed by Nigeria, Pakistan and Democratic Republic of Congo.
4. India's under five mortality rate has been estimated at 39 deaths per 1,000 live births, the same as the global average. But the gender gap in child survival remains far below the global average which means that girl children, after they are born, face discrimination in India.
5. The number of Indian children who died before their fifth birthday went below one million for the first time. Initiatives like Mission Indradhanush, Mother and Child Tracking System and neonatal ICUs in every district, have helped India to achieve remarkable progress over the last five years.

Regional variations in Infant mortality rate:

1. In India there is a high Intra-State and Inter-State variations in IMR, such variations receives less attention from policymakers. Per-capita spending on health in Indian States is the biggest predictor of infant mortality. For example, tribal communities in Odisha have high rates of malnutrition, a big cause of infant mortality.
2. According to India's Sample Registration System, Goa (8), Pondicherry (10), Kerala (6) and Manipur (9) saw the lowest infant-mortality rates in 2016. While Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh saw the highest, in that order.
3. Southern States like Kerala have an extremely lower IMR because of widespread literacy and urbanisation. The settlements intra state have higher IMR is due to lack of healthcare infrastructure facilities.



Created with by ForumIAS.com – The Knowledge Network for Civil Services.
Visit <http://forumias.com> New! <http://forumiasacademy> – Prelims & Mains Test Series

Way forward:

1. Low birth weight can be prevented if the mother is well-nourished, diarrhoea can be avoided by exclusively breast-feeding the child in the first six months.
2. Merely ensuring that women go to hospitals to deliver their children can prevent asphyxia and trauma.
3. A majority of these deaths are preventable. Financial resources were not the biggest constraint in improving this health indicator. It is the political will that is essential now to ensure better newborn survival.
4. Addressing gaps in quality of health care is the need of the hour in India. Hospitals should ensure that the critical products to save the newborns are available.
5. The biggest cause of death is premature birth. The second is complications like asphyxia during delivery. Preventing these would mean paying attention to the mother's health during pregnancy.
6. Education campaign should be taken up to aware the mother of the merits of antenatal care, institutional delivery, importance of exclusive breast feeding, immunisation, home care for diarrhoea; all these are meant to create awareness among family members to provide support to women during pregnancies and deliveries.
7. India continues to show impressive decline in child deaths. The investment on ensuring holistic nutrition under the POSHAN campaign and national commitment to make India open defecation-free by 2019 are steps that will help in accelerating progress further.

SDG goal 3 calls for an end to preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age and specifies that all countries should aim to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 deaths per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030. The uptake of the Janani Suraksha Yojana and NRHM needs to be ensured across the states it could address some of the variations in IMR across India.

Q.13) What are human rights? How far do you think the NHRC has been able to fulfill its mandate in preserving these rights?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are human rights?

Body. Discuss success and failures of NHRC.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Human rights are reasonable claims of citizens recognized by the society but may or may not be sanctioned by law. A sanction by law makes them enforceable, otherwise they remain simply as moral claims. UNHRC recognises life, liberty, equality and dignity as human rights. NHRC of India is an independent statutory body established for the protection of these rights. It was established under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

Success of NHRC:

1. Since its formation, the NHRC has widely dealt with issues relating to the application of human rights. NHRC has established its reputation for independence and integrity.
2. There is an ever-increasing number of complaints addressed to the Commission seeking redressal of grievances. The NHRC has pursued its mandate and priorities with determination and considerable success.

3. Some of the famous interventions of NHRC include campaigns against discrimination of HIV patients.
4. It review the factors, including acts of terrorism that inhibit the enjoyment of human rights and recommend appropriate remedial measures.
5. It also played an important role in spreading human rights literacy among various sections of society and promote awareness of the safeguards available for the protection of these rights through publications, the media, seminars and other available means.
6. NHRC further encouraged the efforts of non-governmental organisations and institutions working in the field of human rights.
7. An important intervention of the Commission was related to Nithari Village in Noida, UP, where children were sexually abused and murdered.
8. In recent times, the rights panel has taken cognisance in the case of killing of 10 people in police firing during anti-Sterlite protest in Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu, and intervened in the case of killing of Rising Kashmir editor Shujaat Bukhari after an appeal via press, by a network of editors and media practitioners, which had urged the NHRC and the Jammu and Kashmir State Human Rights Commission to push for a swift probe into the case.
9. The National Human Rights Commission is expanding in the field of violation of the rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Failure of NHRC: NHRC have failed in some aspects and is being labelled as a toothless tiger.

1. Custodial Torture still exist and NHRC has failed to raise voice against such crime.
2. Right to Work and Labour Rights are still a far dream towards which NHRC has not been much active.
3. Extrajudicial Killings like fake encounters, mob lynching etc. has not been debated and by NHRC for justice of the innocents.
4. Arbitrary Arrest and Detention are still common, in which NHRC and SHRC both have failed due to lack of powers.
5. Manual Scavenging menace still exist. NHRC raise not much voice against such a violation of rights.
6. Violence and discrimination against Women, Children like rape, murder, sexual abuse are rampant for which NHRC has failed to put pressure on Judiciary and government to act upon.

Limitations of NHRC:

1. NHRC does not have any mechanism of investigation. In majority cases, it asks the concerned Central and State Governments to investigate the cases of the violation of Human Rights
2. NHRC can only make recommendations, without the power to enforce decisions.
3. Many times NHRC is viewed as post-retirement destinations for judges and bureaucrats with political affiliation moreover, inadequacy of funds also hampers its working.
4. A large number of grievances go unaddressed because NHRC cannot investigate the complaint registered after one year of incident.
5. Government often out rightly rejects recommendation of NHRC or there is partial compliance to these recommendations.

Way forward:

1. There is need for complete revamping of NHRC to make it more effective and truly a watchdog of human rights violations in the country.
2. NHRC efficacy can be enhanced by government if commission decisions are made enforceable.

3. There is a need to change in composition of commission by including members from civil society and activists.
4. NHRC needs to develop an independent cadre of staff with appropriate experience.
5. Many laws in India are very old and archaic in nature by amending which government can bring more transparency in regulations.
6. To improve and strengthen the human rights situation in India, state and non-state actors need to work in tandem.

In spite of many achievements, the NHRC has been marred with controversies. For instance, the Batla House encounter case in the recent past. The Commission's report giving clean chit to the Delhi Police came under fire from various quarters. The effectiveness of commissions will be greatly enhanced if their decisions are immediately made enforceable by the government. A large number of human rights violations occur in areas where there is insurgency and internal conflict. Not allowing NHRC to independently investigate complaints against the military and security forces only compounds the problems and furthers cultures of impunity. It is essential that commission is able to summons witnesses and documents.

Q.14) "Despite its potential, the mid-day meal scheme has been unable to make a transformative impact." Discuss.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Potential benefits of mid-day meal scheme. Why mid-day meal failed to make a transformative impact?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme was launched in 1995 with provisions to provide free meal to about 12 crore children studying in primary and upper-primary classes. The objective behind the scheme is to address the hunger and education, improve the nutrient status and increase the attendance and retention rates among the children. Despite the efforts, the scheme failed to get the proper result. In Uttar Pradesh recently it was discovered that milk was mixed in a bucketful of water for the more than 80 children present that day in a school. A couple of months ago it was reported that plain chapatis were being served with salt in the same state.

Potential and benefits of mid-day meal scheme:

1. Mid-day meal promotes the participation of the child in school especially the disadvantaged sections (especially girls, Dalits and Adivasis).
2. It help in reducing classroom hunger, promote better learning and facilitate the healthy growth of a child.
3. It is an important tool that lead to better enrolment and retention in schools. The increase has been more rapid with respect to girls and children belonging to SC/ST categories.
4. Scheme promotes good eating habits like washing one's hands, finishing ones food, etc.
5. It fosters social and gender equality as all children get the same food and must eat together and boosting female attendance in school.
6. It is also important to provide nutritional support to children in drought affected areas during summer vacation.

Why mid-day meal failed to make a transformative impact?

1. Caste based discrimination continues to occur in the serving of food.
2. Implementation issues, including irregularity, corruption, hygiene, inadequate nutritional content etc are there.
3. Despite the success of the program, child hunger as a problem persists in India.
4. In some schools, food was prepared by using wood which gave bad smell to food and also polluted the environment.
5. Teachers themselves cooking take away their core duties of teaching.
6. Some schools did not have proper kitchen and store room facilities for Mid-Day Meal preparation.
7. The number of students in most of the Govt. primary schools in rural areas is meagre, so the effectiveness of this scheme is at stake.
8. There are instances where children come to school only for food, leaving soon after it is served, thus not meeting their educational requirements.

Way forward:

1. Bihar Bettiah district and thane district of Pune have employed mothers as quality monitors of mid-day meal food served and it has produced good results. This should be replicated in the rest of the country.
 2. Seeking the help of corporates is an easy way out, opening the door to a system of contractors.
public private partnership must be encouraged for better facilities
 3. Community monitoring, social audits, decentralised grievance redress systems, public display of information on beneficiaries and menus, etc to reduce corruption and increase accountability in MDM.
 4. Teachers should not be assigned the responsibility of implementation of Mid-Day Meal scheme as it can hamper the teaching-learning process.
 5. Cooks should be well paid, so that they work with interest and commitment.
 6. There should be proper provision of LPG, kitchen and store room for Mid-Day Meal preparation.
 7. Mandatory reporting the MDM data regularly by the state to the centre with a view to curtail irregularities.
 8. Ensure timely transfer of funds and good grains to schools.
 9. The quality of food grains and cooked meals must be checked regularly and all complaints regarding the quality must be solved urgently.
- Despite the success of the program, child hunger continues to be a major problem in the country. Government should remove the loopholes in mid-day meal scheme, so that lives of future of the country not sacrificed to fulfill anyone's greed. Mid-day meal scheme has lot of potential which can be achieved through greater centre-state cooperation and a vigil on the implementation of the scheme

Q.15) "The efficiency of the Indian railways has dropped to its lowest in the last decade, according to recent CAG report." In light of this discuss whether privatisation of railways would help increasing the efficiency of Indian railways?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Need of privatisation in Indian railways. Various consequences of privatisation.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Indian Railways is the world's 2nd largest network in terms of track length and the largest network in terms of passenger traffic. The organisation's financial health worsened in recent years as its earnings from passenger traffic grew at a slow pace while its expenditure on salaries and pensions multiplied. In FY2018, the efficiency of the Indian railways reached its lowest in a decade, according to a recent report by the CAG. Privatisation in railways can help Indian railways to earn profits and increase efficiency. So far, the private sector's participation in railways has been very less in India, compared to sectors like ports, telecom, electricity, airports and roads.

Need of Privatising Indian Railways:

1. The Indian Railways is one of the few government-owned enterprises which is incurring losses year-after-year.
2. Indian Railways has not been able to keep pace with modernisation of its infrastructure and services and has not been able to expand at the pace and coverage that a country like India needs.
3. Almost all arms of the railways require modernisation of equipment, processes and training, all of which are still continuing as they have been, through the decades. The result is that the railways continue to be a drain on the exchequer, while continuing to provide vital services inefficiently.
4. Freight fares in railways are kept high to cross-subsidise the passenger segment. Rail Development Authority has been approved to determine rail fares to enhance affordability and utilise capacity in an efficient manner.
5. Railways owns large tracts of land along its tracks, in various parts of the country and this can be optimally monetised by inviting private players to invest, build and manage properties that may be developed on these lands.
6. A strong argument in favour of privatisation is that it will lead to better infrastructure which in turn would lead to improved amenities for travellers.
7. Private ownership is synonymous with better maintenance; thus it will reduce the number of accidents, resulting in safe travel and higher monetary savings in the long run.
8. The main argument for privatisation is that private companies have a profit incentive to cut costs and be more efficient. A private firm is interested in making a profit, and so it is more likely to cut costs and be efficient.
9. It is argued that a private firm has pressure from shareholders to perform efficiently. If the firm is inefficient then the firm could be subject to a takeover. A state-owned firm doesn't have this pressure and so it is easier for them to be inefficient.

Possible fallouts of privatisation of Indian Railways:

1. An advantage of Indian Railways being government-owned is that it provides nation-wide connectivity irrespective of profit. This would not be possible with privatisation since routes which are less popular will be eliminated, thus having a negative impact on connectivity.
2. Given that a private enterprise runs on profit, it is but natural to assume that the easiest way of accruing profits in Indian Railways would be to hike fares, thus rendering the service out of reach for lower income groups. This will defeat the entire purpose of the system which is meant to serve the entire population of the country irrespective of the level of income.
3. Private companies are unpredictable in their dealings and do not share their governance secrets with the world at large. In such a scenario it would be difficult to pin the accountability on a particular entity, should there be a discrepancy.
4. This move would render thousands of railway employees in production and ancillary units jobless in the long run.

5. Privatisation creates private monopolies and thus, it needs regulations to prevent abuse of monopoly power.

6. To please shareholders, the private players may seek to increase short term profits and avoid investing in long term projects. For example, the UK is suffering from a lack of investment in new energy sources; the privatised companies are trying to make use of existing plants rather than invest in new ones.

Bibek Debroy committee has suggested privatisation of some operations in Indian railways. Privatisation of Indian railways can make it more efficient, but it may turn railways unaffordable to many poor people. In order to keep Indian Railways affordable for the lower strata of the society (post privatisation), the government must offer subsidies and tax incentives to companies that would provide low cost services, similar to low cost airlines, to these very pocket of population. This in the long run would make railway network more efficient and affordable.

Q.16) Almost six years after the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 not much progress has been made in implementing various provisions of the act. Examine. Also discuss various issues involved in the functioning of lokpal.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Progress made so far. Issues related to the functioning of Lokpal.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act was enacted in 2013 and came into force in 2014. Almost six years after the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, was signed into law, several key provisions needed for the anti-corruption ombudsman to function have still not been operationalised.

Poor Progress so far:

1. It took more than five years later in 2019 that the first chairperson and members of the Lokpal were appointed.
2. The process of constituting the Lokpal's inquiry and prosecution wings has not yet begun, and regulations for how to conduct preliminary investigations have not been made.
3. The institution is still functioning out of a government-owned hotel in Delhi.
4. The Lokpal has also not yet notified a format for filing complaints. 6 years later, Lokpal is yet to get prosecution wing.
5. While it approved a logo and motto for itself last month, the Lokpal has not yet notified a format for filing complaints. Despite that obstacle, 1,065 complaints were sent to the Lokpal office.
6. The process of constitution of Inquiry Wing of Lokpal is yet to be initiated in consultation with the government of India.
7. The rules for the disclosure of assets and liabilities by public servants have not been notified either.

The issues associated with Lokpal functioning:

1. Delay in the appointment of Lokpal due to the legal technicalities and lack of political will is a major issue.

2. The Selection committee and the issue of Leader of Opposition is still lingering and the recent selection of Lokpal didn't have the views of the opposition party, which is against democratic principles.
3. The Act prohibits Lokpal inquiry if the allegations against the PM in certain circumstances. Thus, Lokpal do not have full authority to investigate PM.
4. Also, complaints against the PM are not to be probed unless the full Lokpal bench considers the initiation of an inquiry and at least two-thirds of the members approve it.
5. There is not much protection provided for whistleblower in the Lokpal Act, 2013.
6. All the cases of corruption in which high officials are involved go to the CBI. Lokpal do not have complete control. This is a major issue which dilutes the independence of Lokpal.
7. Through an amendment in 2016, the government has done away with the statutory requirement of public disclosure of the assets of public servants' spouses and dependent children. The vesting of the power of prior sanction with Lokpal has been almost nullified with amendments in Prevention of Corruption Act which strengthen the requirement to seek the government's permission.
8. Judiciary is totally excluded from the ambit of Lokpal. Thus there is no chance to hold the judiciary accountable.
9. The establishment of Lokayukta and any appointment falls within the domain of the States, which is being delayed by the state due to lack of political will.

Way forward:

1. There is a need for a mechanism that provides for simple, independent, speedy means of delivering justice by redressing the grievances of the people without succumbing to the clutches of the executive.
2. The jurisdictions must be clear so that there is no overlap in the powers.
3. Any new piece of legislation even when implemented becomes lengthy and time consuming and stretched over years.
4. The Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) recommended the enacting of the Office of a Lokpal, convinced that such an institution was justified not only for removing the sense of injustice from the minds of citizens, but also to instil public confidence in the efficiency of the administrative machinery.

Looking at the low ranking of India in Corruption on global level, there is a need to check the corruption by strong institutions. Creation of the institution of Lokpal and Lokayuktas by forming its members to function has come up as a welcome step. But progress made so far after the enacting act is not good. Lokpal shall function independently of any political influence so that a proper system of checks-and -balance is maintained in the federal and democratic system of India.

Q.17) What do you understand by the term 'Asian century'? Discuss the importance of India-China relations in realising Asian century.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Importance of India-China relationship in realising Asian Century. Some important steps to boost bilateral relations between the two nations.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Asian Century is the projected 21st century dominance of Asian economics, politics and culture. The growing importance and emphasis of unity in Asia, demand progressive relationships among countries in the region, especially India and China, to realise the 21st Asian Century. Both countries represent 40% of the world and are centre of growth in Asia. Thus the relationship between the two countries is paramount to realisation of Asian century.

Importance of India-China relationship in realising Asian Century:

1. **Economic development:** Asia is experiencing robust economic performance over the three decades, spearheaded by India and China. Asian century can't be realised without economic development of the two countries and moving out millions of people in the region out of poverty. Both nations must enhance bilateral relations in a positive way leading to a path of development.
2. **Demographic dividend:** Population growth in Asia is expected to continue for at least the first half of the 21st century. This will result in huge demographic dividend in the region. Thus coordination between two nations by providing opportunities and employment driven by economic growth is necessary.
3. **Investment:** India and China relations has not reached full potential due to lack of bilateral investments. Where China can provide market for India to invest in the pharmaceutical industry, agricultural products, software industry; India is a market for China for its technological industry. Creation of New Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Asian Development Bank are new engine of growth in the region. These institutions would fail without cooperation among New Delhi and Beijing.
4. **Success of new organisations:** New Organisations like Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and economic deals like Trans Pacific partnership and RCEP are indicator of Asia emerging as a centre for geo-economics and geo-politics. These platforms as a centre of Asian century would be successful only when two engines of growth cooperate with each other and work together.
5. **Regional Stability:** Asian century can't be realised under the threat of terrorism. It has impacted regional structures in South Asian countries in a negative way. It is very important for two countries to stand together against terrorism to promote stability in the region. Regional stability would ensure mutual growth.
6. **Trade:** China is India's largest trading partner. Chinese imports from India amounted to \$16.4 billion or 0.8% of its overall imports, and 4.2% of India's overall exports in 2014. The fact that both these countries are the two big Asian giants, it is imperative for both of them to be allies so as to support each other and continue their bid for the strongest power.

Some important steps to boost bilateral relations among two nations:

1. Establishment of bilateral group with experts from both countries who would workout a plan for further cooperation.
2. Capacity building in combating terrorism of intelligence, police, military and para-military forces through training.
3. Promotion of greater coordination to resolve boundary disputes among two nations.
4. Correction of bilateral trade balance to ensure mutual economic development.
5. Legal and moral support to each other at all international platforms.
6. Increase people to people contacts through tourism and cultural exchange.

It should also be noted that China continues to have border skirmishes and unbalanced trade negotiations with India. China has been seen with a lot of speculation not just in India, but outside as well and on various fronts. Without Chinese cooperation and change

in attitude it is tough to realise progress on bilateral relations. India should push China for better relations and should try to establish trust among two nations.

Q.18) Discuss various methods used by the Farmers organizations to influence the policy-makers in India. How effective are these methods? (GS 2)

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are farmers organisations?

Body. Methods used by the farmers organisations to influence the policy-makers. Effectiveness of these methods.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Farmers organisations refer to group of farmers who are organised to protect their own interests related to issues like minimum support price, subsidies, welfare schemes for farmers etc. For example, Bharathiya kisan Sabha, shetkari sangatan, Karnataka raitha Sangha etc are some farmer organisations. Farmers' organisations are seen as a useful organisational mechanism for mobilising farmers' collective self-help action aimed at improving their own economic and social situation and that of their communities. Such organizations are perceived to have the ability to generate resources, mobilise support and exert pressure with the help of their members.

Methods used by the farmers organisations to influence the policy-makers:

1. **Awareness generation:** They try to gain public support and sympathy for their goals and their activities by carrying out information campaigns, organising meetings, filing petitions, etc. Most of these groups try to influence the media into giving more attention to these issues.
2. **Lobbying:** Powerful farmers groups like sugarcane farmers of Maharashtra and UP try to influence policy making in their favour like getting favourable MSP and payment of arrears.
3. **Protest:** They often organise protest activities like strikes or disrupting general administration. These protests of late have centred around issues like loan waiver, higher MSP, free electricity, etc. The recent farmers' march to Delhi under the Bharatiya Kisan Sangh banner was such an example.
4. **Activism:** This method includes publicising important issues, petitioning courts, preparing draft legislation and gaining public attention in matters related to farmers like issues pertaining to GM crops.
5. **Fast unto death protests:** Farmers normally resort to these protests when their moderate protests didn't satisfy their demands. For example protests by Tamil Nadu farmers in the national capital last year.
6. **Other methods:** Sometimes they resort to other types of protests like throwing their crops on the road in case of low prices, blocking railways etc.
7. **Recent trends:** Farmers organisations recently have also employed innovative ways like spilling milk and vegetables on highways or appearing to consume dead rats, soil and urine at Delhi's Jantar Mantar etc.

Effectiveness of these methods:

The above methods have been partially successful:

A. Positive outcome of these efforts:

1. Farmers' associations have been able to get concessional benefits like loan waivers and higher MSPs in past. For example, the governments of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan waived loans off immediately after coming to power.
2. Pressure of farmers organisations has led to government to take initiative for farmer welfare like PM KISAN.
3. It has led to awareness in general about the plight of farmers and has helped them to garner wide support for them in the society.
4. These methods have helped in exposing the poor state of farmers in India and has led to reforms like better credit facilities, Jan Dhan Yojana etc.

Although there has been limited success such methods has not led to removal of structural issues.

B. Failures:

1. In a situation of impending unrest the government often takes to populist measures instead of employing a solution which is good for the nation and the farmers in the longer run.
2. The government often takes short term respite such as farm loan waiver, higher MSP, cash transfers in farmers' accounts, etc.
3. Even if the government resorts to such populist measures its effective implementation is often absent. For example, rise in MSP is of no use if there lack of infrastructure to procure grains from the hinterland or if the masses are unaware of such a scheme.
4. Moreover, several policy recommendations have not been implemented as the government is not fully aligned with the suggestions. For example, the Swaminathan Committee recommendations is yet to be fully implemented.
5. But in some cases, farmers' demands were met very quickly. For example, protests by farmers in Punjab against case filed by PEPSICO on patent related issues was quickly withdrawn by the company.

Farmers organizations certainly play a huge role in acting as true representative of farmers problems to the policy makers. Unfortunately, their effectiveness has been limited due to various reasons. Although organising the protest and mobilising support help in gaining the attention of the public and the government, it can be argued that they have resulted in little on the ground.

Q.19) "Right to Speedy Justice" is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. In light of this discuss the various issues faced by Indian judiciary in speedy deliverance of justice. Also suggest some measures to improve judicial efficiency.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Discuss issues faced by Indian judiciary in speedy deliverance of justice. Mention some measures which can prevent delays.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The right to a speedy trial was first mentioned in landmark document of English law, the Magna Carta. Speedy trial is a fundamental right implicit in the guarantee of life and

personal liberty enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution and any accused who is denied this right of speedy trial is entitled to approach Supreme Court under Article 32 for the purpose of enforcing such right. The main aim of Right to Speedy trial is to inculcate justice in the society. The very basic purpose for which every state machinery sets up the court system is to award justice to the victims of crimes.

Issues faced by Indian judiciary in speedy deliverance of justice:

1. **Judicial delays (pendency and backlogs):** Major causes for judicial delays:
 - Paucity of judges and court staff.
 - Inefficiency of case management system- Improper case listing -as a result of which quality of adjudication is compromised, cases delayed due to adjournments, and cases listed out at last are not heard.
 - Inadequate infrastructure.
2. **Appointment:** Major concerns in appointments are:
 - Long appointment cycles.
 - Vacancies remained unfilled.
3. **Collegium system of judicial appointment:** It is criticised for being non-transparent. There is lack of agreement between Centre and Collegium over Memorandum of Procedure (MOP) for appointing judges of high courts and the Supreme Court. This delays appointments and hence hinders justice.
4. **Less courts:** Lack of courtrooms as there are only 16,513 courtrooms across the country. A shortfall of 3,989 courts which is inadequate to accommodate sanctioned strength of judges.
5. **Lack of basic infrastructural facilities:** Drinking water, usable washrooms, canteen facilities are not sufficiently available in all the courtrooms. The major reason for inadequate infrastructural facilities is funding deficit- poor budgetary allocation.
6. **Judicial corruption:** Delay in the disposal of cases is a major reason for the prevalence of judicial corruption. Bribes are sometimes sought to advance the judgement or bend it. The prevalence of corruption in lower courts is closely connected to corruption in higher courts. As higher court judges are selected from the ranks of lower court judges and lawyers, there is always a possibility of corrupt judges making it to higher courts.
7. **Lack of work culture:** Absence of work culture in the courts is another reason behind the delayed.

Some measures which can prevent delays:

1. **Effective management of the courts:** Time scheduling should be done so that there is effective management of time leading to effective management of judicial system.
2. **Judges training:** Judges should be provided with proper training and vocations on a regular basis to improvise there drafting, hearing and writing skills along with the skill of taking correct and fast judgment. Moreover, the ratio of judges to population should be increased which will help in disposal of cases very fast.
3. **Cases assignment:** Cases must be assigned according to specialised area of judges. This means that a Judge who has a good experience/ knowledge of Criminal law should try criminal cases, a Judge who has deep knowledge of Labor law should try Labor law cases. So is the case with other cases.
4. **Arbitration:** Arbitration should be done wherever possible and in particular small and petty cases arbitration should be made compulsory. It will save precious time in the courts. Nyaya Panchayats should be authorised to dispose off small and petty cases.
5. **Technological Courts and Speedy Justice:** The technological development made by human beings in the field of science can be highly useful in realisation of this objective. There is a need to use better technology for the recording of statements, there should be

CCTVs for recoveries, chromatography, microscopy, spectrography, laser techniques, X-Rays etc. If the statements are video recorded, then there would be much greater credibility.

6. **All India judicial services:** As a part of the solution, an All India recruitment exam (All India judicial services) may help in resolving the issue of appointment of judges.

7. **Court administrator:** There is a need for court administrators to manage the entire process so that the lawyers and judges can concentrate on the cases they are assigned.

In the case Katar Singh v. State of Punjab, it was declared that right to speedy trial is an essential part of fundamental right to life and liberty. Though the Judicial System in India is independent but still it takes years for a case to dispose off. In the first instance itself, most people should get the justice. Reformation is necessary so as to make the implementation of the right in the right manner which is the need of the hour.

Q.20) "Defection politics undermines the very essence of democracy." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Discuss how defection politics undermines the very essence of democracy? Mention significance of anti-defection law in Parliamentary democracy.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Defection means 'voluntarily giving up membership of a political party' and joining other due to various reasons. It not only undermines the democratic institutions but also disrespects people mandate. The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (which embodies the anti-defection law) was designed to prevent evil or mischief of political defections which unfortunately has not been able to stop unethical political defections to a large extent.

How defection politics undermines the very essence of democracy?

1. Defection lead to un-stability in the politics of a democracy, thus creating an environment of uncertainties and apprehensions which is not good for democracy.
2. It lead to undemocratic realignment of parties in the legislature by way of defections, which undermines the choice of the people.
3. Defection undermines mandate of the voters, as voters vote sometime for an individual belonging to a certain party in hope to get better government. Defection disrespects such a mandate.
4. In a representative democracy people vote for a candidate so that they can represent their problems, ideology in the parliament. Defection violate such a representative mandate, as they have to re-align with new party's ideology.
5. It increases corruption at the political level as well as non-developmental expenditure incurred on irregular elections.
6. It plays an important role in corruption/horse trading in parliament, thus leading to the popular phenomenon of "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram " in the Indian politics.
7. It destroys the spirit of liberty and lead to the practice of puppetry within the party system in a parliamentary democracy.
8. Due to lack of accountability and limit on speech and expression MPs/MLAs find no incentives to research and understand the policies and to find solutions to various issues.

To curb these tendencies, the anti-defection law was passed in 1985 through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act. It added the Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution.

Significance of anti-defection law in Parliamentary democracy:

1. It is important to keep a check on popular phenomenon of “Aaya Ram Gaya Ram “ in the Indian polity.
2. It prevents shifting of party allegiance by the members. Thus it provides stability to the government.
3. It promotes party discipline by ensuring that the elected candidates remain loyal to the party.
4. It has the advantage of ensuring loyalty to party manifestos and thus make political party collectively responsible.
5. It provides for greater stability in the body politic by checking the propensity of legislators to change parties.

The politics of defection calls for a relook. The thrust to tackle the problem of defections in Indian politics led towards the birth of an anti-defection law. Though the anti-defection law has been hailed as a bold step towards cleansing our political life and started as a new epoch in the political life of the country, it has revealed many lacunae in its operation and failed to prevent defection.

Q.21) “Rising sexual abuse crime against children is a shame for whole nation and a threat to future of the country.” In light of this discuss the need and significance of Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Salient features of POCSO amendment. Discuss why it is needed and significance of the amendment.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Recently the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2019 was passed with an objective of stopping the rampant sexual abuse of children. The amendment seeks to provide more stringent punishment, including death penalty, for sexual crimes against children. With rising incidents of child sexual abuse, it is important to make stringent provisions according to changing time as done in the amendment.

Salient Features of the POCSO Amendment Act:

1. It is for the first time in the history of anti-sexual crimes against children law that the death penalty has been introduced.
2. The Act provides for not less than 20 years of rigorous imprisonment extending up to the rest of natural life of the convict or death and fine in the cases of aggravated sexual assault.
3. Aggravated sexual assault has been defined as sexual crimes by people who are in positions of trust and authority. It could be the manager of a child shelter home, school principal, doctor or the hospital staff and even a family member.
4. The act provides that if there has been a penetrative sexual assault with any child less than 16 years of age, that will be punishable with not less than 20 years of rigorous imprisonment extendable to the remainder of natural life.
5. The other significant feature is the introduction of the definition of child pornography for the first time.

Need of the amendment:

1. Child pornography is rising with sharing of nude contents of a child who is not considered mature until 18 years of age.
2. Only a fraction of the incidences of sexual abuse against children enters the criminal justice system, amongst which only a minuscule fraction end in a conviction. The 2016 data of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) said that only 11% of the total of POCSO cases have been decided by the trial courts in that year, which meant that 89% of the cases were still pending across the country.
3. Statistics released by the National Crime Records Bureau also reveals that there has been a steady increase in sexual crimes against children.
4. According to a study conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development in 2007, over half of the children surveyed reported having faced some form of sexual abuse.
5. One in ten children is being sexually abused under 18 years of age. 53% of children in India face some form of sexual abuse.

Significance of the amendment:

1. The amendment is expected to discourage the trend of child sexual abuse by acting as a deterrent due to strong penal provisions incorporated in the Act.
2. It intends to protect the interest of vulnerable children in times of distress and ensures their safety and dignity.
3. The amendment is aimed to establish clarity regarding the aspects of child abuse and punishment thereof.
4. It is gender-neutral and thus looks into the sexual assault of both minor boys and girls.
5. The amendment seeks for the death penalty for aggravated sexual assault on children to create deterrent effect.

Way Forward:

1. Problems related to implementation of POCSO Act such as lack of adequate special courts, lack of sensitisation for investigators and prosecutors in dealing with child victims, poor rate of convictions etc. need to be resolved urgently.
 2. The Supreme Court direction to set up special courts within 60 days of the order in each district having more than 100 pending cases under the act must be complied with urgently.
 3. The provision of death penalty should be widely discussed and debated and should be used only for the rarest of the rare cases.
 4. Awareness and sensitisation of people is equally important to prevent the crime itself.
 5. Proper police training and a dedicated children cell at stations as that of a women cell. Strict action must be taken against the police officer found guilty of obstructing the probe or colluding with perpetrators of such cases.
 6. Children should be given a platform and proper environment to speak against such abuse.
- Providing sex education to children, which is neglected in India. This makes them more aware of various protective laws, good touch-bad touch etc.

