

Mains Marathon Compilation

August, 2019

General Studies – 1

Q.1) “India’s culture of toxic masculinity is incompatible with democracy and exacerbates social conflict.” Comment.

Q.2) Why many countries are turning table against globalisation? How it will impact India?

Q.3) Discuss various methods adopted and contribution made by moderates in Indian freedom struggle.

Q.4) “Although development of tolerance is the first step for unity in India, what required is a positive celebration of cultural differences in India.” Comment.

Q.5) Compare features of Indus Valley civilisation with Mesopotamian civilisation.

Q.6) Discuss various reasons and impact of internal and external migration in India.

Q.7) Discuss causes and effects of de-industrialisation in India during British period.

Q.8) What is de-globalisation? Discuss it’s impact on India.

Q.9) “Gender justice in India is in poor state with poor woman suffering the most.” Discuss.

Q.10) “India faces the dual whammy of droughts and floods.” In light of this discuss the importance of river inter-linking in India.

General Studies – 2

Q.1) “Policy discussions involving the public as well as tech solutions, would help fight fake news.” Comment.

Q.2) “The inability of the WTO to rein in global trade tensions has raised questions about its relevance in today’s world.” Examine.

Q.3) Critically analyse the progress made in resolving stressed assets since the enactment of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Q.4) “With democratic governance slipping into ineffectual log-jams, India needs to strengthen institutions between the public and the government .” Comment.

Q.5) “Modern times need modern methods.” In light of this discuss the need of modernisation of police force in India.

Q.6) Discuss how proposed code of conduct for legislative bodies can help make our democratic institutions more efficient and productive?

Q.7) “Dirty rivers in India reflect the failure of society and governance at local and national level.” Comment.

Q.8) Discuss the significance of Supreme Court judgement in K.S. Puttaswamy case. What steps Indian government should take to protect the privacy of Indian citizens?

Q.9) What are various conditions for imposition of President rule in a state? Analyse the significance of S.R. Bommai judgement in this context.

Q.10) "No first use policy of India is based upon the idea of minimum deterrence and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons." In light of this discuss the need of revisit to India's No first use policy.

Q.11) "Russia's far-east region is economically and strategically important for India to counter China in the region." Comment.

Q.12) Critically analyse the role and effectiveness of FATF (Financial Action Task Force) in combating the financing of terrorism.

Q.13) "Linking Aadhaar to social media is an infringement on privacy of individual and can be damaging to democracy." Comment.

Q.14) Critically analyse various provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019. Do you think it infringes the fundamental rights of individual?

Q.15) What do you understand by the term competitive sub-federalism? Discuss its significance.

Q.16) "Creation of a Chief defence of services although can solve many issues but may lead to unintended issues." Discuss.

Q.17) "Right to online privacy of an individual and the right of the State to detect people who use the web to spread panic and commit crimes are contradictory in itself." Comment.

Q.18) What do you understand by the term 'Idea of India'? Do you think recent action of Government of India in Jammu and Kashmir is against Idea of India?

Q.19) Why Indian Constitution is called as a 'borrowed document'? Do you think it is a copy of constitution of various countries?

Q.20) "Problem in India is not the absence of law but it's effective implementation." Discuss.

Q.21) "The Witness Protection Scheme need more elaborate and stricter laws." Comment.

Q.22) "No first use nuclear policy has helped India to establish itself as a responsible nuclear nation." In light of this discuss whether India should change its nuclear policy or not?

Q.23) Discuss the role and relevance of UNSC in 21st century. Why UNSC need various reforms?

Q.24) "A post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) would resolve many security problems and challenges in India." Analyse.

Q.25) "In the era of growing social media tentacles across the globe, scrutiny of the facts and data is need of the hour." Discuss.

Q.26) Discuss various provisions of dams safety bill, 2019. Discuss its importance and various issues related to it.

Q.27) Discuss various provisions of RTE act. Why it has failed to reform education system in India.

Q.28) "Indian investigation agencies need modernisation and more autonomy to increase their efficacy." Comment.

Q.29) "Quackery although increase accessibility to health services in India, but is a big danger to the health of poor." Discuss.

Q.30) "Despite of differences at various levels, India-China relations are critical to realise Asian century." Discuss.

Q.31) "Various legislations in india has failed to stop the rampant sexual abuse of children." In light of this discuss the issue of child sex abuse in India. What should be done to prevent such crime?

Q.32) Discuss the impact of abrogation of Article 370 in India. Do you think it will help India to resolve Kashmir dispute?

Q.33) What is e-governance? Examine importance of e-governance in growing age of digitisation.

Q.34) Discuss the recent amendments made to RTI Act? Over the last 14 years, how far has the RTI Act served the purposes for which it was introduced?

Q.35) "Instead of getting rational treatment in public health-care facilities, the women are pushed towards irrational treatments in the private sector." Comment.

Q.36) "National medical bill although has many advantages but it may lead to other consequences." Comment.

Q.37) "India's asymmetric federalism has helped in keeping nation as one addressing need of many vulnerable communities." Discuss.

Q.38) Track the recent developments in India-US relations. What are various issues in India-US relations?

Q.39) Discuss various reasons of creating Union Territories in India. How Union Territories are different from states in India?

Q.40) "Increasing the number of courts as a recourse to deal with the mounting backlog is a short term solution which cannot remove systemic issues in Judiciary". Comment.

Q.41) What do you understand by the term Social Audit? Discuss the importance of social audit in India.

Q.42) "Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 is critical to provide social and economic justice to transgenders in Indian democracy". Examine.

Q.43) "Fight against social evils like mob lynching and honour killings demands state's and community efforts." Comment.

Q.44) What are various special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir in Indian constitution? Discuss Article 35a of Indian constitution in this context.

Q.45) "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is crucial to the rights of millions of tribals and other forest dwellers in different parts of our country." Comment.

Q.46) What is hate crime? Discuss various causes and measures to stop hate crimes in India.

Q.47) "Government policies has failed to arrest malaise of female foeticide in India". Comment.

Q.48) "Motor Vehicle Bill, 2019 will make Indian roads safer for travellers." Comment.

Q.49) "Although there are various advantages of centralising and consolidating data, but it has serious associated risks and consequences." Discuss.

Q.50) Discuss the need and significance of Consumer Protection Bill. How it will ensure justice to consumers?

General Studies – 3

Q.1) Discuss the potential of inland water transportation in India. How it can help in improving logistic sector?

Q.2) What are development banks? Critically examine the need of development banks in India to achieve \$5 trillion dollar target.

Q.3) What are the supply chain constraints of India's food processing sector? What steps have should be taken to remove these constraints?

Q.4) "Using cleaner fuels such as LPG is essential to reduce rural air pollution and improve health." In light of this discuss what can policymakers do to achieve exclusive use of clean fuels in rural India?

Q.5) "Grass root governance is key for Environment conservation and sustainable development." Critically examine.

Q.6) What are trans-fats? Why they are dangerous for human consumption?

Q.7) Discuss the impact of slow Judiciary and delayed justice on Indian economic growth. Give some solutions.

Q.8) "Auto-industries in India are facing negative growth from a long time" Discuss various reasons for it and give some solutions.

Q.9) "Climate change is a serious threat to India's energy ambitions and requirements." Comment.

Q.10) "In spite of various efforts and policies, Tuberculosis is still a big problem in India." Discuss various reasons for this. Give some solutions to prevent Tuberculosis.

Q.11) "Various Coastal states need to play an important role in overall development of ports and inland waterways for sustainable development." Discuss.

Q.12) What are Microplastics? How do they pose a danger to entire humanity and other organisms?

Q.13) Discuss the issue of unemployment in India. What India should do check rising unemployment?

Q.14) What are biomarkers? Discuss its potential applications.

Q.15) "Population control efforts need a focus on behavioural change at the societal level." Comment.

Q.16) "The nationalisation of banks was an economic milestone in the India's growth story." Critically analyse.

Q.17) "Doubling income of Indian farmers is a distant goal unless markets reforms are not achieved." Discuss.

Q.18) Discuss the role of states in tackling climate change. How India should shape its economic policies in light of impact of climate change?

Q.19) What do you understand by intellectual property rights? Discuss how India should manage intellectual property rights issues in India?

Q.20) "Rising pressure on cities and rising air pollution demand sustainable transport facilities in urban areas." Discuss.

Q.21) What is India's deep ocean mission. How it is significant for Indian economy?

Q.22) Discuss e-commerce regulation in India. Do you think India should revisit its e-commerce policy?

Q.23) "Coastal zone management is important for India's sustainable growth and development." Comment.

Q.24) What are various challenges faced by business units in India. How India can ensure better business environment in India?

Q.25) "Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) mass emission standards will benefit India technologically and environmentally. Discuss.

Q.26) "Floating farms can help in achieving sustainable agriculture and economic growth." Comment.

Q.27) "Despite of various reforms since independence, India has not been able to achieve a sustained desired economic growth." Discuss.

Q.28) Why extremism is a big problem for India? Discuss potential solutions to tackle extremism in India

Q.29) "India-Africa relation and trade is crucial for India to achieve \$5 trillion economic goal". Discuss.

Q.30) Discuss how farm ponds can benefit Indian farmers and agriculture sector? Discuss methods to resolve agricultural issues in India.

Q.31) What is gender budgeting? How it can help in women empowerment in India?

General Studies – 4

Q.1) What do you understand by ethical dilemma? How an administrator should deal with the situations of ethical dilemma?

Q.2) What do you understand by integrity. Why integrity is important for civil servants?

Q.3) Write about major teachings of Swami Vivekananda. Do you think Ideas of Swami Vivekananda are still relevant?

Q.4) What do you understand by the term trusteeship? Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's views on principle of trusteeship

Q.5) What do you understand by conscience? How conscience help an individual in resolving moral dilemma?

General Studies – 1

Q.1) "India's culture of toxic masculinity is incompatible with democracy and exacerbates social conflict." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is toxic masculinity.

Body. Issue of toxic masculinity and solution.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Toxic masculinity refers to gender norms and beliefs about masculinity that not only harm society but also negatively impact men themselves. Most commonly, these beliefs stem from the male pride or privilege that establishes men as the superior. The persistent use of phrases like 'men don't cry' or encouraging aggressive behaviour amongst boys are some examples of toxic masculinity. This behaviour is termed as 'toxic' as it leads us to associate damaging or violent behaviour with masculinity. Abuse, domestic violence and other crimes against women are closely related to the problem of toxic masculinity.

Toxic masculinity is against democracy and exacerbate social conflict as:

1. **Suppression:** Toxic masculinity dictates that the only emotion men can express is anger, which can hinder men from getting in touch with other things they're feeling. Eventually, this distance men from other people and keep them from developing close relationships with their partners and kids. Suppressing emotions lead to aggression and violence towards women.
2. **Encouragement Of Violence:** Toxic masculinity promote violence as the best way for men to prove their strength and power, and it discourages them from releasing their feelings in other ways. This often lead to abuse especially of women.
3. **Discouragement Of Seeking Help:** Men are less likely than women seek help regarding their mental health, which is likely due to ideals of masculinity. The ideal of a tough man who doesn't struggle with any emotions can force men to withstand untreated mental health problems. This lead to depression, conflicts, fights and abuse in relations.
4. **Perpetuation Of Rape Culture:** Cultures that encourage masculinity, specifically in fraternities, often lead to rape culture. It lead to development of feeling of dominance and hierarchy in mind of men. Toxic masculinity dictates men that their identity hinges on their ability to exert dominance over women, and one common way that men use to assert their dominance is through sexual assault and harassment.
5. **Patriarchy:** Toxic masculine perpetuates the idea that being like a girl is a negative trait. Toxic masculinity teaches us that men are in charge, which means women are not. It teaches that men are superior and women are inferior, that men are strong and women are weak. Thus by attaching certain characteristics to men and valuing them above qualities associated with women, toxic masculinity encourages a culture that encourage male gender over female. Toxic masculinity, thus lead to patriarchy in the society.
6. **Against democracy:** Democracy preach an egalitarian society where all genders, sects are equal. Toxic masculinity encourage male dominance and consider female as inferior and unequal. The central feature in the culture of toxic masculinity is domination, which is deeply incompatible with a freedom-sensitive, egalitarian ethic.
7. **Anti-empathetic:** Aggression is natural and desirable in men. A real man should be eager to pick up a fight. Men must be tough muscular and unemotional. They must not grieve and cry. Toxic masculinity lead to men who do not accept the other's

point of view, who don't show empathy and understanding and gentleness and compassion. This lead to destruction of sensitivity among men towards others especially women.

What should be done?

1. We need to create platforms for young men to share their fears, their doubts, and their insecurities about sexuality, patriarchy, masculinity, and the burden of expectations they bear.
2. We need activities that are not only political or religious, but that get young men together to unlearn gender norms and learn equitable behaviour. It can be sports, music, theatre, or even bird watching, so long as it allows young men to be free from narrow, negative, and gendered identities.
3. The government and private sector are already running skilling programmes across the country. Integrating a gender lens into these initiatives to make them address questions of gender-based power structures in the workplace, and sensitise both men and women to them, would be both cost-effective and societally useful.
4. Civil society organisations that work with girls and women could be engaged with to share learnings, provide support, and even aid in designing programmes for men and boys.

Traditionally, men were considered to be breadwinners of the family and expected to shoulder all the responsibility, where a man goes out for hunting while the woman takes care of home. Though times have changed, this belief system being passed onto generation to another haven't changed. The belief system powered by toxic masculinity finds it difficult to accept a woman with power. We need to change this to progress with time.

Q.2) Why many countries are turning table against globalisation? How it will impact India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Reason for various countries' action against globalisation. It's impact on India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Globalisation is the global circulation of not only goods, services, and capital, but also of information, ideas, and people. Its root lies in the concept of comparative advantage. The countries are able to gain more by being part of a globalised world. However we are witnessing signs of de-globalisation.

Reasons for turning away from globalisation by some countries:

1. **Rise of Asia:** Developing nations like India, China and Japan have grown rapidly over the last few decades. The economic power has been shifting from the West to these Asian Nations. This has not only worried Western policy makers but also the general public.
2. **Developed nation's worry:** Although western nations have benefitted immensely from globalisation by expanding the reach of their MNC's and by the acquisition of talented individuals, public support towards it has been waning fast. Developed nations now have more to lose than to gain. The people of these nations are are worried about consequences of globalisation.
3. **Security issues:** One of perceived consequences of globalisation is rising security concerns. Increased exchange and mutual trade between nations have made it increasingly tough to maintain global security. Terrorist organisations like ISIS and Al-Qaeda that are anti-globalisation at their core, use tools of globalisation such as

the internet to propagate their agenda. Each terrorist attack that takes place in these developed nations brings more people in support of de-globalisation.

4. **Refugee crisis and Self-Protectionism:** Another factor that plays a role in support of de-globalisation is refugee crisis. The Syrian civil war and constant unrest in western Asian nations have caused a severe refugee crisis. The majority of the citizens from these nations have taken refuge, legally or illegally in European nations. This is a huge cause of concern for these debt-stricken economies. When these economies are unable to grow or create enough employment opportunities for their own people then the voice against globalisation grows stronger.

Impact on India:

1. **Economic impact:** It will lead to reduction in the rate of economic growth of India.
 - It will lead to protectionism with reduced cooperation among countries that will hurt Indian trade and exports.
 - It will lead to reduction in competition and rise in general prices of the goods and services.
 - It will destroy employment opportunities because as it will prevent outflow of skilled people due to protectionist measures like visa regulations. This will impact their employability and remittance to the nation.
 - It may lead to increased import costs due to lesser choice and options and manufacturers and producers would have to pay more for equipment, commodities, and intermediate products from foreign markets.
2. **Social impact:**
 - It will lead to decrease in standards of living as it will impact exports and economic growth impacting welfare of poor and their standard of lives.
 - It will lead to rise in conflicts economically and politically.
3. **Political impact:** It would affect polity leading to instability in political framework of nations due to rise in prices and cost of living may lead to civil Uprisings.
4. **Impact on Environmental conversation:** Due to non-cooperation among nations it will impact environment conservation efforts in India. It will reduce required funding and would jeopardise efforts to conserve environment and tackle environment change. It would lead to lack of coordination at international organisation like UN where countries may not come at a common point to various problems like environmental change. It destroys the international order. This would impact India's interest which
5. **Impact on women empowerment:** Deglobalisation would impact women empowerment efforts as it will impact women movements across the globe. Lack of coordination will reduce opportunities for women across the world.
6. **Impact on security:** Due to lack of coordination among various nations, security around the world along with India would impact. It will not only increase economic risks, but would provide an opportunity for terrorists to carry out violence due to lack of coordination among various law enforcement agencies.
7. **Impact on farmers:** A less coordinating world means impact in agricultural exports and Indian farmers. Indian farmers would face double whammy of environment change and deglobalisation.

Multiple factors are causing this shift from globalisation to de-globalisation. As economic power shifts from the Western to Asian nations, the U.S. and the U.K. have adopted self-protection policies. Rising security concerns and refuge crisis also play a role in creating support for de-globalisation. What is required is to develop self-sufficiencies so as to prevent major impact of such tendencies.

Q.3) Discuss various methods adopted and contribution made by moderates in Indian freedom struggle.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Various methods of moderates and role of moderates in Indian freedom struggle.

Conclusion. Contextual Conclusion.

The moderates contributed significantly in Indian freedom struggle. The main objective of the Moderates was to achieve self-government within the British Empire. They followed a middle path and not an extreme path against British empire.

Methods employed by the Moderates:

1. In order to achieve their aim, they made several demands for reform and indulged in criticising the Government policies.
2. They believed in patience and reconciliation rather than in violence and confrontation.
3. They relied on constitutional and peaceful methods in order to achieve their aim.
4. They focus on educating people, arousing their political consciousness and creating a public opinion, which.
5. In order to create public opinion in England, the Moderates arranged lectures in different parts of England. A weekly journal called India was published in England for circulation among the British population.
6. Moderates used different types of newspaper and chronicles to criticise the government policies through newspaper like Bengali newspaper, Bombay chronicle, Hindustan Times, Induprakash, Rast Goftar and a weekly journal India.
7. They also asked the Government to conduct an enquiry and find ways and means to solve the problems faced by people.
8. They held meeting and held discussions concerning social, economic and cultural matters. The moderates organized meetings at various places like England, Mumbai, Allahabad, Pune, and Calcutta.
9. They drafted and submitted memorandum and petitions to the government, to the officials of the Government of India and also to the British Parliament. The object of the memorandum and petitions was to enlighten the British public and political leaders about the conditions prevailing in India.

Contributions of Moderate Nationalists:

1. The moderates led by Dadabhai Naoroji, R.C. Dutt, Dinshaw Wacha and others, analysed the political economy of British rule in India, and put forward the “drain theory” to explain British exploitation of India.
2. Moderates were able to create an all-India public opinion that British rule in India was the major cause of India’s poverty and economic backwardness. The moderates demanded reduction in land revenue, abolition of salt tax, improvement in working conditions of plantation labour, etc.
3. They helped in expansion of councils i.e. greater participation of Indians in councils and helped in reform of councils i.e. more powers to councils, especially greater control over finances.
4. The early nationalists worked with the long-term objective of a democratic self-government.
5. They campaigned for General Administrative Reforms. They demanded and put pressure on British empire on Indianisation of government service on the economic grounds.

6. They asked and contributed in Separation of judicial from executive functions.
7. They criticised:
 - oppressive and tyrannical bureaucracy and an expensive and time-consuming judicial system.
 - Aggressive foreign policy which resulted in annexation of Burma, attack on Afghanistan and suppression of tribals in the North-West.
 - Increase in expenditure on welfare, education, especially elementary and technical, irrigation works and improvement of agriculture, agricultural banks for cultivators etc.
8. They fought for civil rights including the right to speech, thought, association and a free press. Through campaigns, the nationalists were able to spread modern democratic ideas, and soon the defence of civil rights became an integral part of the freedom struggle.

The nationalists were, thus, able to build a national movement while undermining the political and moral influence of imperialist rule. This helped in generating anti-imperialist sentiments among the public. But, at the same time, the nationalists failed to widen the democratic base of the movement by not including the masses, especially women, and not demanding the right to vote for all.

Q.4) "Although development of tolerance is the first step for unity in India, what required is a positive celebration of cultural differences in India." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Significance of celebrating cultural differences in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is witnessing the rise of the hatred and crime like mob lynching and targeted harassment. It has caused abuse of the human rights and led to gross injustice to the weaker. There is need of a robust cultural programme to fight prejudices, encouraging inter-cultural understanding. Celebrating cultural differences is a way to achieve it. It means providing a venue where diverse perspectives, cultures and values are accepted, appreciated and celebrated.

Significance of celebrating cultural differences in India:

1. The diversity celebration supports and enhances acceptance of responsibilities in actively involved in addressing the educational, economic, cultural, and societal needs of the changing region, state, nation, and world.
2. It helps in recognition of humanity as the first step while celebrating our differences that inform us about our cultures, our values, and all our ways of being in the world.
3. Celebrating differences lead to acknowledgement of differences leading better social justice.
4. It gives knowledge about various sects and religion which is the key to tolerance.
5. It is important to gain a new perspective on the lives of others around you as well as around the world.
6. Cultural celebrations foster respect and open-mindedness for other cultures.
7. Celebrating our differences, as well as our common interests, helps unite and educate us.

8. It is important to understand other's perspectives, to broaden our own, and to fully experience and educate ourselves.
9. People all around need to understand and learn to appreciate other cultures, and this is one way to accomplish that.
10. Through each other's diversity, we become more aware of our own and gain a sense of pride for the diversity of our own culture.
11. Understanding people and their backgrounds is crucial to personal and community growth.
12. It's energising and thought provoking. We live in such an isolated area that we don't often reflect on the diverse people we have all around us.
13. Unity in Diversity ethos needs to be preserved for the pluralistic character of the Indian nation state.
14. It allow accommodation of multiple aspirations of a diverse population.
15. It is important to reduce inequalities and foster development of all the sects of the society.
16. It help people to overcome regional feelings and develop an attachment towards the nation can act as a long-term solution to the problem of sub-nationalism.

Schemes like "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" have been launched by the GOI to celebrate unity in diversity culture of the nation and to strengthen sentiment for national unity between the citizens of states, is a welcomed step. National unity is fostered if the people of a region have genuine pride in their language and culture. Mere tolerance doesn't means acceptance, acceptance of other sects come through celebrating differences among different cultures.

Q.5) Compare features of Indus Valley civilisation with Mesopotamian civilisation.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Similarities and differences in Indus Valley civilisation and Mesopotamia.

Conclusion. Contextual Conclusion.

Mesopotamia and Indus Valley Civilization are oldest civilisations of world. Mesopotamia was located in triangular area between the Tigris and the Euphrates rivers. The Indus civilization was along the Indus River. These civilisations prospered and lived with glory, but as time changes its course and these civilisations disappeared they left their signs. The two civilisations instead of lot of similarity had some contrasting features.

Comparison between Indus civilisation and Mesopotamian civilisation:

	Mesopotamian civilisation	Indus Valley civilisation
Economic comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesopotamians were exporter of food grains & textiles and Harappan were exporter of Copper, gold and ivory made handicrafts products. • The domestication of animals, painting of pottery, and most importantly, agriculture spread to Greece from Mesopotamia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economy of Mesopotamia was mainly agricultural, but also included wool, hair, and leather. • The economy of the Indus civilization was similar to Mesopotamia in that both had an agriculture based on irrigation and fertility by silt bearing floods. • Cereal crops were also similar, the two main ones being wheat and barley. • Trade was a large part of this civilization, but they were not as reliant on trade as Mesopotamia was
Political comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesopotamians were ruled by priest king. • He was known to be divine by the people. • He lead the administration, army and settled disputes. • He performed certain religious rituals as well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A centralized government ruled the state in Indus civilization. • In Indus valley civilisation there is no evidence of any kind of priestly body. • There is no proof of kingship or priestly management.
Religious comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesopotamia had built temples for worshipping the gods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harappan inscriptions are not yet fully deciphered we know very little about their religion. • Harappan probably worshiped only natural forces.

Social comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesopotamia and Harappa both had different class of people. • Higher class included priest and higher level administrators and middle class included merchants or traders. • In case of lower class Mesopotamia had slaves. • Mesopotamians gave freedom to women in their society, women used to participate in all fields but still they were not equal to men. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In case of Harappan lower class people worked as servants or doing low level of works. • In Harappa, patriarchal society were formed where men were the decision makers. • Each class lived a different lifestyle. • They had certain occupations that other classes don't follow, they ate different types of food, they had different family customs, and so forth.
Architecture comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built distinct places and temples dedicated to Gods. • Peoples lives in cities and towns guarded by walls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harappan were more advanced in town planning compare to Mesopotamians. • They had developed better drainage and sewage systems which can be seen in present day as well. • The regular planning of Indus towns and cities was made such that each was built as a whole by an authority with total control. • As a result of the consistency over such a large area, the entire Indus area was a unified state
Language and literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earliest system of writing. Mostly judicial in nature. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and script not yet deciphered.
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created first wheel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exact measurement and weighing system. • Uniform brick size.

Thus two old civilisations although had many common features they had some unique features. While Indus Valley civilisation is known for their towns and citadels, Mesopotamia is famous for its religious temples and art. Both civilisations were great compared to their time-period.

Q.6) Discuss various reasons and impact of internal and external migration in India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is migration?

Body. Reasons and impact of migration in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Movement of people from their home to another city, state or country for a job, shelter or some other reasons is called migration. Migration from rural areas to urban areas has

increased in past few years in India. A number of favourable, unfavourable or neutral factors caused internal and external migration in India.

Causes of Migration in India: The causes of migration can be clubbed into economic, sociopolitical and ecological factors:

1. **Economic factors:** These relate to the labour market of a place, the employment situation and the overall state of the economy.
 - Push factors:
 - Unemployment or lack of employment opportunities.
 - Rural poverty.
 - Unsustainable livelihood.
 - Pull factors:
 - Job opportunities.
 - Better income and prospects for wealth creation.
 - Industrial innovation and technical know-how for a new industry.
 - Pursuit of specialised education.
2. **Sociopolitical factors:** These include family conflicts and unification, the quest for independence, ethnic, religious, racial and cultural parameters; warfare, or the threat of conflict, among other factors that contribute to migration.
 - Push factors:
 - Political instability.
 - Safety and security concerns (ethnic, religious, racial or cultural persecution).
 - Conflicts or threat of a conflict.
 - Slavery or bonded labour.
 - Inadequate or limited urban services and infrastructure (including healthcare, education, utilities, transport and water)
 - Pull factors:
 - Family reunification.
 - Independence and freedom.
 - Integration and social cohesion.
 - Food security.
 - Affordable and accessible urban services (including healthcare, education, utilities and transport).
3. **Ecological factors:** These include environmental factors, such as climate change and the availability of natural resources, that cause individuals to migrate in search of more favourable ecological conditions.
 - Push factors:
 - Climate change (including extreme weather events).
 - Crop failure and scarcity of food.
 - Pull factors:
 - Abundance of natural resources and minerals (e.g. water, oil, uranium).
 - Favourable climate.

