

## Mains Marathon Compilation

September, 2019

## General Studies – 1

Q.1) What are various types of volcanoes? Discuss various landforms associated with it.

Q.2) Discuss how empowering women would help in population growth control?

Q.3) Discuss the significance of the Vaikom satyagraha and the self-respect movement in the modern Indian history.

Q.4) Describe the social life of the later Vedic people. How was it different from the Rig Vedic life?

Q.5) "Restoration of degraded lands, would also address water scarcity issue." Comment.

Q.6) Discuss the impact of migration on urban demography. What should be done to tackle urban migration phenomenon?

Q.7) Discuss how poverty is a threat to stable and peaceful Indian society?

## General Studies – 2

Q.1) How media play a crucial role in connecting governments and citizens in a democracy. Do you think this role is being under threat in recent time?

Q.2) "Subsidies as a tool for short term political gains, not only put extra burden on public exchequer but is also an undemocratic mean to influence peoples." Comment.

Q.3) Discuss the role of CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) as an anti-corruption body.

Q.4) "The developing situation and conditions in Yemen could cast a shadow over Indian interests in the region." Comment.

Q.5) "Idea of treating Hindi as the national language runs contrary to the spirit of the Constitution and our country's linguistic diversity". Comment.

Q.6) "While digital connectivity and literacy have increased over time, these have not adequately translated into digital knowledge of public affairs." In light of this discuss the need of a public information portal.

Q.7) Discuss progress made so far in 'Make in India' program by India. What are various challenges to 'Make in India' initiative?

Q.8) Discuss the role and mandate of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in addressing corruption. Critically examine its effectiveness.

Q.9) "The regional media in India is vulnerable to administrative excesses, political pressure and corruption." Comment.

Q.10) Discuss the relevance of Poshan abhiyaan for India's health security. How India can tackle its malnutrition problem?

Q.11) "Aadhaar linkage to social media is a double edged sword." Discuss.

Q.12) Discuss prospects of enforcing a uniform civil code in India. Do you think it will endanger diversity of India?

Q.13) "India's Research and Development (R&D) activities has achieved far less than it's potential". Discuss various reasons for it. Suggest some measures to boost India's R&D outcomes.

Q.14) "While the world is more connected today and more people have much more information readily available at their fingertips, societies are not necessarily better informed and equipped to make the tough choices needed to address the many challenges." Comment.

Q.15) "After 70 years of independence, India still has not been able to develop scientific temper among its citizens". Discuss various reasons for it. Give some solutions to instil scientific temper among Indians.

Q.16) Discuss in brief India's Panchsheel principle. Do you think Panchsheel principle hold more relevance than ever before?

Q.17) Discuss the role played by Indian diaspora in India's growth story and diplomatic efforts.

Q.18) Do you think policy of punishment and penalties can be effective in changing wrong behaviour of an individual? Discuss in context of recent rise in penalties on traffic violations.

Q.19) Examine whether simultaneous elections are better than frequent elections? Discuss what are various challenges for conducting simultaneous elections in India.

Q.20) "Political influence and lack of critical debate has led to inefficient education system in India." Comment.

Q.21) "Medical devices industry in India should focus on indigenous manufacturing, innovation, research and development." Discuss.

Q.22) "Probe agencies should be given more freedom without diluting the controls already in place." Comment.

Q.23) "Modern socio-economic conditions require states to take care not only of people's material welfare but also their identities." Discuss.

Q.24) "Entry into Nuclear Suppliers Group is India's legitimate right." In light of this discuss the need and importance of entry of India into NSG.

Q.25) Discuss the mandate of WTO in resolving trade disputes. Do you think WTO is successful in this mandate of trade dispute resolution?

Q.26) "India does not allow dual citizenship to its citizens, but Indian citizens carry dual identities". Examine.

Q.27) Discuss the importance of 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment act in women empowerment in India.

Q.28) "The democratic state is obliged to provide citizens with the basic preconditions for the exercise of freedom of health, education, sustainable living wage, food and a decent standard of life." In light of above statement, discuss the success of India as a democratic state.

Q.29) "For development of the nation, it is critical for institutions of national importance to work independently and without any political interference". Comment.

Q.30) Discuss the role of auditor general in Indian Parliamentary democracy. Analyse whether India needs a Parliament Budget Office for more parliamentary efficiency?

Q.31) What are various reasons for poor state of legal justice in India? Give some solutions to make justice system more efficient.

Q.32) "Collegium system is deeply flawed, and is in need of urgent remedy". Comment.

Q.33) "Right to Internet access and digital literacy should be recognised as a right in itself." Discuss in the light of digital inequalities in India.

Q.34) "The Supreme Court's decision in Navtej Johar v. Union of India has laid the ground for stronger equality recognition." Comment.

Q.35) "India's record in promoting occupational and industrial safety remains weak even with years of robust economic growth." Discuss.

Q.36) Discuss the Impact of sanctions on Iran by USA on Indian trade and ties with Iran.

Q.37) Discuss whether the judicial activism has undermined or strengthened Parliamentary Democracy in India?

Q.38) "Local governments still remain hamstrung and ineffective after decades of 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments." Discuss.

Q.39) "Regional languages have become the official languages of the States". In light of this critically analyse the issue of having a common official language at national level.

Q.40) "We need to shift focus from a hospital-oriented, techno-centric health care model to make healthcare services better." Discuss.

Q.41) "India should work on an 'Act Far East' policy for its strategic and economic interests in Indo-Pacific region." Comment.

Q.42) Discuss what is Aspirational District Programme? How it would improve socio-economic status of the weaker section?

Q.43) "Access to affordable, quality health care is still a dream in many pockets in India." Discuss.

Q.44) Critically analyse the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 2019. Do you think it is a threat to fundamental freedoms enshrined in Indian Constitution?

Q.45) Discuss the growing importance of Eurasia for India's changing geopolitics. How India can boost its presence in Eurasia?

Q.46) Discuss the need and importance of legislative councils in Indian states.

Q.47) "Populist tendencies are threat to democratic institutions and unity of the nation". Comment.

Q.48) What are various challenges and issues faced by medical education in India? In light of this critically examine the provisions of National Medical Bill, 2019.

Q.49) Discuss importance of public opinion and pressure groups in a democracy. How it can help in ensuring good governance?

Q.50) "Indian citizens hold relatively low trust in the civil services and bureaucracy." Discuss various reasons behind this. Suggest some measures to enhance bureaucratic efficiency in India.

Q.51) Discuss the need and consequences of National register for citizen in Assam. How government should approach further with it?

Q.52) "Populism has replaced liberalism in 21<sup>st</sup> century." In light of this discuss the consequences of populism and how countries should approach it?

### General Studies – 3

Q.1) "The recent, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on 'Climate Change and Land' highlight that unless land is managed in a sustainable manner, it will be difficult for humanity to prevent climate change." Discuss.

Q.2) Examine whether current economic slowdown is a structural or cyclical in nature. Give some solutions to move economy out of doldrums.

Q.3) "By speeding up the connectivity revolution, developing India could become a developed nation." Comment.

Q.4) Discuss hazards and risks associated with space debris. Analyse the significance of Project NETRA launched by ISRO.

Q.5) "Merging of banks would nudge India towards a \$5-trillion economy but carry significant risks." Comment.

Q.6) "Haphazard developmental projects often lead to disasters." Discuss in the light of recent disaster caused by Narmada flooding.

Q.7) Examine how Biotechnology sector can emerge as engine of economic growth and societal change?

Q.8) "India has the potential to show the pathway to the world on accelerating action on climate change while pursuing its development interests." Evaluate the statement in context of potential of India to emerge as a global leader in climate change efforts.

Q.9) Discuss the harmful impact of e-cigarettes. Do you think it is right to completely ban the e-cigarettes in India?

Q.10) Discuss India's achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology. How the application of this technology has helped India in its socio-economic development?

Q.11) "In spite of surplus food production, millions of Indian citizens die due to hunger." Comment.

Q.12) "World is facing an unprecedented threat from intolerance, violent extremism and terrorism, exacerbating conflicts and destabilising entire regions". Discuss how India should tackle the growing threat of extremism and terrorism in the region?

Q.13) "Climate Change talks and summits are not sufficient to tackle the menace of global warming." Comment.

Q.14) "Farm sector is stuck in a situation of low income trap from a long time." Discuss.

Q.15) Critically analyse the repercussions of India-Pakistan face-off on bilateral trade between both nations.

Q.16) Discuss various land reforms in India? How they lead to agricultural efficiency and social equity?

Q.17) "India being the country the most vulnerable to climate change, must prioritise Disaster management plans." Comment.

Q.18) Discuss India's three-stage nuclear power programme. What are various challenges in 3 stage nuclear power program?

Q.19) "In the time of consumerism and changing social ethos policy focus on education need new approach." Examine.

Q.20) "The correlation between size and efficiency can not be fully established." In light of this critically analyse the outcome of Merger of banks.

Q.21) Discuss the need and Impact of banning single-use plastic in India. What are various government initiatives against menace of plastic in India?

Q.22) "India's next stage of growth requires a second growth engine of exports to Asian markets." In the light of this critically examine whether India should join RCEP or not?

Q.23) What do you understand by the term 'Agroecology'. How Agroecology is a better alternative to other climate smart agriculture models?

Q.24) What are main principles of Environment Impact Assessment? Discuss the significance of Environment Impact assessment in various development projects.

Q.25) Discuss how China-USA trade rivalry is not good for global economic growth especially India's growth?

Q.26) Discuss the problem of cross border drug business in India? How it is threat to Indian security?

Q.27) Discuss the challenges faced by India to evolve as global manufacturing hub like China. Suggest some measures.

Q.28) Discuss the need and effectiveness of a carbon tax is in tackling global warming. Do you think measures like carbon tax are regressive in nature?

Q.29) What is social impact assessment (SIA)? Discuss its need and significance.

Q.30) Do you think the recent merger of banks in india is good for all the stakeholders? Substantiate.

Q.31) "A focus on Rural development is must to achieve the \$5 trillion economic target. Discuss.

Q.32) "There has been large-scale encroachment and illegal constructions going on around Coastal Regulatory Zones." Discuss it's consequences and impact.

Q.33) In light of rapid climate change discuss various efforts made by India to prevent climate change.

Q.34) "With looming water crisis situation, government need to promote traditional methods of water conservation." Discuss.

#### General Studies – 4

Q.1) In light of John Austin positive theory of law, discuss how Law in its essential nature differs from moral and religious principles.

Q.2) "The major challenge faced by civil servants is to maintain their integrity and efficiency while serving in a system that deals with power play and corruption." Comment.

Q.3) "Agriculture crisis in India is a result bad policies and lack of market linkages." Comment.

Q.4) "There has to be a focus on human capital formation and demographic dividend in order to achieve \$5 trillion economic objective." Discuss.

Q.5) What is Citizen Charter? Discuss it's purpose and effectiveness in India?

Q.6) "Transparency must be accompanied by accountability, and that is where the RTI act has great value and significance." Comment.

Q.7) Examine how conscience of an individual guide his/her behaviour. How conscience of crisis should be dealt by a public servant?

## General Studies – 1

Q.1) What are various types of volcanoes? Discuss various landforms associated with it.

### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** What is volcano?

**Body.** Types of volcanoes and various associated landforms.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

A volcano is a vent or fissure in Earth's crust through which lava, ash, rocks, and gases erupt. An active volcano is a volcano that has erupted in the recent past. Material that flows to or reaches the ground comprises lava flows, volcanic bombs, pyroclastic debris, dust, ash and gases. The gases may be sulphur compounds, nitrogen compounds, and trace amounts of argon, hydrogen and chlorine.

**Major types of volcanoes:** Volcanoes are classified on the basis of nature of eruption and the form developed at the surface.

1. **Shield Volcanoes:** The Shield volcanoes are the largest of all the volcanoes on the earth, which are not steep. These volcanoes are mostly made up of basalt. They become explosive if in some way water gets into the vent, otherwise, they are characterized by low-explosivity. Eg: Hawaiian shield volcanoes
2. **Composite Volcanoes:** Composite Volcanoes are characterized by outbreaks of cooler and more viscous lavas than basalt. They are constructed from numerous explosive eruptions. The major composite volcano chains are Pacific Rim which known as the "Rim of Fire".
3. **Caldera:** Calderas are known as the most explosive volcanoes of Earth. They are generally explosive in nature. When they erupt, they incline to collapse on themselves rather than constructing any structure. The collapsed depressions are known as calderas.
4. **Flood Basalt Provinces:** Flood Basalt Province volcanoes discharge highly fluid lava that flows for long distances. Many parts of the world are covered by thick basalt lava flows.
5. **Mid-Ocean Ridge Volcanoes:** These volcanoes are found in the oceanic areas. There exists a system of mid-ocean ridges stretching for over 70000 km all through the ocean basins. The central region of this ridge gets frequent eruptions.

### Various Volcanic Landforms are:

1. **Batholiths:** These are large rock masses formed due to cooling down and solidification of hot magma inside the earth. Batholiths form the core of huge mountains and may be exposed on surface after erosion.
2. **Laccoliths:** These are large dome-shaped intrusive bodies connected by a pipe-like conduit from below. These are basically intrusive counterparts of an exposed domelike batholith. Karnataka plateau is spotted with dome hills of granite rocks. Most of these, now exfoliated, are examples of laccoliths or batholiths.
3. **Lapolith:** As and when the lava moves upwards, a portion of the same may tend to move in a horizontal direction wherever it finds a weak plane. It may get rested in different forms. In case it develops into a saucer shape, concave to the sky body, it is called Lapolith.
4. **Phacolith:** A wavy mass of intrusive rocks, at times, is found at the base of synclines or at the top of anticline in folded igneous country. Such wavy materials

have a definite conduit to source beneath in the form of magma chambers (subsequently developed as batholiths). These are called the Phacoliths.

5. **Sills:** These are solidified horizontal lava layers inside the earth. The near horizontal bodies of the intrusive igneous rocks are called sill or sheet, depending on the thickness of the material. The thinner ones are called sheets while the thick horizontal deposits are called sills.
6. **Dykes:** When the lava makes its way through cracks and the fissures developed in the land, it solidifies almost perpendicular to the ground. It gets cooled in the same position to develop a wall-like structure. Such structures are called dykes. These are the most commonly found intrusive forms in the western Maharashtra area. These are considered the feeders for the eruptions that led to the development of the Deccan traps.

Q.2) Discuss how empowering women would help in population growth control?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How women empowerment would help in population control?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Empowerment should be viewed as a process in which all voices are encouraged to be heard for ultimate goal of securing mutually beneficial solutions. Women empowerment is not only a solution to check population growth but is also important for overall progress of the society. India joined China as the second one billion strong nation. While the global population has increased three-fold in the 20<sup>th</sup> century from 2 to 6 billion, the population of India has grown nearly 5 times from 230 million to one billion.

**How women empowerment is an important tool to limit population growth?**

1. Spouses, partners and mother-in-laws are central to make decisions for women on contraceptive choice and use. India needs to empower women so that they can decide on the size of the family and thus help the country curb the growth of its population. Improved women status would help in making better decisions towards small family choice.
2. Women are needed to be financially empowered to pay for needed family planning and health services. An economically empowered women is free to take decisions better for herself and her family.
3. The forces that have helped Kerala achieve population stabilisation with a crude birth rate of 15.9 per 1000 are two-child norm, universal primary education, emphasis on girl child, economic equality and better health care. Thus it is clearly evident that women empowerment would help in limiting population growth.
4. It is evident that when women are empowered to improve their own lives, they tend to have smaller families, and population growth slows. When population growth slows, governments and families can more easily invest in opportunities for women and girls, and women can more easily invest in opportunities for themselves and their families.
5. Education empowers women and girls to plan their lives. Not only are educated women better equipped to understand their reproductive health options, but they also have greater social and economic opportunities that may lead them to have smaller families. Studies have shown that literacy, especially reading comprehension, profoundly impacts family size.

6. When the status of women advances, population growth slows, and the quality of life improves for everyone. The lower social status of women in many places bars them from having control over their own lives and bodies.
7. If society limits a woman's opportunities, parents with inadequate resources will not invest in a daughter's future, and she will have no options beyond marriage and childbirth at a young age. In addition, women's relative powerlessness to refuse sex or negotiate safe sex, especially in the context of marriage, leaves women vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.
8. Women empowerment allow them to exercise their fundamental right to choose the number of children they will have, when, and with whom.

Capacity-building efforts should pay particular attention to the needs of women in order to ensure that their skills and experience are fully used in decision-making at all levels. The core themes of education for sustainability include lifelong learning, interdisciplinary education, partnerships, multicultural education and empowerment. Priority should be given to ensuring women's and girls' full and equal access to all levels of education and training.

Q.3) Discuss the significance of the Vaikom satyagraha and the self respect movement in the modern indian history.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Significance of Vaikom Satyagraha and self respect movement.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The contribution of Ramaswamy Periyar in introducing social reforms in has been enormous and his legacy is still alive today in India. Vaikom Satyagraha and Self-respect movement was significant and played an important role in removing barriers in Indian Society.

#### **Vaikom satyagraha:**

1. It 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.
2. It managed to open the roads around the temple for their use. The temple entry movement gained momentum after this.
3. It was the first mass agitation for the cause of human rights in the country.
4. 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.
5. It was a great opportunity for the Indian National Congress party to grow in Kerala.

#### **Self-respect movement:**

1. The Self-Respect Movement was dedicated to the goal of giving non-Brahmins a sense of pride based on their Dravidian past which also meant denial of the superiority of the Brahmins whom he described as representative of the Aryans.
2. Its aim was to achieve a society where backward castes have equal human rights, and encouraging backward castes to have self-respect in the context of a caste-based society that considered them to be a lower end of the hierarchy.
3. Unlike the Justice Party, the Self-Respect Movement was popular in its appeal. Though it began as a social reform movement its effects were felt in the political field also.

4. Anti-Brahmanism and Self-respect Marriages were two important aspects of Self-respect Movement.
5. The movement encouraged inter-caste and inter-religious marriages, along with that it also encouraged marriage ceremonies without Brahmin priest.
6. Post independence, Tamilnadu passed a law and become the first state to legalise Hindu marriage without Brahmin priest.
7. The monopoly of power and influence enjoyed by the Brahmins was slowly lost due to E.V.R.'s unceasing propaganda against orthodoxy. It filled with the sense of self-respect and above all self-confidence, to fight against social injustice perpetrated by the Brahmins of the day.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. It was instrumental in non-Brahmin communities of Tamil Nadu to create awareness amongst themselves, as one community. The Self-Respect movement brought the message of the Tamil Nationalism to the masses.
11. Gender relationships were actively divorced from Brahminical 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.4) Describe the social life of the later Vedic people. How was it different from the Rig Vedic life?

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Social life of later Vedic people. How it differed from Rig Vedic life? **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The period that followed Rig Vedic Age is known as Later Vedic Age. This age witnessed the composition of three later Veda Samhitas namely, the Samveda Samhita, the Yajurveda Samhita, the Atharvaveda Samhita as well as Brahmanas and the Upanishads of all the four Vedas and later on the two great epics—the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. This period saw significant changes in social life as compared to Rig Vedic period.

#### **Social life of later Vedic people:**

1. **Caste Society:** Most important change was the evolution of caste system. Various sub castes evolved in addition to the traditional four-castes. The Brahmanas and Kshatriyas emerged as the two leading castes out of the general mass of population, known as vaishyas. The vaishyas were superior to the shudras.
2. **Education:** A vast mass of Vedic literature as well as a highly developed intellectual life speaks abundantly about a well planned system of education in the later Vedic Period. After the Upanayana or sacred thread ceremony and initiation to studies the students were sent to the Gurukula for their education. They had to live in the

house of the teacher (guru) and lead the chaste life whose principal duties were study and service to the teacher.

3. **Position of women:** The women lost their high position which they had in the Rig Vedic Age. They were deprived of their right to the Upanayana ceremony and all their sacraments, excluding marriage, were performed without recitation of Vedic mantras. Polygamy prevailed in the society. Many of the religious ceremonies, formerly practiced by the wife, were now performed by the priests. She was not allowed to attend the political assemblies. Birth of a daughter became undesirable as she was regarded as a source of misery. The custom of child marriage and dowry crept in.
4. **Food and Dress:** In the later Vedic age rice became staple food of the people. Gradually the practice of eating meat was declined. Killing of cow was looked with disfavour. Wool was used in addition to cotton.
5. **Economic Condition:** Like political and social conditions, the economic condition of the later Vedic period also underwent significant changes. Due to the emergence of caste system various occupations also appeared.
6. **Agriculture:** The later Vedic period people lived in the villages. In the villages small peasant owners of land were replaced by big landlords who secured possession of entire villages. Agriculture was the principal occupation of the people. Improved method of tilling the land by deep ploughing, manuring and sowing with better seeds were known to the Aryans. More lands were brought under cultivation.
7. **Trade and Commerce:** With the growth of civilisation, the volume of trade and commerce had increased by leaps and bounds. Both inland and overseas trades were developed. Inland trade was carried on with the Kiratas inhabiting the mountains. They exchanged the herbs for clothes, mattresses and skins. The people became familiar with the navigation of the seas. Regular coinage was not started. The coins which were in circulation were "Nishka", "Satamana" and "Krishnala". The unit value of goods was a gold bar called "nishka".
8. **Occupation:** The emergence of caste system brought varieties of means of livelihood. There are references about money lenders, chariot makers, dyers, weavers, barbers, goldsmiths, iron smiths, washer men, bow makers, carpenters, musicians etc. The art of writing probably developed in this period. The use of silver was increased and ornaments were made out of it.
9. **Religious Condition:** During the later Vedic period the religious spirit underwent a great change. Religion was overshadowed with rites and rituals. New gods and goddesses emerged during this period. The Rig Vedic gods, Varun, Indra, Agni, Surya, Usha etc. lost their charm. The people worshipped them with less zeal. New gods like Siva, Rupa, Vishnu, Brahma etc. appeared in the religious firmament of the Later Vedic Period.

#### Rig Vedic vs later Vedic life:

##### Rig Vedic Social life

The Early Vedic economy was mainly pastoral and cow was the most important form of wealth.

The Early Vedic society was tribal and basically egalitarian. Clean and kinship relations formed the basis of the society and family was the basic social unit.

##### Later Vedic life

Agriculture had primary importance in the life of the later Vedic people.

The later Vedic society came to be divided into four varnas called the brahmanas, rajanyas or kshatriyas, vaishyds and shudras.

In the Early Vedic polity the tribal chief or the Rajan and the priest or the Purohita had important positions.

The growing cult of sacrifices enormously added to the power of the brahmanas.

The Early Vedic people personified the natural forces, e.g. wind, water, rain, etc. and worshipped them as god. They worshiped god not through any abstract philosophical concept but for material gains.

New gods like Siva, Rupa, Vishnu, Brahma etc. appeared in the religious firmament of the Later Vedic Period.

Though there was no well defined political hierarchy in the Early Vedic set up, the tribal polity was not completely egalitarian. There was growing importance of sacrifices in the Vedic religion. What we must remember is that this society was not static but dynamic. Between about 1500 B.C. and society was constantly evolving and newer elements in the economic, social, political, and religious sphere operating to transform its structure.

Q.5) "Restoration of degraded lands, would also address water scarcity issue." Comment.

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Status of land degradation in India. How land restoration would ensure water availability?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Land degradation occur due to misuse of the resource (soil and vegetation) beyond the resilience of the ecosystem. The causes of this misuse are overgrazing, wrong cultivation practices, and excessive deforestation for cultivation, and wood fuel. Corrective measures are necessary to restore the ecological balance.

### **Land Degradation in India:**

1. The proportion of degraded land for all land is 19.2% or more than 17.5 million Km<sup>2</sup>.
2. During 2011-2013, 29.3% of land in India underwent land degradation.
3. Compared with 2003-2005, the country experienced a 0.57% increase in land degradation.
4. The area under desertification (drylands area) was 82.64 mha in 2011-2013, which rose by 1.16 mha from 2003-2005.
5. The top processes leading to degradation/desertification in India were water erosion followed by vegetation degradation and wind erosion.

### **How land restoration would ensure water availability?**

1. It help in protection of the soil from wind and water erosion and maintenance of its fertility.
2. Restoration recycle moisture (natural motors) from soil into their immediate atmosphere by transpiration where it again precipitates as rain.
3. It cause protection of catchment areas and perennial and seasonal water courses to assure regulated flow of water both in quantity and quality.
4. Deforestation results in an immediate lowering of groundwater level (low percolation due to the quick surface runoff on barren lands) and in long-term reduction of precipitation. Restoration of degraded land reverse this and allow percolation.

5. Restoration lead to enhancement of the vegetation to which help in absorbing water into soil.
6. Land restoration help in recharging of ground water through proper seepage and percolation due to air presence in soil.
7. Restoration is a natural solution for water security. It has been estimated that over 3200 cities could significantly improve their water security – by 10% or more - through forest restoration measures.
8. Restoring and protecting forested watersheds around cities can naturally purify water, making water treatment from utilities more affordable.
9. Forests also buffer cities from the impacts of extreme weather. Their soils and root structures absorb water, preventing flooding. This stored water also helps increase water flow during times of drought.

Access to clean, potable water is a human right that will be one of the defining needs of the next century, as human populations continue to grow and urbanise amid increasing climate changes. Restored landscapes in key watersheds can improve the quality and quantity of water reaching our cities to help meet the needs of the future.

Q.6) Discuss the impact of migration on urban demography. What should be done to tackle urban migration phenomenon?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Impact of migration on urban demography.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The 21st century is seeing a phenomenon of rapid urban expansion and internal migration in the developing countries. According to UN, internal migration continues to be one of the major components of urban growth and socioeconomic transformation, and a central mechanism for population redistribution. These processes lead to demographic, social, economic and environmental consequences in both urban and rural areas.

**Impact of migration on urban demography:** Migration brings tangible change in demographic characteristics of place of origin and place of destination. The absolute number of population, the density of population, age composition, and literacy rates are either favourably or adversely affected.

1. Migration changes the characteristics of the population in regions of out migration- the proportion of old, children and females increases due to out-migration in source region.
2. Migration leads to demographic changes with large young male population dominating the age-sex composition.
3. Migration of skilled workers leads to a greater economic growth of the region. The population density of urban areas increases with increase in birth rates.
4. Migration fills gaps in demand for and supply of labour and efficiently allocates skilled and unskilled labour.
5. Migration leads to intermixing of people from different cultures which brings up a composite culture among the people.
6. UNESCO's 2019 Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM Report) shows that children left behind by migrating parents and seasonal migrants face fewer educational opportunities overall. According to the report, 80% of migrant children across seven Indian cities did not have access to education near worksites.

7. Large scale movement of people from rural to urban areas causes overcrowding in cities and puts heavy pressure on urban infrastructure. Improper urban planning coupled with large influx of poor migrants lead to development slums lacking basic infrastructural facilities such as safe drinking water, electricity, sewage, housing, security, hospital etc.
8. It provides remittances to households in the areas of origin, increases consumer expenditure and investment in health, education and assets formation.
9. When a migrant return to its place of origin, he/she brings knowledge, skills and innovation. It enhances knowledge and skills of migrants through exposure and interaction with the outside world.
10. Lack of affordable housing in Indian cities force migrants to live in slums. Many seasonal migrants are not even able to afford rents in slums force them to live at their workplaces (such as construction sites and hotel dining rooms), shop pavements, or in open areas in the city.

Migration lead to mixing of people from one are to another. It impact urban services and change demography of place of origin and destination. It often put burden on urbanisation and hinder health of an urban centre. A proper management and plan is needed to make migration to urban centres fruitful.

Q.7) Discuss how poverty is a threat to stable and peaceful Indian society?

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How poverty is threat to stability of society?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The ILO Declaration of Philadelphia, 1944 states that “Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere.” Poverty, therefore, has implications for stability of society and hampers it’s progress. Policy makers in India have tried to ensure that poverty is tackled in all its forms and that the benefits of economic growth reaches the poor and excluded groups in the society.

#### **How poverty is a threat?**

1. People who suffer from poverty experience a number of deprivations and restrictions. Its manifestations include
2. Hunger and malnutrition.
3. Limited access to education and other basic services.
4. Social discrimination and exclusion.
5. Lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social and cultural life.
6. Country where the per capita income and purchasing power of a poor country or household is below a certain minimum standard, there are low medical care and health facilities, productivity is very low and there is illiteracy. This lead to situation of epidemics and disease in society.
7. When a group of people are poor they do not have a voice in the community or dependent on other more powerful groups or individuals in order to express their own rights and choices. This endanger human rights in the society and often lead to poor political system in the society which hamper social growth and peace.
8. All types of socially unacceptable behaviours like drug addiction, crime, position, violence and terrorism in a family or in a community are adopted by poor people to satisfy their stomach. These factors degrade human self respect, moral and social

- values of the society as a whole and as a result more and more people in the community become intolerant and rude towards each other in their day to day life.
9. Poverty destroys the living environment not only of those who live in poverty but of all other human beings as well as non-human living things that depend on the same resources and ecosystem on which those living in poverty depend and survive.
  10. Poor people live in conditions that are miserable, conditions in which some members of their family die of hunger, disease of famine. It lead to parents to sell their child into slavery or prostitution because of lack of resources to feed or care for that child and when government institutes fail to protect the rights of the poor. This is threat to social fabric.

#### **What should be done?**

1. Poverty redressal requires economic growth accompanied by an improvement in access to social services.
2. Unemployment is at the center of poverty. For the poor, labour is the only asset that can be used to improve the lives and wellbeing. It is crucial to empower the poor who have the potential but often lack opportunities to shape their lives.
3. An important measure to generate employment opportunities for the poor and to raise their productivity is the speedy development of infrastructure. Since private sector is not attracted to make adequate investment in infrastructure, public investment needs to be stepped up for its development.
4. Besides physical infrastructure development, poverty can also be reduced through human resource development. Human resource development requires greater investment in educational facilities such as schools to promote literacy, technical training institutes and vocational colleges to impart skills to the people. Further, human resource development requires health care by public investment in Primary Health Centres, dispensaries and hospitals.
5. For reduction of poverty growth of non-farm employment in the rural areas is of special importance. Non-farm employment is created in marketing, transportation, handicrafts, dairying, and forestry, processing of food and other agricultural products, repair workshops
6. Empowering and facilitating all citizens to earn such levels of income that they can buy these services from the open market is important. Universal basic income can be provided to extremely poor people.

The indignity and sufferings of people living in poverty is a humanitarian tragedy. It is a challenge putting pressure on all societies. Poverty is the root cause of many problems, posing a severe and distinct threat to food security, climate change resilience, insecurity, democracy, human rights amongst others. Poverty erodes countries' capacity to address global challenges, and their potential to fully contribute to the successful implementation of UN SDGs.

## General Studies – 2

Q.1) How media play a crucial role in connecting governments and citizens in a democracy. Do you think this role is being under threat in recent time?

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How media act as connecting link between government and citizens?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Media is fourth pillar of democracy. It plays an important role in keeping democracy alive and thriving. It is a connecting link between government and citizens in a way it provide information about deeds, policies and inefficiencies of government to the citizens. As a fourth pillar it plays an important role in democracy reaching its true meaning.

### **Role of media in connecting government and peoples in Indian democracy:**

1. **Source of information:** An unbiased information is important for a democracy and its growth. Media help in providing critical information to citizens. E.g data on economy, health, education etc. must be correct and accurate without any bias toward government.
2. **Educate:** Media is important to educate people on issues that are of utmost important for the society. E.g Increasing number of rape cases are threat to society. It is important to report exact number of cases and help in sensitising the society.
3. **Awareness:** Media make society aware of their democratic rights and fight the three institutions of democracy.
4. **Ensuring Justice:** Media plays an important role in ensuring justice and benefits of the government policies reaching the weaker sections of the society. They act as a chain between the government and the citizens of the country.
5. **Watchdog:** Media reporting on public affairs and investigations into wrongdoing in the administration of public affairs is must for a healthy democracy. This includes exposing frauds or corruption cases that personally benefit politicians. This help citizens to vote the best government defeating corrupt and dishonest government.
6. **Good Governance:** Media plays an important role in audit of the government policies and spending. An unbiased media is important for transparent reporting.
7. **Accountability:** Media ensure accountability of government by exposing bad state of democracy. This lead to questioning of government by the people leading to accountability and answerability.
8. **Dissemination of government policies:** Media is important for spreading and disseminating various government policies and initiatives. E.g. media played an important role in spreading awareness about Swachh Bharat and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

India is the biggest democracy of world and press and media play an important role in keep this democracy thriving. Media should be neutral in airing views, as it is a vital link between government and Indian citizens. If media is honest and free democracy is bound to function more efficiently. Media is thus necessary for smooth functioning of democracy.

Q.2) “Subsidies as a tool for short term political gains, not only put extra burden on public exchequer but is also an undemocratic mean to influence peoples.” Comment.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Subsidy as political tool and economic burden.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Subsidies like offering free power not only led to extra burden on public exchequer, it has also been undemocratic mean in an attempt to gain public support. Subsidies like this not only shake up the power sector and shatters the hopes of a shift to market-driven policies but also act as political gimmick for political parties.

**Subsidies as a political tool and economic burden:**

1. Subsidy is used by political parties to gain votes and act as populist measure to attract people's support.
2. It is undemocratic in a way that it influence the free and rational mind of people leading to influence in voting pattern.
3. Subsidy is often used as a political gimmick near elections in order to lure people and gain their votes.
4. Subsidy encourage inefficiency by relying more in the subsidy money that offered by the government.
5. People still receive the subsidy that offered by the government even though they gain not much profits through it.
6. Subsidy put extra burden on state's purse and generally lead to fiscal deficit.
7. Subsidy act as a tool of diversion from real issues, and suppress the real issues in the name of freebies.
8. Subsidy will eventually raise commercial and industrial costs, causing the final products to lose their competitiveness in the international market.
9. Subsidies are seen as benefits to help poor and trouble family farmers. Instead, they harm them by excluding them from most subsidies, financing the consolidation of family farms, and increasing land values to levels that prevent young people from entering farming.
10. Subsidy sometimes is difficult to decide on who may receive a subsidy and the government has poor information about the service and how much to subsidies.

Although subsidies are important and act as immediate relief but it is more a sort of short term measure and sometime a political gimmick. Subsidy generally do not reach the poor and needy and is exploited by rich and corrupt. A more sustainable solution is needed in place of subsidies that act as a long term solution. A universal basic income can be explored for poorest of poor.