POCSO amendment is a welcome step but society itself also have to take the responsibility of preventing child abuse and stay vigil. Without this, we cannot achieve all the promises that we had as a nation at the time of Independence. We must collectively rise to the occasion and create a safe India for our children.

Q.22) Comment on the significance of farmers union in India. What are various challenges faced by them?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Significance of farmers unions. Challenges faced by them.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Farmers unions are a group of farmers that work for the cause of farmers and try to solve various issues related to farming. In India The Bharatiya Kisan Sangh (BKS), All India Krantikari Kisan Sabha, All India Agragamee Kisan Sabha, Rythu Rakshana Vedika, Bharat Beej Swaraj Manch are some of farmers union. They work by putting pressure on the government, using media, pushing for structural reforms etc.

Significance of farmers union:

1. Farmers Union, supports and encourages local and regional food systems.
2. They represent family farmers and consumers on issues such as energy and food security, agriculture sustainability, rural development, and environmental conservation.
3. They stand against monopolies in our food system, and it advocates for truth in labelling, competitive markets, a level playing field, and access to markets for our family farmers.
4. Farmers union educates farmers on issues such as food safety.
5. They supports and encourages the development of cooperative businesses.
6. They work for fair food prices for both farmers and consumers involving, educating and empowering rural youth for a better future.
7. They help in building healthy, vibrant rural communities, ensuring an adequate supply of safe, nutritious food.
8. They help to achieve the reduction of costs and other measures designed to increase the economic benefits of farming.
9. They strive to promote a higher standard of community life in agriculture.

Challenges faced by farmers union in India:

1. The unions focus only on limited issues with a narrow vision.
2. These unions often face political interference. Affiliation to political parties has been a poisonous pill for the unions.
3. Illiteracy of farmers is a big challenge faced by these unions in order to help farmers about their rights and needs.
4. Funding is a big issue faced by the unions. There are very few organisations ready to lend to these unions.
5. Lack of scientific management, government support has led to hurdles in the functioning of these unions.

Way forward:

1. The unions have to expand their scope to include all the issues that have a strong bearing on the future of farmers' livelihoods.
2. The state of the national economy, governance issues, transparency, government revenue collections and allocation of resources need to be equally focused.
3. Equally critical are issues like the rupee exchange rate, relative inflation and improving nutrition by generating consumer demand for fruits, vegetables and proteins in India, which is amongst the lowest in the world.

The farmers unions help to protect and enhance the economic well-being and quality of life for farmers and rural communities. They work for promoting legislation and education beneficial to farmers, and by developing cooperative buying and selling methods and businesses. These unions are key to farmers' welfare and their cause.

Q.23) "The newly passed amendment to the Citizenship Act redefines the way migrants can become Indian citizens." In light of this discuss various concerns related to it. Why such an amendment is needed?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Key features and need of the amendment act. Concerns related to the amendment.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Citizenship refers to the full and equal membership of any political community. Citizens of a nation enjoy particular civil and political rights in a sovereign state. Recently, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 eased norms for religious minorities from neighbouring nations (non-muslims) to get Indian citizenship by amending the age-old Citizenship Act, 1955.

Key features of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019:

1. It says that Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan will not be treated as illegal immigrants even when they have entered India without valid documents.
2. It includes a separate column in the citizenship form for applicants belonging to these 6 communities from those 3 countries.
3. They will not be deported as illegal immigrants under the Passport (Entry into India) Act of 1920 and the Foreigners Act of 1946.
4. The amendment reduces the period of residency from 12 years (as mentioned in the Citizenship Act, 1955) to 7 years, for acquiring permanent citizenship through naturalisation.
5. It also empowers the government to withdraw registration as OCI due to any violation of the Citizenship Act or any other laws.

Need for the amendment:

1. Many persons of Indian origin including persons belonging to the minority communities had been unsuccessfully applying for citizenship under the Citizenship Act of 1955 but were unable to produce proof of their Indian origin. These refugees have been facing difficulty in getting Long Term Visa (LTV) or Citizenship.
2. It is needed to provide relief to the victims of the partition (Hindu-Bengalis) who got stuck in East-Pakistan (Bangladesh) in early years. The religious minorities in Bangladesh are being persecuted by non-state actors (Islamic extremists). Many have crossed borders and settled down in Border States illegally and they remain stateless for years now. Thus the amendment would prove to be a huge relief for those people.
3. The constitutions of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh provide for a specific state religion. As a result, many persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian communities have faced persecution on grounds of religion in those countries. The amendment will safeguard their interests.

Concerns related to the amendment act:

1. **Violation of Right to Equality:** The bill violates the Right to Equality (Article 14) as it seeks to grant citizenship to illegal migrants on the basis of religion. **For example,** Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar, Ahmadiyya and Shia Muslims from Pakistan and Uighur Muslims from China who face religious persecution have been overlooked.
2. **Against the Basic Structure of the Constitution:** Critics argue that the bill undermines secularism and is thus against the Basic Structure of the Constitution. Secularism as a basic structure has been reiterated by the Supreme Court in *S R Bommai vs. Union of India* (1994).
3. **Violation of Assam Accord:** Section 6A of the Citizenship Act relates to provisions for citizenship of people covered by the Assam Accord. The bill would undermine the rights of indigenous Assamese people and would be in violation of Clause 6 of Assam accord which ensures constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, to protect, preserve and promote the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.
4. **Conflict with NRC:** CAB is in direct conflict with National Citizens Register (NRC) in Assam where cut-off date is 1971. Assamese are fearful of the fact that most Hindu migrants from Bangladesh are Bengali speaking and with the new cut-off date, Assam's culture and language will be threatened by Bengali speaking population which will increase by large numbers.
5. **Vague procedure:** The amendment allows cancellation of OCI registration for violation of any law. But the offences covered under this have not been mentioned, hence, OCI can be cancelled for petty offences. e.g. not paying a parking ticket if issued one
6. **Fails on the tenets of international refugee law:** Although India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, granting refuge based on humanitarian considerations is arguably a norm of customary international law. The bill considers persecuted minorities as migrants whereas word migration refers to the voluntary movement of people, primarily for better economic prospects. Contrarily, refuge is an involuntary act of forced movement.
7. **Concerns over Insurgency:** The North Eastern states have vehemently opposed the amendment over concerns that citizenship to illegal migrants would pose a threat to their cultural and linguistic identity and put a strain on resources and economic opportunities. There have already been widespread protests in NE states which further arise concerns over insurgency.

Alleged illegal migration from Bangladesh has been at the heart of Assam's discontent. Not just the Muslim Bengali, but the Hindu Bengali has also been a reason for political mobilisation in the state. But only Hindu Bengalis are being favoured by the amendment act. While Hindus, Parsis, Sikhs, Buddhists and Christians might be naturalised, Muslims will not be offered the same advantage even if they are persecuted. Government must consider suffering Muslims to be included from the vulnerable countries like Myanmar.

Q.24) Discuss various reasons behind Brexit. How Brexit would impact India?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Causes of brexit. It's impact on India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Brexit is the scheduled withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU). Britain has been seeking exit from the EU due to various reasons like increasing

number of refugees into Europe, rising security threats, less control over rules and regulations, financial issues etc. The arguments in favour of Brexit have been not only been in British parliament but are also supported by British citizens.

Various causes of Brexit:

1. **Sovereignty:** Although the British Government has an influence in some form in selecting the members to the European Commission, the members are neither under the influence nor accountable to the British Parliament. Some of the policy decisions such as competition policy, agriculture, copyright and patent law go against the interests of Britain (these laws override the domestic laws). This weakness of being unable to take decisions in Britain's interests has led to support for Brexit.
2. **Overriding regulations:** Some of the regulations such as limits on the power of vacuum cleaners, non-recycling of tea bags etc have often been seen as a burden by some of the conservatives in Britain. These limits and regulations acted against the British interests and has adversely impacted British economy, leading to rise of voice for Brexit.
3. **Failure of Euro:** Although Euro is the common currency for the EU, Britain still uses pound as its currency. The problem with the euro as a common currency has also been exposed wherein on one side countries such as Greece and Spain are suffering from high debt, high unemployment, whereas other countries such as Germany are enjoying higher growth. Thus it has not helped Britain interests much.
4. **Immigration:** Britain is not a signatory to the Schengen Border free zone. Over the last ten years there has been quite an opposition towards migration into the country from within the EU and its effects on wages and public services especially post 2008 recession wherein the workers from Lithuania, Poland, Italy, Romania etc have moved to Britain.
5. **Financial burden:** Although EU doesn't have the powers to collect the taxes from the people directly, it mandates member countries to make payments. In the case of Britain it comes around \$19 billion per year or \$300/person. Although the funds are again used on Britain, the Brexit supporters say, the money could be used more efficiently, if Britain is out of the EU.
6. **Security concerns:** The rising threat of terrorism in Europe which is exaggerated by EU's inability to keep the area secure has led to Britain to get out of EU. Refugee crisis in Europe has added to the security concerns.

Impact of brexit on India: There are both positive and negative consequences and Impact of Brexit on India. India being more of an importing country than an exporting nation, the overall effect may turn out positive for India.

Positive Impacts of the Brexit referendum on India	Negative Impacts of the Brexit referendum on India
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With lower pound value, Indian companies would be able to acquire many hi-tech assets. 2. Brexit would give a boost to trade ties between India and the UK. 3. Britain will now be free to discuss a bilateral trade pact with India. 4. Due to the fall in the value of Pound sterling, those who import from the UK will gain. Indian export companies operating in the UK may also gain. 5. More Indian tourists can afford to visit 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There may be foreign fund outflow and dollar rise making Indian imports costly. 2. Rupee may depreciate because of the double effect of foreign fund outflow and dollar rise. 3. This may increase petrol and diesel prices to an extent. Prices of gold, electronic goods, among others may also increase. 4. The falling value of the pound could render several existing contracts loss-making. 5. Foreign funds are likely to move out if the world outside thinks that investment in India

Britain in the coming days as the currency value has fallen.	is risky.
6. More Indian students can afford to study in Britain (for higher education) as the fees may seem cheaper.	6. Many Indian companies are listed on the London Stock Exchange and many have European headquarters in London. Brexit will take away this advantage.
7. Britain will need a steady inflow of talented labour, from which India would gain the most due to its English-speaking population.	7. Due to fall in the value of Pound sterling, Indian exports to the UK will suffer. Cheaper rupee will make Indian exports, including the IT and ITeS, competitive.

Various factors have contributed to the Brexit. The effect of BREXIT on the global economy coupled with weakening/depreciating currencies of various countries will make it harder for recovery and in case of India, due to some stability in the fundamentals of the domestic economy and huge forex reserves position, the effect of BREXIT can be minimised, but the effect would be felt for a short term.

Q.25) Critically analyse the progress made in resolving stressed assets since the enactment of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). Suggest some measures to improve it further.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Success of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. Issues related to it. Measures to improve the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Insolvency is a state of financial distress in which someone is unable to pay their bills. Bankruptcy is a legal proceeding involving a person or business that is unable to repay outstanding debts. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code is the bankruptcy law of India which seeks to consolidate the existing framework by creating a single law for insolvency and bankruptcy. The code aims to protect the interests of small investors and make the process of doing business less cumbersome.

Success of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):

1. The IBC has initiated a cultural shift in the dynamics between lender and borrower, promoter and creditor. It played a critical role in reshaping behaviour of borrowers.
2. Before enactment of the IBC, the recovery mechanisms available to lenders were through Lok Adalat, Debt Recovery Tribunal and SARFAESI Act. While the earlier mechanisms resulted in a low average recovery of 23%, the recoveries have risen to 43% under the IBC regime.
3. Since enactment of the IBC, India significantly improved its 'Resolving Insolvency' ranking 108 in 2019 from 134 in 2014 where it remained stagnant for several years.
4. India won the Global Restructuring Review award for the most improved jurisdiction in 2018.
5. An IMF-World Bank study in January 2018 observed that India is moving towards a new state-of-the-art bankruptcy regime.
6. Insolvency law has led to stability in financial systems.
7. Recovery through the IBC was about Rs 70,000 crore in fiscal 2019 twice the amount recovered through other resolution mechanisms such as the Debt Recovery Tribunal,

Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, and Lok Adalat in fiscal 2018.

8. The recovery rate is also twice the liquidation value for these 94 cases, which underscores the value maximisation possible through the IBC process.

Issues that need attention:

1. The number of cases admitted through Lok Adalats and DRTs have declined significantly post introduction of the IBC. Given the very small threshold limit of Rs 1 lakh, operational creditors seem to be more aggressive in dragging the corporate debtor into the NCLT, eating up the bandwidth of the court and thereby delaying resolution of the bigger cases and defying the main objective of the IBC.
2. It is observed that more than 23% of the admitted companies ended with liquidation. As companies are admitted into liquidation, the employees on the rolls of the company are only cumulatively compensated till the resolution process is completed, while the contractual employees are downsized. It is also observed that sectors such as construction and electricity, where there are no hard assets, are also being dragged to the NCLT and such companies are mostly liquidated.
3. At the heart of the IBC legislation was its time-bound approach to resolving insolvency cases. But the time bound process has led to increased cases of liquidity.
4. Several lenders are unsure of their stance. Some promoters are trying every legal device to retain their firms, and the very process frequently getting caught in a judicial quagmire.
5. Bankruptcy courts have been over-burdened with realty cases because even a lone homebuyer can file one.
6. So far, creditors of a company undergoing insolvency proceedings have been at liberty to negotiate with bidders on a case-to-case basis. This leads to bids and counter-bids and bank officials are chased leading to litigation.

Measures needed:

1. There is need for setting up more tribunals in different parts of the country to handle the greater-than-expected volume of cases.
2. IBC must consider that there are distinct advantages if the existing management is allowed to keep running the company such as knowledge, information and expertise.
3. The banks also must push policy makers towards this move because they're unlikely to get more if the case comes before the NCLT.
4. Proactive training of judges, lawyers, and other intermediaries is necessary for effective implementation of the code.
5. Technological infrastructure needs to be strengthened to avoid any kind of data loss and to maintain confidentiality.
6. Apart from this courts must avoid intervening routinely, unless key points of law need clarification.
7. Lack of sufficient number of resources in terms of IPs, benches, judicial members, technical members at NCLT needs to be addressed.

Insolvency and bankruptcy code has been a success. But some issues still remain. It has been amended accordingly. Recently, the Supreme Court has increased the time limit for the corporate resolution to extend beyond the mandated 330 days. However, proactive seeking and acting on feedback from other stakeholders is needed, as testified by the fact that the IBC has undergone two major amendments already due to various issues and loopholes.

Q.26) What measures have been taken by the government to create a conducive environment for the disabled community? Discuss various reasons for limited impact of such initiatives.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Measures have been taken by the government for disabled community. Reasons for limited impact of the measures.

Conclusion. Way forward.

One billion people, or 15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability, and disability prevalence is higher for developing countries. As per Census 2011, in India, out of the 121 Cr population, about 2.68 Cr persons are 'disabled' which is 2.21% of the total population. The Constitution of India ensures equality, freedom, justice and dignity of all individuals and implicitly mandates an inclusive society for all, including persons with disabilities. Although government has taken various legal and welfare initiatives for the cause of disables, there has been a limited impact to further their rights.

Measures taken by government for the disabled community:

Legal and welfare measures	Schemes and other initiatives
Rights of persons with disabilities act: The act, increased number of include disabilities from 7 to 21, made provision for reservation in higher education and government jobs, free education for children between 6 to 18 years.	Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana: For providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category.
Mental Healthcare Act 2017: to protect, promote and fulfill the rights of mentally challenged during delivery of mental healthcare and services.	Scheme for Implementation of Persons with Disabilities act (SIPDA): To provide financial assistance to the states for implementation of act.
The Rehabilitation Council of India Act, 1992: The Council act regulates and monitors the training of rehabilitation professionals and personnel and promotes research in rehabilitation and special education.	Accessible India Campaign: To help make buildings and other infrastructure disabled friendly.
The National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999: To enable and empower persons with disability to live as independently and as fully as possible within and as close to the community to which they belong.	Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP) Scheme: provides for distribution of aids and assistive devices.
Institutional measure: A separate Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities was carved out of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	Sugamya Pustakalaya: Online library for persons with disabilities.
Financial measure: Establishment of National fund for Person with disabilities.	National Action Plan for Skill development which aims to cover 2.5 million persons with disabilities by the year 2022 through various stakeholders.

Corporate Social responsibility: For enabling and empowering disabled persons.	Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme: Promote Voluntary Action by releasing grant-in aid to NGOs.
Research: Setting up of Indian Sign language research and training centre to benefit persons with hearing disabilities.	Educational measures: Various scholarship schemes have been introduced for disabled students at different educational levels. 5% reservation is provided to disabled in higher education.

Why such initiatives and efforts have had limited impact?

1. In India, the number of disabled population is large. Social stigma attached to the disabled and people's attitudes towards them is the main cause of a limited impact.
2. There is a lack of data on prevalence and instances of disabled in the country". Further, there is also a lack of universal definition of who constitute the disabled.
3. As there is no direct mortality associated with various types of disabilities, they remain at the bottom of the government's priority list. Thus the treatment and prevention of disability does not demand much attention.
4. Corruption and mis-management of funds allocated for schemes lead to poor implementation. Also, the budgetary allocation for the implementation of the welfare schemes has been less.

Way forward:

1. Preventive health programs need to be strengthened and all children screened at a young age. Kerala has already started an early prevention programme.
2. People with disabilities need to be better integrated into society by overcoming stigma. There should be awareness campaigns to educate and aware people about different kinds of disability
Success stories of people with disabilities can be showcased to inculcate positive attitude among people.
3. Disabled adults need to be empowered with employable skills. The private sector needs to be encouraged to employ them.
4. State-wise strategies on education for children with special needs need to be devised. There should be proper teacher training to address the needs of differently-abled children and facilitate their inclusion in regular schools
5. Safety measures like road safety, safety in residential areas, public transport system etc, should be taken up. Further, it should be made legally binding to make buildings disabled-friendly
6. More budgetary allocation for welfare of the disabled. There should be a disability budgeting on line of gender budget.
7. Proper implementation of schemes should be ensured. There should be proper monitoring mechanisms and accountability of public funds.

Attitudinal barriers ingrained as part of India's historical response to disability must be changed through education programs for both teachers and the general populace. These programs require financial and collaborative commitment from key national and state education stakeholders, and partnership with universities to support research-based initiatives. In a country like India mainstreaming of these people is challenging issue. For achieving this task it's necessary to change public attitudes, remove social stigma, provide barrier free environment, needs reformation in the area of policy and institutional level.

Q.27) What are the salient features of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan? Discuss various issues related to the scheme. (GS 2)

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Salient features of PM-AASHA. Various issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) is a recently launched scheme that guarantees Minimum support price (MSP) to the farmers. The scheme is an effort of the government's commitment to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce as announced in the Union Budget for 2018.

Salient features of Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan: The scheme comprises of three sub-schemes viz.

1. **Price Support Scheme (PSS):** Under this physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and Copra to be done by Central Nodal Agencies in collaboration with state governments.

- Both National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) and Food Corporation of India (FCI) to take up PSS operations in states.
- As per norms, the central government will bear the procurement expenditure and losses due to procurement.

2. **Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS):** This is based on the recommendations of NITI Aayog which suggested "Price Deficiency Payment" for implementation of MSP in crops where procurement is poor.

- Direct payment of the difference between the MSP and the selling price will be made to pre-registered farmers selling their produce in the notified market yard and thus it does not involve any physical procurement.
- The aim of the scheme is to provide compensation to farmers for agriculture products whenever its price falls below the announced Minimum support price (MSP) and thereby protecting them from losses suffered on account of distress sale.
- All payments will be done directly into registered bank accounts of the farmers.

3. **Pilot of Private Procurement & Stockist Scheme (PPPS):** Under this scheme, participation of the private sector in procurement operations will be piloted. States have the option to roll out the scheme on a pilot basis in selected districts/APMCs involving private stockists.

Issues and Challenges:

1. **Procurement Infrastructure:** The NITI Aayog in its 2016 evaluation report highlighted that the procurement infrastructure in India is inadequate. However, recent initiatives under PM-AASHA have not focused on improving the procurement infrastructure.

2. **Distribution System:** Another important concern is the lack of an efficient distribution system. For example, NAFED has a stock of 4 million tonnes of pulses and oil seeds because of previous 2 years' procurement. However, their distribution policy is still non-existent.

3. **Undue benefit to traders:** Critics has also raised concerns over price manipulation by traders. The rural trader has great clout in the present political set-up and can manipulate prices.

4. **Procurement by Private Players:** Previously, FCI and state agencies have engaged private companies for procurement of wheat and paddy from farmers at MSP. However, the

process has not been smooth and the companies have taken years to get their expenses reimbursed by the government.

5. **Funding:** Due to depressed prices in open market, NAFED incurred losses since 2012 and amounted to about Rs. 1,083 crores. The funding and financial condition of NAFED is a major concern over successful implementation of Price support scheme.

Way Forward:

1. Efficient implementation will be the key to the success of PM-AASHA. The government should ensure hassle-free and easy registration of farmers.
2. The scheme should target small and marginal farmers so as to improve their economic condition.
3. The government should effectively check price manipulation by traders. The Centre first needs to break the trader lobbies at mandis. This could be done by widening the competition by inter-linking mandis.
4. Further, it is of paramount importance to improve procurement infrastructural facilities.
5. Income support measures should be taken for farmers to alleviate farm distress.

In the Union Budget 2018, the Government had relayed its commitment to the vision of doubling farmers' income by 2022. To enable the same, the government initiated several market reforms with emphasis on enhancing productivity, reducing the cost of cultivation and strengthening post-harvesting management, including market structure. PM-AASHA is such an initiative and must be implemented in spirit.

Q.28) What are the important functions of the Finance Commission? Discuss the terms of reference of the 15th finance commission and various apprehensions about it.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Functions of finance Commission. Key terms of references of 15th Finance Commission and various apprehensions.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Finance Commission is a statutory, independent, non-political body set up by President of India every five years (or earlier) under Article 280 of the Constitution. The Finance Commission of India came into existence in 1951. It was established to define the financial relations between the centre and the state.

Functions of the Finance Commission: Article 280 (3) speaks about the functions of the Finance Commission. The Article states that it shall be the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to:

1. The net tax proceeds distribution to be divided between the Centre and the states, and the allocation of the same between states. The Commission decides the basis for sharing the divisible taxes by the centre and the states and the principles that govern the grants-in-aid to the states every five years.
2. The principles governing the grants-in-aid to the states by the Centre out of the consolidated fund of India.

3. The steps required to extend the consolidated fund of the state to boost the resources of the panchayats and the municipalities of the state on the basis of the recommendations made by the state Finance Commission.
4. Any matter in the interest of sound finance may be referred to the Commission by the President.
5. As per the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, the FC has all the powers of a Civil Court. It can call witnesses, ask for the production of a public document or record from any office or court.

Key Terms of Reference (ToR) of 15th Finance Commission: The mandate of the Finance Commission is defined by its ToR:

1. Review the current status of finance, deficit, debt levels, and cash balances and fiscal discipline efforts of the Union and the States.
2. Recommending a fiscal consolidation roadmap for sound fiscal management.
3. Take into account the responsibility of the Central Government and State Governments to adhere to appropriate levels of general and consolidated government debt and deficit levels.
4. Foster higher inclusive growth in the country, guided by the principles of equity, efficiency and transparency.
5. Examine whether revenue deficit grants be provided at all.
6. Review the present arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives, with reference to the funds constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (53 of 2005), and make appropriate recommendations thereon.
7. Other key issues for consideration by the commission are as under:
 - Impact on the fiscal situation of the Union Government of substantially enhanced tax devolution to States following recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, coupled with the continuing imperative of the national development programme including New India-2022.
 - Impact of the GST, including payment of compensation for possible loss of revenues for 5 years, and abolition of a number of cesses.
 - Efforts and progress made in moving towards replacement rate of population growth.
 - Progress made in increasing tax/non-tax revenues, promoting savings by adoption of Direct Benefit Transfers and Public Finance Management System, promoting digital economy and removing layers between the government and the beneficiaries.
 - Progress made in sanitation, solid waste management and bringing in behavioural change to end open defecation.

Various apprehensions about the terms of reference of 15th FC:

1. Revenue deficit grants are additional transfers made to states to fill the gap between the state's revenue share and expenditure- Gap filling approach of fiscal transfer. These grants are given under Article 275(1). Critics argue that denial of revenue deficit grants conflict with the mandate of the finance commission.
2. The gap filling approach has been widely criticised for the adverse incentives that it generates. Economists like C. Rangarajan argues that it's better to discontinue the gap filling approach and recommend grants based on better principles.
3. While the terms of reference for the 14th Finance Commission were to use the 1971 Census data for determining devolution of taxes, duties and grants-in-aid. The Central government asked the 15th Finance Commission's ToR to use the 2011 data. This move would result in lower resource allocation to the southern States.

Way Forward: Economist C. Rangarajan suggests a Comprehensive equalisation approach through:

1. Proper estimation of states fiscal capacities reflecting their tax base: both GST taxes and non-GST taxes to be considered.
2. Proper assessment of expenditure needs of states is needed. Needs, cost and special needs must be incorporated.
3. Efficient fiscal transfer to ensure equity among states, balanced regional development, stability and integrity in the federal structure and uphold cooperative federalism.
4. FC has to ensure that the poorer states have adequate resources to promote socio-economic development, critical infrastructure, balanced regional development etc.

The FC allocation helps in providing economic and social services to the population. There is no denying that the rich states will have to help the poorer states but the developmental gap has not narrowed even after providing the assistance for decades. The reduction of funds going to states may not necessarily mean a bad thing as the central government is more important in terms of industrial growth, inter-generational concerns, environmental concerns etc. as in such cases the centre is suited better compared to the states to take care of the issues.

Q.29) "Section 124A of IPC has become as a tool of oppression to suppress the voice of many" Do you agree? Discuss whether it should be scrapped from India's law book or not.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. How sedition law is an oppressive mechanism? Why it should be abolished? Need of continuation of Section 124A.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Sedition is an offence incorporated into the Section 124A of Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 1870. Section 124A of the IPC says that whoever by words either spoken or written or by signs attempts to bring into hatred or contempt or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law, has committed the offence of sedition. The offence is punishable with imprisonment for life.

Section 124A, IPC- an oppressive mechanism:

1. According to the National Crime Records Bureau 35 cases of sedition (all over India) were reported in 2016. Many of these cases did not involve violence or incitement to violence. Figures reveal that in the two years preceding the JNU case, there were a total of 77 sedition cases.
2. It is very often under criticism because Centre and the States have invoked the section against activists, detractors, writers and even cartoonist seeking to silence political dissent by accusing dissenters of promoting disaffection.
3. It has been invoked against several public personalities, particularly those critical of the government such as against Assamese scholar, Dr. Hiren Gohain, for allegedly saying at a public meeting that demand for sovereignty might arise if the Centre ignores the voices of the Assamese people against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill.
4. The main reason behind the continuation of Sedition act after independence was to prevent the misuse of free speech (reasonable restrictions) that would be aimed at inciting

hatred and violence, but it is used to curb any dissent or criticism of government or government policies.

5. Beyond the high-profile urban cases, the reach of Section 124-A has extended even to faraway places. An entire village in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu had sedition cases slapped against it for resisting a nuclear power project.

6. Instead of critically analysing why citizens, be they in Kashmir or Chhattisgarh or Bhima Koregaon, are driven to dissent, the government is using an iron-fist policy with the sedition law playing a leading role to completely shut out contrarian views.

Why it should be abolished?

1. **Colonial tool:** It was introduced by the British to suppress the freedom struggle and its existence at present is not justified. Britain itself abolished it 10 years ago, then why India still have the section alive.

2. **Inconsistent with international conventions:** India ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and misuse of sedition law under Section 124A and the arbitrary slapping of charges are inconsistent with the ICCPR.

3. **Against freedom of speech:** Section 124A has been invoked against activists, detractors, writers and even cartoonists on several occasions to suppress their freedom of speech and expression. Article 19 (1) of Indian constitution provides freedom of speech as a fundamental right. Section 124A is against Article 19 (1).

4. **Improper definition:** As pointed by the Law Commission of India, is that the definition of sedition does not take into consideration disaffection towards (a) the Constitution, (b) the legislatures, and (c) administration of justice, all of which would be as disastrous to the security of the State.

Need of continuation of Section 124A:

1. **Misuse of freedom of speech:** Freedom of speech although is protected through Article 19 (1) but it is not unlimited. Sometimes speech is used as a tool to destabilise country polity and to promote enmity in society. The main reason behind the continuation of Sedition act after independence was to prevent the misuse of free speech (reasonable restrictions) that would be aimed at inciting hatred and violence.

2. **Internal security:** Maoist insurgency and rebel groups virtually run a parallel administration, it would be dangerous to abolish it. These groups openly advocate the overthrow of the state government by revolution. Thus keeping section 124A is important for Indian security.

3. **Destabilising polity:** Sometimes, propaganda and facts are modified and used to destabilise the country's peace and polity by deliberately targeting government actions.

Way Forward:

1. In 1962, the Supreme Court decided on the constitutionality of Section 124A in **Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar**. It upheld the constitutionality of sedition, but limited its application to acts involving intention or tendency to create disorder, or disturbance of law and order, or incitement to violence. It distinguished these from "very strong speech" or the use of "vigorous words" strongly critical of the government.

2. Similarly, in 1995, the Supreme Court, in **Balwant Singh v State of Punjab**, held that mere sloganeering which evoked no public response does not amount to sedition, for which a more overt act was required. Thus, the Supreme Court has consistently held that for the offence of sedition to be satisfied, there has to be a causal relationship between speech and acts of violence, and mere speech, regardless of how subversive it is, does not amount to sedition.

3. Every irresponsible exercise of the right to free speech and expression cannot be termed seditious. While it is essential to protect national integrity, it should not be misused as a tool to curb free speech.
4. Dissent and criticism are essential ingredients of a robust public debate on policy issues as part of a vibrant democracy. Therefore, every restriction on free speech and expression must be carefully scrutinised to avoid unwarranted restrictions.

Freedom of Speech and Expression is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(a). Article 19(2) imposed reasonable restrictions. To call for the overthrow of a stale and fearful social system is not sedition. To uphold the idea of democracy that the founders of the Constitution envisioned, India should deliberately avoid using the word sedition from its statute books and everyday vocabulary. Hoping that reason prevails over politics when it comes to freedom.

Q.30) “Growing Chinese presence in Indo-Pacific region demands a proactive Indian foreign policy.” Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Discuss increasing presence of China in Indo-Pacific. How India should tackle Chinese dominance?

Conclusion. Way forward.

The term ‘Indo-Pacific’ has gained currency as a new construct in recent times. The Indo-Pacific provides a geographic and strategic expanse, with the two oceans being linked together by the ten ASEAN countries. Security in the region is a must through dialogue to ensure a common rules-based order, freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce in accordance with international law. India supports a rules-based, balanced, and stable trade environment in the Indo-Pacific region. Sustainable connectivity initiatives promoting mutual benefit should be continually fostered.

Chinese threat and increasing presence:

1. The Chinese regime claims that it has historical ownership over nearly the entire region, which gives it the right to manufacture islands, declare defensive perimeters around its artificial islands, and to chase ships from other nations out of the South China Sea. The International Court of Arbitration rejected the claim in 2016.
2. China considers disputes in the South China Sea as territorial disputes and therefore considers that UNCLOS does not have a locus standi to pass judgement over disputes.
3. China’s increasingly active presence in the Indian Ocean region as well as its efforts to expand geopolitical reach in Asia and beyond by the use of trade and military Demand rule based order to secure India’s interests and free trade. In the present time, the control of sea lanes and ports would be the game.

How India should tackle Chinese dominance?

1. It is important to adhere to freedom of navigation, adherence to rules-based order and stable trade environment. Also for free sea and air lanes, connectivity and upholding international rules and norms. India should proactively support this stance at multinational platforms.