Impact of migration in India:

1. **Economic impact:** Migrants contribute to the India's gross domestic product (GDP). Their ambition and enthusiasm to improve their livelihood help in economic growth. Migration could affect the overall economy of the city through remittances.

2. **Social impact:** The tendency to live within own group and community is responsible for establishment of enclaves within cities. While diversity is healthy for a city, it can also pose a risk to social cohesion, cultures and traditions, and to a certain extent to the safety and security of residents. It can lead to social tension associated with xenophobia and discrimination.
3. **Political impact:** Transnationalism allow global connectedness. Transnational migrants have the capacity to transform cities into global centres through the impact they have on individuals, firms and other organizations via their worldwide connections. It also allow responsible government due to increased global awareness of rights. This help political maturity in the nation.
4. **Impact on urban infrastructure and services:** Migrants move to cities, can put further pressure on the already stressed infrastructure. Migration affects the demands on urban infrastructure and services in both the place of origin and the place of destination. The rapid population growth results in difficulty to cope with insufficient infrastructure and the needs of all the people.
 - **Education and employment:** Soaring immigration directly affects the availability of places in primary schools, and lead to increase in class sizes and adding classrooms. Lack of such resources poses big issues for their governments, undermining efforts to keep class sizes down and to provide school places for all children.
 - **Healthcare:** The presence of infectious diseases in migrants causes concern for cities. Migrants with pre-existing health conditions can strain cities' healthcare systems. Further poor slum conditions lead to health issues and epidemic like dengue in urban areas.
 - **Transportation:** One of migrants' primary concerns is how to avail themselves of public transportation services. In developing cities, where a significant portion of migrants lives in slums, streets are not even wide enough to accommodate vehicles, including emergency vehicles.
 - **Energy:** Migration also affects energy consumption and CO2 emissions. It put stress on electricity and fuel demand.
 - **Sanitation and waste:** Migration can exacerbate the challenges of managing sewage in a city given the growth of the population, but the city cannot always meet the demand due to insufficient capacity.

Migration may be due to various socio-economic and political factors, but it act as a tool that lead to reduction of inequalities and gap between rich and poor. It allow many to raise their standards of living. But unsustainable migration is a threat to countries urban health. What is required is development of rural areas to check massive migration.

Q.7) Discuss causes and effects of de-industrialisation in India during British period.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is de-industrialisation?

Body. Causes and effect if deindustrialisation in British India.

Conclusion. Contextual conclusion.

De-industrialisation is the process of destruction of a nation's industrial capacity. Before the advent of the Europeans in India, India was the industrial hub. Indian economy was characterised by the agriculture and handicrafts. But this internal balance of the village economy was systematically destroyed by the British policies. In the process, traditional

handicraft industries started declining in the 18th century and proceeded rapidly almost to the beginning of the 19th century. This process is called as de-industrialisation.

Causes of De-Industrialisation:

1. **Mughal disintegration:** The main source of demand for the products of handicrafts was from the royal courts of Mughals. With the abolition of the royal court, demand for the products of these crafts decreased. Gradual extension of the British rule and the decline in royal power all over India led to deindustrialisation due to decreased demand.
2. **British rule and policies:** The establishment of the British rule affected the existence of the handicrafts, both directly and indirectly.
 - The European officials favoured imported manufactures. European introduced new forms and pattern that impacted industry.
 - Further, demand for cheaper goods without caring for quality consciousness by European led to the extensive adulteration of the raw materials.
 - The establishment of the British rule was also indirectly responsible for the loss of power of the guilds and other bodies which regulated and supervised the trade.
 - This led to the adulteration of materials resulting in a decline of the artistic and commercial value of the products.
3. **Change in Habits:** The consumption habits of the newly educated groups dealt a blow to these industries. These newly created Indian 'bourgeoisie' not only disdained the products of the indigenous industries but also tried to copy everything European which was considered to be the hallmark.
4. **Unequal Competition:** The revolution in technology which gained momentum throughout the 19th century in the wake of the industrial revolution increased the process of the decline of traditional handicrafts. The invention of power-loom in Europe completed the decline of this important industry. Though machine-made goods could not compete in quality with the local products, lower price and change in taste led to deindustrialisation.
5. **Tariffs:** The one way free trade policy which preached that what was good for England was considered to be good for India led to decline of industry. England pursued the policy of protection through the imposition of import duties and eased export duty for British goods.
6. **Loss of powers:** British rule establishment also resulted in the loss of powers of the craftsmen organization and other bodies that used to supervise and regulate the trade, which results in the fall down of raw materials as well as the skilled laborers which further results in the decline of market value of the products.

Effects of De-industrialisation:

1. It led to destruction of India's handicraft industry.
2. It led to ruralisation of India.
3. Artisans were displaced from traditional occupations. With no other alternative source of livelihood, the artisans adopted agriculture.
4. Such overcrowding of agriculture badly affected its efficiency. Present problems of subdivision and fragmentation of land holdings, over-cultivation or cultivation of inferior and unproductive land, etc., are the direct effects of the British rule.
5. It led to disguised unemployment and underemployment. The rural unemployment and under-employment were rooted to the imbalance in the occupational structure due to such de-industrialisation.

6. The trade to GDP ratio declined and international trade reshaped the domestic structure of the economy. India became one of the major markets for the British made cotton yarns and cloths and became one of the large suppliers of Grain.

The large scale de-industrialisation brought far reaching impacts on the economy with loss to traditional economy, which was earlier considered as a blend of agriculture and handicrafts. The de-industrialisation of India played an important role in the underdevelopment and increasing poverty of the country. Thus the process of de-industrialisation proved to be a disaster for the several million persons.

Q.8) What is de-globalisation? Discuss it's impact on India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is deglobalisation?

Body. Impact of de globalisation on India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Deglobalisation is the process of reducing interdependence and integration between nations around the world. It is characterised by decline in economic trade and investment between countries. This decline reflects that economies become less integrated with the rest of the world economies.

Impact of deglobalisation on India:

1. **Economic impact:** Deglobalisation will lead to reduction in the rate of economic growth of India.
 - It will lead to protectionism with reduced cooperation among countries that will hurt Indian trade and exports.
 - Deglobalisation will lead to reduction in competition and rise in general prices of the goods and services.
 - It will destroy employment opportunities because as it will prevent outflow of skilled people due to protectionist measures like visa regulations. This will impact their employability and remittance to the nation.
 - It may lead to increased import costs due to lesser choice and options and manufacturers and producers would have to pay more for equipment, commodities, and intermediate products from foreign markets.
2. **Social impact:**
 - It will lead to decrease in standards of living as it will impact exports and economic growth impacting welfare of poor and their standard of lives.
 - It will lead to rise in conflicts economically and politically.
3. **Political impact:** It would affect polity leading to instability in political framework of nations due to rise in prices and cost of living may lead to civil Uprisings.
4. **Impact on technology:** These tendencies limit technological advancement of the world as whole and of developing countries in particular. Limited knowledge sharing, lack of flow of technology to developing countries limit advancement in science.
5. **Impact on Environmental conversation:** Due to non-cooperation among nations it will impact environment conservation efforts in India. It will reduce required funding and would jeopardise efforts to conserve environment and tackle environment change. It would lead to lack of coordination at international organisation like UN where countries may not come at a common point to various problems like

environmental change. It destroys the international order. This would impact India's interest which

6. **Impact on women employment:** Deglobalisation would impact women empowerment efforts as it will impact women movements across the globe. Lack of coordination will reduce opportunities for women across the world.
7. **Impact on security:** Due to lack of coordination among various nations, security around the world along with India would impact. It will not only increase economic risks, but would provide an opportunity for terrorists to carry out violence due to lack of coordination among various law enforcement agencies.
8. **Impact on farmers:** A less coordinating world means impact in agricultural exports and Indian farmers. Indian farmers would face double whammy of environment change and deglobalisation.

Deglobalisation would hurt India not only economically but socially and politically also. It will impact economic development in India and would hurt welfare of Indian people. A coordinated effort is needed to increase more cohesive global structure.

Q.9) "Gender justice in India is in poor state with poor woman suffering the most." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is gender justice?

Body. Gender injustice in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Gender Justice means equality among women and men, boys and girls across all sectors. Gender Justice is important for development, poverty reduction, and is crucial to achieve human progress. Social, economic, political, environmental, cultural and educational equality is important for gender justice. These preconditions need to be satisfied for achieving gender justice.

Gender discrimination and Injustice in India: India was ranked 108th in the Global Gender Gap Index 2018. Indian women face is in poor state as indicated below:

1. **Crime against unborn and newborn:** The cultural construct of Indian society has reinforced gender bias against men and women, which lead to the continuation of India's strong preference for male children. Female infanticide and sex-selective abortion is adopted. This reflects the societally low status of Indian women.
2. **Inequality in judiciary:** The Supreme Court is preparing to have three women judges for the first time in its 68-year history. Women constitute an abysmal 10% of the total sanctioned strength of the apex court, 31. As for the total strength of women judges in Indian high courts, it's less than 12%. Thus women constitute very less in judicial institutions of the country.
3. **Educational discrimination:** Although literacy rates are increasing, the female literacy rate lags behind the male literacy rate. Literacy for females stands at 65.46%, compared to 82.14% for males. An underlying factor for such low literacy rates are parents' perceptions that education for girls are a waste of resources as their daughters would eventually live with their husbands' families.
4. **Income gap:** Discrimination against women has contributed to gender wage gap, with Indian women on average earning 64% of what their male counterparts earn for the same occupation and level of qualification. This has led to their lack of autonomy and authority. Although equal rights are given to women, these are not well implemented.

5. **Poor Property rights:** Women have equal rights under the Indian law to own property and receive equal inheritance rights, but in practice, women are at a disadvantage. In practice, land and property rights are weakly enforced, with customary laws widely practiced, especially in rural areas. Women do not own property under their own names and usually do not have any inheritance rights to obtain a share of parental property.
6. **Access to credit:** Although laws are supportive of lending to women and microcredit programs targeted to women are prolific, women often lack collateral for bank loans due to low levels of property ownership and microcredit schemes have come under scrutiny for coercive lending practices. This jeopardise their opportunities to grow.
7. **Entrepreneurship:** 48% of the Indian population consists of women, yet fewer than 5% of businesses are owned by women. In fact, in terms of entrepreneurship as an occupation, 7% of total entrepreneurs in India are women, while the remaining 93% are men.
8. **Gender-based violence:** Violence against women in India instead of decreasing is on rise. Rape, acid throwing, death due to dowry, honour killing, domestic violence, and Bride burning are major act of violence against women.
9. **Political inequalities:** This measure the gap between men and women in political decision making at the highest levels. India still lag behind when it come to political representation of women in India.

Since independence, Indian government has initiated many policies and legal reforms to address gender inequalities. The Constitution of India guarantee the right of equality and freedom from sexual discrimination to Indian women. India is also signatory to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, or CEDAW. However, gender justice is a distant dream. There are lot of rigidities in traditions and beliefs. Lack of education, lack of development, poverty, improper enforcement of the laws, lack of awareness among women, deep rooted patriarchy, etc. prevented goal of gender justice in India.

Q.10) "India faces the dual whammy of droughts and floods." In light of this discuss the importance of river inter-linking in India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Importance and advantages of Interlinking rivers. Issues of Interlinking rivers.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India has limited water resources. Every year India face situation of floods and droughts in different parts. The interlinking of river project can resolve this issue. It is a geo-engineering project, which aims to link two or more rivers by creating a network of manually created canals. It is based on the concept of diverting surplus water in some rivers to deficit rivers by creating a network of canals to interconnect the rivers.

Importance and advantages of interlinking River project:

1. **Agricultural Crisis:** Linking of rivers will reduce dependence of farmers on uncertain monsoon rains. It will provide irrigation to many areas. The land under irrigation will increase by about 15%. It will lead to additional irrigation of 35 million hectares in the water-scarce western and peninsular regions.

2. **Socio-economic Benefits:** By creating network of canal, flood and drought problem will be resolved by channeling excess water to scarce areas. This will help in saving lives and will reduce economic loss that occur due to floods and droughts.
3. **Energy security:** With creation of new dams and canals to link and store water, it will lead to generation of hydroelectricity that will help in providing energy security. The river interlinking project will generate power of about 34,000 MW (34 GW).
4. **Transport:** Newly created network of canals will open up new routes and ways of water for navigation which is generally more efficient and cheaper compared to road transport. 15,000 km of river and 10,000 km of navigation will be developed. Thereby reducing the transportation cost.
5. **Water security:** It will provide drinking water to many. By interlinking rivers scarce area will get more water that is usually wasted in oceans. It will also lead to ground water recharging.
6. **Inclusive Economic growth:** Interlinking of rivers will provide employment opportunities. It will help in flourishing agriculture and thereby create livelihood. It would also create aquatic ecosystems which will support fishery sector. It is expected to generate opportunities in manufacturing sector, transportation and tourism through development of regions around the region.
7. **Environmental benefits:** Large scale afforestation around the renewed rivers and newly drained area will make environment more green. It will help in boosting biodiversity around the rivers.

Some issues related to Interlinking of Rivers:

1. **Environmental costs:** It will result in massive diversion of forest areas and submergence of land leading to deforestation and soil erosion. Further water flowing into the sea is a crucial link in the water cycle. Interlinking of rivers will hinder with water cycle, thereby disturbing ecological balance. There will be damage to aquatic and terrestrial ecosystem and will cause habitat destruction that will endanger biodiversity.
2. **Economic Costs:** Interlinking of rivers is a costly project. Huge expenditure of the project and the maintenance costs will lead to huge financial burden. This may generate fiscal problems to the government which would be difficult to handle.
3. **Social Costs:** River Interlinking will lead to displacement of the people. Their rehabilitation will not be easy. The construction of reservoirs and river linking canals will displace millions of people and will submerge large areas of forest, agriculture and non-agriculture land, thereby endangering livelihoods of many. It will lead to psychological and cultural damage due to forced resettlement of local tribal community.
4. **Political Costs:** It will lead to increased water disputes among various states. In India, there is a history of dispute over water in the states like the Cauvery water dispute between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu or the dispute over the Chambal River in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Some of the Interlinking projects may lead to strained relationship with neighbouring countries like Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh. For such a big project the consent at the international level also becomes mandatory.

India's river linking project is the need of the hour which can solve dual problem of droughts and floods. Formation of River Basin Authority for coordinated action and subsequent building up of consensus among concerned States is needed. Rehabilitation and appropriate afforestation is important to make this project successful at low social and environmental cost.

General Studies – 2

Q.1) “Policy discussions involving the public as well as tech solutions, would help fight fake news.” Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Danger of fake news and why policies should focus on public and technology to check fake news spread.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Fake news has existed since the dawn of the printing press but in the age of internet and social media, it has spread unchecked. Manipulation of algorithms of social media and search engines to reach large audiences is a global trend now. Fake video clips, news stories with morphed logos, bots, paid commentators have become very common. This demands a public vigilance and awareness along with modern technological solutions to enhance scrutiny of all the facts and data.

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.

Why policies should focus on public and technology to check fake news spread:

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.2) "The inability of the WTO to rein in global trade tensions has raised questions about its relevance in today's world." Examine.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Relevance and problem faced by WTO. What should be done?

Conclusion. Way forward.

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the principal forum for setting the rules of international trade. In its two decades, it has helped reduce barriers to trade in both goods and services and created a dispute resolution system that has reduced the threat of trade wars. However, the institution is under considerable pressure. Disagreements over agricultural subsidies and intellectual property rights, separate bilateral and regional free trade agreements has reduced its effectiveness.

Relevance of WTO:

1. **Administers signed agreements:** It administers existing multilateral trade agreements, for example Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.
2. **Settles disputes and prevents trade wars:** It settles disputes among its members through its Dispute Settlement Mechanism.
3. **Manages new negotiations:** It serves as a platform and manager for negotiations on new global trade agreements like Doha Round.
4. **Rules-based multilateral trading system:** WTO ensures that global trade is based on universal rules suited to and accepted across the world.
5. **Stimulates global growth:** By removing trade barriers it provides more markets to world's resources thus stimulating global growth.
6. **A global arbitrator:** WTO functions as an arbitrator between warring countries and aims at building commonality in policies and practices.

7. **Promotes standardisation:** WTO and its members set standards of trade in goods, services and IP governance which reduces gaps between the quality produced and quality in demand.

Problems faced by the WTO are:

1. Dispute settlement cases continue to be filed for the time being and are being litigated.
2. Technical functioning is now wholly inadequate to meet the major challenges to the strategic relevance of the WTO in the 21st century. In critical areas, the organisation has neither responded, nor adapted, nor delivered.
3. Dimensions of its structures and functions are fragile, creaking, and failing in parts.
4. Agricultural and industrial subsidies have caused blockages in the system and prompted protectionist reactions in a number of WTO members.
5. The WTO lost the critical balance between the organisation as an institution established to support, consolidate, and bind economic reform to counter damaging protectionism, on the one hand, and the organisation as an institution for litigation-based dispute settlement, on the other hand.
6. The unilateral tariffs threatened by the U.S. and China on each other, in their ensuing trade war, don't adhere to the WTO's established procedures thus undermining its credibility.

What should be done?

1. Launch negotiations to address the intertwined issues of agricultural subsidies and market access, while recognising that food security concerns will not disappear.
2. A credible trading system requires a dispute settlement system that is accepted by all.
3. Launch serious negotiations to restore the balance.
4. GATT/WTO rules in a number of areas are outdated. New rules are required to keep pace with changes in the market and technology.
5. A reformed WTO will have to be constructed on the foundation of liberal multilateralism, non-discriminatory pillars.

Although WTO has many achievements in its name, WTO has failed in many fronts. It failed to build a consensus among developed and developing countries on important issues like agriculture, services trade and distorting subsidies by developed nations, as corroborated by the stalemate in Doha talks. WTO need to modify its vision in accordance with present challenges.

Q.3) Critically analyse the progress made in resolving stressed assets since the enactment of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Success of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) so far.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code is the bankruptcy law of India which seeks to consolidate the existing framework by creating a single law for insolvency and bankruptcy. The bankruptcy code is a one stop solution for resolving insolvencies which previously was a long process that did not offer an economically viable arrangement. The code aims to

protect the interests of small investors and make the process of doing business less cumbersome.

Success of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):

1. The IBC has initiated a cultural shift in the dynamics between lender and borrower, promoter and creditor. It played a critical role in reshaping behaviour of borrowers.
2. Before enactment of the IBC, the recovery mechanisms available to lenders were through Lok Adalat, Debt Recovery Tribunal and SARFAESI Act. While the earlier mechanisms resulted in a low average recovery of 23%, the recoveries have risen to 43% under the IBC regime.
3. Since enactment of the IBC, India significantly improved its 'Resolving Insolvency' ranking 108 in 2019 from 134 in 2014 where it remained stagnating for several years.
4. India won the Global Restructuring Review award for the most improved jurisdiction in 2018.
5. An IMF-World Bank study in January 2018 observed that India is moving towards a new state-of-the-art bankruptcy regime.
6. Insolvency law has led to stability in financial systems.
7. Recovery through the IBC was about Rs 70,000 crore in fiscal 2019 twice the amount recovered through other resolution mechanisms such as the Debt Recovery Tribunal, Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, and Lok Adalat in fiscal 2018.
8. The recovery rate is also twice the liquidation value for these 94 cases, which underscores the value maximisation possible through the IBC process.

Way forward:

1. There is need for setting up more tribunals in different parts of the country to handle the greater-than-expected volume of cases.
2. IBC must consider that there are distinct advantages if the existing management is allowed to keep running the company such as knowledge, information and expertise.
3. The banks also must push policy makers towards this move because they're unlikely to get more if the case comes before the NCLT.
4. Proactive training of judges, lawyers, and other intermediaries is be necessary for effective implementation of the code.
5. Technological infrastructure needs to be strengthened to avoid any kind of data loss and to maintain confidentiality.

Given all this, the stressed assets resolution framework in the country is a work in progress. However, proactive seeking and acting on feedback from other stakeholders is needed, as testified by the fact that the IBC has undergone two major amendments already due to various issues and loopholes.

Q.4) "With democratic governance slipping into ineffectual log-jams, India needs to strengthen institutions between the public and the government ." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Need and various measures to strengthen institutions between government and public.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Governance institutions in India must work efficiently for India to succeed, as the strength of institutions makes or breaks a nation. While several developed countries have embarked on the path of governance reform to provide their citizens low-cost, high-quality public services by putting citizens at the centre of governance, India is yet to take concrete steps in this direction.

Need to strengthen institutions between government and public:

1. As the government institutions are the vehicles for public service delivery, they need to be robust in order to deliver the services effectively. The capacities of institutions to deliver services efficiently and effectively have eroded over a period of time and need an overhaul.
2. The considerable reduction in the efficiency of public service delivery lead to wastage of public funds. Thus there is need for re-structuring of public service delivery organisations.
3. In addition structural rigidities in the system and the lack of accountability has led to low levels of motivation on the part of employees working in public service organizations.
4. The problem of corruption is prevalent in governance institutions which is leading to the poor governance.
5. As a result of inefficiencies, citizens do not have access to even basic services and organisations that provide such services with some degree of effectiveness are showcased as best practices.
6. Further lack of accountability in the public service organisations to deliver services effectively has led into inefficiencies. Also public servants feel tied down by rules which constrain their freedom to act innovatively and deliver services desired by people. There is clearly a mismatch between accountability systems, organisational capacity and the needs of the people.
7. This mismatch between accountability systems and the needs of the people is compounded by the lack of effective mechanisms for the expression of the citizens' voice.

How to strengthen governance institutions?

1. The role of these institutions and their objectives should be clearly defined and must be reflected in citizen charter.
2. These institutions must be made result orientated rather than output or input oriented. Incentives should be given on timely achievement of results.
3. The role of policy formulation, its implementation and regulation must be separated and delegated within these institution.
4. Further a greater degree of autonomy to these public service organisations and their functionaries should be granted.
5. Results based performance monitoring and evaluation systems should be established to gauge their performance.
6. Effective decentralisation through devolution of functions, funds and functionaries to local governments is important.
7. Accountability in governance should be improved through measures like performance auditing and social auditing.

Since public service organizations in India have not kept pace with changes in management practices and processes in other countries, the quality of services provided by public organizations is often perceived to be far inferior. They need to be strengthened and reformed to deliver effective public services.

Q.5) "Modern times need modern methods." In light of this discuss the need of modernisation of police force in India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Issue related to police forces. Measures for police reforms.

Conclusion. Way forward.

With changing world, police and law and order challenges are increasing day by day. With change in nature of crime with threats of cyber crime, suicide bombings, outdated police force need modernisation. More trained staff and new technological investigating methods is need of the hour.

Issues related to police forces:

1. Lack of technological capabilities necessary to perform quality investigations.
2. Politicisation and allegiance towards ruling party.
3. Lowest police-to-population ratio. Due to which people of India are least secured people on the globe.
4. Corruption is a major challenge.
5. Lack of effective accountability mechanisms.
6. Registering a criminal case against a police officer is a long and unwieldy process.
7. Lack of effective means to collect and analyse the intelligence data collected.
8. Deteriorating quality of state investigation departments.
9. Lack of coordination within police departments.
10. Representation of women and depressed caste is low which make them insensitive towards them.
11. Digitalisation of crimes became more prominent way of crime today.
12. Escalating violence resulting from caste conflicts including the most recent Dalit uprising, farmers woes across the country.
13. Today's wide spread protests across the country are prompted by militant elements from outside.
14. Nature of crime has also changed which require sophistication method of Investigation and detection.
15. Apart from the core function of maintaining law and order, police personnel carry out various other functions such as traffic management, disaster rescue and removal of encroachments. These extra obligations lead to overburdening of the police force which have negative consequences on their efficiency and performance.
16. One of the reasons for low conviction rates in India is poor quality of investigation by police. The police lack training and expertise required to conduct professional investigations. They also have insufficient legal knowledge and inadequate forensic and cyber infrastructure.
17. In India, control over the police force is with the executive. This has led to abuse of police personnel and interference with their decision-making authority.

What is needed?

1. Extra functions like traffic should be carried out by other government departments or private agencies.
2. States should have specialised investigation units within the police force for better investigation of crimes.

3. Need to strengthen Criminal Justice System and grassroots level policing institutions.
4. Strengthen its investigative capabilities and emergency response infrastructure.
5. More investment is needed in the recruitment procedure.
6. Better training, better pay and allowances and creating a system that rewards initiatives need to be incorporate.
7. Increase budget expenditure on police.
8. Improving police infrastructure.
9. Independent Complaints Authority.
10. Need to adopt latest IT- enabled services.
11. Police should be made more gender sensitive. 33% women reservation in police should be implemented
12. There is need for broader political awareness about the need for police reform. Some states like Kerala and Telangana have tried to take the process forward.

State police forces are primarily in charge of local issues such as crime prevention and investigation, and maintaining law and order. Police force need to adopt modern methods like forensics, data analysis etc to ensure timely justice.

Q.6) Discuss how proposed code of conduct for legislative bodies can help make our democratic institutions more efficient and productive?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Need and importance of code of conduct.

Conclusion. Way forward.

In a major move to curb disruptions in legislative bodies, a uniform code of conduct for lawmakers in their respective Houses has been proposed. It is important in the wake of disruptions and poor productivity of legislative bodies in term of laws and bills passed on national issues.

Need of code of conduct for legislative institutions:

1. There has been continuous disruption of parliament by members in the past. The second half of Budget Session of 2018 witnessed complete washout. Frequent disruptions lead to adjournment of the house. The productivity of the Lok Sabha and that of the Rajya Sabha is impacted by such disruptions.
2. The behaviour of parliamentarians is seen by the whole country and it impacts the legitimacy of the institution of parliament.
3. The politicians representing their constituencies in the Parliament and must focus on the issues than political propagandas which often lead to disruption.
4. Continuous absence from the parliament is a roadblock to passage and discussion on important bills and laws. Code of conduct is needed to ensure attendance in the house.
5. It is important to prohibit MPs from misusing the power and privileges they get.
6. A code of conduct for legislators is essential at the time, to develop a discipline in the house and check derogatory remarks.

Importance of code of conduct for legislative institutions:

1. Parliament and State Legislatures are the representative institutions and accountable to the people. Code of conduct is needed to ensure parliamentarians do their duty efficiently.
2. Code of conduct is important for matters and issues to be constructively discussed and debated in the House in an efficient manner.
3. There is a need of extensive and healthy debates in the Legislatures for passing the laws and the House needs to function without any interruptions.
4. A common Code of Conduct for Legislative Bodies will help in checking unnecessary interruptions and will enhance productivity.

Disruption of Parliament is a serious issue and it is necessary to put in place some mechanism to check unruly Members of Parliament. It should also be ensured that the Code of Ethics should not become a tool to curb the role of Opposition. Like in the UK, Some working days of Parliament should be allotted to Opposition to decide the Agenda of the day.

Q.7) "Dirty rivers in India reflect the failure of society and governance at local and national level." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How dirty rivers are societal and governance failure.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Rivers are lifelines of an ever growing Indian population. Rivers are basis of civilisation since ancient times. Clean rivers are must to support life and healthy ecosystem. Unfortunately in India more than half of the rivers are polluted. Pollution in rivers can be attributed to societal failure as a whole and governance failure especially at local level.