Q.3) Discuss the role of CAG (Comptroller and Auditor General) as an anti-corruption body.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Role of CAG as anti corruption institution. Some issues faced by CAG.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Constitutionally, Comptroller and Auditor General's Office has been mandated to enhance accountability of the Executive to the Parliament and State legislatures by carrying out audits in the public sector and providing out accounting services in the States in

accordance with the Constitution of India and laws as well as best international practices. Today, the CAG has been undertaking more performance audits than before and stress is not only just on how much money flows out of the exchequer to make a purchase, but towards the economy and effectiveness of that purchase.

**CAG as anti-corruption institution:**

1. Article 148 of the Constitution provides for a CAG with the legal status of a Supreme Court judge.
2. The CAG is sworn in under Article 148(3) to uphold the integrity of the nation.
3. In order to preserve his independence, the CAG's expenses are charged (without vote) to the Consolidated Fund of India. He can be removed from office only under Article 124(4).
4. It is the duty of the CAG to audit all receipts which are payable into the Consolidated Fund of India. The rules and procedures are designed to ensure an effective check on the assessment, collection and proper allocation of revenue.
5. His duty is to uphold the Constitution of India and laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
6. The accountability of the executive (i.e., the council of ministers) to the Parliament in the sphere of financial administration is secured through audit reports of the CAG.
7. The CAG is an agent of the Parliament and conducts an audit of expenditure on behalf of the Parliament. Therefore, he is responsible only to the Parliament.
8. The CAG has more freedom with regard to the audit of expenditure than with regard to the audit of receipts, stores, and stock. —Whereas in relation to expenditure he decides the scope of the audit and frames his own audit codes and manuals, he has to proceed with the approval of the executive government in relation to rules for the conduct of the other audits.
9. The CAG has to ascertain whether money shown in the accounts as having been disbursed was legally available for and applicable to the service or the purpose to which they have been applied or charged and whether the expenditure conforms to the authority that governs it.
10. In addition to this legal and regulatory audit, the CAG can also conduct the propriety audit, that is, he can look into the wisdom, faithfulness and economy of government expenditure and comment on the wastefulness and extravagance of such expenditure.
11. However, unlike the legal and regulatory audit, which is obligatory on the part of the CAG, the propriety audit is discretionary.

**Some issues faced by CAG:**

1. The CAG mostly find his reports hitting the junk pile of government records in the absence of any provision such as Article 141 that confers power to pass any decree and make any order for the purpose of securing the attendance of any person, the discovery or production of any documents, or the investigation or punishment of any contempt of itself on the Supreme Court.
2. There is no deadline for the production of documents and replies nor any contempt proceedings for their denial.
3. The CAG doesn't have the right to release these reports in the public domain if they are not presented in the legislature within a month of their submission.
4. Nor can CAG enforce any of its findings by decree, akin to Parliament's Public Accounts Committee.

5. Criticism of the CAG is rooted in uneducated opinion and deliberate suppression and/or obfuscation of facts. To that can be added the deep-rooted bureaucratic and political antipathy to accountability.

The CAG has already to some extent achieved what he set out to do, especially when it comes to redefining the role of the office and the public perception of auditors. Despite the severest limitations, the CAG still creditably survives in the defence of accountability, a knight in shining armour amidst the overwhelming rot. The office is a unique combination of knowledge, integrity, commitment and fearlessness. Indeed, the Comptroller and Auditor-General is India's second remaining pillar of democracy.

Q.4) "The developing situation and conditions in Yemen could cast a shadow over Indian interests in the region." Comment.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** India's concern due to developing situation and conditions.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Given the past history and current developments in Yemen, it can be argued that the conflict in Yemen is much more nuanced and complex. Arab Spring has changed the long established status quo of the region and further deepened the fissure between Iran and Saudi Arabia. The enmity between Saudi Arabia and Iran has reached an alarming point due to the sectarian divide in the region especially in the wake of the Arab Uprising. The most significant recent development in the Yemeni war has been the drone attacks on the two Saudi upstream oil facilities.

**India's Concern with Yemen situation:**

1. Even though India has followed a policy of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states as well as non-involvement in the security issues of other regions, it has not been able to isolate itself from the direct consequences of any security crisis in the West Asian region.
2. The energy security dimension and a seven million strong diaspora in the region have been significant factors in its policy formulation towards West Asia.
3. India's security and the security of West Asia are interlinked and also extends to the challenges posed by terrorism and piracy. India is deeply concerned about the growing instability in the region as well as the spread of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria.
4. From India's point of view, Yemen is important because of its strategic location between the Red and Arabian Seas.
5. Yemen is a member of the IOR-ARC and its cooperation in dealing with piracy in the Gulf of Aden has been significant. At the same time, Yemen has also been a source of oil and gas.
6. The developments are significant as most of India's west-bound sea trade passes through Bab al Mandeb. India, therefore, needs to watch the evolving situation carefully and revive long-standing ties with the emerging stakeholders in Yemen, particularly along the southern coastal belt.
7. A highly volatile oil market and a tense regional situation would also affect India's thriving economic engagements as well as its manpower there.
8. Additionally, situation could affect Saudi Aramco's ongoing negotiations of two major upstream investments in India totalling over \$30 billion with Reliance Industries and the proposed Ratnagiri Refinery, respectively.

India needs to take evasive actions in order to avoid being trapped in the worst case scenario. Such steps could include promoting India's biofuel programme, expanding its strategic petroleum reserves and diversifying its crude sources away from the West Asia. India need to be cautious about the developing situation.

Q.5) "Idea of treating Hindi as the national language runs contrary to the spirit of the Constitution and our country's linguistic diversity". Comment.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How Imposing Hindi as national language on others is against constitutional spirit?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Idea of Hindi being treated as India's National Language has been debated on since the time the Constitution was being written. It was recently resurrected by the Draft National Education Policy which seems to be giving Hindi more importance than other Indian languages. The dangers of imposing a language are manifold.

**How Imposing Hindi as national language on others is against constitutional spirit?**

1. It can affect the learning ability of non-native speakers thereby affecting their self-confidence.
2. It can also endanger other languages and dialects and reduce diversity. National integration cannot come at the cost of people's linguistic identities.
3. It is against spirit of Constitution, which made Hindi as official language so that it would only serve as a linking language and was not be imposed on non-Hindi speaking states.
4. It would lead to Hindi chauvinism and is against linguistic diversity of the nation.
5. Language is at the core of an individual's identity. It is in a language that an individual conceptualises and communicates his thoughts which enables him to actively participate in society. Idea of national language will hamper such participation.
6. Language is the most important tool of participation in the polity of the state and not being able to speak in the dominant language (or languages) of a state can have a serious impact on an individual's employment, educational and recreational opportunities. This leads to discrimination and injustice.
7. Imposing Hindi as national language is against Eighth schedule which comprises of a list of official languages and the government is under obligation to ensure their development.
8. Such policies threaten the diversity and federalism of India. The states' fear of the central government's ideology of monopolising faith, education, and language will adversely affect the Indian political system, which is based on pluralism and accommodation.

National integration in a multilingual country does not require the imposition of one official language on the country, especially when the language selected for the purpose is one of its many regional languages even if it happens to be that of the largest linguistic group in the country. The focus should not be on establishing one national language, but should be shifted to strengthening the official languages whose importance cannot be disregarded.

Q.6) “While digital connectivity and literacy have increased over time, these have not adequately translated into digital knowledge of public affairs.” In light of this discuss the need of a public information portal.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Need and significance of public information portal.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The State Government of Rajasthan has recently launched the first-ever public information portal named “Jan Soochna Portal-2019”. Similarly India needs a public information portal to provide information to the public about government authorities and departments empowering them with access to useful information.

**Need of public information portal:**

1. The digital divide is a serious problem in India. To bridge this gap, all relevant public information should be made available platform free of cost.
2. Although, there has been a rapid release of public information on various government-run websites, this information has often been parcelled, dispersed and difficult to parse (comprehend).
3. The focus has been more on showcasing data and records rather than releasing structured information. This makes it difficult for the citizenry to get desired information.
4. A tremendous amount of information is available on the files of the government, which till date could only be accessed through the filing of RTI applications. However, with the use of technology and digitisation of records and information, this information is need to be made freely available to citizens.
5. Public information portal is needed in accordance with the true spirit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
6. It is Important to ensure compliance with Section 4(2) of the RTI Act that mandates the public authorities to proactively disclose information in the public domain.

**Benefits of a public information portal:**

1. Information of about government departments on a single platform would make services better and more efficient.
2. Information related to the availability of food grains & ration shops, implementation of schemes and their beneficiaries, land records and social security pensions, inter alia on a real-time basis can lead to good governance.
3. It s needed to ensure that the responsibilities are carried out smoothly.
4. Grievance redressal need to be streamlined, so that citizens can keep a check upon the accountability aspect of the national government.
5. Centralisation of information as a one-shot portal for public information on government programmes can advance the objective of transparency.
6. The access points of information that are open and free, would be a step towards good governance.

RTI Act was enacted in 2005 with the aim to secure the citizens’ access to information which is under the control of public authorities. It is important to create a public information portal that would voluntarily provide all the information at a single platform to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority.

Q.7) Discuss progress made so far in 'Make in India' program by India. What are various challenges to 'Make in India' initiative?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Progress made so far in Make in India and challenges.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

"Make in India" is a national program initiated by the Indian government to promote investment, innovation, skills development and protect intellectual property and build a top-class manufacturing ecosystem in the country. Since its inception, the government has announced several steps to improve the business environment by streamlining processes of doing business in the country.

**Progress so far in Make in India initiative:**

1. 'Make in India' initiative led to radiant growth in the IT and manufacturing sectors. This has encouraged various global/foreign investors to make investments in India and boost their business by building the products in the country.
2. It has made an accountable growth in the country's GDP. The policy laid out plans to boost the manufacturing sector by raising its contribution towards GDP to 25 percent and creating 100 million new jobs by 2025.
3. The 'zero defect zero effect' phrase which came with Make in India campaign has shown positive impact on the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) of India. As a result, many companies are manufacturing goods with 'zero defects' and ensuring that the goods have 'zero effect' on the environment.
4. The implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) and demonetisation have made the industry as a whole much more transparent and accountable. Now the processes have been simplified such as obtaining licenses and clearances that have brought in more transparency into the system.
5. Many companies have set up several manufacturing units throughout the country that produce electrical equipment and products such as bulbs, tube lights, wires and cables and others.
6. The digitisation initiative that is part of Make in India has helped make processes much more transparent and easier to implement.
7. Steps taken to improve ease of doing business include simplification and rationalisation of existing rules. As a result of the measures taken to improve the country's investment climate, India jumped a massive 30 places to 100th in World Bank's ease of doing business rankings as per World Bank report.
8. First indigenously developed and manufactured Rotavirus vaccine, 'Rotavac', launched. 30 bioincubators and Biotech Parks supported.

**Challenges to Make in India:**

1. The biggest hindrance is the labour laws and reforms in the country. The Global Rights Index (2016), published annually by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), ranked India as one of the 10 worst countries for working people. Large-scale exclusions of workers from labour law, violence and arrests are the reasons for India's poor performance.
2. The complex taxation system, a huge amount of paperwork and corruption may be the main cause of worries among the investors. India started out with an overly complex GST, which has dampened investor sentiment and created tremendous compliance burdens on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

3. Stringent land acquisition laws and inflexible labour regulations make it difficult for India to attract investors in the manufacturing sector. India's benchmark land acquisition law must be amended to make it easier to buy land for defence and development projects in the fast-growing economy, while also ensuring the rights of farmers.
4. The biggest concern of policy makers, analysts, and investors related to the success of the 'Make in India' initiative is around political hold-ups. In every session, the working of Parliament is interrupted which delays the approval of important bills.
5. Greater availability of power is needed to realise the dream of Make in India. India is running short of power with a deficit of 5.1%. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has also recently claimed a loss of \$37 billion due to lack of transparency in the allocation of the coal blocks.
6. India lags far behind other nations in imparting skill training. Not too much has changed since then.
7. Indian states play a very crucial role in the implementation and success of the Make in India initiative. But different political parties ruling different states differ and can never be brought on the same page. To make the concept of Make in India a success, a common consensus among the states need to be achieved.

The 'Make in India' programme aims to turn India into a manufacturing, design, and innovation hub in order to get big investments. This initiative is undoubtedly an inspiring initiative, which has reduced the risk factors of investing in India for many foreign companies. The availability of skilled labour, a business friendly environment, good infrastructure and low manufacturing cost are some conditions required for the success of the Make in India campaign.

Q.8) Discuss the role and mandate of Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in addressing corruption. Critically examine its effectiveness.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Mandate of CVC and its effectiveness.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Central Vigilance Commission was established in 1964 under the recommendations of Santhanam Committee, it gained statutory authority in 2003 CVC Act. It was envisaged to prevent corruption in governance and hold civil servants responsible for their malafide actions.

#### **Mandate of the CVC:**

1. It is considered to be the coordinating authority to check Corruption for All India services, Central services, PSUs and other departments.
2. It heads the Delhi Special Police in cases of Corruption.
3. It reviews the grants of prosecution clearance by the government.
4. It recommend disciplinary actions against higher officials of Group A,B, All India services etc.
5. It is basically considered to be the nodal agency to tackle corruption at the national level.

#### **Effectiveness of CVC:**

In sync with its mandate CVC has proved to be an effective organization in tackling corruption, it has proved its mettle in the past by the following actions.

1. It has led to smooth appointment of important officers at various posts in the past.
2. It has taken noteworthy action in the past against senior officials, senior personnel and even many politicians.
3. It organises vigilance week every year to create awareness against the menace of Corruption.
4. It acts as a civil court and can act "Suo Moto"
5. The independence of CVC is maintained as it is recruited by an Independent committee consisting of PM, Home Minister, Leader of Opposition etc.

#### Some issues:

However, the expectation that CVC will be an institute which can prove to be "One Stop Solution" to tackle Corruption in the country has been proved to be a hoax, due to the following ineffectiveness-

1. The Decisions of the CVC are not binding on the organizations or ministries.
2. Very low conviction rate has reduced the impact of CVC and its effectiveness.
3. There is huge delay in the cases that CVC handles, hence it does not act as an effective deterrent.
4. CVC is often considered a powerless agency as it is treated as an advisory body only with no power to register criminal case against government officials or direct CBI to initiate inquiries against any officer of the level of Joint Secretary and above.
5. Although CVC is "relatively independent" in its functioning, it neither has the resources nor the power to take action on complaints of corruption.
6. In most cases, the domains and the jurisdiction of the organizations is not clear.
7. Multiplicity of organization leads to work duplication and reduces the effectiveness.
8. The post of Central Vigilance Commissioner has remained vacant for a long period of time.

Corruption is one issue that needs effective institutions to tackle the same, the demand of new institutions like Lokpal is on the rise due to the failure of the existing organization like the CVC. The powers of the CVC with respect to its mandate, the financial independence, increase in the implementation of otherwise the just advisory role of the CVC needs to be tackled.

Q.9) "The regional media in India is vulnerable to administrative excesses, political pressure and corruption." Comment.

#### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Bad state of regional media in India.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The regional media in India has never been more obedient to corporate and political forces as it is today. Freedom of journalists to objectively report is ceasing to exist, with governments and legal systems failing to protect or rescue them. Every day, journalists battle for autonomy, fight for their rights to speak out freely, protect media pluralism and counter the ills of monopolies.

#### Bad state of regional media in India:

1. Today, prominent Indian politicians and corporate entities are making increasingly underhanded investments in news media, and the press is failing to serve as a potent, unbiased tool to inform public perception.

2. It is also increasingly unable to provide an arena for public debates where issues of shared interest can be represented and discussed.
3. Regional media and outlets in India are openly owned and controlled by political and business conglomerates, which are using the media to undermine the relevance of their opponents with scant regard for overall national interest.
4. The main casualty has been the ability of the citizen to find out the objective truth, as different media outlets divide into camps on any major issue, polarising the reporting and their readerships. This has become so evident that in a report to the government, India's regulatory body, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), recommended legislation to empower journalists for free and fair expression.
5. Instances of irresponsible reporting and sensationalisation are common these days when controversial news stories are bandied in the public domain through media outlets. It suggests Indian journalism, with its lack of freedom and self-regulation, cannot be trusted now, it is currently known for manipulation and bias.
6. Important news are politicised to a great level for mere political gain and to score brownie points against each other. The blame game of the political parties becomes the main highlight and the real essence of the news takes the backseat.
7. There is never a fair discussion. One can always sense the favouritism towards one side.

Indian media has become extremely politicised and it shows their irresponsibility. Media is considered the fourth estate. It should be neutral rather than taking sides. Media should not abuse its freedom and power by being biased. There should be a fair and free press. It is the biggest requirement in any democracy. Let us all pledge for a free, transparent and just media.

Q.10) Discuss the relevance of Poshan abhiyaan for India's health security. How India can tackle its malnutrition problem?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Significance of Poshan Abhiyaan. Solutions to tackle malnutrition in India.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Malnutrition was the predominant risk factor for death in children younger than 5 in every state of India in 2017, accounting for 68.2% of the total under-5 deaths, translating into about 700,000 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 up to 2017 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.

**Significance of Poshan Abhiyaan:**

1. Poshan Abhiyaan (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. 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. It focuses on reducing stunting, under-nutrition and anaemia in women and adolescents through direct cash transfers is a massive step towards eradicating malnutrition.
4. Cash transfers under the mission provide an additional support to the family income.
5. The scheme proposes to ensure service delivery by 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.
6. It aims to map all the different schemes contributing towards malnutrition, an exceptionally strong convergence mechanism, ICT based Real-Time Monitoring framework, adding incentives for States/UTs for gathering the objectives, Social Audits, setting-up Nutrition Resource centres, including masses through Jan Andolan for their support on nourishment through different exercises, among others.

#### **Measures to tackle malnutrition in India:**

1. 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. The finance ministry and the planning departments, the report points out, can play an overarching role by ensuring such programmes get sufficient budgets, resources and a policy framework.
3. Appropriate policies can only be designed if proper and timely information and data is collected not just on underweight children but the overweight ones as well.
4. States need to extending a wide range of essential services and facilities, from healthcare and clean water to social security and basic infrastructure.
5. The Indian planner unfortunately has still to understand the difference between planning and budgeting. This is where a systemic change is needed in India. In addition to spending budgets, we need to give equal importance to non-monetary issues such as institutions, laws and policies.
6. The ICDS Anganwadi programme is plagued by massive systemic corruption. Delegating powers to gram panchayats or local elected bodies to clear bills and make payments to the food suppliers would resolve the issue.
7. Making only rice and wheat available through the subsidised PDS has adversely affected the consumption pattern of poor people. We must put the focus back on millets.
8. Tribal migrant labourers who constitute a significant proportion of the urban poor are exposed to health risks by their excruciating living and working conditions in the city. Absence of nutritious food and overcrowded living conditions only heighten the risk.

To address this problem, providing better public healthcare facilities in places with high migrant populations is important.

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 the malnutrition. Yet there is much far to go in ending malnutrition issue in India.

Q.11) "Aadhaar linkage to social media is a double edged sword." Discuss.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Positive and negative aspects of linking social media to Aadhar.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

A social network is a social structure made up of a set of social actors such as individuals or organizations. The massive influx of personal information that has become available online has put user privacy at risk. Ideas like Linking Aadhar to social media is not only dangerous but also carry high risk to individual privacy and a threat to democracy.

**Positive aspects of linking social media to Aadhar:**

1. The linking of social media profiles of the users with the Aadhaar is needed to check fake news, defamatory articles, pornographic materials, anti-national and terror contents in the online media. E.g online game Blue Whale had terrorised parents and claimed several young lives in India. Thus linking would help in keeping eye on such threats.
2. It will help in preventing the act of terrorism in our country by creating a wider security network and internet providing much more effective security measure.
3. It will help government to trace the origin of such online content. This will help in acting at the root of the issue.
4. It will help in identification of racially or religiously motivated criminals and act against them before harm is caused to others.

**Negative aspects of linking social media to Aadhar:**

1. **Infringement of Privacy:** The privacy of users' data is at stake. Aadhar contains vital information like age, sex, date of birth, address of the individual. Linking Aadhar to social media would expose this data to cyber criminals. Linking Aadhar and stalking peoples' is a direct impingement of right to privacy under article 21.
2. **Threat to democracy:** Democracies are established with the purpose of protecting the rights of their citizens. Linking Aadhar to social media is a threat to democracy in a way that it can be used to influence elections and voting behaviour of individuals through surveillance. This is a serious threat to people's power and freedom.
3. **Risk to financial security:** Aadhar is linked to banks, various social schemes etc. Linking it to social media will expose users data and possibly all the transaction information. Hacker can easily exploit how the money deposits, and may cause a financial fraud risking financial security of individual and of our nation. Hackers may use Aadhar info linked to social media accounts to steal money.
4. **Dark activities:** The possibility that the linking Aadhar will nurture illicit activities and markets like drug selling, weapons etc through darknet by using stolen ids, Aadhar information from social media accounts. It also increase risk for being used in various terrorist activities across the border.
5. **Threat to transparency:** The government's surveillance may not be always about increasing security. It can be used in the to avoid transparency, leading to the loss of basic human rights. Decisions about surveillance are taken by the executive branch (including the review process), with no parliamentary or judicial supervision.
6. **Threat to social security:** Social media websites keep track of all interactions used on their sites and save them. These companies like Facebook are found to be involved in cyberstalking, location disclosure, social profiling, 3rd party personal information disclosure, and without the safeguard of a search warrant. Linking

Aadhar would expose sensitive info to be out in the market which could be used for blackmailing, targeted advertisements etc. infringing social security.

7. **Propagandas:** Such exposure of identities are threat to social peace and stability by using propagandas, false news and false ideologies used by various anti-social actors targeting specific community and people. Although government would keep eye on such agendas, it is difficult to prevent all of such actors. Further it is very difficult to define what is fake and what is propaganda.

The Supreme Court stressed the need to find a balance between the right to online privacy and the right of the State to detect people who use the web to spread panic and commit crimes. But finding such a balance is not only difficult but almost impossible. Such an would act expose all society to threat of loss of privacy and harassment of individual with less control of government on such risks.

Q.12) Discuss prospects of enforcing a uniform civil code in India. Do you think it will endanger diversity of India?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** What is uniform civil code?

**Body.** Why UCC needed and how it is threat to diversity? Issues in implementation.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Uniform civil code is the proposal to replace the personal laws based on the scriptures and customs of each major religious community in India with a common set governing every citizen. Article 44 of Indian constitution mention UCC and left on state for its implementation.

**Why Uniform civil code is needed in India?**

1. **Gender Inequality:** Various aspects of prevailing marriage personal laws discriminates against women, like Sharia law allows a Muslim male to solemnise up to four marriages without taking consent of his existing wives. This blanket immunity enables husbands from other communities to desert their wives by converting to Islam and escape from the legal proceedings.
2. **Societal progress:** A contemporary India is a totally new society with 55% of its population is below 25 years of age. Their social attitudes and aspirations are shaped by universal and global principles of equality, humanity, and modernity. Their view of shedding identity on the basis of any religion has to be given a serious consideration so as to utilise their full potential towards nation building.
3. **National Integration:** The Supreme Court of India has opined that UCC can serve as an instrument for national integration by removing disparate loyalties to law which have conflicting ideologies.

**UCC a threat to linguistic and overall diversity of India:**

1. Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India is ignorant of the diversity of its cultures, customs, traditions, castes, ethnicity, languages and religious ideologies. From north to south and from east to west, each state in India has a different culture and a different outlook towards life.
2. The Hindu Marriage Act was passed in 1955 and later, other acts related to issues of succession and maintenance were also passed. Some might believe that these enactments brought uniformity in law for all sections of Hindus.
3. UCC will be detrimental to communal harmony of India and will be against the ethos of religious freedom.

4. UCC is disadvantageous for all minorities, and also for a good number of Hindu castes. It will only create conflicts and disputes among them.
5. Article 44 is just one of the several other directive principles of state policy, so it carries only a persuasive force for the legislature. Moreover, Articles 25, 26 and 29 which deal with religious and cultural freedom are the fundamental rights and both conflict with each other. In such conflicting situation, fundamental rights are mandated to prevail constitutionality.
6. A common code anywhere can harm national integration, for true integration in a democracy stands for tolerance and coexistence of various communities. Wrenching the laws and culture that are beloved to a community and deriving it to adopt alien laws can hardly create goodwill or harmony between communities.
7. The diversities of family law of different communities, the tribal's own laws and customs, the belief of the people about the source of law and religion are intermixed and interwoven. This has prompted people to oppose the Uniform Civil Code from its very inception.

#### Issues in implementation:

1. The vast diversity of the personal laws, along with the devotion to which they are adhered to, makes uniformity of any sort very difficult to achieve.
2. Many people still do not know what the uniform civil code really means. There are still false conceptions surrounding it, especially among the minorities, which make a rational debate on its implementation quite difficult.
3. UCC is also sometimes perceived as the imposition of the Hindu code and procedures, and this adds to its opposition from the minorities.
4. Some people also argue that it would lead to a loss of the culture and the identity of the minorities in the Indian society.

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.

Q.13) "India's Research and Development (R&D) activities has achieved far less than it's potential". Discuss various reasons for it. Suggest some measures to boost India's R&D outcomes.

#### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Favourable R&D environment in India. Reasons and solutions for poor R&D in India.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Research and development (R&D) is at the core of economic growth. It leads to innovation and innovation in turn leads to economic growth. It allows scientists, technologists, and researchers to develop new methods, techniques, and knowledge points so as to enhance the quantity and quality of output with the same resources.

#### A favourable R&D environment in India:

1. With a burgeoning of the aspiring middle class, there is a huge market for a host of products. This should be a good starting point for innovation and R&D.
2. India boasts of a large pool of an English-speaking manpower, which is hard to find in most countries. That makes execution of R&D plans much easier.

3. The government has a catalytic R&D policy and the upgraded infrastructure in India is at par with most nations.
4. There are adequate regulatory and tax incentives. In many cases, India offers R&D super deductions to the tune of 200%, which is at par with the best in the world.
5. From a direct tax perspective, R&D spending offers tax breaks and incentives for R&D contribution in the form of accelerated depreciation.

#### Reasons for low R&D spending in India:

1. **Poor private sector R&D:** In the recent past, private R&D has shown signs of improving but the growth has either come from public sector companies or from MNCs. In fact, it is MNCs that accounted for 90% of the patents filed in India.
2. **Weak linkages:** India has a weak linkage between universities, institutes of higher learning, and industry. That linkage is a lot more robust in countries like the US, UK, Germany, and Israel. Most Indian universities have not been able to modify their curriculum with changing times.
3. **Funding issues:** Most R&D by the private sector depends on the quality of finance available. While a lot of funding goes into software, e-commerce, and digital payment networks, not much is dedicated to genetics, molecules, clinical research etc. That is a big gap.
4. **No focus on application:** One of the shortcomings of the Indian university system has been the focus on basic research rather than application research. That has limited its value to industry and hence the support is lacking.
5. **Weak IPR:** The most important issue is the weak IPR regime. Any investment in R&D pre-supposes a strong intellectual property rights (IPR) regime to protect the IPs. In most areas, R&D IPs are either too weak structurally or are very hard to enforce.

#### What should be done?

1. Steps should be taken to improve math and cognitive skills at the school level.
2. Investigator led research should be encouraged.
3. National labs to universities should be linked so that R&D can initiate from very basis.
4. A new knowledge eco-systems to improve science and R&D in the country should be created.
5. Private sector should be encouraged to focus more on R&D and spending CSR fund on R&D.

Therefore it is clear that the potential for R&D in India is huge but there are ground level challenges. Its importance, however, cannot be underplayed. R&D spending in India low as a percentage of GDP but is also stagnated at the same level since 90s. During this period, not only large economies but also small economies from Eastern Europe and Central Asia are moving ahead in the R&D stakes. Thus a more positive attitude is required to boost R&D.

Q.14) "While the world is more connected today and more people have much more information readily available at their fingertips, societies are not necessarily better informed and equipped to make the tough choices needed to address the many challenges."  
Comment.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Dangers of fake news. What should be done?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

In modern times, the fake news sea has become a threatening problem that endangers many of the achievements of democratic countries. The globalisation has connected the world but also led to commercialisation of fake news. The things that are supposed to be helping people connect and enable understanding are becoming tools for creating chaos and influencing unjustifiably behaviours.

**Danger of fake news spread:**

1. Fake news is a threat to democracy. Easy access to large amounts of data, made it possible for political parties to profile individual voters and flood them with news, fake and real, that influence their voting behaviour. Political parties try to get political benefits by polarising the voter's mind.
2. Fake news has been used to deceive illiterate people financially. Example- Bitcoin benefits, Chit fund schemes introduced the concept of online fraud through spam emails. Hoaxes of GPS chips in the Rs 2,000 note after the demonetisation initiative of the government through both media and WhatsApp messages led to widespread confusion among holders of the new note.
3. Fake news can be used to create a communal environment. It influence the minds of common people and use social weaknesses to increase intolerance in the country. Example: Spreading fake photos to bring about communal clashes in the country. It can also result in deaths. For example, rumours about child-lifters and cattle thieves led to mob attacks and deaths across India.
4. Media companies in greed of getting TRPs and more viewership promote sensational news and false headlines. E.g circulation of false videos in Kashmir valley showing shocking attacks on the Army and inhumane repression of the civilians.
5. The false portrayal of kashmir as a place of human right abuse by international media has created a false image of the nation.
6. Fake news has reduced people's belief in social, print and electronic media. In its purest form, fake news is completely made up, manipulated to resemble credible journalism and attract maximum attention and, with it, advertising revenue.

**What should be done?**

1. Consumers play a large role in what content is created and how it is disseminate.
2. Public must be better educated, so that they are better able to distinguish credible sources and stories from their counterparts.
3. Ordinary consumers of news can play a big role by refusing to pass on what they cannot independently verify with other sources.
4. Public need be educated about how news information propagates in today's world, the harms of fake news, and how to identify it. Another approach would be to enable the consumer to learn more about the actors and stakeholders in a given story, better understand their affiliations, and to identify and question unverified details.

5. Critical news consumption need to be incorporated into school curriculums or promoted through government-sponsored computer and content literacy tools and training programs.
6. Content creators and content distributors need to adapt their professional norms to new technologies of distribution, better explain these norms to the public, and protect them from erosion. They should also engage in practices that increase the likelihood of producing trustworthy, high-quality information.
7. Artificial intelligence can come handy to find fake news.
8. With the utilisation of metadata and human content moderation, government can prevent fake news, misinformation and even punish bad actors.
9. Public should not blindly trust any sensitive news and should not forward it to others and should inform concerned department about any fake post as soon as they come across.

Fake news can harm both democracy and the media business. Social vigilance against it is must. Proper actions need to be taken to ensure the distinction between news, opinion, and rumour. Hence it is high time that the government should take stern measures to curb fake news menace and protect Indian democracy.

Q.15) "After 70 years of independence, India still has not been able to develop scientific temper among its citizens". Discuss various reasons for it. Give some solutions to instil scientific temper among Indians.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Reasons for failure to develop the scientific temper and solutions.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Recent incidents of divorcing a frog couple to the floods in Madhya Pradesh after their grand wedding two months ago, for rains indicate that scientific temper as was mentioned in Article 51A as a fundamental duty has not been achieved even after 70 years of growth and development.

#### **Reasons for failure to develop the scientific temper:**

1. **Illiteracy:** Still millions of people are illiterate. About 25% Indians are illiterate. This is a major hindrance to developing an attitude of scientific temper in Indians.
2. **Women backwardness:** Indian women are still not fully empowered. And empowered educated women is must to instil a scientific temper among its children and in the house.
3. **Religion:** Often the structural rigidities have their roots in religion. This religious roots makes it a daunting task as there are high chances of communal tension flaring up when these rigidities are challenged.
4. **Orthodox Society:** The orthodox elements of the Indian society restrict the inquisitiveness among the children. Thus the spirit of enquiry gets buried in childhood itself.
5. **Education System:** The Indian education system is evolving into a platform of gaining employment rather than gaining knowledge. This restricts the spirit of enquiry.
6. **Attitude:** Even the educated blindly follow the norms and superstitions due to lack of spirit of enquiry. This results in growing of superstitions blindly and it is trickling down from generation to generation.

**Measures to instil scientific temper among Indians:**

1. **Catch them young:** Scientific temper can be best developed during childhood in schools if education is imparted through means like stories, painting, recitation, games, group projects etc. so that children open up and are not afraid of asking questions to their teachers which strengthens their inquisitiveness.
2. **Mid-level schools:** Students in colleges need to be placed in analytical situations through role play, quizzes, model making etc. where critical and rational thinking are needed. Making students aware of the impact of science on society by arranging visits to factories, hospitals, research laboratories, and encouraging them to participate in science exhibitions.
3. **Reform of religious instruction:** Instead of countering religious teachings, the superstitious and orthodox elements in religious instructions should be discouraged by reviving the scientific Vedic learning, like philosophy of 'Advait Vedanta' or absolute monism which is more like modern science.
4. **National Framework on Developing Scientific Culture:** Academicians, government experts, and scientists should collectively deliberate on a unified set of objective guidelines which define the contours of scientific temper and standards which should be followed by universities.
5. **Strengthening local level institutions:** Spreading awareness about science and reasoning should start from rural areas through capacity building and scientific demonstration programs at Panchayats which can keep a check on activities like witchcraft etc.
6. **Restraining public figures:** Public figures like politicians and professors are expected to uphold and disseminate scientific culture and in case of transgression strict penal provisions should be instituted against them.

India is the knowledge economy and IT capital of the world. The spirit of enquiry and reform are vital for success of make in India, Skill India or Digital India. India needs to shed its conservatism and embrace the spirit of enquiry and reform to encash human capital and transform them into demographic dividend.

Q.16) Discuss in brief India's Panchsheel principle. Do you think Panchsheel principle hold more relevance than ever before?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** 5 principles. Why these principles are more important than ever before?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The Panchsheel or "Five Principles of Peaceful Existence" was a joint statement issued during Chinese premier Zhou Enlai's visits to India in 1954. It was the period marking end of colonialism and emergence of new nations in Asia and Africa.

**These five principles were as follows:**

1. Mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.
2. Mutual non-aggression.
3. Mutual non-interference in internal matters.
4. Equality and mutual benefit
5. Peaceful co-existence.

### Why Panchsheel principle hold more relevance than ever before?

1. Today Panchsheel principles hold relevance as it is important for India to preserve her independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity.
2. Panchsheel is needed to protect established relations which are diminishing with some countries at equal footing
3. It hold relevance to reduce tensions in the region and reduce threat of confrontation and wars.
4. It is important to establish India as an equal partner and reliable neighbour to countries like China.
5. Panchsheel is a framework of basic tenets of engagement between the two sovereign countries and withstands the test of the time. It is equally relevant for all times.
6. It is important to send message to the world that India is a mature democracy and is not an aggressive nation.
7. Panchsheel is important for Greater role at the global level for regional cooperation and connectivity.