2. India should focus on the link between Indo-China border area and the East China Sea. It is important for India to cooperate with Japan and the US to deal with Chinese front. Japan and the US are willing to support India's efforts to modernize its defence in the Indo-China border area.
3. Japan, the US and Australia should share the know-how related with anti-submarine capabilities and enhance India's military preparedness.
4. Furthermore, developing infrastructure in other countries of the region is useful too. E.g. the Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), a result of Indo-Japanese cooperation, will counter China's growing influence in Africa.
5. India needs to have maritime alliances like Quad (India, Australia, the US and Japan) with different countries including US to protect its interests in the South China Sea without provoking China.
6. Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) is necessary for Indo-Pacific security. MDA implies effective understanding of any activity associated with the maritime environment that could impact upon the security, safety, economy or environment.
7. Strong naval capabilities, multilateral diplomacy, economic integration with nations is necessary for India to meet the challenges within the Indo-Pacific region. India needs to stick to its vision of the Indian Ocean i.e. SAGAR- Security and Growth for All in the Region.

The Indo-Pacific region is highly heterogeneous in terms of economic size and level of development, with significant differences in security establishments and resources. India has been an active participant in mechanisms like the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), the East Asia Summit, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Defence Ministers Meeting Plus. Maintaining the delicate balance between the interests of all stakeholders will be a key challenge. Thus, India needs to carefully design its Indo-Pacific policy while keeping its long-term strategic and economic interests in mind.

Q.31) "Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative." In light of this discuss the measures taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Measures taken by the Government to reap the demographic dividend.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Demographic dividend refers to economic growth potential that results from demographic transition i.e. shift towards increased working age population. The demographic dividend underscores the fact that increased labour supply will increase the production of goods and services on one hand and declining child dependency ratio will boost savings and investment on the other. The labour force participation rate (LFPR) (section of the working population in the age group of 16-64) stood at 49.8% in 2017-18, falling sharply from 55.9% in 2011-12 which is a cause of concern. To reap demographic dividend Government has taken many steps.

Following measures are taken by the Government to reap the demographic dividend:

Measures to enhance skills and productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana to
--	--

	<p>offer meaningful, industry-relevant, skill based training to the Indian youth as well as a government certification on successful completion of training to help them secure a job in future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving expertise to people from minority communities in their traditional arts is done under USTAAD scheme. Enhancing the skills is done under Skill India Mission. Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana aims to educate and equip entrepreneurs. Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) of NITI aayog, focusses on two main sectors — Education and Health and to build three 'Role Model' States.
Improving employability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives as SETU (Self employment and talent utilisation) and Atal Innovation Mission help in fostering innovation Schemes as start up India, stand up India strive towards developing entrepreneurship qualities in people.
Improving educational performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Along with the Right to Education Act, a number of Scholarship schemes are in operation to encourage enrolment and learning levels among different groups. Initiatives such as SWAYAM (MOOC) provide quality education to large number of students. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan aims at providing Universal primary education and retention. Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan aims to correct regional imbalances in higher level education and provide for quality state institutions. Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat aims to improve language development and increase interest in mathematics.
Focus on low-income population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiatives such as Grameen Kaushal Vikaas Yojana focus on skilling rural people in agro-allied industry. Schemes such as Nai Manzil provide integrated input of formal education and skill training along with certification.
Women's employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated the National Literacy Mission to raise the literacy rate to 80% and reduce the gender gap to less than 10%. As demographic transition results in greater women coming into the workforce schemes as relaxed age limit for higher education. Nai Roshni focus on improving leadership qualities of Women.

If India has to reap the benefits of 'demographic dividend' in the years ahead, it is imperative that investments in social infrastructure by way of education, skill development, training and provision of health care facilities are made to enhance productivity of workforce and welfare of the population. Though India has initiated all pertinent programmes and policies, to make the dream of demographic dividend a reality the key lies in their effective and efficient implementation.

Q.32) Discuss various issues related to labour laws in India? Suggest some measures to resolve these issues.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Discuss the Importance of Labour Laws. Various issues related to labour laws. Mention some measures to resolve these issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Labour Law means laws that regulate conditions and well-being of labour. Labour Law in a way define the rights and obligations as workers, union members and employers in the workplace. Labour law covers employment laws, administrative rules and precedents, Industrial relations, workplace health and safety, employment standards, working hours, unfair dismissals, minimum wage etc. which address the legal rights of and restrictions on working people and their organizations. India's complicated labour law regime is in dire need of reform due to various issues.

Importance of Labour Laws:

1. Labour Law is adapted to the economic and social challenges of India. It establishes a legal system that facilitates productive individual and collective employment relationships and therefore a productive economy.
2. It lead to labour welfare by providing a framework within which employers, workers and their representatives can interact with regard to work related issues.
3. It provides a clear and constant reminder and guarantee of fundamental principles and rights at work.

Issues related to labour laws:

1. **Complex law system:** Under the Constitution of India, Labour is a subject in the concurrent list where both the Central and State Governments are competent to enact legislations. As a result, a large number of labour laws have been enacted catering to different aspects of labour e.g. occupational health, safety, employment etc. As a result, it created a lot of redundancy and loopholes in the legal system which paves the way to exploitation of labour. Implementation of this complex system of laws has also become a challenge to limited number of Labour Enforcement Officers in India.
2. **Labour exploitation:** Because of the predominantly heavy handed labour regulations (also called as Inspector Raj) with exploitable gaps, the MNCs and domestic organizations have resorted to alternate ways i.e. employing contract labour at less than half the payroll of a permanent employee. India has 94% of its workforce in its unorganised sector. This huge workforce getting trapped in unorganised sector is largely attributed to our stringent labour laws. Thus labour reforms are needed.
3. **Impact of delay of labour reforms:** The Labour Reforms if not implemented soon, it would take a gross hit on India as an investment destination. Also it would incur huge loss to the economy due to undervalued GDP production. This reflects the dire need for reforms. The data shows that 94% of Labour force in India is in the unorganised sector and that shows how grossly Indian GDP is undervalued. This is so because the income of these people in the workforce is very much less than the permanent workforce for the same output. The improper regulations coupled with complexity have led to misuse of vast Labour of India.
4. **Issue of contract labour:** One of the main reasons for labour reforms is the concept of contract labour. Trade Unions suggest that this concept itself should be removed. There is

stringent hiring and firing process defined in Industry Disputes Act. It makes it mandatory for the organization to seek Government permission before removing an employee.

5. Issue of apprenticeship: Another major weakness in current labour reforms is less focus on apprenticeship. Our education system is not responsive to the needs of the market therefore apprenticeship becomes important.

Measures needed:

1. Simplification and consolidation of labour laws apart would be an important step in the process of efficient implementation of the existing laws.
2. The government must focus on the key issue of job creation. While the proportion of workers in regular employment has increased, unemployment has reached a 45-year high. In such a situation, the government should be better off building a broader consensus on any major rule changes to existing worker rights rather than rushing through them for the sake of simplification.
3. Labour being in the concurrent list of the Constitution, both central and state government legislate on it. But the State Governments have limited space to enact labour laws to address their own requirements, promoting investment and employment generation. It is in best interest of all to shift labour in State list.
4. Strengthening of enforcement machinery is needed. Increased manpower, improved infrastructure is essential for effective implementation of labour laws.
5. All India Service for labour administration must be formed that will provide professional experts in the field of labour administration.
6. Contract labourers should be covered under workmen's compensation act for accidents, with inflation linked wages and limited social security benefits from employee state insurance act and maternity benefit act extended to them

The road to a \$5 trillion economy by 2025 is beset with many roadblocks, one being various labour issues. Government is trying to push various labour reforms like The Code on Wages, 2019. The Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019 is another such effort which proposes to amalgamate The Trade Unions Act, 1926, The Industrial Employment Act, 1946 and The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Labour reforms are the need of the hour not only as a thrust on Make in India and ease of doing business, but also to ensure the demographic dividend does not turn into a nightmare of unemployment and under-employment.

Q.33) It is said that 'capital punishment provides neither justice nor deterrence against any crime'. Do you agree? Justify your answer.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Arguments for and against death penalty.

Conclusion. Way forward.

A nationwide outrage over the series of incidents of sexual assaults of women has led to increased voice for capital punishment against the criminals. In colonial India, death was prescribed as one of the punishments in the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (IPC). It remained in effect after independence in 1947. Since then 52 people have been executed in India till date according to Government of India Statistics. Whether capital punishment provides justice or act as deterrence against crime needs proper examination.

Arguments in Favour of capital punishment:

1. Retributive justice honours the victim, helps console grieving families and guarantees that the perpetrator never has an opportunity to cause future tragedy.
2. The judgment of the Supreme Court of India in Bachan Singh vs. State of Punjab (1980) made held that Capital punishment in India can be given in rarest of rare cases.
3. The idea of deterrence relies on fact that severe punishments like death penalty will deter the larger public from committing the crime.
4. A guilty must be punished with respect to the severity of the crime. Murder and rape are very severe crimes, death penalty must be imposed on such crimes.
5. The death penalty is needed in law books to contain terrorism. It forms part of the national response against terrorist activities.
6. It prevents recommitting of crimes by repetitive offenders. Convicts of brutal rape and grotesque crimes are capable of repeating the crime after their prison term. Terrorists like Masood Azhar, who had to be released in a flight hijack situation went on to become the mastermind behind the terror attack against Parliament of India in 2001.

Arguments against capital punishment:

1. There are 3 major objectives of punishment i.e., retribution, reformation, and deterrence. The theory of reformation is based on the obligation of society to reform a convicted person. But this objective will be entirely defeated in case of capital punishment since the offender does not continue to live.
2. The report of the Justice J.S. Verma Committee said that capital punishment is a regressive step and may not provide deterrence. The committee recommended the life sentence for the most grievous of crimes.
3. It gives arbitrary power to the government for taking a human life is a violation of the right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the constitution.
4. It aggravates social injustices by targeting people who cannot afford good lawyers.
5. Lifetime jail sentences are more severe and less expensive punishment than death.
6. Human rights activists argue that it is inhumane and barbaric to sentence the criminals with the death penalty.
7. As the death sentence is irrevocable, an innocent person can also be wrongly executed. There is no uniform and fair principle on the execution of convicts on death row.
8. There is no sufficient evidence to prove that the death penalty is any more effective in reducing crime than imprisonment. Notably, Brutal rapes in India have not decreased despite the enforcement of the Criminal law (Amendment) Act, 2013 which prescribes the death penalty and life imprisonment for sexual assaults that result in the victim dead or being reduced to a persistent vegetative state.
8. It reduces the chances of survival of the victim. For example, the death penalty would motivate rapists to do more harm to the victims.

Way forward:

1. Unwarranted delay by police in filing missing person complaints and registering written complaints of sexual assault survivors is one of the major factors for the rising number of crimes without any deterrence.
2. Many sexual harassment cases tend to come under the media spotlight only in extreme cases, such as the one where a child, after being sexually assaulted and left bleeding, was kept waiting for hours at a civil hospital in March 2018.
3. It is the main reason that contributes to the culpability of rapists and nurtures the growing impunity with which sexual crimes are committed. This reality is well captured in National Crime. Records Bureau data that unveils high figures of repeat sexual offenders.

4. India's growing rape culture is best reversed by improving conviction rates via reforms in the police and judicial systems, and by increasing measures to rehabilitate and empower rape survivors. The government should allocate more resources towards establishing fast-track courts, more one-stop crisis centres, proper witness protection, more expansive compensation for rape survivors and the overhaul of current child protection services.

If the experience of the past century is taken as a guide, it is clear that death penalty as a measure to end sexual violence has completely failed. Today, over two-thirds of countries have given up on capital punishment either in law or in practice. The standards by which nations conduct themselves have evolved.

Q.34) "Crime rate against Scheduled castes and scheduled tribe remains high despite various safeguards in place." Examine.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Various safeguards for Scheduled Castes and tribes. Crime against SC and ST.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is committed to the welfare and development of its people in general and of vulnerable sections of society in particular. Equality of status and opportunity to all citizens of the country is guaranteed by the Constitution of India, which also provides that no individual shall be discriminated against on the grounds of religion, caste or sex, etc. Unfortunately, despite the safeguards present for SC and ST, crime against them has not decreased.

Crime against SC/ST:

1. Analysis of data from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) indicated a sharp rise in crimes against Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) and that the crime rates against the communities had jumped eight times (746%) and 12 times (1,160 per cent) respectively in the past decade.

2. As many as 422,799 crimes against dalits or scheduled castes (SCs) and 81,332 crimes against adivasis (STs) were reported between 2006 and 2016.

3. Key findings of the NCRB report:

- India has over 180 million Dalits. A crime is committed against a Dalit every 15 minutes. Six Dalit women are raped every day. Over the last 10 years (2007-2017), there has been a 66% growth in crime against Dalits.
- A total of 40,774 cases were registered under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and other sections of law over alleged crimes against SCs and STs in the year 2016.
- In the case of STs, there were 974 rape cases which constituted 14.8% of all crime against them, followed by assault on women with intent to outrage her modesty with 12.7% (835 cases) and kidnapping and abduction with 2.5% (163 cases).

4. Cow vigilantism has increased. Dalits and Muslims are at the receiving end of this vigilantism. Since Dalits are concentrated in the occupation of leather making from hides of the cow, they are invariably targeted by vigilantes.

5. In a society like India, where caste structures are still dominant in the form of endogamy, honour killings are prevalent on a wide scale. In **Lata Singh vs. the State of UP**, Supreme Court has opined that inter-caste marriages are in the national interest as they destroy the caste system. **Bhagwan Dass v. Delhi** deemed honour killings in the "rarest of rare"

category of crimes that deserve the death penalty. Unfortunately, it turned out to have no deterrent.

6. Identity politics, from leaders among Dalits themselves, began to express itself. Urbanisation and other opportunities followed by 1990 reforms lead to improvement in Dalits life. This resurgence was met with violent clashes among upper castes/OBCs and Dalits. But Dalits were at the receiving end of almost all these atrocities like Khairlanji massacre in Maharashtra 2008, Bhima-Koregaon violence in Maharashtra 2017 and very recent Una violence.

Reasons for Crime against SC/ST:

1. Caste discrimination still exists and not much has changed. It is taking new forms that has led to crimes against dalits from time to time.
2. Another factor contributing to the spike in anti-Dalit violence is rising living standards of Dalits, which appears to have led to a backlash from historically privileged communities. A 2014 research paper showed that an increase in the consumption expenditure ratio of SCs/STs to that of upper castes is associated with an increase in crimes committed by the latter against the former.
3. The increase in crime rates is also a reporting effect. More crimes against Dalits are being reported and registered.
4. SC and ST are viewed as enjoying all the privileges through reservation, thereby leading to a feeling of hatred for them.

What needs to be done?

1. SC/ST commission should start a national helpline number for any harassment on the basis of caste.
2. Improving the training of police officers in dealing with POA cases so that they can solve the cases without any pressure or prejudice.
3. Increasing awareness about several legal remedies and different rights available to the marginalised community.
4. Use of audio-video recording to collect evidence.
5. State Protection of a witness is a must in order to raise voice against atrocities.

Based on data it shows that it is mostly ineffective implementation of the act that is leading to atrocities rather than misuse. The most crucial thing for ending discrimination and improving fraternity is a consistent societal action to change the entrenched caste rigidity. The government should take proactive measures to improve the participation of people from SC/ST community in decision making and government functioning.

Q.35) Discuss various measures undertaken by the government to curb and control black money. To what extent have these measures been able to address the problem of black money in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Measures taken to curb and control black money. Their success and failure.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Government's white paper defines Black money as the aggregates of incomes which are taxable but not reported to the tax authorities either during generation or possession. The

Government has taken several measures to effectively control and curb the prevalence of parallel economy and unaccounted transactions. Black money is posing serious challenge to the security of India.

Measures taken to curb and control black money:

1. **Income declaration scheme and Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana:** An amnesty Scheme to encourage voluntary disclosure of black money and avoid prosecution after paying a fine of 50% on the undisclosed income. An additional 25% of the undisclosed income is invested in the scheme which can be refunded after four years, without any interest.
2. **Amendment to Benami properties transaction act:** To provide with a wider definition to Benami properties and to provide with robust structural mechanism to deal with black money.
3. **Promoting Cashless Economy:** So as to ensure better control over money flow in the economy and prevent the creation of black money.
4. **Special Investigation team under Justice Shah:** To unearth the black money stacked in the country.
5. **Demonetisation:** To bring out the black money or flush it out of the economy by making it redundant.
6. **Transparency in political funding:** By limiting the anonymous cash donations to Rs 2000 and introduction electoral bonds to prevent entry of black money in politics.
7. **Legislation:** Enactment of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 to more effectively tackle the cases involving black money stashed abroad.
8. **International Cooperation:** India joined a group of 48 countries as early adopters to new global standards for automatically exchanging information from 2017. India-Mauritius and India-Singapore tax treaties amended to adopt source based taxation of capital gains with a view to help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance.
9. **Project Insight:** To curb the circulation of black money.

Success of such efforts: The government has already taken various steps to finish the issue of black money. Such efforts have met some success in the form of increased tax compliance and unearthing of some black money.

1. The biggest and the most recent step taken by the government was demonetization. Demonetization has helped to eliminate black money but only to some extent.
2. The Income Tax Department has been successful in seizing assets of worth Rs.900 crore, after the admission of undisclosed income of Rs. 7,961 crores during 2016-2017.
3. 17.73 lakhs suspicious cases (No. of PANs) identified involving Rs. 3.68 lakh crore in 23.22 lakh bank accounts under operation 'clean money'.
4. 21000 persons disclosed Rs. 4,900 crore under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) on which Rs. 2,451 crore was collected as tax.

Failures of the efforts: The black money menace is still untamed and lot more needs to be done to tackle it.

1. The Compliance scheme under Black Money Law turned out to be a non-starter. The total disclosures under the scheme were an underwhelming Rs 3,770 crore.
2. In 1997 the amnesty scheme for black money holders got declarations of around Rs 33,000 crore and taxes collected amounted to more than Rs 10,000 crore. Even half of it is not achieved.
3. The lack of immunity from prosecution is a big negative in the law, discouraged many to come clean on their unaccounted wealth.

4. Tax havens like Mauritius, Malta, Bahamas and the Cayman islands still operate in non-transparent ways though the G-20 is bringing a new regime to share information on real time transfer of money between countries and tax havens.

Way Forward:

Some of the strengthening steps that can be taken are:

1. Setting up and strengthening institutions dealing with illicit money like Directorate of Criminal Investigation Cell for Exchange of Information, Tax Research and Investigation Division of the CBDT is needed.
2. More technological advancement and an Integrated Taxpayer Data Management System (ITDMS) for 360- degree profiling is needed, so as to recognise the defaulters.
3. Imparting skills to personnel for effective action is important. Both domestic and international training pertaining to the concerned area must be given. For instance, the Financial Intelligence Unit-India makes proactive efforts to regularly upgrade the skills of its employees by providing them opportunities for training on anti-money laundering, terrorist financing, and related economic issues.

Thus, a holistic and all round attack from within and outside the country is the need of the hour. India should quickly take up appropriate reforms at home that will aid in curbing the black money generation and circulation in the country along with the use of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms to deal with round tripping and stashing of money outside the country.

Q.36) “There is an urgent need to reform the criminal justice system in India.” Discuss in light of recent failures of criminal justice in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Poor criminal justice system in India. Reasons for this.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Criminal Justice System (CJS) encompasses a series of institutions, agencies, and processes established by the government to curb crime in the nation. In India article 21 guarantees the right to speedy justice as a fundamental right. But according to Prison Statistics 2015, out of the total 4,20,000 inmates in various jails across the country, 2,82,076 or 67.2% were undertrials prisoners reflecting gross injustice and broken criminal justice system in India.

Issues with criminal justice system in India:

1. With nearly 30 million criminal cases pending in the system (the annual capacity of which is only half that number), and with another 10 million or more cases being added every year, whatever is left of the system is bound to collapse completely unless some radical alternatives are adopted urgently.
2. Even after adjusting for increasing population, India's crime rate has been rising over the years. The decade from 2005 to 2015 saw a 28% increase in complaints of cognisable offences, from 450 per lakh population to 580.
3. According to the National Crime Records Bureau:
 - More than 80% of reported crimes went unpunished due to several reasons and the loopholes in the present criminal justice system.

- More than 66% of India's prisoners are undertrials, which is over twice the global average of 32%. Of these 2,54,857 undertrials, more than 2,000 have been in prison for over five years. Overburdened by the flood of arrestees (nearly 75 lakh were arrested in 2012, according to the National Crime Records Bureau), prisons have experienced an increase in the number of undertrials and overcrowding.
 - India has one of the lowest police-population ratios, of 131.1 officers per 1,00,000 population (against the UN norms of 222). Corruption is also an endemic problem.
4. Transparency International found that 62% of people reported paying bribes during their interactions with the police. Misaligned incentives to arrest persons (for example, to demonstrate the progress of investigations) have resulted in 60 per cent of all arrests being "unnecessary or unjustified".
5. Against a UN norm of 222 police personnel per lakh of population, India's officially sanctioned strength is a paltry 181, and the actual strength is an abysmal 137. Similarly, all the judges in the country add up to just 18 per million population, despite a three-decades old Law Commission recommendation to increase it to 50, which itself is at the low end of the ratio in developed countries.
6. There are also enormous shortfalls in the number of police chowkis, weapons, forensic science laboratories (FSLs) and the like. For example, Nearly a million items sent for forensic examination in India, representing a shocking 38% of all such cases, remain unattended for a year or more.

Reasons for poor criminal justice system:

1. **Underproductive:** The criminal laws are out-dated. This has led to harassment of innocent civilians by the government agencies and very high pressure on the judiciary to dispose-off the cases with limited and redundant laws. For example, Dramatic Performance Act, 1876.
2. **The inefficiency of Judiciary:** The system takes years to bring justice and has ceased to deter criminals. Furthermore, there is no cooperation between the judiciary, prosecutors and the police. Many of the guilty go scot-free while the innocent remain on under-trial. According to the NCRB data, about 67.2% of the total prison population consists of under-trial prisoners.
3. **The complexity of crime:** The number of crimes has increased rapidly in recent times and the nature of crimes is also increasingly becoming more complex due to technological growth and innovation. India's criminal justice system is not encompassing the new era's novel crimes. Inefficient investigation procedures have led to a haphazard investigation of crimes and delayed justice. Increase in cyber-crimes, fake news, mob-lynching etc are some complex crimes.
4. **Access to justice:** The rich and the powerful are hardly convicted even for serious crimes. The ever-growing connection between politics and crimes is making justice of the poor and the marginalised society highly difficult.
5. **Lack of public confidence:** In the current times, the civilians have stopped relying on the CJS as it is expensive, complicated, inefficient and has long-winded procedures. This has led to current social problems like mob lynching. Recently, sub-inspector was being lynched by a mob.

Way forward:

1. **Penal code:** Penal code should be modified to incorporate the present day societal, economic, and other changes. The Penal code can be divided into various codes incorporating social offences, correctional offences, economic offences and a Indian penal code (which will deal with cases that warrant 10 years punishment or more).

2. **Police processes:** Institutional reform including proper investigation of crimes, rationalisation of court systems by inducting technology, limiting appeal procedures to a minimum. In *Prakash Singh vs Union of India*, Supreme Court ordered that reform must take place. The states and union territories were directed to comply with seven binding directives that would kick start reform.

3. **Victim centric:** The system should be victim centric to ensure that the victims get justice. The victim should get a chance to put forth his case and quick completion of trials is needed to ensure that they do not lose faith in the system. Fixing responsibility quickly and transparently will maximise the sense of justice to the victim.

4. **Prison reforms:** Reforming the property based bail system, provision of proper legal support to remove problem of undertrials, improvement of prison conditions is needed. Thus, India needs to reform its archaic system to incorporate more efficient practices like restorative justice, plea bargaining, etc. that will ensure a more robust criminal justice system.

5. **Malimath committee** has recommended many reforms which need to be implemented. Some of the important recommendations of the Malimath committee are as follows:

- Need for more judges to dispose-off a large number of pending cases.
- Constitution of a National Judicial Commission to deal with the appointment of judges to the higher courts and amendment of Article 124 to make impeachment of judges.
- Creation of separate criminal division in higher courts that have judges specialising in criminal laws.
- Article 20 (3) of the Constitution, which protects the accused from being compelled to be a witness against himself/herself, needs to be modified. The courts should be given freedom to question the accused to give information and draw an adverse inference against the accused in case the latter refuses to answer.
- Victim Compensation Fund should be created under the victim compensation law and the assets confiscated from organised crimes should be made a part of it.

Criminal Justice System in India is currently in a state of uncertainty and is highly unpopular due to its inefficiency. Clearly, the reforms in India's Criminal Justice System are a need of the hour. The government needs to draft a clear policy that can inform changes in the Indian Penal Code and Code of Criminal Procedures. The reforms should not only make CJSI more efficient but also be sensitive to both the innocent and the needs of the law enforcing officers.

Q.37) How effective has the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana been? Examine. Also, discuss its significance.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Achievements, issues and significance of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.

Conclusion. Way forward.

In order to provide clean cooking fuel to BPL households in the country, the Government had launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme. It aims to provide 8 Crore deposit-free LPG connections to women belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Implementation of PMUY has resulted in significant increase in national LPG coverage. The

scheme has resulted in mass coverage of rural poor households and 48% of the beneficiaries are SC/STs.

Achievements of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

1. The initial target of 5 crore connections was achieved well before the target i.e. 31st March, 2019. According to the official PMUY website, by January 2019, 64 million LPG connections have been provided under the Ujjwala scheme, resulting in it being considered one of the most successful and effective social sector programmes in India.
2. Under the PMUY the average per capita consumption is 3.28 cylinders. This should be seen as a positive change in the lives of these households which were long dependent on the traditional cooking fuels and methods.
3. LPG Panchayats are being observed to promote learning through peer group interaction - Kuch Seekhein, Kuch Sikhayein, where apart from experience sharing, it also aims at safe and sustained usage of LPG. Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) as on date have conducted 59,960 nos. of LPG Panchayats and safety clinics for education and awareness programs among PMUY beneficiaries.
4. To make LPG affordable to poor families, OMCs have introduced 5 Kg refill option to Ujjwala beneficiaries where in Ujjwala beneficiary can swap 14.2 Kg cylinder with 5 Kg refill and vice versa.
5. PMUY implementation has been appreciated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and termed it as a decisive intervention to check the indoor health pollution being faced by the women of the country.

Some issues concerning the scheme:

1. **Issue of refill and affordability:** Refilling of LPG gas connections saw a fall in refill from 35000 in 2016-17 to 13000 in 2018. Also, several complaints of affordability was raised as a reluctance of adoption was shown. While the number of LPG connections across India has increased by an impressive 16.26% since the scheme was launched, the use of gas cylinders increased by only 9.83%.
2. **Behavioural Limitations:** It requires behavioural changes as it is difficult to give up on age old practices of using traditional chulhas with a lack of awareness among people regarding benefits of use of LPG gases.
3. **Inactive and corrupt uses:** Many inactive accounts were identified, with some accounts bearing false beneficiaries using LPG for commercial and profitable purposes.

Significance of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

1. **Health:** Research showed that people using solid biomass frequently suffer from headaches, nausea, chronic bronchitis and many skin diseases. Indoor air pollution and acute respiratory illnesses caused by it were observed in most rural women.
2. **Women empowerment:** Ujjwala has empowered women and protected them and their families through the use of clean burning fuel by helping prevent a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses and other ailments.
3. **Safety:** Women going to the forests for collecting firewood are also often exposed to health and safety issues, even sexual harassment at times. This is considerably decreased as a result of the LPG connections.
4. **Economic empowerment:** Release of LPG connection under this Scheme shall be in the name of the women belonging to the BPL family enabling the subsidy provision in the women's account. Also, using LPG saves time for women as they do not have to collect solid fuel and then use it for cooking, with this cooking time can be effectively used in other economic activities. Women in many villages formed self-help groups to indulge in community economic activities in their free time.

5. **Environment:** There is a definite positive impact on forest cover and the environment from stopping the use of firewood.
6. **Youth employment:** It will also provide employment for rural youth in the supply chain of cooking gas. Employment in the logistics and maintenance services are an additional benefit.

'Give it up' campaign, LPG Panchayat etc have been remarkable in bringing in behavioural changes. Target beneficiary expansion and identification must be carried out carefully to eliminate fake accounts and corrupt use of the scheme. Government needs to ensure and provide subsidies refills and that rural households are able and willing to pay for them. This enhances their health and quality of life, as well as urban air quality. It is a social investment.

Q.38) With India and the USA coming closer to each other in the international arena, new challenges have emerged in India-Iran relations. Discuss.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Us-Iran issues. Consequences of the tussle.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Recently, India has come close to the USA in terms of bilateral relations. At the same time relations with Iran is taking a new strategic shape especially due to the importance of Iran's Chabahar port and oil sources. But the relations with Iran has been engulfed in new challenges especially the US-Iran tussle. The US withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and sanctions has worsened its relations with Iran. It poses a new challenge for India on how to maintain relations with USA and Iran at the same time.

Us-Iran tensions: Broadly, there are three contentious issues that led to the current impasse:

1. **Nuclear issue:** First and foremost is the Iranian nuclear issue. While Iran has always maintained that its nuclear programme is for civilian and peaceful purposes, the US and its allies in the region refuse to believe that Iran's programme is only meant for producing electricity or for medical purposes.
2. **Iranian missile program:** Secondly, the US has raised serious concerns on Iran's missile programme. Iran has a robust military establishment that has developed medium- and long- range ballistic missile capabilities. Even after signing the JCPOA, Iran continued to develop and test ballistic missiles.
3. **Military expansionism:** The third contentious issue is Iran's regional military expansionism and support for non-state actors including Hezbollah, Hamas, Ansar Allah, Iraq's Popular Mobilisation Unit (PMU) and Shia militias in Syria. The US and its regional allies see this as threatening their national security and regional interests.

Challenge for India:

1. **Growing tension in Persian Gulf:** There is growing tension in the Persian Gulf and the increasing pressure being placed on the Iranian economy under unilateral US sanctions. After the US withdrawal from the JCPOA and re-imposition of sanctions, Tehran stepped up diplomatic efforts to convince the European Union (EU), Russia, India and other countries to continue doing business with Iran.

2. **Strategic balance:** These developments have placed India in a difficult situation given its growing strategic partnership with the US, on the one hand, and strong bilateral ties with Iran, on the other. It faces a pre-JCPOA-like situation, having to deal with the US pressure while simultaneously working to secure its interests vis-à-vis Iran.

3. **Oil imports:** Most importantly, the US insistence on not renewing the waiver on Iranian oil imports poses a challenge for New Delhi as Iran is India's third largest oil supplier. It might not be difficult for India to meet the shortfall in crude oil imports due to US sanctions on Iran.

4. **Political challenge:** The bigger challenge is the political aspect of managing relations with the US and Iran. On the one hand, if India were to stop sourcing oil from Iran, it will affect bilateral relations. On the other hand, if India were to continue to buy Iranian oil, say by sidestepping US sanctions, it is likely to impact the strategic relationship with the US.

Consequences of US-Iran tussle and Impact on India:

1. **Threat to companies:** The US has refused to renew the exemptions issued for 8 countries including India. This means that Indian companies will either have to stop buying oil from Iran or resort to a Rupee payment mechanism as was done in the past.

2. **Effect on steel sector:** Other than the oil sector, India is not directly affected by US sanctions on Iran though Indian companies involved in the Iranian automobile, iron & steel and mining sectors will be affected due to additional US sanctions on these sectors.

3. **Chabahar port:** The Chabahar Port also does not come under US sanctions and hence Indian investments and involvement in it will not be affected. Nonetheless, due to sanctions on the iron & steel sector, certain infrastructure development projects such as the Chabahar-Zahedan railway and gas pipeline, part of Iran's plan to develop Chabahar as a transit hub between Central Asia and the world, could be affected.

4. **Energy resources:** Bilateral ties took a beating during the sanctions years. Until sanctions were imposed on Iran, it was India's second largest source of crude oil after Saudi Arabia. New Delhi had also backed off from a pipeline project that aimed to bring natural gas from Iran to India through Pakistan.

5. **Current account deficit:** Higher crude oil prices due to sanctions will widen the trade deficit and current account deficit of India.

6. **Costly rupee:** The currency could be impacted if the trade and current account deficits were to widen. An increase in the import bill will tend to put pressure on the rupee.

7. **Inflation:** There could be significant impact on inflation, given how crude oil prices move and the extent to which the government allows the pass-through to the consumer.

Way forward:

1. India must consider not only its own interests in terms of its ties with Iran and with the U.S. and its allies.

2. One immediate priority is to work more closely with European countries in ensuring that Iran does not feel compelled to walk out of the nuclear deal, and to jointly build a sanctions-immune financial infrastructure to facilitate Iranian trade.