Societal failure:

1. Domestic wastes and sewage is one of the main reason of river pollution originating from household.
2. Careless behaviour and irresponsible attitude towards rivers has led to river pollution.
3. Rampant use of fertilisers and pesticides used in field percolate to rivers. Inability to educate farmers about consequences of indiscriminate use has led to poor state of rivers.
4. Superstition like bathing in Ganga help in getting rid of all sins and lack of efforts to remove such superstition has polluted rivers.
5. Inability to understand one's duty to keep rivers clean and littering here and there, especially at tourist places has led to dirty rivers.

Failure of governance:

1. According to the recent finding of the Central Pollution Control Board that the number of critically polluted segments of India's rivers has risen to 351 from 302, 2 years ago is a reflection of the governance failure for keeping rivers clean.
2. The data show that the plethora of laws enacted to regulate waste management and protect water quality are simply not working.

3. The failure of many national programmes run by the Centre for river conservation, preservation of wetlands, and water quality monitoring can be attributed to corruption, ineffective law implementation and failure of bureaucracy.
4. The problems are worsened by the poor infrastructure available in a large number of cities and towns located near rivers.
5. Managing sewage requires steady funding of treatment plants for all urban agglomerations that discharge their waste into rivers, and also reliable power supply. Unfortunately funds are unavailable either due to low taxes or lack of fund devolution. Further funds which are available are not used properly in an effective way
6. Country's waterways have also suffered badly in recent years, with vast quantities of municipal and industrial waste discharged into them every day. Government has failed to stop such industries. Lack of punishment, inspections encourage them to continue dumping in the rivers.
7. Low priority accorded to enforcement of laws by the SPCBs and Pollution Control Committees. This has led to inefficiencies.

Measures are urgently needed to revive India's many dying rivers, protect its agriculture, and prevent serious harm to public health from contaminated water. Sustained civil society pressure on governments is vital to ensure that this is done in a time-bound manner. India is already facing threat of water crisis. A proactive role need to be played by government and society.

Q.8) Discuss the significance of Supreme Court judgement in K.S. Puttaswamy case. What steps Indian government should take to protect the privacy of Indian citizens?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Significance of Puttaswamy judgement. Steps to ensure privacy.

Conclusion. Way forward.

In 2017, a 9 judge bench of the Supreme Court in Justice K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India passed a historic judgment. It declared privacy to be a fundamental right under Part 3 of Indian constitution. The Supreme Court has, however, clarified that like most other fundamental rights, the right to privacy is not an "absolute right" and is subject to the satisfaction of certain tests and benchmarks.

Significance of Puttaswamy judgement:

1. Puttaswamy case resulted into declaration of right to privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution. Thus one can move to Supreme Court or high court against tyranny of state.
2. This will strengthen freedom of thoughts, expressions, beliefs etc.
3. Provides for protection against the state's interference in the private matters including marriage, family & sex.
4. It will help in prevent the situation of surveillance by the state.
5. It will give boost to the rights of the transgender & LGBT as confirmed by scrapping of section 377 of IPC.
6. The dignity & integrity of a people's body, mind & thoughts are protected through Right to privacy.
7. Now one can make the state accountable & seek justice in case of any infringement in the private zone & in case of unnecessary surveillance without her consent.

8. This opens doors for further debates, will encourage awareness about the rights enjoyed by the citizens.
9. This verdict on right to privacy will also challenge the validity of privacy policies of many companies and will make them transparent and accountable.

What government should do to protect right to privacy of Indian citizens?

1. Individual consent should be must for data sharing. Consent must be obligatory to attain by all entities including the State, which determine purpose and means of data processing.
2. A Data Protection Authority (DPA), as an independent regulatory body responsible for the enforcement and effective implementation of the law must be established.
3. Government should monitor and enforce various regulations and laws diligently and transparently.
4. Government should promote research and awareness about citizen's right to privacy.
5. Sensitive personal data that like biometric should be prohibited for use without written consent.
6. The Central Government shall establish an appellate tribunal to hear and dispose of any appeal against an order of breach of privacy.
7. Penalties should be imposed for violations of the data protection law. Compensation for loss of privacy should be given to individual from such fines.

In the era of increased cyber crimes and frauds, Supreme Court judgement is critical for rights of Indian citizens. It's responsibility of government to secure its citizen's rights. Government should keep a close vigil over various companies and should ban companies involved in privacy breach.

Q.9) What are various conditions for imposition of President rule in a state? Analyse the significance of S.R. Bommai judgement in this context.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Grounds for imposition of President rule. SR Bommai Case and it's significance.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Under Article 356 of the Constitution of India, state emergency (informally president rule) can lead to suspension of state government and impose direct central government rule in a state. In various circumstances Central government can take direct control of the state machinery. Subsequently, executive authority is exercised through the centrally appointed governor, who has the authority to appoint other administrators to assist them.

Grounds of Imposition of President Rule:

President's rule has been imposed under any one of the following different circumstances:

1. When a state legislature is unable to elect a leader as Chief minister for a time prescribed by the Governor of that state.
2. Breakdown of a coalition leading to the Chief minister having minority support in the house and the Chief minister fails to prove majority, within a time prescribed by the Governor of that state.
3. Loss of majority in the assembly due to a vote of no-confidence in the house.
4. Elections postponed for unavoidable reasons like war, epidemic or natural disasters.

5. On the report of the governor if the state machinery/legislature fails to abide by constitutional norms.

S.R. Bommai judgement:

1. The verdict concluded that the power of the President to dismiss a State government is not absolute.
2. President should exercise the power only after his proclamation is approved by both Houses of Parliament.
3. Till then the President can only suspend the Legislative Assembly by suspending the provisions of Constitution relating to the Legislative Assembly
4. The dissolution of Legislative Assembly is not a matter of course.
5. It should be resorted to only where it is found necessary for achieving the purposes of the Proclamation.

Significance of the S.R. Bommai vs Union of India case:

1. The case put an end to the arbitrary dismissal of State governments by a hostile Central government.
2. The verdict ruled that the floor of the Assembly is the only forum that should test the majority of the government of the day, and not the subjective opinion of the Governor, who is often referred to as the agent of the Central government.
3. Judgment ruled that an improperly dismissed government could be restored to office. Thus it established faith in federalism and judiciary.
4. In this judgment Supreme Court showed signs of becoming a strong bulwark of constitutional right and propriety.
5. Bommai doctrine is applied to protect states from discretion and political games of Central government.

Q.10) "No first use policy of India is based upon the idea of minimum deterrence and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons." In light of this discuss the need of revisit to India's No first use policy.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. India's nuclear doctrine. Why India should and shouldn't retain NFU? **Conclusion.** Way forward.

For India, Nuclear weapons are political weapons and not weapons of war and their sole purpose is to deter the use of nuclear weapons by India's adversaries. India has not only established itself as a responsible nuclear state, but guided the world about how to be a responsible nuclear state through No first use policy.

Features of India's nuclear doctrine:

1. Building and maintaining a credible minimum deterrent.
2. A "No First Use" policy i.e. nuclear weapons to be used only in case of any nuclear attack on Indian territory or on Indian forces anywhere.
3. Non use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.
4. Nuclear retaliatory attacks to be authorised only by civilian political leadership through the Nuclear Command Authority.
5. Nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage.

6. India may retaliate with nuclear weapons to retaliate against attack with biological or chemical weapons.
7. Strict controls on export of nuclear and missile related materials and technologies.
8. A commitment to goal of nuclear weapon free world.

Need to revisit NFU policy:

1. When China was conventionally stronger, India felt somewhat protected due to difficult terrain on the Himalayan border. Now, China's impressive infrastructure and massive military modernisation have effectively eroded the Himalayan buffer. This is putting immense pressure on India's NFU policy.
2. India's conventional advantage has been impacted by Pakistan through a clever use of terrorists and threat of using tactical nuclear weapons against any Indian conventional response to a 26/11 type of an attack. India's nuclear doctrine, that professes massive retaliation even against use of small nuclear weapon, does not help.
3. Pakistan is rapidly increasing its arsenal size and improving the survivability of its nuclear weapons.
4. NFU is not good for war like situation, because it requires India to first absorb a nuclear attack before responding. It may result in unacceptably high initial casualties and damage to Indian population, cities, and infrastructure.

Why India should retain NFU policy?

1. NFU policy help in deterring nuclear wars.
2. It helped to create India an image of responsible state.
3. If a nuclear weapons state is powerful and is at advantage with respect to its enemies in non-nuclear capabilities, it does not need to threaten first use of its nuclear bombs. India is a stronger conventional power as compared to Pakistan.
4. India today has access to much better technology than it had in 2003 when it released its nuclear doctrine. New Delhi now has more missiles which are more accurate. It has high quality surveillance platforms.
5. If India shifts to first use policy, then it will lead to competition and adversaries may seek to develop and deploy more sizeable and quickly useable nuclear forces/weapons. This will lead to nuclear arms race, as happened at the time of Cold War.
6. India's missiles have enabled it to move towards canister systems for storing its land-based ballistic missiles. Such systems can reduce turnaround time. Canister has further enabled India's nuclear deterrent to move to the seas.
7. With INS Arihant, a nuclear propelled ballistic missile submarine. India has a credible sea-based deterrent. With a couple of more SSBNs, it can boast of a genuine nuclear triad. Sea-based deterrence thus increase the strain on NFU policy.

India should maintain its NFU (no-first-use) doctrine, as it has helped India in gaining many benefits at international level. It was due to India's nuclear prudence, that Japan has recently signed nuclear deal. India plans for first use policy, then preparation and expenditure would be required for complex command and control and sophisticated intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems, which targets to hit first, etc.

Q.11) "Russia's far-east region is economically and strategically important for India to counter China in the region." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Importance of Russian Far East for India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Relations between India and Russia are rooted in history, mutual trust and mutually beneficial cooperation. This is a strategic partnership that has withstood the test of time, and which enjoys the support of the people of both countries. There are various investment opportunities in Russia especially in its Far East region. If India leverages Russia's Far East it could turn out to be a growth area for Indian business.

Strategic and economic importance of Russia's Far East:

1. **Gateway to East Asia:** India's ties with the Russian Far East could help cement Indo-Russian relations as well as bolster its ties with Central Asia and East Asia. It would connect India to East Asia especially Japan.
2. **Economic opportunities:** The region occupying 40 per cent of Russia's total territory is rich in natural resources, particularly diamonds, gold, oil, natural gas, coal, timber, silver, platinum, tin, lead, and zinc. It also has rich fishing grounds. The region is economically undeveloped, lacks good infrastructure and communications.
3. **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 Russian concerns over Chinese migration into the region. Further, India, one of the largest importers of timber, can find ample resources in the region. Japan and South Korea have also been investing and New Delhi may explore areas of joint collaboration.
4. **Strategic importance:** The Russian Far East is at the forefront of 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.
5. **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. India is set to get gas from Gazprom that will probably be liquefied at a plant near Vladivostok.
6. **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 region should be a magnet for the Indian diamond cutting and polishing industry, which is already facing tough competition in Africa from the Chinese.
7. **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.

Thus it is important, India could help mediate and partner Japanese involvement in the development of Russia's Far East. It is time the India to the invest in the Russian Far East, a region that might well define the dynamics of great power interactions in the Indo-Pacific in the future.

Q.12) Critically analyse the role and effectiveness of FATF (Financial Action Task Force) in combating the financing of terrorism.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Role and effectiveness of FATF.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body which was established to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system. It is a policy-making body which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

Role of FATF in combating terrorism financing:

1. The FATF is the global standard-setter for combatting money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD).
2. The role of the FATF is to protect the integrity of the financial system, and enhance its transparency, which contribute towards global security.
3. The FATF conducts and publishes expert operational and strategic studies on risks, trends, and methods; develops and sets global policies, standards, best practice, and guidance.
4. It evaluates FATF member countries and oversees in close cooperation with the FATF-style regional bodies.
5. The FATF has developed a series of recommendations that are recognised as the international standard for combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. They form the basis for a co-ordinated response to these threats to the integrity of the financial system and help ensure a level playing field.
6. The FATF monitors the progress of its members in implementing necessary measures, reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and counter-measures.
7. In collaboration with other international stakeholders, the FATF works to identify national-level vulnerabilities with the aim of protecting the international financial system from misuse.

Effectiveness of FATF:

1. Over a period of time the FATF has gained perceptible credibility as a professional organisation, which has succeeded in not only increasing awareness regarding the challenges being faced by the global financial system, but also human security issues like terrorism.
2. The FATF has been at the forefront of international efforts to fight money laundering and combating finance to terrorism. Its efforts have been in conjunction with relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

3. It has gained considerable influence over the regulatory framework that deals with financial transactions, in an attempt to make it less liable to exploitation by both profiteers and terrorists.
4. Terrorist financing investigation and prosecution ensures that terrorist financing offences and activities are investigated and persons who finance terrorism are prosecuted and subject to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions.
5. FATF has become one of the major factors for countries like Pakistan being pressurised to take requisite action against terrorists operating from its soil. Terrorist financing preventive measures & financial sanctions require that terrorists, terrorist organisations and terrorist financiers are prevented from raising, moving and using funds, and from abusing the non-profit sector.
6. The naming and shaming policy of the FATF has a corrective underlying principle. A country can be placed on a list and then removed thereafter on receipt of assurance from the highest political authority, along with a judgment on the progress made to implement the guidelines, has ensured an improvement in the overall CFT standards.

Thus FATF played an import role of acting as a standard body to put pressure on terrorism funding and money laundering. Any blacklisting of country cuts the lifeline of terrorist activity supported by state through blockage of funds. Thus FATF act as a pressure group helping in combating terrorism and money laundering.

Q.13) "Linking Aadhaar to social media is an infringement on privacy of individual and can be damaging to democracy." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body.

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 but also a threat to democracy.

Benefits 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.

A threat to privacy and democracy:

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.14) Critically analyse various provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019. Do you think it infringes the fundamental rights of individual?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Key features, issues and significance of the amendment act.

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.

Issues in the amendment act:

1. The Act introduces a vague definition of terrorism to encompass a wide range of non-violent political activity, including political protest.
2. 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.
3. If a terror accused own properties in different states. In such cases, seeking approval of DGPs of different states becomes very difficult, and the delay caused by the same may enable the accused to transfer properties.
4. 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.
5. This is a potentially dangerous amendment which will empower officials of Union Ministry to brand any person 'a terrorist', without following due process.
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. 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.

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.15) What do you understand by the term competitive sub-federalism? Discuss its significance.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is competitive sub-federalism?

Body. Need and importance of competitive sub-federalism.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Competitive federalism is a concept where centre competes with states and vice-versa, and states compete with each other in their joint efforts to develop India and over a broad range issues to provide citizens various services in a hassle-free manner. Broadening the competition between states to encompass the cities is called competitive sub-federalism. Competition between states is a powerful process, that when extend to competition between states and cities, and between cities constitute competitive sub-federalism.

Significance of competitive-subfederalism:

1. It ensure inclusive development in the country.
2. Competitive sub-federalism follows the concept bottom-up approach as it will bring the change from the states.
3. Competition Cities are entrusted with responsibilities, empowered with resources, which can become effective vehicles for sustainable development.
4. It help in reducing inter-states and intra-states inequalities through development.
5. It instil a spirit of positive competition and help utilisation of successful models of development across many states.
6. It help in instilling sense of responsibility in city administrations, ensuring no one have been left out.
7. It help in the principle of cooperative sub-federalism and puts aside the political considerations and influence of state units.
8. It ensure that every limb of the whole country is developing. Eg. There are many disparities between various cities in terms of development, competitive sub-federalism reduce such disparities.
9. It help in providing a level playing field and allow that more assistance can be provided to such for time being.
10. The policy of one-size-fit-all is replaced with different policies of various states based on the own priorities with in the state. Each state will design their own policies for

development of the cities with self-fund. The concept also promotes discipline among the states.

11. Competitive sub-federalism help in various units of federation pursue a healthy competition for economic interests.
12. It is the horizontal relationship between various cities and states which competes with each other which leads to the overall growth of the states.

In pursuit of competitive sub-federalism the states will have to plan their expenditure based on their own priorities. But along with autonomy states should observe fiscal prudence and discipline. The concept of competitive sub-federalism is encourage states and cities to streamline the procedures and thus attract more investment and lead to overall development of the region.

Q.16) "Creation of a Chief defence of services although can solve many issues but may lead to unintended issues." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Advantages and disadvantages of CDS.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is a high military office that will oversee and coordinates the working of the three defence Services in India. CDS would not only ensure coordination among various defence forces but will lead to enhanced security in the region.

Benefits of having CDS:

1. It will provide effective leadership at the top level to the three wings of the armed forces.
2. The CDS will lead to greater coordination and synergy among the tri services.
3. The CDS will help in the tackling of threats from cyber and space sector in an integrated manner and would help in optimal use of available resources
4. Policy-making on operations, procurement and joint logistics will be improved
5. It will provide a single, all-encompassing coherent and cohesive perspective, instead of disaggregated individual single service perspective.
6. This will correct the anomaly of civic-military interface during the shaping/deterrence phase, during operations, or after the occurrence of threatening situations.
7. It would help in holistic management of national security for optimised results and single point military advice on matters of national security including nuclear weapons.

Various issues related to post of CDS:

1. A CDS may not have the full experience of every force except his own in which he served. This may lead to friction between CDS and the head of other two forces and may prove counter-productive.
2. Concentrating power, as well as responsibility, in one person may not produce desired result. A body like a Council headed by CDS can produce desired results.
3. The position of service chiefs will become less important with coming of CDS leading to opposition from defence forces
4. The civil bureaucracy will lose its power and would lead to political and bureaucratic inaction.

India is the only country with an MoD without military professionals, with bureaucrats lacking a military background and knowledge. As a result, we lack a cohesive national

security strategy; national security objectives remain undefined. There is little synergy within the military and also the military-industrial complex remains in a pathetic state. A post of CDS will remove such issues.

Q.17) "Right to online privacy of an individual and the right of the State to detect people who use the web to spread panic and commit crimes are contradictory in itself." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Argument in favour of privacy and for national security.

Conclusion. Way forward.

In era of internet, our personal information is digitised and available to anyone with the means to access it. This is a threat to right to privacy. Also due to rising threats through cyber-space it has become necessary for the government to keep an eye on the data for greater security of the nation. Both rights are crucial, but often come at each other's expense.

Arguments for increased national security:

1. Different rules apply to the government and its citizens in times of threats. We are already facing danger due to terrorism. To reduce the chances of terrorists entering our country, some loss of privacy and tighter security measures are required. Creating a wider security network via internet surveillance makes a much more effective security measure.
2. The common good outweigh the personal preferences. In this case, the common good does include government scrutiny to prevent any bad event. Better intelligence and security measures will help prevent the loss of life.
3. The wider net of national security measures can identify racially or religiously motivated criminals and act against them before harm is caused to others.

Arguments for safeguarding personal privacy:

1. Democracies are established with the purpose of protecting the rights of their citizens. One of these rights is the right to privacy. A person has the right to determine what sort of information about them is collected and how that information is used. Allowing organizations for data collection and inspection under the cloak of keeping people safe violates this right, instead of safeguarding it.
2. 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.
3. When it comes to internet surveillance, everyone is watched, without just cause or proof of suspicion.
4. Decisions about surveillance are taken by the executive branch (including the review process), with no parliamentary or judicial supervision;
5. An individual will almost never know that she is being surveilled means that finding out about surveillance, and then challenging it before a court, is a near-impossibility.
6. a government that is not checked in any meaningful way will tend to go overboard with surveillance and, in the process, gather so much material that actually vital information can get lost in the noise.

In the famous 'privacy-security trade-off', therefore, it is exceedingly important to assess the balance on the basis of constitutional principles and fundamental rights, rather than blindly accepting the government's rhetoric of national security. The fine line between

privacy and national security is dynamic. The government must constantly reassess its need to invade citizens' personal privacy.

Q.18) What do you understand by the term 'Idea of India'? Do you think recent action of Government of India in Jammu and Kashmir is against Idea of India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is 'Idea of India'.

Body. Recent action in J&K and its implications.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The "Idea of India" is an idea of a united nation with a diverse, plural, secular, democratic and inclusive republic that is instituted in the Constitution. It envisage a strong united India with inclusiveness of all the social sects in its development and progress.

What is Idea of India?

1. It encapsulates the dreams and hopes of those who created this modern, democratic, and above all secular state. This Idea of India rejects the idea of a theocratic state of any religious majority.
2. It include a united India with scientific temper as a foundation of new India.
3. It is a welfare state that would actively work to develop the country for its people; the state has been given an important role.
4. The Idea envisages of a modern, educated, democratic, secular, technologically sophisticated society, with equality of opportunity, and gender equality, whose people enjoy a comfortable and healthy life. It offered, not just freedom of worship, but equal respect for all religions.

Idea of India vis-vis recent action by the government in Jammu and Kashmir: Recently Indian Government abrogated the Article 370 and created two union territory by splitting Jammu and Kashmir from Ladakh. This action would enhance Idea of India as:

1. **Economic opportunities:** Jammu & Kashmir had the highest monthly average unemployment rate of 15% between January 2016 and July 2019 among all the states. This step by government will enhance investment and job opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir. The significant move, opens up potential opportunities for development-led economic growth in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh. This will help in achieving a more inclusive India with development spreading to even J&K.
2. **Harmony:** With action of government in J&K, separatist tendencies will reduce which are threat to Idea of India. Also, it will ensue that valley remain conducive for all and not only one religion or sect. This will allow harmony among various sects in the region.
3. **Education:** These actions would lead to opening up of institutions of national importance like IITs, IIMs in the valley. Professors who were not ready to go there as their children don't get admission in schools will settle there. This will help in educating youth and will prevent their brainwashing by anti-social elements. Idea of India inherently include an overall educated society especially youth.
4. **Security:** It will bolster security in the valley through timely and swift action. National Intelligence would strengthen against terrorism through better presence in the valley. However, it will take some time to do so. Also due to designation as union territory the state's police will not be answerable to Kashmir-based politicians. Rather, the police will answer to the centre. This move will help the centre better

control violence in Kashmir. This will help in reducing role of external players in India, thereby promoting peace, security and cohesion in the society. A united India is inherent in idea of India.

5. **Corruption:** Idea of India means a corrupt free society with transparent administration. Earlier many of India's anti-corruption laws were not applicable in Kashmir. It is widely recognised that political actors in the state have long been on the payroll of all sides, allowing them to accumulate vast wealth. Now central government can effectively act against corruption paving way for development of the region.
6. **Better Rights:** India can't progress without ensuring basic rights to its citizens. Article 370 had numerous pernicious impacts. Kashmir's citizens were denied many of the advantages of modern India. For example, it prevented the implementation of the Right to Education in the valley. It also denied residents of the erstwhile Kashmir the advantages of the system of reservations enjoyed by other disadvantaged caste communities. Now J&K people will enjoy all such rights.

Although Government action in J&K has many short term consequences, it would lead to integration of J&K into Idea of India with development and inclusiveness of J&K in the country's progress. What is required is active participation of all the stakeholders not only in J&K but also in other regions to grow together and ensuring peace and cohesion in the society.

Q.19) Why Indian Constitution is called as a 'borrowed document'? Do you think it is a copy of constitution of various countries?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Various borrowed parts. Why not a copy-paste work?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Indian Constitution is the longest written constitution in the world. It has borrowed many provisions from the constitutions of various other countries. However, calling the Constitution a copy of other constitutions is unfair as it is not a result of blind copy and paste but a result of continuous hard work and study of over 2 years.

Indian constitution a borrowed document:

1. **Import of Government of India Act, 1935:** The constitution have included a large number of the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935 into the Constitution of India. It include federal Scheme, Office of governor, Judiciary, Public Service Commissions, Emergency provisions etc.
2. **Borrowed from Britain:** Britain ruled for India over 200 years. Thus major part of polity is shaped according to Britain's polity. E.g. Parliamentary government, Rule of Law, Legislative procedure, Single citizenship, Cabinet system are from Britain unwritten constitution.
3. **Ireland:** Many important parts are borrowed from Ireland. These are Directive Principles of State Policy, Nomination of members to Rajya Sabha and Method of election of president.
4. **Unites States of America:** United States of America is democracy like India. India borrowed many parts like Impeachment of the president, Functions of president and vice-president, Removal of Supreme Court and High court judges, Fundamental

Right, Judicial review, Independence of judiciary and Preamble of the constitution form USA which has helped India to thrive as largest democracy in the world.

5. **Canada:** From Canada we inspired and modelled our polity as a union. Borrowed provisions from Canada are Federation with a strong Centre, Vesting of residuary powers in the Centre, Appointment of state governors by the Centre and Advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
6. **Australia:** From Australia Concurrent List, Freedom of trade, Commerce and inter-course and Joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament were borrowed.
7. **Soviet Constitution (USSR, now Russia):** Indian constitution borrowed Fundamental duties and ideal of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble From USSR.
8. Many other ideas were borrowed from Japan, France and South Africa. Thereby Indian constitution borrowed significant portion from all over the world but it was not a copy-paste, rather was a conscious adoption of strong provisions across the world for Indian society.

Not a copy-paste work:

1. The framers of the constitution made necessary modifications in the features borrowed from other constitutions for their suitability to the Indian conditions, at the same time avoiding their faults.
2. It was codification of many existing laws and values into one document.
3. Concepts of equality, Fraternity and Liberty, federalism, republic, democracy etc. all were to be found in ancient Indian history and scriptures.
4. It was never a blind borrowing. It was innovative borrowing.
5. When western modernity began to interact with local cultural systems, something like a hybrid culture began to emerge, possibly by creative adaptation. Thus, when we were drafting our Constitution, efforts were made to amalgamate western and traditional Indian values. It was a process of selective adaptation and not borrowing.
6. It is a result of strong brainstorming for 2 years, 11 months and 18 days. They studied many many different constitutions of various nations but did not copy paste it. They improvised every and every means any article you read as per the basis of Indian circumstances.
7. Our Constitution has indeed taken references from existing constitutions of the world, but it has not borrowed the constitution as it exists. For example, US constitution envisages Bill of Rights, while our Constitution envisages rights, as well as Fundamental Duties of all citizens of India.
8. We have also taken a strong reference from British Constitution to constitute a sovereign and parliamentary system in India. However, there is no supreme king/queen in India, and our President is the Head of State. He is also the supreme commander of armed forces. There is no such provision in British Constitution.

Thus Indian constitution is not just a copy-paste work. Instead Indian constitution is a result of dedicated learning of those makers. What we need to understand is that Indian constitution is not a carbon copy of existing constitutions of the world. During India's independence era, we needed a quick constitution to start our united and free India. India has taken great strides in making constitution, and it was the duty of our constitutional forefathers to draft a constitution to fit a country so culturally diverse, and economically wide.

Q.20) "Problem in India is not the absence of law but it's effective implementation." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Some illustrations of poor law implementation. Reason and solutions for poor law implementation.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India has a robust judiciary and is playing an important role in providing justice. Despite of having so many good laws there are still so many crimes happening in our country. The country has adequate laws but the main issue arises in its implementation. Poor implementation of laws often lead to inefficiencies and crimes in the society.