Panchsheel was never renewed after its expiry. India's development priorities will determine the engagements with the world. India's secular, plural and liberal democracy should inspire the world. The above five principles have the potential to transform India's role in shaping the emerging world order.

Q.17) Discuss the role played by Indian diaspora in India's growth story and diplomatic efforts.

### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Role of diaspora in country's progress and diplomacy.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India is the leading country of origin of international migrants in 2019 with a 17.5 million strong diaspora, according to new estimates released by the United Nations. Diaspora help country politically, socially and most importantly economically. India is one of the major recipients of remittances. However, besides remittances, diaspora help the country economically in various other ways.

### Role of diaspora in country's progress and diplomacy:

1. **National representation across the globe:** Diasporas are symbol of a nation's pride and represent their country internationally. They help in building country's value internationally through their huge success stories.
2. **Economic contribution:** Many emigrants make huge investments into their home countries in domestic financial, real estates, services and technological sectors helping in huge inflow of capitals that boost local economy and create huge jobs.
3. **Remittances:** One of the greatest economic contribution of Indian diaspora has been in terms of remittances. Remittances make an invaluable contribution by aiding in socio-economic development, poverty reduction and changes in consumption behaviour in rural areas.
4. **Help in technology transfer:** Diasporas are mostly based in foreign countries which are developed and hence are technologically advance and rich in innovations. They help in bringing these technology and innovations to their country of origin through investment and collaborations.
5. **Diplomacy:** An important advantage in having a large emigrant group is furthering of nation's diplomacy through people to people contact. Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal

is a case in point, as ethnic Indians in United States successfully lobbied for clinching of the N-deal.

6. **Spread of indigenous culture and traditions:** Cultural spread helps in export of domestic cuisines and merchandise which open the room for investment in the host countries to feed the local tastes of people for those cuisines.
7. **Political influence:** Diaspora play important role in influencing policies and politics of its host country in favour of its country of origin and also, development of good ties and relations between both countries. It help in lobbying their nation's interest across the globe.
8. **Help in boosting bilateral ties:** Diaspora increasingly becoming prominent with getting prominent places in the high offices of their residing nations like UK, USA which further helps in building their economic linkages.

India is increasingly becoming an attractive nation for the foreign countries which is resulting in more favourable environment for the diaspora by their residing countries. The positive impact of the diaspora is making the government of India to move more closer to them and reap more benefits with their cooperation.

Q.18) Do you think policy of punishment and penalties can be effective in changing wrong behaviour of an individual? Discuss in context of recent rise in penalties on traffic violations.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Argument against and in favour of harsher punishment and penalties.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India is looking for a viable policy to prevent traffic violations and reduce road accidents. Recently, penalties and punishment was increased to make roads safer. All legal systems focus on punishment to offenders. As long as the guilty have been identified, and there is equivalence, at least at a proportional level, between the damage the offender has caused to the victim and the punishment, it is believed justice has been delivered.

#### **Argument against harsher punishment and penalties for traffic violations:**

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.

7. The road conditions in many places leave much to be desired, especially in the rainy season or post-monsoon.
8. Traffic being heavy on major roads, genuine mistakes are commonplace around traffic intersections.

**Argument in favour of harsher punishment and penalties for traffic violations:**

1. Harsher penalties can 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 surprisingly large number of vehicles, including two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers, in cities are without complete documentation as demanded by law. If the police were to check them strictly, there would be chaos in town.

All offenders, need not be put in the same category and imposed a similar penalty. A first time offender needs leniency. For the second and third time offence, punishments must be steep in gradations. In the case of a habitual offender, the steepest punishments should be imposed, like permanently canceling his/her driving licence apart from other punishments. The quantum of punishments should also differ from place to place. In metro cities with huge traffic, the laws must be stringent. In smaller cities and towns, the same offences should invite lesser or reduced fine. In other words, cities and towns should be graded in terms of volumes of traffic and penalty amounts reduced, accordingly.

Q.19) Examine whether simultaneous elections are better than frequent elections? Discuss what are various challenges for conducting simultaneous elections in India.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Need and benefits if simultaneous elections. Various roadblocks to simultaneous elections.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The Constitution of India has vested in the Election Commission of India the superintendence, direction and control of the entire process for conduct of elections to Parliament and Legislature of every State and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India. However, frequent elections (for state and Centre), hamper long-term policymaking. Simultaneous elections are seen as solution to this with multiple benefits.

**Why do we need simultaneous election and how it is better?**

1. **Frequent elections:** There are frequent elections in one or more states and if the elections to the local bodies are included there is no year without some elections taking place. Frequent elections divert precious time, energy and resources of the nation.
2. **Governance and consistency:** Elections in states lead to the imposition of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) puts on hold the entire development programme and activities. If all elections are held in one particular year, it will give a clear four years to the political parties to focus on good governance. Simultaneous elections allow them to use precious time for social work and to take people-oriented programmes to the grassroots. It will help to overcome the "policy paralysis and governance

deficit” associated with imposition of the Model Code of Conduct at election time which leads to putting on hold all developmental activities on that area and also affects the bureaucracy’s functioning.

3. **Slowdown development:** With multiple elections in the country, the Model Code of Conduct is in force for much of the time, which prevents the government from initiating new projects and ultimately slows down development work. It affects stability and economic development as announcements are more for the vote bank than the development of nation.
4. **Economical:** Expenditure can be reduced by conducting simultaneous elections. Simultaneous elections allow lesser amount to be spent on resources. It would reduce the massive expenditure that has been pegged at around Rs.4,500 crore. Thus it will save country’s resources.
5. **Continuity in economy:** Continuous election has an impact on the functioning of essential services. Simultaneous elections will limit the disruption to normal public life associated with elections. The rallies and issues like traffic problems as well as loss of productivity can be reduced.
6. **Reduced manpower:** Also simultaneous election would reduce the type of manpower and resource deployment necessary for the conduct of elections. It is felt that crucial manpower is often deployed on election duties for a prolonged period of time. If simultaneous elections are held, then this manpower would be made available for other important tasks. For instance for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, which was held along with 4 state assemblies saw the deployment of 1077 in situ companies and 1349 mobile companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).
7. **Peace in society:** During frequent elections there is increase in communalism, casteism, corruption and crony capitalism. Simultaneous elections will reduce such incidents and will ensure prevailed peace in society maintaining social fabric.

#### What are the issues in implementing simultaneous polls?

1. **Confused voter:** Not all voters are highly educated to know who to vote for. They may get confused and may not know whether they are voting for candidates contesting assembly or parliament elections. There is a 77% chance that the Indian voter will vote for the same party for both the state and centre, when elections are held simultaneously. Evidence from Brazil, Argentina, Canada, Germany, the US and Europe supports the idea that elections that are held simultaneously produce greater alignment between national and regional election outcomes.
2. **Lack of manpower:** There is a dearth of enough security and administrative officials to conduct simultaneous free and fair elections throughout the country in one go. Also it will require more manpower on a single day to ensure free and fair elections.
3. **Against multi party democracy:** India is a multi-party democracy where elections are held for State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha separately; the voters are better placed to express their voting choices keeping in mind the two different governments which they would be electing by exercising their franchise. This distinction gets blurred somewhat when voters are made to vote for electing two types of government at the same time, at the same polling booth, and on the same day. There is a tendency among the voters to vote for the same party both for electing the State government as well as the Central government. This is a rule rather than an exception, not based on assumption but on evidence.
4. **Anti-federal:** Assembly elections are fought on local issues and, in the true spirit of federalism, parties and leaders are judged in the context of their work done in the state. Clubbing them with the general election could lead to a situation where the

national narrative submerges the regional story. This could mean a regress for the federal character of the polity, which is best avoided.

5. **Consensus among political parties:** The biggest challenge to simultaneous polls lies in getting the party political consensus needed to bring an amendment in the law. Achieving an all party consensus is not easy.

#### What is the way forward?

1. Standing committee recommended a cycle of elections, according to which elections to some legislative assemblies whose term end within six months to one year before or after the election date could be held during the midterm of Lok Sabha. For the rest of the states, elections could be held along with the general elections to Lok Sabha.
2. Cost can be brought under control by ensuring that the legal cap on expenditure of candidates is followed by all parties.
3. Accomplishing one year one election will be easier as it doesn't require as many legal amendments as simultaneous polls for which the Centre will have to make five amendments to the Constitution.

Simultaneous elections has many advantages and prospects of holding simultaneous elections must be analysed deeply. It can save exchequer and critical time of state and citizens. All the issues need to be studied in detail before commencing any decision.

Q.20) "Political influence and lack of critical debate has led to inefficient education system in India." Comment.

#### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Issue of political interference and lack of critical debate in education system. What should be done?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Political interference and lack of critical debates is certainly the most important reason for poor outcomes in education sector. This has led to poor education system in India impacting teacher quality and student learning.

#### Issue of political interference in education system:

1. Political interference is pervasive at all levels from selecting location of institutions, approval of grant-in-aid status, selection of examination centres to all senior appointments and in many states from VC to college Principals to District Education Officers.
2. There is large scale corruption in appointments, transfers, approval to affiliate and grant recognition of institutions, even going to the extent of manipulation of exam results.
3. Undeserving educational institutions often received rapid accreditation, while 'more qualified' institutions wait for long periods, the answer almost invariably would relate to political interference.
4. Widespread corruption prevails in the functioning of regulators like AICTE, UGC, MCI and NCTE.

**Lack of critical debate in education system:**

1. Debate is a great device for engaging students and bringing life to the classroom. Lack of debates in the classroom prevent students from understanding essential critical-thinking and presentation skills.
2. Lack of debates prevented nurturing of rational thinking, manners and handicap qualities of organization of thoughts and public leadership.
3. Lack of debate has led to students inability of relevant learning and prevented deep thinking abilities.
4. Wrote learning and lack of critical debates has led to biased learning preventing students from testing their thoughts.

**What should be done?**

1. The process of selection and appointment of Vice-Chancellor should be "depoliticised" and done purely on merit.
2. An independent mechanism for teacher recruitment, creation of an Autonomous Teacher Recruitment Board and revamp of teacher education system.
3. A new transparent system should be established for approval, affiliation and regular evaluation of new institutions, with transparent processes, based on clearly established principles, with full public disclosure.
4. It is important to set the right tone for discussion in the classroom early on in the semester to establish a rapport with students. Studies have shown that students who contribute to class conversations early are much more likely to continue contributing to class discussions later on. Therefore, it is vital to find ways to involve all students in the classroom debates.

With stress on wrote learning and political interferences, teacher quality has been decreased. Teachers are trained to make students fit to get job and not develop deep and critical thinking. Thus an overhaul of education system with focus on critical debates and less political interference can help in improving Indian education system.

Q.21) "Medical devices industry in India should focus on indigenous manufacturing, innovation, research and development." Discuss.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Nascent Indian medical device industry. What should be done?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The global medical device industry is highly innovative and technology driven, changing the face of healthcare worldwide. Globally, it is a rapidly advancing industry impacting and improving aspects such as diagnosis, treatment, and delivery, but in India, it is still very nascent with low levels of penetration and adoption. This presents an exciting opportunity to develop this industry and to play a larger role in the transformation of Indian healthcare. A good understanding of the nature of this industry will help ensure that the country is poised to capitalise on opportunities provided by medical technology to improve national healthcare.

**Nascent Indian medical device industry:**

1. The healthcare industry in India has made rapid progress in the last decade, but significantly lags behind other nations in availability and quality of equitable medical care and services for citizens. This presents an enormous opportunity given the large population, growing economic prosperity, and the disease burden.

2. There is prevalence of higher imports of medical devices in India. Reasons for this are:
3. Lack of favourable policy and regulatory framework.
4. Medical devices, unlike pharmaceuticals, are dependent on a mix of technologies such as engineering, electronics, material sciences and information technology.
5. Innovation, capital and technology drive the industry. However, India has not been able to bridge the gap between investments, skilled resources and innovation to fully capitalise on these opportunities.
6. There is no clear comparative cost advantage in comparison to other emerging markets and policy issues like inverted duty structure do not help in creating a positive environment.
7. The medical devices industry in India is currently valued at approximately USD 6 billion and has expanded at a significant double digit growth rate over the past few years. The industry is still at a nascent stage with sub-optimal penetration and usage of medical devices. This demand innovation and R&D from medical device industry in order to push for indigenisation.
8. Currently, India comprises only 1.7% of the world market, the industry is significantly import dependent, and current demand does not offer scale in various product categories. This will transform as demand significantly escalates to realize potential.

#### **What should be done?**

1. As there is lack of scale in many products, the government should prioritize certain products for manufacturing in India.
2. High volume, low-tech, labor intensive manufacturing sectors should be the initial target. Very rapid import substitution may not be practical or desirable.
3. It is also felt that the government should position and promote India as a global manufacturing hub or destination, rather than focus on just the domestic market.
4. Frugal innovation is a significant strength that India can offer the world. Innovation to develop new products for emerging markets should be encouraged, and this will also ensure manufacturing volumes needed for profitable operations.
5. This approach will help India attract the right technology, upgrade manufacturing processes and quality, and build local R&D capability.
6. A clear long term vision and roadmap for the industry and predictability of policy would excite the industry. The government needs to provide policy support for both the supply and demand side of the medical device industry to successfully accelerate growth.

The medical device industry is a unique blend of engineering and medicine. It involves the creation of machines that are then used to support life within the human body. Industry and government need to work together to improve awareness, access, adoption, and affordability for medical devices in India. Certainly, major changes are needed in the sector.

Q.22) "Probe agencies should be given more freedom without diluting the controls already in place." Comment.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Need of more freedom for investigation agencies. What should be done?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

There is a gradual increase in the rate of crime among society. With globalisation, there is visible increased growth rate of crime. The effect of the above is more responsibility on the enforcement agencies. Increase in the number of such agencies crime and criminal justice system are ever existing components of our society so are the agencies responsible for controlling, supervising and monitoring them. Investigation agencies are facing many challenges in the investigation of traditional and modern crimes. The investigating agencies need more freedom especially for economic and organized crimes and related legal issues.

**Need of more freedom for investigation agencies:**

1. In a large and populous country like India, investigation agencies need to be well-equipped and more free to conduct investigations.
2. They need to have the operational freedom to carry out their responsibilities professionally, and satisfactory working conditions while being held accountable for poor performance or misuse of power.
3. The social and technological changes fuelled by the internet and the fast changing social media nature, intensity and the reach of crime may lead to unprecedented lawlessness and frightening dimensions of global terrorism. This require more freedom to track various activities.
4. To succeed in identifying and tracing global communications, investigators have to work across border, not only with one's counterpart but also with industry to preserve critical evidence such as log files, emails etc. before it is altered or deleted.
5. Political authorities still have a stronghold over the police and frequent changes of Police heads once a new government is elected has become a practice in many states. This lead to inefficiencies in police system leading to corruption and abuse.
6. Investigation agencies need prior permission of government in many cases especially against bureaucrats.
7. Investigation in the cases where the high profile people, VIP's as well political parties are involved do not succeed. There is direct or indirect interference of political parties in the police investigation.

**What should be done?**

1. A complaint authority should be constituted at the state and district levels to inquire into allegations of serious misconduct and abuse of power.
2. The Political class should take bold initiatives to bring in more reforms in the existing investigation system in India.
3. The need is to have an impartial and professional organisation because the criminal justice system cannot function without a healthy investigative agency.
4. In order to fight corruption, organized crime, economic and financial crime we need more powerful legislation. Since these are the problems which we are being faced by our investigators today.

In 2017, the conviction rate for crimes recorded under the Indian Penal Code was 47%. One of the reasons behind this is the poor quality of investigations. Investigation is pillar to tackle crime in any country. Without enough powers and freedom no agency can be

successful in solving crime. Political interference and corruption need to go. More tooth is needed for investigation agencies to work efficiently.

Q.23) "Modern socio-economic conditions require states to take care not only of people's material welfare but also their identities." Discuss.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Why state should take care of people's identities?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Efficiency, economics and control of human beings through the application of material technology has increased the fusion of global and local cultures towards unification of lifestyles, cultural symbols and the modes of behaviour. Globalisation led to expansion of modern capitalism encompassing the political, economic and cultural realms worldwide. It has created a global culture in which the identity is amalgamated that tends to bring a homogenous culture throughout the world. Such a cultural invasion is a threat that causes serious problems for some conservative states by virtue of the fact that the openness to foreign content can erode the traditional values and indigenous cultural identity.

**Why state should take care of people's identities?**

1. Today, in an age when discrete cultures themselves are under threat, the question of cultural identity becomes newly problematic and takes on new urgency. The reason for this importance lies in the preservation of the traditional cultures and values that are carefully being sewn into the entanglements of globalization.
2. Globalization has an impact on cultural identity because it fosters the decline of costs. Declining costs have changed individual and societies tastes for greater integration. Also the global diffusion of radio, television, Internet and digital technologies have made instantaneous communication possible, and exposed an enormous constituency to effect cultural values.
3. It is clearly evident that availability of cheap and rapid communication and knowledge of one common language that permits the phenomena of integration of international capital market. Knowledge of English gives people the chance to communicate with other human beings around the world. It gives the opportunity to broaden one's horizons and to get to know other cultures. This expansion threatens other linguistic identities.
4. The main side effect of globalization impact on cultural identity is the spread of multinational corporations. This encourages consumer culture and standardises products and values.
5. Culture has almost become a one-way operating manner of business. Cultural goods and services produced by rich and powerful countries have invaded all of worlds markets, and left with difficulties undeveloped countries which are not able to stand up the competition.

With the development of science and technology, people are closer than before. They become much more concerned about their cultural identity. They are constantly searching for their cultural roots and defending them. A decent federal system that allows a great deal of political autonomy to distinct cultural groups, protects important common (national) interests and enables fruitful encounter of regional cultures does that. Preserving this is important for state to keep harmony in the society.

Q.24) "Entry into Nuclear Suppliers Group is India's legitimate right." In light of this discuss the need and importance of entry of India into NSG.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Why India has legitimate right to enter NSG group? Importance of NSG to India.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) was created following the explosion in 1974 of a nuclear device by a non-nuclear-weapon State (India), which demonstrated that nuclear technology transferred for peaceful purposes could be misused. It is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seeks to contribute to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons through the implementation of sets of Guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports. The NSG takes decisions by consensus. India is keen to become a member of NSG as it seeks to significantly expand its nuclear power generation and also enter the export market in coming years.

**Why India is a legitimate entrant to NSG?**

1. India has maintained an exceptional record in nuclear non-proliferation despite not being any under legal obligation. India had been an ardent supporter of complete nuclear disarmament in all major international forums such as NAM, UN etc.
2. It has maintained a strong commitment to controlling exports of nuclear materials, equipment and technologies.
3. After 1998 nuclear tests when India became a nuclear weapon state, India tightened its systems further by introducing new laws and for nearly a decade, has been a voluntary adherent to the NSG guidelines.
4. It has been a voluntary adherent to the NSG guidelines for last one decade.
5. The exceptional waiver provided by the NSG in 2008 was an acknowledgement of India's non-proliferation record.
6. India has declared moratorium on the underground nuclear weapons testing which is in accordance with the spirit of NPT. This shows that India has abided by the non-proliferation rules even without being a party to NPT.
7. India pledged to subject its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards and currently 14 out of 23 nuclear reactors are already under IAEA safeguard.
8. Autonomous institute like AEC to keep strict vigil on nuclear facilities; advanced security provisions in nuclear sites; stable democracy with diffused decision making power
9. Also, India's need for developing nuclear weapons is not driven by any misguided agenda to pursue regional dominance or to strong arm neighbouring states, but by pragmatic realisation of threat from China and Pakistan, both nuclear powered states, one communists and other failed democratic state in the immediate neighbourhood. India has also committed to the policy of no-first use.

**Importance of India's entry into NSG:**

1. Membership to the NSG will essentially increase India's access to state-of-the-art technology from the other members of the Group.
2. Access to technology and being allowed to produce nuclear equipment will give a boost to the Make in India program. That will, in turn, boost the economic growth of our country.
3. As per India's INDC under the Paris Climate agreement, we have committed to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and ensuring that 40% of its energy is sourced from renewable and clean sources. In order to achieve this target, we need to scale

up nuclear power production. This can only happen if India gains access to the NSG.

4. It will improve legitimacy of India's nuclear programme and India can sign nuclear deal with more countries for civilian use.
5. India will become an active member in stopping the proliferation of nuclear material . Will get more information about how much nuclear material is possessed by which country. 2 of its neighbour are nuclear state which threat to India's security.
6. Many countries have refused to signed civil nuclear deal with India because it is not a signatory of NPT or not a member of NSG. Eg. Japan. For India's energy security Nuclear reactors are necessary.

India should aggressively keep pursuing entrance to NSG that would help India in the development of nuclear energy while providing the essential emphasis on safety and addressing concerns of the public. It will also pave the way for clean energy initiatives and continued focus to achieve our commitments to reduce the carbon footprint pledged during the climate summit.

Q.25) Discuss the mandate of WTO in resolving trade disputes. Do you think WTO is successful in this mandate of trade dispute resolution?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Mandate of WTO in dispute resolution. Struggling WTO in dispute resolution.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The dispute settlement system is important to uphold the rights of Members and to ensure higher levels of security and predictability. Rather, like other judicial systems, the priority of WTO dispute settlement is to settle disputes, through a mutually agreed solution that is consistent with the WTO Agreement. The World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) dispute settlement mechanism is going through a crisis.

**Mandate of WTO in dispute resolution:**

1. In 1994, the WTO members agreed on the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes or Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU).
2. Pursuant to the rules detailed in the DSU, member states can engage in consultations to resolve trade disputes pertaining to a "covered agreement" or, if unsuccessful, have a WTO panel hear the case. The priority, however, is to settle disputes, through consultations if possible.
3. The WTO Appellate Body, is a standing committee of seven members that presides over appeals against judgments passed in trade-related disputes brought by WTO members.
4. With over 500 international disputes brought to the WTO and over 350 rulings issued since 1995, the organisation's dispute settlement mechanism is one of the most active in the world, and the Appellate Body is the highest authority in these matters.
5. Countries involved in a dispute over measures purported to break a WTO agreement or obligation can approach the Appellate Body if they feel the report of the panel set up to examine the issue needs to be reviewed on points of law.
6. The Appellate Body can uphold, modify, or reverse the legal findings of the panel that heard the dispute. Countries on either or both sides of the dispute can appeal.
7. The WTO's dispute settlement procedure is seen as being vital to ensuring smooth international trade flows. The Appellate Body has so far issued 152 reports. The

reports, once adopted by the WTO's disputes settlement body, are final and binding on the parties.

**Struggling WTO in dispute resolution:**

1. The body is struggling to appoint new members to its understaffed Appellate Body that hears appeals in trade. Over the last two years, the membership of the body has dwindled to just three persons instead of the required seven. This is because the United States, has been blocking appointments of new members and reappointments of some members who have completed their four-year tenures.
2. The understaffed appeals body has been unable to stick to its 2-3 month deadline for appeals filed in the last few years, and the backlog of cases has prevented it from initiating proceedings in appeals that have been filed in the last year.
3. With the Appellate Body unable to review new applications, there is already great uncertainty over the WTO's dispute settlement process.
4. While new appointments to the Appellate Body are usually made by a consensus of WTO members, there is a provision for voting where a consensus is not possible.

Thus WTO need to be reformed if it want to continue as a dispute settling body wrt trade. It is important for developed countries to understand and cooperate developing nations on the important issues and is important to prevent disputes among nations.

Q.26) "India does not allow dual citizenship to its citizens, but Indian citizens carry dual identities". Examine.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How Indian carries single citizenship with dual identities?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India allow its citizens only a single citizenship that is Indian citizenship. Unlike India USA citizens carry dual citizenship in one as a USA citizen and other as citizen of states of USA. In India there is no concept of dual state citizenship. But Indian citizens in their psyche carry dual identities one as Indian and one belong to their state or region.

**Single citizenship with dual identities:**

1. There is a feeling of loyalty to a particular part of a country and a wish for it to be more politically independent. It is not just a territorial unit but a culmination of socio-economic and political factors.
2. There is love towards one's culture, region, language etc. with love and loyalty to India helping in building brotherhood and commonness on the basis of common language, religion or historical background and it helps a particular regional group to maintain their independent identity.
3. Within a nation the rise of sub-state actors becoming more powerful is evident. After the Independence, nationalism is promoted and only a single citizenship was muted as concept. The concept of 1 single Nation and also by giving single citizenship apart from unified Judiciary, all India services, and a strong central government. In spite of the efforts the vastness and the diversity of the cultures within our country has created dual identities.
4. This is a demand by the states for Greater autonomy from the centre this may be because of an increasing interference by the centre in the affairs of the state that led to the regional feelings. The demand for the state it autonomy has also been raised

by the regions within some states of the Indian Federation Secession from the union.

5. The dispute between the regions and primacy given by the states to the language of the majority and the people of their own state in a job opportunity with promoted the feeling of regionalism.
6. With love for their culture and region people have developed a sense of dual identities with one being as Indian and other as a communal or regional identity.
7. Son of soil theory has led to development of a regional feeling and sense in Indians with love and loyalty for the country under single citizenship.

The need of the hour is to develop a realistic perception of regionalism at the conceptual level focusing on righteousness and judicial outlook on the path of the political parties. If this objective is achieved then the regionalism of the idea of different communities speaking the diverse language and is linked with particular cultural expression thinking globally acting globally and seeing human unity in diversity in practical terms too would become a distinct possibility.

Q.27) Discuss the importance of 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment act in women empowerment in India.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Provisions for women in 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment act. Women empowerment through 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Act.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Panchayats have been the backbone of grass-root democracy in the Indian villages since its beginning. 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Act, 1992 introduced the three-tier Panchayati Raj system to ensure people's participation in rural reconstruction in general and that of women in particular.

**Provisions for women in the 73<sup>rd</sup> amendment act:**

1. The Act provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women (including the number of seats reserved for the SCs and STs).
2. Further not less than one-third of the total number of offices of chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women. This would be rotated among different Panchayats at each level.

**Women empowerment through 73<sup>rd</sup> Amendment Act:** Women's experience of being involved with the PRI has transformed many of them. They have gained a sense of empowerment by asserting control over resources, officials & most of all, by challenging men. They have become articulate & conscious of their power.

1. **Political empowerment:** The Act provides for the reservation of not less than one-third of the total number of seats for women. It is an attempt to ensure greater participation of women in election process directly and indirectly. It would be the nursery of creating women politicians for national politics. Even the participation of common women citizens in various activities such as attending Gram Sabha meeting, etc. has reportedly increased (68-78 percent).
2. **Economic empowerment:** Women are actively participating in rural development as per their capacity right from labourers to policy-makers. This empower them economically and help them in being independent.
3. **Decision-making:** The participation of women as elected as well as non-elected members are rising due to reservation for women. It acts as pull factor for women to

participate in meeting. They give their suggestions for various works and problems faced by them. This empowers them and enables them to take decisions in different spheres of life.

4. **Raise in voice:** Despite their low-literacy level, they have been able to tackle the political & bureaucratic system successfully. They have used their elected authority to address critical issues such as education, drinking water facilities, family planning facilities, hygiene & health, quality of healthcare & village development.
5. **Empowerment of other women:** Women are acting as an agent of change in the society and raising voice against injustice and atrocities. Women's role has led to a raise of voice by women against domestic violence and other atrocities. Women are being empowered to active participation and awareness of women about their rights and power.
6. **Reduction in violence against women:** Domestic violence has substantially declined due to women pradhan or sarpanch. These women representatives take pro-actively take up such violence. The victims also feel free to share their grievances to women representatives.

#### Some issues in women representation in PRIs

1. Illiteracy and low education levels of the majority of the women elected to the PR's.
2. Women are overburdened with family responsibilities.
3. Introversion due to the lack of communication skills.
4. Poor socio-economic background with which the women have come into the system and poor capacity building.
5. Male family members and also leaders from the caste group/community come in the way of the affairs of the Panchayats.
6. Indifferent attitude and behaviour of officials working in the system.
7. Misguidance by the local bureaucracy.
8. Mounting pressure from the political party which has vested interests in the gender reservation for positions in the PRI system.
9. Undue interference by the husband (post sarpanch) of women representatives, treating them as mere dummies.
10. Widespread use of corrupt practices among the male members and local bureaucrats.

With the establishment of PRIs in our country a woman gets an opportunity to prove her worth as a good administrator, decision-maker or a good leader. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 is a milestone in this regard. It provides women a chance to come forward. Government should encourage research and development in effective implementation of provisions of 73rd amendment.

Q.28) "The democratic state is obliged to provide citizens with the basic preconditions for the exercise of freedom of health, education, sustainable living wage, food and a decent standard of life." In light of above statement, discuss the success of India as a democratic state.

#### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Indian success as a democratic state. How India failed as democracy to promote Welfarism?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India as a democracy holds good record in institutionalising democracy in the form of Constitutionalism, a competitive party system, regular elections, rule of law, codification of political and civil rights, and guarantees of free press and a vibrant civil society. But even as India satisfies conditions that permit it to claim the label of democracy with some justification, a majority of the people continue to suffer from unimagined hardship, with the most vulnerable among them-the poor among the scheduled castes and tribes, hill people, forest dwellers, tribals, and women particularly the girl child- at tremendous risk in matters of both lives and livelihoods.

#### Indian success as a democratic state:

1. **Food Security:** The Government of India has concentrated on establishing food security through (a) achieving self-sufficiency in food grains and (b) building buffer stocks of food grains particularly rice and wheat. Today procurement stands at 20 % of food grain production. This has resulted in surplus buffer stocks. But unfortunately, despite of surplus food grain production, growth rate in the per capita availability of food grains has actually declined mainly because the poor lack purchasing power. PDS which was mooted as a revolutionary step has met many hurdles.
2. **Nutritional Security:** Nutritional security is ensured through various schemes like the provision of midday meals for primary school children. The objective of the programme is to supplement nutrition of primary school going children, and thereby to improve school enrolment, retention, and attendance. On evaluation scheme has mixed success. Unfortunately, malnutrition is still a big issue in India with millions living undernourished.
3. **Education:** Article 45 of the Constitution stipulates that the state shall endeavour to provide within a period of 10 years free and compulsory education for children. The National Policy of Education 1986, which was revised in 1992, provided momentum to the task and has achieved some success. Literacy rate has increased to about 74 % acc to census 2011. But still education level has been not good and Indian schools still focus on rote learning.
4. **Poverty Alleviation:** India has achieved much in reducing poverty. The decade of the 1990s which heralded the onset of economic reforms brought a decline in poverty figures. In 1973-74, 55% of India's population fell below the poverty line. This was reduced to 36% in 1993-94, to further fall to 26% of a one billion population in 1999- 2000. Since the 1970s the Government of India has enacted several programmes to provide self-employment and supplementary wage employment to BPL families through the extension of bank credit and subsidies. Schemes like MGNREGA played an important role in providing employment to many.

#### How India failed as democracy to promote Welfarism?

1. **Inequality:** Although India is a 2.9 trillion economy, still 50% of wealth is concentrated in hands of upper few rich peoples. There is wide gap between rich and poor. This led to hindrance of basic rights and social injustice to many as they are unable to afford and access basic public services like healthcare.
2. **Casteism:** Social divide in form of casteism has denied many especially marginalised from their basic economic and social rights. This has hindered true progress of the society and prevent Sabka sath sabka vishwas. Further it violate constitutional provisions which provide safeguards to the marginalised.

3. **Illiteracy:** Although literacy level has increased, still millions in India are illiterate and lack basic reading writing skills. This not only jeopardise their inclusion in democracy but also fail India as a democracy.
4. **Patriarchy:** Patriarchal mindset hinders true meaning of democracy you i.e. a society for, by and of the people. Patriarchal mindset do gross injustice with women and thus fail Indian state as true democracy. Without change in this mindset a inclusive democratic society can't be achieved.
5. **Other factors:** Other factors like extremism, intolerance, terrorism etc and inability of Indian state to prevent radicalisation of youth and regionalism lead to threat to society and democracy. It is important for Indian state to create enough employment, so as to prevent them from being turned into anti-social and anti-democratic.

The Directive Principles of State Policy in Part 4 of the Indian Constitution has motivated the enactment of social policy, the codification of fundamental rights in part 3 of the Constitution has inspired and empowered collective action for the implementation of the said Principles. To put it differently, collective action in India has served to connect constitutional entitlements, state policy. But it can be said that political democracy has simply not been accompanied by the institutionalisation of economic and social democracy, as many issues still persist in which India lag behind.

Q.29) "For development of the nation, it is critical for institutions of national importance to work independently and without any political interference". Comment.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Why Independence of institutions matters?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

For the prosperity of a country, independence of its institutions like RBI, SEBI etc is important. Together, the legal and administrative organisations underpin every economy through an enabling environment for the creation of wealth. When they fail, trust is eroded and economies can become damaged. Collaboration between public and private sectors is particularly important when it comes to boosting productivity. But in the absence of strong institutions the alliance can become dysfunctional, with both sectors colluding in the pursuit of profit at the expense of the consumer.

#### **Independence of institutions matter:**

1. A healthy relationship between business organisations and government should be a priority for an economy at any stage of its development for which independence is important.
2. Independent institutions are key in establishing a long-term agenda, allowing for public-private collaboration in the public interest, free from the vagaries of the legislative cycle.
3. Independence of institutions is important on which such a successful symbiotic relationship depends.
4. Institutions play an important role in maintaining economic health and keeping public-private collaboration on track, whether it is through the encouragement of industry clusters or better collaboration between universities and businesses.
5. It is for institutions to be independent in order to decide freely and without any political interference for the economic progress of the country.

6. Often political interference for their vested interests and votes tilt policies towards certain sections of the society. Thus, independence matters for inclusive growth of the nation.
7. Independence of institutions like RBI is important to formulate biased free monetary policies and also to access the economic data objectively.

Public and private institutions lay a central role in economic progress. Without them long-term economic growth remains out of reach. Thus, it is important to ensure independence of institutions and keep them free from political influences.

Q.30) Discuss the role of auditor general in Indian Parliamentary democracy. Analyse whether India needs a Parliament Budget Office for more parliamentary efficiency?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Role of auditor general in parliamentary democracy. Need and advantages of a public budget office.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Constitutionally, Comptroller and Auditor General's Office has been mandated to enhance accountability of the Executive to the Parliament and State legislatures by carrying out audits in the public sector and providing out accounting services in the States in accordance with the Constitution of India and laws as well as best international practices. Today, the CAG has been undertaking more performance audits than before and stress is not only just on how much money flows out of the exchequer to make a purchase, but towards the economy and effectiveness of that purchase.