3. India must continue negotiating with the US to have an informal understanding to buy Iranian oil. In the meanwhile, India can offer to Iran to enhance its investments in the Chabahar Port development project as well as consider initiating other developmental and connectivity projects to strengthen linkages to Afghanistan, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

4. It is necessary that the countries affected in the region cooperate, over a possible U.S.-Iran clash.

Both the US and Iran are strategically and economically important for India. Ideally, India wants to have good relations with Iran as well as the US. India has so far been forced to

conduct a careful balancing act to ensure that its mutually beneficial relationship with Iran does not impinge upon the one with the US. India is free to conduct its foreign policy driven by its core national interests. However, the geo-politics around US-Iran relations have had a bearing on India too. India needs to balance these considerations going forward.

Q.39) Discuss the objectives of Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY). Critically examine its success and failures.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Objectives, achievements and failure of UDAY.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) is a financial restructuring and efficiency enhancing program. It aims to reduce the debt burden of the state-owned electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) started. Though the main component of UDAY is debt management, other measures like raising operational efficiency are also proposed to permanently settle the debt scenario of DISCOMs.

Objectives of UDAY:

1. Improving operational efficiencies of DISCOM.
2. Reduction of cost of power.
3. Reduction in interest cost of DISCOMs.
4. Enforcing financial discipline on DISCOMs through alignment with State finances.
5. Scheme aims at financial turnaround and revival of Power Distribution companies (DISCOMs) and ensures a sustainable permanent solution.

Achievements of UDAY:

1. It took off well, with a large number of states joining the scheme. Several states took over the debt of their utilities, improving their liquidity situation. Evidence also suggests an improvement in the power supply situation.
2. Government's UDAY scheme has helped debt-laden discoms of 24 states to reduce losses to Rs 369 billion in 2018 from Rs 515.9 billion in the previous financial year.
3. The participating states have achieved an improvement of 1% in Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C or distribution) losses.
4. UDAY succeeded in cutting down distribution losses by around 21%, but a major share of losses is still left.

Challenges in UDAY:

1. **High Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C or distribution) losses:** AT&C losses remain high, with some states indicating losses of over 40%, far from the 15% target. So far, only 7 states including, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Kerala, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Goa and Himachal Pradesh, have registered losses below 15% while the rest of the states have failed to achieve even this.
2. **Increased gap:** The scheme also requires DISCOMs to bring down the gap between the average cost of supply and average revenue realised to zero. Instead of reducing this gap, a number of states like Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur and Goa have seen this gap widened in the last few years.

3. **Increasing cost:** The prevailing maladies in the distribution system rising share of renewable energy (RE) is increasing the average cost of supply, as it is displacing consumption of low-cost coal.
4. **Less profit than loss:** The interest received is lower by at least 4-6% indicating that there is a loss of income. For every ₹1 lakh crore of UDAY bonds issued involves a loss of up to ₹6,000 crore for banks and FIs that have lent money to them.
5. **State burden:** By also mandating that State governments have to progressively take over the losses of their SEBs, the Centre has put the onus on the States to deal with the problem. The share of discom losses that states have to bear will increase from 5% in 2016-17 to 10% this fiscal and eventually to 50% by 2019-20.
6. **Debt non-payment:** Around 21,000 MW of private coal-fired generation capacity is under stress due to the non-payment of debts by discoms. Discoms of states like Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra have defaulted on their Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) obligations. These states are forcing the centre to consider options like giving more powers to regulators to penalise discoms.

Way forward:

1. Discom business needs to be fundamentally restructured. Governance needs to be improved with greater resilience to political influence.
2. Robust mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure tariff rationalisation and follow-through on subsequent increases.
3. Market-friendly electricity reforms need to be introduced and enforced. This includes expanding the role of short-term markets, as well as strict enforcement of PPAs to assure investors and developers of the legal sanctity of contracts signed with discoms.
4. Streamlining the open access process, with the fair application of additional surcharges will boost the demand for renewable energy from the commercial and industrial sectors.
5. Discoms will have to be pushed harder to invest in technical solutions and infrastructure upgrade such as feeder separation, installing smart meters and undertaking detailed data collection and analysis.
6. Strict Actions to curb Electricity theft and other actions those lead to Losses to DISCOMs. Setting up dedicated police stations to catch electricity thieves is needed.
7. Integrating UDAY scheme with Make in India and Startup India to ensure overall Development.

While the Centre plans to come up with Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) 2.0 it is important to learn from previous failures and prevent it. Without removing the core issues UDAY 2.0 can't achieve much of its objectives. Need of the hour is to examine the causes of failures of UDAY scheme.

Q.40) The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding joint session of the two houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reasons thereof.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Occasions when Joint Session of Parliament is summoned. Reasons for holding joint sessions. Exception to Joint Session.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The parliament of India consists of the lower house (Lok Sabha), Upper House (Rajya Sabha) and the President. Though both the houses of the parliament are independent in their functioning, there are instances of joint sittings as well provided in the constitution. These joint sittings are summoned by the president as and when necessary.

Occasions when Joint Session of Parliament is summoned:

As per Article 108 of Constitution, a Joint session of Parliament can be summoned in the following situation:

1. To resolve deadlock when any house of the Parliament passes a bill and when the other House rejects this bill, or
2. The houses do not agree on the amendments made to the bill, or
3. More than six months elapsed with the bill being received by the other House without it being passed. However, in calculating the period of six months, those days are not considered when house is prorogued or adjourned for more than 4 consecutive days.

Reason for holding joint session:

The makers of the Constitution of India anticipated situations of deadlock between the upper house i.e. Rajya Sabha and the lower house i.e. Lok Sabha. Therefore, the Constitution of India provides for Joint sitting of both Houses to break this deadlock. Further, joint session reflect the importance of Rajya Sabha as a check on hasty legislations by the government. Since 1950, the provision regarding the joint sitting of the two Houses has been invoked only thrice. The bills that have been passed at joint sittings are:

- Dowry Prohibition Bill, 1960.
- Banking Service Commission (Repeal) Bill, 1977.
- Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2002.

Exceptions to Joint Session: According to the Indian Constitution, there are two exceptions when a joint sitting cannot be summoned. They are for the following bills:

1. **Money Bill:** Under the Constitution of India, money bills require approval of the Lok Sabha only. Rajya Sabha can give suggestions to Lok Sabha, which it is not required to accept. Even if Rajya Sabha doesn't pass a money bill within 14 days, it is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses of Parliament after expiry of the above period. Therefore there is no need of summoning a joint session in the case of money bills.

2. **Constitution Amendment Bill:** As per Article 368, the Indian Constitution can be amended by both houses of parliament by 2/3rd majority. In case of disagreement between both houses, there is no provision to summon joint session of parliament.

Joint sitting is an extraordinary machinery provided by the Constitution aimed to maintain a much-needed synergy between the two houses of the Parliament. Article 118 provides that President of India may after consultation with the chair of the Rajya Sabha and the Speaker of Lok Sabha may make rules for procedure of joint session of parliament.

Q.41) Discuss the role played by State Legislative Councils. How are they different from the Rajya Sabha? Also examine their usefulness for Indian states.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Role played by State Legislative Councils in states. Difference between the state legislative councils and Rajya Sabha. Usefulness of councils and issue related.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India has a bicameral system of legislatures both at the centre and in some states. At the state level, the equivalent of the Lok Sabha is the Vidhan Sabha or Legislative Assembly and that of the Rajya Sabha is the Vidhan Parishad or Legislative Council. Article 169 provides for creation and abolition of legislative councils in states.

Role played by State Legislative Councils in states:

1. **Better legislation:** State legislative councils play an important role in formulating better and detailed discussed legislation.
2. State legislative councils allow leaders, professors, and other people from diverse backgrounds to participate in legislative process.
3. They help to balance the balance the radicalism of the lower House. Upper House consisting of graduates, teachers, outstanding persons in the fields of art, literature, science and social service play an important role.
4. Having a second chamber allow for more debate and sharing of work between the Houses.
5. The position accorded to the council is in accordance with the principles of democracy. The council should yield to the assembly, which is a popular house.

Difference between the state legislative councils and Rajya Sabha:

State legislative councils	Rajya Sabha
The position of the council as compared to legislative assembly is much weaker than the position of the Rajya Sabha as compared to the Lok Sabha.	The Rajya Sabha has equal powers with the Lok Sabha in all spheres except financial matters and with regard to the control over the Government.
The councils consist of people from diverse backgrounds like graduates, teachers, outstanding persons in the fields of art, literature, science and social service and thus does not reflect the federal element of the polity.	The Rajya Sabha consists of the representatives of the states and thus reflect the federal element of the polity.
The council is heterogeneously constituted. It represents different interests and consists of differently elected members and also include some nominated members.	The Rajya Sabha is homogeneously constituted. It represents only the states and consists of mainly elected members (only 12 out of 250 are nominated).
Further councils are not permanent and its constitution depends upon the states. Many states don't have legislative councils.	Rajya Sabha is a permanent and a continuous chamber where representatives are elected for the house.

Their usefulness for Indian states:

1. **Check against Hasty Legislation:** A second House of legislature is considered important to act as a check on hasty actions by the popularly elected House. If there are two chambers, the measures passed by one would be scrutinised by the other minutely. Hence the laws enacted finally would be carefully analysed and thoroughly discussed.
2. **Prevent autocracy:** It is argued that second house put a check on autocratic tendencies of the lower chambers. To vest the legislative powers with a popularly elected House alone may prove harmful to the people of the state as legislation may be arbitrary.
3. **Accommodation of Talent:** Elderly, experienced and sober individuals, cannot-bear the ordeal of electioneering neither campaign nor are they keen to indulge in vicious party

politics. The legislative councils accommodate such personalities not only through the nominated quota but also through the quota reserved for teachers and the graduates.

4. **Reduce workload of legislative assembly:** Since the legislative assemblies are generally flooded with work, due to the rapid growth in the functions of a modern welfare state, a unicameral legislature cannot cope with the work and devote fully to the bills brought before it for enactment. Legislative council lessens the burden of the lower House and enables assembly to fully concentrate on measures of greater importance.

Some issues related to the state legislative councils:

1. **Majoritarian tendencies:** If a majority of the members in the upper house belong to the same party which holds a majority in the lower house, the upper house will become a mere ditto chamber. On the other hand, if two different parties are in majority, the upper house will delay the bills for months unnecessarily. Thus its role may become nasty and obstructive.

2. **Not an Effective Check:** Powers of the Legislative Councils are limited and hardly impose any effective check on the Assemblies. Whether a Bill is approved by the Council or not, assembly can still go ahead after four months.

3. **Vested Interests:** Legislative Council serves only as stronghold of vested interests of people, who are not interested in legislation. Instead they may block such legislation initiated by popularly elected Legislative Assembly.

4. **Backdoor Entrance of the Defeated Members:** Legislative Council can be utilised to accommodate discredited party-men who may not be returned to the Assemblies.

5. **Expensive Institution:** It is expensive and a big drain on the State's exchequer.

A second House of legislature is considered important for two reasons. One, to act as a check on hasty actions by the popularly elected House and, two, to ensure that individuals who might not be cut out for the rough-and-tumble of direct elections too are able to contribute to the legislative process. Legislative councils are responsible bodies that can play an important part in policies and programmes for the development of states.

Q.42) A faulty implementation of the NRC could create a human rights issue of unimaginable magnitude. Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Significance of NRC. How faulty implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) could create a human rights issue?

Conclusion. Way forward.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a document containing the name of all Indian citizens of Assam. The NRC is seen as a major instrument for security and peace of Assam and other north-eastern states. On similar lines it is said that there should be an NRC at national level. Under the Citizenship Act of 1955, the central government may compulsorily register every citizen of India and issue a national identity card to him. Whether such a register is needed and can be simulated as national level need to be examined thoroughly.

Significance of NRC:

1. **Ensure People's Right:** A national NRC will clear the actual number of illegal migrants in India. It will prevent further illegal migration that will ensure the rights of Indian citizens in a better way.
2. **Better policy measures and implementation:** It will provide a verified database to implement targeted policies and calibrated policy measures for benefits of Indian citizens especially tribal people. This will weed out fake beneficiaries.
3. **Enhance internal security:** It will enhance internal security of the nation by keeping a check on illegal migration. Illegal migration lead to terrorist threat, counterfeit money etc. endangering the security of our nation.
4. **Prevent future illegal migration:** Publication of an NRC at national level would deter future migrants illegally. The publication of the draft NRC has already created a perception that staying in Assam without valid documentation will attract detention/jail term and deportation.
5. **Will reduce fake voting:** Illegal migrants will find it difficult to procure Indian identity documents. Thus cases of vote for money through fake identities will reduce as persons whose names are not on the list will lose voting rights. Thus it will strengthen our electoral process.

How faulty implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) could create a human rights issue?

1. **Law and order problem:** The implementation of NRC may lead to serious law and order problem in India and also in neighbouring states. Recent protests against citizenship amended act showed the violent nature of such acts and inability of states to prevent the law and order situation.
2. **Loss of Right to Vote:** Right to vote is a constitutional right. People excluded from NRC would be barred from voting. Thus losing right to vote. Especially, the Muslims living in India who may find it difficult to produce their citizenship would lose their rights.
3. **Fake identities:** There have been several cases of people having made fake official identity cards such as Aadhaar, PAN card, ration card and voter's identity card. This will legalise their illegal migration.
4. **Loss of Properties:** The left out whose names are not in the list will not be able to buy land or a house in the country. It will increase selling of benami properties especially by those who loose their citizenship.
5. **Judicial burden will increase:** Since such 'non citizens' will go to judiciary for relief to substantiate their citizenship claim. Thus it will lead to overburdening of judiciary which is already overburdened.
6. **Stateless:** A person's citizenship is a basic human right. Declaring people foreigners in haste without judicially verifying their credentials can leave many human beings stateless.

Way forward:

1. There is acute poverty of infrastructure across states to implement the constitutionally mandated Registration of births and deaths Act of 1969. In light of the severe capacity constraint, if the NRC is to be ever launched then the first step for the MHA should be to strengthen the existing infrastructure to account for at least every birth and death within the country.
2. The need of the hour is that Union Government should clearly chart out the course of action regarding the fate of excluded people from final NRC data and political parties should refrain from colouring the entire NRC process through electoral prospects that may lead to communal violence.

3. There is a need for a robust mechanism of legal support for the millions of people who have to prove their citizenship to India with their limited means.

Migration of outsiders to India has a long history. People of neighbouring states came to the state in search of work but illegal influx for over many decades has assumed political significance. NRC implementation is not an easy task and it could lead to disaster in society. At present, there is not much need to get into this kind of exercise at national level, as it can lead to unintended consequences.

Q.43) A greater participation of women in police and judiciary, would help to reduce the violence against women in society. Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Gender gap in judiciary and police. Why greater participation of women in the police and judiciary is needed?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Crime against women in India is on the rise. National Crime Record Bureau report shows stark increase in violence against women in India. According to it, crimes against women have more than doubled over the past 10 years. The gender sensitivity deficit in the police functioning and judiciary in India is one of the causes. There is a culture of masculinity in police and judiciary itself where the acceptance of both the woman as victim and as a woman per se is counter intuitive. This need to be changed.

Gender gap in police and judiciary:

1. **Judiciary:** Women are poorly represented in the country's justice delivery system.

- a) According to the India Justice Report 2019, they account for just 7% of the 2.4 million police personnel in the country and 26% of all judges in high courts and subordinate courts.
- b) Women made up just 11% of HC judges and just 28% in subordinate courts. Till June 2018, seven states did not have a single woman judge in the HC.

2. **Police:**

- a) Despite the Centre targeting 33% of women in police forces, only four states and four UTs had over 10% of women in police forces.
- b) In a response to an RTI query, it was revealed that approximately 100 policemen were found to be involved in rape in the past 10 years. To make matters worse, it was recently reported that a sub-inspector of an area (Saket) was involved in rape on the pretext of marriage.
- c) According to statistics, policewomen constitute only 7.13% (5,356) of 75,169 police personnel in Delhi. Of these women, 90% are constables, while less than 1% hold supervisory positions. The numbers are low despite 20 states having reservations for women in the police.

Why greater participation of women in the police and judiciary is needed?

1. **Gender sensitisation:** It is for police and judiciary to act as an agent of change and engender gender sensitivity starting with their own ranks.

2. **Better response:** In spite of growing crime, the police response to violence against women and judiciary apathy continues to be grossly inappropriate. More women presence would help in better response.
3. **Reporting:** Because of several social factors, women are afraid to report crime. In view of the above, there is need for police and judiciary to act in a gender sensitive manner in all cases relating to violence against women. Women generally feel more comfortable about approaching police manned by women, rather than regular police stations, especially for women-related problems.
4. **Indifferent attitude:** Indifferent police and judiciary response and fear of police deny women the access to justice. Women presence in police and judiciary need to be increased to make justice less fearful and less differential.
5. **Masculinity:** There is also a lack of proper awareness of the prevailing gender inequalities among police officers. Even if there is awareness, the cult of masculinity prevailing in the police organizations does not easily permit a change in the attitude and behaviour of male police personnel toward women.
6. **Compassionate:** Women are compassionate, emotional and nonviolent in general. These traits can enhance the quality and efficiency of a department as they are quick to respond to crimes against women and children. They can be helpful in creating an excellent work environment within the police organization.

Way forward:

1. The government should carry a recruitment drive for women and should focus on gender focused training in police and judiciary.
2. There is need to create women police stations and more women should be taken as judges.
3. There should be a special court with a woman judge and magistrate in each district to handle domestic violence cases.
4. A separate wing of police may opened for dealing with women's issues, in all police stations and personnel of this wing should be exempted from other duties.

It is about time we bring a change in the society and show the much-deserved respect to an Indian policewoman. There is a need to involve more women as it would help in ushering an era of women participation and gender sensitisation across the two institutions of justice.

Q.44) 'Securing personal data is the key to making India truly digital'. In the light of this statement highlights the salient features of the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. Also mention the concerns raised against the bill. Suggest measures to address the same.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Key Features of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019. Key issues related to the bill.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Data protection refers to policies and procedures seeking to minimise intrusion into the privacy of an individual caused by collection and usage of their personal data. Over the years, rapid technological advances have led to large volumes of data which is at risk of increasing cyber-crimes. With penetration of Aadhaar, risk related to data has increased.

For safeguarding Indian citizen's interest government has introduced 'Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019'.

Key Features of Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019:

1. **Personal data definition:** The Bill defines 'personal data' as any information which renders an individual identifiable. Also it defines data 'processing' as collection, manipulation, sharing or storage of data.
2. **Territorial applicability:** The Bill include the processing of personal data by both government and private entities incorporated in India, and also the entities incorporated overseas, if they systematically deal with data principals within the territory of India.
3. **Grounds for data processing:** The Bill allows data processing by fiduciaries if consent is provided by the individual.
4. **Sensitive personal data:** Sensitive personal data is defined in the Bill to include passwords, financial data, biometric and genetic data, caste, religious or political beliefs. The Bill specifies more stringent grounds for processing of sensitive personal data, such as seeking explicit consent of an individual prior to processing.
5. **Obligations of the data fiduciary:** The Bill lays down certain obligations on the data fiduciary who is processing personal data. These include:
 - Processing personal data in a fair and reasonable manner.
 - Collecting as much data as is needed for a specified purpose, and storing it no longer than necessary.
6. **Data Protection Authority:** The Bill provides for the establishment of a Data Protection Authority (DPA). The DPA is empowered to:
 - Draft specific regulations for all data fiduciaries across different sectors.
 - Supervise and monitor data fiduciaries.
7. **Cross-border storage of data:** The Bill states that every fiduciary shall keep a 'serving copy' of all personal data in a server or data centre located in India.
8. **Transfer of data outside the country:** Personal data (except sensitive personal data which is 'critical') may be transferred outside India under certain circumstances.

Key issues related to the bill:

1. **No guidelines for processing of data:** The Bill does not specify any principles or guidelines for what constitutes a 'fair and reasonable' manner of personal data processing.
2. **Conflict of interest:** Selective reporting of data breaches will avoid the DPA from being burdened with high volume of low-impact data breach reports, and also not make the burden of reporting too onerous on the fiduciary. There may be a conflict of interest while determining whether a breach is to be reported, as the fiduciary is regulated by the DPA.
3. **Exemptions:** The above obligations and safeguards do not apply if data is processed for the purposes of national security, prevention, investigation and prosecution of violations of a law, legal proceedings etc.
4. **Data processing for State functions does not require consent:** The Bill allows for processing of an individual's personal data without their consent if it is necessary for any function of the Parliament or state legislature. It is unclear what functions of the Parliament would necessitate such processing of data without the consent of the individual.
5. **Powers and functions of the Data Protection Authority:** Enforcement of penalties and compensation orders of the DPA does not require a court order. The Bill does not specify that a court order would be required for the enforcement actions.

Measures to address the issues:

1. **Holistic approach:** It is important to strike a right balance between digital economy and privacy protection. The law should encompass all the aspects- data collection, processing and sharing practices in an integrated manner.
2. **Stakeholders:** Government must incorporate suggestions from various stakeholders over the draft bill.
3. **Transparency:** Privacy should not be used to undermine government transparency. Data protection law should be framed such that it does not make government opaque and unaccountable.
4. **Data processing:** The bill must clearly specify any principles or guidelines for what constitutes a 'fair and reasonable' manner of personal data processing. The Justice Srikrishna Committee Report had suggested that courts of law and regulatory authorities should be allowed to evolve principles of fair and reasonable processing.

Data protection is a must in the age of digital era. With right to privacy being a fundamental right and recent rise in risks to privacy of the individuals, data protection law is need of the hour. The state must prevent and investigate digital crimes, prevent misuse of data and encourage data security through legislation. It is important to examine and put into place a robust regime for data protection. The creation of such a regime requires a careful and sensitive balance between individual interests and legitimate concerns of the state.

Q.45) What is good governance? Discuss recent findings of Good Governance Index report in India. Suggest some measures to improve the governance in Indians states.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is good governance?

Body. Recent findings of Good Governance Index report. Measures to improve the governance in Indians states.

Conclusion. Way forward.

According to UNESCAP, good governance means 'the processes and institutions which produce results that meet the needs of society while making the best use of resources at their disposal'. In simple words, good governance is the management of public affairs in just, fair and reasonable manner. Recently, Government of India has launched Good Governance Index, to assess the status of governance and the impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and UTs.

Recent findings of Good Governance Index report:

1. **Big States category:** Tamil Nadu topped in Good Governance Index in the "Big States" category. It was followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh. The report also said that among the big states the poor performers were Odisha, Bihar, Goa and Uttar Pradesh. Jharkhand was ranked last in good governance index.
2. **North East and hill states category:** Himachal Pradesh ranked first. It was followed by Uttarakhand, Tripura, Mizoram and Sikkim. The bad performers of the category include Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
3. **Sector-wise ranking:**
 - **In the environment sector:** The top three states are West Bengal, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The bottom 3 states are Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Goa.

- **Judicial and public security ranking:** West Bengal is at the bottom two in the judicial and public security ranking. Tamil Nadu tops the chart here.
- **Economic governance:** Karnataka is at the top under the economic governance category.
- **Health:** Kerala is at the top in the public health sector.
- **Agricultural ranking:** In Agricultural and allied ranking, the best performing states is Madhya Pradesh.
- **Commerce and Industries:** Under the category of commerce and industries, Delhi and Uttarakhand were the top performers.
- **Human resource development:** Goa has got the first rank among big states for human resource development sector.

Good Governance Index (GGI), is a welcome exercise to incentivise States to competitively deliver on public services to the citizens.

Measures to improve the governance in Indians states:

1. **Participation:** Participation of the people either direct or indirect in the development and decision-making process is one of the cornerstones of good governance. Democratic decentralisation should be emphasised which entails power to the Gram Panchayats and people at the lowest level of political hierarchy.
2. **Accountability:** Important feature of good governance is accountability. From policymakers to implementers all should be held responsible for their omissions and commissions. Everybody should be answerable for allocation, use and control of public fund and other assets.
3. **Transparency:** For this, information should be easily available. It is important that issues related to RTI must be resolved. It also means that enough information is provided and that it is provided in easily understandable forms and media.
4. **Responsiveness:** The attribute of responsiveness for good governance necessitates that all public institutions and their processes strive to serve all stakeholders within a responsible time frame. States should be encouraged to achieve targets in a time-bound manner.
5. **Rule of law:** Without rule of law good governance can't be ensured. It is also important that laws must benefit every individual of the society. Thus states must ensure rule of law in the territory.

The effective functioning of governance is the pillar of an efficient democracy. What is required is transparent, accountable and intelligible governance system absolutely free from bias and prejudices. In the present era when India is progressively moving towards development and prosperity, there is a need to ensure good governance in the country. When the nation/state machineries become more efficient and accountable, the citizens can enjoy higher per capita income, widespread literacy, adequate health facilities with longer average life.

Q.46) What are the objective and salient features of National Nutrition Mission? Discuss various challenges to National Nutrition Mission and how to tackle the same.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Objectives and salient features of National Nutrition Mission. Challenges to National Nutrition Mission.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Malnutrition is the predominant risk factor for death in children younger than 5 in every state of India in 2018, accounting for 68.2% of the total under-5 deaths due to malnutrition. It was also the leading risk factor of loss of health among all age groups. According to the findings, if the trends estimated for the indicators in the Poshan Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission 2022 continue in India, there would be 8.9% excess prevalence for low birthweight relative to the 2022 targets.

Objectives of National Nutrition Mission (Poshan Abhiyaan):

1. **Improving nutrition:** National Nutrition Mission is aimed at improving the nutritional status of Children from 0-6 years, Adolescent Girls, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers in a time bound manner during the next three years beginning 2017-18.
2. **Convergence:** The Abhiyan aims to achieve convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana, National Health Mission, Swachh-Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
3. **Reducing malnutrition:** It focuses on reducing stunting, under-nutrition and anaemia in women and adolescents through direct cash transfers is a massive step towards eradicating malnutrition.

Salient features of National Nutrition Mission:

1. **Target to reduce malnutrition:** The mission, has a target to reduce under-nutrition and low birth-weight by 2% each year. It will strive to achieve reduction in stunting from 38.4% as per the National Family Health Survey-4 to 25% by 2022. NNM targets to reduce stunting, under-nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
2. **Anaemia targets:** It also aims to bring down anaemia among young children, women and adolescent girls by 3% per year.
3. **An apex body:** The mission will form an apex body that would fix targets and monitor, supervise and guide nutrition-related interventions across the ministries.
4. **Use of technology:** The mission would include several components like an ICT (information and communications technology)-based real-time monitoring system, incentivising of states and Union territories to meet their targets, social audits, and setting up of nutrition resource centres.
5. **Anganwadi workers:** Anganwadi workers will also be offered incentives for using IT-based tools such as smartphones. Aadhaar card is a mandatory requirement to avail the benefits of the mission,
6. **Monitoring and Convergence Action Plan:** Implementation strategy would be based on intense monitoring and Convergence Action Plan right upto the grass root level.
7. **Behavioural Change:** The scheme proposes to ensure service delivery by the use of more technology, behavioural change through incentives and lists down specific targets to be achieved in a phased manner, thus eradicating malnutrition from the country.

Challenges:

1. **Implementation:** The intent of the policy is clear, but the implementation could be a challenge. Malnutrition is a complex and multi-dimensional issue and thus need holistic approach.
2. **Lack of coordination:** Various ministries and departments related to healthcare often operate in isolation.
3. **Under-utilisation of funds:** The scheme also suffers from under-utilisation of allocated funds (only 16% of allocated resources for 2018-19), just like many other government programmes.

4. **Lack of data)** Lack of real-time data monitoring, sustainability and accountability may impact the National Nutrition Mission (NNM), Thus there is a need to strengthen monitoring and delivery systems.

5. **Human Resources:** NNM requires a huge human resource input. In a low-and-middle-income-country with challenges around power supply, literacy, handling technology sensitively and sensibly may require a long period of hand-holding and capacity building.

Way forward:

1. **Focus on mothers:** The first and the most important step for reducing malnutrition in India is providing sufficient nutrition to pregnant and lactating mothers. The child then automatically is at much less risk of being malnourished.

2. **Sate action:** States need to extending a wide range of essential services and facilities, from healthcare and clean water to social security and basic infrastructure.

3. **Data Collection:** Data should be collected comprehensively. Motivating people to report and collect data ethically also have to be emphasised.

The vision to ensure attainment of malnutrition free India by 2022 continues through more innovations and pilot programs and has reached the grass root level households. Poshan Abhiyaan has received global recognition for its effort in eradicating malnutrition. Yet there is far to go in ending malnutrition issue in India.

Q.47) Bring out the philosophy of the Indian polity as enshrined in the preamble of the Indian constitution. Also discuss various changes made to preamble since its adoption in Indian Constitution.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Philosophy of the Indian polity as enshrined in the preamble. Changes made to preamble since adoption.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The term 'Preamble' refers to the introduction or preface to the Constitution. The Preamble to Indian Constitution is based on the Objective Resolution drafted by Jawaharlal Nehru and adopted by the framers of the Constitution. The significance of the Preamble lies in its components. It embodies the source of the Constitution i.e. the people of India.

Philosophy of the Indian polity as enshrined in the preamble:

1. **Power lies in people:** First few words of i.e. "we the people of India" suggest that the ultimate power lies in the hands of the people. It is a democracy in real sense indicating the rule by the people, for the people and of the people.

2. **Nature of Indian State:** It declares India to be of a sovereign, socialist, secular democratic and republican polity.

- **Sovereign:** The word 'sovereign' implies that India is neither a dependency nor a dominion of any other nation, but an independent state. There is no authority above it, and it is free to conduct its own affairs (both internal and external).
- **Socialist:** The Indian brand of socialism is a democratic socialism. Democratic socialism holds faith in a 'mixed economy' where both public and private sectors co-

exist side by side. According to Supreme Court, Indian socialism aims to end poverty, ignorance, disease and inequality of opportunity.

- **Secular:** The Indian Constitution embodies the positive concept of secularism i.e. all religions in our country (irrespective of their strength) have the same status and support from the state.
- **Democratic:** The Indian Constitution provides for representative parliamentary democracy under which the executive is responsible to the legislature for all its policies and actions. Universal adult franchise, periodic elections, rule of law, independence of judiciary, and absence of discrimination on certain grounds are the manifestations of the democratic character of the Indian polity.
- **Republic:** The term 'republic' in our Preamble indicates that India has an elected head called the president.

3. **Objectives of Indian state:** Justice, equality, liberty and fraternity are most sought concepts embodied here.

- **Justice:** The term 'justice' in the Preamble embraces three distinct forms—social, economic and political, secured through various provisions of Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles.
- **Liberty:** The term 'liberty' means the absence of restraints on the activities of individuals, and at the same time, providing opportunities for the development of individual personalities. The Preamble secures to all citizens of India liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship, through their Fundamental Rights, enforceable in court of law, in case of violation.
- **Equality:** The term 'equality' means the absence of special privileges to any section of the society, and the provision of adequate opportunities for all individuals without any discrimination. The Preamble secures to all citizens of India equality of status and opportunity. This provision embraces three dimensions of equality—civic, political and economic.
- **Fraternity:** Fraternity means a sense of brotherhood. The Constitution promotes this feeling of fraternity by the system of single citizenship. Also, the Fundamental Duties (Article 51-A) say that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic, regional or sectional diversities. The Preamble declares that fraternity has to assure two things, the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the nation.

Changes made to preamble since its adoption:

1. **Amendment in the Preamble:** In 1976, the Preamble was amended (only once till date) by the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act. Three new terms, Socialist, Secular, and Integrity were added to the Preamble.

2. Various Interpretation by the Supreme Court:

- The Supreme Court in the **Berubari Union case (1960)** recognised that the Preamble could be used as a guiding principle if a term in any article of the Constitution is ambiguous or has more than one meaning.
- In **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**, the Supreme Court held that the Preamble is a part of the Constitution and can be amended under Article 368 of the Constitution.
- Again, in **LIC of India case**, the Supreme Court held that the Preamble is a part of the Constitution.

Thus the Preamble to the Constitution of free India contains the basic ideals, objectives, and philosophical postulates the Constitution of India stands for. They provide justifications for constitutional provisions.

Q.48) Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizens a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizen a uniform civil code.

Conclusion. Way forward.