Some examples of poor law implementation in India:

1. **Environmental Laws:** The Government has passed various laws to reduce the damage being caused to the environment such as the Forest Conservation Act, 1980, Environmental Protection Act, 1986, National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 etc. They are not implemented properly and despite having a specialised court to deal with environmental damage still persists.
2. **Gender Laws:** Women in India though are progressing and breaking barriers in the form of pro-gender laws. They still lack an effective implementation. According to the United Nations report on gender equality India is still behind the rest of the world significantly.
3. **Labour Laws:** Child labour still persists despite having strict labour laws like the Payment of Wages Act 1936, The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 etc.
4. **Right to information:** According to studies conducted the right to information laws in our country are poorly implemented. It has been reported that a huge backlog of cases have been created and the petitioners are often left with poor quality orders.

Reasons for the poor implementation of laws in India:

1. **Poor conviction rates:** The cases under various laws are increasing but the conviction rate is still very low.
2. **Lack of state cooperation and will:** On ground implementation of laws depend on state action. State when it comes to implementing laws perform poorly either due to reasons like corruption, lack of resources or due to political rift with centre.
3. **Lack of political will:** Every few years before the elections Politicians make promises to bring out laws but after the elections, they are least interested in its implementation.
4. **Lack of rules:** A law made by the Parliament can only be applied if the government makes rules along with it as well. The Benami Transactions Act which was enacted in 1988 gave the government the power to confiscate the Benami properties. But due to the lack of rules framed these properties have not been seized for the last 26 years.
5. **High Population:** India has 2nd largest population in the world. Due to such high population laws even though enacted are difficult to implement.
6. **Lack of review:** Public Consultation and feedback can help to identify the flaws in the law. Only a few laws in India have been invited for feedback. There is also a lack of a mechanism to get these feedbacks while making rules.
7. **High diversity:** Due to high diversity it is difficult to implement laws. Language barriers, local customs are some roadblocks in proper implementation of laws.
8. **Corruption:** Corruption is the biggest problem in India. Criminals who are caught get their way out by bribing money.

9. **Habit of breaking laws:** People have developed a tendency to break laws. Where the law loses respect it is impossible to ensure the protection of rights and maintenance of peace. Despite being educated in laws they are still broken.

Solution to improve law implementation:

1. Adequate resources must be allocated by the Government for the effective implementation of existing laws, improve conviction rates and ensure that justice is done.
2. A post review of the laws will help the Government in understanding why these laws are not getting followed properly by the citizens and can help in removing all the flaws in the laws for its better implementation.
3. Around 2500 Acts are operational in our country at the central level. There should be consistency between the implementation of laws through rules by the government and the intent of the Parliament.
4. People need to be made aware of laws and the people's tendency to break laws need to be broken down. The population also has to be controlled.

Law making by Parliament is the first step in addressing gaps in our legal system. Laws are ideas and the details of their implementation come through rules. It is the implementation of the law that tests its effectiveness in addressing problems on the ground. Poor implementation will make even the greatest law ineffective.

Q.21) "The Witness Protection Scheme need more elaborate and stricter laws." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Features of witness Protection Scheme and issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Witness Protection Scheme, 2018 provides for protection of witnesses based on the threat assessment and protection measures which include protection of identity of witnesses, their relocation, etc. The witness protection scheme is the first attempt in India to protect witnesses. But it suffers from serious limitations.

What is the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018?

1. Scheme envision identification of categories of threat perceptions and preparation of a Threat Analysis Report by the head of the police.
2. Protective measures include:
 - Ensuring that the witness and accused do not come face to face during probe.
 - Protection of identity or change of identity.
 - Relocation of witness.
 - Witnesses to be apprised of the scheme.
 - Confidentiality and preservation of records.
 - Recovery of expenses, etc.
3. Other features are in-camera trial, proximate physical protection and anonymising of testimony and references to witnesses in the records.
4. The programme identifies 3 categories of witnesses as per threat perception as follows:
 - **Category A:** Cases where threat extends to life of witness or family members during investigation, trial or thereafter.

- **Category B:** Cases where threat extends to safety, reputation or property of the witness or family members during the investigation or trial.
 - **Category C -** Cases where threat is moderate and extends to harassment or intimidation of the witness or family members, reputation or property during the investigation, trial or thereafter.
5. The application for protection will have to be filed before the competent authority. The Authority will be required to dispose an application within five days from the date of receipt of Threat Analysis Report.
 6. The scheme will be the law under Article 141/142 of the Constitution, until the enactment of suitable Parliamentary and/or State Legislations on the subject.

Issues in witness Protection Scheme:

1. The biggest problem is the time frame of protection. The scheme has limited the scope of protection for 3 months at a time. Witness protection should be provided until the threat has ceased to exist.
2. The second drawback is related to the categorisation of witnesses according to threat perception. No scheme can succeed if a corrupt administration or police department is invested with the authority to analyse the threat perception and then categorise witnesses on the basis of its assessment.
3. Even though the scheme is committed to protecting the identity of witnesses by maintaining the confidentiality of personal information, it does not penalise any violation of the said provision, reducing the potency of the provision. An effective deterrent must be put in place to prevent the disclosure of such sensitive information.
4. The functioning criminal justice system is the responsibility of the State and some states may not have adequate resources to implement this scheme effectively.
5. The lower courts, where all the witnesses have to appear, do not have the infrastructure to satisfy the mandate of the present WPS.
6. Overworked and understaffed police are unlikely to make any meaningful threat analysis for a witness.
7. Also, in high profile cases involving politicians or influential people the police officer can be put under pressure to provide those people the information regarding the witness.
8. The arrangements to change identity and relocate witnesses may not fit Indian conditions.
9. Scheme not addressed the harassment of the witnesses from the frequent adjournment of cases, monetary loss and other kinds of deprivation due to their repeated appearances in the court
10. It doesn't address the social reality of witnesses. Most crimes in India take place amongst people known or related to each other and, consequently, the witnesses also share some relationship with both the victim and the accused. Thus, it casts tremendous pressure on the witness, generally of a social or caste-related nature.

Owing to its major loopholes, the witness protection scheme is unlikely to instil confidence in witnesses. Neither can it resolve the problem of witnesses turning hostile. The political patronage and corrupt practices have a role to play in witnesses turning hostile. Witness protection requires foolproof mechanisms.

Q.22) "No first use nuclear policy has helped India to establish itself as a responsible nuclear nation." In light of this discuss whether India should change its nuclear policy or not?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Nuclear doctrine of India and analyse no first nuclear policy.

Conclusion. Way forward.

For India, Nuclear weapons are political weapons and not weapons of war fighting and that their sole purpose is to deter the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons by India's adversaries.

Features of India's nuclear doctrine:

1. Building and maintaining a credible minimum deterrent.
2. A "No First Use" policy i.e. nuclear weapons to be used only in case of any nuclear attack on Indian territory or on Indian forces anywhere.
3. Non use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states.
4. Nuclear retaliatory attacks to be authorised only by civilian political leadership through the Nuclear Command Authority.
5. Nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage.
6. India may retaliate with nuclear weapons to retaliate against attack with biological or chemical weapons.
7. Strict controls on export of nuclear and missile related materials and technologies.
8. A commitment to goal of nuclear weapon free world.

Argument that favours NFU:

1. NFU policy help to deter nuclear wars.
2. If a nuclear weapons state is powerful and is at advantage with respect to its enemies in non-nuclear capabilities, it does not need to threaten first use of its nuclear bombs. India is a stronger conventional power as compared to Pakistan.
3. India today has access to much better technology than it had in 2003 when it released its nuclear doctrine. New Delhi now has more missiles which are more accurate. It has high quality surveillance platforms.
4. If India shifts to first use policy, then it will lead to competition and adversaries may seek to develop and deploy more sizeable and quickly useable nuclear forces/weapons. This will lead to nuclear arms race, as happened at the time of Cold War.
5. India's missiles have enabled it to move towards canister systems for storing its land-based ballistic missiles. Such systems can reduce turnaround time. Canister has further enabled India's nuclear deterrent to move to the seas.
6. With INS Arihant, a nuclear propelled ballistic missile submarine. India has a credible sea-based deterrent. With a couple of more SSBNs, it can boast of a genuine nuclear triad. Sea-based deterrence thus increase the strain on NFU policy.

Argument against NFU:

1. When China was conventionally stronger, India felt somewhat protected due to difficult terrain on the Himalayan border. Now, China's impressive infrastructure and massive military modernisation have effectively eroded the Himalayan buffer. This is putting immense pressure on India's NFU policy.

2. India's conventional advantage has been impacted by Pakistan through a clever use of terrorists and threat of using tactical nuclear weapons against any Indian conventional response to a 26/11 type of an attack. India's nuclear doctrine, that professes massive retaliation even against use of small nuclear weapon, does not help.
3. Pakistan is rapidly increasing its arsenal size and improving the survivability of its nuclear weapons.
4. NFU is not good for war like situation, because it requires India to first absorb a nuclear attack before responding. It may result in unacceptably high initial casualties and damage to Indian population, cities, and infrastructure.

India should maintain its NFU (no-first-use) doctrine, as it has helped India in gaining many benefits at international level. It was due to India's nuclear prudence, that Japan has recently signed nuclear deal. India plans for first use policy, then preparation and expenditure would be required for complex command and control and sophisticated intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance systems, which targets to hit first, etc.

Q.23) Discuss the role and relevance of UNSC in 21st century. Why UNSC need various reforms?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Analyse need of UNSC. Various issues in UNSC and reforms required.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the organs of the United Nations which deal with the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council consists of five permanent members- the United Kingdom, France, China Russia, and the United States.

Role and relevance of UNSC in present era:

1. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations charged with the maintenance of international peace and security.
2. It play an important role in accepting new members to the United Nations and approving any changes to its United Nations Charter.
3. Its powers include:
4. The establishment of peacekeeping operations.
5. The establishment of international sanctions.
6. The authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions.

Failure of UNSC:

1. It has failed to tackle the recent crisis of Syria, Gaza and Ukraine.
2. It failed to establish itself as a credible and a legitimate body due to use of platform for personal gains by many nations.
3. It has not raised voice against terrorism as it should have.

Issue of permanent membership in UNSC:

1. **Concentration of powers:** UN represents a larger world. Only 5 permanent members in such an important body has led to concentration of powers.
2. **New Realities:** Current composition of the Security Council represents the post World War II realities. Thus it is not in pace with the changing balance of power in the world. Reforms are needed.

3. **Emergence of new powers:** At the time of the formation of UNSC, big powers were given powers for councils' proper functioning. Rise of G4 (India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan) as important economies and emerging world powers demand UN Security Council reforms.
4. **No Representation:** The regions like far East Asia, South America, Africa have no representation in the permanent membership of the council.
5. **Serious Consequences:** Its powers to establish international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions which are binding to member states can have serious consequences on economies.
6. **Veto Power:** Another criticism of the Security Council is the veto power of the five permanent members. One country's objection, rather than the opinions of a majority of countries, may prevent any possible UN response to a crisis. Recent case of Masood Azhar which was vetoed by China is an example of this.
7. **Lack of transparency:** The permanent members meet privately and then present their resolutions to the full council, behaving like a private club who secretly come to decision. This lead to opacity in decision making.

The road for the reforms is not easy. Three powerful members of the UNSC namely Russia, China, and the U.S. are opposed to any major restructuring of the Council. The reform of the Security Council can only take place if two-thirds of UN member states vote in favour, along with an affirmative vote from all the permanent members, who enjoy the veto power. Effectively, even if India secures the support of two-thirds of UN members, who are present and voting, it would still need the five permanent members to not use the veto and thereby, prevent the adoption of the reform process.

Q.24) "A post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) would resolve many security problems and challenges in India." Analyse.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Why Chief of defence staff is needed? Benefits of having CDS.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is a high military office that will oversee and coordinates the working of the three defence Services in India. The Chiefs of Staff Committee (CoSC) is a toothless office in india. CDS would not only ensure coordination among various defence forces but will lead to enhanced security in the region.

Why Chief of defence staff is needed?

1. The problem with the existing separate military headquarters is that there is a turf war between the three wings with each seeing things with its own perspective and requirement.
2. CoSC arrangement is seen as unsatisfactory and the post did not further tri-service integration, resulting in inefficiency.
3. The CoSC system is a leftover from the colonial era, with only minor changes being carried out over the years.
4. It observed that Service Chiefs devote most of their time to their operational roles often resulting in negative results. Long-term defence planning suffers as day-to-day priorities.

5. The defence Secretary represents India in all professional forums and act as the adviser to the defence minister. This deprive the political executive from the expert advice of the service Chiefs.
6. The CDS is seen as vital in the integration of tri-service assets and personnel like in the US military.
7. Most countries with advanced militaries have such a post with varying degrees of power and authority.
8. The Armed Forces are still considered as “Attached Offices” of the Ministry of Defence and it is the Defence Secretary who is responsible for the defence of the country. This invariably leads to greater gap between the civilian and military bureaucracy.

Benefits of having CDS:

1. It will provide effective leadership at the top level to the three wings of the armed forces.
2. The CDS will lead to greater coordination and synergy among the tri services.
3. The CDS will help in the tackling of threats from cyber and space sector in an integrated manner and would help in optimal use of available resources.
4. Policy-making on operations, procurement and joint logistics will be improved.
5. It will provide a single, all-encompassing coherent and cohesive perspective, instead of disaggregated individual single service perspective.
6. This will correct the anomaly of civic-military interface during the shaping/deterrence phase, during operations, or after the occurrence of threatening situations.
7. It would help in holistic management of national security for optimised results and single point military advice on matters of national security including nuclear weapons.

India is the only country with an MoD without military professionals, with bureaucrats lacking a military background and knowledge. As a result, we lack a cohesive national security strategy; national security objectives remain undefined. There is little synergy within the military and also the military-industrial complex remains in a pathetic state. A post of CDS will remove such issues.

Q.25) “In the era of growing social media tentacles across the globe, scrutiny of the facts and data is need of the hour.” Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Consequences of fake news and propaganda.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Fake news has existed since the dawn of the printing press but in the age of internet and social media, it has spread its tentacles. Manipulation of algorithms of social media and search engines to reach large audiences and mislead news consumers is a global trend now. Fake video clips, news stories with morphed media logos, bots, paid commentators have become very common. This demands a vigil society and scrutiny of all the facts and data.

Consequences of fake news spread:

1. **Political:** 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. **Economic:** 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. **Society:** 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. **Security:** 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. **International:** The false portrayal of kashmir as a place of human right abuse by international media has created a false image of the nation.
6. **People's faith:** 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. All the sections of the population must be made aware of the realities of propagandas and information war.
2. Ordinary consumers of news can play a big role by refusing to pass on what they cannot independently verify with other sources.
3. Websites that mimic well-known, credible media outlets in their name should be banned.
4. Cyber ombudsman to deal with the credibility of news sources should be appointed to ensure right facts are reported.
5. Schools should teach children about critical thinking should instil a Behaviour of questioning and fact checking in them.
6. With the utilisation of metadata and human content moderation, government can prevent fake news, misinformation and even punish bad actors.
7. The state police machinery should be strengthened to catch anyone responsible for spreading fake messages.
8. Government should have independent agency to verify the data being circulated in social and other media. The agency should be tasked with presenting real facts and figures.
9. Government should have mechanism for immediately issuing of notice against sites/people/agencies involved in spreading fake news through radio, messages, and media.
10. Social media websites should be made accountable of such activities so that it becomes their responsibility to have better controlling restricting the spread of fake news.
11. It should be mandatory for Print and Electronic media to have internal mechanism for verifying incidents, facts and figures.

12. 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.26) Discuss various provisions of dams safety bill, 2019. Discuss its importance and various issues related to it.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Various provisions of Dams Safety bill, 2019. It's significance and issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Dam Safety Bill, 2019 provides for the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of specified dams across the country. It provides for an institutional mechanism to ensure the safety of such dams. Thus is important to ensure safety and security of the people of the region.

Provisions of the dam safety bill, 2019:

1. **National Committee on Dam Safety:** The National Committee on Dam Safety will be constituted and will be chaired by the Chairperson, Central Water Commission. All other members will be nominated by the central government. Functions of the Committee include:
 - Formulating policies and regulations regarding dam safety standards and prevention of dam failures.
 - Analysing causes of major dam failures and suggesting changes in dam safety practices.
2. **National Dam Safety Authority:** The National Dam Safety Authority will be headed by an officer, not below the rank of an Additional Secretary, who will be appointed by the central government. Functions of the Authority include:
 - Implementing the policies formulated by the National Committee on Dam Safety.
 - Resolving issues between State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs), or between a SDSO and any dam owner in that state.
 - Specifying regulations for inspection and investigation of dams.
 - Providing accreditation to agencies working on construction, design, and alteration of dams.
3. **State Dam Safety Organisation:** State governments will establish State Dam Safety Organisations (SDSOs). All specified dams situated in a state will fall under the jurisdiction of that state's SDSO. Functions of the SDSOs include:
 - Keeping perpetual surveillance, inspecting, and monitoring the operation and maintenance of dams.
 - Keeping a database of all dams.
 - Recommending safety measures to owners of dams.
4. **State Committee on Dam Safety:** The Bill provides for the constitution of State Committees on Dam Safety by state governments. Functions of the Committee include:
 - Reviewing the work of the SDSO.

- Ordering dam safety investigations.
 - Recommending dam safety measures and reviewing the progress on such measures.
 - Assessing the potential impact on upstream and downstream states. These states will also have their representatives on the State Committee.
5. **Obligations of dam owners:** Owners of specified dams are required to provide a dam safety unit in each dam. This unit will inspect the dams: (i) before and after the monsoon session, and (ii) during and after every earthquake, flood, or any other calamity or sign of distress.
- Dam owners will be required to prepare an emergency action plan, and carry out risk assessment studies for each dam at specified regular intervals.
 - Dam owners will also be required to prepare a comprehensive dam safety evaluation of each dam, at regular intervals, through a panel of experts.
 - The evaluation will be mandatory in certain cases such as major modification of the original structure, or an extreme hydrological or seismic event.
6. **Offences and penalties:** The Bill provides for two types of offences. These are: (i) obstructing a person in the discharge of his functions under the Bill, and (ii) refusing to comply with directions issued under the Bill.

Significance:

1. The Bill will help ensuring of safety of dams and safeguard benefits to peoples from such dams. This shall also help in safeguarding human life, livestock and property.
2. It addresses all issues concerning dam safety including regular inspection of dams, Emergency Action Plan, comprehensive dam safety review, adequate repair and maintenance funds for dam safety.
3. It lays onus of dam safety on the dam owner and provides for penal provisions for certain acts.
4. While dams have played a key role in fostering rapid and sustained agricultural growth and development in India, there has been a long felt need for a uniform law and administrative structure for ensuring dam safety.

Concerns:

1. Criteria of selection of dam exclude basis of age of dam, which is the major issue which should have been taken up.
2. The bill is too focused on structural safety and not on operational safety.
3. There is inadequate compensation to the people affected by dams.
4. There is need for an independent regulator as well as for a precise definition of stakeholders.
5. It encroaches upon the sovereignty of States to manage their dams, and violates the principles of federalism enshrined in the Constitution.
6. It is seen as an attempt by the Centre to consolidate power in the guise of safety concerns.

Q.27) Discuss various provisions of RTE act. Why it has failed to reform education system in India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Various provisions of RTE act. Reasons for its failure.

Conclusion. Way forward.

RTE Act was introduced in 2009. Even after 10 years education in India is in poor state. ASER report suggest that although enrolment in schools has been increased, education quality is still poor with poor attendance and increased drop out rates.

Right to Education (RTE) Act:

1. This act is an incarnation of Article 21-A, which says that every child has a right to full time elementary education of satisfactory and equitable quality in a formal school which satisfies certain essential norms and standards.
2. Act provide that every child in the age group of 6 to 14 years has Right to elementary education. They are entitled for free and compulsory education.
3. It clarifies that 'compulsory education' means obligation of the appropriate government to provide free elementary education and ensure compulsory admission, attendance and completion of elementary education to every child in the six to fourteen age group.
4. No child shall be liable to pay any kind of fee or charges or expenses which may prevent him or her from pursuing and completing elementary education.
5. It makes provisions for a non-admitted child to be admitted to an age appropriate class.
6. It specifies the duties and responsibilities of appropriate Governments, local authority and parents in providing free and compulsory education, and sharing of financial and other responsibilities between the Central and State Governments.
7. It lays down the norms and standards related to Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs), buildings and infrastructure, school-working days, teacher-working hours.
8. It provides for rational deployment of teachers by ensuring that the specified pupil teacher ratio is maintained for each school, rather than just as an average for the State or District or Block, thus ensuring that there is no urban-rural imbalance in teacher postings.
9. It also provides for prohibition of deployment of teachers for non-educational work, other than decennial census, elections to local authority, state legislatures and parliament, and disaster relief.
10. It provides for appointment of appropriately trained teachers, i.e. teachers with the requisite entry and academic qualifications.

Reasons of failure of RTE Act:

1. **Discrimination:** According to the 2011 Census, the average literacy rates of people aged above 15 among Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) are about 9% and 17.4% less than the national average, respectively. The female literacy rate is 19.5% less than that of males. This difference indicate the double discrimination faced by Dalit and Adivasi women.
2. **High dropout rates:** The dropout rates are high, especially among SCs and STs and more girls discontinue schooling than boys.
3. **Wrong focus:** More focus is on infrastructure than on quality of education. Although infrastructure is important, education quality is also important for country's education system.
4. **Lack of awareness:** Many people do not know about the act. Thus prevent them to reap benefits provided under the act. Lack of awareness about the Act is major issue in rural areas.
5. **Pupil Teacher Ratio:** It has been debated that maintenance of a favourable pupil-teacher ratio is important to enhance the quality of education. The smaller the size of a class, the more attention a teacher can pay to each individual student's

requirements. India has poor pupil to teacher ratio. Facts reveal that about 1 Lakh schools are run by a single teacher.

RTE Act has failed to recognise the cause of the education crisis in the country is low quality education ascertained by low learning outcomes of students. The provisions must be revisited with the view that the education sector is only as strong as the potential human capital it seeks to develop. Without improving learning outcomes, the RTE Act, 2009 will remain a symbolic gesture of government reform misaligned with the issues of the education sector and ineffective in eradicating the education crisis that plagues the country.

Q.28) "Indian investigation agencies need modernisation and more autonomy to increase their efficacy." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Issues faced by investigation agencies in India. Solution to resolve these issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Investigation agencies are facing many challenges in the investigation of traditional and modern crimes. The investigating agencies need to evolve ways to improve quality of investigation especially for economic and organized crimes and related legal issues.

Need of modernisation of investigation agencies:

1. In a large and populous country like India, investigation agencies need to be well-equipped, in terms of personnel, weaponry, forensic, communication and transport support, to perform their role well.
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. In 2015, 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.
4. 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 modern investigation efforts.
5. Traditional and outdated devices used in the past for investigation are not be sufficient. Modern devices like artificial intelligence, robots, drones, CCTVs are required to fight increasing crime rates.
6. There are new technology related challenges which are faced by the law enforcement agencies. Increasing cyber crime, fake propagandas demand modern methods of investigation.
7. 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.
8. With increased threat to privacy of citizens, investigation agencies need modern methods to prevent misuse of data.
9. 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.
10. Investigation agencies need prior permission of government in many cases especially against bureaucrats.

11. 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. Separate the investigating police from the law and order police to ensure speedier investigation, better expertise and improved rapport with the people.
3. The Political class should take bold initiatives to bring in more reforms in the existing investigation system in India. The need is to have an impartial and professional organisation because the criminal justice system cannot function without a healthy investigative agency.
4. The reforms in the Indian Police are required through appropriate interventions in skill building and attitudinal training.

Thus with changing times way and methods of investigation should improve through modernisation and autonomy to investigation agencies. A more political will and nudge is required to achieve it.

Q.29) "Quackery although increase accessibility to health services in India, but is a big danger to the health of poor." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Why Quackery is dangerous to general public health?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Almost one-third of those who claim to be allopathic doctors are educated only up to the secondary school level and about 60% did not have any medical qualification, a recent WHO report found on India's healthcare workforce. The situation is far worse in rural India, where just 20% of allopathic doctors have a medical qualification, the study 'The Health Workforce in India' revealed. This pose many risks to general health of public especially poor.

Risk pose by quackery:

1. Quacks many times recommend unnecessary and harmful drugs to the patients. They may consume something that causes effects other than those promised or expected. This is dangerous and harm health of patient seriously.
2. Many quacks prescribe their herbal preparations which may result in allergic reactions or with unexpected drug interactions.
3. The consumers are harmed in a way by wasting money on products that can't deliver on their promises. This impact poor people especially.
4. Quackery often lead to misdiagnosis and wrong treatment that pose serious threat to health of the patients.
5. Due to blind recommendations and usage of antibiotics to treat diseases and get rid of symptoms, many patients end up in developing antibiotics resistance of which quacks are generally unaware of.
6. Quacks generally recommend improper treatment period and regime on the basis of experience and not on scientific basis. This lead to overdosage and under-dosage many times.
7. Quacks do not use modern methods and tests like sugar test, urine test leading to misdiagnosis.

8. They generally lack knowledge of side-effects of many drugs, thereby end up in recommending wrong drugs combination and wrong drug concentration, jeopardising overall health of the patient.
9. Many quacks still use harmful methods of blood transfusions or use HIV infected syringes leading to AIDS to many patients.
10. They generally don't emphasise Hygiene and Sanitation, thereby creating a situation of infectious and communicable disease in already weak immune patients.

Some positive aspects:

1. They are affordable to poor who may not be able to pay for their costly treatments.
2. Due to shortage of doctors, especially in rural areas, they provide health services to many.

Thus quackery may have helped in increasing accessibility to health services at affordable rate in unreachable areas, they pose a risk to health of public especially poor in many ways. Immediate solution lies in training them with banning quackery after some years combined with efforts to increase doctors in India.

Q.30) "Despite of differences at various levels, India-China relations are critical to realise Asian century." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Importance of India-China relationship in realising Asian Century.

Conclusion. Way forward.

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

Importance of India-China relationship in realising Asian Century:

1. **Economic development:** Asia is experiencing robust economic performance over the three decades, spearheaded by India and China. Asian century can't be realised without economic development of the two countries and moving out millions of people in the region out of poverty. Both nation must enhance bilateral relations in a positive way leading to a path of development.
2. **Demographic dividend:** Population growth in Asia is expected to continue for at least the first half of the 21st century. This will result in huge demographic dividend in the region. Thus coordination between two nations by providing opportunities and employment driven by economic growth is necessary.
3. **Investment:** India and China relations has not reached full potential due to lack of bilateral investments. Where China can provide market for India to invest in pharmaceutical industry, agricultural products, software industry; India is a market for China for its technological industry. Creation of New Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Asian Development Bank are new engine of growth in the region. These institutions would fail without cooperation among New Delhi and Beijing.
4. **Success of new organisations:** New Organisations like Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and economic deals like Trans Pacific partnership and RCEP are indicator of Asia emerging as a center for geo-economics and geo-politics. These

platforms as a centre of Asian century would be successful only when two engines of growth cooperate with each other and work together.