**Role of auditor general in Indian Parliamentary democracy:**

1. Article 148 of the Constitution provides for a CAG with the legal status of a Supreme Court judge.
2. The CAG is sworn in under Article 148(3) to uphold the integrity of the nation.
3. It is the duty of the CAG to audit all receipts which are payable into the Consolidated Fund of India. The rules and procedures are designed to ensure an effective check on the assessment, collection and proper allocation of revenue.
4. His duty is to uphold the Constitution of India and laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.
5. The accountability of the executive (i.e., the council of ministers) to the Parliament in the sphere of financial administration is secured through audit reports of the CAG.
6. The CAG is an agent of the Parliament and conducts an audit of expenditure on behalf of the Parliament. Therefore, he is responsible only to the Parliament.
7. The CAG has more freedom with regard to the audit of expenditure than with regard to the audit of receipts, stores, and stock. —Whereas in relation to expenditure he decides the scope of the audit and frames his own audit codes and manuals, he has to proceed with the approval of the executive government in relation to rules for the conduct of the other audits.
8. CAG has to ascertain whether money shown in the accounts as having been disbursed was legally available for and applicable to the service or the purpose to which they have been applied or charged and whether the expenditure conforms to the authority that governs it.
9. In addition to this legal and regulatory audit, the CAG can also conduct the propriety audit, that is, he can look into the wisdom, faithfulness and economy 'of

government expenditure and comment on the wastefulness and extravagance of such expenditure.

**Need and advantages of having a Parliamentary budget office:**

1. The role the auditor general performs, is to provide retrospective audits and analysis of the financial accounts and performance of government operations. These audits are often focused on the day-to-day goings on of government. A PBO provides prospective, forward-looking economic and fiscal projections, as well as policy costings. This distinguishes it from an auditor general, which provides useful information, but only after the fact.
2. MPs in India do not have a staff of high quality researchers (unlike in other developed democracies) to help them gain expertise in budgetary matters. A remedy for this may be the establishment of a parliamentary budget office (PBO) in India. Such research support can raise the quality of debate and scrutiny in Parliament as well as enhance fiscal discipline. Most importantly, it strengthens the role of Parliament in financial oversight.
3. India will surely benefit from an institutional mechanism that strengthens the capacity of the legislature to hold the executive responsible in financial matters. The amount of information parliamentarians need to scrutinise in Budget documents has exponentially increased and a PBO would assist parliamentarians in this process of scrutiny.
4. It is important to have an independent, non-partisan source for hard facts and evidence. This is particularly important for our Parliament, which controls where and how money flows into our government and our country.
5. Regardless of a majority or minority government, this body serves parliamentarians equally and without prejudice.
6. The work done by PBOs naturally ends up in the public sphere, when they do, they help drive smarter, more focused debate in the media and with our electorate.

The CAG has already to some extent achieved what he set out to do, especially when it comes to redefining the role of the office and the public perception of auditors. A PBO, or a similar independent fiscal institution, will supplement CAG in keeping parliamentary efficiency at par.

Q.31) What are various reasons for poor state of legal justice in India? Give some solutions to make justice system more efficient.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Reason for poor state of legal justice in India. What should be done? **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Development cannot be achieved without justice. While India's government has a number of programs to improve the lives of the poor, most marginalised people don't know what they are entitled to, nor do they have the power and access to ensure that they get it. India has been promoting access to justice for marginalised people for the past many years and is drawing up an ambitious program to modernise its courts. These can be an exceedingly long, complex and expensive process, with cases dragging on in the courts for decades.

**Reason for state of poor legal justice in India:**

1. **Corruption:** Like any other institution of the Government, the Indian judicial system is equally corrupted. There is no system of accountability. There is no

provision for registering an FIR against a judge taking bribes without taking the permission of the Chief Justice of India.

2. **Backlog of pending cases:** India's legal system has the largest backlog of pending cases in the world as many as 30 million pending cases. This number is continuously increasing and this itself shows the inadequacy of the legal system. It has always been discussed to increase the number of judges, creating more courts, but implementation is always late or inadequate. The victims are the ordinary or poor people, while the rich can afford expensive lawyers and change the course of dispensation of the law in their favour.
3. **Lack of transparency:** Another problem facing the Indian judicial system is the lack of transparency. It is seen that the Right to Information (RTI) Act is totally out of the ambit of the legal system. Thus, in the functioning of the judiciary, the substantial issues like the quality of justice and accountability are not known properly.
4. **Hardships of the undertrials:** In Indian jails, most of the prisoners are undertrials, who are confined to the jails till their case comes to a definite conclusion. In most of the cases, they end up spending more time in the jail than the actual term that might have had been awarded to them had the case been decided on time and, assuming, against them. Further, the expenses and pain and agony of defending themselves in courts is worse than serving the actual sentence. Undertrials are not guilty till convicted.
5. **No interaction with the society:** It is very essential that the judiciary of any country should be an integral part of the society and its interactions with the society must be made regular and relevant. In India, the Indian judicial system has no connection with the society, something which it had inherited from the British judicial set-up. Even today, the law officers have not been able to come closer to the ground to meet the common people.
6. **Social inequalities:** Social inequality in relation to the backward classes and communities which are treated as untouchable delays justice to them. While rich is able to access and mould the legal and judicial system in their favour, poor suffer at the hands of corrupt and inefficient system. The poor also have no access to legal assistance.
7. **Insensitive Police:** Even the police officials are not sensitive towards poor and weak. Their indifferent and insensitive behaviour towards marginalised and women lead to fear of reporting the crime to police which lead to gross injustice.
8. **Poor implementation of laws:** Laws for the legal justice are not effectively enforced by law enforcement agencies. This lead to gross legal injustice and prevent marginalised and weak from enjoying legal rights available to them.
9. **Lack of awareness of law and illiteracy:** People in India are not aware of laws availability for protection of their rights. Illiteracy and poor awareness often lead to their exploitation and lack of getting legal justice available through various laws.

#### **Measures which when implemented can transform the way India seeks and delivers justice:**

1. Understanding the law is the first step to oppose all forms of injustice. Hence, making laws accessible and comprehensible for legal empowerment, so citizens know when their rights are being violated and what their legal options are. For this role of media is important to further the awareness.
2. Ensuring high-quality, affordable legal aid, so individuals have a strong chance at a fair trial, regardless of economic or social background. Thus, investing in the provision of high-quality legal aid not only benefits economically weaker litigants, it

also provides significant economic benefits. One way to achieve this is by institutionalising the spirit of 'pro-bono' legal aid.

3. Streamlining case management processes in courts, so justice delivery can be swift, efficient and cost-effective. The courts need to streamline their case management processes with technology or external expertise that will help reduce pendency.
4. Supporting and driving accountability in police and prison systems, so these agencies uphold the law and legal procedures with sensitivity to the rights of victims, convicts, undertrials and the most disempowered.
5. A critical step to improving access to justice would be the immediate implementation of the police reforms across India that would not only ensure that the police are accountable, efficient and effective but also change this perception.
6. Non-profit organizations across the country have taken on the responsibility to develop innovative and impactful strategies to not only support and strengthen existing systems but also to make the law work for the people.
7. Funders, academics and government agencies need to support impactful solutions which builds, documents, improves and scales these efforts rather than reinvent the wheel. While foreign funding has been plenty, India's justice system is best strengthened by investment from Indian philanthropy and corporates, and in general by giving citizens of the country a chance to strengthen their own democracy and be part of the nation building process.

We need to come together to improve the justice systems. Standalone decisions and strategies won't work any longer. The police need to collaborate with the people to develop a trust-based, solution-oriented relationship. Non-profits should collaborate to achieve the shared goals.

Q.32) "Collegium system is deeply flawed, and is in need of urgent remedy". Comment.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Why collegium system is deeply flawed?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Collegium system is the system by which the judges are appointed and transferred only by the judges. The system has evolved by means of the judgments of the Supreme Court, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a Constitutional provision. Names recommended for appointment by a High Court collegium reaches the government only after approval by the CJI and the Supreme Court collegium. The government is mandated to appoint a person as a Supreme Court judge if the collegium reiterates its recommendation.

#### **Why the collegium system is deeply flawed?**

1. **Autocratic:** Collegium has been evolved by the judiciary itself for retaining the power to select judges by itself. There is no accountability to collegium system as judges select their own judges.
2. **Unaccountable:** Selection of judges by collegium is undemocratic since judges are not accountable to the people and representative of peoples i.e. executive or legislative.
3. **Non-transparency and opaque:** There is no official procedure for selection or any written manual for functioning. Selective publication of records of meetings with no eligibility criteria of judges, bring opacity in collegium's functioning.

4. **Promotes nepotism:** Sons and nephews of previous judges or senior lawyers tend to be popular choices for judicial roles. Thus it encourages mediocrity in the judiciary by excluding talented ones.
5. **Inefficient:** Collegium has not been able to prevent the increasing cases of vacancies of judges and cases in courts.
6. **Ignores judicial guidelines:** The recent supersession in appointment is inconsistent with the view of the Supreme Court in the Second Judge's case, 1993, where it laid that, seniority amongst Judges in their High Courts and on all India basis is significant and should be given due consideration while making appointments of Judges to the Supreme Court.
7. **Against established conventions:** The convention of seniority has long been held as the procedure for appointments but supersession ignores and abdicates this convention, creating space for subjectivity and individual bias in appointments.
8. **No reforms made after fourth judges case:** After striking down the NJAC, the court did nothing to amend the NJAC Act or add safeguards to it that would have made it constitutionally valid. Instead, the court reverted to the old Collegium-based appointments mechanism.

The subjectivity and the inconsistency of the collegium system highlight the need to relook at the process of appointment of judges. The NJAC should be amended to make sure that the judiciary retains independence in its decisions and re-introduced in some form or the other. A written manual should be released by the Supreme Court which should be followed during appointments and records of all meeting should be in the public domain in order to ensure transparency and rule-based process. Apart from reforming the collegium system, the quality of judges can also be improved through the implementation of All India Judicial Services (AIJS).

Q.33) "Right to Internet access and digital literacy should be recognised as a right in itself." Discuss in the light of digital inequalities in India.

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Need of recognising right to internet access and digital literacy as right. It's significance.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Recently, in Faheema Shirin v. State of Kerala, the Kerala High Court declared the right to Internet access as a fundamental right forming a part of the right to privacy and the right to education under Article 21 of the Constitution. In present digital world where almost every service is being digitised, it is important to recognise the right to Internet access as an independent right.

### **Need of recognising Right to Internet Access and digital literacy as a right in itself:**

1. **Social injustice:** Digital inequalities lead to gross social injustice and hinder development of the individuals. It prevent Indian citizens and marginalised to enjoy various services and rights provided to them
2. **Poor Access to services:** In recent times, several government and private sector services have become digital. Some of them are only available online. This leads to a new kind of inequality, digital inequality, where social and economic backwardness is exacerbated due to information poverty, lack of infrastructure, and lack of digital literacy.

3. **Digital economy:** We are moving to a global digital economy where knowledge of digital processes will transform the way in which people work, collaborate, consume information, and entertain themselves. This has been acknowledged in the Sustainable Development Goals as well as by the Indian government and has led to the Digital India mission. Thus it is important for an economy to provide equal access to Internet as a right.
4. **Preventing exclusion:** Services are now offered online with lesser cost and better efficiency. It also allows citizens to bypass lower-level government bureaucracy. In the absence of Internet access and digital literacy enabling that access, there will be further exclusion of large parts of the population, exacerbating the already existing digital divide.
5. **Good governance:** Moving governance and service delivery online without the requisite progress in Internet access and digital literacy do not make economic sense. For instance, Common Service Centres, which operate in rural and remote locations, are physical facilities which help in delivering digital government services and informing communities about government initiatives.
6. **Employment opportunities:** Lack of internet access prevent many people from equal employment opportunities vis-à-vis available to one who have Internet access and digital knowledge. Further digital illiteracy lead to lack of required skills, as digital skills are must nowadays to get any job.
7. **Women empowerment:** Digital literacy and internet access help in furthering women rights and help them to be aware of their rights. It help in educating women. Also it provide employment opportunities to them, as many women work from home through internet.

**Significance of right to internet access and digital literacy being recognised as a right in itself:**

1. Digital literacy allows people to access information and services, collaborate, and navigate socio-cultural networks.
2. Acknowledgement of the right to access Internet in accessing other fundamental rights, is imperative that the right to Internet access and digital literacy be recognised as a right in itself.
3. Once recognised as right the state would have:
  - A positive obligation to create infrastructure for a minimum standard and quality of Internet access as well as capacity-building measures which would allow all citizens to be digitally literate.
  - A negative obligation prohibiting it from engaging in conduct that impedes, obstructs or violates such a right.
4. Recognising the right to internet access and digital literacy will also make it easier to demand accountability from the state, as well as encourage the legislature and the executive to take a more proactive role in furthering this right.
5. A right to Internet access would also further provisions given under Articles 38(2) and 39 of the Constitution reducing inequalities and furthering right of every individual.

Unequal access to the Internet creates and reproduces socio-economic exclusions. It is important to recognise the right to Internet access and digital literacy to alleviate this situation, and allow citizens increased access to information, services, and the creation of better livelihood opportunities.

Q.34) "The Supreme Court's decision in Navtej Johar v. Union of India has laid the ground for stronger equality recognition." Comment.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How the judgement would lead to equality?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India is a landmark decision of the Supreme Court of India that decriminalised all consensual sex among adults in private, including homosexual sex. It is an important step to empower people with right of choice, and inherent right to privacy and dignity with the freedom to live without fear. The ideals of individual autonomy and liberty, equality for all without discrimination of any kind, recognition of identity with dignity and privacy of human beings constitute the cardinal features of Indian Constitution which would be further by this decision.

**How the judgement would lead to equality?**

1. Section 377 affected a disadvantaged group with respect to a matter that affected personal autonomy. The judgement mark a significant shift in the approach to Article 14 and would lead to equality as mentioned under Article 14.
2. Moving away from a narrow equality definition based on race, religion, place, sex etc as enshrined in Article 15, the judgement expanded the scope of equality.
3. The judgement expanded the definition of sex under Article 15 and 16. The discrimination on the ground of sex under Articles 15 and 16, therefore, includes discrimination on the ground of gender identity.
4. The aforesaid judgment, lays focus on gender identity and correctly connects with human rights and the constitutionally guaranteed right to life and liberty with dignity. It lays stress on the judicial recognition of such rights as an component of Article 21 of the Constitution and decries any discrimination as that would offend Article 14, of our Constitution.
5. The judgement linked the constitutions' equal protection and non-discrimination clauses to advance an alternative jurisprudence founded in ideas of inclusion, dignity, autonomy and remedying structural disadvantage.
6. It would help in undoing the wrongs done so far, so as to make the way for a progressive and inclusive realisation of social and economic rights of all individuals.
7. It would help in ensuring equal rights and opportunities for the less than equal sections of the society.
8. It would help in reducing perceptions, stereotypes and prejudices deeply ingrained in the societal mindset so as to usher in inclusivity in all spheres and empower all citizens without any kind of alienation and discrimination.
9. Sexual minorities in India are one step closer to living with dignity. Discrimination faced by them in accessing health and their harassment by Police will cease.
10. This judgement will spur LGBTQ Community to demand more progressive laws like Gay marriage laws, right to form partnerships, inheritance, employment equality, protection from gender-identity-based discrimination among others.

The Preamble of the Indian Constitution, promised to all the people of India justice, social, economic and political and equality of status, of opportunity, and before the law. The striking off of Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) which were held violative of Fundamental Rights of LGBTQ Community has ushered a new era and broaden the prospects of equality and ideals of our constitution ensuring equal rights to all sections of the society.

Q.35) "India's record in promoting occupational and industrial safety remains weak even with years of robust economic growth." Discuss.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Status of poor occupational and industrial safety in India. Solutions for the same.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Around 2.3 lakh workers were affected and 2,500 died in more than 81 industrial accidents in the past three-and-a-half decades. Laws for safety and health at work in India have provisions to report the accidents and occupational diseases, but enforcement is so weak that there is a huge gap between the estimated fatal and non-fatal accidents reported by ILO for India, and the figures reported to ILO by the Indian Government.

**Poor occupational and industrial safety:**

1. Based on occupational injury rates estimated by the World Bank, the risk of fatal and non-fatal occupational injury in India is about two and a half times higher than in the Europe and North America.
2. Diagnosis of occupational disease is still a rare event and is majorly ignored. Medical professionals in public and private sectors are not reporting cases of occupational diseases for several reasons. Between 2014-16, 132 cases of occupational diseases were notified by only 5 states of India.
3. In India, there are still thousands of people who do not know where they were born and when. The literacy rate in India stands at 74% (2011) which may be an indicator, though it does not assure that people know their legal rights.
4. Society is riddled with divisions on the lines of religion, caste, colour, region and language. Social and economic inequality, poor governance, rule of the mighty, legacy of feudal thought, and huge economical gaps are hindrances in achieving labour rights. And now under the "ease of doing business," labour laws are further liberalised to push more workers out of the purview of the law.
5. State governments are curbing powers of enforcement agencies by amending policies for inspection of workplaces. Overall, it does not provide a conducive social environment for reporting of accidents and occupational diseases.
6. Dissonance prevails between the labour department and the health department about their duties. Setting up a separate cell on occupational health within the health department and making them responsible to monitor the health of workers in all economic sectors may be a solution.

**What should be done?**

1. The state has a major role to play. It should invest in propagating legal provisions.
2. Workers, trade unions and non-profits may be educated on notifiable occupational diseases.
3. The government should provide assistance to industry to improve the work environment.
4. The central government should name one single competent authority for all cases notified from mines, manufacturing, services and other sectors. Amend the law to empower any citizen to notify a case.
5. The notifications should be online and should be accessible to the public so that possibility of changing the record by the authority can be minimised or diminished.
6. Multiple approaches are needed – surveillance, data collated from research, data from social security and compensation claims are important.

7. Out-patient departments may be opened in all public hospitals for diagnosis of occupational diseases. Private hospitals also may be encouraged.
8. Society, in general, should invest more in occupational safety and health rights including diagnosis and notifications of occupational diseases and accidents.

As countries get economically stronger, governance must improve, reflected by better data on occupational injuries and diseases. People with more political power may lead to develop technology and a social atmosphere where reporting of occupational diseases will be easier. With technological advancement, working conditions may improve which would reduce occupational diseases.

Q.36) Discuss the Impact of sanctions on Iran by USA on Indian trade and ties with Iran.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How did US sanctions impacted India-Iran relations?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Recently US had imposed new sanctions on Iran unilaterally. In 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump announced that the U.S. is withdrawing from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) or “Iran deal”. This has not only impacted Iran but also many countries who are importing oil from Iran including India.

**How did US sanctions impacted India-Iran relations?**

1. Bilateral ties took a beating during the sanctions years. Till sanctions were imposed on Iran, it was India's second largest source of crude oil after Saudi Arabia.
2. India had voted against Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency over its clandestine nuclear programme and, under pressure from the U.S., slashed oil imports from the country by up to 40% during the period.
3. New Delhi had also backed off from a pipeline project that aimed to bring natural gas from Iran to India through Pakistan.
4. It would Impact development of the Chabahar port in Iran which will offer India alternative access to landlocked Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan.
5. Iran was the fourth largest supplier of oil to India in 2018-19. The big concern is that the substitute crude suppliers — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Nigeria and the US do not offer the attractive options that Iran does, including 60-day credit, and free insurance and shipping.
6. Higher crude oil prices due to sanctions will widen the trade deficit and current account deficit of India.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. After the announcement, Indian benchmark indices slid by around 1.3%, as investors rushed to sell shares on concerns that rising oil prices could stoke inflation and dent the already weak consumption story.

According to experts, India will cut imports substantially, but probably maintain some of Iranian imports paid for using a rupee payment system. India should accelerate its strategic oil reserves project that would help it in tackling such issues in future.

Q.37) Discuss whether the judicial activism has undermined or strengthened Parliamentary Democracy in India?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** What is judicial activism?

**Body.** Present both sides of arguments of judicial activism strengthening or undermining Parliamentary democracy in India.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Judicial activism means the proactive role played by the judiciary in the protection of the rights of citizens and in the promotion of justice in the society. In other words, it is the role played by the judiciary to force the other two organs of the government (legislature and executive) to discharge their constitutional duties.

**How Judicial activism strengthen Indian democracy?**

1. Judicial activism allow judges to adjudicate in favour of progressive and new social policies helping in social engineering.
2. In a modern democratic set up, judicial activism act as a mechanism to curb legislative adventurism and executive tyranny by enforcing Constitutional limits.
3. Judicial activism help in protecting or expanding individual rights. Where the legislature and the executive fail to protect the basic rights of citizens, like the right to live with dignity, judicial activism plays an important role.
4. Failure of Legislature and Executive to discharge their respective functions results in erosion of the confidence in the Constitution and democracy amongst the citizens. Judicial activism help in upholding faith of citizens in constitution and judicial organs.
5. Judicial activism help in ensuring freedom of citizens and help in providing social justice to suffering masses.
6. Judicial activism fill Legislative Vacuum i.e areas, which lack proper legislation. This help country to meet the changing social needs.
7. In case of a 'hung' legislature when the government is weak and insecure, judicial activism play an important role in ensuring social justice.
8. Sometime politicians afraid of taking honest and hard decisions for fear of losing power. Judicial activism help in plugging such active political lacunae.
9. Judicial activism help in enhancing administrative efficiency and help in good governance.
10. Judicial activism sometimes help in balancing powers among various organs of government through judicial control over discretionary powers.
11. Judicial activism allow participation of judiciary in advancement of country and upholding democracy by extending the standard rules of interpretation in achieving economic, social and educational objectives.

**How Judicial activism undermine parliamentary democracy?**

1. The line between Judicial activism and Judicial Overreach is very narrow. When Judicial activism crosses its limits it lead to Judicial Overreach.
2. It may interfere with the proper functioning of the legislative or executive organs of government.
3. It destroys the spirit of separation of powers. Thus damage balance between various organs of government.
4. Judicial activism may lead to inactivity of legislature and executive, leading to running away from duties and responsibilities which they hold for people of India.

5. In many cases, courts are often ill-equipped and lack experience to weigh the economic, environmental and political costs involved like liquor ban case.
6. The executive remains “accountable” to the people through 5 year election process but judges exercise self-regulation and are insulated from any external control and thus accountable only to themselves, and their own sense of their limits.
7. Sometimes when judicial activism is exercised it is done for solely selfish, political or personal reasons.
8. It reduces the trust people pose in the Parliament and elected representatives as frequent overreach signals executive inactivity and incompetency.
9. It appears as an act of ‘tyranny of unelected’ in a democracy.

In India judicial activism has played an important role in keeping democracy alive. Pronouncements like Keshavnanda Bharti case, Minerva Mill Case etc has helped in keeping all the organs of government in balance and help in keeping society healthy and progressing. Judiciary is expected to maintain its primary allegiance to the law and the Constitution i.e. to the text of legal instruments and legal interpretation, and to the body of judicial precedents.

Q.38) “Local governments still remain hamstrung and ineffective after decades of 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments.” Discuss.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Various inefficiencies in local government. How to plug these inefficiencies?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Decentralized democratic governance was introduced in India by the 73rd and 74th Constitution Amendments 25 years ago. Local government posed to be a vehicle of inclusive growth and development and tool of empowering democracy. Unfortunately, after 25 years local government is inefficient and corrupt. Indeed, the village panchayats have not succeeded in enhancing the well-being, capabilities and freedom of citizens.

#### **Issues and Inefficiencies in Local government in India:**

1. **Inadequate devolution:** Devolution, envisioned by the Constitution, is not mere delegation. It implies that precisely defined governance functions are formally assigned by law to local governments, backed by adequate transfer of financial grants. All states have not been forthcoming in giving Panchayats and Municipalities enough funds, functions and functionaries.
2. **Low technical knowledge:** Low technical knowledge has restricted the aggregation of planning from village to block to district to state to centre. Hence bottom up approach of planning is very limited.
3. **Adhoc meetings:** There is lack of clear setting of agenda in gram sabha meetings leading to adhocism with no proper structure.
4. **States’ attitude:** From postponing the elections to the failure to constitute State Finance Commissions and District Planning Committees (DPCs), States have been seen to violate the various provisions of Parts IX and IXA.
5. **Inadequate Infrastructure:** Insufficient staffing, office space, and infrastructure bottlenecks hamper the functioning of local bodies.
6. **Less taxes:** Panchayats and Municipalities have not used their financial powers efficiently. Very few Gram Panchayats levy and collect taxes (on markets, fairs, property, business and so on).

7. **Parallel Institutions:** Most States continue to create parallel bodies that make inroads into the functional domain of local governments.
8. **Criminal politics:** Criminal elements and contractors are attracted to local government elections, tempted by the large sums of money now flowing to them. They win elections through bribing voters and striking deals with different groups. Furthermore, higher officers posted at the behest of Members of Legislative Assemblies, often on payment of bribes, extract bribes from local governments for plan clearances, approving estimates and payments. Thus, a market chain of corruption operates, involving a partnership between elected representatives and officials at all levels.

#### How to make local governance effective?

1. To curb these tendencies, first, gram sabhas and wards committees in urban areas have to be revitalised.
2. Consultations with the gram sabha could be organised through smaller discussions where everybody can really participate. Even new systems of Short Message Services, or social media groups could be used for facilitating discussions between members of a gram sabha.
3. Adequate training to develop expertise in the members so that they contribute more in planning process and in implementation of policies and programmes.
4. Decentralisation of governance can be achieved with devolution of power to lower levels. More financial resource generation powers should be given to these institutions.
5. Local government organisational structures have to be strengthened. Local governments must be enabled to hold State departments accountable and to provide quality, corruption free service to them, through service-level agreements.
6. Gram Sabha functioning should be improved. It should fully participate in planning, implementation and performance review (social audit) of various schemes with the participation of all stakeholders including women and other vulnerable groups.

A reasonably robust democratic structure for local governance should be given life through the practice of a robust democratic culture. It is important to instil more powers to local government providing more finance to them to work properly at same time keeping them accountable.

Q.39) "Regional languages have become the official languages of the States". In light of this critically analyse the issue of having a common official language at national level.

#### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Argument against and in favour of a common official language.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India is linguistically diverse country. Starting from Jammu – Kashmir in north to Kanyakumari in south and Gujarat in West to Arunachal Pradesh in east, people speak different languages and dialect. Few of them are Hindi, Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Urdu, Haryanvi etc. Indian constitution considers English and Hindi as the official languages. From the time before independence to present time, there has always been controversy regarding "One India, One language" and imposing Hindi as the national language.

### **Hindi as the common official language of India:**

1. Article 343 mentions that official language of the union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script.
2. Hindi as a common language would be used by speakers of different languages or a language used by people of diverse speech to communicate with one another, often a basic form of speech with simplified grammar.
3. Less than half of all Indians speak Hindi, the most widely spoken language. It is the mother tongue of only 26% of India's population.
4. The second-most widely spoken language, English, is spoken by around 10% of Indians. The majority of Indians speak a variety of regional languages, many of which use distinct scripts and have little linguistic relation to each other.
5. Hindi has acquired more importance than ever before as professionals have become increasingly mobile. And they have a great need to know Hindi as a means of communication.
6. Hindi is one such language that is understood by people from different castes and states, and therefore deserves to be the official language of India.
7. Already Indian has adopted the western culture in many ways. If it continues there will be no personal or rather say national identity of India.
8. The small little steps are the ways that will make sure that the people from different religion have at least something in common as Indians.
9. Hindi, especially in the less highly Sanskritised form used in everyday speech, is barely distinct from other languages.

### **Argument against Hindi as common official language:**

1. In spite of Hindi being the National Official Language of India and in spite of being a base language for other Indian languages, Hindi is not actually Lingua Franca of India.
2. Apart from the general divide between the North and the South, there is also a Linguistic Divide. South India is home to Dravidian states. These states are not really willing to readily accept Hindi as an official language.
3. If Hindi is given priority then it will create differences among the people who don't speak it making them feel as second class citizens.
4. It can also endanger other languages and dialects and reduce diversity. National integration cannot come at the cost of people's linguistic identities.
5. It would lead to Hindi chauvinism and is against linguistic diversity of the nation.

National integration in a multilingual country does not require the imposition of one official language on the country, especially when the language selected for the purpose is one of its many regional languages even if it happens to be that of the largest linguistic group in the country. The focus should not be on establishing one national language, but should be shifted to strengthening the official languages whose importance cannot be disregarded.

Q.40) "We need to shift focus from a hospital-oriented, techno-centric health care model to make healthcare services better." Discuss.

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Inefficient hospital oriented model. What should be done?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

In India, a hospital-oriented, techno-centric model of health care took early roots. Building urban hospitals through public investment enjoyed primacy over strengthening community-

based, primary health care. There is broad consensus that health-care focus must shift from hospitals to communities in the coming years with focus on primary health care centres. This approach involves the active maintenance of health, so that the consequent need for urgent hospital admission are lessened. In this way wellbeing is improved and the need for in-patient capacity in hospitals is kept to a minimum.

#### **Issue of inefficient hospital-oriented healthcare system:**

1. A private sector with rampant, unregulated dual-practice system (doctors practising in both public and private sectors simultaneously) is flourishing. This allowed doctors to constitute a powerful group held together by coherent interests rising the cost of health services.
2. The core purpose of a hospital is to deliver specialist care, and it remains a logical home for specialists, so long as they deliver care differently. Specialist care is costly and unaffordable.
3. Hospitals are involved in corrupt practices like over-stays of patients, unnecessary diagnosis, driven by financial incentives.
4. Healthcare insurance schemes like Ayushman Bharat that harp on providing insurance to the poor largely for private hospitalisation, when the most expenses are incurred on basic medical care. Thus focus on basic medical care is needed,
5. The public hospitals today face many challenges like deficient infrastructure, deficient manpower, unmanageable patient load, bad quality of services, high out of pocket expenditure making health services inefficient and poor.
6. Hospitals are far off from many places especially in rural areas, where lack of roads, unavailability of hospitals, electricity etc. lead to deaths.

#### **What should be done?**

1. It is important to set up local collaborative arrangements with general practitioners to make expert care available to those patients need specialty support.
2. Healthcare should be accessible to patients and situated in their community. Thus focus on primary health care centre is needed.
3. Mid-level providing primary health care should be trained to provide medical healthcare to needy. Training through short-term courses, like those of a 2-3 year duration, can greatly help in providing primary health care to the rural population.
4. Practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine, like Ayurveda, should be trained in modern medicine practices.
5. The task of making the primary and secondary level health institutions functional ought to be the utmost priority, such that people can access effective healthcare for common and easily treatable conditions nearest to their homes.
6. Urgent steps need be taken to provide working and living conditions in the peripheral areas that will encourage doctors and other health personnel to be willing for rural service. Family hostels should be built in the nearby urban centres to house the families of doctors and other medical personnel, while they are posted in remote areas.
7. All the vacancies for medical and paramedical posts should be filled promptly and the administrative procedures should facilitate speedier permanent appointments. There is little evidence to show that provision of ad hoc/contract appointments has led to a sustained availability of health personnel in rural areas.
8. The capacity of peripheral health services should be expanded to absorb the large number of health workers as full time workers in the health services system. Private practice for any category of workers should not be allowed.

9. There should be regular programs organized wherein the senior doctors from the secondary or tertiary level health facilities and medical colleges should mandatorily go to the rural areas to help the peripheral health workers improve their knowledge and skills.
10. The local communities, peoples organizations, and representative bodies should be involved in the planning, organization, operation and control of primary healthcare, making fullest use of local, national and other available resources in the true spirit of the “primary health care”.

Many countries, including the U.K. and Japan, have found a way around by incentivising general practitioners (GPs), designing a system that strongly favours primary health care. India should focus on primary healthcare service to make health affordable and accessible.

Q.41) “India should work on an ‘Act Far East’ policy for its strategic and economic interests in Indo-Pacific region.” Comment.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Why focus on Far East Asia is important?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Safeguarding freedom of navigation and keeping Indo Pacific stable is crucial to peace and stability in Asia. Indo-Pacific is a “natural region” ranging “from the shores of Africa to that of the America. There is an understanding that the Indian and Pacific ocean area is linked strategic theatre. To safeguard its interest in Indo-Pacific region it is important for India to engage in Far East region of Asia.

**Why focus on Far East Asia is important?**

1. **Economic development:** The region is rich in natural resources, especially diamonds, gold, oil, natural gas, coal, timber, silver, platinum, tin, lead, and zinc. It also has rich fishing grounds (Japan). The region is economically undeveloped, lacks good infrastructure and communications. It is important for growing Indian industries.
2. **Employment opportunities:** A lack of manpower is one of the main problems faced by the Far East and Indian professionals like doctors, engineers and teachers can help in the region’s development. Presence of Indian manpower will also help in balancing concerns over Chinese migration into the Asian region. Further, India, one of the largest importers of timber, can find ample resources in the region. Japan and South Korea have been investing and New Delhi may explore areas of joint collaboration.
3. **Strategic importance:** Act Far East is important for geopolitics centred on the Indo-Pacific and is key in pivot to Asia. The region borders the Chinese provinces of is one of the longest in the world. Presence in these areas will help to tackle China economically and strategically.
4. **Energy Resources:** The area is rich hydrocarbon reserves in the region throw up immense opportunities for Indian companies. ONGC Videsh has already invested in the Sakhalin-1 project and its terminal is acknowledged as the best in Russia. Act Far East would help in fulfilling India’s rising energy demands.
5. **Small scale industries:** For India, there is immense potential for mid-sized and small businesses who should be assisted to overcome language and cultural barriers so that they successfully adopt local business practices. The large diamond reserves

in the Russia should be a magnet for the Indian diamond cutting and polishing industry, which is already facing tough competition in Africa from the Chinese.

6. **Manufacturing industries:** Infrastructure, pharmaceuticals, and agriculture development are also areas of opportunity for Indian business and labour. Tele-medicine and long distance education are other areas where Indian companies can make a mark. It would also help in increasing India's exports.
7. **Technological advancement:** Japan is one of the most technologically advanced country. Act Far East can help India in growing technologically. Countries like South Korea are major centre of smartphones and can help Indian smartphone industries to grow.
8. **Regional Stability:** It is important to engage in Far East Asia to maintain regional stability. Strong ties with the US are seen as a vital tool for enhancing India's strategic posture. For the long-term vision of national interest and to tackle China's increasing active presence in the Indian Ocean region and geopolitical reach in Asia Far East Asian policy is important.
9. **Trade security:** In the present time, the control of sea lanes and ports would be the critical for free trade. For adhering to freedom of navigation, adherence to rules-based order and stable trade environment, it is important for India to act on Far East Asia policy.