In India, each community is governed by its own customs and personal laws related to marriage, divorce, maintenance, adoption, succession and inheritance. The idea behind uniform civil code is to merge them into a single gender-neutral code applicable to all citizens of India. The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India proposes to replace the personal laws based on the scriptures and customs of each major religious community in the country with a common set of laws governing every citizen. Article 44 of the Indian constitution envisages India to have a uniform civil code for all its citizens.

Possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizens a uniform civil code:

1. **No common ground:** It is very tough to find a common ground between different communities. The customary practices among communities varies a lot. It is not easy to carry all people with a commonly accepted code.
2. **May violate fundamental rights:** There is an apprehension that the uniform civil code may be in conflict with the fundamental rights of freedom of conscience of free profession, practice and propagation of religions (Article 26) and the freedom to manage religious affairs (Article 25).
3. **Opposition from the religious groups:** This is one of the most trivial and obvious hurdle to bring up the UCC. The fundamentalism which is deep rooted in many of the religions in India doesn't seem to vanish even in the 21st century.
4. **Political willpower:** The government should have the will to face the consequences of abolishing the personal laws of the major religions and to convince the people of justice and reform they want to bring to the society in order to grow better as a nation.
5. **Practical difficulties due to diversity in India:** It is practically tough to come up with a common and uniform set of rules for personal issues like marriage due to tremendous cultural diversity India across religions, sects, castes, states etc.
6. **Perception of UCC as encroachment on religious freedom:** Many communities, particularly minority communities perceive Uniform Civil Code as an encroachment on their rights to religious freedom. They fear that a common code will neglect their traditions and impose rules which will be mainly dictated and influenced by the majority religious communities.
7. **Sensitive and tough task:** Such a code, in its true spirit, must be brought about by borrowing freely from different personal laws, making gradual changes in each, issuing judicial pronouncements ensuring gender equality, and adopting expansive interpretations on marriage, maintenance, adoption, and succession by acknowledging the benefits that one community secures from the others. This task will be very demanding time and human resource wise.

8. **False conceptions:** Many people still do not know what the uniform civil code really means. There are still false conceptions surrounding it, especially among the minorities. UCC is also sometimes perceived as the imposition of the Hindu code and procedures, and this adds to its opposition from the minorities. This makes a rational debate on its implementation quite difficult.

Way forward:

1. **Awareness:** Major awareness efforts are needed to reform current personal law reforms which should first be initiated by the communities themselves.

2. **Gradual approach:** The social transformation from diverse civil code to uniformity shall be gradual and cannot happen in a day. Therefore, the government must adopt a "Piecemeal" approach.

3. **Law Commission's recommendations:** The commission stresses on initiatives to reconcile the country's diversity with universal arguments on human rights. It recommended codification of all personal laws:

- So that the prejudices and stereotypes in all religion can be brought to light.
- They can eventually be tested against the anvil of the fundamental rights in the constitution.
- It could help arrive at certain universal principles.
- These may facilitate prioritising equality instead of the imposition of UCC.

The better course would be to bring about small reforms, correcting some inherent irrationality in some of the personal laws, and make them suitable for modern times. The focus should also be on removing disparities between different religions. This might lay the foundation of implementing a UCC at a later date.

General Studies 3

Q.1) What is antimicrobial resistance? Discuss the issues around antimicrobial resistance in light of the recent government ban on colistin in the poultry industry.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is anti-microbial resistance?

Body. Mention various causes of antibiotic resistance and some preventive measures.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Antimicrobial resistance occurs when microbes (bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites) become resistant to antimicrobial drugs (such as antibiotics, anti-fungals, antivirals, antimalarials, and anthelmintics). As a result, the medicines become ineffective and infections persist in the body, increasing the risk of spread to others. India has witnessed an increase in antibiotic consumption- about 65 per cent in 2015 compared to 2000, while the rate of consumption increased from 3.2 to 6.5 billion daily defined doses (DDDs) in the same period. Recently, government has banned colistin- a last line of antibiotic in the poultry industry due to rise in cases of antibiotic resistance against it.

Various Causes of antibiotic resistance: Microbes can become resistant to drugs for both biological and social reasons.

1. **Microbial behaviour:** As soon as scientists introduce a new antimicrobial drug, there is a good chance that it will become ineffective at some point in time. This is due primarily to changes occurring within the microbes.
2. **People's behaviour:** Not following recommendations for the use of some drugs can increase the risk of antimicrobial resistance. The way in which people use antimicrobial drugs is a significant contributing factor. Some individualistic reasons are:
3. **Wrong diagnosis:** Doctors sometimes prescribe antimicrobials "just in case," or they prescribe broad-spectrum antimicrobials when a specific drug would be more suitable. Using these medications in this way increases the risk of AMR.
4. **Inappropriate use:** If a person does not complete a course of antimicrobial drugs, some microbes may survive and develop resistance to the drug. Also antibiotics recommended by quacks or pharmacist contribute to magnify the issue.
5. **Agricultural use:** Using antibiotics in farm animals can promote drug resistance. Scientists have found drug-resistant bacteria in meat and food crops that have exposure to fertilisers or contaminated water. In this way, diseases that affect animals can pass to humans.
6. **Hospital use:** People who are critically ill often receive high doses of antimicrobials. This encourages the spread of AMR microbes, particularly in an environment where various diseases are present.

Government initiative against AMR:

India's National Action Plan (NAP) for AMR was released in 2017 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The objectives of the NAP include:

- Improving awareness and enhancing surveillance measures.
- Strengthening infection prevention and control.
- Research and development, promoting investments, and collaborative activities to control AMR.

On the basis of the NAP, various states have begun the process of initiating their State Action Plans. The challenges in implementation of NAP are as varied perceptions about

antibiotic use and AMR among key stakeholders, lack of diagnostic facilities, widespread use of antibiotics in various sectors, environmental contamination because of pharmaceutical industry, etc. Thus, inter-sectoral co-ordination between public and private sectors and comprehensive strengthening of the healthcare systems are necessary to achieve the desired forward momentum.

Prevention and control measures:

1. **Individuals:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, individuals should:

- Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a certified health professional.
- Never demand antibiotics if your health worker says you don't need them.
- Always follow your health worker's advice when using antibiotics.
- Never share or use leftover antibiotics.

2. **Policy makers:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, policy makers should:

- Ensure a robust national action plan to tackle antibiotic resistance is in place.
- Improve surveillance of antibiotic-resistant infections.
- Strengthen policies, programmes, and implementation of infection prevention and control measures.
- Regulate and promote the appropriate use and disposal of quality medicines.
- Make information available on the impact of antibiotic resistance.

3. **Health professionals:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, health professionals should:

- Prevent infections by ensuring that their hands, instruments, and environment are clean.
- Only prescribe antibiotics when they are needed, according to current guidelines.
- Report antibiotic-resistant infections to surveillance teams.

4. **Agriculture sector:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, the agriculture sector should:

- Only give antibiotics to animals under veterinary supervision.
- Not use antibiotics for growth promotion or to prevent diseases in healthy animals.
- Vaccinate animals to reduce the need for antibiotics and use alternatives to antibiotics when available.
- Promote and apply good practices at all steps of production and processing of foods from animal and plant sources.
- Improve biosecurity on farms and prevent infections through improved hygiene and animal welfare.

There is need to urgently address antimicrobial resistance through the lens of one (human, animal and environment) health. All countries need to work together to limit the spread of ARGs and antibiotics between humans, animals and the environment in the globalised world where we live. Even though national action plans have been laid down by most countries, these plans have yet to move from paper to the ground as antibiotics continue to be freely used.

Q.2) What is meant by recession? What steps has the Government of India taken so far to tackle the current ongoing recession in the country? (GS 3)

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is recession?

Body. Steps taken so far to tackle the ongoing recession in the country.

Conclusion. Way forward.

A recession is a macroeconomic term that refers to a significant decline in general economic activity in a country. It is typically recognized after two consecutive quarters of economic decline, as reflected by GDP in conjunction with monthly indicators like employment. India is facing recession with GDP growth plummeted to nearly five-year low of 5.8 per cent in January-March. The official GDP growth estimate for the July-September quarter, at 4.5%, is the lowest in 26 quarters. Government has initiated various steps in order to tackle the recession and slowdown.

Steps taken by the government so far to tackle the ongoing recession in the country:

1. **Investors:** Enhanced surcharge on FPIs and surcharge on domestic investors in equity markets withdrawn.

- In order to encourage investment in the capital market, it has been decided to withdraw the enhanced surcharge levied by the Finance Act (No 2) Act 2019 on long and short-term capital gains arising from the transfer of equity shares.
- Aadhaar-based KYC for opening demat accounts and investment in mutual funds.
- Govt to consult with RBI to enhance Credit default swap options.

2. **Industry:** CSR violation would be treated as a civil offence, not a criminal offence.

- The government also decided to front-load the Rs.70,000 crore of capital infusion in public sector banks that was announced in the Budget, a move aimed at increasing private investment by facilitating greater credit disbursal by the banks. This Rs.70,000 crore will lead to about Rs.5 lakh crore of fresh liquidity that can be loaned out.
- All pending GST refunds till now shall be paid in 30 days. Future GST refunds to be paid in 60 days.

3. **Auto sector:** BS-IV cars purchased till March 2020 to remain operational for the entire period of registration.

- Govt asks its departments to replace old vehicles.
- Higher vehicle registration fee deferred to June next year.
- Depreciation increased to 30 per cent for all vehicles purchased till March 2020.

4. **MSMEs:** Govt withdraws angle tax provision for startups and their investors.

- One-time settlement policy for MSME loans. Policy to be based on checkbox approach.
- Laws to be amended to ensure one MSME definition.

5. **For NBFCs:** NBFC can now use Aadhaar-based KYC.

- Additional liquidity to support Housing Finance Companies by National Housing Board increased to Rs 30,000 crore
- Govt to release Rs 70,000 crore upfront for PSBs recapitalisation.

6. **Home, auto loans:** Banks to make home, auto loans cheaper. Banks have agreed to pass on the rate cut announced by RBI to customers. Banks to launch Repo Rate linked loans.

- For Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) the National Housing Bank will provide an additional line of funding of Rs 200 billion over the Rs 100 billion to HFCs. This will provide additional liquidity to HFCs at reasonable rates.

- Online tracking system for home, auto loans.
- PSBs to return loan documents to customers within 15 days of loan closure.

Way forward:

1. Monetary Policy stimulus by the RBI and the government along with normal monsoons would provide some relief in the second half of the financial year.
2. Sector-specific sops and smooth GST refunds to exporters can be worked on by the government.
3. Increase in fiscal spending, deviation from fiscal deficit target, and boost in consumption sentiment are must to arrest the downtrend.
4. Incentives to auto sector employees to up skill on electric vehicles is needed.
5. Improving credit flow to both consumer and industry must be focused.

There are several measures there which will boost consumer sentiment and it will boost investor sentiment in any case. The comprehensive measures removing enhanced surcharge on FPIs (foreign portfolio investors) and DIIs (domestic investors), securing transmission of lower repo rates, addressing delayed payments and ensuring that bank officials are confident about lending are strategically targeted towards raising investments.

Q.3) Discuss the progress made so far in campaign against AIDS in India. What are various government measures taken against AIDS and how to tackle it further?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Progress made by India against AIDS. Steps taken by Government of India against AIDS.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), adopted by member countries of the United Nations in 2015, set a target of ending the epidemics of AIDS by 2030 (SDG 3.3). There has been much success achieved in the past 20 years in the battle against AIDS, but more needed to be done. Government has made significant efforts in order to raise awareness against AIDS.

Progress made by India against AIDS:

1. The Indian experience has been more positive but still calls for continued vigilance and committed action. HIV-related deaths declined by 71% between 2005 and 2017.
2. HIV infection now affects 22 out of 10,000 Indians, compared to 38 out of 10,000 in 2001-03. An estimated 2.14 million persons living with HIV and records 87,000 estimated new infections and 69,000 AIDS-related deaths annually.
3. A report from the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in 2018 says India has brought down HIV incidence significantly. According to this report, there are total 2.1million HIV patients in India, with about 83% belonging to 15-49 years of affected people age group.
4. Although the prevalence of AIDS has reduced among children below 15 years to 3.3%, it remain high among women at about 39%.
5. There are wide state variation. Nine States have rates higher than the national prevalence figure. North Eastern States like Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram account for highest adult (15-49 years) HIV prevalence in the country

6. India achieved MDG goal 6. Between 2010 and 2017, new HIV infections have decreased by 27% and AIDS-related deaths have decreased by 56%.

Steps taken by Government of India against AIDS:

1. **National AIDS Control Program (NACP):** Shortly after reporting the first AIDS case in 1986, the Government of India established a National AIDS Control Program (NACP) which has now become the Department of AIDS under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Targeted interventions for the most at risk populations, preventive interventions among the general population, and involvement of NGOs and other sectors and departments, such as education, transport and police was made under it.
2. **National Helpline:** It was launched to facilitate easy dissemination of information related to HIV/AIDS to general public, People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV), High Risk Groups (HRG) and vulnerable population
3. **Indian Medical Council Act (Professional Conduct, & Ethics) Regulations, 2002:** It lays down certain duties on the part of doctors towards the HIV/AIDS patients.
4. **Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act, 1986:** It provides for conducting compulsory medical examination for detection of HIV/AIDS among the victims of trafficking.
5. **HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017:** The Act seeks to prevent and control the spread of HIV and AIDS.
 - Prohibits discrimination against persons with HIV and AIDS.
 - Provides for informed consent and confidentiality with regard to their treatment.
 - Places obligations on establishments to safeguard their rights.
6. **National strategic plan (2017-24):** The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the plan with aim to eradicating HIV/AIDS by 2030. In 2016, India commit at the UNs' High-Level Meeting on AIDS towards the goal of 'ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030. National Strategic Plan (2017-24) aims towards fast track strategy of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030 and is expected to pave a roadmap for achieving the target of 90:90:90.
7. **Mission SAMPARK:** Its aim is to trace those who are Left to Follow Up and are to be brought under Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) services. "Community Based Testing" will be taken up for fast-tracking the identification of all who are HIV positive.
8. **90:90:90 Strategy:** It is a new HIV treatment narrative of UNAIDS programme which has set targets of:
 - 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status (90% diagnosed),
 - 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy (90% on HIV treatment) and
 - 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression (90% suppressed).
9. **Project Sunrise:** It aims for prevention of AIDS specially among people injecting drugs in the 8 North-Eastern states.

Way forward:

1. Emphasis on both prevention & control as well as care and support is needed.
2. There is a need to invest in research to find cure for this epidemic.
3. Focus on areas that have received little attention so far from government and other NGOs
4. Government must remove colonial laws like IPC section 377 to reach to transgender and sex workers
5. Targeted intervention should be adopted. As in Karnataka sensitising police personnel and educating female sex workers help to reduce HIV infection.
6. More awareness should be generated to reduce stigma attached with the HIV infected people.

Stigma towards people living with HIV is widespread. The most affected groups are often marginalised, have little or no access to legal protection of their basic human rights. Steps must be taken to further reduce the stigma. The strength of India's well-established National AIDS Control Programme, with a cogent combination of prevention and case management strategies, must be preserved.

Q.4) What are liquid crystals? Discuss in brief the characteristic useful features of liquid crystals and their great range of applications in diverse fields.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are liquid crystals?

Body. Their useful features of and range of applications in diverse fields.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Liquid crystals (LCs) are a state of matter which has properties between those of conventional liquids and those of solid crystals. For instance, a liquid crystal may flow like a liquid, but its molecules may be oriented in a crystal-like way. LC materials may not always be in a liquid-crystal state of matter (just as water may turn into ice or water vapour).

Useful features:

1. By virtue of their fluid nature, LCs can be easily processed into thin films, yet they retain the optical properties of crystalline materials such as the ability to rotate the plane polarised light.
2. In addition, the orientation of the molecules in liquid crystal films can be modulated on a relatively short time scale using low electric field.
3. Liquid crystals reflect light with a wavelength proportional to the magnitude of pitch which is dependent upon temperature and colour. This is useful in accurately gauge temperature just by looking at the colour.
4. Polymers form an important subclass of liquid crystal materials and occur in nature as solutions of some biopolymers and are important in processing of advanced high-modulus engineering materials like Kevlar.

Applications of liquid crystals:

1. The temperature-dependent variation in the colour of liquid crystals has led to the use of these substances in the measurement of temperature gradients. Cholesteric liquid crystal substances, when applied to the surface of the skin, have been used to locate veins, arteries, infections, tumours and the fetal placenta which are warmer than the surrounding tissues.
2. Nematic liquid crystal are useful research tools in the application of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).
3. Now a days liquid crystals are widely used in cosmetic industry in manufacturing of liquid crystal makeup removers, lipsticks and lip glasses containing liquid crystals. Liquid crystals are using extensively in pharmaceutical industries.
4. Liquid crystal displays are common in calculators, digital watches, television displays etc. Liquid crystals have also been used for novelty items such as toys and decorative materials.
5. Polyester liquid crystals were developed for fire resistant, and are used as coating for multi fibres, optical cables due to good surface roughness, low coefficient of friction.

Thus, liquid crystals because of their properties has immense applications in pharmaceutical industry, cosmetic industries etc. Due to its wide range of flexibility and applicability liquid crystals have a lot of potential application for which R&D is going on.

Q.5) What is naxalism? Discuss various reasons of naxalism and government efforts to root out naxalism from the country.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is naxalism?

Body. Discuss the reasons behind naxalite movement. Mention Government's approach against Naxalism.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Naxalism, is a term used to define a violent activity on behalf of landless labourers and tribal people against landlords and others by some individuals and groups. The Naxalite movement came to the forefront in the late 1960s, when Naxalbari became famous for the left-wing revolt that took place in West Bengal. Since then, it is perceived as the greatest threat to law and order within India. The movement has now advanced to the hilly and forest regions of around 8 different states, with more than 150 districts are believed to be under its direct influence. In Spite of Naxalism being termed as the biggest problem in Adivasi areas, the social problems are actually much wider in the form of unemployment, poverty and an untold number of socio-economic injustices.

Reasons behind naxalite movement:

1. **Tribal discontent:** The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 deprives tribals, who depend on forest produce for their living, from even cutting a bark. Massive displacement of tribal population in the naxalism-affected states due to development projects, mining operations and other reasons.
2. **Easy Targets:** Such people who do not have any source of living are taken into naxalism by Maoists. Maoists provide arms and ammunitions and money to such people.
3. **Gaps in the socio-economic system of the country:** Government measuring its success on the basis of number of violent attacks rather than the development done in the naxal-affected areas.
4. **Absence of strong technical intelligence:** There is poor technical intelligence when it comes to tackling naxalism. Infrastructural problems, for instance, some villages are not yet connected properly with any communication network are there which hinders action against naxalites.
5. **No Follow-Up from administration:** It is seen that even after police takes hold of a region, administration fails to provide essential services to the people of that region.
6. **Confusion over tackling naxalism as a social issue or as a security threat:** State governments considering naxalism as the central government's issue and thus are not taking any initiatives to fight it.

Government's approach against Naxalism:

1. **Operation Green Hunt:** started in 2010 and massive deployment of security forces was done in the naxal-affected areas. From 223 districts that were affected due to naxalism in the year 2010, the number has come down to 90 in nine years.
2. **Aspirational Districts Programme:** The Government's approach is to deal with Left Wing Extremism in a holistic manner, in the areas of security, development, ensuring rights

and entitlements of local communities, improvement in governance and public perception management.

3. **Operation 'SAMADHAN'** is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)'s initiative to deal the Naxal problem. The acronym SAMADHAN stands for Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation and training, Actionable intelligence, Dashboard Based KPIs (key performance indicators) and KRAs (key result areas), Harnessing technology, Action plan for each theater, and No access to financing.

4. **Technological interventions:** The MHA has suggested the use of trackers for weapons, and bio-metrics in smart guns. Unique Identification number (UID) for Gelatine sticks and explosives. At least one UAV or Mini UAV is deployed for each of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) battalions deployed in the Maoist hotbed.

5. **Joint Task Forces** for operations along inter-State boundaries to be set up. Better inter-state coordination and intelligence sharing.

6. 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects, action on maintenance of law and order lies primarily in the domain of the State Governments. For this government has took following steps:

- Filling up critical infrastructure gaps under the Scheme for Special Infrastructure in Left Wing Extremism affected States.
- Assistance in training of State Police through the Ministry of Defence.
- Assistance in community policing and civic action programmes.

7. **'National Policy and Action Plan to address Left Wing Extremism'**, aimed at eliminating the menace in the shortest possible time frame is in place.

Way forward:

1. **Good governance:** The presence of Naxals in the country also reveals loopholes in the law and order of the country which has failed to curb the menace. Central government needs to implement a coherent national strategy to end Naxalism.

2. **Dialogue:** Dialogues between the Naxal leaders, and government officials can be a way to work out a solution. The government should initiate sincere dialogue with Naxalites.

3. **Employment:** Generating more employment and increase wages is important. Insecure livelihood and unemployment in the areas have left people with no option but to join the Naxals.

4. **Rehabilitation and resettlement:** Mining grounds, irrigation areas, industries, etc.in the area without any provision for the resettlement of the displaced people has only added to the woes of the poor. There needs to be more emphasis on rehabilitation of these affected population

5. **Remove disparity:** Economic disparity and the growing distance between the rich and the poor is one of the main problems that has contributed to the growth of Naxalism. This distance needs to be filled to an extent hastily to stop Naxalism. It's important to prevent these people from falling in the Naxal trap.

6. **Modernize law enforcement agencies:** Central government must inroads into these disturbed states with their agencies well-equipped with modern artillery and assist the usually poorly-equipped agencies of the state.

Through a holistic approach focusing on development and security related interventions, the LWE problem can be successfully tackled. Civil society and the media should build pressure on the Maoists to eschew violence, join the mainstream and recognise the fact that the socio-economic and political dynamics and aspirations of 21st Century India are far removed from the Maoist world-view.

Q.6) What are the salient features of the draft Seed Bill, 2019? Discuss various concerns related to the bill.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. What are the salient features of the draft Seed Bill, 2019? Mention various concerns.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Recently, the draft Seed Bill 2019 was finalised which aims to regulate the quality of seeds sold and facilitate the production and supply of these seeds to farmers. It aims to foster competition by amending the Seed Act, 1966 and Seed Rules, 1968. It is an important legislation to ensure the supply of modern, high quality, cutting edge seed technologies to the farmers which will help them in enhancing their productivity and profitability. There are certain proposals in the Bill such as registration of seed varieties, powers granted to the government to fix prices inter-alia which need a closer look.

Salient features of the draft Seed Bill, 2019:

1. **Seed Committee:** The Bill authorises the Central government to reconstitute a Central Seed Committee that will be responsible for the effective implementation of its provisions.
2. **Registration of Seed Varieties:** All varieties of seeds for sale have to be registered and are required to meet certain prescribed minimum standards. For instance, for transgenic varieties of seeds, registration is to be obtained under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. This can bring greater accountability to seed companies.
3. **Exemptions:** Bill exempt farmers from obtaining registration for varieties developed by them. However, if the farmer sells such seeds for a monetary consideration, then that sale needs to be registered. This is to protect the interests of other farmers who buy seeds from such a farmer. Also, farmers are allowed to sow, exchange or sell their farm seeds and planting material without having to conform to the prescribed minimum limits of germination, physical purity and genetic purity (as required by registered seeds). However, farmers cannot sell any seed under a brand name.
4. **Research-based Companies:** In the proposed Bill, there is a differentiation between the seed producer, seed processor and seed dealer for the purpose of licensing. However, there is no recognition of National Level Integrated Seed Companies with R&D capabilities.
5. **Truthfully labelled seeds:** Currently, a large percentage of seed is sold under a self-certification programme called Truthfully Labelled (TL) seeds. The certification process has been kept voluntary.
6. **Nurseries:** There is provision of licences/registration of fruit nurseries. Not all nurseries need to be registered.
7. **Price Control:** Bill empowers the government to fix prices of selected varieties in case of 'emergent' situations such as seed shortage, abnormal increase in price, monopolistic pricing, profiteering, etc. which are open to subjective interpretation.
8. **Penal Provisions:** Bill differentiates the agronomic performance of the seed, its physical quality and the supply of spurious seed, and consequently penalises the offences and prescribes punishment.

Concerns related to the bill:

1. There is a serious lacuna in the definition of transgenic variety, which was not clear and also unscientific.

2. Another shortfall in the proposed piece of legislation was disparity between the rights conferred on farmers as compared to that in the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act.
3. The Seeds Bill insists on compulsory registration of seeds. However, the The Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Right Act (PPVFR Act) is based on voluntary registration. As a result, many seeds may be registered under the Seeds Bill but may not be under the PPVFR Act.
4. Many seed varieties may never enter the open domain for free-use. A vague provision for regulation of seed prices is in the Seeds Bill. In fact, strict control on seed prices has been an important demand raised by farmers' organisations.
5. Under the PPVFR Act, if a registered variety fails in its promise of performance, farmers can claim compensation before a PPVFR Authority. This provision is diluted in the Seeds Bill, where disputes on compensation have to be decided as per the Consumer Protection Act 1986. Consumer courts are hardly ideal and friendly institutions that farmers can approach.
6. Also, according to the Seeds Bill, farmers become eligible for compensation if a plant variety fails to give expected results under "given conditions". It is almost impossible to define conditions in agriculture.

Way Forward:

1. Agriculture production is purely based on the basic input, i.e., seed. Until and unless the purity, quality and seed standards are maintained, production programme cannot be successful. Hence, to maintain these quality standards, legislations in this regard are equally important.
 2. It is also necessary to disseminate the information regarding seed legislations to the farmers in order to make them aware of their rights.
 3. Companies with national licence and accreditation must be allowed to conduct trials for seed varieties and generate data (which is to be made acceptable for product registration purposes). This will help in speedy reach of new research products to the market for the timely benefit of the farmer.
- Overall, the seed law must have the twin objective of regulating the supply of seeds for the benefit of the farmers and, at the same time, enable the development of the seed industry. As government aim to double the income of farmers, seed act should be drafted in such a way that it benefits the small farmers the most.

Q.7) What is 'virtual autopsy'? Discuss various advantages and disadvantages of virtual autopsy.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is virtual autopsy?

Body. It's advantages and disadvantages.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Virtual autopsy is a virtual alternative to a traditional autopsy, conducted with scanning and imaging technology. In a virtual autopsy, doctors use radiation to examine the innards to reach a conclusion about the cause of death. A CT scan or an MRI machine could be used, in the same way that they are used to scan a living human's body.

Advantages of a virtual autopsy:

1. Virtual autopsy is a non-invasive technique where non-intrusive human autopsies are performed by using a CT Scanner to obtain a detailed view of the body.
2. Virtual Autopsy creates digital and permanent records of the body, making it easier for pathologists and clinicians to communicate with each other.
3. Real samples are hard to transport and share, while the digital image of the body can be shared electronically among medical professionals and experts and can be stored for future retrieval and re-examination.
4. Doctors can conduct a Virtual Autopsy remotely. This means that hospitals centres with CT scanners can take advantage of Virtual Autopsy even though they may not have an in-house pathologist.
5. The legal system can also benefit from this technology as the 3-dimensional images can easily be shown in courtrooms and spare people from having to look at the traditional autopsies' gruesome pictures of the victim's body. The images from a Virtual Autopsy can be made interactive, helping the judge and jury understand some technical facts.
6. Virtual Autopsy can prove to be cheaper than conventional autopsies in some cases, with fewer resources needed and simpler to perform.
7. A Virtual Autopsy leaves the body intact, so it would not add to the grief of the victim's family. This also overcomes the obstacles presented by religions that forbid cutting of the deceased.
8. A Virtual Autopsy is also a good method to contain/eliminate cross contamination and infection, as all deceased are scanned in a body bag. Virtual Autopsy lowers the risk of contaminating pathologists and other medical personnel.

Disadvantages of a Virtual autopsy:

1. Virtual autopsy is expensive and include high equipment and technology costs.
2. Virtual autopsy need skills and training to deduce from the autopsy results. Lack of experience is a disadvantage.
3. Virtual autopsy is a lengthy procedure which include taking CT scan and MRI with result may take 2-3 days to come, while traditional autopsy take less time.
4. Virtual autopsy is new and is not fully accurate and thus may lead to false diagnosis and judgements.
5. Merging data from multiple techniques will always result in some loss of precision. A reliance on imagery alone may lead to omissions.
6. No proper validation of the method has been made using closely prepared prospective studies.

The process of a standard autopsy can damage or destroy evidence of the cause and manner of death due to the elaborate, intense and timely surgical procedure. In light of this unfortunate and common issue, a new technology has been recently and particularly developed to eliminate hands-on autopsies i.e. virtual autopsy, which have a lot of potential applications

Q.8) “The problem with global environmental policies is that the climate treaties focus on symptoms, rather than the cause.” Elaborate.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Discuss the major issue in global environmental policies.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The increasing levels of concentration of greenhouse gases, and rising temperatures, raises questions on the effectiveness of global climate policy. The problem is that global environmental policies have so far considers symptoms i.e. emissions of greenhouse gases, rather than the causes i.e. efficient use of natural resources keeping climate change in mind.

Major issue in global environmental policies:

1. It is reported that excessive resource use by the 5th of the world population in the West which is still responsible for half of global material use and the cause of climate change. Despite this global environmental policies like UNFCCC has focus only on greenhouse gases and no major effort has been made from West to reduce the burden on resources.
2. Asia with half the world's population is responsible for less than half of material use, and living in harmony with nature. It is forced to deal with the climate change and major of the green efforts are done from Asia. This mismatch where emitter is not being pushed to go for sustainably use resources and reducing emissions has failed the very objective of the policies.
3. Consumption patterns of primary material especially from West has led to rise in emissions. No effort has been made to reduce such consumption patterns.
4. The effort by making provisions like carbon trading and polluter pays principle has not been effective to put a stop on discriminatory usage of resources.
5. Developed countries have been running from taking responsibilities and work together in order to reduce climate change. For example, *not much technology has been transferred to the developing world that could have helped in reducing carbon emissions.*
6. The US and China are the largest emitter and consumer of the resources. No onus is put by environmental policies wrt limiting use of polluting resources.

Way forward:

1. Measures for global sustainability should draw lessons from India and China. For example, *transport emissions are the fastest growing emissions worldwide, projected to become half of global emissions, and in the future more polluting than coal use. India and China are global leaders in sustainability as they adopt electric vehicles supported by solar and wind renewable energy.*
2. By 2040 more than half of global wealth is again going to be in Asia, the low carbon social development model adopted by India and China will become the world system, ensuring global sustainability.
3. Alternative strategies led by India and China should be included in the ineffective Climate Treaty and focus must be on limiting resource burden and carbon footprint.

Thus, what is required is a multi-pronged effort not only on symptoms but also on the causes. Efforts like banning plastic by India, increasing renewable investment, adopting green energy, replacing coal with nuclear energy etc. must be focused equally in the environmental policies.

Q.9) "India has emerged as a global leader in the fight against climate change." In light of this discuss various government initiatives to tackle climate change and its consequences.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Discuss India being a global leader in climate change efforts. Mention major initiatives of the Government towards combating climate change.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is a global leader in the fight against climate change. India is not only a global leader in climate change mitigation but also a global leader from whom many countries can learn how to maintain balance between development and keeping the environment safe and healthy. Countries can learn through various Indian programs like National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), International Solar Alliance (ISA), FAME Scheme for E-mobility, UJALA scheme etc.

India as a global leader in climate change efforts:

1. India's initiative for Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is a model and can help other countries in the development of appropriate infrastructure to face the least developed and developing countries with natural calamities.
2. India seeks to strike the perfect balance between growth and development. It simultaneously addresses social progress and environmental conservation. The achievements in the urban space not only reaffirm India's stature as a global leader around the normative frameworks on sustainability, but also indicate that India is walking the talk on climate action and setting global benchmarks vis-a-vis climate resilience and green growth.
3. It's per-capita emissions are amongst the lowest in the world despite being the third largest economy in the world. Thus Indian practices can teach a lot to the world about sustainable living.
4. India has shown leadership in combating climate change and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as is reflected in many of its developmental schemes.
5. India is one of the least wasteful economies. It has frequently been acknowledged by stakeholders for its cooperation and efforts to promote climate change mitigation, and environmental sustainability.
6. India emerged as a key player in shaping the Paris Agreement, along with adopting energy-efficiency measures.
7. Yoga and Ayurveda are perhaps among the most well-known ways of holistic Indian living. Sustainable and environmentally friendly practices and psyches still continue to be part of the lifestyle and culture.