5. **Regional Stability:** Asian century can't be realised under the threat of terrorism. It has impacted regional structures in South Asian countries in a negative way. It is very important for two countries to stand together against terrorism to promote stability in the region. Regional stability would ensure mutual growth.
6. **Trade:** China is India's largest trading partner. Chinese imports from India amounted to \$16.4 billion or 0.8% of its overall imports, and 4.2% of India's overall exports in 2014. The fact that both these countries are the two big Asian giants, it is imperative for both of them to be allies so as to support each other and continue their bid for the strongest power.

Some important steps to boost bilateral relations among two nations:

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

It should also be noted that China continues to have border skirmishes and unbalanced trade negotiations with India. China has been seen with a lot of speculation not just in India, but outside as well and on various fronts. Without Chinese cooperation and change in attitude it is tough to realise progress on bilateral relations. India should push China for better relations and should try to establish trust among two nations.

Q.31) "Various legislations in India has failed to stop the rampant sexual abuse of children." In light of this discuss the issue of child sex abuse in India. What should be done to prevent such crime?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Reasons of child sex abuse, its Impact and solutions.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is home to the largest child population in the world, with almost 42% of the total population under 18 years of age. Statistics reveal that there has been a steady increase in sexual crimes against children. According to a study conducted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development over half of the children surveyed reported having faced some form of sexual abuse. Protection of Children against Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) has failed to protect child from sexual abuse.

Reasons for rampant child sex abuse in India despite of laws:

1. Low conviction rates under the present laws.
2. Lack of child-friendly procedures and facilities.
3. Challenges related to age-determination of the child. Especially laws focus on biological age and not mental age.
4. Poor appreciation of the testimony of the child adversely affects the conviction rate.
5. Majority of child sexual abuse goes unreported. Only about a third of child sexual abuse incidents/cases are identified, and even fewer are reported.

6. Lack of awareness and illiteracy about child sexual abuse especially in rural areas.
7. Involvement of family members which is often suppressed by the parents to prevent shame and family disintegration.
8. Lack of facilities in schools and lack of training of teachers to teach child about sexual abuse.
9. Act focuses more towards punishment and less on reformation efforts toward convicts.
10. Lack of provision of police training to deal sensitive cases of children.

Impacts of sexual abuse on children:

1. **Physical dangers:** It can result in death and lead to injuries to the child.
2. **Mental Impact:** Children exposed to violence have higher rates of anxiety, depression, other mental health problems and suicide. Mental health problems such as depression, eating disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), self harm, suicidal thoughts.
3. **Impact on education:** It can negatively affect cognitive development and results in educational and vocational under-achievement. Children exposed to sexual abuse and other adversities are more likely to drop out of school and have difficulty in employment.
4. **Behavioural Impact:** Emotional difficulties such as anger, anxiety, sadness or low self-esteem. Disturbing thoughts, emotions and memories that cause distress or confusion. Children exposed to sexual abuse and other adversities are more likely to smoke, misuse alcohol and drugs, and engage in high-risk sexual behaviour.
5. **Dangers to health:** Child sexual abuse can lead to unintended pregnancies, induced abortions, gynaecological problems, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Measures to prevent sexual abuse of children:

1. Parents should closely and carefully observe the behavioural changes of their children and should teach their kids about sexual abuse.
2. Making stricter legislation against offenders with proper implementation. Life imprisonment or not death should be awarded.
3. At school level, authorities should check the background and credentials of the job applicants.
4. Children should be made aware of acts like POSCO so as to make them aware of their legal right.
5. CCTV cameras should be installed in schools.
6. Community awareness program should be encouraged to increase awareness among children about the evil of sexual abuse.
7. Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act can be amended to allow Child Welfare Committees to receive complaints.
8. Media should play a proactive role and should be prohibited from disclosing the personal identity of the victim categorically in line with the Juvenile Justice Act.
9. Media should be prohibited from reporting the identity of the victim categorically in line with the Juvenile Justice Act.
10. Issues like child marriage should be clearly addressed as there is contradiction between POCSO Act and personal law.

Children are the future of the nation and it is needed that they should be prevented from such crimes. Plugging gaps in justice system, not death penalty, can curb child sexual abuse. There is an urgent need to urgently devise ways to bolster the existing criminal

justice and child protection systems and ensure higher convictions. There is also need to revamp the POSCO act. Unless the voice is raised, nothing is going to be heard since most of the incidents are buried under due to the fact that majority of the molesters belong to the same family and the next reason being losing their name /status in the society.

Q.32) Discuss the impact of abrogation of Article 370 in India. Do you think it will help India to resolve Kashmir dispute?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Impact of abrogation of Article 370 on Jammu and Kashmir.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Recently the Central government revoked Article 370 of the Constitution which gives special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Although 'The Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 2019' issued by President of India has not abrogated Article 370 completely, special status of Jammu and Kashmir has been withdrawn.

Impact of abrogation of Article 370 on Jammu and Kashmir:

1. **Economic impact:** According to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's (CMIE), Jammu & Kashmir had the highest monthly average unemployment rate of 15% between January 2016 and July 2019 among all the states.
 - This step will enhance investment and job opportunities in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - The significant move, opens up potential opportunities for development-led economic growth in the Union Territories of J&K and Ladakh.
2. **Education:** It would lead to opening up of institutions of national importance like IITs, IIMs in the valley. Professors who were not ready to go there as their children don't get admission in schools will settle there.
3. **Security:** It will bolster security in the valley through timely and swift action.
 - National Intelligence would strengthen against terrorism through better presence in the valley. However, it will take some time to do so.
 - Also due to designation as union territory the state's police will not be answerable to Kashmir-based politicians. Rather, the police will answer to the center.
 - This move will help the center better control violence in Kashmir.
4. **Administrative:** The downgrading of Kashmir's status from state to union territory has important implications.
 - As being declared Union territories Jammu and Kashmir will be directly handled by the central government.
 - The new union territory of Jammu and Kashmir will resemble that of Puducherry and Delhi while Ladakh will resemble with others like Andaman and Nicobar.
 - Thus it will help central government to work for development of the region.
 - 73rd and 74th amendments pertaining to elections of local bodies were not applicable in the state. Now local participation will increase in the governance after implementation of these acts.
5. **Corruption:** Many of India's anti-corruption laws were not applicable in Kashmir. It is widely recognised that political actors in the state have long been on the payroll of

all sides, allowing them to accumulate vast wealth. Now central government can effectively act against corruption paving way for development of the region.

6. **Better Rights:** Article 370 had numerous pernicious impacts. Kashmir's citizens were denied many of the advantages of modern India. For example, it prevented the implementation of the Right to Education in the valley. It also denied residents of the erstwhile Kashmir the advantages of the system of reservations enjoyed by other disadvantaged caste communities. Now J&K people will enjoy all such rights.
7. **Regional impact:** The only countries that have been directly provoked by India's action are Pakistan and China.
 - Pakistan's protest is guided by vested and evil interest to occupy whole region.
 - While China is concerned about its occupied Aksai Chin part and CPEC engagement with Pakistan.
 - This division will effectively separates India's territorial disputes with Pakistan from its disputes with China. Pakistan's dispute will largely focus on the Valley, while China will largely focus upon claims to Aksai Chin.
8. **Terrorist activities:** Although China would not cause much problem, Pakistan would increase its state sponsored terrorism in the valley, supporting anti-Indian elements in the valley. It would lead to violence in the region and may cause rift among India and the people of the valley. With much better control in the valley, Government and security agencies need to act proactively to contain such acts.

The special status of J&K was meant to end, but only with the concurrence of its people. The Centre's abrupt move disenfranchised them on a matter that directly affected their life and sentiments. Thus, the move is bound to have a significant impact on the demography, culture, and politics of J&K. Government should reach out to J&K people's and assure them security and better governance.

Q.33) What is e-governance? Examine importance of e-governance in growing age of digitisation.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Importance of e-governance in age of digitisation.

Conclusion. Way forward.

E governance is the application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the Government services to improve the efficiency of communication and transaction between

- Government to Government (G2G)
- Government to Business (G2B)
- Government to Citizen (G2C)

Its purpose is to reduce corruption and increase accountability. It also enables a Citizen Centric Administration where citizens can participate effectively.

Importance of E-Governance in digitisation era:

1. **Transforming lives:** The government has been trying hard for digitisation to induce economic inclusiveness and social transformation, through initiatives like, 'Digital India', 'Make in India' and Skill India. India, as a result, is gearing up for an era of increased digitisation. E-governance is important to distribute various benefits of economic growth due to digitisation to all the sects of society. Blending technology

and citizen centricity, catalysing, government operations to create a safer, more efficient and sustainable society.

2. **Good governance:** The complex nature of governance in India demands a holistic approach. Shedding old methods and embracing new technologies in governance, would lead to faster, smarter and more pro-active government needed in the age of digitisation catering its citizens.
3. **Modern problems :** With world moving towards new era of digitisation, it is necessary for government to adopt modern methods of governance to tackle new threats of modern time like cyber fraud, fake news etc.
4. **Ease of Business:** It is important for making doing business for economic growth of the country. Timely approval of projects and tracking of the projects and policies is important and can be made easy through E-governance.
5. **Ease of services:** E-governance include the digitisation of land records, single-window handling of grievances and maintenance of essential services; easing tax payments and government dues; along with internet based delivery of services. It led to faster work culture with reduction in inefficiencies and better services to Indian citizens.
6. **Real Time Governance:** With the help of E-Governance, the government can swiftly resolve citizen grievances and monitor infrastructure projects, incidents and weather & climatic events across the state in real time, leveraging technology services.
7. **Cost Reduction:** Most of the Government expenditure is appropriated towards the cost of stationary. Paper-based communication needs lots of stationary, printers, computers, etc. which calls for continuous heavy expenditure. Internet and Phones makes communication cheaper saving valuable money for the Government.
8. **Transparency:** Use of ICT makes governance transparent. Most of the information of the Government is made available on the internet. The citizens can see the information whenever they want to see. E-governance helped in reducing corruption by online track of various government activities.
9. **Accountability:** As the governing process is made transparent the Government is automatically made accountable. Accountability is answerability of the Government to the people.

Governance is a challenge in a country as vast, diverse and rapidly developing as India. That's where new technologies intervene and enable large-scale transformation and help in the implementation of ambitious government plans. E-governance thus is important to make governance effective and easy catering to the needs of people.

Q.34) Discuss the recent amendments made to RTI Act? Over the last 14 years, how far has the RTI Act served the purposes for which it was introduced?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Achievements and issue in RTI Act.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The objective of the RTI Act is to establish a practical regime for citizens to access information held by Public Authorities. This in turn led to increased transparency and accountability at the Public Authorities. RTI since its enactment led to many stories of defacing corrupt practices. But still there are many issues present that prevented RTI to be a full success.

Recent amendments to RTI act:

RTI ACT, 2005	RTI Amendment, 2019
Sections 13 of the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005 sets the term of the central Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners at 5 years (or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier).	The RTI amendment bill 2019, amends it. Now term will be prescribed by the Central Government.
Section 13 states that salaries, allowances and other terms of service of the Chief Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner and those of an Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of an Election Commissioner.	The amendment proposes that the salaries, allowances and other terms of service of the Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government.
Section 16 of the original Act deals with state-level Chief Information Commissioners and Information Commissioners. It sets the term for state-level CICs and ICs at five years (or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier).	The amendment proposes that these appointments should be for such term as may be prescribed by the Central Government.
The original Act prescribes salaries, allowances and other terms of service of the state Chief Information Commissioner as the same as that of an Election Commissioner and the salaries and other terms of service of the State Information Commissioners as the same as that of the Chief Secretary to the State Government.	The amendment proposes that salaries, allowances and other terms of service shall be such as may be prescribed by the Central Government.

RTI act so far in 14 years:

1. **Enabled citizen rights:** 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.
2. **Anti-corruption tool:** 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.
3. **Empowered people's voice:** 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.
4. **Strengthened democracy:** Every citizen has right to claim information from public authorities under the act. 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 democracy through active participation of public.
5. **Features leading to transparency:** 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.

Issues and loopholes in RTI:

1. **Increasing pendency of cases:** These Commissions particularly the Central Information Commission, have kept a strong vigil over the functioning of administrative machinery relating to the implementation of the Act. However, their performance has often been restricted by increasing number of appeals. This has resulted in increase in pendency as well as increase in waiting time for hearing of appeals.
2. **Definition of information:** An important issue is the definition of information. Supreme Court stated that 'information' for the purpose of this Act would mean information held by the PIO or under his control. However, if the information is not held by the PIO the public authority is not under obligation to provide that information.
3. **Not all institutions under RTI:** Another issue is that some institutions are not being covered under the Act. E.g. judiciary is not under the act.
4. **Lack of infrastructure:** The Implementation of RTI requires the PIOs to provide information to the applicant through photocopies, soft copies etc. These facilities are not available at Block and Panchayat level.
5. **Low awareness level:** Awareness about RTI is yet very low. Awareness level is low especially among the disadvantaged communities such as women rural population, OBC/SC/ST population.
6. **Constraints faced in filing applications:** Under Section 26 of the RTI Act, the appropriate Government is expected to publish and distribute user guides (within 18 months of enactment of the Act) for information seekers. However Nodal Departments have not published these guides in many states.

Since the implementation of the RTI Act, it has established itself as an important tool in handling corruption and inefficiency in the Government. Although there have been instances of misuse of the Act, but it has served its purpose well. Issues and loopholes in RTI should be removed through proper amendment to further the objectives of transparency and accountability.

Q.35) "Instead of getting rational treatment in public health-care facilities, the women are pushed towards irrational treatments in the private sector." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Issues in public health services. Irrational treatment in private health system.

Conclusion. Solution and way forward.

Despite of very rapid growth in India, women's health outcomes are much worse than other countries. It is observed that mainly because of poor public health facilities women are pushed for treatments in the private sector, which often dodge them with unnecessary and irrational treatments endangering their lives.

Issues in public healthcare services that make it inaccessible for women:

1. **Public spending:** To deliver better health outcomes, public expenditure on health service delivery is absolutely essential, and this is especially important for women

and girl children. Public spending on health is very low in relation to GDP, and around two-third of health expenditure is out-of-pocket payment by households.

2. **Lack of doctors:** Doctors in government hospitals are less wrt patient they cater. They are overburdened due to lack of staff, doctors and infrastructure. Many have to wait for long to get treated. This often push them to go for private services.
3. **Less government hospitals:** Still Many rural areas lack public healthcare facilities. Moreover facilities that are available have no doctors and infrastructure for diagnostics and treatment of patients. This push them to go for cities for treatment, which prove costly to poor women.
4. **Low quality care:** Low quality care is prevalent in government hospitals. It is mainly due to misdiagnosis by health professionals, and the prescription of incorrect medicines. A study discovered a doctor in a PHC in Delhi who prescribed the wrong treatment method 50% of the time. Indians in rural areas where this problem is rampant are prevented from improving their health situation.
5. **Lack of accountability:** There is also a lack of accountability across both private and public clinics in India. Public doctors feel less responsibility to treat their patients effectively than do doctors in private clinics. Impolite interactions from the clinic staff lead to less effective procedures.
6. **Corruption:** Healthcare professionals take more time off from work than the amount they are allotted with the majority of absences being for no official reason. This phenomenon is especially more in Sub Centres and PHCs and results in expenditure that isn't correlated to better work performance. This make health facilities unavailable to many women.
7. **Overcrowding of hospitals:** Government hospitals are overcrowded and understaffed without enough beds to support their patients. Statistics show that the number of health professionals in India is less than the average number for other developing nations.
8. **Nexus between public and private spheres:** Public and private practitioners make deals behind the curtains to refer patients to private clinics. Commission are fixed for those working in government hospitals.

Irrational treatment in private hospitals:

1. Private doctor many times do false diagnosis to earn money from the poor.
2. They often recommend unnecessary tests and medicines to get more money. E.g private practitioners recommend ultrasound for women even if it is not needed.
3. Many a times private practitioners misguide their patients to go for costly surgeries and treatment.
4. In the past decade, many cases of unwarranted hysterectomies from many states in India are reported. This is a gross violation of sexual and reproductive health rights.

How to improve health facilities and ensure rational treatment?

1. Develop National standards and accountability mechanisms.
2. Conduct timely inspections and audits of private hospitals.
3. Improve and maintain infrastructure in public healthcare.
4. Develop health workforce.
5. Cancelling of license of doctors involved in corruption.
6. Increase awareness among people especially poor about their rights and consent.

Q.36) "National medical bill although has many advantages but it may lead to other consequences." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Positive and negatives of the NMC bill.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Over the years, there have been several issues with the functioning of the MCI with respect to its regulatory role, composition, allegations of corruption, and lack of accountability. The National Medical Bill, 2019 seeks to remove such issues ensuring transparency and better medical standards.

Positive Outcomes of the NMC Bill:

1. It will help commission to regulate medical education.
2. It will lead to better medical research and policies by medical professionals.
3. It will ensure accountability of medical institutions through their periodic assessment.
4. It provides for an effective grievance redressal mechanism.
5. It will help in addressing the issue of corruption as was seen in medical council of India.
6. It will help in reducing shortage of medical professionals by giving license to community health providers.
7. It will ensure ethical standards in the medical practice through Ethics board.

Adverse consequences of the Bill:

1. **Monopoly of doctors:** The NMC composition lack diverse stakeholders such as public health experts, social scientists, health economists, and health related non-government organisation leading to monopoly of doctors.
2. **Lack of expertise:** Disputes related to ethics and misconduct in medical practice require judicial expertise.
3. **Rise in cost of medical education:** With the proposed cap on fees, the costs for the remaining seats are likely to escalate, thereby putting medical education out of the reach of vast, especially underprivileged sections of the society. Meritorious students would then enrol themselves in institutions where the quality of education is low.
4. **Favour corruption:** There is no provision of election for all the chief posts of these multiple bodies. This would lead to corruption and favouritism.
5. **Centralisation of powers:** States have been reduced to mere advisory roles from being in governance mode leading to centralisation of power.
6. **Delayed decision making:** Advisory council will comprise more than 100 members, including 24 members of the commission. Thus it would be difficult to reach a consensus on any issue with such an overwhelmingly large body. This will hit the decision making at the top.
7. **Shortage of doctors:** The Bill mentions that National Exit Test, which is to gain a licence to practise after MBBS, can also serve as an entrance examination to post-graduate level. It has left a lot of room for confusion. It seems that those who don't clear the exam will not be allowed to practise at all, which is huge. It will lead to acute shortage of doctors in our country.
8. **Crony capitalism:** Now inspection is entrusted upon Medical Assessment and Rating Board. Not only members of the board can inspect, but it may hire and authorise any other third party agency or persons for carrying out inspections. This will only increase the corruption of and crony capitalism.

9. **Incompetence:** 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. It may promote gross incompetence.
10. **Legalises Quackery:** According to the Bill, the Community Health Provider may prescribe specified medicine independently. This legalises quackery. A six-month course will not be enough to train them.

A strong evaluation framework with a strong regulatory governance is extremely important to prevent corruption in medical field and related governing bodies. Thus, NMC bill may end up in complicating issues more than resolving it.

Q.37) "India's asymmetric federalism has helped in keeping nation as one addressing need of many vulnerable communities." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is asymmetric federalism?

Body. How it helped in Indian unity?

Conclusion. Contextual conclusion.

Asymmetric federalism means different constituent states possess different powers in political, administrative and fiscal arrangements between the units constituting a federation.

One or more of the states has considerably more independence than the others, though they have the same constitutional status. The division of powers is not symmetric.

How asymmetric federalism in India helped in ensuring unity and addresses needs of vulnerable communities?

1. **Guaranteeing rights:** These special provisions in the Constitution has helped in protecting fundamental rights and compensated for initial inequalities in the social system.
2. **Conserve ethnicity and culture:** In north-east there is a distinct difference in ethnicity from the rest of India. Article 371 provide special powers to northeastern states. The safeguards provided to these states through special provisions include respect for customary laws, religious and social practices, restrictions on the ownership and transfer of land, and restrictions on the migration non-residents to the State.
3. **Recognition of differences:** It facilitates public recognition of cultural differences and allow certain ethnocultural minorities to have self -rule. Thereby ensuring their development.
4. **Social justice:** Allowance for separate laws to govern different religious groups, and provisions for various kinds of affirmative action for extremely disadvantaged groups help in ensuring justice to them.
5. **Ensure unity in diversity:** These provisions respects and preserve diversity of the country by protecting vulnerable group through special powers. This ensure unity in diversity leading to 'sabka sath sabka vikas'.
6. **Satisfy different needs:** It act as a solution to satisfy different needs of various federal units, as the result of an ethnic, linguistic or cultural difference. Asymmetric federalism has helped in reducing dissatisfaction among various states.
7. **Reduced radicalisation:** Special powers given to the states help in reducing radicalisation. Many states include several diverse population, with the majority of

the population of the state vulnerable and poor. Asymmetric federalism Ensure decision making by these communities which is best for them.

8. **Better representation in democracy:** It has helped in providing representation to minority areas and areas with less population providing them justice.
9. **Strengthen social fabric:** It vent separatist and secessionist activities. By providing special powers and semi-autonomy people feel empowered and do not feel to get separated. It also prevent their exploitation from Political class in name of powers.

The unequal status between various states gave rise to the need for constitutional recognition of inequality, which should be there into the federal polity but in such a way that which protect diversity without sacrificing unity or imposing uniformity. In the Constitution of

In India due to inequality of states and of regions within the state was creating dissatisfaction. Asymmetric federalism and special provisions have helped solving these problems.

Q.38) Track the recent developments in India-US relations. What are various issues in India-US relations?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Recent initiatives and trend in India-US relation with various issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

At present, India and the US share an extensive cultural, strategic, military, and economic relationship. After the decades of trust deficit which have plagued the relationship between India and US, relations has achieved new heights and deepness.

Key recent developments in India-US relations:

1. **Growth of bilateral trade:** Bilateral trade between both the countries is increased. It was fostered by closer ties between the Indian and American industries especially in the Information and communications technology (ICT), engineering and medical sectors. The US is India's second largest trading partner, and India is its 9th largest trading partner. In 2017, the US exported \$25.7 billion worth of goods to India, and imported \$48.6 billion worth of Indian goods.
2. **Boost in Economic Relations:** The United States is India's largest investment partner, with a direct investment of \$10 billion (9% of total foreign investment). In 2018, India became the third Asian nation to be granted Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1) status by the United States. STA-1 enables the export of high-technology products in civil space and defence from the US to India. Us has also eased export controls over dual-use goods & technologies and reversed the long-standing American opposition to India's strategic program.
3. **Cooperation on counter-terrorism:** US is one of many nations that support India in counter-terrorism. Over the year U.S. has reduced economic and strategic support to Pakistan especially after Osama bin laden killing.
4. **Increased diaspora:** Indian diaspora in America over the years have increased. It has contributed to income creation in the USA through knowledge-based employment and also to Indian economic growth through remittance. Growing financial and political clout of the affluent Asian Indian diaspora is noteworthy. Indian American households are the most prosperous in the US.

5. **Strategic and Defence Relations:** The U.S. has four "foundational" agreements that it signs with its defence partners. India have signed the three agreements so far.
 - The General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), was signed by India and the U.S. in 2002. The agreement enables the sharing of military intelligence between the two countries and requires each country to protect the others' classified information.
 - The second agreement, the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), was signed by the two countries on 29 August 2016. The LEMOA permits the military of either country to use the others' bases for re-supplying or carrying out repairs.
 - The third agreement, Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) was signed during the inaugural 2+2 dialogue in September 2018. It is an India-specific variant of Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA) that enables the two countries to share secure communication and exchange information on approved equipment during bilateral and multinational training exercises and operations.
 - The fourth agreement, Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) has not yet been signed.
6. **Other initiatives:** Various initiatives were announced including a US-India economic dialogue, fight Against HIV/AIDS, disaster relief, technology cooperation, an agriculture knowledge initiative, a trade policy forum, energy dialogue, CEO Forum, and an initiative to assist each other in furthering democracy and freedom. In 2019, India and the US signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral security and civil nuclear cooperation including the construction of six American nuclear reactors in India.

Issues between India-US relations:

1. **Trade:** Recently India and US confronted each other regarding tariffs and protectionist policies. US has continuously accused India of high tariffs and India have accused USA of restriction to US markets and high tariffs on Indian products.
2. **Intellectual Property Rights:** US has continuously criticised India for its IPR policies. It has accused India of acting against Intellectual properties of major companies especially pharmaceutical over generic drugs.
3. **Continuous support to Pakistan:** Although US has reduced support to Pakistan, it has still provided monetary support to Pakistan. Major support by US is due to Afghanistan. In February 2016, the Obama administration notified the US Congress that it intended to provide Pakistan eight nuclear-capable F-16 fighters and assorted military goods including eight despite strong reservations from US lawmakers regarding the transfer of any nuclear weapons capable platforms to Pakistan.
4. **Relations with Russia:** US is all time rival of Russia. While India is all time friend of Russia. Russia has always supported India in international platform. It helped India to develop its defence capabilities. In 2018, India inked the historic agreement worth with Russia to procure four S-400 surface-to-air missile defence system, the most powerful missile defence system in the world ignoring America's CAATSA act. The U.S. threatened India with sanctions over India's decision to buy the S-400 missile defense system from Russia.
5. **Relations with Iran:** US has put sanctions on Iran due to its nuclear development. India has strategic interest in Iran to buy oil. India has continuously bought oil from Iran despite of US sanctions on Iran. The United States threatened India with

sanctions over India's decision to buy oil from Iran. But recently it exempted India from sanctions that allowed India to buy oil from Iran.

Recognising India as a key to its strategic interests, the United States has sought to strengthen its relationship with India. The two countries are the world's largest democracies, and both are committed to political freedom protected by representative government. The US and India have a common interest in the free flow of commerce and resources, including through the vital sea lanes of the Indian Ocean. In recent years, India and US relations are deepened.

Q.39) Discuss various reasons of creating Union Territories in India. How Union Territories are different from states in India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Difference between states and UTs.

Conclusion. Contextual Conclusion.

A union territory is a type of administrative division in the Republic of India. Unlike the states of India, which have their own governments, union territories are federal units governed directly by the union government. The States Reorganisation Commission, 1956 recommended creation of a different category for territories which did not fit the model of a state.

Reasons for creation of Union Territories in India: The union territories have been created for a variety of reasons. These are mentioned below:

1. **Political and administrative Reasons:** Union Territory can be created for Political and administrative reason to ensure better governance. E.g Delhi and Chandigarh.
2. **Cultural distinctiveness:** UTs are created to conserve and secure culture of a region distinctive from surrounding state. Puducherry, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu were created due to these reasons.
3. **Strategic importance:** Due to location and international borders, some areas are important strategically and for security of India. Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep and now Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir are created Due to strategical significance.
4. **Special treatment and care of the backward and tribal people:** Many UTs were created due to special needs and to secure benefits and rights to tribal people. Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh which later became states were created due to these reasons.