Economically and strategically, the global centre of gravity is shifting to the Indo-Pacific. The maintenance of peace, stability and security in, upon and over the seas; unimpeded lawful commerce and freedom of navigation. Far East Asia must form the core for securing India's interests and economic development. India's presence in Far East, is important to emerge as one of the main players in the Indo-Pacific.

Q.42) Discuss what is Aspirational District Programme? How it would improve socio-economic status of the weaker section?

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** What is Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme? Socio-economic Impact of the program.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

UNDP's 2018 Human Development Index ranked India at 130 out of 189 countries. There are wide inequalities in the living standards of people in India with significant inter-state and inter-district variations. The 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' initiative aims to remove this heterogeneity through a mass movement to quickly and effectively transform these districts. By uplifting the districts which have shown relatively lesser progress in achieving key social outcome, India can move ahead in the human development index.

#### **About Transformation of Aspirational Districts programme:**

1. The 'Transformation of Aspirational Districts' programme focuses on transforming 115 districts across 28 states that have witnessed the least progress along certain development parameters.
2. These 115 districts account for more than 20% of the country's population and cover over 8,600 gram panchayats.
3. It aims to improve performance across indicators that improve the quality of life as well as economic productivity.

4. The Aspirational Districts programme, through real-time monitoring and proactive course corrections, reinforces the mechanisms of cooperative & competitive federalism between the Centre and the States, down to the Districts.
5. It aims to remove heterogeneity through mass movement (Jan Andolan), to quickly and effectively transform the district.
6. It focuses on the key strengths of each district and identifies the low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement.

**Socio-economic significance of Aspirational district program:**

1. The ADP brings together all levels of government, from central and state officers driving operations, to the district collectors implementing innovative measures on the ground. The local government is in a unique position to understand the complexities of the districts. They can experiment with different measures to enhance socio-economic development on the ground.
2. Secessionist demands, regional demands based on polarisation will be reduced due to inclusive development.
3. Naxalism, Radicalisation, mob lynching, crime rates and social unrest will be reduced as the developmental factors increase.
4. This would lead to reduction in Inequality, in turn poverty reduction by equitable distribution of income and tackling discrimination.
5. It will enhance food security ensuring availability, accessibility and affordability to all. This will lead to focus on other developmental aspects of Education and skilling.
6. With programs like Ayushman Bharat offering health cover to 100 million vulnerable families, reduces the Out of Pocket Expenditure saving many families from falling BPL.
7. It will help in tackling unemployment by creating opportunities of employment and skill development.
8. It will reduce migration by developing the rural areas with modern urban facilities and seamless connectivity.
9. The programme shifts the focus to socio-economic outcomes, placing data at the core of policymaking, emphasising collaboration across various levels of government, and partnering with civil society.

Aspirational district program aspires to develop one of the poorly developed districts. Improving the quality of life of people in these backward areas is important. Aspirational District Programme will go a long way to achieve regionally balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth by focusing on local development.

Q.43) "Access to affordable, quality health care is still a dream in many pockets in India." Discuss.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Issue of non-affordable quality healthcare. Measures needed.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Access to healthcare in India is poor. The Lancet in its latest study ranked India at 145th among 195 countries in terms of quality and accessibility of healthcare, behind its neighbours China, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan.

**Issue of unaccessible quality healthcare services in India:**

1. India suffers from lack of doctors and clinics, especially in rural areas and in case of epidemics and diseases like tuberculosis. Thus patients are either never diagnosed or diagnosed too late.
2. The large number of people still living below the poverty line in India. Thus the affordability of quality healthcare is a problem and needs to be addressed.
3. Weak economy, high unemployment rates, and limited economic resources lead to inability to pay and unaffordable healthcare system.
4. Cultural differences such as social, cultural, and linguistic barriers may prevent patients from accessing care. E.g. minorities may face discrimination in accessing quality health services.
5. Environmental challenges, which include unsafe streets; asthma exacerbated by air pollution, leading to unnecessary hospitalisation; environmental allergens causing symptoms that may result in inappropriate testing; and minimal or no spaces for physical activity or exercise; all add to cost of the health services.

**How to ensure quality health services to all?**

1. Capping price of devices hurt medical industry. To increase affordability of devices, the government should adopt an effective pricing model i.e. trade margin rationalisation (TMR). TMR imposes a cap on the margins across the value chain, rather than capping price of devices.
2. An increased focus on a well-implemented plan for quality control is critical at this juncture.
3. There is a need to co-opt experts, who will carry out a fair and accurate assessment of the true cost of a delivery. This should take into account requirements of minimum quality as well as best lower prices.
4. It is important that all the stakeholders across the value-chain should be involved, and more scientific approaches such as differential pricing for innovative medical technologies should be adopted.
5. The government should focus on healthcare financing, particularly for the part of population that cannot afford healthcare. Launching the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) is a step in the right direction. However, the success of the scheme will depend on how well it is detailed out, and implemented on the ground.
6. Efforts should be made to encourage and incentivise wellness/preventive care and making primary care (including basic diagnostic tests and outpatient care) accessible and affordable for all. This will not only improve the overall health of the population, but also free up resources and reduce the overall cost to the exchequer.
7. Technology can play a significant role in managing population health. Big data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) can help us in the areas of risk identification, disease prevention and early diagnosis, and the government must use these for public health purposes.

With the rise in awareness, affordability continues to be one of the key needs of the country. We need innovative technology solutions for India's healthcare requirements and the government's increased focus on the healthcare sector. The next few years are important to tackle its long-standing healthcare issues, and at the same time, adapt to meet the ever evolving healthcare needs of its citizens.

Q.44) Critically analyse the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 2019. Do you think it is a threat to fundamental freedoms enshrined in Indian Constitution?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Key features and significance of the act. How it is threat to fundamental freedoms of individuals?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 amends the Unlawful Activities Act, 1967, providing special procedures to deal with terrorist activities, individuals and groups that foster terrorism in India. It empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists if the person commits or participates in acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes terrorism or is otherwise involved in terrorism. This has been done to stop the spread terrorism.

**Key features of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act:**

1. Under the Act, the central government may designate an organisation or an individual as a terrorist if it:
  - Commits or participates in acts of terrorism.
  - Prepares for terrorism.
  - Promotes terrorism.
  - Is otherwise involved in terrorism.
2. The act empowers the Director-General, National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is being investigated by the agency.
3. Under the existing Act, the investigating officer is required to obtain the prior approval of the Director General of Police (DGP) to seize properties that bear any connection to terrorism.
4. It empowers the officers of the NIA of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases.
5. The existing Act provides for investigation of cases to be conducted by officers of the rank of Deputy Superintendent or Assistant Commissioner of Police or above.
6. The International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (2005) has been added in the act through the Amendment.

**Significance of the amendment:**

1. This law is aimed at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
2. Its main objective is to make powers available for dealing with activities directed against the integrity and sovereignty of India.
3. The Act makes it a crime to support any secessionist movement or to support claims by a foreign power to what India claims as its territory.

**How amendment act is a threat to fundamental freedoms in the constitution?**

1. UAPA amendment act is against the basic fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of India. It is against Articles 14, 19 and 21, representing the Right to Equality, Freedom of Speech and Expressions, and Right to Life, respectively.
2. This is a potentially dangerous amendment which will empower officials of Union Ministry to brand any person 'a terrorist', without following due process.

3. The Act introduces a vague definition of terrorism to encompass a wide range of non-violent political activity, including political protest thus against Fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression in Article 19.
4. An official designation as a terrorist will be akin to 'civil death' for a person, with social boycott, expulsion from job, hounding by media, and perhaps attack from self-proclaimed vigilante groups following.
5. It empowers the government to declare an organisation as 'terrorist' and ban it. Mere membership of such an organisation itself becomes a criminal offence. This violate fundamental rights of an innocent.
6. The only statutory remedy available to such a person is to make an application before the Central Government for de-notification, which will be considered by a Review Committee constituted by the Government itself.
7. It allows detention without a charge sheet for up to 180 days and police custody can be up to 30 days.
8. It creates a strong presumption against bail and anticipatory bail is out of the question. It creates a presumption of guilt for terrorism offences merely based on the evidence allegedly seized.
9. It authorises the creation of special courts, with wide discretion to hold in-camera proceedings (closed-door hearings) and use secret witnesses but contains no sunset clause and provisions for mandatory periodic review.
10. The law could be used to target minorities or a section of people like authors, academics, lawyers thereby affecting their rights.

Thus the amendment act is dangerous in the sense that it provide unchecked powers to government to designate anyone as a terrorist with less chance to the individual to prove his/her innocence. Further amendment has many loopholes that need to be plugged.

Q.45) Discuss the growing importance of Eurasia for India's changing geopolitics. How India can boost its presence in Eurasia?

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Importance of Eurasia. How India can boost its presence?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The vast Eurasian landmass, stretching from China in the east to Europe in the west and from the Arctic Ocean in the north to the Indian Ocean in the south, includes some of the world's most powerful and dynamic states. The economic relationship between India and the Member States of the Eurasia has developed rapidly in the recent years, particularly during India's ongoing process of economic reforms.

### **Importance of Eurasia for India:**

1. **Resources:** Eurasian region is rich in natural resources, most notably energy resources, characterized by significant production and exports. Economic cooperation with these countries is vital for safeguarding India's interests. The Eurasian states are prospective long-term partners in energy (oil, natural gas) and natural resources (that include uranium and iron ore).
2. **Economic growth:** Eurasia is important for India's objective of becoming an Economic Hub due its strategic peninsular geographic location connecting various sub-regions of Asia and West Asia. This could well be facilitated by recent initiatives such as the Make in India, Skill India and Digital India. It could well serve as a

mechanism to harness India's demographic dividend as well if India economically integrates with other parts of Asia.

3. **Strategic:** Eurasian Region is interested in decreasing their dependence on both Moscow and Beijing. Against this backdrop they are prepared to support India in its bid to strengthen its position in the region so as to become an alternative to the traditional players Russia, China, the EU and the US. Simultaneously Iran's nuclear deal and Russia's face-off with the West provide favourable conditions for a qualitative improvement in India's relations with the Eurasian states.
4. **Tourism:** India is an emerging tourist nation. Eurasia is important to garner tourists from the region. India should develop beaches and world class hotels in order to attract more tourists.
5. **Pharmaceutical:** The medical and Pharmaceutical industry is another area that offers huge potential for cooperation. India is ready to extend cooperation by setting up civil hospitals/clinics in Eurasia. India is working on setting up a Central Asian e-network with its hub in India, to deliver, tele-education and tele-medicine connectivity, linking all the five Central Asian States.
6. **Construction industry:** Indian companies can showcase its capability in the construction sector and build world class structures at competitive rates. Central Asian countries, especially Kazakhstan, have almost limitless reserves of iron ore and coal, as well as abundant cheap electricity. India can help set up several medium size steel rolling mills, producing its requirement of specific products.

#### How India can boost its presence?

1. Facilitate regular and frequent shipping links between the ports in India (Mundra, Kandla & Mumbai) and Chabahar.
2. Support the proposed joint Afghan-Uzbek project of extending the approximately 700-km long Mazar-i-Sharif to Herat railway line that would pass through western Afghanistan. If this project materialises, all Central Asian countries including Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan would be connected to Chabahar corridor via western Afghanistan.
3. Apart from Afghanistan, India needs to rope in one or more of the Central Asian countries, preferably Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, in its effort to project Chabahar as a gateway between Eurasia and the Indian Ocean.
4. Cooperation in the area of connectivity with these countries could also be pursued under the SCO framework.
5. India should push its own connectivity agenda for Eurasia, without necessarily becoming engaged in direct conflict or competition with China's BRI. Russia, Iran and Central Asian states can certainly help India enter into the Eurasian integration path.
6. Apart from INSTC and Chabahar Port, India should seek to join Russia's "Greater Eurasian" corridor and the Northeast Passage to connect to the Far East and even Japan.

While New Delhi enters the Eurasian integration path, it also needs to factor in the changing political dynamics within Central Asia. Following the recent change of leadership in Tashkent, the nature of the regional outlook is changing in favour of intra-regional cooperation. Indian policy response should cater for the interplay of trade, investment, connectivity and culture.

Q.46) Discuss the need and importance of legislative councils in Indian states.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Need and importance of state legislative councils. Criticism of legislative councils.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India has a bicameral system i.e., two Houses of Parliament. 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 provide for creation and abolition of legislative councils in states.

**Why do we need legislative councils in states?**

1. To allow leaders, professors, and other people who shy from elections to participate in legislative process.
2. To formulate better and detailed discussed legislation.
3. Upper House consisting of graduates, teachers, outstanding persons in the fields of art, literature, science and social service, check-mate the radicalism of the lower House.
4. Having a second chamber would allow for more debate and sharing of work between the Houses.

**Importance of state legislative councils:**

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.

**Criticism of state legislative councils:**

1. **Superfluous and Mischievous:** If a majority of the members in the upper house belong to the same party which holds 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.

Second chambers in our States have proved to be ornamental which is a burden on public money. The members of the Legislative Council also owe allegiance to one party or the other and eventually act according to the dictates of a party to which they belong. The provision of the law for Councils to have seats for graduates and teachers should be reviewed. Legislative councils should be a responsible body that can also form their part in policies and programmes for the development of states.

Q.47) "Populist tendencies are threat to democratic institutions and unity of the nation".  
Comment.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How populism is a threat to democratic institutions and unity of India? What should be done?

**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 democratic institutions and unity of India.**

1. **Again representative institutions:** Populism often turn against representative democracy. Populists reject pluralism. This threatens democracy and unity in diversity.
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 defences:** Populism is a threat to democracy primarily because it holds the potential of providing the state with a moral status that it otherwise lacks. Once the state turns into the embodiment of the virtuous people the defense mechanisms developed against tyranny, such as freedoms, checks and balances, the rule of law, tolerance, autonomous social institutions, individual and group rights, or pluralism, are inevitably under threat.
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 lead to suppression of dissent which is major pillar of democracy.
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.

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.
7. **Divisive:** Populist Nationalism is divisive and affects unity of the country. It cause damage to cohesiveness in the society by exploiting majority emotions.
8. **Hostility:** Populism is hostile to ethnic, religious and racial minorities, and inhospitable to new migrants. This endanger peace and security in the society.
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.

#### 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 organizations 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.
5. It is important to accept that not everyone's standard of living will continually rise and some peoples net income will remain stagnant for years on end.

There is no doubt that division in the face of an organized populist threat is problematic. Only rational thinking rather than impulsive feelings and anger can solve the problems of our times.

Q.48) What are various challenges and issues faced by medical education in India? In light of this critically examine the provisions of National Medical Bill, 2019.

#### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Various issues and challenges in Medical Education in India. Significance and flaws in NMC Bill, 2019.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Medical colleges in India fail to provide the much needed healthcare for its 1.2 billion population. Medical education in India is not upto the mark and need reforms. Fixing the problems in the medical industry is crucial to the health and well-being of a country.

#### Issues and Challenges of medical education in India:

1. **Poor doctor-patient ratio:** India has one government doctor for over 11,000 patients. Though India has the highest number of medical colleges as a nation, the small graduating class strengths of 100-150 students create a major problem for a population of this size. Less than 8% of the total students get a chance to continue further studies.
2. **Rote learning than clinical skills:** In the system of evaluating doctors followed in India, anyone who is able to memorise a large amount of information can become a doctor. The fundamental exam pattern has remained the same, banking on rote learning techniques, while the humanitarian criterion is not taken into account. Doctors are evaluated according to the answers they give in MCQ questions. These

tests are more for memorising skills rather than knowledge. Thus, their clinical skills are not tested till they start practicing.

3. **Outdated syllabus and teaching style:** Regular breakthroughs take place in the medical field everyday, but the medical studies syllabus in India is not updated. New domains of medical science are barely touched upon. Students study in a teacher-centric pattern, which doesn't employ technology as much as foreign countries.
4. **Lack of skilled teachers:** Teachers for medical institutes are selected based on their degrees and not their clinical experience. This reduce the effectiveness of the knowledge they can impart to the students. Moreover, no teaching training is provided and teaching innovations are also lacking.
5. **Poor medical research:** MBBS students specialise in certain fields to be able to get a job and thus, research is neglected. Colleges must take the responsibility of enhancing research in medical education.
6. **Corruption in medical education:** The Medical Council of India (MCI), is surrounded with controversy and faces bribery and corruption allegations. The MCI regulations has certain loopholes which that led to accreditation of colleges which even lack proper facilities or infrastructure.

### Significance of National Medical Bill, 2019:

To tackle various issues and problems in medical education government has introduced National Medical Bill 2019. Bill seek to improve medical education in following ways:

1. Bill seek to regulate medical education and practice in India leading to better medical standards.
2. It focus on the issue Corruption in medical education through transparent appointment to the medical commission.
3. Bill would help in reducing shortage of medical professionals by giving license to community health providers.
4. It ensure ethical standards in the medical practice through Ethics board.
5. It will rationalise fees in private medical colleges thereby making medical education more affordable.
6. In India, the MCI has so far been operating independently. This gap can be bridged by the NMC.
7. By introducing qualifying exams like NEET and NEXT, NMC can instil uniformity in the standard of competence and skills.
8. NMC would encourage and incentivise innovation and promote research by laying down rules that make research a prerequisite in medical colleges.

### Some flaws in the Bill:

1. The NMC will consist of 25 members, of which at least 15 (60%) are medical practitioners. To reduce the monopoly of doctors, it should include diverse stakeholders such as public health experts, social scientists, health economists, and health related non-government organisations.
2. Disputes related to ethics and misconduct in medical practice may require judicial expertise.
3. The Bill does not specify a time period for the NMC to decide on an appeal.
4. The Bill introduces a National Exit Test for students graduating from medical institutions to obtain the licence to practice as a medical professional. But Bill does not specify the validity period of this licence to practice.
5. The extensive discretionary powers that the Bill provides to government reduce the accountability of NMC and make it virtually an advisory body.

6. The capping of the fees of 50% of seats in private medical colleges is dubbed to be anti-poor, as the remaining 50% of seats which is called the management quota, will witness a high rise in fees. This can deny admission to poor students on 50% seats.

Indian medical education has many issues which need to be tackled. Many doctors have neither the skills nor the knowledge to handle the primary care and infectious diseases. While NMC can help in improving the medical education and practice in the country, the government must thoroughly focus on addressing much other issues too like lower public expenditure in health sector etc.

Q.49) Discuss importance of public opinion and pressure groups in a democracy. How it can help in ensuring good governance?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Significance of public opinion and pressure groups. How they ensure good governance?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Public opinion consists of the desires, wants and thinking of the majority of the people. It is the collective opinion of the people of a society or state on an issue or problem. Pressure group is a group of people who are organised actively for promoting or defending their common interest. Both are important in a democracy to bring change in the public policy by exerting pressure on the government.

**Significance of Public Opinion:**

1. Public opinion is an essential element for successful working of democratic communication in the system. Public Opinion is the expression of the views of citizens. No government can afford to ignore it.
2. A sound and effective public opinion prevent the structures of dictators. The strength of democratic system lies in respecting the decisions of the people. There should be free and fair interaction of thoughts for solving the collective problems.
3. Public opinion acquires great relevance in realising this democratic goal. It promotes wider awareness and invites citizens to examine issues from different points of view.
4. Public opinion acts as the guide to the government in respect of policy formation. Government functions in general on the basis of mandate received in elections and tries to win over the masses to fulfil the promises made during elections.
5. Government is always under pressure of public opinion and takes note of the same in formulating laws for the common good. Governmental policies are invariably affected by people's opinion on various issues. Public opinion helps the government to enact laws in the given situation.
6. Public opinion acts as a watchdog. It controls and checks the government from becoming irresponsible. While criticising the wrong policies of the government, public opinion always keeps the government alert.
7. Public opinion acts as the protector of rights and liberties of citizens. In a democratic country, people have the right to criticise or support the government in their own way. More effective and positive use of this right not only encourages or motivates the government but also keeps the government alive towards the rights and liberties of the people.

### Importance of pressure groups:

1. Pressure groups influence the polity of any country, right from the formation of government itself to day-to-day governance issues.
2. They try to manipulate governmental affairs without any intention to have any direct control over it which is one thing that differentiates it from a political party.
3. Pressure Groups play a very important role in the Indian political system. They act as a link and source of communication between the masses and the political parties. They sensitise the public towards various socio economic issues thereby educating them politically.
4. They produce very effective leadership and also as a training platform for future political leaders.
5. It also bridges the gap between various traditional values in the society. Establishment of unity and integrity are the key results of the pressure groups.
6. Therefore it is very clear that pressure groups influence both the government and the administrative policies.

### How public opinion and pressure groups enhance governance?

1. These perform a role in educating citizens about specific issues. This allow citizens to be aware of their rights and Demand good governance from government.
2. It lead to good governance by enhancing democratic participation, pluralism and diversity.
3. It raise and articulate issues that political parties perhaps won't touch because of their sensitivity which is important for reducing grievances.
4. They represent minorities who cannot represent themselves. This allow governance to the weakest section of the society.
5. Many groups play vital role in implementing changes to public policy which is important for effective tackling of issues.
6. It encourage a decentralisation of power within the political system thereby providing governance in a better and targeted way.
7. They act as a check and balance to the power of executive government allowing accountability of the government which is necessary for good governance.

Thus public opinion and pressure groups are intrinsic for democracy. Both allow government to fulfill people desires and push accountability and transparency needed for good and effective governance.

Q.50) "Indian citizens hold relatively low trust in the civil services and bureaucracy." Discuss various reasons behind this. Suggest some measures to enhance bureaucratic efficiency in India.

### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Reason for trust deficit in civil services. What should be done?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Bureaucracy and civil services in India is a colonial institution. Today bureaucracy is seen as someone against social development by the common man. It is often considered to be synonymous with redundancy, arbitrariness, and inefficiency. Common man lack trust in bureaucrats as a medium to solve their problems and issues.

**Reason for trust deficit in civil services and bureaucracy:**

1. **Inability to solve problems:** Bureaucracy has lost its shine in solving common man's problem. With many regions still waiting for electricity, electricity connections etc., people consider bureaucracy as burden which is unable to provide even basic services and solution to common man problems.
2. **Poor accountability:** Bureaucracy is hamstrung by political interference and outdated personnel procedures. Lack of accountability and no answerability to non-performance of one's duty has led to loss of faith of people in civil services.
3. **Attitude:** Some bureaucrats behave like they are God and born to rule but not to serve. Their attitude has caused people to shy away from the, even from common problems. Abuse of power without being penalised has become a trend with common man lost faith in them.
4. **Lack of empathy:** Non-empathetic behaviour of civil servants and inability to acknowledge common problems of people has led to development of trust deficit in civil servant as a problem solver.
5. **Corruption:** Wide corruption and scams like 2g scam has eroded faith of general public. Bureaucracy is seen as institution of bribery and corrupt officials exploiting public resources. A lingering view that corruption and politicisation of the civil services have become more entrenched.
6. **Delays and red-tapism:** Working with the civil servants in India is a slow and painful process. Unnecessary delays, moving from one department to next for solutions has led to development of belief that bureaucracy is inefficient and unable to cater common man's problems.

**Measures to enhance bureaucratic efficiency:**

1. Immediate reforms should be brought about by the Government to reshape recruitment and promotion processes of civil servants. Lateral entry is a right step in this direction.
2. Improving service through performance-based assessment of individual officers is needed.
3. Adoption of safeguards that promote accountability while protecting bureaucrats from political meddling is must to keep bureaucracy clean.
4. A bureaucracy must be an enabler and not a hinderer that clogs the decision making pipeline.
5. With the focus on public welfare we need bureaucrats with a new ethos, more attuned to performances on the ground, and not just policy designs.

Public bureaucracies are less efficient in many of their activities. This is generally attributed to the inefficiencies of public bureaucracies and lack of transparency and the weaker governance. What needed is a reform in civil services institution and political will to clean the system.

Q.51) Discuss the need and consequences of National register for citizen in Assam. How government should approach further with it?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Need of NRC and its consequences. How government should move ahead?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a document containing the name of all Indian citizens of Assam. It was prepared in 1951, following the census of 1951 and was updated recently for Assam. The purpose of NRC update is to identify Indian citizens of Assam, thus leading to identification of illegal migrants residing in Assam.

#### Need of NRC:

1. **To ensure People's Right:** An updated NRC will clear actual number of illegal migrants in Assam. It will prevent further illegal migration that will ensure rights of Indian citizens in Assam.
2. **Better policy measures and implementation:** It will provide a verified database to implement targeted policies and calibrated policy measures for benefits of Assamese especially tribal people. This will weed out fake beneficiaries.

#### Positive consequences of NRC:

1. **Will 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 security of our nation.
2. **Will prevent future illegal migration:** Publication of an updated NRC is expected to deter future migrants from Bangladesh from entering Assam 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.
3. **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 in list will lose voting rights. Thus it will strengthen our electoral process.

#### Negative Consequences of National Register of Citizens:

1. **Discrepancies:** There are several discrepancies in the final draft of the NRC caused by misspelling of names and inclusion of nicknames instead of actual names. The names of 40.07 lakh applicants did not find a place in the final document.
2. **Law and order problem:** The implementation of NRC may lead to serious law and order problem not just in Assam but also in neighbouring states.
3. **Loss of Right to Vote:** Right to vote is a constitutional right. People whose names are not in NRC would be barred from voting. Thus losing right to vote.
4. **Fake Cases:** There have been several cases of people having made fake official identity cards such as Aadhar, PAN card, ration card and even voter's identity card. This will legalise their illegal migration.
5. **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 lose their citizenship.
6. **Judicial burden:** 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.
7. **Threat to tribal rights:** Indigenous tribes who do not have any pre-1971 documents to prove their Identity will lose their rights. While all original inhabitants of Assam are to be included, it is not an easy task.

#### How government should move forward with NRC?

1. The claims of those left out in the NRC must be heard carefully and humanely.
2. There is need of a robust mechanism of legal support for the four million who have to prove their citizenship to India with their limited means.

3. All state authorities need to be prudent in their actions so that good sense prevails and ensure that large-scale humanitarian crises do not erupt.

The need of the hour is that Union Government should clearly devise the course of action regarding the fate of excluded people from final NRC data. There is a need for a robust mechanism of legal support for the four million who have to prove their citizenship to India with their limited means.

Q.52) "Populism has replaced liberalism in 21<sup>st</sup> century." In light of this discuss the consequences of populism and how countries should approach it?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Consequences of 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.

**Fallout's of populism:**

1. **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.
2. **No opposition:** Populist often claim absolute moral superiority and possession of the whole truth. That makes them reject the legitimacy of the opponent.
3. **Majoritarian nationalism:** Populism of the right, tends to acquire the form of majoritarian nationalism, unconstrained by minority rights.
4. **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.
5. **Against democracy:** Populist movements often turn against representative democracy. Populists reject pluralism. This threatens democracy and unity in diversity.
6. **Low economic growth:** Populist Nationalism is divisive and affects economic growth of the country. In India, populism is used for loan waivers, poverty alleviation schemes, etc. which lead to fiscal burden.
7. **Hostility:** Populism is hostile to ethnic, religious and racial minorities, and inhospitable to new migrants.
8. **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.
9. **Socio-Economic issues:** The societies affected by populism suffer from socio-economic issues due to joblessness or rising inequalities and unmet expectations.

**What should be done?**

1. It is time to revise macroeconomic, taxation, industrial and commercial policies to accommodate left outs. 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. 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.

3. Civil society organizations defending human rights and equality against populism should agree on a common agenda and strategy across identity politics divides.
4. 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.
5. It is important to acknowledge that globalisation, technological progress and tax reductions elevate the quality of life of society as a whole, but in the short term, they deliver a direct blow to certain pockets of the population, especially in rigid labor markets that hinder the unemployed from quickly finding a new job.
6. 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.
7. It is important to accept that not everyone's standard of living will continually rise and some peoples net income will remain stagnant for years on end.

There is no doubt that division in the face of an organized populist threat is problematic. Only rational thinking rather than impulsive feelings and anger can solve the problems of our times.

## General Studies – 3

Q.1) “The recent, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on ‘Climate Change and Land’ highlight that unless land is managed in a sustainable manner, it will be difficult for humanity to prevent climate change.” Discuss.

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Major findings of the report. Why land management is important for prevention of climate change?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Land provides the principal basis for human livelihoods and well-being including the supply of food, freshwater and multiple other ecosystem services, as well as biodiversity. Human use directly affects more than 70% of the global land surface. Land also plays an important role in the climate system. Since the pre-industrial period, changes in land cover due to human activities have led to both a net release of CO<sub>2</sub> contributing to global warming.

### **Major findings of the report:**

1. About 23% of global human-caused greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture, forestry and other land uses.
2. Despite increased deforestation and other land use changes, the world's lands are removing more emissions than they emit. Deforestation and land degradation, though, will chip away this carbon sink.
3. This warming has already had devastating impacts on the land, including wildfires, changes to rainfall and heat waves. Further impacts will impair land's ability to act as a carbon sink.
4. Several land-based climate solutions can reduce emissions and/or remove carbon from the atmosphere. The largest potential for reducing emissions from the land sector is from curbing deforestation and forest degradation.
5. In addition to reducing emissions, the land sector can also remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The report found that afforestation and reforestation have the greatest carbon removal potential.
6. In particular, land-based climate solutions that require large land areas could threaten food security and exacerbate environmental problems.

### **Why land management is important for prevention of climate change?**

1. Land provides the basis for many ecosystem functions and services including cultural and regulating services, that are essential for humanity. World's terrestrial ecosystem services have been valued on an annual basis to be approximately equivalent to the annual global Gross Domestic Product.
2. Land is both a source and a sink of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and plays a key role in the exchange of energy, water and aerosols between the land surface and atmosphere.
3. Land ecosystems and biodiversity are vulnerable to ongoing climate change and weather and climate extremes, to different extents.
4. Sustainable land management can contribute to reducing the negative impacts of multiple stressors, including climate change, on ecosystems and societies.
5. Global models found increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from land use and land-use change during 2007-16. These net emissions are mostly due to deforestation, partly offset by afforestation/reforestation, and emissions and removals by other land use

activities. Desertification amplifies global warming through the release of CO<sub>2</sub> linked with the decrease in vegetation cover.

6. Changes in land conditions, either from land-use or climate change, affect global and regional climate. At the regional scale, changing land conditions can reduce or accentuate warming and affect the intensity, frequency and duration of extreme events.
7. Changes in forest cover for example from afforestation, reforestation and deforestation, directly affect regional surface temperature through exchanges of water and energy. Increased evapotranspiration can result in cooler days during the growing season and can reduce the amplitude of heat related events.
8. Both global warming and urbanisation can enhance warming in cities and their surroundings (heat island effect), especially during heat related events, including heat waves. Increased urbanisation put pressure on land that can also intensify extreme rainfall events over the city or downwind of urban areas.
9. The forest and land use measures could reduce net carbon emissions by the equivalent of 10-20% of projected fossil fuel emissions through 2050.

Forestry and land use practices hold considerable potential for counteracting the effect of greenhouse gas emissions, helping to prevent significant climate change. These practices include focusing on planting trees, preserving and properly managing forests, and changing cultivation practices to account for increased carbon storage in the soil. Such practices could make it possible to increase carbon sinks while further reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

Q.2) Examine whether current economic slowdown is a structural or cyclical in nature. Give some solutions to move economy out of doldrums.

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Economic slowdown structural or cyclical?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

A cyclical slowdown is a period of weak economic growth that occurs at regular intervals. While a structural slowdown, is a more deep-rooted phenomenon that occurs due to an off shift from driven by disruptive technologies, changing demographics, and/or change in consumer behaviour. A slowdown in consumption demand, decline in manufacturing, inability of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) to resolve cases in a time-bound manner, and rising global trade tension and its adverse impact on exports are some of the factors affecting India's growth.

### **Economic slowdown structural or cyclical?**

1. **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 collapse of food prices has taken a heavy toll on rural consumption.
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 to a level which isn't adequate to fund the government borrowings, adding to current economic slowdown.
3. **Investment:** 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. The household sector, which is the biggest contributor to the total capex in the economy, has lost steam since demonetisation.

4. **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.
5. **Rising global trade tension:** Recent trade war between USA 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.
6. **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 overall growth of the country.

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.3) "By speeding up the connectivity revolution, developing India could become a developed nation." Comment.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How connectivity can boost development of India?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Present government is giving a big push to rail, road, river, air, mobile and digital connectivity which is important for economic growth of the country. By speeding up the connectivity revolution, India can reach new heights by giving impetus to industrialisation and commerce.

#### **How connectivity can boost development of the India?**

1. **Road Connectivity:** Roads are the arteries of economic growth. By linking producers to markets, workers to jobs, students to school, and the sick to hospitals, roads are vital to any development. Roads bring economic and social benefits by:
  - Connecting rural areas thereby reducing rural-urban gaps.
  - Linking agricultural area to market, thereby increasing income of the farmers.
  - Improve logistics efficiency and reduce transportation cost and time.
  - Internal migration leading to opportunities to poor in cities and urban areas.
2. **Rail Connectivity:** Railway is lifeline of Indian economy. It is important for development of the nation as:
  - Railways are an important source of employment in India. Lakhs of skilled and unskilled people are employed in operating the railway. Its further development will create many opportunities of employment.

- The connectivity of Railways to various tourist spots gives encouragement to tourism. Thus providing world class services and speedy travel as envisaged in Train 18 and billet trains is important for economic growth.
  - Railways connectivity is most important for socially weaker section of people. Due to its affordability it is the most common transport mode in India. Thus rail connectivity is important for inclusive growth.
  - By connecting various areas of the country railways would further boost internal trade convenient. They carry goods and passengers to various places easily.
3. **Rivers and coasts:** Water Transport is a good alternative to increase the movement of goods and passengers. Inland waterways and coastal shipping is cost effective and high generate revenues.
- The development of waterways would reduce the logistics cost. This will enable India to compete in the International market effectively.
  - Coastal shipping and inland water transport is a fuel efficient, environment friendly and cost effective mode, especially for bulk goods.
  - Further it can boost tourism to a new scale that would create jobs and economic growth.
4. **Air Connectivity:** Air connectivity is key to unlocking a country's economic growth potential, in part because it enables the country to attract business investment and human capital.
- An increase in air connectivity also spurs tourism, which is vital to many countries' economic prosperity.
  - Air transport is an important enabler to achieve economic growth and development. Air transport facilitates integration into the global economy and provides vital connectivity on a national, regional, and international scale.
  - It is important for trade, and create employment opportunities.
5. **Digital connectivity:** 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution is the key of new era development. Digital push not only lead to employment generation but would:
- Boost economy by more production in less time and more efficient products.
  - It would enhance exports and would help in ease of doing business.
  - It is important to plug rural urban gap for inclusive growth.