Major initiatives of the Government towards combating climate change:

1. **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC):** The Action plan covers 8 major missions on Solar, Enhanced Energy Efficiency, Sustainable Habitat, Water, Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem, Green India, Sustainable Agriculture and Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change.
2. **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** ISA was launched on the side-lines of CoP 21 in 2015. The vision and mission of the alliance is to provide a dedicated platform for cooperation among solar resource rich countries that lie completely or partially between the Tropics of Capricorn & Cancer.

3. **State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC):** State governments have drafted climate strategies aligned with the eight National Missions under the NAPCC. The strategies focus on issues ranging from climate mitigation, energy efficiency, and resource conservation to climate adaptation.
4. **FAME Scheme for E-mobility:** Union Government in 2015 launched Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric vehicles (FAME) – India Scheme with an aim to boost sales of eco-friendly vehicles in the country. It is a part of the National Mission for Electric Mobility.
5. **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:** The scheme provides LPG connections to five crore below-poverty-line beneficiaries. The connections are given in the name of women beneficiaries to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels and conventional fuel like cow dung for cooking food, thus reducing air pollution.
6. **UJALA scheme:** The scheme was launched in January 2015 with a target of replacing 77 crore incandescent lamps with LED bulbs. The usage of LED bulbs will not only result in reducing electricity bills but also help in environment protection.
7. **Swachh Bharat Mission:** Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Movement) is a campaign that was launched on October 2, 2014. The campaign seeks to clean the streets, roads and infrastructure of the country's 4041 statutory cities and towns.
8. **Smart City initiative:** Buildings contribute 30-40% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Smart Cities Mission focus on sustainability and climate resilience. In 2019, SCM launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework, a first-of-its-kind public assessment framework on climate-relevant parameters. Thus, India teach other countries through formulation of greener policies and projects.
9. **Other efforts:** India through INDC goals, target to achieve 40% non-fossil-based power capacity by 2030 more than a decade earlier than targeted. India has recently banned complete use of single use plastic in various sectors and industries. This would pave a way not only to tackle air pollution but also would prevent climate change.

India and the world have a long and challenging way to go in dealing with environmental problems, and learning to live together in sustainable communities. We need to realise that development is more than economic, and sustainable development is a collective responsibility. As a global family and village, we should come together to learn from each other, and good lessons can be drawn and implemented from both ancient wisdom, and scientific fact. It can be seen that India is pushing hard not only to mitigate climate change but also to stop the causes of climate change.

Q.10) What are the reformative steps taken so far by the Government to make food grain distribution system more effective?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Mention issues with the Food Grain Distribution System. Discuss Reformative steps taken by the Government for the same.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is home to millions of hungry people in the world, as shown by India's place in hunger index. The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 provides for the Right to Food as a legal entitlement by providing subsidised food grains to nearly two-thirds of the population.

However, due to various reasons, the current food grain distribution system is fraught with various defects.

Issues with the Food Grain Distribution System:

1. **Inaccurate identification of households:** Presence of inclusion and exclusion errors in identification of beneficiaries.
2. **Leakages in the delivery system:** This takes place during the transportation of food grains to ration shops and from there to the open market.
3. **Financially inefficient:** The centre bears a large financial burden of the food subsidy as the cost of procuring and delivering food grains is about six times its sale price.
4. **Shortfall in the storage capacity:** It leads to the rotting of food grains.

Reformative steps taken by the Government:

1. **Promotion of nationwide procurement:** Food Corporation of India (FCI) has tried to revamp and restructure the procurement system to cover the entire country. In this regard, FCI has also made special efforts for procurement in the eastern states of India.
2. **Use of modern technology in storage:** To prevent rotting of food grains, Irradiation Technology has also been introduced.
3. **Online Monitoring System:** To bring all operations of FCI Godowns online to check leakages in distribution.
4. **Digitisation of ration cards and use of AADHAR:** It has helped to eliminate duplicate and ghost (fake) beneficiaries, and make identification of beneficiaries more accurate.
5. **Technology-based reforms implemented by states:** End to end computerisation has curbed large-scale diversion of food grains by tracking its delivery from state depots to beneficiaries.
6. **GPS tracking of delivery:** The tracking of the movement of trucks carrying food grains has helped in monitoring the supply chain. It has been implemented by Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu.
7. **SMS based monitoring by citizens:** Allows monitoring by citizens as they can register their mobile numbers and send/receive SMS alerts during dispatch and arrival.
8. **Use of web-based citizen's portal:** For public grievance redressal as they can register complaints or provide suggestions.
9. **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Public Distribution System (PDS):** Currently, pilot projects have been started in Delhi and Puducherry.

Way forward:

1. Decentralised procurement operations by leading states that have gained sufficient experience in this regard. This would help Food Corporation of India (FCI) to focus on lagging states.
2. Home delivery of food grains can help in increasing last-mile connectivity.
3. Shanta Kumar committee recommendations should be fully implemented.
4. Engagement of the private Sector can help to modernise stocking and warehousing facilities.
5. Leakages should be prevented further and food distribution must be made more transparent.

Food security is crucial for reaping the benefits of demographic dividend and this can be achieved through a robust food distribution system. Government has taken many initiatives for this. Competitive federalism should be promoted further among states so as to learn from the best practices of other states in managing the food economy.

Q.11) Comment on the significance of e-NAM initiative as a tool to resolve some of the agricultural issues in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. What are the challenges addressed by e-NAM? Significance of e-NAM.

Conclusion. Way forward.

eNAM is pan-India electronic trading portal for farm produce which aims to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities by integrating existing Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) markets. It provides single window service for all APMC related services and information, such as commodity arrivals and prices, provision for responding to trade offers, buy and sell trade offers, among other services. On this platform, farmers can showcase their produce online from their nearest market and traders can quote price from anywhere. It aims to foster greater competition among traders and also ensure open price discovery and better returns to farmers.

Issues in agricultural marketing:

1. There is fragmented market and poor mandi linkage to farmers.
2. Market domination by organised traders by dominating mandis is an issues.
3. There is a lack of direct access to market for the farmers, that lead to their exploitation in the hands of intermediaries.
4. Farmers could buy and sell only in the government-designated Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) market-yards.
5. There are information irregularity between the buyers and sellers that lead to corrupt practices.
6. There are issues of storage facilities that often lead to spoilage of the produce.

Significance of e-NAM in removing these issues:

1. With wide participation and perfect sync between markets and stakeholders e-NAM can be successful.
3. e-NAM authorities can work to encourage farmers to produce better quality crop and meeting exchange standards.
3. Price distribution alerts through mobile phones could serve as a reliable reference price for farmers.
4. Monitoring the warehouses for the incoming and outgoing stocks will make the initiative stronger.
5. The profiles of the farmers linked with e-NAM can be used for credibility reports by financial institutions.
6. Indian agriculture needs robust and transparent institutions for e-NAM to deliver long-term benefits.
7. e-nam is important in Creating a unified market through online trading platform across the country (at state and national level).
8. For the farmers, NAM promises more options for sale. It would increase their access to markets through warehouse-based sales and thus obviate the need to transport his produce to the mandi.
9. Eliminating information irregularity between the buyers and sellers and promoting real time price finding on the basis of actual demand and supply.

10. Bulk buyers, processors, exporters etc. benefit from being able to participate directly in trading at the local mandi/market level through the NAM platform, thereby reducing their intermediation costs.
11. e-NAM help by providing an accessible nationwide market for the farmer with equal prices for the quality of his produce.
12. The gradual integration of all the major mandis in the States into NAM will ensure common procedures for issue of licences, levy of fee and movement of produce.

e-NAM platform promotes better marketing opportunities for farmers to sell their produce through online competitive and transparent price discovery system and online payment facility. So far e-NAM has helped in many ways especially by integrating Mandi's across the states. An Inter-State dashboard on e-NAM platform has been developed to promote inter State trade among e-NAM States.

Q.12) What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is water use efficiency?

Body. Discuss the role of micro-irrigation in increasing water use efficiency.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Water use efficiency (WUE) is the measure of a cropping system's capacity to convert water into plant biomass or grain. It includes both the use of water stored in the soil and rainfall during the growing season. Water use efficiency is about careful management of water supply sources, use of water saving technologies, reduction of excessive demand and other actions. In context of Indian agriculture, recognising the fast-declining irrigation water potential and increasing demand for water from different sectors, a number of demand management strategies and programmes have been introduced. One such method is micro-irrigation that includes drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation.

Role of micro-irrigation in increasing water use efficiency:

1. Micro-irrigation (MI) is proved to be an efficient method in saving water and increasing water use efficiency as compared to the conventional surface method of irrigation, where water use efficiency is only about 35-40%.
2. The on-farm irrigation efficiency of properly designed and managed drip irrigation system is estimated to be about 90%.
3. Productivity gain due to use of micro-irrigation is estimated to be in the range of 20 to 90% for different crops.
4. The reduction in water consumption in micro-irrigation also reduces the energy use (electricity) that is required to lift water from irrigation wells.
5. Farmers using a pumping system to irrigate their fields should ensure that the pump and pipe size are fitting with their needs, thus avoiding water and energy overuse and consequent leakages.
6. Emerging computerised GPS-based precision irrigation technologies for self-propelled sprinklers and micro-irrigation systems will enable growers to apply water and agrochemicals more precisely and site specifically to match soil and plant status and needs as provided by wireless sensor networks.

Government of India has also accorded high priority to water conservation and its management. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has been formulated with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation 'Har Khet Ko Pani' and improving water use efficiency 'More crop per drop' in focused manner using sprinkler & drip method of irrigation. This irrigation method has several advantages over furrow systems, including reduced water use.

Q.13) "In the absence of scientific planning and implementation, measures like Jal Shakti Abhiyan may not be successful." Discuss in the light of looming water crisis across India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Discuss about water crisis in India. Mention about Jal Shakti Abhiyan and various issues in it.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Following the massive water crisis across India, the Central Government has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign. This campaign aims to make water conservation a 'people's movement' through ongoing schemes like the MGNREGA and other government programmes.

Water crisis:

1. According to the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) report released by the Niti Aayog in 2018, 21 major cities (Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and others) are racing to reach zero groundwater levels by 2020, affecting access to 100 million people. India is under the water stress category as its per capita water consumption is below 1700 cum annually according to Central water commission.
2. Regardless of improvements to drinking water, many other water sources are contaminated with both bio and chemical pollutants, and over 21% of the country's diseases are water-related.
3. Furthermore, only 33% of the country has access to traditional sanitation. This leads to unavailability of clean drinking water and endangers Indian population's health.
4. India's water crisis is often attributed to lack of government planning, increased corporate privatisation, industrial and human waste and government corruption. In addition, water scarcity in India is expected to worsen as the overall population is expected to increase to 1.6 billion by the year 2050. To that end, global water scarcity is expected to become a leading cause of conflict in the future.

About Jal Shakti Abhiyan:

1. It is a time-bound, mission-mode campaign that would focus on 1,592 "water-stressed" blocks in 257 districts.
2. Jal Shakti Abhiyan is a collaborative effort of various Ministries of the Government of India and State Governments, being coordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
3. Under the campaign, teams of officers from the central government will visit and work with district administration in water stressed blocks, to ensure five important water conservation interventions.

4. These will be water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks, reuse, bore well recharge structures, watershed development and intensive afforestation.

5. These water conservation efforts will also be supplemented with special interventions including the development of Block and District Water Conservation Plans, promotion of efficient water use for irrigation and better choice of crops through Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

Lack of scientific planning in Jal Shakti Abhiyan:

1. JSA is planned based on the boundary of the districts, and is to be carried out under the overall supervision of a bureaucrat. This would result in the division of basins/aquifers into multiple units that follow multiple policies.

2. There was no data on basin-wise rainfall, no analysis of run-off and groundwater maps were rarely used. As a result, one never came to know whether water harvested in a pond in a district was at the cost of water in adjoining districts.

3. The JSA also fundamentally ignored the fact that most of India's water-stressed basins, particularly those in the peninsular regions, are facing closure, with the demand exceeding supply. Hence, groundwater recharge happened at the cost of surface water and vice versa.

4. JSA's portal displays impressive data, images and statistics. But the data displayed on JSA portal do not speak anything about the pre-JSA water levels, the monthly water levels and impact of monsoon on the water levels across the 255 districts with critical and over-exploited blocks. They also don't convey anything about the quality of the structures, their maintenance and sustainability. Even if the water levels had been measured, it is unknown whether the measurement was accurate.

5. The assumptions of JSA are distorted. For example, it assumes that common people in rural areas are ignorant and prone to wasting water. On the contrary, they are the ones who first bear the brunt of any water crisis. The per capita water allocation to those living in rural areas is 55 litres, whereas the same for urban areas like Delhi and Bengaluru is 135-150 litres.

6. Further, there are issues like lack of proper engineering supervision of these structures, involvement of multiple departments with less or no coordination, and limited funding under MGNREGA and other schemes.

7. Finally, there have hardly been many efforts undertaken to dissuade farmers from growing water-intensive crops such as paddy, sugarcane, and banana, when it is widely known that agriculture consumes 80% of freshwater.

Way forward:

1. Water planning needs to be based on hydrological units, namely river basins. Political and administrative boundaries of districts rarely coincide with the hydrological boundaries or aquifer boundaries.

2. There is need of promoting traditional knowledge-based water management and integrating it in any water management plan.

3. There is need to encourage farmers to grow less water-intensive crops in place of water-intensive crops like rice by using irrigation methods.

4. Co-ordination at various levels among ministries, departments and states is a must.

5. Proper study of monsoon and its variations is needed before going for any water management plan.

India is not a water deficit country, but due to severe neglect and lack of monitoring of water resource development projects, many regions in the country face water stress from time to time. Therefore, scientific water management with available supply is the need of

the hour for future economic growth and development as well as for the sustenance of human life.

Q.14) Explain how vaccines work? Discuss the significance of vaccination and mention various challenges regarding vaccination in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are vaccines?

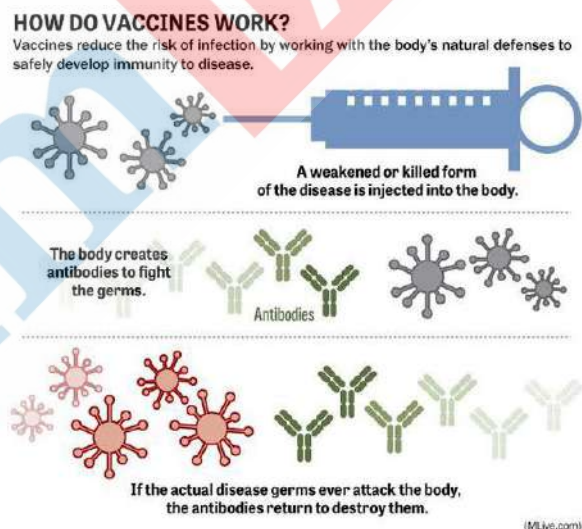
Body. How does vaccination work? It's significance and various challenges for vaccination in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

A vaccine is a biological preparation that improves immunity to a particular disease. A vaccine typically contains an agent that resembles a disease-causing microorganism, and is often made from weakened or killed forms of the microbe, its toxins or one of its surface proteins. Vaccines are like a training course for the immune system. They prepare the body to fight disease without exposing it to disease symptoms.

How does vaccination work?

1. Our immune system is composed of various types of cells. These cells defend us against invaders and remove harmful pathogens. Vaccination works by teaching our immune system how to recognise new diseases.
2. Vaccines stimulate our bodies to make antibodies against antigens of pathogens. It also teaches the immune system to remember the antigens that cause infection, which leads to a faster response to the same disease in the future.
3. In simple terms, vaccines work by exposing a person to a safer version of a disease. While the body responds to the vaccine, it builds an adaptive immune system, which helps the body to fight off the actual infection in the future.
4. When foreign invaders such as bacteria or viruses enter the body, immune cells called lymphocytes respond by producing antibodies, which are protein molecules. These antibodies fight the invader known as an antigen and protect against further infection.
5. After the threat has passed, many of the antibodies will break down, but immune cells called memory cells remain in the body. When the body encounters that antigen again, the memory cells produce antibodies fast and kill the harmful micro-organism.



Significance of Vaccination:

1. According to WHO, vaccination prevents between two-three million deaths each year, a figure that will rise by another 1.5 million if vaccine coverage improves.
2. Vaccination protects children from serious illness and complications of vaccine-preventable diseases which can include amputation of an arm or leg, paralysis of limbs, hearing loss, convulsions, brain damage, and death. A study in 2017 that looked at flu

seasons between 2010 and 2014 found that vaccination reduced flu-associated deaths by 65% among healthy children.

3. The vaccine can also prevent hospitalisations (thereby it can check out of pocket expenditure), reduce the severity of illness and prevent severe, life-threatening complications in children.

4. Efficacious vaccines not only protect the immunised, but can also reduce disease among un-immunised individuals in the community through “indirect effects” or “herd protection”. Because of herd protection, some diseases can be eliminated without 100% immunisation coverage.

5. By reducing the need for antibiotics, vaccines may reduce the prevalence and hinder the development of resistant strains, thereby preventing antibiotic resistance.

6. Vaccines can increase life expectancy by protecting against diseases against which one would not expect benefit.

7. With improvements in infant and child mortality, women tend to opt for fewer children as the need to have many children to ensure that some will reach adulthood is reduced. This has significant health, educational, social and economic benefits.

8. Poor health has been shown to stunt economic growth while good health can promote social development and economic growth. Health is fundamental to economic growth for developing countries and vaccinations form the bedrock of their public health programmes.

Challenges regarding vaccination in India:

1. Lack of social awareness amongst families for the need of vaccination due to illiteracy and religious beliefs.

2. Inadequate health infrastructure, lack of targeted and robust health delivery mechanisms and deficient last mile delivery.

3. Lack of well-equipped and trained health care workers.

4. Misconceptions about immunisation mostly among poor and underprivileged about vaccines and their side effects.

5. Vaccines require cold chain infrastructure for storage. Logistical and Infrastructural issues in storage of vaccines hampering its penetrability in the rural hinterland.

6. Inadequate labour force and vaccination centres in areas with sparse population.

7. Absence of a monitoring mechanism to ascertain the degree of coverage in every village/block/district.

The benefits of vaccination extend beyond prevention of specific diseases in individuals. They enable a rich, multifaceted harvest for societies and nations. Vaccination makes good economic sense, and meets the need to care for the weakest members of societies. A comprehensive vaccination programme is a cornerstone of good public health and will reduce inequities and poverty.

Q.15) What is ‘digital divide’? What are its implications? Also suggest measures to bridge the digital divide in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Discuss the digital divide across the country. Various implications of digital divide. Measures to bridge the digital divide.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Digital divide is a term that refers to the gap between demographics and regions that have access to modern information and communications technology, and those that don't or have restricted access. The term describes a gap in terms of access to and usage of information and communication technology. The digital divide can exist between those living in rural areas and those living in urban areas, between the educated and uneducated, between economic classes, and on a global scale between more and less industrially developed nations.

Digital divide across the country: India, which has been appreciated globally for providing IT services, faces a huge digital divide, having a relatively low percentage of population with access to the Internet. In 2014, it had only about 18 people per 100 using the Internet (World Bank Data).

1. **North-South, East-West divide:** Southern states are more digitally literate than Northern counterpart. This is consistent with their traditional literacy also. For example, Digital divide is least in Kerala while worst in West Bengal.
2. **"Bharat-India" divide:** While urban areas are more digitally literate, rural counterpart are lacking in the respective states. States which are more urbanised are generally more digitally literate and vice versa. About 70% of over one billion Indians live in rural areas, and only about 400 million have Internet access.
3. **Linguistic Divide:** More than 80% of the content on the Internet is in English, so states where people are more competent in English are more digitally competent.

Implications of digital divide:

1. Increasing penetration of digital technology by bridging the existing digital divides is associated with **greater social progress of a country**. Digital divide thus in a way hinders the social progress of a country.
2. **Economic disparity** is created between those who can afford the technology and those who don't.
3. A direct correlation between a company's access to technological advancements and its overall success in bolstering the economy. Thus, digital divide hinders economic growth of a country.
4. The digital divide also impacts children's ability to learn and grow in low-income school districts. Without Internet access, students are unable to cultivate necessary tech skills in order to understand today's dynamic economy.
5. Almost all India's socio-economic problems have links to the digital divide. Rural India suffered from information poverty. Information is controlled by a few at the top of the pyramid who restrict its percolation down to those at the bottom.
6. **Political empowerment** and mobilisation in the age of social media is difficult when there is a digital divide.
7. **Transparency and accountability is less** due to digital gap. For instance, it impacts delivery of services and good governance as well.

Measures to bridge the digital divide:

1. To bridge the digital divide, **there is a need to accelerate execution** of digital India initiative.
2. **Meaningful collaborations with the private sector**, technological innovations and following a consistent focused approach towards the larger objective are necessary.
3. **Utilisation of multiple modes of transactions** such as Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), and Point-of-Sale (POS) machines, need to be strengthened.

4. India also needs **easing of regulations** to allow interoperability of wallets to ensure easy transfer of funds for merchants as well as for consumers.
5. There is a need to enhance and develop robust rural digital infrastructure and ecosystem.
6. Focus must also be on enhancing the digital literacy through various platforms especially media.

Noting that digital literacy is an important force for good governance and transparency, India has tried to bridge the digital divide gap by enacting some programmes like Digital India, efforts to make India a cashless economy, Pradhan Mantri Grameen Digital Saksharta Abhiyan (PMGDISHA) aimed at spreading digital literacy among the rural population. Govt in states are trying to address these issues through various schemes in conjugation with Central govt's Digital India programme and PMDISHA. Multi-pronged approach (spreading across various ministries and departments) is needed to address these issues.

Q.16) “Climate change and unprecedented floods resulting from cloud bursts have facilitated the introduction of aquatic invasive alien species into new habitats in India.” Discuss the threat posed by invasive alien species on native ecosystem and how it should be tackled.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Mention various threats posed by invasive alien species on native ecosystem. Measures needed to control the invasive alien species.

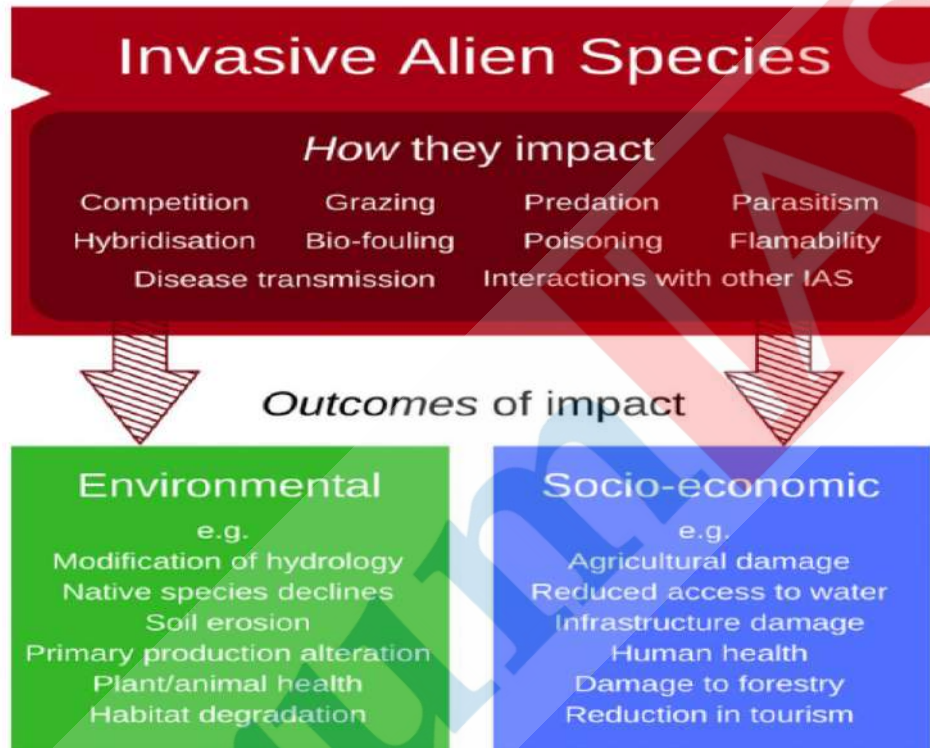
Conclusion. Way forward.

An alien species is a species introduced outside its natural past or present distribution; if this species becomes problematic, it is termed an invasive alien species. The climate change, movement of people and goods around the world increases the threat for introduction of invasive alien species. Invasive alien species are such a problem that Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and one clause of UN Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Life on Land specifically address the issue. The harmful impact of invasive alien species on the natural environment, biodiversity and ecosystem services may, therefore, have direct and indirect adverse effects on human wellbeing.

Threat posed by invasive alien species on native ecosystem:

1. Invasive alien species are the most common threat to amphibians, reptiles and mammals on The IUCN Red List. Increase growth of the grass *paspalum distichum* has changed the ecological character of large areas of the Keoladeo National park.
2. They may lead to changes in the structure and composition of ecosystems detrimentally affecting ecosystem services, human economy and wellbeing.
3. Worldwide, invasive alien species constitute one of the leading threats to biodiversity, second only to the destruction and fragmentation of entire habitats. Papaya Mealy Bug, is believed to have destroyed the huge crops of Papaya in Assam and West Bengal.
4. Alien species may threaten indigenous species by competing with them for the same resources, by predation, by spreading diseases or parasites, or by cross-breeding with these species in the wild.

5. Alien species are also known to have changed the structure of food chains and to have affected the functioning of entire ecosystems.
6. Invasive alien species cause harmful social impacts and substantial financial losses to a variety of actors. Many invasive alien species are major pests for agriculture and forestry industries.
7. Fishing and fish farming may also suffer from the spread of invasive alien species. Alien species can also pose a health hazard or function as disease carriers.
8. Invasive alien species cause significant financial costs worldwide. In 2001, it was estimated that the annual damage caused by invasive alien species worldwide exceeded around 2 to 3% of combined global GDP.



Measures needed to control invasive alien species:

1. **Building awareness and support:** High awareness of risks posed by invasive alien species and about the need of prevention and mitigation for native biodiversity is needed. All the stakeholders must be actively engaged in developing best practices to prevent invasive species impacts.
2. **Collecting, managing and sharing information:** A clear understanding of alien species established on national territory is need to be developed to help identify species that are invasive, set priorities for research, prevention, monitoring and mitigation and rapidly detect new arrivals not already present in the country or part of the country.
3. **Regional cooperation and responsibility:** States need to recognize the risk that activities within their jurisdiction or control may pose to other states as a potential source of invasive alien species and take appropriate individual and cooperative actions to minimize that risk. States must act with centre and other states to prevent invasive species attacks.
4. **Prevention:** Countries must cooperate to strengthen and prioritize border control and quarantine measures for alien species that are or could become invasive, making best use of existing resources and information systems.
5. **Early detection and rapid response:** A comprehensive and cost-effective surveillance procedures must be put in place (key actions include setting up an early warning system and organizing regular surveillance of high-risk areas).

6. Mitigation of impacts: A clear draft of mitigation measures and procedures must be prepared by consulting and involve affected communities and stakeholders. Realistic priorities for eradication, containment and control are needed.

7. Restoration of native biodiversity: Strategies for eradication and control programmes must be prepared. Restoration measures for native biodiversity must be clearly planned.

A holistic approach, strategies and programmes relating to invasive alien species go beyond focus on prevention/management to promote restoration measures for native biodiversity and, wherever possible, the use of native species of local provenance. Increased resilience of native biodiversity can, in turn, provide greater protection against re-invasion or new incursions.

Q.17) How has golden rice been developed? Write a note on its importance in human nutrition.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. How golden rice was developed? Its importance in nutrition.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Golden rice is a genetically modified, biofortified crop. Golden rice is a variety of rice produced through genetic engineering to biosynthesize beta-carotene, a precursor of vitamin A, in the edible parts of rice. It is intended to produce a fortified food to be grown and consumed in areas with a shortage of dietary vitamin A. Lack of vitamin A is a leading cause of childhood blindness and can also make children more susceptible to death from other illness like measles.

How was it developed?

1. Vitamin A is made from beta-carotene, which is found in carrots, spinach, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables.
2. To create golden rice, scientists modified rice plants with beta-carotene genes from maize. By doing this, rice plants started to produce the rich orange-coloured pigment.
3. Then, the transgenic plants were donated to publicly funded research centres to develop their own versions of golden rice using local rice varieties.
4. Golden rice differs from its parental strain by the addition of three beta-carotene biosynthesis genes. The parental strain can naturally produce beta-carotene in its leaves, where it is involved in photosynthesis. However, the plant does not normally produce the pigment in the endosperm, where photosynthesis does not occur.

Its importance in human nutrition:

1. Vitamin A is a vital vitamin for the human body. The World Health Organization estimates that about 250 million preschool children are affected by Vitamin A deficiency and about 2.7 million children die because of the deficiency.
2. Golden Rice has the promise to help prevent millions of deaths and to alleviate the sufferings of children and adults afflicted with Vitamin A deficiency and micronutrient malnutrition in developing countries.
3. Golden Rice contains extra genes, one from maize and one from bacterial origin together responsible for the production of provitamin A in the rice grain. A bowl of 100 - 150 grams

of boiled Golden Rice can provide children with 60% of their daily recommended intake of vitamin A.

4. In addition, allowing further golden rice development may open up more possibilities of enhancing genetically modified, biofortified crops to combat micronutrient malnutrition in developing countries. This is the main benefit of golden rice.

5. Farmers can cultivate Golden Rice plants that still contain the same traits as their customary rice varieties. In addition, the taste and cooking method of Golden Rice be the same as the white rice varieties.

Tackling poverty, the lack of infrastructure and inadequate education are the greatest challenges. In attaining these goals the enrichment of staple food crops in developing countries can comprise a sustainable way of adding additional nutrients to people's diets. The development of Golden Rice is the first example of this. Development of the plant has already made significant progress and meanwhile many varieties exist. The field trials and analyses however demand a great deal of time, and regulation surrounding GM crops is stringent. Moreover, Golden Rice also faces opposition that primarily arises through misconceptions.

Q.18) Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Importance of gender budgeting in women empowerment. Requirements of gender budgeting in India. Status of gender budgeting.

Conclusion. Way forward.

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. The rationale for gender budgeting arises from recognition of the fact that national budgets impact men and women differently through the pattern of resource allocation. Women constitute 48% of India's population, but they lag behind men on many social indicators like health, education, economic opportunities, etc. and thus, gender budgeting is important.

Gender budgeting status in India:

1. Gender Budget Statement was first introduced in Budget 2005-06. Various ministries and department provide information to finance ministry based on which Gender Budget Statement is prepared.

2. This helps to monitor expenditure and public service delivery from a gender perspective, as a means of mainstreaming women's concerns in all activities and improving their access to public resources.

3. Also it was instructed to all the ministries and departments, to open Gender Budgeting Cell (GBC).

Status of Gender Budgeting.

4. But it has been little more than a decade but progress of gender budgeting is not very encouraging:

- Only 57 Ministries/departments so far have established GBC.
- Over the last decade the allocation for women as a proportion of total budget has remained constant at 5.5 per cent.

- Only about 30% of all the demand for grant presented to union government are reported in gender budgeting statement.
- About 85% of the budget of the Ministry of Women and Child Development is allocated to ICDS leaving only 15% for other schemes meant for women.
- National Women Commission have budget allocation sufficient enough to meet revenue expenditure.

The requirement and importance of Gender Budgeting:

1. There are certain issues with women that gender budgeting will help curb those e.g. security of women where specific budgetary allocations under the Nirbhaya Fund has been done.
2. Gender budgeting aims at making society more gender equal by allocating resources to programmes and schemes that will reduce and/or eliminate prejudice existing against a particular gender.
3. Literacy rate is 65% among women. Women are under representation in Parliament (only 11% MP are women). Labour force participation is just 33%. Hence, financial allocation through gender budgeting was identified as a potent tool to ensure women empowerment.
4. Gender budgeting in a way help in assessment of the extent to which the sector's policy addresses the gender issues and gaps described in the first step. Thus, help to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes.

However not all is negative about Gender budgeting in India, certain new trends are encouraging. A positive trend over the past couple of years has been the pre-budget consultations organised by the Ministry of Finance, aimed at ensuring that the voices of women are also heard in the budget making process. The Finance Minister has proposed to increase the gender budget allocation to Rs 131,700 crore for 2019-20 from Rs 121,961 crore a year ago.