States vis-a-vis Union Territory in India:

States	Union Territories
States are administrative units ruled by their own governments.	UTs are administrative units ruled directly by the central government through an administrator.
States have more powers as they are independent unit which consists of its own Legislative Assembly with elected representatives.	UTs have lesser power than states irrespective of the option of forming governments and having a Legislature.

In states President can exercise control through special provisions of President rule with parliament approval.	In UTs the President of India has power to control the administrative directly through administrator.
Relationship with the Centre is Federal.	Relationship with Centre is Unitary with all the powers rests in the hands of Union.
States are large in Area.	UTs are small in area as compare to States.

Thus, Union Territories are special arrangements to manage the administrative and other affairs. India is divided into various States and Union Territories according to composition, size and need. State are more powerful and are more autonomous than Union Territories.

Q.40) "Increasing the number of courts as a recourse to deal with the mounting backlog is a short term solution which cannot remove systemic issues in Judiciary". Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How additional courts would not solve Judiciary issues?

Conclusion. Way forward and solution.

To deal with issues of pending cases fast track courts (FTCs) are set up in India for speedy trials in India. Fast track courts deal with speedy disposal or solution of cases to make the judiciary more effective and to avail justice as fast as possible. Although Fast track courts (FTCs) have dealt with disposal of cases on matters ranging from sexual offences, anti-corruption, riots, and cheque bouncing they are not long term solutions for various Judiciary issues.

How FTCs would not solve Judiciary issues:

1. **Slow Justice:** It is seen that FTCs are slow and inefficient in working and providing justice. Since inception, close to around 39 lakh cases were transferred to the Fast track courts (FTCs) out of which, 6.5 lakh cases are still pending with Fast track courts (FTCs). Thus it is itself mired with inefficiencies leading to delay in justice.
2. **Technological constraints:** Several FTCs lack technological resources to conduct audio and video recordings of the victims and many of them did not have regular staff. Thus without modernising Judiciary it is difficult to provide timely justice.
3. **Overburdened:** Over the years, the number of cases allotted to them have increased, which has led to the burdening of these courts which in turn slow down the decision process, and compromised quality of judgements.
4. **Temporary in nature:** Large sums of money and attention are being devoted to creating additional posts. These are temporary and little is being done to identify and address the prevalent systemic issues. Without fully optimising the current mechanisms and resolving the problems, sanctioning more judges may not provide the intended results.
5. **Infrastructure and resource constraints:** Inadequate staff and IT infrastructure lead to delay in getting reports from the understaffed forensic science laboratories. Thus without addressing systemic issues and concerns FTCs would not help much.

What should be done?

1. A commission should be established by Supreme Court to review the functioning of courts in a systematic and streamlined manner.
2. Focus should be on capacity building and improving infrastructure. Therefore hiring of additional judges and new infrastructure, including courtrooms, technological facilities and libraries is the need of the hour. Also, as suggested by the Supreme Court, the ad-hoc judges and support staffs should be granted permanent appointments.
3. A holistic approach for resolving Judiciary issues is required.
4. The government needs to strengthen and demand accountability of the law-enforcing agencies in relation to how they deal with cases.
5. There are reports of delayed FIRs, political pressures, intimidation of victims and a system that despite the legislative changes, continues to treat poor, marginalised victims with scant regard. Victim-centric procedures and measures, including compensation, is needed with adequate police reforms to speed up investigations and ease the judgements.

Thus there is need to correct the systemic inefficiencies and issues with focus on improving infrastructure and human resource. Vacancies of judges should be increased. An all india Judiciary examination can also be conducted on the lines of all india services with focus on judicial talent.

Q.41) What do you understand by the term Social Audit? Discuss the importance of social audit in India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is social audit?

Body. Importance of social audit.

Conclusion. Way forward.

A social audit is a way of measuring, reporting and improving an organisation's performance holding it socially accountable. Social audit helps to increase efficiency and effectiveness of an organisation. It not only increase accountability and transparency but lead to good governance.

Importance of social audit in India:

1. **Improve governance:** Social auditing impact governance leading to good governance. It make government responsible to its citizen allowing better governance through citizen's participation.
2. **Accountability and transparency:** It allows the voice of stakeholders, including marginalised/poor groups being heard by the authorities. Social auditing enhance local governance, and strengthen accountability and transparency in local bodies.
3. **Social impact:** The social audit focuses on the neglected issue of society including environment and economic issues and efficiency of a project or programme. This allow better implementation of policies and remove various social inefficiencies.
4. **Create awareness:** It creates awareness among beneficiaries and providers social and productive services. It enable the community to participate in local planning.
5. **Enhance development:** It help in assessing the physical and financial gaps between needs and resources available for local development. Therefore it help in increasing efficacy and effectiveness of local development programmes.

6. **Strengthen democracy:** Social Audit makes it sure that in democracy, the powers of decision makers should be used as far as possible with the consent and understanding of all concerned. It encourages local democracy and encourages community participation. It promote collective decision making and sharing of responsibilities.
7. **Reduces corruption:** It uncovers irregularities and malpractices in the public sector and maintains oversight on government functioning, thus reducing leakages and corruption.
8. **Monitoring and feedback:** It monitors social and ethical impact of an organisation's performance and provides feedback on the work.
9. **Generates demand:** Social Audit serves as the basis for framing the management's policies by raising demands in a socially responsible and accountable manner by highlighting the real problems.
10. **Save government resources:** It save government resources by reducing expenditures on auditing the policy implications and effectiveness. It also reduce corruption, thereby saving public money.

Thus social audit is a tool of social empowerment especially of most vulnerable groups in the society. It helps in distributing benefits of economic growth to all. Further it allow accountability of government to its people and allow better policy formulation and implementation.

Q.42) "Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019 is critical to provide social and economic justice to transgenders in Indian democracy". Examine.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Features of bill that would ensure socio-economic justice to transgenders.

Conclusion. Way forward.

As per the Census of 2011, the total population of Transgender in India is 4.9 lakh. They face highest social neglect and abuse in the society. Often their rights are violated. They are seen as criminals and abnormality of society. Thus government introduced 'Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2019' to ensure socio-economic justice to them.

Aim of the transgender bill:

1. Mitigating the social stigma against transgenders.
2. Ensure fundamental and basic human rights for transgenders.
3. Prevent discrimination and abuse against the Transgender population.
4. Bringing them into the mainstream of society.

How transgenders Bill ensure socio-economic justice to transgenders:

1. **Prohibition against discrimination:** The bill prohibits the discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to:
 - Education.
 - Employment.
 - Healthcare.
 - Access to, or enjoyment of goods, facilities, opportunities available to the public.
 - Right to movement.
 - Right to reside, rent, or otherwise occupy property.

- Opportunity to hold public or private office.
 - Access to a government or private establishment in whose care or custody a transgender person is.
2. **Right of residence to every transgender person:** The bill mentions that every transgender person shall have a right to reside and be included in his household. If the immediate family is unable to care for the transgender person, the person may be placed in a rehabilitation centre, on the orders of a competent court.
 3. **No discrimination in Employment:** It also states that no government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion. Every establishment is required to designate a person to be a complaint officer to deal with complaints in relation to the Act.
 4. **Inclusive Education:** Educational institutions funded or recognised by the relevant government shall provide inclusive education, sports and recreational facilities for transgender persons, without discrimination
 5. **Health care facilities by the government:** The government must take steps to provide health facilities to transgender persons including separate HIV surveillance centres, and sex reassignment surgeries. The government shall review medical curriculum to address health issues of transgender persons, and provide comprehensive medical insurance schemes for them.
 6. **Certificate of identity for a transgender person:** A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'. A revised certificate may be obtained only if the individual undergoes surgery to change their gender either as a male or a female
 7. **Welfare measures by the government:** The Bill states that the relevant government will take measures to ensure the full inclusion and participation of transgender persons in society. It must also take steps for their rescue and rehabilitation, vocational training and self-employment, create schemes that are transgender sensitive, and promote their participation in cultural activities.
 8. **Offences and penalties:** The Bill mentions the following offences against transgender persons:
 - Forced or bonded labour (excluding compulsory government service for public purposes)
 - Denial of use of public places
 - Removal from household, and village.
 - Physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic abuse.
 9. **National Council for Transgender persons (NCT):** The Council will advise the central government as well as monitor the impact of policies, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons. It will also redress the grievances of transgender persons.

Thus transgenders bill, 2019 seek to provide justice to the community. It ensure various fundamental rights to transgender community under Article 14, 15, 19, 21 and article 23 of the constitution. Thus it seek to instil social reform through legislation which is important for the rights of transgenders.

Q.43) "Fight against social evils like mob lynching and honour killings demands state's and community efforts." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Facts of these crimes in India. Importance of state and community action to

prevent these crimes.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Mob lynching and honour killings in India has increased in recent past. Crime against minority especially religious minority and killing of girls in the name of honour is not only a serious crime but a malaise that threaten our social fabric.

Malaise of these crimes in India:

1. **Honour killings:** In the Past five years in the state, 71 cases of Khap Panchayats (caste councils which function like kangaroo courts) were registered and 10 cases of honour killing occurred in which four men and eight women were killed.
 - Such cases have increased in the past few years and have become hurdle in societal development.
 - Sections of the IPC and the CrPc were not adequate in dealing with such cases.
 - Such crimes are in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women which provide that women should have the right to freely choose a spouse.
 - These actions of honour killing are also violative of certain fundamental rights in the Constitution of India, including the right to life, and liberty which includes the right to bodily integrity, and the right to choose whom to associate with.
2. **Mob lynching:** Mob Lynching means killing of someone by a mob for an alleged offence without following any principles of jurisprudence or due process of law.
 - In 21% of the cases, the police filed cases against the victims/survivors. (India spend report).
 - According to 'India spend' 52% of attacks in last 8 years is based on rumors.

Why state's and community's efforts are critical?

1. **Implementation of law:** An act of lynching reflects failure of law to protect minorities and punish the culprits. State action is important in strict enforcement of law and punishing the culprits.
2. **Lack of accountability and conviction:** Mob has no face. This impunity leads mob to take extreme steps. Thus community and state role increase to stop such crimes. Active participation of civil society against such crimes and helping state and law enforcement agencies in nabbing the criminal is critical.
3. **Vote-bank politics:** Sometimes, political mobilisation that uses violence as a tool of politics, support such elements in society. Here community awareness and action against such politicians become necessary to prevent such vote bank politics.
4. **Police failure:** Indifferent attitude of Police leads people to take law in their own hands. Also police delays and inability to catch the criminals lead to more such incidents. State should be more proactive in police reforms. Strict action should be taken against any police officials who do not record such incidents in criminal records.
5. **Social media menace:** Rise in penetration of Social media and its usage to spread rumours and hatred has exaggerated such incidents. A vigil community with state action on taking action against cyber criminals is must to prevent fake news and rumours.
6. **High Unemployment rates:** High unemployment leave millions of youth unengaged. These young brains are often misguided and brainwashed through

various ideologies and agendas. State action is important to provide more employment opportunities to youth with focus on economic development of the region.

7. **Against social peace:** These crimes impact solidarity of society and idea of Unity in diversity. This create an atmosphere of majority v/s minority. It could aggravate caste, class and communal hatred. Thus community and state need to work together to stop such crimes. Programs especially focused on teaching values of tolerance and secularism is important.
8. **Managing anxieties:** There is need of continued responsiveness on part of the local administration in dealing with anxiety and suspicion in local communities. Community Sensitisation and awareness through multi-media campaigns is important. Counter-information campaign to check fear-mongering and fake news.

Government has launched Ek bharat Shrestha bharat for sustained and structured cultural connect between citizens of different regions. There is need of proactive role played by community and state governments. Government should criminalises the act of mob violence. Awarding of penalties on public servants for failing to investigate properly due to neglect of their duties is important. For a demographically diverse country such as India, such crimes are a disaster.

Q.44) What are various special provisions for Jammu and Kashmir in Indian constitution? Discuss Article 35a of Indian constitution in this context.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Special status of Jammu and Kashmir.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Temporary, Transitional and Special provisions are provided in part XXI of our constitution' Article 370 deals with the State of Jammu & Kashmir which forms a part of the 'territory of India' as defined in Article 1 of the Constitution, being the fifteenth State included in the First Schedule of the Constitution, as it stands amended.

Special status wrt Jammu and Kashmir:

1. No law passed by the Parliament regarding the state of Jammu and Kashmir can be applied to the state without the Order of President of India in concurrence of the State government.
2. Preamble and parts I, II, and III of the Constitution of India were made applicable to Jammu and Kashmir with certain modifications. Part V of the Constitution was made applicable to the State in almost it's entirely.
3. State of Jammu and Kashmir was given a separate Constituent Assembly. It consisted of the representatives of people of the state. The aim of the Constituent Assembly was to write the constitution of the state and demarcate the jurisdiction of Union of India over the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The provisions of the Constituent Assembly were; applied as interim arrangements.
4. Parliament of India would be competent to make laws relating to three areas – Defence, Foreign Affairs, Communication, i.e., issues agreed upon in the Instrument of Accession. All other issues were to be administered according to the Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir.
5. J&K have its own Constitution framed by a special Constituent Assembly set up by the State.

6. Parliament cannot make any law without the consent of the State Legislature relating to:
 - Alteration of name and territories of the State.
 - International treaty/agreement affecting the disposition of any part of the territory of the State.
 - The residuary power in respect of J&K rests with the State Government and not with the Union Government.
 - The Fifth Schedule pertaining to the administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes and the Sixth Schedule pertaining to the administration of Tribal Areas are not applicable to the State of J&K.
7. Certain special rights have been granted to the permanent residents of the State of J&K with regard to employment under the State; acquisition of immovable property in the State; settlement of the State etc.
8. No proclamation of emergency made by the President under Article 352 on the ground of armed rebellion shall have effect on the State of J&K without the State Government's concurrence.
9. The Union has no power to suspend the Constitution of the State on the ground of failure to comply with the direction given by the Union. In the event of the breakdown of the Constitutional machinery in the State, Governor's Rule is to be imposed.
10. The provisions of Part IV relating to the Directive Principle of State Policy do not apply to J&K.
11. No amendment of the Constitution of India can extend to J&K unless it is so extended by the order of the President under Article 370 (1).
12. The High Court of J&K enjoys very limited powers. It cannot declare any law unconstitutional or issue writs, except for the enforcement of the Fundamental Right.

Analysis of Article 35 A:

1. Article 35A provided Jammu and Kashmir Legislature a complete freedom to decide about the permanent residents of the State.
2. It gives the permanent residents special rights and privileges regarding the acquisition of property in the state, in public sector jobs, scholarships and other public aid and welfare.
3. It forbids Indian citizens from settling in the state, acquiring immovable properties, seeking employment in the state.
4. If a native woman marries a man not holding a permanent resident certificate of Jammu & Kashmir, then she would lose her property right and their children also become ineligible to claim the property of their mother.
5. Article 35A also adversely affects the economic development of the state.

Restricting citizens from other States from getting employment or buying property within J&K is a violation of fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution. There is also discrimination on the basis of gender. The matter is sensitive and requires participation of various stakeholders and requires a larger debate.

Q.45) "The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 is crucial to the rights of millions of tribals and other forest dwellers in different parts of our country." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Importance of the act with issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

To address the adverse living conditions of many tribal families Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, was enacted to recognize and provide the forest rights and occupation of forest land to forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and other traditional forest dwellers (OTFD), who have been residing in such forests for generations.

Importance of the act:

1. This Act p recognises the rights to hold and live in the forest land under the individual or common occupation for habitation or for self-cultivation for livelihood.
2. It also grants several other rights to ensure their control over forest resources which include
 - Right of ownership, access to collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce.
 - Community rights.
 - Habitat rights for primitive tribal groups and agricultural communities.
 - Right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.
3. The Act provides for diversion of forest land for public utility facilities managed by the Government, such as schools, dispensaries, fair price shops, electricity and telecommunication lines, water tanks, etc. with the recommendation of Gram Sabhas. It is important or development of forest villages.
4. The rights of settlement and conversion of all forest villages, old habitations and other villages in forest, into revenue villages have been recognized as one of the forest rights of forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers on all forest lands.
5. It seeks to rectify colonial injustice to the FDST and OTFD who are integral to the very survival and sustainability of the forest ecosystem.
6. The rights of the dwellers extend to extracting Minor Forest Produce, grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
7. It provides for rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
8. It includes the right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which they have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.
9. It expands the mandate of the Fifth and the Sixth Schedules of the Constitution that protect the claims of indigenous communities over tracts of land or forests they inhabit.
10. The act through identifying individual forests right and community forest rights tries to provide inclusion to tribes.

The key reasons for poor implementation of FRA are:

1. Lack of political commitment.
2. Lack of adequate human and financial resources with the Department of Tribal Affairs, which is the nodal agency for implementation of FRA.
3. Unkind and irresponsible forest bureaucracy which influences decision at various levels.
4. Poor and non-functioning district and sub-division level committees, which consider the claims filed by gram sabhas.

India's Forest Rights Act is a step forward in the same direction. It empowers the communities to use, manage and govern forests for their livelihood as well as for the conservation and protection of forests. But its poor implementation remains an issue. In the absence of proper survey, settlement and land record, their customary rights over forest land have always been under threat. Centre should cooperate with State governments to implement the Forest Rights Act, 2006 in its right spirit.

Q.46) What is hate crime? Discuss various causes and measures to stop hate crimes in India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is hate crime?

Body. Causes of hate crimes and methods to prevent hate crimes.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Hate crime is a crime, typically involving violence, that is motivated by prejudice on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation, or other grounds. It targets a victim because of their membership to a certain social group or race. In India hate crimes are a big threat. Amnesty International India documented 721 hate crime incidents between 2015 and 2018. Data shows that hate crime have steadily risen over the past five years in India.

Causes of hate crimes:

1. A bias against the any group due to historical or social reasons can motivate an individual to commit a hate crime.
2. Hate crimes may be the product of our social environments. These are more likely to occur in societies where certain identity have advantages over others. E.g systemic discrimination like casteism may give rise to an environment where hate crime is motivated.
3. Hate crime can also occur due to misguidance of youth who do it as an act of adventure motivated by thrill and excitement.
4. It can be done for defence against any perceived and presumed threat from other social group. It may also be motivated by a desire to protect one's territory. E.g hate crime against a nation's citizens.
5. It can be done to retaliate as an act of revenge.
6. It may be influenced by perception that certain groups pose a threat to them. These threats can be divided into threats such as perceived competition over jobs, housing and other resources, and physical harm to themselves or others which are concerned with the threat posed to people's values and social norms.

Measures to stop hate crimes in India:

1. **Sensitisation:** Indian community should be sensitised towards the rights of other citizens and danger of hate crimes for social cohesion.

2. **Community Policing:** By fostering partnerships with the community a society enables communities and law enforcement to work together to prevent and respond to hate crimes. Community involvement can prevent turning a hate-related problem into a serious crime. Everyone in the community needs to be involved in the solution. Including diverse groups whose communities may be targets of hate is important.
3. **Awareness of the Problem:** To address the problem of hate motivated crimes, awareness about the consequences of the crime is important. By understanding the problem, the community become aware of the significance and need of addressing the issues facing the community. A public awareness campaign in the community that provides information, awareness, and resources for community members and victims of hate crimes is important.
4. **Youth involvement and counselling:** The majority of hate crimes are committed by persons who are 29 years old and younger. Youth are also often more vulnerable to violent attacks, bullying, and other forms of harassment. To combat this teachers and school administrators should educate their students and staffs on the nature of hate incidents and crimes and how to prevent them.
5. **Law Enforcement and Prioritising Hate Crimes:** Strong law enforcement is critical to prevent hate crimes. Making combating of hate crimes a priority for a law enforcement agency sends the message that discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated. This also ensures resources are devoted to the prevention and intervention of these crimes.
6. **Training for Officers and Deputies:** Police should train new recruits and existing officers and deputies on hate crimes and other related issues to ensure responding officers and deputies are trained to investigate and report the hate crimes or incidents.
7. **Create a Special Task Force on Hate Crimes:** A special hate crime task force with members from various law enforcement agencies and representatives of the community should be created. Task forces should focus on improving efficiencies of law enforcement, assistance to victims, and strengthening the partnership between law enforcement and the community.

Hate crime is a threat to social fabric. For a diverse country like India, it is threat to its unity and peace. Therefore, coordinated action with pro-active steps of community and government is needed.

Q.47) "Government policies has failed to arrest malaise of female foeticide in India".

Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Causes of female foeticide.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Female foeticide is the killing of a female foetus through illegal methods. The frequency of female foeticide in India is increasing day by day. Despite of enactment of various policies and schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Sukanya Samriddhi yojana, female foeticide continue to increase at an alarming rate. The Indian government enacted Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PCPNDT) in 1994 to ban and punish prenatal sex screening and female foeticide. But PCPNDT Act has been poorly enforced by authorities leading to female fortified culture in the nation.

Poor state of woman in India:

1. As per the Sample Registration System (SRS) for the period 2015-2017, the sex ratio at birth (SRB) is dropping continuously since Census 2011, coming down from 909 girls per thousand boys in 2011-2013 to 896 girls in 2015-2017.
2. An analysis of the NFHS-4 data revealed a bias toward male as the first-born child. The SRB among first-born children was 927, meaning that 2.5% of first-born girls are eliminated before birth.

Reasons for female foeticide:

1. **Cultural preference:** There is a strong son preference in India and this leads to a skewed sex ratio towards male over females.
 - Most families prefer son for a variety of social and economic reasons.
 - A son is often seen as an asset and a daughter as a liability.
 - The prospect of parents losing daughters to the husband's family and expensive dowry of daughters further discourages parents from having daughters.
2. **Bane of cheap technology:** Female foeticide has been linked to the cheap ultrasound technology and its widespread adoption in India. Ultrasound has helped in saving many lives but its illegal use led to killing of girl child in foetus.
3. **Poverty:** Due to lack of development there are gross inequalities in the country that restrict access to resources.
 - Poverty prevent education, and often poor people view girls as liability due to dowry system and perceived notion of girls as burden.
 - This has led to increase in female foeticide.
4. **Poor enforcement of the laws:** Although laws are there to prevent female foeticide, their poor implementation has led to less impact on curbing female foeticide crime. Often agencies are unable to nab the criminal.
5. **Deep rooted patriarchy:** Patriarchal mindset is deep rooted in India.
 - Most of India, with some exceptions, has strong patriarchal and patrilineal customs, where men hold authority over female family members and inherit family property and title.
 - Not only male even women are tilted towards having male.
 - Unfortunately policies and schemes have made little impact on behaviour and mindset of Indians.
6. **Lack of access to resources:** There are significant differences in access to food, healthcare, immunisations between male and female children. This lead to high infant and childhood mortality among girls, which causes changes in sex ratio. It is due to poor socioeconomic status.

Thus, a combination of factors has shaped the imbalanced sex ratio in India. Unfortunately schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao have not been much successful in instilling a behavioural change and change in mindset of Indian people. Although these schemes are starting of a major reform in society. Still there is long way to go with improved education and upliftment socio-economic status of Indian poor.

Q.48) "Motor Vehicle Bill, 2019 will make Indian roads safer for travellers." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Key provisions of bill that ensure road safety in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

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

Key Features of the Bill to ensure safer roads:

1. **Road Safety:** The Bill proposes to increase penalties for traffic violations. It will act as a deterrent.
 - It proposes stricter provisions for offences such as drunken driving, juvenile driving, driving without licence, over-speeding, dangerous driving and overloading.
 - It also proposes stricter provisions for driving without helmets.
 - The bill also includes provisions for electronic detection of traffic violations.
2. **Vehicle Fitness:** The Bill includes a provision that mandates automated fitness testing for vehicles. This will improve road safety by removing unfit vehicles.
 - The motor vehicles bill also proposes penalty for deliberate violation of safety and environmental regulations.
 - The bill proposes regulation of the process of testing and certification of automobiles.
 - It also proposes to bring agencies issuing automobile approvals to be brought under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and vehicle testing standards to be set.
3. **Environmental and road health:** The Bill mandates the recall of defective motor vehicles if the defect may cause a threat to the environment, or the driver or other people on the road. In such a case, the recalled vehicle's manufacturer will have to:
 - Reimburse the vehicle owner the full cost of the vehicle.
 - Replace the defective vehicle with another vehicle of similar make.
4. **Road Safety Board:** The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2019 provides for the setting up of a National Road Safety Board by the central government. The National Road Safety Board will advise the central and state governments on all aspects of road safety and traffic management including
 - registration and licensing of vehicles,
 - standards of motor vehicles,
 - standards for road safety and
 - promotion of new vehicle technology.
5. **Protection of Good Samaritan:** The bill incorporates Good Samaritan guidelines in order to help road accident victims. The Bill defines good samaritan as a person who provides emergency medical or non-medical assistance to a road accident victim and provides rules to prevent harassment of such a person. Such a person will not be liable for any civil or criminal action for any injury to or death of an accident victim, caused due to their negligence in providing assistance to the victim.
6. **Compensation for road accident victims:** The central government will develop a scheme for cashless treatment of road accident victims during golden hour (time period of up to one hour following a traumatic injury), during which the likelihood of

preventing death through prompt medical care is the highest. The central government may also make a scheme for providing interim relief to claimants seeking compensation under third party insurance. This will ensure rights of victims.

7. **Compulsory insurance:** The Bill requires the central government to constitute a Motor Vehicle Accident Fund, to provide compulsory insurance cover to all road users in India.
8. **National Transportation Policy:** The central government may develop a National Transportation Policy, in consultation with state governments. The Policy will establish a planning framework for road transport and will specify priorities for the transport system.
9. **Taxi aggregators:** The Bill defines aggregators as digital intermediaries or market places which can be used by passengers to connect with a driver for transportation purposes (taxi services). These aggregators will be issued licenses by state governments. Further, they must comply with the Information Technology Act, 2000.

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

Q.49) "Although there are various advantages of centralising and consolidating data, but it has serious associated risks and consequences." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is centralised database?

Body. Advantages and disadvantages of centralised database.

Conclusion. Way forward.

A centralized database is a database that is stored, and maintained in a single location. Users access a centralized database through a computer network which give them access to the central CPU. It has various advantages but also carry inherent risks.

Advantages of a centralised database:

1. Centralized databases are more efficient and economical as compared to decentralised database as it require lesser amount of infrastructure and labor, power supply and maintenance costs are all minimised.
2. A central database is easy to control and manage than a scattered decentralised database.
3. It allow data consolidation and data integrity is maximised, as the single storing place of all the data also implies that a given set of data only has one primary record.
4. This aids in the maintaining of data as accurate and as consistent as possible and enhances data reliability.
5. It enable better data security, as the single data storage location is easy to mange and handle.
6. It is easier to assess data by the end-user due to the simplicity of a single database design. This help in reducing inefficiencies and complexities.
7. It allow easier database administration. Data kept in the same location is easier to be changed, re-organized, mirrored, or analysed.

8. It will strengthen coordination among various agencies and public and private organisations.
9. Updates to the data are easy and can be immediately received by every stakeholder.