Thus connectivity would push India for achieving \$5 trillion mark and would help in boosting Make in India. Schemes like PM Gram Sadak yojana, port development, digital India initiative etc. are right steps. Further push in form of other reforms would ensure development of India into a developed nation.

Q.4) Discuss hazards and risks associated with space debris. Analyse the significance of Project NETRA launched by ISRO.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Concerns related to space debris. ISRO's NETRA and it's significance. **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The emerging problem of floating space junk is becoming more and more evident and bothersome. A report in 2011 by the National Research Council (NRC) warned NASA that the amount of space debris orbiting the Earth was at critical level. Any impact between two objects of sizeable mass can produce shrapnel debris from the force of collision. Each piece of shrapnel has the potential to cause further damage, creating even more space debris. The

space debris problem is a multi-faceted problem, one that has technological, legal, financial, political, etc. issues that must all be addressed in any long-lasting solution.

### **Concerns related to space debris:**

The testing of missile defence systems is already posing a danger to people and spacecraft by its production of debris.

1. Due to the very high speed in low orbit of about 10 km/sec, space debris can damage satellites and spacecraft.
2. Damage to satellites can seriously hinder the communication and other satellite services like weather forecasting.
3. When debris in LEO returns to the Earth, it poses a lethal danger to people and to property.
4. It may hinder future launch of satellites by threat or damaging launched satellites.
5. Pieces of junk in orbit can and do get caught up in our planet's atmosphere, just as meteoroids do.
6. If there will be hundreds of interceptors in low earth orbit, the dangers would be immense, because the interceptors themselves would collide with already existing debris, as well as producing debris themselves.
7. With a large enough collision the amount of cascading debris could be enough to render low Earth orbit essentially unusable.
8. Even a speck of paint or fragment floating towards their spacecraft can disable on board electronics and cripples the satellite and many services that run on it.

### **ISRO'S Project NETRA and it's significance:**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has commenced Project NETRA or Network for space object Tracking and Analysis, which aims to safeguard the country's Low-Earth Orbit satellites from space debris.

1. NETRA is a network of observational tools like telescopes and radars, which will be connected to a data processing units and a control centre. The system will improve India's space situational awareness.
2. Space debris such as inactive satellites, pieces of orbiting objects and near-earth asteroids can be hazardous to satellites. The NETRA would prevent danger from such space debris.
3. NETRA will initially focus on satellites in Low-Earth Orbit (defined as an altitude ranging from 160 to 2,000 km above Earth), but will aim to one day scan debris in Geostationary Orbit, 36,000 km in space, which would enhance ISRO's capabilities. With this the ISRO, which has placed satellites to track the earth from above, will also start training its eyes on space from earth.
4. ISRO currently depends on NORAD-North American Aerospace Defense Command-to detect potential threats to its satellites in space. NETRA will remove ISRO's dependence on NORAD and allow it to become self-dependent.
5. It will give India its own capability in space situational awareness (SSA) like the other space powers which is used to predict threats from debris to Indian satellites.
6. The SSA also has a military quotient to it and adds a new ring to the country's overall security, as space and defence experts read it. It will serve as an unstated warning against missile or space attack for the country.

The space debris problem is an issue that needs a worldwide cooperation to solve it. India, as a responsible space power, and as a part of a national capability, deployed NETRA that would help in reducing threat from space debris. This is a vital requirement for protecting our space assets and would act as a force multiplier. Apart from radars and telescopes,

India should also think of deploying satellites that track other satellites, as the U.S. and other space powers had done.

Q.5) "Merging of banks would nudge India towards a \$5-trillion economy but carry significant risks." Comment.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How merger would help in growth and risks of bank merger?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India are fragmented, with some of them reeling under the mounting pressures of Non Performing Assets (NPAs). Constant failure of banks to provide credit to both emerging and existing industries has resulted in stagnation in the economic growth of the nation. Recently government has merged major banks to transform the, into banks of global scale that would help India to grow towards \$5 trillion mark. But there are many intrinsic risk involved with merger of banks which need to be considered.

**How merger of banks would help in achieving \$5 trillion dream?**

1. The merger helps in financial inclusion and broadening the geographical reach of the banking operation. Thus will ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.
2. With number of PSBs coming down after merger, capital allocation, performance milestones, and monitoring would become easier for the government.
3. Large banks through consolidation of PSBs will have large balance sheets which can meet credit needs of growing Indian economy.
4. It will also build capacity in PSBs to raise resources without depending on the state exchequer.
5. Merger leads to availability of a bigger scale of expertise and that helps in minimising the scope of inefficiency which is more in small banks. This will help in reducing NPA issues and would help in better credit services.
6. Synergy of operations and scale of economy in the new entity will result in savings and higher profits.
7. The disparity in wages for bank staff members will get reduced. Service conditions get uniform. Thus it will allow bankers to be motivated to work more efficiently providing banking services at faster and efficient pace.
8. Merger sees a bigger capital base and higher liquidity and that reduces the government's burden of recapitalising the public sector banks time and again. Thus government can use this public fund for other developmental activities.
9. Redundant posts and designations can be abolished which will lead to financial savings allowing fiscal savings.
10. The size of each business entity after merger is expected to add strength to the Indian Banking System in general and Public Sector Banks in particular.
11. In the global market, the Indian banks will gain greater recognition and higher rating. This will attract foreign investment.

**Risks of bank mergers:**

1. Many banks have a regional audience to cater to and merger destroys the idea of decentralisation. This would hamper credit service in rural areas and may add to NPAs due to inability to manage from centre.
2. Larger banks might be more vulnerable to global economic crises while the smaller ones can survive. A failure of bank would have bigger and larger impact.

3. Merger would burden stronger banks to cover up the the weakness of inefficient banks. This may lead to inefficiencies and delays.
4. Merger could only give a temporary relief but not real remedies to problems like bad loans and bad governance in public sector banks.
5. The number of public sector banks will come down, perhaps to 6 or 7, after the proposed consolidation of banks. This will end the unhealthy and intense competition going on even among public sector banks as of now. While professional competition in the market place is welcome, unhealthy competition may lead to many unethical practices and regulatory violations as noticed at present.
6. The weaknesses of the small banks may get transferred to the bigger bank also. This was seen during previous amalgamations.
7. Mergers may result in clash of different organisational cultures. Conflicts will arise in the area of systems and processes too.

Governance of public banks needs to be improved before making any significant change in any emerging architecture. Bigger banks offer more resilience to the banking sector but overlooking bigger red flags like strong credit appraisal and risk control system would do little help in creating robust banks. Therefore due focus on ensuring strong foundation of PSBs is important.

Q.6) "Haphazard developmental projects often lead to disasters." Discuss in the light of recent disaster caused by Narmada flooding.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How haphazard development is dangerous? What should be done? **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Urbanization mirrors economic growth, so rapid urban development contributes to the concentration of people and assets in locations, including tropical cyclone and tsunami-prone coastlines and river basins. However, in many cities and countries that have successfully attracted economic investment, haphazard development has resulted in disaster risk reduction and the capacities to implement have often lagged behind.

#### **Haphazard development projects and disasters:**

1. Disaster is increasing faster in rapidly growing small- and medium-sized urban centres than in either rural areas or larger cities.
2. As cities grow wealthier, investments in infrastructure and services tend to reduce extensive risks. Urban development is driving new patterns of both extensive and intensive risk, particularly in informal settlements, along with high levels of environmental degradation.
3. Unplanned development is socially segregated, characterized by unequal access to urban areas, infrastructure, services and security.
4. Low-income households in particular are often forced to occupy exposed areas with low land values, with deficient or non-existent infrastructure and social protection, and high levels of environmental degradation. The result is a pattern of spatially and socially segregated disaster risk.
5. Most of the developmental projects in has occurred through informal mechanisms of land acquisition, building and infrastructure provision. Informality is often associated with low pay and high exposure to environmental hazards.

6. Haphazard development can change the environment or ecosystem through, for instance, the expansion of paved, impermeable areas, which prevent rain from being absorbed by the soil thereby increasing flood hazard, particularly in low-lying areas.
7. Inadequately planned and managed projects also create new risks which threaten to erode current development gains. The lack of adequate infrastructure and services, unsafe housing, inadequate and poor health services can turn natural hazard into a disaster.
8. There is also the potential for the creation of man-made hazards through poor regulation of construction and industrial practices in urban areas.

**Approaches for lessening and managing disaster risk in urban development include:**

1. Investment and public regulation, e.g. enforcing safety enhancing regulations including building codes and planning rules.
2. Resilient infrastructure development, e.g. earthquake resistant infrastructure development.
3. Adequate service provision, e.g. provision and maintenance of electricity, water supply, and drainage systems in urban environments can reduce flood risk, but also increases the vested interest in protecting assets.
4. Risk transfer, e.g. a cross-subsidised insurance scheme which provides poor households with catastrophe insurance cover.
5. Effective risk governance, e.g. integrating disaster risk reduction into city regulations, making it an integral part of local development.

Weak regulation, for instance the lack of enforcement of rules, planning permission and regulatory investment, often linked to corruption, allow the transfer of risk from construction companies to those who live and work in the building. Haphazard projects often result in disasters and loss of life and should be stopped.

Q.7) Examine how Biotechnology sector can emerge as engine of economic growth and societal change?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Potential of biotechnology sector as a growth engine.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India is among the top 12 biotech destinations in the world and ranks third in the Asia-Pacific region. The biotechnology sector of India is highly innovative and is on a strong growth trajectory. The sector, with its immense growth potential, continue to play a significant role as an innovative manufacturing hub. The sector is one of the most significant sectors in enhancing India's global profile as well as contributing to the growth of the economy.

**Potential of biotechnology sector as a growth engine:**

1. India has no dearth of talent in biotechnology, as a number of institutions, both government and autonomous, provide the necessary opportunities for the students seeking to obtain a degree in this sector. The Government of India has provided adequate scope to this sector by providing facilities for Research and Development (R&D) in the field of biotechnology.
2. The Indian biotech industry holds about 2 per cent share of the global biotech industry. The biotechnology industry in India, comprising about 800 companies, is expected to be valued at US\$ 11.6 billion in 2017.

3. The high demand for different biotech products has also opened up scope for the foreign companies to set up base in India.
4. India has emerged as a leading destination for clinical trials, contract research and manufacturing activities owing to the growth in the bio-services sector.
5. Biotechnology can usher in a second Green Revolution with unprecedented opportunities to ensure food security along with the economic well-being of the farmer. Indian farmers have increasingly opted for Genetically Modified Bt cotton seeds to enhance productivity.
6. Agricultural biotechnology is working on crop breeding for the selective propagation of genes that improve yields and resist disease. The technology also helps produce pathogen-free plants and address soil imbalance issues.
7. Biotechnology and more explicitly, fermentation technology can help boost India's manufacturing sector in a significant way.
8. Fermentation-based manufacturing supports production of antibiotics, vaccines, bio pharmaceuticals, enzymes, alcohol, foods and biofuels. India has global scale in many of these but the true potential remains unrealised. A focused policy thrust can build global prowess and generate millions of jobs.
9. At a time when companies in the developed world are challenged with spiralling R&D costs and loss of patent protection on a number of blockbuster drugs, India can effectively position itself as the "laboratory" for the world for developing affordable drugs, vaccines and diagnostic.
10. Biomanufacturing, together with our large chemical synthesis-based pharma and petrochemical industries can build an indomitable position for India. It can make us a resource base for biofuels, petrochemicals and fertilisers. It can create a plethora of jobs it creates for engineers, scientists, technicians and entrepreneurs.

India should pursue a strategy of scale based on technology-driven manufacturing. This will create a core manufacturing sector based on high-end expertise, fed by ancillary manufacturers that rely on simple technical skills. With the country offering numerous comparative advantages in terms of R&D facilities, knowledge, skills, and cost effectiveness, the biotechnology industry in India has immense potential to emerge as a global key player.

Q.8) "India has the potential to show the pathway to the world on accelerating action on climate change while pursuing its development interests." Evaluate the statement in context of potential of India to emerge as a global leader in climate change efforts.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How India is a global leader and can act as one?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India is a global leader in the fight against climate change. In fact, India's global leadership on climate action predates the adoption of the 2030 development agenda. 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 environment safe and healthy.

#### **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. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. India is a conscious aspirant. It has shown leadership in combating climate change and meeting the Sustainable Developmental Goals (SDGs), as is reflected in many of its developmental schemes.
6. 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. This has been through policy measures, dialogue facilitation between nations, and taking decisive steps, especially after India emerged as a key player in shaping the Paris Agreement, along with adopting energy-efficiency measures.
7. Sustainability has always been a core component of Indian culture. Its philosophy and values have underscored a sustainable way of life. For example, the yogic principle of aparigraha, which is a virtue of being non-attached to materialistic possessions. Humans and nature share a harmonious relationship, which goes as far as a reverence for various flora and fauna. This has aided biodiversity conservation efforts.
8. 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. India should teach world about these practices.
9. Things which have absolutely no value, such as old newspapers and books, or utensils, can be easily sold off to a scrap dealers to be re-used or re-cycled. Bucket baths, sun- drying clothes, and hand-washing dishes are other widespread, sustainable practices. Culturally, there is also an aversion to wasting food. Rural communities, which constituted about 70% of the Indian population as of 2011, live close to nature and continue to live a simple and frugal lifestyle.
10. 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.
11. India has emerged as a global leader in renewable energy, with investments in renewable energy topping fossil fuel investments. After adopting its National Electricity Plan (NEP) in 2018, India remains on track to overachieve its "2°C compatible" rated Paris Agreement NDC climate action targets.
12. India's INDC goals target to achieve 40% non-fossil-based power capacity by 2030 more than a decade earlier than targeted. Given these positive signals, there is significant potential for the incoming government to increase the ambition of India's NDC to a 1.5°C compatible rating.

13. 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 realize 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 causes of climate change.

Q.9) Discuss the harmful impact of e-cigarettes. Do you think it is right to completely ban the e-cigarettes in India?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Harmful Impact of e-cigarettes. Why a complete ban?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems or e-cigarettes are battery-operated, handheld devices that are alternatives to traditional smoking of cigarette. It emits doses of vaporised nicotine, or non-nicotine solutions, for the user to inhale. Inhaling e-cigarettes is injurious to health with major health risks.

**Associated risks and other ill effects of e-cigarettes:**

1. **Drugs intake:** They are now being used for other purposes such as inhaling various drugs etc. This lead to increase in drug consumption among youth. Continued use of nicotine can make other drugs, such as cocaine, more pleasurable.
2. **Addictive:** Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, which is addictive and lead to changes in the adolescent brain. Nicotine is more addictive than tobacco.
3. **Risk to heart:** E-cigarettes adversely affects the cardiovascular system with increased risk of hear attacks.
4. **Respiratory diseases:** It impairs respiratory immune cells function and airways similar to cigarette smoking and is responsible for severe respiratory disease like asthma.
5. **Risk pregnancy:** It poses risk to foetal, infant and child brain development. Therefore harmful to both mother and child.
6. **Carcinogenic:** The liquid contains substances that are carcinogens such as nitrosamines.
7. **Lung disease:** E-cigarettes expose the lungs to different substances. One of these is diacetyl, which can causes severe and irreversible lung disease.
8. **Fatal:** Accidental swallowing of liquid from e-cigarette has been fatal in many cases.
9. **Not a smoking cessation device:** People who use or who have used e-cigarettes are less likely to stop smoking altogether as they stop using conventional and medically monitored methods of doing so. A 2017 analysis of PATH data found that smokers who used e-cigarettes to quit smoking were more successful than non-e-cigarette users.
10. **Dual users:** Teens who use e-cigarette products are more likely to start using regular tobacco as well.

### Why e-cigarettes complete ban is right step?

1. Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala, Mizoram, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have already prohibited the use of e-cigarettes, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS).
2. Thirty countries including Australia, Singapore and Sri Lanka have already brought in such bans.
3. These products are not registered as nicotine replacement therapy products in India. E-cigarettes usually contain nicotine which makes product addictive.
4. E-cigarettes cause health hazards for youth, young adults, and pregnant women.
5. A number of metals, including lead, chromium, and nickel, and chemicals like formaldehyde have been found in aerosols of some ENDS, with concentrations equal to or greater than traditional cigarettes which cause cancer.
6. Traditional cigarette manufacturing companies are having parallel e-cigarette like device making industries. This growing hub in India is under-regulated.
7. Lack of knowledge about negative effects of nicotine and easy accessibility of these products make the youth prone to addiction.

E-cigarettes poses major health risks. Ensuring Health of citizens is state's responsibility. Therefore, banning e-cigarettes is a right decision. Some states have already banned use and sale of e-cigarettes.

Q.10) Discuss India's achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology. How the application of this technology has helped India in its socio-economic development?

### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Achievements in space S&T. How it helped socio-economic development?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India has become a significant global player in space science and technological(S&T) developments. The credit goes to ISRO and government's support for it. India has formally coordinated its various organisations related to space programme in 1972 by constituting the space commission and the Development of Space (DOS). Both of these institutes are Umbrella organisations which direct and regulate India's space programme.

### Achievements in Space S&T:

1. **Mars Orbiter Mission:** India's first inter planetary mission, the Mars Orbiter Spacecraft was successfully launched onboard PSLV-C25. It made India to become one of the four nations in the world to send space mission to Planet Mars. Mars Orbiter Mission is mainly intended to establish the Indian technological capability to reach Martian orbit and to explore Mars surface features, morphology, mineralogy and Martian atmosphere by indigenous scientific instruments.
2. **PSLV – A Workhorse Launch Vehicle:** India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), with a proven track record of 24 successful flights, has provided the country the crucial autonomy in 'access to space'. During the last decade, PSLV had 15 successively successful flights and has placed 23 Indian satellites and 31 foreign satellites into orbit.
3. **India's Mission to Moon:** India's maiden moon exploration mission 'Chandrayaan-1' was launched in October 2008 for mapping the lunar surface with high resolution remote sensing and study the chemical and mineralogical composition. This mission has enabled to detect the presence water molecules on the lunar surface, which has set new directions of lunar explorations in the global community. Recently

Chandrayaan 2 successfully put orbiter in moon's orbit but failed to do soft landing on moon.

4. **Indian Cryogenic Engine & Stage:** The successful flight testing of indigenous cryogenic stage onboard GSLV-D5 Flight. Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) is capable of placing 2 Tonne class communication satellite into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) and India is one among six countries in the world to demonstrate such launch capability to GTO with the use of complex cryogenic technology.
5. **Remote Sensing and National Natural Resource Management System:** The Indian Remote Sensing Satellites (IRS) System, with currently 11 satellites in orbit, is one of the largest constellations of remote sensing satellites in operation in the world today. It provides inputs for management of natural resources and various developmental projects across the country using space based imagery.
6. **Space Capsule Recovery:** A leap-frog in Indian Launch Vehicle Technology was achieved in 2007 through the Space Capsule Recovery Experiment Mission SRE-1 which established India's technological capability to recover an orbiting satellite with precise re-entry trajectories.

#### **Socio-Economic development through application of space technology:**

1. Survey of various mineral and natural resources have been made possible through remote sensing.
2. Management of these resources, their development conservation and formulation of various policies are affectively done with the use of information derived through remote sensing.
3. Various meteorological services including information about monsoon, climate flood, cyclonic activities etc are provided through the technologies.
4. It has developed communication technology in India.
5. They have proved very useful in spread of education. Even in remote areas, the expertise educations have been made possible through the talk back channels of INSAT-3D satellite.
6. They have helped in environment conservation programmes estimation of agricultural production and water resources information's.
7. Green revolution had been made possible through this technology.
8. The concept of "Gramsat" satellites have emerged to provide the basic requirements of villages.
9. Apart from these various uses, the space programme has helped in social cultural and scientific consolidation and harmony.

In these ways, the space programme has given a push to every aspect of our national policies and programmes contributing widely towards socio-economic, development of India, besides economic and scientific progress. It is time to make the application of space technologies to everyday lives. There is lot of scope and potential in this regard.

Q.11) "Inspite of surplus food production, millions of Indian citizens die to due to hunger." Comment.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Reasons for hunger in India and measures to tackle hunger issue in India.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India is a self-sufficient nation in food production for decades and having leaped forward economically over the past 20 years. It is painful to see that despite of having surplus food, hunger still persists. Starvation doesn't fit neatly into the story of a new India. Data shows that the country barely has enough to feed its own people. India stands 97th in Oxfam's Food Availability Index, and 103rd in the 2018 Global Hunger Index. The country is home to 270 million hungry people, the highest in the world.

**The reasons behind India's persistent problem of hunger are:**

1. **Poverty:** Poverty is the major reason behind the alarming levels of hunger. Poverty restricts the food choices and has been the causative factor of hunger related deaths. If the persistent high prices of food items and the regional disparities in terms of development, especially the backwardness among the hilly and tribal areas also taken into account, the percentage of people who cannot afford balanced nutrition will be much higher in India.
2. **Multidimensional nature:** Hunger and the related under nutrition is the result of various associated factors ranging from water, sanitation, access to food items. A person's 'nutritional quotient' is also dependent demographic factors like gender, caste, age, etc. For instance, the nutritional needs of girl child's and elderly are not adequately addressed in our society.
3. **Ineffective food policies implementation:** Another important reason behind the persistent hunger is the poor implementation of the schemes and policies. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the National Health Mission (NHM) have not achieved the adequate coverage.
4. **Climate change impact:** Erratic rainfall and increasing frequency of extreme events have impacted agricultural activities everywhere creating unfavourable conditions for food production. Climate variability affecting rainfall patterns and agricultural seasons, and climate extremes such as droughts and floods, are among the key drivers behind the rise in hunger, together with conflict and economic slowdowns.
5. **Corruption:** Corruption in PDS is widely recognised. PDS a food distribution schemes is mired with inefficiencies and corrupt practices denying food to many.
6. **Issues with agriculture:** The change from multi to mono cropping systems limits the diversity of agricultural products. Inclination towards cash crops and changing food habits result in malnutrition, undernutrition and even micro-nutrient deficiencies.
7. **Food wastage:** Food wastage is also an emerging challenge that undermines the efforts to end hunger and malnutrition. According to the FAO, the global volume of food wastage is estimated at 1.6 billion tonnes of primary product equivalents.
8. **Unstable markets:** Rising food prices make it difficult for the poorest people to get nutritious food consistently which is exactly what they need to do.
9. **Natural disasters:** Natural disasters such as floods, tropical storms and long periods of drought are on the increase with calamitous consequences for the hungry poor in developing countries.
10. **Gender inequality:** In many parts women's nutritional requirements are often unmet as they consume whatever is left after everyone else has eaten.

**What should be done?**

1. Achieving zero hunger requires agriculture and food systems to become more efficient, sustainable, climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive.
2. Need for synchronisation among malnutrition, dietary diversity and production diversity.

3. It is important to look at the future of food production to achieve the zero hunger goal.
4. Technologies like mobile phones can be used for knowledge transfer to rural farmers on the food production cycle and market linkages.
5. Formulate policies that support better agricultural investments.
6. Providing agriculture subsidies and incentives and prioritising nutrition programmes.
7. Boosting the production and consumption of climate resilient native nutritional crops.
8. Agro-ecological practices such as zero budget natural farming, organic farming and permaculture play an important role in their impact on food and nutrition security.
9. Policies must pay special attention to groups who are the most vulnerable to the harmful consequences of poor food access: infants, children aged under five, school-aged children, adolescent girls, and women.
10. A sustainable shift must be made towards nutrition-sensitive agriculture and food systems that can provide safe and high-quality food for all.

The National Food Security Act became envisaged to provide for food and nutritional security to the nation. This was the first step by the government to make nutrition a legal right. Despite its noble objectives, the effectiveness of the Act has been limited as it only ensures affordable access to eligible households and doesn't have the universal appeal. It is high time, the policy makers should consider providing for the right to be free from hunger as a fundamental right.

Q.12) "World is facing an unprecedented threat from intolerance, violent extremism and terrorism, exacerbating conflicts and destabilising entire regions". Discuss how India should tackle the growing threat of extremism and terrorism in the region?

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Various form of extremism in India. Measures to tackle extremism.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Today world is facing intolerance and extremism which means adoption of extreme political, social or religious ideals that reject or undermine the status quo and undermine contemporary ideas and expressions of freedom. In recent years, India has witnessed new waves of extremism that have taken the lives of many innocent people. Whether based on religious, ethnic or political grounds, extremist ideologies glorify the supremacy of a particular group, and oppose a more tolerant and inclusive society.

#### **Various form of Extremism- a threat to India's fabric:**

1. **Islamic extremism:** It is major form of extremism faced by India primarily due to state sponsorship. Main theatre of it is Kashmir. Global Islamic terror groups have made limited inroads into the country. Though India has the second largest Muslim population in the world, Muslims make up approximately 14% of India's Hindu-majority population. Kashmir has been the source of a violent insurgency since the late 1980s.
2. **Left-wing extremism:** It is the single biggest internal security threat in the country. Left-wing rebels, also known as Naxalites or Maoists, have waged a low-level insurgency in India's south-central regions since 60s. Despite counterinsurgency operations launched by the Indian government, no peace agreement has been

reached, and over 20,000 civilians have been killed in the Naxalite insurgency since 1980.

3. **Extremism in Northeast India:** North-east is connected to the rest of the country by a land corridor of less than 30 kilometre wide. It is a highly volatile region since Indian independence. Each of the seven states has experienced an insurgency at some point since 1947. Most violence has been directed either at the Indian government or at illegal immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh.

#### **Solutions to tackle extremism in India:**

1. Participatory decision-making should be enhanced and role of civic society at national and local levels should be increased.
2. Effective socio-economic alternatives should be provided to the groups at risks. Alternate employment opportunity should be generated.
3. Capacity of local governments should be strengthened for service delivery and security.
4. Credible intermediaries to promote dialogue with alienated groups and re-integration of former extremists should be supported.
5. Youth should be engaged in building social cohesion and de-radicalisation programmes should be carried out.
6. Government should work with faith-based organizations and religious leaders to counter the abuse of religion by extremists.
7. Respect for human rights, diversity and a culture of global citizenship in schools and universities should be promoted.
8. Measures should be taken to increase the capacity of the judiciary and security agencies, not only to detect and prevent violent activities, but also to ensure that the proper judicial process and the legal and human rights.
9. Government should fight corruption at all levels to enhance the legitimacy of state institutions, directly contributing to reduced perceptions of injustice and inequality. Building capacities of anti-corruption institutions, capacities of civil society to monitor transparency and accountability in government and in assessing corruption risks is important.
10. Women should be empowered to reduce the sense of injustice and discrimination against them. The systematic discrimination and abuse of women is a strategic and deliberate tactic of a number of extremist groups. Women's organizations should provide alternative social, educational and economic activities for at-risk young women and men.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 commits member states to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development”. This goal cannot be achieved in an environment of extremism. Extremism need to be tackled to create a more secure and sustainably developed India.

Q.13) “Climate Change talks and summits are not sufficient to tackle the menace of global warming.” Comment.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Issues of mere talks and less action. What should be done?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

A new report warns that planetary and human systems are reaching a point of no return by mid-century, in which the prospect of a largely uninhabitable Earth leads to the breakdown

of nations and the international order. Environmental problems are certainly real, but mere talk and summits do a disservice to the cause of tackling those challenges by not doing the basic minimum required to tackle the climate change.

**Issue of mere talks and not focus on right solution:**

1. Instead of focusing on solutions, like nuclear power, which does not emit CO<sub>2</sub>, and other technological breakthroughs that have the potential to reduce carbon emissions, mere talks and summits would not serve the purpose.
2. Humanity has reached the “point of no return” many times already. Unless drastic measures are not taken within the next 10 years, the world would reach a point of no return.
3. Entire nations could be wiped off the face of the Earth by rising sea levels if drastic action is not taken immediately.
4. Mere talk by developed nation would not help. What is needed is more funding to developing nations to support climate change mitigation efforts.
5. Technological progress allows nature to rebound. For example, increasing crop yields to produce more food with less land reduces the environmental impact of agriculture. Developed nation’s reluctance in sharing technological advancements would not serve the purpose of tackling climate change.

**Steps and action needed:**

1. Technological progress and economic development is must to protect the environment and vulnerable sections. As people rise out of extreme poverty, they often come to care more about environmental stewardship.
2. A behaviour change is must and should be instilled in peoples to shed environmental destroying activities.
3. There is need to focus on renewable energies and nuclear energy should be explored as it is environmental friendly.
4. Government should be supporting green projects and green activities with right incentives.
5. A shift to electric vehicles, plastic ban, enforcing carbon tax etc are some policy measures that every country need to adopt.
6. More planting of trees, stringent punishment on cutting trees would ensure carbon sync and is needed to tackle rising CO<sub>2</sub>.
7. Focus should be on R&D and innovation to develop climate resilient products and crops to prevent food crisis in future.
8. Developed countries need to fund more to developing countries to help them to sustainably develop and tackle climate change.
9. Community participation is must so that efforts are made at local levels. For this strengthening of grass root democracy is must.

Environmental challenges should be taken seriously. And just as with so many other problems humanity has faced, environmental problems should be solvable given the right technology and spreading prosperity. Either way, the world need more action on ground.

Q.14) “Farm sector is stuck in a situation of low income trap from a long time.” Discuss.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Issue of low income of farmers. Solutions to remove these issues.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Most of Indian policy in response to agrarian distress is based on providing subsidy or post failure reliefs in term of loan waivers. Due to continued failure and acute agrarian distress farmers face continued debt and low income trap. Low income trap is a condition in which farmers are mired in continuous cycle of low income and debts.

#### **Issue of low income of farmers:**

1. Measures such as loan waivers, free or subsidised fertilisers, water, seeds and electricity, which many state governments have resorted to in the past do not help poor farmers to overcome their financial problems on a permanent basis.
2. In India, farmers are poor due to low productivity (yield per hectare) of all major crops.
3. The recent government policies like neem coated urea have led to distortions in prices and hence in the use of nutrients. This led to burden on farmers.
4. The rising input costs has put enormous pressure on Indian farmers especially small scale farmers.
5. Lack of formal bank loans to most farmers, especially the small marginalised landholders and tenant farmers led to farmers exploitation in the hands of money lenders, thereby leading huge debt on farmers.
6. Falling MSPs, leakage and wastage in transit, fluctuating prices because of global imports-exports, lack of cold storage and adequate food processing, etc. has only increases the cost of agriculture and low income profits to farmers.
7. Decreasing size of farm lands with successive generations, global warming leading to uncertain weather, sustained drought in over two-thirds of rain-fed agriculture lands, power scarcity has reduced production and hence low income.

#### **How farmer's income can be raised?**

1. Government's policy of integrated nutrient management to increase productivity should be implemented effectively.
2. Efforts are needed to bring more and more cultivable area under micro-irrigation (drip/sprinkler irrigation), which would greatly reduce consumption of water while increasing productivity.
3. Agricultural extension services need strengthening, to impart new scientific knowledge to farmers. This should be facilitated through noted NGOs and companies in agro-business.
4. Each district should have 2-3 centres where farmers can meet and exchange knowledge on matters of crop insurance, banking and supply of inputs etc. These centres should assist them to integrate with eNAM for getting better price of their produce.
5. We need to create centres of excellence in our agricultural universities for preparing region-wise strategies to raise crop yield.
6. The report of the Swaminathan committee on Doubling of Farmers' Income, need to be implemented expeditiously.

Farmers are in low income trap and need policy measures. Linking procurement to minimum wage, general inflation and the overall quality of living index, and freeing the farmer of loan and investment burdens, will enable elimination of agrarian distress. These measures will help achieve this faster than all the well-intentioned government policies supposed to benefit the farmers all these years.

Q.15) Critically analyse the repercussions of India-Pakistan face-off on bilateral trade between both nations.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Impact of face-off on trade. Is it a serious situation?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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. The government of India had suspended cross-LoC trade in 2019, on receiving reports that cross-LoC trade routes were being misused by Pakistan-based elements for funnelling illegal weapons, narcotics and fake currency. Subsequently, it imposed 200% customs duty on all Pakistani goods coming into India. More recently, post the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill, Pakistan cut off diplomatic and economic ties with India.

**Impact of recent face-off on trade:**

1. 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.
2. India's decision in regards with the withdrawal of MFN status and imposition of 200% duty has hurt Pakistan's exports to India. The exports fell from an average of \$45 million per month in 2018 to \$2.5 million per month in the last 4 months.
3. With Pakistan deciding to completely suspend bilateral trade, cotton exports from India to Pakistan might get affected the most, eventually hurting Pakistan's textiles.
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.

**Is it a worrisome situation for India?**

1. On a deeper analysis, it appears that Pakistan's decision to temporarily suspend trade ties will not have much impact on both the nations. Trade between both nations had stood at just \$2.4 billion in 2017-18, accounting for a mere 0.31% of India's total trade with the world.
2. Pakistan currently exports , cement, fertilisers, fruits, chemicals and leather and allied products to India. However, 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

Given the situation, it is highly unlikely that the trade suspension between the two countries would in any major way impact India and its businesses. Further, India already has revoked the Most Favoured Nation tag given to Pakistan, which snatches away the trade benefits Pakistan used to get. However, it is the local economies that will suffer the

most and are already perishing. Alternative sources of livelihood that can be generated to keep border economies afloat should be found with high priority.

Q.16) Discuss various land reforms in India? How they lead to agricultural efficiency and social equity?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Land reforms in India. How it led to agricultural efficiency and social equity?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Land reforms refers to a wide variety of specific programmes and measures to bring about more effective control and use of land for the benefit of the community as a whole. The main objective of the land reforms is to do away with the existing inequalities in the system of landholding and to increase the agricultural productivity. The Five Year Plans aimed to remove the impediments for increase in agricultural production and elimination of exploitation and social injustice within the agrarian system so as to achieve equality and providing opportunities for all sections of the rural society.

**The reforms can be majorly grouped into two categories:**

1. **Institutional reforms:** Institutional reforms started soon after independence and continued till the early 1960s. It included:
  - Abolition of intermediaries like zamindars, jagirdars, etc. All states passed the laws to abolish intermediaries, with varying provisions for resumption for self-cultivation.
  - All laws provided heritable rights to the tenants.
  - Tenancy reforms involving providing security of tenure to the tenants, decrease in rents and conferment of ownership rights to tenants.
  - Ceilings on size of landholdings.
  - Redistribution of land led to Land consolidation.
  - Co-operative movement and community development programmes.
2. **Digitisation reforms:** It began around the mid or late 1960s and saw the gradual ushering in of the so-called Green Revolution and has been seen as the phase of technological reforms. It is marked by:
  - Digitisation of land records.
  - Making land records available to all, to contain/check property frauds in the late 1980s.
  - The Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP) was launched by the government of India in 2008 to computerise all land records.