Q.19) What do you understand by the term disinvestment? Critically examine the policy of disinvestment in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Disinvestment Policy in India. Advantages of the policy and Issues in the policy.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Disinvestment refers to the act of selling or liquidation of assets. The process of dilution of a government's stake in a PSU (Public Sector Undertaking) is disinvestment. The money obtained from such share selling through disinvestment will be kept with a special fund called National Investment Fund and to invest the same to generate earnings without depleting the corpus. Disinvestments, in most cases, are primarily motivated by the optimisation of resources to deliver maximum returns.

Disinvestment Policy in India: The government of India will privatise the Public sector enterprises in a gradual and phased manner through disinvestment. DIPAM and NITI Aayog jointly identify PSUs for strategic disinvestment, with DIPAM as the nodal agency for disinvestment.

1. It will be done by bringing down government's equity shares in all non-strategic Public sector enterprises to 26% or lower.
2. While pursuing disinvestment through minority stake sale in listed CPSEs, the Government will retain majority shareholding, i.e. at least 51% of the shareholding and management control of the Public Sector Undertakings.
3. Strategic disinvestment by way of sale of substantial portion of Government shareholding in identified CPSEs upto 50% or more, along with transfer of management control.

Advantages of disinvestment policy:

1. Benefit of government:

- It will reduce government's debt.
- It will save resources by spending less on PSUs which can be used by the government for welfare purposes.
- It will help in reducing fiscal deficit.
- It enables the government to raise funds that can be used to strengthen physical and social infrastructure.

2. Benefit to society:

- It will increase government's focus on social welfare.
- It will ensure resources in the hands of the public.
- Consumers will get better services.
- Companies will expand that will lead to more jobs.

3. Benefit of market:

- It would bring more competition into various sectors, thus improving the quality of services.
- It will increase market profitability and hence companies' profits.

4. Benefit of PSUs:

- It will ensure modernisation of PSUs with changing times.
- It distribute loss and failure risks of PSUs to the private sector.

Issues in disinvestment policy:

1. There are controversies about the prices at which some of the initial shares were sold, even though all the disinvestment has been done through an auction process.
2. It has been just a resource raising exercise by the government than reforming PSU.
3. The valuation of shares is affected by the decision not to reduce government holdings to less than 51%
4. With the continuing majority ownership of the government the disinvested public enterprises would continue to operate within the constraints of the public sector.
5. Loss making units don't attract investment so easily.
6. It may lead to the emergence of private monopolies.
7. Mere change of ownership from public to private does not ensure higher efficiency and productivity.
8. It may lead to loss of jobs of many workers. Private sector governed by profit motive has a tendency to use capital intensive techniques which will worsen the unemployment problem in India.

Way forward:

1. Define the priority sectors for the government based on its strategic interests.
2. Investment in PSU's has to be in terms of generation of adequate social and strategic returns.

3. Financial return cannot be the sole reason for investment in PSUs. They have to serve social/strategic purposes. The key role of a PSU is to maintain competition in the sector and limit excessive monopoly.
4. Government ownership is required for sectors with strategic relevance such as defence, natural resources, etc. The government should, therefore, exit non-strategic sectors such as hotels, soaps, airlines, travel agencies and the manufacture and sale of alcohol.
5. The outlook towards strategic divestment should move from the current policy of emphasizing on public ownership and retaining majority shareholding to looking at the strategic interest.
6. It is important to realize that ownership is not a substitute for regulation. Therefore, instead of creating PSUs in non-priority sectors, the government should look into strengthening the regulatory framework that ensures efficient market conditions. The regulations should also ensure that the basic necessities of the consumers are met.

Divestment should not be seen as a short-term fiscal measure. Instead, it should be part of a long-term plan to improve the production of goods and services in India. The government should strengthen the regulatory framework that ensures efficient market conditions.

Q.20) "Indian economy is undergoing a Four Balance Sheet (FBS) problem". Examine. Also suggest some measures.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. About the four-balance sheet. Various reasons for the same.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is undergoing economic slowdown and the Four balance sheet problem. While twin balance sheet was about bank loans made to steel, power, and infrastructure sector companies during the investment boom of 2004-11 turning bad, four balance sheet is largely a post-demonetisation phenomenon, involving non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and real estate firms. As a result, the GDP is growing down.

About the problem of Four balance sheet: The economic Slowdown resulted from a balance sheet crisis arrived in two waves:

1. **The Twin Balance Sheet crisis:** Encompassing banks and infrastructure companies. The problem began after the global financial crisis, when the world economy slowed down.
2. **NBFC and real estate sector crisis:** The second wave of crisis included collapse of a credit boom, led by NBFCs, and the real estate sector. NBFC-led credit boom financed unsustainable real estate inventory accumulation, inflating a bubble that finally burst in 2019. Thus, consumption too has now decreased, causing growth to collapse. As a result, India is now facing a Four Balance Sheet challenge, the original two sectors, plus NBFCs and real estate companies. The collapse owed to the recognition that the boom involved unsustainable financing of a rising inventory of unsold housing.

Reasons for 4-balance sheet problem:

1. **Big consumption fall:** The reason for 4-balance sheet problem is a slump in consumption, or demand. The slide is bigger in rural areas. The 75th round of the Consumer Expenditure Survey 2017-18 showed that average spending by a person had fallen 3.7% to Rs 1,446 per month in 2017-18- the steepest fall in more than four decades.

2. **Less private expenditure:** Only government spending is keeping the economy afloat. Government's final consumption expenditure grew by 15.6% from 8.8% in one year. Due to balance sheet issues and incurring heavy operational losses, companies are taking lesser risks.

3. **Income effect:** Multiple indicators, such as slowing rural wages and consumption, point to either a fall in incomes or slower growth in personal incomes. The Indian consumer has turned skeptical because costs have gone up and incomes have stagnated.

4. **Credit crunch:** It is an immutable law that economic growth depends on investment and exports. A credit crunch by shadow banks or non-banking financial corporations (NBFCs) has had a reverse multiplier effect, meaning the pool of 'loan-able' funds has shrunk, leading to high borrowing costs and drying up of new investments and jobs.

Challenges before the government to solve the 4-balance sheet problem:

1. **Limitation of the RBI's monetary policy:** Monetary policy is limited due to non-transmission of benefits to customers by banks, which impedes the pass-through of cuts in policy rates to lending rates. The rising non-performing assets (NPAs), led to banking system not passing on the benefits of easing monetary policy to its customers.

2. **No Scope for Fiscal stimulus:** Fiscal deficit is already high. Larger bond issues will only further crowd out the private sector, by pushing up already-high interest rates. Strengthened IBC cannot solve the crisis in power-sector and real estate. Also fiscal deficit target is breached, therefore limiting space for fiscal spending.

3. **Difficulty of private sector-led solution:** The viability of power assets is inextricably entwined with government policies. For example, demand for power depends on whether the state electricity boards are financially strong enough to buy the power that the public is demanding. There has also been a crowding out effect due to large public borrowings by the government. Government spending has failed to increase overall aggregate demand because higher government spending caused an equivalent fall in private sector spending and investment.

Way forward:

1. Policies measures need to focus on recognising and conducting a new Asset Quality Review to cover banks and NBFC.

2. It is important to make changes to the IBC to ensure that participants actually have incentives to solve the problem and ultimately lead to resolution of the balance sheet crisis.

3. There is a need to create public sector asset restructuring companies (bad banks), one each for the real estate and power sectors.

4, It is important to focus on strengthening regulation and oversight, especially of NBFCs with stringent norms.

In the short-term, the government will have to boost three growth pillars, personal incomes, demand and government spending. As well as giving industrial stimuli like the recent corporate tax rate cut, the government also needs to put more money directly into the hands of people. Clearly, action must be taken to stabilise the economy and get it back on the path of rapid growth.

Q.21) The current economic slowdown is a result of both cyclical and structural factors. Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Structural and cyclical factors for slowdown.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is experiencing an economic slowdown for over a year now. India's real or inflation-adjusted GDP grew at 5% in the June 2019 quarter of financial year 2019-20, the slowest growth in six years. The current slowdown has both cyclical and structural factors behind it. A cyclical slowdown is a period of weak economic growth that occurs at regular intervals. A structural slowdown, is a more deep-rooted phenomenon signifying weak economic growth for over a long time. It occurs due to a shift driven by disruptive technologies, changing demographics, and/or change in consumer behaviour.

Structural factors:

1. **Investment:** The investment has declined due to less corporate spending and less savings. The household sector, which is the biggest contributor to the total capital expenditure in the economy, has lost steam since demonetisation. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), a tool to measure investment in the economy has declined from 34.3% in 2011 to 28.8% in 2018. Similarly, in the private sector, it has declined from 26.9 per cent in 2011 to 21.4 per cent in 2018.
2. **Failure of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):** IBC has met limited success. It has been unable to resolve insolvency Cases in a time-bound manner. Therefore it has led to limited resolution of Non-performing assets and cases.
3. **Unemployment:** Unemployment is all time high and has impacted the buying ability of individuals. With increased automatised production and inability of manufacturing sector to boost up the growth has impacted job growth of the country.
4. **Inefficient agricultural policies:** Inefficient agricultural policy has led to excess surplus production of certain agricultural commodities. A case in point is India's sugar production. This, in turn, contributes to low farmer incomes. Lowered rural income has affected the consumption and demand in rural India. This is reflected in the slump in the FMCG sector.

Cyclical factors:

1. **Consumption:** Private consumption, which contributes nearly 55-60% to India's GDP has been slowing down. The reduced income growth of households has reduced urban consumption. Drought/near-drought conditions in three of the past five years coupled with the collapse of food prices has taken a heavy toll on rural consumption. For example, the recent slowdown in motorcycle sales is an indicator of poor rural demand and a slowdown in automobile sales is an indicator of poor urban demand.
2. **Savings:** Savings by household sector which are used to extend loans for investment have gone down from 35% (FY12) to 17.2% (FY18). Since households are the only net savers in the economy, their savings are major contributors towards investment. These savings have now reached a level which isn't adequate to fund the government borrowings, adding to the current economic slowdown.
3. **Rising global trade tension:** Recent trade war between the US and China and other global trade wars has impacted growth all over the world. It has impacted manufacturing and exports in different parts of the world, impacting Indian economy too. Currently, there

is a tendency towards protectionism, unilateral trade decision and a tendency to reverse the globalisation measures.

4. **NBFC failures:** Recent failure of Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) which had stepped in to support credit growth has resulted in restricted growth to ensure survival, as a result of which system- wide credit growth has slowed sharply. NBFCs are the major loan provider to MSMEs which in turn are dependent on domestic consumption. Since the NBFCs are in problem so does the MSME sector.

5. **Monsoon:** Poor monsoon performance has led to a lower area under cultivation. This, in turn, has led to lower output and consequently, lower rural income generation. This is a consequence of high dependence on monsoons by Indian agriculture.

6. **Oil:** Oil is a major driver of the economy. A country's oil demand and consumption give a clear insight into its growth rate. Given the tensions in the Gulf of Hormuz and also US's CATSA policy, India's cheaper oil imports from Iran have been disturbed.

Recent Steps Taken:

1. Subsequent rate cuts by RBI to lower the interest rate. The RBI has cut the repo rate by 110 basis points so far in 2019 to 5.4%.
2. Stimulus package announced by the government along with other measures to propel demand and thus help the economy to recover.
3. Surplus transfer by the RBI to the government would help boost planned-spending of the government without compromising fiscal deficit targets. It would also help in
4. Recapitalising Public sector Banks to tackle the NPA crisis.
5. Merger of Public sector Banks would enhance the credit culture and thus spur investment in the economy.

Way Forward:

1. Credit and liquidity issues need to be addressed first and foremost. Lack of capital would bring the economy to a grinding halt as the markets cannot depend solely on demand to be a driver.
2. The slowdown shows that the country needs to develop strong buffers to hold up against such wide-reaching global spill-overs.
3. India should strive for multilateral solutions as opposed to unilateral ones. For this an integrated approach is needed. For example, to boost exports India must focus on increasing its product quality and price along with making a pact with other countries.
4. RBI recommends the Integrated Policy Framework (IPF) of IMF's global policy agenda as a way forward by jointly considering monetary, exchange rate, macro-prudential and capital flow management policies and their interactions. The effectiveness of this strategy will depend on cooperation from all stakeholders.
5. India needs to focus on engineering an export policy that suits the times. Global demand is the key determinant of export performance. The increase in unilateral trade actions calls for a robust export strategy.

Under the current macro environment, monetary policy seems to be less effective than fiscal policy as 'improper transmission mechanism' fails to pass on benefits to the real economy. A broad-based downturn in several sectors, including manufacturing, trade, hotels, transport, communication and broadcasting, construction, and agriculture, and call for actions in terms of monetary and fiscal policies, along with deep-seated reforms for the structural slowdown. There are structural issues in land, labour, agricultural marketing which need to be addressed.

Q.22) What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming this bottleneck?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Issues in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India. Significance of e-commerce in removing these issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The food processing sector is critical to India's development, for it establishes a vital linkage and synergy between the two pillars of the economy, the Industry and Agriculture. But food processing industries face many challenges especially in marketing and supply chain management. These impact overall income of farmers. E-commerce can help in overcoming these. The food processing industry is one of the largest industries in India and ranks fifth in terms of production, consumption and exports. As per the latest data available, food processing sector is expected to reach US\$ 258 billion in FY15.

Issues in agricultural marketing:

1. There is fragmented market and poor mandi linkage to farmers which impede transportation.
2. Market domination by organised traders by dominating mandis is an issues that prevent other farmers to gain benefits.
3. There is a lack of direct access to market for the farmers that lead to their exploitation in the hands of intermediaries.
4. Farmers could buy and sell only in the government-designated Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) market-yards, thus accessibility is an issue.
5. There are information irregularity between the buyers and sellers that lead to corrupt practices, giving inaccurate input data.
6. There are issues of storage facilities that often lead to spoilage of the produce.

Issues in supply chain management:

1. Food processing sector is mostly dominated by MSMEs and they face issues of non-availability of institutional credit, outdated technology, infrastructure constraints, especially lack of integrated cold storage, skilled manpower shortage, etc.
2. Poor transportation (lack of multi-modal linkages) and storage leads to delay in procuring perishable items and thus leads to losses.
3. APMC laws in some states don't allow food processing industries to procure directly from farmers and thus increases cost due to coming of middlemen.
4. There is lack of connectivity from villages to markets.
5. The food supply chain is complex with perishable goods and numerous small stakeholders. In India, the infrastructure connecting these partners is very weak.
6. Demand forecasting is totally absent and the farmers try to push whatever they produce into the market.
7. At present the unorganized retailers are linked with farmers through wholesalers or commission agents. The commission agents and wholesalers redundant supply chain practices make unorganized further inefficient.

Significance of e-commerce in removing these issues:

1. **Synchronisation:** With wide participation and perfect sync between markets and stakeholder's e-commerce can play a proactive role.
3. **Better quality:** E-commerce authorities can work to encourage farmers to produce better quality crop and meeting exchange standards.
3. **Better price:** Price distribution alerts through mobile phones could serve as a reliable reference price for farmers.
4. **Monitoring:** Monitoring the warehouses for the incoming and outgoing stocks will make the initiative stronger.
5. **Internet penetration:** Rising internet uses and penetration of smartphones provide a great opportunity. Rising aspiration, greater consumer awareness and easy payment options would help in a big way. Most important, the growth is fuelled by both Urban and Rural involvement.
6. **Middlemen elimination:** E-Commerce presents an advantage to both consumers and sellers. It eliminates most middlemen and inventory reduction which makes it easy for a seller to pass on the benefits to consumers at low prices.
7. **Customer Centric:** For consumers, easy delivery becomes an advantage with low prices while, on the other hand for sellers, cross-boundary selling gives multiple benefits, thereby making it a saviour of search reduction and negotiation costs as well.
8. **Better sales:** For the farmers, it promises more options for sale. It would increase their access to markets through warehouse-based sales and thus obviate the need to transport his produce to the mandi.
9. **Marketing:** It has been successfully used by a few enterprising people in agricultural marketing. For instance, Big Basket, amazon, books orders from online consumers and delivers sorted and cleaned groceries, vegetables and fruits to them.
10. **Accessibility:** It helps by providing an accessible nationwide market for the farmer with equal prices for the quality of his produce.

Farmer Producer Organisations involvement is required to give it a multi vibrant market presence. Agri-marketing can benefit immensely from e-commerce in both B2B and B2C markets. While e-NAM is the government driven government has promoted private players such as Big Basket to fill the gap of the B2C market through policy initiatives like direct purchases and e-trading. E-retailers engagement with FPO's may bridge technological gaps and bring more effective and general use of technology. Giving consumers a quality out-put and farmers and retailers a far better price.

Q.23) According to the recent World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2020, the participation of women in the labour force is among the lowest in the world. What are various reasons for this? Suggest some measures to reduce gender gap in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Reasons for low labour force participation of women in India. Measures to reduce gender gap in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The female labor force participation rate (FLFPR) in India has been one of the lowest among the emerging economies and has been falling over time. India has slipped to the 112th spot

from its 108th position in 2018 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2020. According to the report, the participation of women in the labour force is among the lowest in the world, and the female estimated income is only 1/5th of the male income. Gender equality in every field is a prerequisite for any country to progress which therefore warrants a closer look at the labor force participation in India.

Reasons for low labour force participation of women in India:

1. **Lack of opportunities:** In recent times, rural distress has affected women the most, as income-generating opportunities have disappeared. Mechanisation of farm and non-farm activities has reduced opportunities for work. Further, the non-availability of white collar jobs, disproportionate long hours and lesser job security narrow downs the job opportunities for educated women in India.
2. **Women education:** Work participation drops sharply for women with primary and secondary education and rises only with college-level education. Data from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) show that there is a subsequent decline in employment with the rise in education levels.
3. **Unpaid work:** The time spent on unpaid work, especially on unpaid care and domestic chores has hindered women's participation in the labour force. A recent study has found that the time spent on unpaid economic activities performed at the household and community levels by women is one of the important determinants of the FLFPR.
4. **Gender bias:** Constraints in form of casteist and patriarchal notions of purity where women are prohibited from certain jobs, especially in the food processing, sericulture, and garment industries has added to the low participation.
5. **Changing family nature:** With a reduction in family sizes and distress migration of rural males, the burden of unpaid work on women has been increasing disproportionately. The burden of domestic work and unpaid care inhibits women's ability to acquire skills for better jobs, leading to a vicious cycle of women being kept out of the labor force.
6. **Other factors:** Like lack of sanitation, sexual harassment at workplace, unsafe travelling, poor childcare facilities and care homes for the elderly etc. has prevented women from working in the industries.
7. **Feminisation of the workforce:** It is seen that at many places pink colour jobs are reserved exclusively for women e.g. hospitality sector etc. Also the courses are marked as male and female friendly e.g. mechanical engineering and other industrial courses are deemed not favourable for female jobs. This has led to less women participation.

Measures to reduce gender gap in India: Low women participation in labour force is one of the indicators of gender gaps and biases that exist in society. Below are some measures to reduce gender gap:

1. **Education:** Women literacy gap must be reduced by ensuring the safety of the women in the schools and through better infrastructure. It is important especially to reduce patriarchal mindset of the society.
2. **Financial awareness:** Increasing women's economic independence through improving financial literacy, access to financial services and assisting women to develop their employment prospects is important.
3. **Rights awareness:** It is important to work on vulnerable populations to enable the realisation of basic human rights. It is important, especially in rural areas where women undergo atrocities which perpetuate and continue as a vicious cycle.
4. **Skill development:** Skill development through skill education for low-income women is needed. It would enable them to manage their lives better. Initiatives such as Skill India, Make in India are important steps.

5. **Community participation:** It is important to make society and community realise about women's rights and their well-being.

6. **Policy formulation:** The meaningful involvement of women and men affected by gender-based violence in the design and delivery of services and advocacy and policy response through the provision of technical assistance should be encouraged. Gender budgeting should be encouraged.

Women continue to face many barriers to enter the labour market and to access decent work and disproportionately face a range of multiple challenges related to employment and balancing the competing burdens of work and family responsibilities. The goal is not merely to increase female labour force participation, but to reduce overall mindset and gender gap.

Q.24) What are various reasons for growing cancer burden in India? Suggest some measures to address the same.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Reasons for growing cancer burden in India. Recent Initiatives taken by government.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Rising cases of cancer are crippling the health of our society as it has become one of the major causes of death in India. Cancer is the second most common cause of death in India after heart disease. On an average, more than 1,800 Indians are succumbing to cancer every day. With new cancer cases it is estimated to grow by 25 % by 2025, cancer is slowly becoming a big killer. There is a need to look at the causes of cancer in India and some measures to put a stop on rising cancer incidence.

Reasons for growing cancer burden in India:

1. **Tobacco intake:** Drinking, smoking and tobacco intake both in rural and urban areas is a major cause of cancer among men in India. Further, passive smoking endangers others' health, especially of children and women. Use of tobacco in the form of smoking is quite prevalent in the Indian society.
2. **Fertilisers:** Indiscriminate use of fertilizers in agriculture is one of the causes of cancer. Punjab to Rajasthan carry large number of such cancer patients. Fertilisers especially endanger and increase the risk of cancer among pregnant women.
3. **Changing lifestyle:** Busy lifestyle with no time for physical exercise along with unhealthy food choices like Pizza, burgers causes obesity which smoothen the way for cancer. Consumption of large amounts of red chillies, food at very high temperatures and alcohol consumption are the main risk factors for stomach cancer in India.
5. **Pollution:** Increasing pollution and harmful chemicals in the environment act as an irritant and has increased the risk of cancer, especially lung cancer.
6. **Accessibility:** Unreachability of hospitals and poor diagnosis tools increases the cancer spreading to higher stages where it becomes difficult to treat. Despite the established benefits of screening, coverage in India is low for women. High out of pocket expenditure make treatment unaffordable.
7. **Poor public healthcare:** Public healthcare is inadequate so people go to private hospitals for treatment . According to estimates, there are only 2,000 cancer specialists in India for

10 million patients. Besides, infrastructure to support cancer research has a long way to go.

Recent Initiatives taken by government:

1. **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS)** are being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM). The primary components include awareness generation for cancer prevention, screening, early detection and referral to an appropriate institution for treatment.
2. **'Tertiary Care for Cancer' scheme** was launched with primary purpose to set up individual units in every state.
3. **National Tobacco Control Programme** is launched to create awareness about the dangerous effects of tobacco consumption, reduce the demand and supply of tobacco products.
4. **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)** was launched to meet the financial demands for cancer treatment

The recent finding of a drug for breast cancer patients will be able to extend the life duration. The drug has an advantage over chemotherapy and may have less side effects compared to standard treatment.

Way forward:

1. There is a need to Increase financial support to health care sector.
2. Government should discourage smoking and drinking habits among youth. Banning of alcohol in Gujarat and Bihar is a step in the right direction. Warning on Cigarette packet should be monitored for its efficacy to discourage smoking.
3. It is important to discourage overuse of fertilizers and encourage organic farming.
4. People to be self-conscious for their food habits and should do some kind of exercise regularly. Yoga plays an important role in this. Patients should pay attention to symptoms and get check-ups regularly.
5. Pollution control mechanisms to be followed on urgent basis.

It is important to take proactive steps to contain cancer. Government should cap the prices of cancer medicines as these are very expensive. Finally, changes in diet can make a big difference in cancer prevention. Awareness about the causes and symptoms with community participation is need of the hour.

Q.25) What is OLED technology? How it is different from LED? Discuss its various uses.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is Organic Light Emitting Diodes technology?

Body. Difference between OLED and LED. Its uses.

Conclusion. Way forward.

OLED (Organic Light Emitting Diodes) is a flat light emitting technology, made by placing a series of organic thin films between two conductors. When electrical current is applied, a bright light is emitted. OLED display offer improved image quality– better contrast, higher brightness, fuller viewing angle, a wider colour range and much faster refresh rates and lower power consumption over an LED display.

About OLED technology:

1. Organic Light Emitting Diode (OLED) is a newer display technology for mobiles and monitors. It consists of an organic layer sandwiched between two conducting sheets (an Anode and a cathode) with a glass plate the top and bottom.
2. The carbon-based organic material emits electro-luminescent light when electricity is applied across the two conducting sheets.
3. The panel is much thinner as it does not require backlight and filters. OLEDs are superior in their exceptional colour reproduction, fast response times, higher brightness and extremely light weight designs.

The Differences between LED and OLED:

OLED	LED
OLEDs are made of organic materials.	LEDs are made from inorganic compounds.
The pixels of an OLED are self illuminating.	The LEDs used to light an LED display.
OLED are expensive, though OLED prices are dropping significantly.	LED are currently less expensive than OLED displays.
OLED feature a wider viewing angle than do LED.	LED feature a limited viewing angle.
With OLED panels, the colours do not get washed out when viewers watch from extreme angles.	In LED panels, the colours sometimes get washed out when viewers watch from extreme angles.
OLED technology offers the ability to develop lighter and thinner display.	LED are heavier and thicker display.
OLED are more energy efficient. OLEDs have better Power efficiency.	LED consume more energy efficient when compared to their OLED counterparts.
Response Time of OLEDs is faster than that of LED.	Response Time of LED is slower than that of OLED.

Uses of an OLED:

1. **Lighting Applications:** OLED lighting has the illumination of higher quality, varied panel shapes, and better-diffused light sources. This is used for lightning purposes.
2. **Mobile Phones:** OLED are used in mobile phones. In mobile phone AMOLED technology is used in screens which has better colours and contrast.
3. **Television Sets:** Major giants in the industry pushing the use of OLED in television sets. OLEDs have advantages such as they include thin, low cost displays with a low driving voltage, wide viewing angle and high contrast and colour gamut.
4. **Fashion Industry:** OLED technology is also used in the fashion industry, the automotive sector, production of cameras, and video games.

OLED has come a long way and is expected to be the mainstream display technology, usurping LEDs and LCDs in the future. However, research is still required to address some of the drawbacks of the technology.

Q.26) Give an account of looming water crisis situation in India. Discuss how Atal Bhujal Yojana would help in preventing water crisis situation.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Present a scenario of developing water crisis situation in India. How Atal Bhujal Yojana would help in preventing water crisis situation?

Conclusion. Way forward.

The demand for water in India is steeply increasing. India's population is expected to rise to 1.66 billion in 2050. According to the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) report released by the Niti Aayog, 21 major cities are moving towards zero groundwater levels by 2020. The average annual per capita water availability in 2001 was 1,820 cubic metres and the government estimates that this may reduce to 1,341 cubic metres by 2025. Although India has made improvements over the past decades to both the availability and quality of drinking water systems, its large population has stressed planned water resources.

Looming Water crisis situation:

1. **Industrial Demand:** Increasing industrialisation will demand more water as its contribution to GDP will increase from 29.1% in 2000 to 40% by 2050. Thus, the demand for water will increase from 30 billion cubic meter in 2000 to 161 billion cubic meter in 2050.
2. **Rising consumption:** While the consumption of water in India will increase by over 50%, the supply will increase only by 5-10% during the next 12-15 years. This will lead to water scarcity situation and most of the people, particularly those who are dependent on agriculture and living in poverty will suffer the most.
3. **Freshwater deficit:** India's water needs are dependent mainly on monsoon. Environmental changes and increasing population combined with a lack of overall long-term availability of water resources is a cause of concern.
4. **Unsafe and Poor quality:** Regardless of improvements to drinking water, many other water sources are contaminated with both bio and chemical pollutants, and over 21% of the country's diseases are water-related. Furthermore, only 33% of the country has access to traditional sanitation. This lead to unavailability of clean and drinking water and endanger Indian population health.
5. **Groundwater stress:** Many rural communities in India who are situated on the outskirts of urban sprawl also have little choice but to drill wells to access groundwater sources. 29% of groundwater blocks are critical, or overexploited. There is no easy answer for India which must tap into water sources for food and human sustenance, but India's overall water availability is under enormous stress.

How Atal Bhujal Yojana would help in preventing water crisis situation?

With the intention of addressing the problem of fast depleting groundwater resources, the government of India has planned to introduce the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY).

1. **Recharge of groundwater resources:** The programme is expected to lay emphasis on the recharge of groundwater resources and a better exploitation of the groundwater resources. Since, groundwater contributes nearly 65% of India's total irrigated area, with ABY, the Central Government seeks to promote ground water management with primary focus on demand side management.
2. **Behavioural change:** The scheme will seek to strengthen the institutional framework and bring about behavioural changes at community level for sustainable groundwater

resource management. The focus will be on arresting the rate of decline of groundwater levels as well as water consumption.

3. **Community participation:** It envisages community-led Water Security Plans. Thus it envisage to involve people and make water conservation effort with the involvement of people at the local level. It envisages active participation of communities in various activities such as:

- Monitoring and disseminating ground water data.
- Formation of Water User Associations.
- Preparation/implementation of gram panchayat-wise water security plans.
- Information, Education and communication (IEC) activities, relating to sustainable groundwater management.

4. **Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building:** For strengthening institutional arrangements for sustainable groundwater management in States.

5. **Cooperative federalism:** Incentive would be given to the States for achievements in improved groundwater management practices such as implementation of management interventions through convergence of ongoing schemes, adopting demand side management practices among others.

Way forward:

1. **Rain catchment programs:** As as most of the water is displaced or dried up instead of used, rain catchment programs must be framed and put in place.

2. **Drip irrigation:** With large agricultural output, excess water consumption for food production depletes the overall water table. Drip irrigation reduce water wastage and also ensure food security.

3. **Long-term planning:** The city and state authorities should focus on addressing what underlies the actual problem. There should be government regulation, to curb the amount of groundwater a household can extract. This water should be metered and priced.

4. **Awareness:** More efforts to create awareness on water shortage, share knowledge of traditional methods of water storage and share information about individuals and NGOs working on water conservation is needed.

There is a clear disconnect between water, society and economy. Currently, we are interested in laying large networks, constructing huge storage dams, fetching water from 150 kilometres and above, which involves a huge carbon footprint. We need to promote a decentralised approach, with a key focus on water conservation, source sustainability, storage and reuse wherever possible.

Q.27) What are functional foods? How functional foods can help in resolving India's malnutrition and farmer's issues?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are functional foods?

Body. How functional foods can help in resolving India's malnutrition and farmer's issues?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Functional foods are fortified, enriched or enhanced foods that provide health benefits greater than that of essential nutrients (e.g., vitamins and minerals), when they are consumed as part of a varied diet on a regular basis. They promote optimal health and help

reduce the risk of disease. Functional foods may include Conventional foods such as grains, fruits, vegetables and nuts, and modified foods such as yogurt, cereals and orange juice.

How functional foods can help in resolving India's malnutrition and farmer's issues?

1. **Malnutrition Issue:** Hunger, malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies continue to threaten millions of people in India. In India 44% of children under the age of 5 are underweight. 72% of infants and 52% of married women have anaemia. Malnutrition is a direct consequence of an insufficient and unbalanced diet. Malnutrition also lead to diet related chronic diseases (type 2-diabetes, hypertensive diseases, and cardiovascular diseases).

- **High nutritional value:** The functional foods have a high nutritional value that can be helpful to prevent malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and diet related chronic diseases.
- **Better absorption:** These foods with functional properties, rich in fibres, antioxidants, polyphenols, β -carotene, enhancers of micronutrient absorption, are of great interest for a good health and wellbeing of Indian population.
- **Well-Being:** Functional foods and drinks are products that have been enriched with added nutrients or other substances that are considered to have a positive influence on health. Examples include probiotic yogurts, cholesterol-lowering foods with added nutrients, such as omega-3 fatty acids.
- **Prevent diseases:** For example, whole grains contain dietary fiber, B vitamins, including folate, niacin, thiamine and riboflavin, as well as trace minerals such as iron, magnesium, and zinc. Several epidemiological studies have shown that a high intake of whole grains is associated with a reduced risk of type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, obesity, and all-cause mortality.

2. **Farmer's Issue:** Farmer's in India either live in debt or merely sustaining on low incomes especially small farmers. In 2016, NSSO published a report on annual income of Indian farmers. According to the report, an average agricultural household earned Rs 6,426 per month. Functional foods hold promise to raise farmers' income.