Consequences and risks of centralised database:

1. It has inherent risk of privacy loss as any attack on database will jeopardise identities of many.
2. It may lead to mass surveillance by governments and companies as a centralised database is in hands of few and is easy to exploit.
3. Centralized databases are highly dependent on network connectivity. The slower the internet connection is, the longer the database access time needed will be.
4. Limited access by more than one person to the same set of data can lead to major inefficiencies in the system.
5. Any hardware or software failure will lead to loss of all the data within the database with no scope of recovery.
6. Centralising it means that a single data breach can compromise all aspects of your life. This is a bigger security risk.

Thus although centralised database has many inherent advantages that can help in good governance, it also carries bigger risk of data piracy and privacy. Further it involve various technological and infrastructure challenges especially related to maintenance. Thus all these aspects should be considered before proceeding to centralised database.

Q.50) Discuss the need and significance of Consumer Protection Bill. How it will ensure justice to consumers?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Introduce with issue of consumer protection act, 1986.

Body. Key features and significance of consumer protection bill, 2019. Various issues in the bill.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 enforces rights of consumers, and provides for redressal of complaints at the district, state and national. Over the years, there have been challenges in the implementation of the Act.

Issues in consumer protection act 1986:

1. A high number of consumers are unaware of their rights under the 1986 Act due to ambiguities and complexities in the act.
2. While the disposal rate of consumer cases is high, the time taken for their disposal is very long. It took 12 months on an average to resolve a consumer case.
3. Act does not address consumer contracts between a consumer and manufacturer that contain unfair terms. In this context, the Law Commission of India had recommended that a separate law should be enacted in relation to unfair contract terms.

Key features of the Consumer Protection Bill, 2019:

1. **Consumer definition:** A person who buys any good or a service is considered as a consumer. A person who obtains a good for resale or a good or service for commercial purpose is not a consumer under it. It covers transactions through all modes including offline, and online through electronic means, telesshopping, multi-level marketing or direct selling.

2. **Rights of consumers:** Bill have defined 6 consumer rights, including the right to:
 - be protected against marketing of goods and services which are hazardous to life and property;
 - be informed of the quality, quantity, purity, standard and price of goods or services;
 - be assured of access to a variety of goods or services at competitive prices;
 - seek redressal against unfair or restrictive trade practices.
3. **Central Consumer Protection Authority:** The central government will set up a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. It will regulate matters related to violation of consumer rights, unfair trade practices, and misleading advertisements. CCPA will:
 - inquire into violations of consumer rights,
 - passing orders to recall goods or withdraw services that are hazardous, reimbursement of the price paid, and discontinuation of the unfair trade practices,
 - issue directions to the concerned trader/manufacturer/ advertiser/publisher to either discontinue a false or misleading advertisement, or modify it;
 - impose penalties, and
 - issue safety notices to consumers against unsafe goods and services.
4. **Penalties for misleading advertisement:** The CCPA may impose a penalty on a manufacturer for a false or misleading advertisement.
5. **Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission:** Consumer Disputes Redressal Commissions (CDRCs) will be set up at the district, state, and national levels. A consumer can file a complaint with CDRCs.
6. **Product liability:** Product liability means the liability of a product manufacturer, service provider or seller to compensate a consumer for any harm or injury caused by a defective good or deficient service. To claim compensation, a consumer has to prove any one of the conditions for defect or deficiency, as given in the Bill.

Importance of the Consumer Protection Bill, 2019

1. It seeks to enhance the protection of consumers' interests and timely settlement of their grievances.
2. Through Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) it empower citizens to seek redressal at appropriate level.
3. It promote rights of consumers through punishment against misleading advertisements and adulteration of products.
4. Product liability provision to deter manufacturers and service providers from delivering defective products or deficient services will ensure safety and health of indian citizens.
5. It include redressal of complaints for online bought goods too.

Consumer protection Bill seeks to give consumers more power and justice by targeting not only consumer dissatisfaction but also misleading advertisements. This seek to further timely action consumer rights through appropriate mechanisms.

General Studies – 3

Q.1) Discuss the potential of inland water transportation in India. How it can help in improving logistic sector?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Potential and benefits of Inland Water Transport.

Conclusion. Way forward.

In our civilisation, rivers have played a crucial role as a mode of transport in carrying people and goods. Even in the present era, many countries depend heavily on inland water transport. A sound and efficient transport infrastructure is the important to boost economic growth and to alleviate poverty by promoting sustainable development. Inland water transport provide access, mobility and connectivity and generate employment with lesser environmental footprint and cost.

Potential of inland Water Transport:

1. India has 7500 km long coastline with approximately 14,500 kms of navigable waterways. This offers a huge potential for developing a cheaper and greener mode of transport.
2. Only a small percentage of trade is currently carried out through inland waterways and coastlines. Inland water transport account for about 0.4% of trade and thus yet to be explored.
3. It has been found that logistics costs in India account for about 18% of the country's GDP, which is much higher than other countries. This makes Indian goods costlier and hence less competitive. Logistics costs in the country can be brought down considerably by transporting more and more goods by waterways.
4. Inland waterways has the potential of emerging as the leading logistical artery for the entire India, which pass through India's most densely populated areas and resource-rich regions, and generates an estimated 40 % of India's traded goods. The network of a water-road-rail link will help the region's industries and manufacturing units to have a seamless flow of goods to markets in India and abroad. Further, it will also give wider market access to the farmers of this agriculturally-rich Gangetic plain.

Benefits of inland waterways transport:

1. **Low cost:** Inland waterways need less capital for development and less maintenance costs.
2. **Energy efficient:** Inland water transport is considered to be the most cost-effective mode of transport from the point of view of fuel efficiency.
3. **Environment friendly:** CO2 emissions from container vessels are much lesser than road transport vehicles.
4. **Capacity:** It has an enormous capacity to carry bulk cargo, goods etc.
5. **Navigable:** In India, around 14,500 km of river channels are navigable. But only 2000 km is used.
6. **Growth:** The development of waterways will stimulate industrial growth and tourism. It will also promote export and import as it reduces logistics cost of moving cargo between ports and hinterland. Fewer accidents and less congestion compared to roads.

7. **Accessibility:** It can provide access to remote areas. For instance, North-eastern states now receive coal, food grains through inland water transport.

Waking to the huge potential, the government aims to increase the inland waterway cargo movement. Once operational, the waterway will form a part of the larger multi-modal transport network being planned along the river.

Q.2) What are development banks? Critically examine the need of development banks in India to achieve \$5 trillion dollar target.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are development banks?

Body. It's importance in achieving \$5 trillion economic target.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Development Banks are those financial institutions that provide funds and financial assistance to new and upcoming business enterprises. Development banks like IDBI, SIDBI, and IFCI etc. were set up to meet long term and short term capital requirements of the industry. They help in accelerating industrial and economic growth.

Development banks to achieve \$5 trillion economic target:

1. **Industrial growth:** Without Industrial growth \$5 trillion dollar target can't be achieved. It is the dynamic sector which contributes to the generation of employment and income in the country. Funds are provided by the development banks to start a new business venture, expansion and diversification of the business in new sector etc. These funds are needed to achieve several objectives that leads to accelerate economic growth and \$5 trillion dream.
2. **Encouraging entrepreneurs:** Emerging entrepreneurs are encouraged to give shape to their ideas. Development bank helps those entrepreneurs by providing funds for commencing new business. Government has recognised the importance of entrepreneurs in the economic growth and thus providing number of facilities and incentives to motivate them for undertaking industrial projects.
3. **Balanced regional development:** \$5 trillion economic target by 2022 can only be achieved if all the regions in India grow. Development bank helps in curbing regional disparities by providing funds to the entrepreneurs at low rate of interest if the organisation is planned in the backward areas. This is important for the development of all areas thereby making balanced regional development collectively moving toward \$5 trillion goal.
4. **Filling gaps:** It is not possible for the commercial banks to fulfill all financial needs of all the customers. Issue of Non-performing assets, absence of organised capital market, absence of adequate facilities for financing industries arise the problem of slow development. Such development banks fulfill this credit gap. They provide long-term funds for industries and help in growth.
5. **Helps policies implementation:** Government formulates financial policies with the help of development banks. They also help in implementing these policies. For example, NABARD bank is set up as an apex development bank for extending support to the rural areas. Thus development banks are needed to fulfill government's vision.
6. **Enhance Foreign Trade:** Development banks help to promote foreign trade. Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) provide medium and long-term loans to exporters

and importers from India. Development banks would encourage exports which are must to achieve the target.

Thus to achieve a \$5 trillion dollar economic vision by 2022, development encouraged by development banks is needed. By providing long term loans it would help in achieving the target in desired timeline by encouraging growth.

Q.3) What are the supply chain constraints of India's food processing sector? What steps have should be taken to remove these constraints?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Supply chain constraints of India's food processing sector. Steps to remove these constraints.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Food processing Industry is a sunrise industry which has an immense potential to address the rural economy distress. But the Food processing Industry is facing many challenges especially in supply chain. Supply chain management (SCM) is the management of the flow of goods. It includes the movement and storage of raw materials, inventory and finished goods from point of origin to point of consumption.

Supply chain constraints faced by India's food processing sector:

1. **Fragmented supply chain:** The long and fragmented supply chain results in the wastage and price escalations. This is because of the large share of unorganised players in the supply chain and operating commercial viability challenges.
2. **Inadequate cold storage and warehousing facilities:** Warehousing is a key requirement in the overall supply chain it is mostly dominated by unorganised players. 20% of warehousing is organized currently with 70% of the organised market controlled by the Government.
3. **Logistics issues:** Logistics in India still face challenges related to quality and connectivity:
 - Indian national highways account for only 2% of the total road network but carry 40% of all cargo.
 - Port capacity may be increasing, lack of connectivity to these ports leads to cost escalations and delays in the goods transferred.
 - Lack of last-mile connectivity from rail transporters.
4. **Slowdown in production growth:** With around 67 percent of landholdings being marginal, with an average size of 0.4 hectares, more than half of marginal farmers are likely to not have any excess income to spare beyond subsistence, hindering the improvements in farm-level productivity
5. **Large informalisation:** More than 50% of the industries in the food processing sector is concentrated in informal sector and are small scale industries. Therefore they cannot achieve economy of scale and avail the benefits from the formal financial sector.
6. **Underdeveloped processed food market:** Indian processed food market is still evolving and still is at its infancy stage.
7. **Fragmented market:** Indian retail sector is still dominated by small traders and Kirana shops. This poses a serious challenge in building of consumer base.

8. **Other issues:** Apart from the above areas of concern, other issues such as Lack of applied research, Taxation issues, access to credit, obsolete technologies, etc. persist in the sector.

What should be done?

1. Low demand and supply uncertainty requires an efficient supply chain strategy to optimise profitability. Profitability can be reached by cost and information coordination. Low costs are realised by eliminating non-value-added activities, leading to scale economies and optimising of techniques and production.
2. Supply chains with low demand but high supply uncertainty should follow the risk-hedging strategy to reduce costs.
3. The supply chain must focus on being responsive and flexible to meet the changing needs of customers with an efficient supply chain.
4. The supply chains should adopt a combination of the risk-hedging and responsive supply chain. Supply chains must try to cope with demand and supply chain uncertainty to be responsive to unpredictable demand.
5. Logistics bottlenecks should be removed especially by focusing on road and port development.
6. A single point of contact for each trading partner should be defined. This ensures that the information is neither lost nor deteriorates during its flow between the trading partners.
7. Ensuring continuous sharing of information is important. The need to keep continuous information flow is paramount.

The food processing industry is the fifth-largest industry domestically in terms of production, consumption, export and expected growth in the country. It contributes to around 14 % of manufacturing Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 13 % of India's total food exports. Supply chain constraints once removed can help the industry to reach new heights.

Q.4) "Using cleaner fuels such as LPG is essential to reduce rural air pollution and improve health." In light of this discuss what can policymakers do to achieve exclusive use of clean fuels in rural India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Benefits of LPG over traditional fuels. What policymakers should do?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Developing countries like India are confronting the vulnerabilities associated with the climate change on one hand and the challenges of development and poverty alleviation on the other, which are closely associated with providing energy access to the energy poor in the country. As per the National Sample Survey 68th round, the dominant fuel used in rural India still consists of firewood, with around two thirds of the households still dependent on them.

Benefits of LPG over traditional fuel:

1. Health-related benefits, including improved quality of life as a result of less human suffering, reduced health-related expenditure as a result of less illness and the value of productivity gains resulting from less illness and fewer deaths.

2. Time savings from reduced drudgery from collecting and preparing biomass for use, usually by women and children and from more efficient and rapid cooking and heating, increasing the time available for other social and economic activities.
3. Fuel savings from using a more efficient stove.
4. The avoided economic cost of environmental degradation caused by the use of solid fuels, including reduced deforestation and increased agricultural productivity where agricultural residues and dung are used as fertiliser rather than fuel, as well as reduced emissions of greenhouse gases and black carbon.
5. Other less tangible benefits, such as increased personal esteem, prestige and comfort levels that result from a cleaner, tidier and more modern home environment.
6. LPG does not produce harmful pollutants, such as sulphur oxides and nitrogen oxide, like traditional fuels. It has 50% fewer carbon emissions than coal and 20% fewer than oil.

What policymakers should do?

1. **Awareness campaign:** Policymakers should communicate the harms of solid fuels and the benefits of cleaner fuels. A large campaign communicating that solid fuels harm respiratory health may change these beliefs. Further currently, governments are providing assistance to poor households through free LPG connections, which takes away the startup cost, but households are unaware of such schemes. There is an urgent need to devise an awareness campaign for the consumers focusing on how poor customers can benefit from of such schemes.
2. **Ease of registration:** A set of guidelines should be given to the LPG distributors to ease new customer registration, especially for poor customers.
3. **Grievance redressal:** A toll-free grievance number should be set up and advertised well.
4. **Instalment schemes:** Monthly instalment facilities should be made available for a household that has difficulties arranging for one-time lump sum payments towards startup cost.
5. **Reducing prices:** Reducing the cost of LPG cylinder refills in rural areas, where residents are poorer and solid fuels are easier to access, would help.
6. **Gender equality:** Promoting gender equality within households, particularly in cooking and related task is needed. public policy must recognise that in households, if men would do his share of the cooking, a complete transition to LPG would happen. Current Ujjwala scheme, focuses on the benefits of clean fuels for women, reinforces inequality. Advertisements showing that gas is so good that even men can cook with it will challenge both misinformation on LPG and gender inequalities in household tasks.
7. **Female literacy:** Female literacy is an important determinant of the use of cleaner cooking fuels. Female education is a huge challenge and females have usually lower access to education facilities. Therefore, education among females should be strongly promoted.

LPG is cleaner fuel and is more efficient. In tackling the climate change issue and providing fuel security, it is important to promote use of LPG which would be good for health of the women as well as for the environment.

Q.5) “Grass root governance is key for Environment conservation and sustainable development.” Critically examine.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Importance of grass root governance for conservation efforts and sustainable development.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Grass root governance means involvement of local peoples in governance at village level. Involvement of local people, community, PRIs, SHGs etc is important for environment conservation and sustainable development goal. Without local participation it is difficult to achieve these goals.

Importance of grass root governance for conservation efforts and sustainable development:

1. Grassroots involvement is important for social accountability. It help in civic engagement to promote conservation and sustainable development. Pressure by citizens can help to stimulate action.
2. The grassroots organisation provides a connection to the population.
3. The intermediaries provide structure and resources, such as training, research, or assistance with advocacy, to help establish and maintain various efforts.
4. It can bring awareness of issues that are invisible from local people thus help in required behaviour and habit change among people.
5. Regional institutions and communities have a front role in securing the safety, wellbeing, and livelihoods of communities, biodiversity ecosystems, including by providing basic services.
6. It help in citizen monitoring thereby increasing efficiency in conservation efforts. Grassroots organisations mobilise volunteers, who gather information on service delivery through observation, interviews, and collecting data through which users identify strengths and deficiencies. This collected information is then used to campaign for improvement.
7. Local communities are emotionally attached to environment around them and should be mobilised and supported to play active role in sustainable development and environment conservation. Chipko movement reflects the power and emotions of local communities.
8. Grass roots governance would allow proper distribution of funds and resources and would help in better implementation of laws and rules.
9. It would help in decreasing corruption and would ensure bottom up Approach.

Thus grass root governance can do wonders and can ensure effective strategies for conservation and development efforts. It is important for inclusive development and people's participation would ensure democratic way of tackling problems.

Q.6) What are trans-fats? Why they are dangerous for human consumption?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are trans-fats?

Body. Types of trans fats. Various health issues of trans-fats.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Trans fatty acids (TFAs) or Trans fats are unsaturated type of fats which have adverse effects on our body. These fats are largely produced artificially but a small amount also occurs naturally. TFA containing oils can be preserved longer, they give the food the desired shape and texture.

Types of Trans fats:

1. Naturally-occurring trans fats are produced in the gut of some animals and foods made from these animals (e.g., milk and meat products) may contain small quantities of these fats.
2. Artificial trans fats are created in an industrial process that adds hydrogen to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid. Since they are easy to use, inexpensive to produce and last a long time, and give foods a desirable taste and texture, they are still widely used despite their harmful effects being well-known.

Harmful effects:

1. TFAs pose a higher risk of heart disease than saturated fats. While saturated fats raise total cholesterol levels, TFAs not only raise total cholesterol levels but also reduce the good cholesterol which protect us against heart disease. Trans fats consumption increases the risk of developing heart disease and stroke.
2. It can lead to compromised foetal development causing harm to the yet to be born baby.
3. Some studies have found that trans fats consumption is related to risk of cancers in individuals.
4. Trans fats are metabolised differently by the liver than other fats and interfere with normal liver functions.
5. The risk of type 2 diabetes increases with trans fat consumption. A study has found diabetes risk associated with trans fats and other factors such as total fat intake and BMI.
6. Trans fat may increase weight gain and abdominal fat, despite a similar caloric intake. TFAs enhance deposition of fat even in the absence of caloric excess.
7. Trans fats are found to be associated with insulin resistance that pose a great risk to already diabetic patients.
8. Trans fats as opposed to that from carbohydrates, lead to greater risk of infertility in women.
9. Those who ate the most trans fats are at higher risk of depression than those who do not eat trans fats.
10. Consumption of trans fats has been linked to behavioural irritability and increased general aggression.

Globally and nationally various organisations and governments are working to create awareness about trans fats. WHO has called for the total elimination of TFAs in global food supply by 2023. FSSAI has proposed to limit TFA limit in foods to 2% and eliminate trans fats from foods by 2022. Thus industry need to work for an alternate of trans fats and eliminate it for the health of the people.

Q.7) Discuss the impact of slow Judiciary and delayed justice on Indian economic growth. Give some solutions.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Impact of slow judiciary on economy and some solutions.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Well-functioning formal judicial institutions are important for economic development. Efficient courts are the backbone of the modern economy. A sound judiciary is key to enforcing laws and creating trust in the economy, allowing economic exchange between complete strangers by deterring fraud and increasing the incentives for fair play. Unsurprisingly, then, when the justice system breaks down, the consequences are bad.

Impact of slow judiciary on economy:

1. A slow judiciary with a large number of pending cases reduces trust in the economy and makes people fearful.
2. It delays contracts enforcement, thereby impeding business. India ranks poorly in the category of enforcing contracts. It takes, on average, almost 4 years to enforce a standard sales agreement in a local court, and costs up to 30% more.
3. A slow judiciary forces participants to adopt loss-minimising strategies that are not always efficient resulting in a rise in the costs of goods and services. E.g. Landowners have to increase the rent significantly or ask the tenant to deposit a security amount to cover the risk due to the insecurity created by a weak judiciary.
4. It deters firms from making investments in the nation due to low confidence and time to resolve disputes if arise.
5. A weak judiciary has a negative effect on economic and social development, which leads to lower per capita income, higher poverty rates, lower private economic activity, poorer public infrastructure and higher crime rates.

Some measures to improve judiciary:

1. Categorisation of disputes under provident fund, gratuity or industrial laws before passing them through the resolution can reduce the burden on judicial organs.
2. Thousands of cases and appeals are pending under various State and municipal laws. These laws can be simplified and should be made more clear with clear rules and regulations.
3. Retired Supreme Court judge should be employed specifically to opine on pending disputed issues and direct the departments to effect a fast resolution.
4. Bulk disposition by consensus is the way out of the humungous backlog of civil litigation.
5. Setting up Supreme Court benches in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata would help thousands of litigants who otherwise end up travelling all the way to Delhi.
6. We can follow the Chinese model where law students are encouraged to appear for the national judicial examination to ensure a steady availability of quality judges at least in the lower judiciary.
7. Massive computerisation for case management and technological framework is needed.

Clearing the mounting backlog in our judicial backyard is doable with strong political will. With efficient judiciary India can achieve growth over 8% with fast track resolutions and ensuring less crime in the country leading to overall development of society.

Q.8) "Auto-industries in India are facing negative growth from a long time" Discuss various reasons for it and give some solutions.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Reasons for poor performance of automobile sector.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Boosting India's economic expansion and creating employment opportunities for millions of youth is one of the major challenges India facing. Make in India was a flagship economic initiative that aimed to transform the country into a global manufacturing hub and, in the process, generate jobs especially through automobile sector. Due to various challenges, automobile sector is undergoing a slowdown.

Reasons for poor performance of automobile sector:

1. **Economic slowdown:** The auto sector slowdown is due to weakening economic growth and a liquidity crunch. Weak economic activity, coupled with escalating global trade tensions, led this slow down.
2. **Lack of credit:** Financial crunch brought by a collapse of some non-banking financial companies that used to account for a significant share of automobile financing. Some banks and NBFCs as a result of bad loans and weak retail sales have decided to enforce stricter restrictions. These restrictions include giving out loans only to people with a high credit rating. This has majorly affected auto dealers and customers.
3. **Rise in prices:** Automakers are also struggling to comply with a host of new environmental and safety policies, which have prompted a hike in vehicle prices, which in turn puts pressure on sales.
4. **Lack of investment:** The subdued demand, recent investments made for transition from BSIV to BSVI, and a lack of clarity on policy for electrification of vehicles, has left the industry unsure of its future and has caused it to stop all future investments. Due to less demand, manufacturers are also having to cut down on production.
5. **The Rise Of Ride-share Services:** Over the past years, there is rapid rise of ride-share apps like OLA, Uber in the country. This has thus affected sales. It has made customers hesitant to buy a vehicle as much of their expenses are reduced with regular carpool use.
6. **India's Rushed EV Plan:** The Indian government has envisioned a radical push for all vehicles to go fully electric by 2030. Due to this EV roadmap, customers have fears that any vehicle that they purchase could potentially become obsolete in the next decade or so. Thus they are holding on to their current vehicles purchase in order to avoid an unnecessary purchase if EVs are on the way. This is affecting sales in the automobile industry.
7. **Overcrowding:** Due to the growth in the automotive industry in the past decade, more customers were able to purchase vehicles of their own. However, this turned out to be a double-edged sword as more vehicle sales has led to an explosion of vehicles on the roads today. This has led to an immense amount of bottlenecks and traffic jams on our outdated roads. With public transport expansion like metro, customers are hesitating to buy vehicles in order to escape traffic snarls.

8. **Miscellaneous Factors:** Higher and non-standard road taxes, have led to auto-makers to increase prices of vehicles. Apart from this, the GST on automotive parts and vehicles has also added to the woes of the industry. This has eventually led to customers shying away from buying these vehicles and a downturn in sales.

Indian automotive industry's decline is catastrophic. If major corrective steps are not taken we could see the beginning of a major recession in the world's 4th largest automotive market. Major reforms and incentives are needed to pull the industry out of this slowdown.

Q.9) "Climate change is a serious threat to India's energy ambitions and requirements." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Impact of Climate Change on energy security in the India and solutions.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Global climate change is expected to have severe effects on world energy production and consumption. These effects will impact energy security, as well as economic and social security within India. Adaptation and mitigation measures are required to address some of the challenges on energy systems presented by climate change. The challenge before India is how to meet its energy requirements without compromising the ecology of the country.

Impact of Climate Change on energy security in the India:

1. **Rise in Energy Demand:** Climate change has already started influencing energy demand in most sectors.
 - Air conditioning, urbanisation, increased demand for goods etc are among daily life processes that have increased energy demand to cope with increasingly extreme temperature variations. Energy supply will be affected as the global climate is altered.
 - Also, countries are forced to rely more on energy-intensive methods of providing sufficient water supplies. This effect of climate change drives increasing energy demand and elevates costs.
 - Agricultural practices are affected by temperature changes as farmers become more dependent on more energy-intensive methods in order to maintain productivity levels.
 - Higher temperatures decrease the ability of laborers to work healthily in open-air conditions. Hours of operation for some businesses are therefore changing, for example to earlier or later hours in the day. This change in productivity hours may lead to growing overall energy consumption.
2. **Decrease in Energy Supply:** Energy supply has been negatively affected by changing weather patterns.
 - As water reservoirs decreases due to lower precipitation and increased evaporation, capacity for electricity production from hydropower and other water-intensive generation technologies may decline. Decreasing water availability can also negatively affect cooling and cleaning systems required for Solar Power, nuclear power, and various other thermal generation technologies.

3. **Impact on energy Infrastructure:** The existing energy infrastructure in India is not designed to cope with the effects of climate change and as a result risks of system failures are manifesting themselves through increasing numbers of energy outages.
4. **Impact on the Transportation sector:** The existing transportation infrastructure is currently not designed to address the challenges of climate change and is not adequate for meeting the expected increasing needs of its societies. Any future incentives for mitigating climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon pricing, electric vehicles will require major changes in the region's energy sector.
5. **Impact on the construction sector:** Climate change is also resulting in important changes in the housing sector as increasing temperatures, particularly in summer months, are also increasing the demand for air conditioning. In the phase of expanding urbanization, with large numbers of new construction projects, it is tough to meet energy demands.

Some measures to tackle energy challenge:

1. At the national/state level, it will be important for countries to shift to renewable energy sources in their energy mix in order to reduce demand competition for non-renewable sources such as fossil fuels.
2. Governments should pay special attention to improving energy infrastructure management and improving planning to cope with the impacts of climate change.
3. This will also require appropriate policies and regulatory frameworks that incentivise energy efficiency and behavioural change.
4. Governments will need to encourage small businesses' activities in the energy sector, for example by enacting policies that support local-level development of renewable energy sources.
5. Incorporating likely climate change effects into energy forecasts and planning will be critical for all countries and international institutions.
6. Strengthening cooperation among the public sector, the private sector, and academia would be critical.
7. Planning and budgeting for the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change should become a priority for the energy sector.

Implementing the above measures and accounting for climate change impacts on the energy sector will continue to be challenging. This transition will take some time. There are various mitigation and adaptation measures that will have to start immediately. The longer the wait, the more pressing the challenges will become for the region, especially for the poorest who have the least ability to adapt.

Q.10) "In spite of various efforts and policies, Tuberculosis is still a big problem in India." Discuss various reasons for this. Give some solutions to prevent Tuberculosis.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Reasons for poor TB control in India. Solutions for the same.

Conclusion. Way forward.

SDG 3.3 envision to 'end of epidemic of tuberculosis by 2030'. Tuberculosis is an infectious airborne bacterial disease caused by *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, which most commonly affects the lungs but can also damage other parts of the body. According to WHO's 2018 Global TB Report, India accounted for 27% of the total new TB infections in 2017, the

highest in the world. The prevention and control of TB is a challenge, requiring the united efforts of all the stakeholders.