**Land reforms: Impact on agricultural efficiency and social equity:**

1. **Agricultural Efficiency:**
  - Abolition of zamindari led to land being with the tiller who with better realisation of land, inputs and focus increased agricultural productivity.
  - Land consolidation stopped fragmentation, gave the marginal farmers access to credit resources, mechanisation and led to cooperative farming in many areas.
  - Tenancy reforms gave the security of tenure to the farmers and stopped forceful eviction, tenant had equal rights on the land which led him to plan better for farm seasons and led to better cropping patterns across the country.

- The reforms also coincided with the Green revolution across the country led to manifold increase in productivity.
- Land ceiling acts across states led to redistribution of surplus land due to which many landless got land and were able to involve themselves in sustainable agricultural practices which increased land productivity.
- **Social Equity:**
  - Land Reforms led to redistribution of Land from rich to poor. In an agrarian economy like India with massive inequalities of wealth and income, great scarcity and an unequal distribution of land land reforms has led to social equity.
  - It led to remove rural poverty by removing intermediaries and tyrants devolving land to farmers.
  - Tenancy reforms and abolition of zamindari system ended social oppression of the depressed classes and led to increase in stature of the erstwhile tenants leading to a more egalitarian society.

The purpose of land reform is to help weaker section of society and do justice in land distribution. Government land policies are implemented to make more rational use of the scarce land resources by affecting conditions of holdings, imposing ceilings and grounds on holdings so that cultivation can be done in the most economical manner.

Q.17) "India being the country the most vulnerable to climate change, must prioritise Disaster management plans.". Comment.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Vulnerability of India to climate change.What should be done?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India is one of the most vulnerable country to climate change. Scientific studies have shown that human health, ecosystems, hydrology and water resources, food production, coastal human settlements and other socio-economic sectors are vulnerable to changes in climate. It is one of the most vulnerable countries owing to its geography and high economic dependence on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and even electricity generation.

**Vulnerability of India to climate change:**

1. 58% Indians rely on agriculture. Hence, any change in rain or temperature affects not only the country's food security and but also its economy.
2. The long coastline of over 7,500 kilometres makes it highly susceptible to risks emanating from sea level rise and oceans turning more acidic.
3. The 10 states over which the Himalayas are spread, comprising 16% of the country's geographical area, frequently face floods, landslides and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods.
4. India's sustainable development will be challenged as climate change compounds the pressures that rapid urbanization, industrialisation, and economic development have placed on natural resources.
5. In the last three years itself, India confronted enormous devastation caused by the Uttarakhand floods, Cyclone Phailin, Kashmir floods and an unprecedented heat wave this year.

**What should be done to tackle climate change disasters?**

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation. Disaster Risk Reduction should be the basis of adaptation efforts by enhancing capacity of the local communities, particularly women, who are at the frontline of the climate impacts.
2. Identification, assessment and monitoring of disaster risks and enhance early warning is needed.
3. It is vital that adaptation INDC (Intended nationally determined contributions) integrates and harmonises with the programmes undertaken by different ministries and sectors, and global processes such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the newly agreed Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) targets.
4. All the existing programmes and campaigns- Make in India, More crop per drop, Soil Health Card, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Programme, National Rural Health Mission, Right to Education, need to incorporate features to reduce future disaster risk.
5. Risk management measures have to be holistic and must provide social protection for all citizens, especially the poor and vulnerable, to address climate change-induced loss and damage, including several irreversible impacts.
6. The mechanisms such as setting up joint commissions or task forces for vulnerability assessment, planning and monitoring is needed for harmonising existing efforts on income generation, agriculture, water management and so on.
7. The tradition of indigenous knowledge and the local improvisation of appropriate technology, will need to be recognised and coupled with modern sciences.
8. Investing in proven integrated farming systems practiced by small farmers, will promote food security as well as help absorb climate shocks and seasonal stresses.

Reducing vulnerability to climatic hazards must be cornerstone of our efforts to build resilience for the future. Disaster management should be made a formal part of development processes and budgets and programmed into relevant sector projects, for example in the design of settlements, infrastructure, coastal zone development, forest use, etc., in order to achieve sustainable land management, avoid hazardous areas, and to ensure the security of critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and communications facilities.

Q.18) Discuss India's three-stage nuclear power programme. What are various challenges in 3 stage nuclear power program?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Three stage nuclear power program. Challenges in 3 stage program. **Conclusion.** Way forward.

India's three-stage nuclear power programme was formulated by Homi Bhabha in the 1950s to secure the country's long term energy independence, through the use of uranium and thorium reserves found in the monazite sands of coastal regions of South India. The ultimate focus of the programme is on enabling the thorium reserves of India to be utilised in meeting the country's energy requirements.

### Three stage nuclear power program:

1. **Stage 1- Pressurised heavy water reactor (PHWR):** The first stage involved using natural uranium to fuel PHWR to produce electricity and Plutonium-239 as a byproduct. PHWRs were chosen for the first stage because:
  - In 1960s, India had the efficient reactor design in terms of uranium utilisation.
  - Using Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors over Light Water Reactors was a correct and wise decision. While Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors used unenriched uranium, Light Water Reactors required enriched uranium.
  - Further, India could domestically produce the components of PHWR, as opposed to LWRs. Also the byproduct plutonium-239 would be used in the second stage.
2. **Stage 2- Fast breeder reactor (FBR):** The second stage involves using plutonium-239 to produce fuel, which would be used in Fast Breeder Reactors. Plutonium 239 undergoes fission to produce energy. Once a sufficient amount of plutonium-239 is built up, thorium will be used in the reactor, to produce Uranium-233. This uranium is crucial for the third stage.
3. **Stage 3- Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR):** The main purpose of stage-3 is to achieve a sustainable nuclear fuel cycle.
  - The advanced nuclear system would be used a combination of Uranium-233 and Thorium.
  - India has vast thorium which would be exploited, using a thermal breeder reactor.
  - Thorium use was reserved for the last stage as despite of having significant availability, use of Thorium in production of energy has been full of certain challenges. It cannot be used directly.
  - Thorium absorbs the neutrons, which can more efficiently produce more Plutonium in Fast Breeder Reactor for a faster growth.
  - Thus, the ultimate objective of the above programme is to create capacity to use Thorium for sustainable production of nuclear energy and make India energy independent.

### Challenges in 3 stage program:

1. Foremost challenge of Nuclear technology is safety and waste management. Incidents like Chernobyl, Fukushima are serious cause of concern. If nuclear energy is generated adhering to the highest standards of safety, there is less possibility of catastrophic accidents.
2. Availability of fissile material is also a cause of concern. Nuclear fuel is not available easily and need diplomatic efforts.
3. Land acquisition and selection of location for Nuclear Power Plant (NPP) is also major problem in the country. NPP's like Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu have met with several delays due to the land acquisition related challenges.
4. As India is not a signatory of NPT and NSG, nuclear supply is severely contained by sanctioned against India. This situation has changed after 2009 waiver and bilateral civil nuclear energy agreements with many countries.
5. Reprocessing and enrichment capacity also required boost in India. For this India needs advanced technology to fully utilise the spent fuel and for enhancing its enrichment capacity.

To ensure the safety and security of using nuclear power there is need to ensure maintenance of the skills base, continued effective safety regulation. Fostering progress on

facilities for waste disposal and management must be given serious consideration. It is also important to maintain and reinforce international non-proliferation arrangements.

Q.19) "In the time of consumerism and changing social ethos policy focus on education need new approach." Examine.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Impact of rising consumerism and changing ethos on education. Why should education policy need to focus?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Modern consumerism is altogether a different thing. The consumerist of today is forever dissatisfied with the given. Today consumer abandons as quickly as he acquires. He is caught in the unending cycle of longing, acquiring and getting disillusioned. Further changing social ethos with rise of social media, fake news has led to intolerance and lack of patience. Educationists need to understand this reality and should Approach a new approach.

**Impact of rising consumerism and changing ethos especially on education:**

1. The modern individual has become a hedonist, one who craves to experience in reality the pleasures he dreams of in his imagination. He prefers to live insulated from the harsh realities of the world.
2. The individual has become impatient and intolerant of almost everything. They are not disciplined, obliged and are ethically confused.
3. The teacher-student relationship has suffered a blow. The teachers indulge the students with unmerited favours to purchase popularity as a substitute for reverence.
4. The learning environment is vitiated. The rebelliousness and indifference of students progressively activate indifference in teachers, who come to see teaching only as a livelihood.
5. Students become the raw materials in the education industry. They cease to have any intrinsic value. They are endured and forgotten.
6. All cherished ideals and goals become redundant. Nation-building, social transformation, character-building, or building a better society, or engaging in the goal of perfecting human nature, all of these sound unreal.

**Education policy need to focus on:**

1. Enabling students acquire positive attitudes and desirable habits for keeping themselves fit and healthy. Cleanliness, Healthy eating, fitness, relaxation, avoiding indulgence etc. should be taught.
2. Education should empower students with necessary attitudes qualities and skills for their personal/psychological development. Basic manners like courtesy, respect, humility, politeness, self confidence, honesty, sincerity and integrity should be taught.
3. It is important enable students assume responsibility for their work and duty in the day-to-day learning and work situations and develop positive attitude and skills to work productively and efficiently.
4. Teacher should help students to learn how to appreciate, demonstrate sensitivity and skills in fulfilling their responsibility as citizens towards shaping of a better society.

5. Awareness and respect for one's own and others rights and responsibilities in the context of Constitutional values – justice, freedom, equality, secularism, multiculturalism, sustainable development is important and should be inculcated in students.
6. Ability to work with others in a cooperative way, sensitivity towards women, ethnic minorities, appreciation and respect for cultural diversity and unity in the midst of diversity is need to be focus of education policy.
7. It is important that education should inculcate the values of love, empathy, caring, sharing and compassion for harmonious and humane relationships in students. Trust, gratitude, forgiveness, non-violent ways of conflict resolution, joy of giving, altruism are important values.
8. It is important to enable students develop critical and creative thinking in solving life and societal problems.

What we are not realising in the process, is that, when educational institutions become malls, everyone ends up a loser, most of all the student. The market has, ironically, made our native vision of education urgently relevant. We need education policy to focus on qualitative education inculcating satisfaction and mental peace in students.

Q.20) "The correlation between size and efficiency can not be fully established." In light of this critically analyse the outcome of Merger of banks.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Positive and negative impact of bank mergers.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

It is said that efficiency of an institution depends upon its size, but it's not always true. A lot of factors determine efficiency of an institution. Same is applicable to banks. In India Public Sector Banks (PSBs) are fragmented and are under the immense pressure of Non Performing Assets (NPAs). Constant failure of banks to provide credit to both emerging and existing industries has resulted in stagnation. Recently government has merged major banks to transform the, into banks of global scale to reap the benefits of economy of scale. Although there are some positives but there are many intrinsic risk involved with merger of banks which need to be considered.

**Positive outcome of bank mergers:**

1. The merger helps in financial inclusion and broadening the geographical reach of the banking operation. Thus will ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.
2. With number of PSBs coming down after merger, capital allocation, performance milestones, and monitoring would become easier for the government.
3. Large banks through consolidation of PSBs will have large balance sheets which can meet credit needs of growing Indian economy.
4. It will also build capacity in PSBs to raise resources without depending on the state exchequer.
5. Merger leads to availability of a bigger scale of expertise and that helps in minimising the scope of inefficiency which is more in small banks. This will help in reducing NPA issues and would help in better credit services.
6. Synergy of operations and scale of economy in the new entity will result in savings and higher profits.

7. The disparity in wages for bank staff members will get reduced. Service conditions get uniform. Thus it will allow bankers to be motivated to work more efficiently providing banking services at faster and efficient pace.
8. Merger sees a bigger capital base and higher liquidity and that reduces the government's burden of recapitalising the public sector banks time and again. Thus government can use this public fund for other developmental activities.
9. Redundant posts and designations can be abolished which will lead to financial savings allowing fiscal savings.
10. The size of each business entity after merger is expected to add strength to the Indian Banking System in general and Public Sector Banks in particular.
11. In the global market, the Indian banks will gain greater recognition and higher rating. This will attract foreign investment.

#### **Negative fallout of bank merger:**

1. Many banks have a regional audience to cater to and merger destroys the idea of decentralisation. This would hamper credit service in rural areas and may add to NPAs due to inability to manage from centre.
2. Larger banks might be more vulnerable to global economic crises while the smaller ones can survive. A failure of bank would have bigger and larger impact.
3. Merger would burden stronger banks to cover up the the weakness of inefficient banks. This may lead to inefficiencies and delays.
4. Merger could only give a temporary relief but not real remedies to problems like bad loans and bad governance in public sector banks.
5. The weaknesses of the small banks may get transferred to the bigger bank also. This was seen during previous amalgamations.
6. Mergers may result in clash of different organisational cultures. Conflicts will arise in the area of systems and processes too.

Bigger banks offer more resilience to the banking sector but overlooking bigger red flags like strong credit appraisal and risk control system would do little help in creating robust banks. Governance of public banks needs to be improved before making any significant change in any emerging architecture. Therefore due focus on ensuring strong foundation of PSBs is important.

Q.21) Discuss the need and Impact of banning single-use plastic in India. What are various government initiatives against menace of plastic in India?

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** What is single use plastic?

**Body.** Why we need to ban single-use plastic? It's impact and Government's Initiatives against plastic menace.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Single-use plastic is a form of plastic that is disposable, which is only used once and then has to be thrown away or recycled. The single-use plastic items include plastic bags, water bottles, soda bottles, straws, plastic plates, cups, most food packaging and coffee stirrers.

#### **Why we need to ban single-use plastic?**

1. **Pollution:** One of the biggest threats about plastic bags is that they threaten the environment. Plastic bags pollute the land and water, since they are lightweight, plastic materials can travel long distances by wind and water.
2. **Non-renewable:** Only 1-13% of the plastic items are recyclable, the rest ends up either buried in the land or water bodies, eventually reaching the oceans, leading to

polluting of water bodies and killing of marine life. With climate and environment becoming a rising global concern, plastic pollution and plastic waste management have become the point of worry.

3. **Energy intensive:** Production of plastic material are very energy intensive. They require a lot of water for their production. Thus using plastic bags is not advisable.
4. **Threat to aquatic life:** Being non-recyclable, plastic bags end up in the oceans. While they reach, they break up into tiny little pieces and are consumed by wildlife. Thereby leading to health issues or even death. Many animals also get entangled or trapped in plastic bags.
5. **Harmful to human health:** Toxic chemicals from plastic bags can damage the blood and tissues. Frequent exposures can lead to cancers, birth defects, impaired immunity, hormone changes, endocrine disruption and other serious ailments.

#### Negative Impact of plastic ban:

1. The Plastic industry in the country employs about 40 lakh people. A ban on the plastics will affect industry, leading to job loss and economic slowdown.
2. A piece of plastic bag cost no more than 10-15 paise which is much cheaper than a paper bag costing 20-25 paise per piece. Plastic ban would Impact cost of the products and would lead to inflation.

#### Positive Impact of plastic ban:

1. It will help in tackling air pollution and water pollution.
2. It will save Many marine lives.
3. It will reduce health issues in humans due to pollution.
4. It will spread nation-wide awareness about harmful effects of single-use plastic.
5. Plastic ban forces the customer to buy the recyclable plastic bags and reuse of disposable bags. This can also encourage reuse of the bags.

#### Government's Initiatives against plastic menace:

1. **Reusables in government offices:** Many government offices in various states like Kerala made the switch to ink pens and steel cutlery to ensure articles like plastic water bottles, disposable teacups and plastic carry bags are no longer used across the office premises.
2. **Fishing for plastic waste from water bodies:** Kerala's Suchitwa Mission have been engaged in not just finding fish but also take care of plastic that either gets stuck in the fishing nets or floats in the sea. They have managed to recover 25 tonnes of plastic waste.
3. **Crackdown on plastic usage:** Many states like Maharashtra, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and Punjab have imposed some form of a ban on plastic.
4. **Utilising plastic for road surfacing:** Governments are using plastics for road surfacing and many states are considering to implement this pioneering tactic to manage their plastic waste. Kerala, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are a few states that have already begun work on these lines.
5. **Up-cycling plastic for better purposes:** From construction materials to threads and fabrics for the textile industry, many organisations across India have been up-cycling plastic for more significant purposes. Even the government's recent proposal to introduce plastic currency notes is a great step in up-cycling plastic waste.
6. **Plastic Waste Management Rules:** The Government has notified the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 which:

7. Increased minimum thickness of plastic carry bags from 40 to 50 microns and stipulate minimum thickness of 50 micron for plastic sheets also to facilitate collection and recycle of plastic waste.
8. Expand the jurisdiction of applicability from the municipal area to rural areas, because plastic has reached rural areas also.
9. Bring in the responsibilities of producers and generators, both in plastic waste management system and to introduce collect back system of plastic waste by the producers/brand owners, as per extended producers responsibility.
10. Promote use of plastic waste for road construction as per Indian Road Congress guidelines or energy recovery, or waste to oil etc. for gainful utilisation of waste and also address the waste disposal issue.

Though recycling is the best option for plastic, methodology and systemisation for recycling is slow. While the production model of plastic is very huge and uncontrollable, the numbers of recycling plants are very less. Thus a ban on single-use plastic would help. Government should educate the public and trade bodies to achieve the benefits of the ban. Since long term benefits of plastic bag ban use will benefit the economy and also save taxpayer money can lead to plastic bag cleanup.

Q.22) "India's next stage of growth requires a second growth engine of exports to Asian markets." In the light of this critically examine whether India should join RCEP or not?

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** What is RCEP?

**Body.** Why and why not India should join RCEP? What should be done?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is gigantic in size and scope. It aims to create a free trade zone of 10 Asean nations and Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. This means a zero-customs duty zone in a geography that contributes 34% of global gross domestic product (GDP) and 40% of world trade. The region is also home to almost half of the world's population and hold a great potential for India's exports.

#### **Why India should join the RCEP?**

1. It will give New Delhi a chance to stall some of its unfair practices such as doling out subsidies unethically and stalling Indian pharmaceutical products, among others, on the pretext of quality control.
2. India can't stand alone in the region. It has to be a part of the group.
3. It will boost Indian exports in the region and will generate employment.
4. This will help in furthering the aims and objectives of India's own Act-East Policy.
5. RCEP will give Indian exporters a window to be a part of global value chains.
6. Indian industry has no option but to rise to the competition.
7. After RCEP, the nature of Indian businesses will change from family run ones to more of joint ventures.
8. India's entry into such a giant club of economies will strengthen its strategic muscle.
9. This is a chance to bring in historic trade reforms, which in itself will cement India's position as a major global economy.

#### **Why India should not join RCEP?**

1. RCEP will, remove customs duty on about 80-85% of items. The result will be that Chinese goods will flood the Indian market even more. Once the pact is enforced,

India will give more market access to China and our trade deficit will increase further.

2. Assuming that India and China agree to eliminate customs duties on 85% of bilateral trade, Chinese goods imports worth \$62.3 billion (85% of \$73.3 billion) will become duty free. This will lead to an estimated loss of \$6.2 billion to the exchequer, going by the fact that India's average customs duty is 10%, assuming that the concessions are given at one go.
3. RCEP would favour ASEAN and Chinese interests more than Indian interest as these countries are already taking over as major exports centre in the new global order.
4. While trade deficit with ASEAN has grown four-fold during the implementation of ASEAN-India FTA, deficits with Japan and Korea have roughly doubled after the two CEPAs were implemented. Thus RCEP would further increase this deficit.

#### What should be done?

1. India should make multi-sectoral reforms in order to make its exports more competitive than other countries especially China.
2. India should try to ease and remove customs from Many products so as to make market more open for efficient and good products.
3. Instead of RCEP it's better to go for better bilateral trade agreements with ASEAN countries in favour of India.
4. India should enhance its manufacturing and exports infrastructure and capabilities to make exports cheaper.

RCEP although is an ambitious trade project Amy jeopardise India's interests and freedom in formulating trade policies on its favour. Overall impact of RCEP can be negative and may not be favourable for India.

Q.23) What do you understand by the term 'Agroecology'. How Agroecology is a better alternative to other climate smart agriculture models?

#### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** What is Agroecology?

**Body.** Advantages of Agroecology as a practice. Why Agroecology is better alternative to climate smart Agriculture?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Agroecology is an integrated approach that simultaneously applies ecological and social concepts and principles to the design and management of food and agricultural systems. It seeks to optimise the interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment while taking into consideration the social aspects that need to be addressed for a sustainable and fair food system.

#### Advantages of Agroecology as a practice:

1. Agroecology is fundamentally different from other approaches to sustainable development. It is based on bottom-up and territorial processes, helping to deliver contextualised solutions to local problems.
2. Agroecological innovations are based on the co-creation of knowledge, combining science with the traditional, practical and local knowledge of producers.
3. By enhancing autonomy and adaptive capacity, agroecology empowers producers and communities as key agents of change.
4. Rather than tweaking the practices of unsustainable agricultural systems, agroecology seeks to transform food and agricultural systems, addressing the root

causes of problems in an integrated way and providing holistic and long-term solutions. This includes an explicit focus on social and economic dimensions of food systems.

5. Agroecology places a strong focus on the rights of women, youth and indigenous peoples.

### **Why Agroecology is better alternative to Climate-Smart agriculture?**

1. Agroecology and CSA are fundamentally different in important regards. For example, CSA does not exclude practices and technologies that can undermine, or are incompatible with, agroecological approaches.
2. Agroecology in the context of food sovereignty goes much further than Climate-smart Agriculture's focus on agricultural production alone.
3. CSA represents a continuation of business-as-usual and industrial agriculture in which farmers are increasingly dependent on agrochemical corporations for external inputs and global commodity markets for the sale of their farm produce.
4. CSA's practices are not at all compatible with the more transformative visions of agroecology.
5. By promoting the rights of people to access natural resources, agroecology supports them to produce their own food and make decisions about the food they want to eat.
6. Agroecology is better than Climate Smart Agriculture because it builds on the knowledge and experience of local farmers to keep the soil fertile and to adapt to climate change.
7. Agroecology reduces our dependence on fossil fuels preserves women's knowledge on traditional seeds, and gives them more control over their own income and resources.
8. It also promotes social values such as community solidarity, environmental preservation, and the cultural dimensions of food, which all contribute to building stable and healthy societies.
9. The house of agroecology is therefore not a laboratory. It is the hands of the millions of local farmers, women and men, who for centuries have saved their seeds, managed their soils and adapted to changing environments.

Agroecology is the most viable solution for building farmers' food security and their resilience to climate change. Countries must train millions of farmers in developing countries to support their transition from conventional agriculture to agroecology. Also support for organisations to influence national and global public policies to support agroecology is important.

Q.24) What are main principles of Environment Impact Assessment? Discuss the significance of Environment Impact assessment in various development projects.

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Main principles of EIA. Significance of EIA in various development projects.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is one of the tools available with the planners to achieve the goal of harmonising development activities with the environmental concerns. EIA in India is statutorily backed by the Environment Protection Act 1986, which contains the provisions on EIA procedures.

### **Main Principles of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA):**

There are eight guiding principles that govern the entire EIA process: The principles of EIA:

1. **Participation:** The process should provide appropriate opportunities to inform and involve the interested and affected publics, and their inputs and concerns should be addressed explicitly in the documentation and decision making. Appropriate/timely access for interested parties is important.
2. **Transparency:** The process should have clear, easily understood requirements for EIA content, ensure public access to the information, identify the factors that are taken into account in decision making and acknowledge limitations and difficulties. Open and accessible assessment decisions are important in EIA.
3. **Efficient:** The Process should impose the minimum cost burdens in terms of time and finance on proponents and participants consistent with meeting accepted requirements and objectives of EIA.
4. **Accountability:** The decision maker should inform decision making and result in appropriate levels of environmental protection and community well-being. Decision makers should be responsible for their actions and decisions.
5. **Credibility:** The process should be carried out with professionalism, rigour, fairness, objectivity, impartiality and balance and be subject to independent checks and verification.
6. **Cost-effective:** The process should achieve the objectives of EIA within the limits of available information, time, resources and methodology.
7. **Integrated:** The process should address the interrelationships of social, economic and biophysical aspects.
8. **Practicality:** The process should result in information and outputs which assist with problem solving and are acceptable to and able to be implemented by proponents. Information/outputs readily usable in decision making and planning is important.

#### Significance of EIA in various projects:

1. EIA is Important to ensure peaceful operations and conflict management in many projects.
2. Environmental impact assessment is not a procedure for preventing actions with significant environmental impacts from being implemented. Rather the intention is that project actions are authorised in the full knowledge of their environmental impacts.
3. EIA is more than technical reports, it is a means to a larger intention, the protection and improvement of the environmental quality of life.
4. EIA is a procedure to identify and evaluate the effects of activities (mainly human) on the environment- natural and social. It is not a single specific analytical method or technique, but uses many approaches as appropriate to the problem.
5. EIA is not a science but uses many sciences in an integrated inter-disciplinary manner, evaluating phenomenon and relationships as they occur in the real world.
6. EIA should not be treated as an appendage, or add-on, to a project, but be regarded as an integral part of project planning. Its costs should be calculated as an adequate part of planning and not regarded as something extra.
7. EIA does not give decisions but its findings should be considered in policy- and decision-making and should be reflected in final choices. Thus it should be part of the decision-making process.
8. The findings of EIA should be focused on the significant and essential issues. It is also required to provide a sufficient explanation on why they are important, and study its validity in order to facilitate a basis for policy decisions.

9. Government has time and again appointed committees to look into environmental protection. Example- Gadgil and Kasturirangan Committees on Western Ghats ecology.

There is a need to strengthen the implementation of EIA, Independent EIA Authority is required for fair and objective decisions. There is also a need for centralised data bank for storing information and the transparency must be maintained in dissemination of all information related to projects from notification to clearance to local communities and general public.

Q.25) Discuss how China-USA trade rivalry is not good for global economic growth especially India's growth?

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How US-China rivalry not good for economic growth of world and India? How should India balance?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The rivalry between the world's principal global power, the United States, and its rising challenger, China, is now out in the open and is likely to deepen. Strategic competition has intensified in the past two years to cover trade, technology, naval activities in the South China Sea, and diplomacy. Domestic opinion in both countries have hardened, and there is little sign that differences would be mitigated soon. This has enormous strategic implications for all, including India.

### **How US-China rivalry not good for economic growth of world and India?**

1. **Relocation of Companies:** US tariffs are likely to induce foreign-invested companies to relocate from China. Vast majority of China's exports are still accounted for by foreign-invested companies. This would hurt manufacturing and would hurt economic growth.
2. **Reduced Capital flows:** Due to China US rivalry, economies will go for Protectionist measures that will impact overall capital flows.
3. **Weakening of rupee:** The rupee will be weakened more due to decreased capital flows. This will make imports costly and will put strain on Indian purse.
4. **Economic growth:** Current global economic order will be dismantled. Thus could impact India's exports and imports impacting its economic growth.
5. **Inflation:** This would reduce supply of finished goods and raw material which will increase the general price for the consumer. This would lead to inflation. Moreover, the burden of increased tax from the duties will also be borne by the final user.
6. **Stock markets:** Share market will go down as seen recently through drop in stock markets, due to the cautious approach of the investors. Also flow of foreign investment may be reduced.

### **How India should approach US and China?**

1. India should develop a balanced foreign policy outlook for both the nations focussing on its economic growth and development.
2. India should push US on visa reforms and on increasing foreign investment in India.
3. Strategic defence deals at lower price should be pushed using India's increased strategic significance in the region.

4. India should exploit this opportunity to emerge as new manufacturing hub by pushing US companies through better and easy regulations supported by labour reforms.
5. India should focus on the US market for items in the categories of machinery, electrical equipment, vehicles and transport parts, chemicals, plastics and rubber products. The supply chains in China for all these products are likely to shift to other economies.
6. India should correct its negative balance of trade with China through increased exports of pharmaceuticals and agricultural products to China, as the situation presents right time for India to further its cause.
7. India can focus on numerous goods for expanding its exports to the US and China markets following the hike in duties by both countries on imports from each other.
8. Foreign direct investments from the US and China should be encouraged by boosting confidence of firms in India's business climate. In the domestic industry, it is important for India to enhance productivity while adding technology to its domestic production in the identified products.

India is a major emerging power in the world. With present US-China rivalry it should not miss an opportunity to further its Make in India initiative and emerge as an export hub. What is needed is proper policy push and reforms in Indian market.

Q.26) Discuss the problem of cross border drug business in India? How it is threat to Indian security?

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Menace of drug business in India. How it is a threat to Indian security?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India is one of the major hubs for illicit drug trade. Opiates, cannabis and amphetamine-type stimulants remain the main substances of concern in the region, with record levels of cannabis herb seized in India in 2018. Non-medical use of pharmaceutical drugs, containing controlled substances, continues to be prevalent. Global trend of purchasing drugs over the Internet, particularly on 'dark net' trading platforms using crypto currencies has already spread across South Asia, including India.

#### **Menace of drug business in India:**

1. India has become a trafficking center for other countries. The cocaine supplied here is not only meant for India; traffickers exploit this route to enter other countries.
2. India would not be used as a supply route if there wasn't already a high level of interest in the drug within the country.
3. Golden Triangle is the area where the borders of Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar meet at the confluence of the Ruak and Mekong Rivers. According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), opium production has gone up in the Golden Triangle by 22%.
4. Golden Crescent is the name given to one of Asia's two principal areas of illicit opium production (with the other being the Golden Triangle), located at the crossroads of Central, South, and Western Asia. This space overlaps three nations, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, whose mountainous peripheries define the crescent.

5. Being closer to the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle, India has been vulnerable to the trafficking of narcotics and drugs such as heroin, hashish, and synthetic drugs produced in these areas.
6. The Golden Crescent, has remained the primary source of trafficked heroin in the country since the early eighties when traffickers started rerouting heroin from this region through India following the Iran-Iraq war.
7. Increased production of opium in Afghanistan, greater domestic demand in India, and connivance of state government officials and border guarding forces together contributed towards this increase in heroin trafficking, especially in the Punjab sector.
8. Apart from narcotics, India has been experiencing a significant rise in the use of psychotropic substances and medicinal preparations among addicts since late 1990.
9. Stringent narcotics and drugs laws, rising price of heroin and easy availability of synthetic drugs have propelled this shift.
10. India also manufactures a lot of synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals which are smuggled out of the country:

#### **How it is a threat to national security?**

1. This two-way illegal movement of narcotics and drugs pose a significant threat to the national security. The breach of the international borders of the country by drug traffickers implies that the same routes could be used for smuggling in weapons as well as terrorists into the country.
2. The nexus between drug traffickers, criminal networks and terrorists are another potent threat. Composite seizures of drugs and arms by security forces at the borders points to a close nexus between drug traffickers and anti-national elements.
3. The money generated by the illegal sale of narcotics and drugs is used for financing terrorist activities. The Kashmiri, Sikh and Northeast militants have used drug money to finance their 'struggle' against the Indian state.
4. Large-scale availability of narcotics and drugs encourages demand for narcotics and drugs by domestic population. Consumption of which produces dysfunctional behaviour thereby creating law and order problem in the society.
5. This causes a huge economic drain on the country through loss of production and diversion of resources for caring and rehabilitation of the drug addicts (Demographic dividend turning into burden).

Given these challenges, India should adopt a comprehensive approach to reduce supply as well as demand for narcotics and drugs. Enacting legislation and ensuring physical security of the borders and coasts by strengthening patrolling and surveillance is important. Eliciting cooperation from neighbours by entering into several bilateral and multilateral agreements on prevention of illicit traffic of drugs and chemicals is must to stop drug syndicates across the border.

Q.27) Discuss the challenges faced by India to evolve as global manufacturing hub like China. Suggest some measures.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Challenges to emerge as a manufacturing hub. Measures to overcome the challenges.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

China produces almost half of the world's goods. The low cost of manufacturing in China played a huge role in making it the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest economy. India can become the next global manufacturing hub. Favourable demographic dividend over next 2-3 decades, availability of low cost labour and strong domestic market provides an opportunity for India to turn as a global manufacturing hub.

#### Challenges to emerge as a manufacturing hub:

1. **Complex labour laws:** The biggest hindrance is the labour laws and reforms in the country. The Global Rights Index (2016), published annually by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), ranked India as one of the 10 worst countries for working people. Large-scale exclusions of workers from labour law, violence and arrests are the reasons for India's poor performance.
2. **Complex taxation system:** The complex taxation system, a huge amount of paperwork and corruption may be the main cause of worries among the investors. India started out with an overly complex GST, which has dampened investor sentiment and created tremendous compliance burdens on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).
3. **Land acquisition difficulty:** Stringent land acquisition laws and inflexible labour regulations make it difficult for India to attract investors in the manufacturing sector. India's benchmark land acquisition law must be amended to make it easier to buy land for defence and development projects in the fast-growing economy, while also ensuring the rights of farmers.
4. **Political delays:** The biggest concern of policy makers, analysts, and investors related to manufacturing is around political hold-ups. In every session, the working of Parliament is interrupted which delays the approval of important bills.
5. **Power deficit:** Greater availability of power is needed to realise the dream of becoming a manufacturing hub. India is running short of power with a deficit of 5.1%. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has also recently claimed a loss of \$37 billion due to lack of transparency in the allocation of the coal blocks.
6. **Un-skilled human capital:** India lags far behind other nations in imparting skill training. Not too much has changed since then.

#### Measures to overcome the challenges:

1. Government should push further land reforms making it easier and affordable to acquire land.
2. Moving from over-protective to Flexible labour laws would help in reducing labour issues.
3. Predictable tax regime would allow better pricing and less input cost.
4. Investment in infrastructure is must to evolve India into a manufacturing hub.
5. Well connected means of transport (road, rail, inland-waterway) to keep transportation cost minimum.
6. Development of industrial corridors would attract setting up new industries.
7. Innovation is necessary to come up with new technology, new products and new brands.
8. Research and development needs to be given focus.
9. Harnessing new technologies like Artificial intelligence and making country part industrial revolution 4.0 is important.

Given the potential of manufacturing sector and the need to shift workforce from primary sector, Government of India has come out with 'Make in India' initiative to make India global hub of manufacturing, research and innovation. This initiative is undoubtedly an

inspiring initiative, which has reduced the risk factors of investing in India for many foreign companies. The availability of skilled labour, a business friendly environment, good infrastructure and low manufacturing cost are some conditions required for the success of the Make in India campaign.