- **Income:** A better knowledge and development of the functional properties of these foods can be a source of innovation for Indian agricultural products and of more income for farmers.
- **Food security:** Processing and marketing of these products for a sustainable food and nutrition security, would prevent against dramatic effects of a food crisis.

Way forward:

1. **Food market linkages:** It is important to strengthen linkages between agriculture, nutrition and food processing in order to create an added value to Indian agricultural food products to overcome rural poverty and to prevent different forms of malnutrition.
2. **Awareness:** The government must create awareness on functional foods by mainstreaming nutrition education. Food businesses should be fine-tuned into becoming value-added nutrition businesses.
3. **Technology:** Technology should be made available and FPOs that have the potential for functional food production must be identified and trained right from their formation to capture the billion-dollar business and to enrich the country both economically and nutritionally.

The functional food section is likely to grow at a higher rate. This is due to the increasing visibility of such products in modern retail formats and promotional activities. Functional foods are full of nutrition and disease-preventing qualities, and contain physiologically

active components from plant or animal sources. Thus functional foods should become part of an effective strategy to maximize health and reduce disease risk

Q.28) In order to arrest the slowdown in the economy, India needs to make their policies people-centric rather than growth-centric. Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Why India require is to make their policies people-centric?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Indian economy is facing slowdown in recent times. There are various reasons for this slowdown. Although government has mentioned various tax benefits and tried to focus on boosting growth, it would not help much. The issues related to employment, Job creation, land, labour, agricultural marketing are being ignored that need urgent attention. Various steps like tax concessions being taken in hope to boost economic growth that may not help in long turn.

Why India require is to make their policies people-centric?

1. **Unemployment:** Unemployment is all time high and has impacted the buying ability of individuals. Usher of new technologies, bad policies and inability of manufacturing sector to boost up the growth has impacted the overall growth of the country.
2. **Crisis in agriculture:** There is a crisis in agriculture that runs deep. GDP per capita in the agricultural sector has been less than one-tenth GDP per capita in the non-agricultural sector for 25 years. Growth in output is monsoon-dependent. Employment creation is negligible. The outcome is rural distress.
3. **De-Industrialisation:** The share of manufacturing in GDP and employment is lower than it was 25 years ago. India's share in industrial production and manufactured exports in the world economy has declined steadily. The beginnings of de-industrialisation are discernible.
4. **Consumption:** Private consumption contributes nearly 55-60% to India's GDP has been slowing down. While the reduced income growth of households has reduced urban consumption, drought/ near-drought conditions in three of the past five years coupled with the collapse of food prices has taken a heavy toll on rural consumption.
5. **Investment:** The household sector, which is the biggest contributor to the total capital expenditure in the economy, has lost steam since demonetisation. Thus people are not spending and investment from the private sector has reduced. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), a tool to measure investment in the economy has declined from 34.3% in 2011 to 28.8% in 2018.
6. **Grass root actions:** Slowdown is mainly due to fundamental deficiencies and thus need grass root actions. Issues such as labour reform with a strong political effort is necessary.

Way forward:

1. **Public expenditure:** There is a need to increase public expenditure for investing in agriculture, infrastructure, marketing and storage and training and in providing profitable prices to farmers.
2. **Raise funds:** Government should also raise funds for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to push up demand.
3. **Investment in SHE (Skill, Education and Health):** Increasing additional jobs for ensuring basic health and good quality education up to the secondary level to all so that

any meaningful skill formation is possible should be another aim. Government should raise public employment by filling all vacant sanctioned posts in the Central and State Governments, which would be around 2.5 million jobs. The human capital formation will give a big push to start-ups and MSMEs.

4. **Labour intensive sector:** The government should also focus on promoting labour-intensive sectors such as gems and jewellery, textiles and garments and leather goods.

Government steps to boost economy are important but not sufficient. There is need to emphasise Increasing Demand by investing in people. The Indian economy has huge potential, the current slowdown must be dealt with a bottom-up strategy, which may include boosting agriculture, food processing, tourism, MSME, automobiles and pharmaceuticals.

General Studies 4

Q.1) “Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding.” Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. How anger and intolerance affects understanding?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Anger and intolerance are negative emotions developed in response to an adverse provocation, or any threat. As Gandhiji said, Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding, one must control anger and must be tolerant. Correct understanding is a disposition to appreciate or share the feelings and thoughts of others. Anger and intolerance reduce such ability of correct understanding as these make an individual biased and irrational.

How anger affects understanding?

1. Anger is a negative emotion that often leads to bias and clouds moral judgement. For eg. Under provocation people resort to violence and fail to understand the repercussions their actions may cause.
2. Anger makes a person lose calmness and forces them to take hasty decisions which may not be correct. Anger makes a person to lose patience which drives him towards intolerance. Angry person is constantly stressed person; such a person cannot think with clarity.
3. Anger lead to an influenced, non-objective and emotional decision, which is not based on well thought outcomes and understanding of consequences of such decisions, which could be dangerous. E.g. In anger mob may lynch an innocent without knowing or verifying his crime.
4. Anger affects the person who is angry as well as all the people who are touched by that person's anger. An angry person is likely to speak harshly. Sometimes angry people hurt themselves if they are unable or out of reach of the people at whom they want to direct their anger.
5. Evils like honour killing, acid attack by spurned lovers is because of anger at the moment. Anger does not allow rational thinking and people take up extreme steps and kill their own children/loved ones due to uncontrolled emotions.

How intolerance affects understanding?

1. An intolerant person will remain ignorant to diverse opinion and belief and thus act according to narrow ideals. For example, generally politicians with religious background are ignorant towards issues like LGBT rights.
2. Intolerance is contagious just like anger and can encourage others to be blind for diverse views too.
3. Intolerance make a person blind to other opinions and narrow down a person's thinking and judgement marred by biased views.
4. Intolerance in society prevent correct understanding as people only see one side of the coin. For example, not all Muslim are terrorists as are branded by some individuals which lead to development of intolerance against them and may lead to violence.

Way forward:

1. It is very necessary for a person in position of authority and responsible for decision making to keep their negative emotions in check. It requires development of emotional intelligence.
2. To manage emotions sensitivity training can be given to the individuals.
2. Encouraging sarva dharma sambhava by making people of diverse cultures to interact with each other.
3. Yoga and meditation techniques to control anger is a must in a way it gives one control over one's own mind.
4. It is important to accept other views and thoughts so as to develop as a rational human being. For this education and awareness about other's rights also plays an important role.

It is common to find people and leaders losing steadiness of mind when faced with stress. Thus, in today's world administrators need to be emotionally intelligent to act in a fair and unbiased manner. Balanced decision making for social progress and development can only be made with an objective and unbiased mind, which can be achieved by controlling anger and being tolerant and open.

Q.2) Differentiate between retributive justice and restorative justice. Discuss why restorative justice is as important as retributive justice?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is retributive and restorative justice.

Body. Difference between retributive justice and restorative justice. Need of retributive justice and why restorative justice is equally important?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Retributive justice is defined as a form of justice that focuses on punishment of the offender, and not on the rehabilitation. It is more so focused on just punishing the wrongdoer rather than trying to help them in any way or seeing them as someone who made a mistake. Restorative justice, however, is meant to rehabilitate and get the offender back into society while focusing on the victims of the crime. In this the offender is being rehabilitated to fit for the societal norms and laws.

Difference between retributive justice and restorative justice:

Retributive Justice	Restorative Justice
Here crime is viewed mainly as an act against the state, a violation of a law.	Crime is viewed as an act against another person and the community.
Here the main argument is that, threats of punishment deter crime and punishment changes behaviour.	Punishment alone is not effective in changing behaviour and is disruptive to community harmony and good relationships.
Crime is an individual act with individual responsibility.	Crime has both individual and social dimensions of responsibility.
Focus on establishing blame or guilt, on the past (did he/she do it?).	Focus on the problem solving, on liabilities/obligations, on the future (what should be done?)
Emphasis on adversarial relationship.	Emphasis on dialogue and negotiation.

Imposition of pain to punish and deter/prevent is the main tool of justice.	Restitution as a means of restoring both parties; goal of restoration is a major focus.
Community on sideline, represented abstractly by state.	Community as facilitator in restorative process.
Response focused on offender's past behaviour.	Response focused on harmful consequences of offender's behaviour and emphasis is on the future.
Offender accountability defined in term of punishment.	Accountability is defined as assuming responsibility and taking action to repair harm.
The criminal justice system controls the crime.	Crime control lies primarily in the community.
Retributive justice focuses on punishing an offence.	Restorative justice focuses on repairing the harm caused by the crime.
Retributive justice is characterised by adversarial relations among the parties.	Restorative justice is characterised by dialogue and negotiation among the parties.
Retributive justice assumes that state or government play a more active role than community.	Restorative justice assumes that community members or organizations play a more active role.

Need of retributive justice:

1. The Criminal Justice System in India has many loopholes. It does not deter criminals because of the delay and uncertainties involved in its processes and ridiculously ineffective punishments it imposes on those few who get convicted.
2. It provides wide discretion to the police and the prosecution, rendering the system vulnerable to corruption and manipulation and endangering basic rights of innocent citizens.
3. Criminal justice system ignores the real victim, often compelling him/her to find extralegal methods of getting justice.
4. It also puts heavy economic costs on the state for its maintenance without commensurate benefits in return.
5. Retributive justice reduces crime victims' post-traumatic stress symptoms and the related costs.
5. Retributive justice also reduces the victims' desire for violent revenge against their offenders.

Why restorative justice is equally important?

1. It substantially reduces repeat offending for some offenders, although not all.
2. It helps reduce the costs of criminal justice.
3. It provides both victims and offenders with more satisfaction that justice had been done than did traditional criminal justice.
4. Restorative justice processes pay attention not only to the harm inflicted on the victims of a crime, but also to the ways the crime has harmed the offender and the community.
5. With restorative justice, everyone begins to feel included in what's going on – whether it's the offender being rehabilitated, the victim healing, or the community being restored. This cannot be said for retributive justice, as there is no focus on the victim of the crime.

Crime and violence constitute a major impediment for development and social integration for a plural society like India. The Retributive model of criminal justice, with punishing the offender as its only aim, has proved costly and counterproductive. When it comes to which is the most effective, it seems that restorative justice covers all the areas needed. It allows

the community to heal, the victim to be repaid, and the offender to learn the error of his or her ways. The same cannot be said for retributive justice, as the only focus there is punishment. India needs to experiment with more democratic models aimed at reconciliation and restoration of relationships.

Q.3) The Citizens' Charter is an ideal instrument of organisational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizens' Charter.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is citizen charter?

Body. How Citizen Charter is a tool of organisational transparency and accountability? Various Limitations of Citizen Charter. Some measures to increase its effectiveness.

Conclusion. Way forward.

A Citizen's Charter is a set of commitments made by an organisation regarding the standards of service which it delivers. It covers not only the Central Government Ministries/ Departments/ Organizations but also the Departments/ Agencies of State Governments and UT Administrations. As an instrument, it is propagated to make an organization transparent, accountable and citizen friendly.

Citizen Charter as a tool of organisational transparency and accountability:

1. Citizen Charter increases participation of common man in efficient working of an organisation by making the citizens aware of the aims and goals of the organization.
2. It help in reducing corruption through transparent provisions and thus, ensures accountability
3. It leads to citizen friendliness and citizen convenience and raises efficiency and effectiveness in public delivery system.
4. It reduces cost, prevents delay and red tapism and thus promote good governance.
5. Citizen Charter set standards of service, allowing high expectations from an organisation, pushing them to work diligently.
6. It encourages access and promote choice and thus, treat all fairly.

Limitations of Citizen Charter: Some of the limitations of Citizen Charters as follows:

1. Lack of awareness and knowledge and inadequate publicity, hence loss of trust among service seekers is a major limitation.
2. There is no provision of training to the operative and supervisory staff.
3. Hierarchy gap between the Officers and the Operative Staff-Need of team effort is an issue.
4. Different mind-sets of officers and the Staff- Insensitiveness on the part of Supervisors and the Staff because they are yet to be sensitised
5. Staff is not prepared to shoulder the responsibility due to lack of motivation and accountability

Non-revision, complicated and restrictive rules & procedures

6. In a majority of cases, the Charters were not formulated through a consultative process.
7. By and large, service providers are not familiar with the philosophy, goals and main features of the Charter.

8. Further, adequate publicity to the Charters had not been given in any of the Departments evaluated. In most Departments, the Charters are only in the initial or middle stage of implementation.
9. No funds have been specifically earmarked for awareness generation of Citizens' Charter or for orientation of the staff on various components of the Charter.
10. There is no mention of citizen's responsibility.

Measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters:

1. Charters should clearly spell out the remedy / penalty / compensation in case there is a default in meeting the standards spelled out in the Charter. A publication of the charter in local languages can be the first step.
2. It is better to make few promises that can be kept, rather than a long list of lofty but impractical aspirations. Thus, citizen charters should be clear and objective.
3. Before the organization makes charter, it should restructure its internal systems and processes.
4. One size does not fit all. Citizens' Charter should be close to ground reality and local conditions.
5. Firm Commitments should be made. Evaluation of charters periodically should be done.
6. A systematic consensus-based formulation of every citizen charter that is practical and whose commitments are achievable is needed.

Citizens' Charter is a document which represents the commitment of an organisation towards standard, quality and time frame of service delivery, grievance redress mechanism, transparency and accountability. It provide more responsive and citizen-friendly governance. It is high time that Citizen Charter program should be revived and reintroduced to government departments so that they can become accountable not only to their customers but to themselves also.

Q.4) "Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. Discuss arguments in favour and against the non-performance of duty as a form of corruption.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Transparency International regards corruption as abuse of power which erodes the fabric of society. It undermines people's trust in the political system, in its institutions and its leadership. Non-performance of one's duty is considered to be next to corruption depending upon the situation and intent. One can't judge just non-performance of duty as corruption without analysing the reason behind it.

Non-performance of duty as a form of corruption:

Dedication towards the job is one of the core expectations from a public servant and not performing that act is considered to be next to corruption. But the reasons leading to not performing the duty has to be taken into account before conclusion.

A. Arguments in support:

1. **Misleading public:** Not doing duty is like hiding something from the public domain. By non performance one is creating a sense of misleading acts that is equal to corruption. For example, A public official fails to clear pension of a citizen leading to failure to perform his duty.
2. **Going against the order:** A public official is expected to follow the rules and regulations according to the government. It is necessary to do as instructed in order to keep the sanctity of the institution intact. Failure to follow instructions can be compared to corrupt practice. For example, A public official is ordered to evict illegal construction and failure to do so will create a perception that the official has taken a bribe to avoid eviction.
3. **Unprofessionalism:** Professionalism is one of the major features of a public official and he/she needs to maintain it at all levels. Not keeping up with work expectations can be considered to be corrupt. For example, A police official failing to reach the site of the crime deliberately.
4. **Against basic rights:** All civil servants are entrusted with public duty for the welfare of the masses. Negligence to the public duty cost masses by loss of their freedom, health, education, rights and even life sometimes, and hence, nonperformance of duty by a public servant is also a form of corruption. For example, A doctor not reaching hospital on time threatens the life of the patients or a teacher not performing his duty not only endangers the future of children but of society as a whole.
5. **Illegal:** Prevention to the Corruption Act considers non-performance of public duty as an offence. Thus, non-performance of duty by public servants for which they are morally, legally and constitutionally mandated to do, is a form of corruption.
6. **Wastage of resources:** It is the duty of all public servants to ensure that the public's money is spent as efficiently as possible and that programs are provided effectively, without discrimination or prejudice, with transparency and without waste of money or resources.

B. Arguments against:

1. **Inner consciousness:** Sometimes the duty a public official is expected to perform may not be ethically right. In such case the official may decide against doing his duty. For example, public servant may reject to follow some orders as it may harm community interests.
2. **Technical problems:** Unintentional situations may arise that may prevent official from performing his duty. This does not mean that he/she is practicing corruption. For example, connectivity problems may prevent official from doing his/her duty.
3. **Other bottlenecks:** Non-performance of duty by a public servant may be due to lack of coordination, lack of human power and budget.

Thus, we can conclude that in all cases not performing duty doesn't translate to corruption. But not performing them deliberately without a valid reason can be considered a grave offence. Therefore, it is essential for every civil servant to perform their duty as mandated in order to uphold the constitutional values and become a vehicle for change in the life of masses, so that common public can enjoy what they are entitled to

Q.5) “Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people’s participation in the governance system are interdependent.” Discuss their relationship with each other in context of India.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. How people’s participation is related to effectiveness of government and vice-versa?

Conclusion. Way forward.

One of the components of good governance as stated by UNDP is participation of citizens in decision making. It is important to view them as active participants in governance since they have a legitimate role in influencing decision-making processes that affect their lives, businesses and communities.

How people’s participation is related to effectiveness of government?

1. People participation lead to demands and accountability that make the government more responsive, efficient and effective.
2. People participation enables the poor and marginalised to influence public policy and service delivery to improve their lives.
3. People’s participation can influence policy and project formulation through membership of committees, submission of memoranda directly or through elected representatives, and interactive rule- making in the implementation of policies, projects and schemes affecting citizens.
4. Citizens participation in governance contributes to a healthy democracy.
5. People’s effective participation, transparency, responsiveness, consensus orientation, equity and inclusiveness, the rule of law, effectiveness and efficiency, accountability, and strategic vision.
6. Participating actively in administration and decision making through panchayati raj institutions and urban local bodies mandates by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Acts.

How effectiveness of government lead to people’s participation?

1. Effectiveness means ensuring communities get services and results they need. E.g. the Citizen Grievance Redressal mechanism, PRAGATI where they can address their grievances.
2. Enabling citizens to give feedback for improved service delivery. e.g. through Consumer forums, public forums like Facebook, RTI etc.,
3. Politically, shift from citizens being considered passive beneficiaries to statutory right holders. **For example**, RTI, NREGA, RTE, Right to Services Act etc.
4. Making sure that there is no mismatch between what is being demanded and what is being provided, how is it provided (means) and of what quality by RTI and social audits.
5. Listening to the voices of citizens and their suggestions through public hearings, writing to various Parliamentary Committees and commissions when policies are put in public domain, surveys etc.
6. Effectiveness means keeping the needs of citizens in focus i.e. to deliver the services at an pre-accepted standards and within a specified time limit. This ends are met with either employing more human hands or by using technology, minimum government, maximum governance focuses more on the technological aspect, by rightsizing the government apparatus and streamlining the procedures.

Thus, government efficiency and people's participation has a direct relationship. Both are interdependent in a way that people's participation is a must to keep government accountable, responsible and answerable to its people. Effectiveness of government ensures transparency and timely resolution of people's issues through their involvement.

Q.6) Discuss the Right to Information Act's role in fostering a more informed citizenry and an accountable government so far. What are the various concerns related RTI act?

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. How RTI enabled a culture of accountability and more informed citizens in India? Issues and loopholes.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Transparency and accountability in administration is the sine qua non of participatory democracy. Right to information (RTI) ensured participation of Indian citizens in political and economic processes leading to good governance. Many cases have shown that RTI enabled more accountability and transparency in government administration.

A case study reflecting how RTI enabled more informed citizenry and accountable

government? In Rajasthan's Bikaner district ration shops were selling grains in the black market. Villagers used the Act to get all records of their ration shop in the village and exposed how grains meant for the poor were being black-marketed at a ration shop in Bikaner. After the move, the villagers got the dealer removed. Besides losing dealership, the ration shopkeeper was also forced to pay poor families in the village the cash equivalent of the grains he had sold illegally.

How RTI enabled a culture of accountability and more informed citizens in India?

1. **Increased responsiveness:** Greater access of the citizen to information, led to increased responsiveness of government to community needs. Earlier government was less or not responsive to citizens' needs and grievances. For example, for about two years, every time, Suvarana Bhagyawant made rounds of the panchayat office to get her grandfather's death certificate she was asked for bribe or come back later. Finally, Suvarana filed a query under the Right to Information (RTI) Act. She got the certificate within eight days.

2. **Awareness of rights:** RTI has led to awareness of rights and responsibilities as citizens among people. This led to increased accountability of officials through RTI and litigation. In 2007, data obtained under RTI inspired citizens to question elected representatives to stop a scam worth over Rs. 6,000 crores in the Crawford Market redevelopment issues in Mumbai.

3. **Discharge of duties:** Information through RTI has led to legitimate discharge of their duties by officers.

- It raised the standards of public services.
- Through information in public officer do their duty more diligently for not getting penalised.

4. **Led to Culture of obligation:** Earlier information was protected by the Colonial Secrets Act 1923, which makes the disclosure of official information by public servants an offence.

- RTI has developed obligation at village, district, state or national level to disclose information to the people.

- Thus it enhanced transparency among various government bodies at all levels of the government.
 - Villagers in Madhubani district, Bihar used RTI to expose a solar-light scam, leading to charges against 200 corrupt officials.
5. **Empowered poor communities:** RTI empowered poor communities to raise their voices on the basis of information and demand for their rights from government.
- This ensured government being answerable to poor.
 - This led to transparent approach towards working for poor communities.
 - It plugged incidence of corruption and plugged leakages.
6. **Proper grievance mechanism:** RTI provided for Central and the State Information Commissions to hear grievances related to RTI. These commissions have played an important role to play in the effective implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005 ensuring its proper implementation.
7. **Informed Citizenry:** Democracy requires an informed citizenry and transparency of information which for its functioning. RTI enabled healthy democracy and also contained corruption and hold Governments and accountable to the people. In the model district of Mochha, Chhattisgarh, people are using RTI to secure employment, scholarships and pensions for the elderly. They also pressured government doctors and school teachers to show up at work regularly.

Issues and loopholes in RTI:

1. **Increasing pendency of cases:** These Commissions particularly the Central Information Commission, have kept a strong vigil over the functioning of administrative machinery relating to the implementation of the Act. However, their performance has often been restricted by increasing number of appeals. This has resulted in increase in pendency as well as increase in waiting time for hearing of appeals.
2. **Definition of information:** An important issue is the definition of information. Supreme Court stated that 'information' for the purpose of this Act would mean information held by the PIO or under his control. However, if the information is not held by the PIO the public authority is not under obligation to provide that information.
3. **Not all institutions under RTI:** Another issue is that some institutions are not being covered under the Act. E.g. judiciary is not under the act.
4. **Lack of infrastructure:** The Implementation of RTI requires the PIOs to provide information to the applicant through photocopies, soft copies etc. These facilities are not available at Block and Panchayat level.
5. **Low awareness level:** Awareness about RTI is still very low. Awareness level is low, especially among the disadvantaged communities such as women rural population, OBC/SC/ST population.
6. **Constraints faced in filing applications:** Under Section 26 of the RTI Act, the appropriate Government is expected to publish and distribute user guides (within 18 months of enactment of the Act) for information seekers. However Nodal Departments have not published these guides in many states.

Since the implementation of the RTI Act, it has established itself as an important tool in handling corruption and inefficiency in the Government. Although there have been instances of misuse of the Act, but it has served its purpose well. Issues and loopholes in RTI should be removed through proper amendment to further the objectives of transparency and accountability.

Q.7) What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is probity in governance?

Body. Measures for ensuring probity in government.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Probity (Satyanishtha in Hindi) literally means a complete and confirmed integrity; having strong moral principles. Probity in Governance is defined as adherence to ethical and moral values like honesty, Integrity, rectitude, uprightness etc. It is the presence of procedural integrity with high standards of ethical behaviour. It is vital for executing the governance system and socio-economic development.

Probity in Governance seeks to fulfil the following purposes:

- It preserves public confidence in Government processes
- It maintains integrity in public services
- It ensures accountability in governance
- It ensures compliance with processes
- It seeks to avoid the potential for misconduct, fraud and corruption

Measures for ensuring probity in government:

1. **Moral education:** Moral education is a must to ensure probity in governance. To make an individual high on integrity, it is necessary to provide him with ethical training that will inspire him to improve governance. The moral education will surely ensure that this takes place. For example, training on the importance of avoiding bribes.

2. **Accountability:** Accountability reduces chances of malpractices in governance. When an individual is expected to give answers to higher authorities, he/she avoids performing acts that will reduce his/her position. This will translate into good governance. For example, Social audits ensures accountability and thus lead to probity.

3. **Information Sharing and Transparency in Governance:** Sharing information and transparency are indispensable pillars of good governance that compel the state and civil society to focus on results, seek clear objectives, develop effective strategies, and monitor and report on performance.

4. **Access to information:** Many laws were enumerated to bring probity in governance for sharing information to the public by putting information in the public domain and which includes the following:

- Right to information Act.
- Ombudsman Office in the local/state level.
- Accountability bill for disclosure of Income and Assets.
- Records Management laws.

5. **Grievance redressal:** Easy access of government officials to the public is important for grievance redressal. It can be ensured through:

- Availability of Contact numbers of senior servants to Public
- Details in Departmental websites
- Facilitation counters for citizens
- Assessment and Monitoring

6. **Code of conduct:** Probity is maintained by formulating and employing model code of conduct for ministers, bureaucracy, judiciary, and civil society groups.

7. **Institutional reforms:** Introducing public delivery of service agreements by executive agencies for ensuring accountability, objectivity and transparency. Allowing stakeholders like citizen committees to participate in various decision making processes and encouraging and facilitating public participation through the following:

- Public Hearings.
- Citizen Advisory Boards.
- Government Contract Committees.
- Public Watchdog Groups.
- Independent Anti-Corruption Agencies.
- Capacity building of citizens and civil society groups.

Probity is a crucial feature of governance which endows government to act ethically and perform its duty as per the norms only. It is significant for the government to follow the rules and regulations as well as adopt policies of impartiality, to gain confidence from the public. When government becomes its system streamline as well as transparent, then the public and government employees concerned to it follow the same criterion. Hence, no corruption, fraud, and irresponsibility will happen.

Q.8) What is meant by constitutional morality? How does one uphold constitutional morality? Discuss its importance in public services.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is constitutional morality?

Body. How does one uphold constitutional morality? Importance of constitutional morality in public services.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Constitutional morality means adherence to the core principles of the constitution. Constitutional morality resolves conflicting interests of different people. It involves the administrative cooperation to resolve the issues without any confrontation amongst the various groups.

How does one uphold constitutional morality?

1. **Criticism:** By criticising and raising voice against the non-constitutional practices. It is necessary to speak up against any actions, which you feel as illegal or unethical under the constitution. For example, section 377 of IPC was unconstitutional as it was against the principle of equality.
2. **Education:** Only our beliefs and actions for upholding constitutional values is not enough. It is our moral obligation to educate the public regarding the importance to uphold these ideals. This will be fruitful for our democracy in the long run. For example, conducting programmes in schools where children are trained to inculcate constitutional values and practice them in their day to day life.
3. **Judicial Use:** By letting constitutional morality guide the Court's decision instead of popular morality, while interpreting the constitution, constitutional morality is being upheld. By locating the content and contours of constitutional morality so that it is not being ignorantly and dangerously used in courts.
4. **Holding constitutional values:** By making a commitment to the values like constitutional supremacy, rule of law, liberty, equality, parliamentary form of government,

self-restraint and intolerance for corruption etc. Constitutional morality involve adherence to constitutional principles like:

- Commitment to liberty.
- Constitutional supremacy.
- Parliamentary form of government and self-restraint.
- Rule of law.
- Equality
- Intolerance for corruption, to name a few.

Importance of constitutional morality in public services:

The democratic values and principles governing public administration must follow the constitutional principles:

1. **Professional Ethics:** A high standard of professional ethics need to be guided by the principles of constitutional values like equality, liberty, fraternity, etc. Constitutional morality held in upholding these values in civil services.
2. **Values:** The civil servant are mandated by the Constitution to amongst others to promote the Constitutional Values and Principles governing public administration. Constitutional morality guide the values of the public servant leading to better
3. **Social Cohesion:** In the preamble, the Constitution outlines the fundamental values on which nation building and social cohesion should firmly rest. These values include human dignity, the achievement of equality, the advancement of human rights and freedoms, non-racialism, supremacy of the Constitution, the rule of law, democracy, social justice, equity and respect.
4. **Impartiality:** It allows an impartial responding to people's needs and encouraging the public to participate in policy making.
5. **Accountability:** Constitutional morality in a way instill a sense of accountability in public administration and help in fostering transparency.
6. **Representative administration:** A representative public administration with employment and personnel management practices based on ability, objectivity, fairness and the need to address the imbalances of the past.

Constitutional morality is important for constitutional laws to be effective. It has been observed that young officers are resigning from service and aim to uphold 'constitutional morality', which they say is being violated. But the fact is that 'constitutional molarity' can be better preserved by being part of the system and initiating reforms rather than working out of the system. Thus, we can conclude that upholding 'constitutional morality' is indeed a very important part of our official as well as moral duty and it needs combined efforts of all the sections of the society to make it possible.

Q.9) What do you understand by public service? List out the principles of Public Life as recommended by the Nolan Committee in this context.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is public service?

Body. What are the 7 principles of Public Life by Nolan Committee?

Conclusion. Way forward.

A public service is a service which is provided by the government to people living within its jurisdiction, either directly (through the public sector) or by financing private provision of

services. It includes the services provided, the contiguous interactions and the grievance redressal linked with those services. All the aspects of day to day life ranging from health, education, infrastructure and law and order among others that the government provides are under the purview of public service. Nolan Committee listed 7 principles of public life for public services.

The Seven Principles of Public Life by Nolan Committee:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **Leadership:** Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

These principles apply to all aspects of public life. The Committee has set them out here for the benefit of all who serve the public in any way. The Nolan principles are revolutionary because they focused on behaviour and culture, rather than processes. Therefore if someone lives by these values, it will go a long way to improving behaviour. If one really practice accountability, integrity and leadership, he/she will ensure better decision making, better spending of public money wisely and is delivering exceptional service for all the people.

Q.10) Honesty as a policy always comes with a price. The path of honesty, like dharma, is straight yet seldom simple. It often turns out to be tortuous, consumes more energy, sometimes even damaging the vehicle because of unfavourable road conditions. The honest, however, go on regardless, perhaps driven by an inner force that borders on recklessness. Elaborate. Discuss the importance of honesty in civil services.

Ans.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual introduction.

Body. How being honest is not easy? Importance of honesty in civil services.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Honesty means being truthful and open. It is a facet of moral character that connotes positive and virtuous attributes such as integrity, truthfulness, including straightforwardness of conduct, along with the absence of lying, cheating, theft, etc. It is said that honesty as a policy always comes with a price. It is true. Honesty demands sacrifice and courage to face hurdles created by the society and system in path of being honest. But it is also true that a truly honest person goes on, regardless of all the hurdles.

Being honest- not an easy path:

1. **Need courage and self-discipline:** It takes a lot of courage and self-discipline to be honest with self and with others. It's not easy. And if one is really honest, people consider him/her not normal.
2. **Not so simple:** On the surface, the concept of honesty seems simple enough. But it is not so simple. There are challenges that an honest person have to face. One has to face countless fights with close and loved ones over blunt and straightforward reactions.
3. **Usually not rewarded:** An act of honesty usually is not rewarded. Rather one who is absolutely honest is punished by talks, derogatory remarks from surrounding corrupt people in order to make the person dishonest. Further, it is said that honesty is its own reward and it is recognised in the long run. But the long it could be unpredictably long.
4. **Loneliness:** Most of the time honest find themselves alone. The price for the honest is in the form of lonely suffering, even noticeable isolation. The honest are usually shunned by friends and family members for being too idealistic and not practical.

Importance of honesty in civil services:

1. **Public welfare:** Honesty is of paramount importance, especially for a public servant. A public servant is to serve people and his/her actions will impact millions of lives. It is many decisions, day to day administration, growth and development of people which are at stake with the honesty and integrity of public servant.
2. **Impact community:** If public servant is not willing to serve honestly then many poor, illiterates, marginal become victims of the causes. For example corruption in a road contract may lead to low quality road that could cause accidents, vehicle repairs, pollution due to dust etc.
3. **Conflict resolution:** Honesty and Integrity ensures Probity in Public Service which is in line with democratic spirit of the Constitution. Such morals are important for Public servant for conflict resolution, while taking decision on the basis of what is right and what is wrong for people.
4. **Good governance:** It improve work culture and motivate subordinate officers to be honest and thus ensure effective delivery of public services.

People sitting in higher levels of administrative hierarchy are entrusted with core areas of administration such as policy formulation and decision making having potential to influence people of the entire nation. But as rightly said "with greater power comes greater responsibility", these powers are to be used for their designated purpose and people. Thus honesty with oneself and to his duty, and personal and professional integrity are of utmost importance.