Q.28) Discuss the need and effectiveness of a carbon tax in tackling global warming. Do you think measures like carbon tax are regressive in nature?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Need and effect of carbon tax. Is it regressive?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

A carbon tax is a tax levied on the carbon content of fuels (transport & energy sector) and, like carbon emissions trading, is a form of carbon pricing. Research shows that carbon taxes effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Economists generally argue that carbon taxes are the most efficient and effective way to curb climate change, with the least adverse effects on the economy.

**Need of carbon tax:**

1. CO<sub>2</sub> is a heat-trapping greenhouse gas which causes global warming, which damages the environment and human health. Since greenhouse gas emissions from the combustion of fossil fuels are closely related to the carbon content of the respective fuels, this negative externality can be compensated for by taxing the carbon content of fossil fuels at any point in the product cycle of the fuel.
2. Carbon taxes offer a potentially cost-effective means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Air pollution is one of the biggest public concerns in world and India today.
4. After economic reforms and carbon emissions have increased because of high growth in the Indian economy.
5. The aim of carbon tax is to set a price on the carbon content of goods & services to discourage their use.
6. Emissions can be curbed only if people move away from polluting fossil fuels and adopt greener forms of energy. To achieve this we need carbon tax.

**Effectiveness of carbon tax:**

1. A part of the carbon revenue thus generated can be used for a systemic overhaul of the energy mix and in promotion of green energy.
2. Energy mix needs to be remodelled through investments in clean renewable energy and low-emissions bioenergy.
3. It raises the level of energy efficiency by investing in building retrofits, grid upgrades, and industrial efficiency using green technology.
4. Energy requires an additional 1.5% of GDP annually over the next two decades. This amount can be obtained by the carbon tax, which will be a revenue-neutral policy with no implications on the fiscal deficit.
5. High price of the materials or energy source according to their carbon content will induce households, including the rich, to shift towards greener alternatives.
6. It will provide more employment since the employment elasticity in greener forms of energy is higher than those in fossil fuel-based energy.
7. A significant part of more than 3% of India's GDP currently spent on pollution-induced diseases will come down.

### Is Carbon tax as regressive?

Carbon tax is inherently regressive as it put burden on the poor. The poor in India contribute the least to climate change face the maximum brunt of carbon tax through rise in prices of various commodities and services e.g. transport. Thus implementation of carbon tax and utilizing the proceeds for pollution control and augmenting health budget is a rational way to help poor. By implementing it in conjunction with broader health and energy policy, it can help in redistribution and helping poor to ward off the negative impact of climate change. The carbon tax can be a Pigovian Tax which balances the marginal social costs such as disease etc. and additional emissions.

Carbon tax will help in achievement of goals under Paris Agreement to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees celsius above pre-industrial levels. It is a way forward for sustainable greener and better future.

Q.29) What is social impact assessment (SIA)? Discuss its need and significance.

### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** What is social impact assessment?

**Body.** It's need and significance.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Social impact assessment (SIA) is a methodology to review the social effects of infrastructure projects and other development interventions. According to the International Association for Impact Assessment, Social impact assessment includes the processes of analysing, monitoring and managing the intended and unintended social consequences, of planned interventions and any social change processes invoked by those interventions. Its primary purpose is to bring about a more sustainable and equitable biophysical and human environment.



### Need of Social impact assessment:

1. It is important to understand the social impacts of a project are the direct and indirect impacts that affect people and their communities during all stages of the project lifecycle.
2. To achieve extensive understanding of local and regional populations and settings to be affected by the proposed action, program, or policy.
3. To focus on the key elements of the human environment related to the proposed action, program, or policy.
4. It provide quality information for use in decision-making.
5. It ensure that any environmental justice issues are fully described and analysed.

SIA practitioners must identify the disadvantaged, at risk, and minority populations (for instance, by race, national origin, gender, disability, and religion) affected by the

proposed action, program, or policy and incorporate information about these populations into the Social Impact Assessment descriptions and analyses.

6. Use of the research design and databases established for the assessment of impacts should provide the basis for monitoring and evaluating the actual impacts of the chosen alternative (project).

#### **Significance of SIA:**

1. The core focus of an SIA is on the important impacts of projects and developments beyond the impacts on natural resources.
2. It ensure minimal impact on people's ways of life due to any project or policy.
3. The Social Impact Assessment is based upon sound and replicable scientific research concepts and methods. The SIA process subscribes to the ethic that good science (scholarship) will lead to informed and better decisions.
4. SIA must look not only at social issues but also at the environmental impacts and their interactions.
5. By mandating SIA government aims to decrease social unrest and ensure compensation to affected communities.
6. It help in resolving issues like land acquisition and speed up the execution of development projects.
7. It ensure that locals receive proper resettlement packages and those developers constructively engage with local communities.
8. It help in development of the country and lead to sustainable growth and employment in the region through speedy completion of projects.
9. It help government and judiciary to save resources and time by avoiding unnecessary litigations as assessment and compensation for any project is done beforehand.

SIAs can be resource and time-intensive, which leads some business owners to view them as bureaucratic red tape. However, considering the ethnic diversity and Agriculture as dominant occupation, SIAs remain an important part of the investment process in India that cannot be overlooked.

Q.30) Do you think the recent merger of banks in india is good for all the stakeholders? Substantiate.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Various stakeholders and impact on them due to bank merger.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

With government announcing the consolidation of 10 public sector banks (PSBs) into 4, India's PSB count has come down from 27 in 2017 to 12. The mergers would help to create stronger institutions thereby leading to efficiencies of scale and stronger balance sheets. It will impact all the stakeholders i.e. customers, banks, employees of the banks and corporate sector and would help to rationalise costs across many areas including branches, people, technology etc. Customers should be able to get better service and better product suite and the best of all the merged entities. The Banking sector as a whole will get strengthened due to obvious efficiencies and will lead to enhanced productivity and better results thereby leading to better lending too.

**Stakeholders and impact on them:**

Various Stakeholders	Impact on Stakeholders
<b>Consumers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better credit services to consumers with easy and quick customer service.</li> <li>• Quick resolution of issues.</li> <li>• Branch network would become larger so access to bank branches would become easier.</li> <li>• But merger may also lead to greater inefficiencies and poor customer service passed on by previous banks. Further merger may lead to:</li> <li>• Loss of local bank branch and branch closing impacting banks services in an area.</li> <li>• Products and services may become costly due to monopolies of banks.</li> </ul>
<b>Employees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The disparity in wages for bank staff members will get reduced. Service conditions get uniform.</li> <li>• It will allow bankers to be motivated to work more efficiently providing banking services at faster and efficient pace.</li> </ul>
<b>Banks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With number of PSBs coming down after merger, capital allocation, performance milestones, and monitoring would become easier for the government.</li> <li>• It will build capacity in PSBs to raise resources without depending on the state exchequer.</li> <li>• This will allow government to divert and focus money on social upliftment policies and schemes for weaker and poor Indian people .</li> <li>• Merger leads to availability of a bigger scale of expertise and that helps in minimising the scope of inefficiency which is more in small banks.</li> <li>• This will help in reducing NPA issues and would help in better credit services.</li> <li>• In the global market, the Indian banks will gain greater recognition and higher rating. This will attract foreign investment.</li> </ul>
<b>Corporate Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would help in better lending and credit to Indian industry.</li> <li>• Provide more capital and credit to small industries and hence better geographic footprint catering many small industries to expand business.</li> <li>• Improved technology to work with through more credit from banks, enhancing efficiency.</li> <li>• But there may be some possible downsides too as mergers of small banks may hurt the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector as the resultant large lenders will be less keen on smaller sized loans.</li> <li>• Given the fact that services of big banks are less personable and associated with higher fee, big banks would be less</li> </ul>

	<p>motivated to lend loans to MSME due to smaller business accounts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Growth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The merger helps in financial inclusion and broadening the geographical reach of the banking operation</li> <li>• It will ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.</li> <li>• Large banks through consolidation of PSBs will have large balance sheet which can meet credit needs of growing Indian Economy.</li> </ul>

While there might be some shifts and changes to contend with in the short term, the mergers are aimed at providing a consolidated and strengthened PSB network in the country. The improved reach and stability this promises to give the merged entities can be beneficial for customers going forward. This would help in country's progress and growth.

Q.31) "A focus on Rural development is must to achieve the \$5 trillion economic target. Discuss.

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Why rural focus is important to achieve \$5 trillion economic target? How to achieve rural development?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Rural agriculture is the main source of livelihood in India. It give livelihood to about 48% people in India contributing only about 17.5% to GDP. Thus it is evident that a focus on rural area and development would not only boost agricultural productivity but would also help in achieving inclusive growth and thus would ensure \$5 trillion goal of Indian economy.

### **Why Rural push is important to achieve \$5 trillion economy mark?**

1. Targeting policy support and investment in rural areas to build vibrant food systems and supporting agro-industries will allow more inclusive economy to thrive towards a \$5 trillion mark.
2. Transformed rural economies will generate much-needed jobs and will contribute to making out-migration to urban areas a more of a choice, rather than a necessity. This would reduce pressure on urban areas and would allow better urban planning and growth.
3. Increase in agricultural production and the rise in the per-capita income of the rural community, together with the industrialisation and urbanisation, would lead to an increased demand in industrial production and thus economic growth.
4. Without reaping demographic dividend locked in rural areas it is not possible to reach \$5 trillion economy mark before 2022.
5. The lessons drawn from the economic history of many advanced countries tell us that agricultural prosperity of rural areas contributed considerably in fostering economic advancement. The leading industrialised countries of today were once predominantly agricultural.
6. Rural population is around 65% of Indian population, therefore there inclusion is must to arrive at a \$5 trillion economy mark.

7. Rural and agricultural advancement is necessary for improving the supply of raw materials for the agro-based industries especially in developing countries.
8. The progress in agricultural sector provides surplus for increasing the exports of agricultural products. An increase in the exports earning is more desirable for economic growth.
9. The development requires roads, market yards, storage, transportation railways, postal services and many others for an infrastructure creating demand for industrial products and the development of commercial sector.

**The ways and means of rural development:**

1. Education of the masses by establishing evening schools for adults.
2. Provisions for cheap medical aid through Ayurveda and Herbals – Naturopathy and Yogic Science should be promoted for affordable and accessible healthcare.
3. Construction of good roads and infrastructure is important to make roadways for economic growth.
4. Establishment and promotion of the Co-operative Credit Societies to promote Self Help Groups of that particular Local area.
5. Co-operative system should be promoted in Agro based Industries and the advantages of the government schemes should reach to the last section of the society.
6. Banks should not ridicule the crop Insurance scheme run by the central government. They should extend their best possible support in every way to our innocent farmers.

From the above it is evident that rural development is a must for the economic development of a country. Agricultural progress is essential to provide food for growing non-agricultural labour force, raw materials for industrial production and saving and tax revenue to support development of the rest of the economy, to earn foreign exchange and to provide a growing market for domestic manufactures. So supportive public policies and investments will be key to harnessing demand as an engine for transformative and equitable growth, and measures designed to ensure market participation by small-scale, family-farmers must be hard-wired into policies.

Q.32) “There has been large-scale encroachment and illegal constructions going on around Coastal Regulatory Zones.” Discuss its consequences and impact.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Consequences and Impact of Illegal encroachment around CRZ.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Illegal constructions and encroachment in the coastal areas has far reaching impacts on the society and it creates many disturbances in the social wellbeing of the people in the area. There has been an indiscriminate violation of Coastal Regulatory Zone (CRZ) rules in recent times. These have unintended consequences on environment and economy around the region. The tremendous population increase puts a heavy burden on the coastal zone requiring careful management.

**Consequences and Impact of large scale encroachment around CRZ:**

1. This would cause Coastal pollution and impact the coastal and estuarine ecosystems.

2. Environmental issues include the enrichment of enclosed waters with organic matter leading to eutrophication and pollution by industrial chemicals and oil.
3. About million people rely on coastal and marine ecosystems, habitats and resources for food, building materials, building sites, and agricultural and recreational areas, encroachment would endanger their livelihoods and sustainability.
4. The encroachment would put pressure on the living and non-living resources of the coastal zone, due to urbanization, industrialisation, and transportation.
5. It further impacts on the marine environment beyond traditional sewage and waste, adding things like increased risk of disasters, excessive noise levels and thermal pollution.
6. Construction engineering activities often cause permanent destruction of habitats or decrease and fragmentation of habitats, due to land claim, coastal protection, extraction of bottom material, dumping and disposal.
7. The main impacts on marine ecosystems are disturbance and removal of benthic organisms, damage to spawning areas for fish, alteration of the seabed, destabilisation of shallow banks and increased erosion.
8. The present study reveals that there has been an increase in the instances of conflicts in the area. Majority of the people who engage in the illegal encroachment are with criminal backgrounds. They force the people in different ways to sell of their lands and those who oppose them are attacked.
9. Severe beach erosion is a problem most common due to encroachment. Changes to the shoreline have been extensive in recent decades and threats from rising sea levels and sinking landmasses have required the development of new coastal management strategies.
10. Flow of fresh water and materials to the coastal zone has been grossly altered by Illegal encroachment. Issue is management of water, as the seasonal pattern of discharge has been greatly modified.
11. The coastlines due to encroachment face high risks of damage from certain types of natural disasters. A major concern is death and property loss by winds and flooding by cyclones.

The consequences of encroachment in coastal ecosystems may have consequences at large level leading to an unbalance in fluxes of energy and minerals at the interface between land and sea. Because coastal systems are alive, they are unable to cope with rapid changes of any sorts. Unless strict action would not be taken, Coastal communities and ecosystem would remain vulnerable to illegal activities.

Q.33) In light of rapid climate change discuss various efforts made by India to prevent climate change.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Major initiatives by India for climate change.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The Climate Change Division of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) looks after the issues related to climate change including the international negotiations and domestic policies and actions. India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol. Several domestic programmes/ schemes have been initiated in the recent years for addressing climate change.

**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 jointly launched by India and France, 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 partial 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). It is India's 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 5 crore BPL 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 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 cities and towns.
8. **Push to renewable energy:** India has emerged as a global leader in renewable energy, with investments in renewable energy topping fossil fuel investments. After adopting its National Electricity Plan (NEP) in 2018, India remains on track to overachieve its "2°C compatible" rated Paris Agreement NDC climate action targets.
9. **Intended nationally determined contribution:** India's INDC goals target to achieve 40% non-fossil-based power capacity by 2030 more than a decade earlier than targeted. Given these positive signals, there is significant potential for the incoming government to increase the ambition of India's NDC to a "1.5°C compatible" rating.
10. **Single-Use Plastic Ban:** 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.

Thus it can be seen that India is pushing hard not only to mitigate climate change but also to stop causes of climate change. Many steps has been taken but there is long way to go. India alone can't be successful in stopping climate change. A coordinated effort all across the globe is needed.

Q.34) "With looming water crisis situation, government need to promote traditional methods of water conservation." Discuss.

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Looming water crisis situation. Why traditional water conservation methods should be focused?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The demand for water in India is steeply increasing. India's population which was 1.3 billion in 2005 is expected to rise to 1.66 billion in 2050. There is also going to be a major impact on development in the form of urbanisation. In 2007, 28.2% of the Indian population was living in urban areas and the urban population is expected to increase to 55.2% by 2050.

**Looming Water crisis situation:**

1. Increased 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. 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. Water scarcity will affect the food production, biodiversity and the environment. Environmental degradation will accelerate global warming, which in turn will accelerate water crisis.
4. 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 for 100 million people.

**Traditional water conservation methods should be focused as it would help in:**

1. **Protection of groundwater and fresh water resources-** Groundwater, that which is stored in rocks beneath the earth's surface, is far more abundant than fresh surface water, less susceptible to contamination and requires less treatment to make it drinkable. Thus, it makes sense to conserve groundwater resources as much as possible.
2. **Augmentation of water resources:** The solution is to tap all the possible water resources and make them available for sustainable use, while improving the water use efficiency. This can be done by addressing various concerns and initiating suitable actions for development of new water resources, augmentation of available resources, prevention of water pollution and improving the efficiency of water use in all the sectors.
3. **Increasing water storage capacity:** Activities such as farm ponds, percolation tanks, water reservoirs and construction of small and medium size dams and rivers can retain more surface water, while increasing the ground water recharge. Series of contour bounds particularly in undulating areas will facilitate percolation of water in the soil and improve the ground water table, while reducing soil erosion. Gully plugging, construction of series of small dams on rivulets will help in storing water in reservoirs.

4. **Judicious use of water for different uses:** Traditional methods promote judicious use of water. It minimise wastage of water. E.g water from house run off is an excellent source of irrigation.
5. **Community involvement:** One-size-fits-all approach does not work in the conservation of water. Traditional methods are more efficient and involves communities in water conservation thereby making water conservation efforts effective.

Some famous traditional methods are- Eri (tank) system of Tamil Nadu, Bamboo Drip Irrigation, Johads, Kunds etc. 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' will focus on five aspects - water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse of water and recharging of structures, watershed development, and intensive afforestation. This is a much needed step and require coordinated efforts.

## General Studies – 4

Q.1) In light of John Austin positive theory of law, discuss how Law in its essential nature differs from moral and religious principles.

### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Austin theory's main features. Similarities and differences in law and moral and religious beliefs.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

John Austin propounded a positive theory of law. Positivism in legal theory means that a law is a legal rule and if passed according to prescribed procedure, law is valid irrespective of its content. In other words, as long as an elected legislature (in modern democracy) debates and passes the law, everyone must follow it. According to him Law differs from moral and religious principles and should be followed once law is enacted.

### **Austin theory main features are:**

1. Law is a command from a sovereign (legislature or king or ruler). The sovereign is the person or body whom others habitually obey, and who does not obey others.
2. The people are in the habit of obeying a ruler.
3. Law is reinforced by sanction or punishment. Put simply, laws are orders backed by threats.
4. A law, therefore, is the expressed wish of the sovereign and can be distinguished from other commands.

The significance of the above theory lies in its exclusion of moral or normative elements from the conception of law. People speak about law as a duty or obligation placed on citizens. But Austin's positive view of law fails to explain some parts of law.

### **How law differs from moral and religious beliefs?**

1. Law is essentially a set of rules and principles created and enforced by the state whereas morals and religion are a set values and principles and behaviour standards which are enforced and created by society.
2. Law regulates and controls the external human conduct. It is not concerned with inner motives.
3. Legal rules are being created by the legislative institution of parliament whereas the moral and religious beliefs evolve with time and through society and are the standards which society in general accepts and promotes.
4. Some laws mirror the majority of society's moral view, for example, dowry is wrong but the triple talaq is seen by some people as morally wrong and society is divided.
5. The existence of unjust laws (such as those enforcing slavery) proves that morality and law are not identical and do not coincide.
6. Laws govern conduct at least partly through fear of punishment. Morality and religious beliefs, when it is internalised governs conduct without compulsion. The virtuous person does the appropriate thing because it is the fine or noble thing to do.

### How moral and religious beliefs influence and are part of laws?

1. Laws, to be effective, must represent the moral ideas of the people. But good laws sometimes serve to rouse the moral conscience of the people and create and maintain such conditions as may encourage the growth of morality.
2. The existence of laws that serve to defend basic values such as laws against murder, rape, fraud, bribery, etc. prove that the law can work together with moral beliefs.
3. Law and morality are intimately related to each other. Laws are generally based on the moral principles of society. Both regulate the conduct of the individual in society.
4. In ancient India, the term Dharma connoted both law and morality. Law, it is pointed out, is not merely the command of the sovereign, it represents the idea of right or wrong based on the prevalent morality of the people.
5. Obedience to law depends upon the active support of the moral sentiments of the people. Laws which are not supported by the moral conscience of the people are liable to become dead letters.

Laws are generally based on the moral principles of a particular society. Both law and morality imply human freedom. Law and Morals act and react upon and mould each other. Both try to achieve public welfare and right conduct.

Q.2) "The major challenge faced by civil servants is to maintain their integrity and efficiency while serving in a system that deals with power play and corruption." Comment.

### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Immense Powers and responsibilities of civil servants. Why integrity is important and a challenge in civil services?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Integrity is often equated with courage. Courage to stay with morals and values when one have immense power in hands and when system can turn into corrupt system. Integrity may also be interpreted as work ethic, to get the right things done for the community.

### Immense Powers and responsibilities of civil servants:

1. In India's democracy, the ultimate responsibility for running the administration rests with the civil servants. They are expected to deal personally with the manifold problems of modern administration.
2. Civil servants are empowered with security of tenure and provided with powers of decision making for community welfare.
3. They have powers to make important appointments and maintain law and order at local level.
4. They have power to implement policies at ground level for welfare of the people.
5. They are provided with powers to monitor financial resources wrt monitoring and implementing policies on the ground.
6. Among the members of the civil services are administrators in the central government and state government, emissaries in the foreign missions/embassies, tax collectors and revenue commissioners etc. with immense powers.
7. Civil servants are the actual makers of Indian law and policy. They work on behalf of the elected government. It is mandatory for them to form certain rules and policies according to the government's views and interests.
8. They cannot be removed by any state or central government, but can only be retired.

### Why integrity is important and a challenge in civil services?

1. Integrity is the fundamental moral concept in civil services. It is an important basis of ethical behaviour and ethical competency.
2. With such immense powers it often leads to conflict of interest between personal gains and benefits.
3. Often with power of financial resources, low integrity lead to corruption.
4. It is associated with the value of being honest and maintain strong moral principles.
5. Integrity includes financial integrity, professional integrity and intellectual integrity.
6. The notion of integrity has to do with perceived steadiness of actions, values, methods, measures, principles, expectations and outcome.
7. They stand up for their best judgement within a community of people trying to discover what in life is worth doing.
8. With reference to accountability, integrity serves as a measure of willingness to adjust value system to maintain or improve its consistency when an expected result appears incongruent with observed outcome.

For an individual, it is professional duty and obligation which determine his professional integrity. This means conducting professional relationship and activities fairly, honestly, legally, and in conformance with the professional code of ethics. Thus integrity is the about fostering the ethical behaviour throughout an institutions through personal example, management practices and ethical training.

Q.3) "Agriculture crisis in India is a result bad policies and lack of market linkages."  
Comment.

### Demand of the question

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Issue of lack of market linkages and bad policies.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The country's food production has increased tremendously from just 51 million tonnes in 1950-51 to about 252 million tonnes in 2014-15. However, farm income did not grow much. This is mainly due to market bottlenecks. Higher output alone can not provide higher income to farmers unless it is well marketed.

### Issue of lack of market linkages and bad policies:

1. **Poor Price determination:** The producer of agricultural goods does not know the price at which his produce would be sold to the ultimate consumer. It is not something decided by the farmer. It is only the intermediaries who determine the final price in marketing agricultural goods.
2. **Lack of sufficient storage:** Agricultural goods are easily perishable. Thus agricultural goods need to be stored in warehouses. The farmers may not have their own storage facilities. Absence of storage forces the farmers to sell their produce at the earliest. Sometimes, they sell at a very low price in the market. Thus, the farmers, as the producers, get a very low or even no profit.
3. **Lack of Transport Facilities:** Most of the villages in India do not have proper roads. The farmers, as a result, have to rely mainly on bullock carts and such other conventional mode to transport their agricultural goods. The bullock carts can take the product only up to a limited area. During lack of transport facilities the farmer is unable to take his produce to the appropriate market and is unable to receive a fair price for his product.
4. **Long chain of middlemen:** Agricultural goods, perhaps, have the longest chain of middlemen. There are a number of intermediaries in the market like the

wholesalers, brokers, commission agents, retailers and so on. As it passes through each individual, the price increases. The high price paid by the consumer does not reach the grower. It is pocketed only by the market intermediaries.

5. **Lack of Market Information:** The poor and illiterate farmers have no access to methods of gathering information about the market for their agricultural goods.
6. **Inelastic demand:** The demand for agricultural goods is not influenced by a fall or rise in their price. Thus, the producer suffer on account of fall in the price during bumper harvest.
7. **Defective Weights and Scales:** One of the biggest defects of agricultural marketing arises due to weights and scales. Usually, in rural areas bricks, etc. are used as weights and in urban markets also defective weights are found. Thus, the grain of the farmer is weighed by a heavier weight for their own gain. Most of the traders keep separate weights for purchase and sale of grain.
8. **Lack of Organised Marketing System:** The agricultural marketing is also very defective in India because of absence of organised marketing. As a result, the farmer remains entangled in exploitation. The farmer sells his product personally to different people. The middle take full advantage of the unorganised farmers.
9. **Corrupt Policies of the 'Mandis':** Middlemen and the traders jointly make the innocent farmers fool. There are corrupt practices in the mandis. The farmers are paid low price, as they lack appropriate knowledge about market prices, their fluctuations, government policies etc. Thus, by keeping the rates secret, the farmers are cheated.

Agricultural marketing plays an important role in stimulating production and consumption and in accelerating the pace of economic development. The agriculture sector needs competitive and well-functioning markets for farmers to sell their produce. Thus marketing reforms are important to increase income to farmers.

Q.4) "There has to be a focus on human capital formation and demographic dividend in order to achieve \$5 trillion economic objective." Discuss.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Importance of human capital quality and demographic dividend. What should be done?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

India has one of the youngest populations in an aging world. Human capital is an important aspect of the demographic dividend while determining the economic growth. It is pointed out that there is huge shortfall of human capital in the country. Although there is swelling workforce in the country, this is a big challenge for India because there is a huge shortfall of educated, skilled and trained workforce.

#### **Importance of human capital quality and demographic dividend to reach \$5 trillion mark:**

1. Although the accumulation of physical capital is quite important in the process of economic growth of a country but with the passage of time, it is being increasingly realised that the growth of tangible capital stock depends extensively on the human capital formation.
2. In the absence of adequate investment in human capital, utilisation of physical capital will be at low pace, leading to retardation of development.

3. One of the important factors responsible for the rapid growth of the economy is increasing allocation on education resulting significant improvement in the level of human capital formation.
4. Human capital lack critical skills which are very much needed for the industrial sector and again have a surplus labour force. Thus human capital formation should solve these problems by creating necessary skills and also by providing gainful employment.
5. As the poor health and undernourishment adversely affect the quality of manpower, it is important to improve the quality of manpower to positively contribute to economic growth target.
6. Organisations across the world have recognized the importance of skilled manpower and the value it can provide despite being a little costlier. Skilled human capital provide high value for money and initiate a ripple effect in the growth of a country's economy.

**Pathway to address the problem:**

1. The skill development scheme needs to be well coordinated and properly dovetailed to have an effective and efficient mechanism to fulfill the requirement.
2. Vocational training should be imparted by ministries and department of government.
3. Upgrade skills to international standards through significant industry involvement and develop necessary frameworks for standards, curriculum and quality assurance.
4. Enhance, support and coordinate private sector initiatives for skill development through appropriate Public- Private Partnership (PPP) models; strive for significant operational and financial involvement from the private sector.
5. Focus on underprivileged sections of society and backward regions of the country thereby enabling to move out of poverty; similarly, focus significantly on the unorganised or informal sector workforce.

The government of India is taking initiative to fill the existing skill gap through skill development mission in order to leverage its position to fulfill domestic and global requirement and at the same time fulfilling its domestic requirement of the skilled labor force. Skilling would enhance human capital quality needed to reap the demographic dividend which might turn into demographic disaster.

Q.5) What is Citizen Charter? Discuss it's purpose and effectiveness in India?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** What is citizen's charter?

**Body.** Need of citizen's charter. It's effectiveness in India.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The citizen's charter is a written, voluntary declaration by service providers about their service standards, choice, accessibility, non-discrimination, transparency and accountability. It is a useful way of defining with the stakeholders what service should be and what standards to expect.

**Need of Citizen charter:**

1. To make administration accountable and citizen friendly.
2. To ensure transparency.
3. To take measures to improve customer service.

4. To adopt a stakeholder approach.
5. To empower the citizen in relation to public service delivery.
6. To specify what to expect and how to act if standards are not met.
7. To encourage access and the promotion of choice.

#### **Effectiveness of citizen's charter:**

Citizen's Charters have currently been in place in India for more than a decade. In 2006, the DARPG website listed 767 charters drafted by various government agencies around the country. Introduction and implementation of the concept of Citizens' Charter in the Government of India was much more difficult due to the old bureaucratic set up/procedures and the rigid attitudes of the work force. The major issues related to citizen's charter initiative:

1. It has become one of the routine activities of the organisation and had no focus.
2. In many cases, the concerned staff are not adequately trained and sensitised.
3. Sometimes, transfers and reshuffles of concerned officers at the crucial stages of formulation/implementation of a Citizens' Charter in an organisation severely undermined the strategic processes which were put in place and hampered the progress of the initiative.
4. Lack of awareness and knowledge and inadequate publicity, led to loss of trust among service seekers.
5. Lack of infrastructure and initiative defeated the very purpose of citizens charter.
6. Different mind-sets of officers and the Staff- Insensitiveness on the part of the Supervisors and the Staff because they are yet to be sensitised.
7. Staff is not prepared to shoulder the responsibility due to lack of motivation and accountability.
8. Non-revision, complicated and restrictive rules & procedures reduced its effectiveness.

So the effectiveness is minimal due to lack of awareness among the citizens and there is no legal back up for these services made them toothless tool to the citizens and the governance still need to be improved, the aspirations of people have gone up and government cannot run away from its responsibility.

Q.6) "Transparency must be accompanied by accountability, and that is where the RTI act has great value and significance." Comment.

#### **Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** Importance of accountability with transparency. RTI as a tool of accountability and transparency.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

In public services both transparency and accountability are must to ensure good governance. It is evident that transparency is a pre-condition of accountability. There is a direct link between transparency and accountability, and both strengthen each other. Thus accountability must accompany transparency as if a civil servant is not accountable for his decisions, transparency would not fulfill the purpose.

#### **Importance of accountability with transparency:**

1. Accountability lead to the obligation of an individual or an organisation (either in the public or the private sectors) to accept responsibility for their activities, and to disclose them in a transparent manner. This includes the responsibility for decision-making processes, money or other entrusted property.

2. Accountability result in answerability (the duty of an individual or organisation to answer to their decisions and actions) and punishments in case of malpractice.
3. If citizens are to hold their government accountable, they must be able to find out what it is doing.
4. High levels of corruption and poor quality of public services, especially in developing countries, enhanced the demand for accountability from the civil society.
5. Social accountability have been highly valued to curb corruption, especially in countries with a systematic problem of corruption and weak institutional systems.

**RTI- A tool of transparency and accountability:**

1. The Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 was enacted to ensure transparency and accountability. As per the Act any citizen can write and ask for information from a “public authority”.
2. The Act also requires that public authorities make information about themselves available to the public, mandatory disclosure.
3. A progressive civil society has constantly challenged hesitation and delay in providing information.
4. RTI has become a weapon in the hands of common citizens to fight for their rights. Earlier citizens had to struggle to get what was rightfully theirs. RTI has removed such bottlenecks.
5. In the past 14 years, it has been instrumental in uncovering a list of major scams. The success of the Act earned it the fourth place among 111 countries in the annual rating of similar empowering laws across the world in the year 2016. Scams like Adarsh Society Scam, 2g scam, Commonwealth Games Scam, Indian Red Cross Society Scam are some noticeable achievements under RTI.
6. It has given ordinary citizens the confidence and the right to ask questions of government authorities. The RTI Act has empowered people in containing corruption and bringing transparency and accountability in the working of the Government. According to estimates, nearly 60 lakh applications are being filed every year. It is used by citizens as well as the media.
7. Public authorities have an obligation to provide the sought information to the applicants with certain restrictions related to national security, personal information and third party information. This strengthened accountability through active participation of public.
8. A large amount of information has to be placed in the public domain by ways of manuals prescribed under the Act. All the Government departments along with a number of bodies which receive substantial funding from the Government have been brought under the RTI. This has ushered an era of transparency.

Transparency and accountability must go hand in hand. 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 to further the objectives of transparency and accountability.

Q.7) Examine how conscience of an individual guide his/her behaviour. How conscience of crisis should be dealt by a public servant?

**Demand of the question**

**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.

**Body.** How conscience guide our behaviour? How a public servant should resolve the situation off crisis of conscience?

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Conscience is the part of our mind that tells you whether what you are doing is morally right or wrong. In short, conscience is a term which we use to denote the inner mind. Conscience is always knowledge of ourselves, or awareness of moral principles we have committed to, or assessment of ourselves, or motivation to act that comes from within us. It is an instrument for self-control, correction and regulation. Conscience is the part of your mind that tells you whether what you are doing is morally right or wrong. In short, conscience is a term which we use to denote the inner mind.

**How conscience guide our behaviour?**

1. Through our individual conscience, one become aware of his deeply held moral principles, and motivate accordingly to act upon those principles removing conflicts.
2. As we assess our character, our behaviour and ultimately our self against those principles, conscience lead to proper analysis of good and bad of the situation and proper evaluation of various options.
3. When we talk about conscience, we often refer to reflection about ourselves as moral persons and about our moral conduct. Through conscience we examine ourselves, as if we were our own inner judge. Thus help in better judgements and resolution of dilemmas.
4. Conscience brings us some form of moral knowledge or moral beliefs allowing individual to judge the situation and define what is right or wrong accordingly.
5. Conscience is a capacity, intuition or decision that help to distinguish right from wrong. It may lead to feelings of remorse when a human commits actions that go against his moral values or feelings of pleasure and well-being when actions, thoughts and words are in conformity to value systems of the nation. Thus it help in shaping future conducts and help in moral dilemmas.
6. Conscience thus allow resolution of moral dilemmas by introspection and defining what is right or wrong. When there is a crisis of conscience, the individual fear that his action may be against the voice of conscience and hence ethically wrong and here conscience fails to act.

**How a public servant should resolve the situation off crisis of conscience?**

The public servants enjoy a wide range of discretionary powers. Hence at times, he gets stuck into ethical dilemmas when he is not sure about the right course of action. To solve such a situation:

1. Public Servant must always remember that they are accountable to the public. They cannot always do whatever they want. This sense of duty towards the public helps them make the right decision.
2. Many times a public servant finds them bound and limited by the due process of law. But their actions must remain within the permissible boundaries of the laws. Legality must never be forgotten.
3. Maintaining high levels of integrity at all times is very important. A Civil Servant must take pride in their honesty and act as an example for others.

4. A public servant must be highly sensitive and responsive to the needs of the public. Our society is changing and growing fast and public service must keep pace with it.

Conscience guide us on what to do and what not. A crisis of conscience is common and must be dealt effectively. Public servant should always keep in mind larger public good and should strive to perform his/her duty.

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