Reasons for failure of TB control in India:

1. **Poverty:** The social conditions of millions of people in India is still far away from normal. Poverty is still a big problem in India associated with problems of undernourishment and poor and unhygienic living conditions. A majority of TB patients in India are due to undernourishment. Further poverty impact their ability to get treated.
2. **Underreporting:** One of the major factor of TB prevalence in India is under-reporting of TB cases. This leave risk of spread of TB to other healthy individuals.
3. **Wrong Diagnosis:** Biomarkers and other diagnostics that identify individuals at highest risk of progression to disease are inadequate. Further doctors in India are less and untrained quacks most of the time mis-diagnose the disease.
4. **Treatment:** Inequitable access to quality diagnosis and treatment remains a major issue in combating tuberculosis. Further, the private sector which contributes a major part of TB care is fragmented, made up of diverse types of healthcare providers, and largely unregulated.
5. **Drug resistance to TB:** Standard TB treatment is not followed uniformly across the private sector, resulting in the rise of drug resistance. Patients on getting treated for symptoms do not follow the complete treatment dosage and regime. Due to lack of consistent follow-up of treatment regimens, situation often turn into Multi-drug resistance TB and Extreme-drug resistance TB.
6. **Outdated Drugs:** The drugs used to treat TB, especially multi drug-resistant TB, are decades old. It is only recently that Bedaquiline and Delamanid (drugs to treat MDR-TB) has been made available. However, access to such drugs remain low.
7. **Issues with RNCTP:** Weak implementation of Revised National TB control program at state level is another major concern.
8. **Other issues:** Many other issues like human resource shortage, payment delays, procurement delays and drug stock-outs add to TB prevalence.
9. **Social Stigma:** Patients often hesitate to seek treatment or deny their condition altogether for fear of social discrimination and stigmatisation.

Solutions to the issue:

1. Government should build accountability among health professionals and ensure sufficient and sustainable financing to provide access to prevention and treatment.
2. All hospitals should create an after care system in which every TB case should be followed up regularly at periodic intervals.
3. It is important to address the social conditions and factors which contribute to and increase vulnerability to tuberculosis.
4. Concerted efforts should be made to address the issues of undernourishment, diabetes, alcohol and tobacco use.
5. We need to sensitise healthcare providers to issues faced by those with TB and ensure they act in a non-discriminatory manner.
6. We must provide both treatment and legal literacy to people with TB, so that they understand their rights and can speak up if these are violated.
7. It is important to invest more in R&D to come up with new drug regimens for responding to the spread of drug-resistant strains.
8. Mass awareness campaigns against social taboos regarding TB should be done through media educating people about the disease, precautions and its cure.

Tuberculosis remains the biggest killer disease in India. It is the active involvement of TB survivors and champions that can give an impetus to a collective efforts to improve public understanding of TB, reducing stigma and prevent discrimination to end TB in India.

Q.11) "Various Coastal states need to play an important role in overall development of ports and inland waterways for sustainable development." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Importance of Coastal states in sustainable development.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Peninsular India is surrounded by water on 3 sides and has a deep network of rivers. The Indian coastline is 7500 km long, distributed along 9 coastal states, 2 groups of islands and 4 union territories. The coastal belt comprises of a wide range of ecosystems extending from beaches and mangroves to coral reefs. These Coastal states can play an important role in overall development of ports and inland waterways for sustainable development.

Value of coastline and waterways:

1. **Fishing industry:** Fishing is an important livelihood of the people in India. Besides, seafood is a cheap and nutritional component of their diet, the total commercial marine catch for India account for approximately 30% of all landings.
2. **Tourism:** India has a long coastline along the mainland and numerous islands. It has achieved commendable success in Goa and Andaman regarding beach tourism. Beach tourism is an important commercial activity.
3. **Transport:** These water bodies are important for logistics and transport that is important for growth of various sectors of economy.
4. **Tidal energy:** The energy produced by the periodic rise and fall of ocean water, due to the gravitational force of the moon, sun and earth can be harnessed to produce electricity. Tidal energy could become an important source of energy in future, because it is a renewable resource.
5. **Minerals from the sea:** Coal, oil and natural gas can be obtained from under the seabed. Many minerals are also present in sea water. The most common one is salt. India has large reserves of beach sand minerals, such as ilmenite, rutile, zircon, monazite, sillimanite and garnet.

Role of states in development of ports and waterways for sustainable development:

1. **Implementing policies at ground level:** States need to play a proactive role in implementing various government policies at local level. Proper implementation can lead to development of Coastal region and providing livelihood to many.
2. **Controlling Coastal Pollution:** Pollution changes coastal habitats and destroys fish and other species. The Indian coastline is vulnerable to erosion along the coasts of the western states of Kerala and Karnataka. These states need to play an active role in preventing such issues through regulation and strict implementation of policies to achieve a sustainable growth.
3. **Safeguarding marine eco-system:** Indian coasts have a large variety of sensitive eco-systems. E.g. Sand dunes, coral reefs, mangroves, and wetlands. They are nursery of a number of commercially important fish and crustaceans. Ensuring survival of these eco-systems is in the hands of states. These are not only important for environment but also for livelihood of many.

4. **Implementing laws:** States need to play the most important role in implementing laws like Coastal zone management, watershed development at local level. Ensuring their transparent implementation is not important only to check corruption but is required for overall development of the region.
5. **Disaster preparedness:** State has to play a vital role when it comes to tackle disasters. Disasters destroy valuable lives and property. State must be prepared to act against and minimise damage due to disasters to coasts and community living around. States need to prepare a disaster management guidelines and aware people about what to do during disaster.

India should expedite its efforts to exploit marine resources in India and its Coastal states. What required is the cooperative federalism and active involvement of states. India has rightly launched O-SMART scheme aiming at regulated use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development in this direction. State need to play a central role in implementing such schemes.

Q.12) What are Microplastics? How it pose a danger to entire humanity and other organisms?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Danger of microplastic. Solution.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Microplastics are small plastic particles in the environment that are generally smaller than 1 mm to the 1 micrometer range. Microplastics can be formed by fragmentation of large plastic waste material. Recently microplastic was found in the ice of arctic region showing it can reach any corner of the world posing many dangers.

Danger of Microplastics to humanity and overall biodiversity:

1. Microplastics pass the filtration and treatment processes for waste water due to small size and end up in sites of nature endangering food chain.
2. This results in significant global impacts on wildlife from marine environment pollution.
3. Microplastics kill biodiversity and other organisms fish before they reach reproductive age.
4. It lead to stunted growth and behaviour change in some organisms.
5. Microplastics are found in the viscera of dead sea birds, reptiles like turtles, whales etc.
6. A large quantities of plastic are not recycled and enter landfill. Thus endanger human health.
7. The durable properties of plastics make them persistent and slow to degrade in the environment entering the food chains. It holds the potential for both bioaccumulation and biomagnification.
8. They carry toxic chemical compounds which are carcinogenic in nature.

Measures needed to tackle menace of microplastic:

1. Local action is required for mitigating plastic pollution.
2. A ban on microplastic in cosmetics and incentives for not using plastics is needed.
3. Countries should cooperate and should establish measurable reduction targets for plastic waste.

4. Media should play an effective role in mobilising general public against the use of microplastic.
5. Civil society role is critical to prevent use of Microplastics in industry.
6. Effective policies must focus on penal actions against violators with heavy fines and jail term.
7. Public awareness is needed to reflect danger of Microplastics.
8. The most efficient way to deal with the pollution is to ban the production and distribution of plastics.
9. Enforcing segregation of waste will retrieve materials and greatly reduce the burden on the environment.
10. Eco-friendly substitutes like cloth, paper, jute bags should be encouraged and adopted.

Marine plastic pollution is a “planetary crisis,” and we should hope for a “Paris-style” global treaty aimed at tackling it. We cannot transform our world into a ‘plastic planet’. What is needed is collective public effort to stop plastic pollution and safeguard our ecosystem/biodiversity.

Q.13) Discuss the issue of unemployment in India. What India should do check rising unemployment?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Cause of unemployment in India.

Conclusion. Potential solutions and Way forward.

Unemployment is a situation in which the person is capable of working both physically and mentally at the existing wage rate, but does not get a job to work. In other words unemployment is a situation in which a person who is willing to work at the existing wage rate does not get a job. Unemployment is a reason for alarming concern in India today. The root of the problem can be traced to a host of reasons that contributes collectively towards this problem.

Causes of Unemployment in India:

1. **Jobless Economic Growth:** India's GDP grown at about 7-8% in last decade, but growth does not translated into creating more employment opportunities for the labour force of the country.
2. **Decline of Small Scale and Cottage Industries:** Industrial policy of British government curtailed the growth of small scale and cottage industries. Independent India's preference to large scale industry and new industrial policy of 1990's resulted in decline of small scale industries.
3. **Joint Family System:** It encourages disguised unemployment. In big families having large business establishments, many such persons are found who do not do any work and depend on the joint income of the family. Joint family system is more prevalent in rural areas; hence a high degree of disguised unemployment there.
4. **Mobility of Labour:** Labour mobility is very low in India. Because of their family loyalty, people generally avoid migrating to far-off areas of work. Factors like diversity of language, religion and customs also contribute to low mobility. Lower mobility causes greater unemployment.
5. **Education:** Although literacy rates have risen in the last few decades, there still remains a fundamental flaw in the education system in India. The curriculum is

mostly theory-oriented and fails to provide vocational training required to match up with current economic environment. The degree-oriented system fail when it comes to produce human resources skilled enough to specific job profiles in the economy.

6. **Population growth:** Rapid growth of population is the major reason for increasing unemployment in the country. In the last decade (2006-2016), India's population increased by 136 million and unemployment is at a 5 year high in the financial year of 2015-2016.
7. **Faulty planning:** The five-year plans implemented by the government have not contributed proportionately towards generation of employment. The assumption was that growth in economy will automatically generate enough employment. But in reality there are gaps between the required number of jobs and the actual numbers generated.
8. **Agriculture:** Agriculture remains the biggest employer in the country contributing to 51% employment. But the sector contributes a meagre 12-13% to the country's GDP. The problem of disguised unemployment is the biggest contributor behind this deficit. Also the seasonal nature of employment in the sector lead to recurring cycles of unemployment for the rural population.
9. **Lack of skills:** There has been a push towards providing the employment opportunities to the people by government by skilling them. But skill deficit still is a big issue.
10. **Poor Industrialisation:** The industrial sector in India still lag behind. Agriculture still remains as the biggest employer in the country.
11. **Rush for government jobs:** Many educated youth run behind government jobs due to job profile and security. This lead to many remain unemployed due to students preparing for government jobs.
12. **Lack of Investment:** Inadequacy of capital investment has been a key contributor in not generating enough industry that in turn provides employment to the labour force.

Solutions to Reduce Unemployment Rate:

1. One of the remedies of the unemployment situation in India is rapid industrialisation. Increased number of industries will translate into increased number of employment opportunities.
2. The curriculum should be changed with increased focus on learning and skill development.
3. More institutions need to be established that offer vocational courses that will translate directly into relevant jobs.
4. Self-employment should be encouraged more with introduction of liability free loans and government assistance for funding.
5. Incubation centres need to be promoted to cultivate original business ideas that will be financially viable.
6. Better irrigation facilities, better farming equipment, dissemination of knowledge regarding multiple crop rotation and crop management should be focused on.
7. Government as well as leading business houses of the country should seek to invite more foreign collaboration and capital investment in every sector.
8. There are number of labour intensive manufacturing sectors in India such as food processing, leather and footwear, wood manufacturers and furniture, textiles and apparel and garments. Special packages, individually designed for each industry are needed to create jobs.
9. Public investment in sectors like health, education, police and judiciary can create many government jobs.

The low level of economic growth in primary sector curtailed the job opportunities at rural level. Thus it resulted in jobless growth. Further, rapid population growth adds more labour force to the market. More population means more consumption and less saving, less saving implies less capital formation and less production which finally leads to less employment. Thus a collaborative effort is needed by government and industry to nudge an inclusive growth by supporting new sectors.

Q.14) What are biomarkers? Discuss its potential applications.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are biomarkers?

Body. Various applications of biomarkers.

Conclusion. Contextual Conclusion.

A biomarker is anything that can be used as an indicator of a particular disease state or some other physiological state of an organism. In medicine, a biomarker is a measurable indicator of the severity or presence of some disease state. It can be a substance that is introduced into an organism as a means to examine organ function or other aspects of health.

Potential Applications of biomarkers:

1. It can be used as a substance for detection of a particular disease state. E.g. the presence of an antibody as Biomarker may indicate an infection.
2. A biomarker indicates a change in expression or state of a protein that is useful to monitor the risk or track the progression of a disease to a given treatment.
3. Biomarkers can be characteristic biological properties or molecules that can be detected and measured in parts of the body like the blood or tissue. They may indicate either normal or diseased processes in the body.
4. Biomarkers can be useful in studying complex organ functions or general characteristic changes in biological structures.
5. Biomarkers are used in pre-clinical research and clinical diagnosis. E.g cholesterol is a biomarker and risk indicator for coronary and vascular disease.
6. They help in evaluating the most effective therapeutic treatment for a particular cancer type and help in establishing long-term susceptibility to cancer or its recurrence.
7. Biomarkers help in drug target identification, drug response etc.
8. A biomarker is evaluated as an indicator of normal biological processes, pathogenic processes or pharmacological responses to a therapeutic intervention.
9. Biomarkers also have the potential to identify neurological disease at an early stage, to provide a method for homogeneous classification of a disease, and to extend our knowledge-base concerning the underlying disease pathogenesis.
10. Biomarkers can also be used to assess the effectiveness of particular therapies in ameliorating the effects of a disease.
11. By using easily obtained and assayed biomarkers to monitor a patient's reaction to a particular drug, it is possible to determine whether treatment is effective for that individual by measuring drug response rate or toxic effects associated with the drug.
12. Biomarkers can be used to detect a change in the physiological state of a patient that correlates with the risk or progression of a disease or with the susceptibility of a disease to a given treatment.

Thus biomarkers help in diagnosing, treating and tracking disease progress. They are important to safeguard health of an individual and provide them with proper treatment.

Q.15) "Population control efforts need a focus on behavioural change at the societal level."
Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Importance of behavioural change in population control.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is looking for a viable policy to control population growth since population explosion. Although it was the first country to adopt a family planning program, in 1952, the country is still growing by 15.5 million people each year and will overtake China soon in term of population of any country. Population control efforts require multi-pronged actions especially focussing on behavioural aspect of citizens.

Importance of behavioural change in population control:

1. The success of population education and family planning programmes demand informed individuals to act responsibly in the light of their own needs and those of their families and communities. Many in Indian society don't feel responsibility to control population explosion. A responsible behaviour need to be developed in the society.
2. The principle of informed free choice is essential to the long-term success of family planning programmes. Any form of coercion will not be effective. Rather a behaviour of satisfaction and accepting benefits of small family is needed.
3. Over the past century, many governments have experimented with schemes, including specific incentives and disincentives, in order to lower and raise fertility. Most such schemes have had only marginal impact on fertility and, in some cases, have been counter-productive. Behavioural change is needed in form of accepting the seriousness of population explosion.
4. A behaviour of using protective sexual measure would not only ensure safety but will prevent unwanted pregnancy due to unsafe behaviour.
5. An integrated approach linking population action to development, including human development, women's empowerment, gender equality and the needs of young people is important to control population growth. This demand change in patriarchal mindset.
6. A behaviour change is needed in people to acknowledge the importance of gender inequity and social/economic disparities as major barriers. Increasing women's voice and change in women behaviour in reproductive decisions is critical.
7. Increased benefits of birth control, better child survival, and strengthened social security are known factors. But still many go for repeated pregnancies either in want of more child or for preference of son. What is required is a behaviour change for accepting girl as equal to boy and to decrease preferences fir male child.

Women who have little access to health and education and those caught in a cycle of poverty, produce more and more children. Women empowerment can contribute significantly in population control measures. Thus the Union government and states with a higher TFR, should focus on overall social development instead of coercive population control measures. They should provide an enabling environment in which couples voluntarily opt for, and feel safe about, limiting their family size.

Q.16) "The nationalisation of banks was an economic milestone in the India's growth story." Critically analyse.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Achievement of nationalisation of banks and some fallouts.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Nationalisation of bank has a long history in economic growth story of India. In 1969 14 major Indian commercial banks of the country were nationalised. In 1980 another 6 banks were nationalised. This helped not only in economic growth but ensured banking to reach the unprivileged and helped many to come out of poverty.

What Nationalisation of Banks has achieved in India over decades:

1. **Branch Expansion:** Initially, the banks were conservative and opened branches mainly in cities and big towns. Branch expansion gained momentum after nationalisation of top commercial banks. This expansion was not only in urban areas but also in rural and village areas.
2. **Reduction in monopoly:** Initially, a few leading industrial and business houses had close association with commercial banks. They exploited the bank resources and prevent new business to enter in competition. Nationalisation of banks prevented the spread of the monopoly enterprise.
3. **Increased savings and reduced misuse:** It led to increase in savings from the general public. Thus, nationalisation of banks ensured the availability of resources to the plan-priority sectors.
4. **Greater mobilisation of deposits:** The public sector banks opened branches in rural areas where the private sector has failed. Because of such rapid branch expansion government was able to mobilise rural savings.
5. **Development of Priority Sectors:** An important change after the nationalisation of banks is the expansion of advances to the priority sectors. One of the main objectives of nationalisation of banks to extend credit facilities to the borrowers in the so far neglected sectors of the economy. To achieve this, the banks formulated various schemes to provide credit to the small borrowers in the priority sectors, like agriculture, small-scale industry, road and water transport, retail trade and small business.
6. **Social Banking:** Commercial banks, especially the nationalised banks have participated in the poverty alleviation Program launched by the government.
7. **Development of agriculture sector:** Banks assisted the agriculture in many ways. It provides increased finance to agriculture. This helped in reducing exploitation of farmers by money-lenders.
8. **Balanced Regional development:** In a country, certain areas remained backward for lack of financial resources and credit facilities. Private Banks neglected the backward areas because of poor business potential and profit opportunities. Nationalisation helped to to achieve balanced inter-regional development and remove regional disparities.
9. **Greater control by the Reserve Bank:** In a developing country like India there is need for exercising strict control over credit created by banks. With nationalisation of banks RBI was able to control them in better way.
10. **Greater Stability of banking structure:** Nationalised banks led to more confidence in the customers about the safety of their deposits. Besides this, the planned development of nationalised banks imparted greater stability in the banking structure.

Some issues due to nationalisation of banks:

1. **Inefficiency:** After the nationalisation banks are known for their inefficiency and corrupt practices. Rise in NPAs over the decade is a result of such corrupt practices and inefficiencies.
2. **Less attractive customer's service:** Indecision, corruption, and lack of responsibility are the evils which the government banks are suffering. A government bank generally do not care to attach importance to the customer service and thus mistreat their customers by denying them services and moving them from one counter to another.
3. **Economics of Branch expansion:** Nationalisation though helped in facilitating branch expansion to rural areas much more rapidly than the private banks but banks are meant to do business and satisfy itself that the new branch is economically viable. Often rural branches are less self sufficient and face losses due to less amount of savings and more expenditures. Lack of professional attitudes in banking professionals in govt owned banks as they do not benefit from the business of the bank is often a result of this.
4. **Increased corruption:** Corruption in banks by officers is increased due to their power to sanction advances and loans which leads to NPAs.
5. **Increasing NPAs:** Govt pressure from the top for implementing even loss making schemes or full waiver of loans for electoral benefits has led to increase in NPAs to a dangerous level. Govt support and corruption on the top level means that big defaulters like Vijay Mallya go free.

Thus nationalisation although has led to many benefits it had many unintended consequences leading to inefficiencies in banking. What is needed is providing more autonomy to banks with a vigilance body on all the top executives of major banks. Otherwise failure of many banks is nearby.

Q.17) "Doubling income of Indian farmers is a distant goal unless markets reforms are not achieved." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Various issues faced by farmers regarding selling products in market and solutions.

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.

Problems in Markets that lead to reduced farmer's income:

1. **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 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.18) Discuss the role of states in tackling climate change. How India should shape it's economic policies in light of impact of climate change?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How of states' are important to face climate change. How India can achieve sustainable development?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Climate change is a global phenomenon having no boundaries. It requires a nationwide effort especially efforts at local and state level. It is responsibilities of all sectors to contain climate change. But a more active role for climate change action is needed to be played by the states.

Role of states to tackle the climate change?

1. States need to play an active role on important environmental issues by functioning as policy innovators, testing successful policies been adopted across the world.
2. States play an important role in understanding of the local situation and circumstances and help in coordination with all the stakeholders.
3. State action on climate change is needed to achieve the reductions targets on the ground.
4. They play an important role in policy formulation through local inputs and conveying regional differences. E.g. Hill states needs and action differ and are more important than other states wrt climate change action.
5. States are responsible for on the ground implementation of national policies.
6. State governments' legislation along with national legislation are critical for wide action on the ground.
7. States role is also important to check any environmental damaging act and policy of centre. Also it put pressure on centre to act against climate change as they are voice of local community.

How India should shape its economic policies in light of climate change:

1. Economic policies should focus on protecting the poor and vulnerable sections of society through an inclusive and sustainable development strategy, sensitive to climate change.
2. It should focus on achieving national growth through ecological sustainable way.
3. Focus should be on devising efficient and cost-effective strategies for Demand Side Management in a sustainable way.
4. Digitisation should be increased so as to reduce burden on environment for paper.
5. Efforts to deploy appropriate technologies for both adaptation and mitigation of greenhouse gases emissions through policies is needed.
6. It should also focus on new and innovative forms of market, regulatory and voluntary mechanisms to promote sustainable development.
7. The implementation of programmes by including civil society and local government institutions and through public-private partnership should be priority.
8. Also efforts should be made to achieve international cooperation for research, development, sharing and transfer of technologies.
9. Green energies and green projects should be promoted.

Climate change is real and demand effective state role and economic policies. Coordination at all level is required. Also sustainable development should be focus of both states and centre. Community and society should also understand their responsibilities and should work for a sustainable future.

Q.19) What do you understand by intellectual property rights? Discuss how India should manage intellectual property rights issues in India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are intellectual property rights?

Body. IPR policy and how India should manage IPR?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) are legal rights over intangible creations, innovation and discovery in the industrial, scientific, literary and artistic fields. The most well-known types

are copyrights, patents, trademarks, and trade secrets. The main purpose of intellectual property law is to encourage the creation of a wide variety of intellectual goods.

Aims of IPR Policy in India:

1. The National IPR Policy aims to create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies.
2. It aims to incorporate and adapt global best practices to the Indian scenario.
3. It aim to develop strong and effective IPR laws, which balance the interests of rights owners with larger public interest.
4. It also focus on modernising and strengthening service-oriented IPR administration.
5. It aim to strengthen the enforcement and adjudicatory mechanisms for combating IPR infringements.
6. It strive to strengthen and expand human resources, institutions and capacities for teaching, training, research and skill building in IPRs.
7. The Policy aims to push IPRs as a marketable financial asset, promote innovation and entrepreneurship, while protecting public interest.
8. Special thrust is on awareness generation and effective enforcement of IPRs, besides encouragement of IP commercialisation through various incentives.

Issues with the current policy:

1. Policy could be a deterrent to innovation by restricting knowledge flow.
2. IPR policy is driven by the protecting owner's rights. This may jeopardise public interest.
3. While IP could accelerate innovation in certain technologies it in turn impedes in others through monopoly over certain creations.
4. Policy recommends scientist and professors to convert all their discoveries. This may lead to rush and could impact creativity.

How India should manage intellectual property rights?

1. The government should partner with industry and academics to identify various intellectual property rights issues.
2. Clear incentives should be provided to firms to invest in research and development through safeguarding their property and innovation.
3. Effective regulatory regimes should be encouraged to support intellectual property and the longer term investments of firms.
4. Aim should be to develop a knowledge-led economy where innovation and IP should stimulate productivity, push economic growth.
5. For innovation to thrive, the government policies must support IP and a sound legal and regulatory framework to be able to accommodate an efficient IP system.
6. Public awareness should be created about the economic, social and cultural benefits of IPRs among all sections of society.
7. Fostering an environment where innovation flourishes and a knowledge economy is built, is the key idea. Hence, the policy should have a balance.
8. It should encourage patenting and at the same time ensure that patentability of a product/process does not deter further innovation and progress.
9. It needs to safeguard its patents, copyrights and traditional knowledge by ensuring easy IPR rules.

IPR are important to protect creators right and provide incentives which encourage innovation, which in turn enhances the quality of human life. The promotion and protection of intellectual property spurs economic growth, creates new jobs and industries, and

enhances the quality and enjoyment of life. Thus IPR rules is important not only for individual or an organisation but for whole humanity. What is needed is balance between profits of the organisation and needs of the poor through IPR for limited time.

Q.20) "Rising pressure on cities and rising air pollution demand sustainable transport facilities in urban areas." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Problems of urban transport in India and solution.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Indian cities are characterized by increasing levels of congestion, pollution, road accidents etc. There is need of sustainable urban transport in order to build inclusive, safer and more sustainable cities.

Problems faced by Urban Transport in India:

1. **Growth in number of vehicles:** According to Niti Aayog, the number of registered vehicles has increased from 5.4 million in 1981, to 210 million in 2015 . This rapid growth in demand in the absence of widespread public transport system has caused a rapid increase of private car ownership in India.
2. **Inadequate Public Transport:** According to government data, there are about 19 lakh buses in the country and only 2.8 lakh of them are run either by state transport undertaking or under stage carriage permits. A CSE study points out that the share of public transport is expected to decrease from 75.5% in 2000-01, to 44.7 per cent in 2030-31, while the share of personal transport will be more than 50%. Thus public transport is very less to support growing population.
3. **Urban Pollution:** According to a WHO study 14 out of the top 15 most polluted cities in the world belong to India. Vehicular pollution has been one of the major contributors to rising urban air pollution in Indian cities along with other factors such as construction activity, road dust and industrial activity.
4. **Urban Congestion:** Major Indian cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru are ranked among world's most congested cities. High levels of congestion have huge economic implications in the form of reduced productivity, fuel waste, and accidents. Further, there is an acute shortage of parking spaces both on and off the streets in the urban centres.
5. **Road injuries and fatality:** Fatalities resulting from road accidents is increased by 3.2%. The major reasons for traffic crashes include poor quality of roads, poor traffic management, unsafe and overcrowded vehicles and unsafe driving behaviour.
6. **Unaffordable Transportation:** Most of the lower income groups and urban poor are unable to afford private transport and even public transport are costly for them.
7. **Safety of women:** Safety is the single biggest factor constraining women's mobility. Women in major Indian cities reported being harassed on streets. Overcrowding in public transport adds to insecurity and safety issues.

What is needed?

1. There should be increased emphasis on safety and accessibility. For this CCTVs, trained professionals, recognition of vulnerable and high risk points are important.
2. There should be more emphasis on reducing congestion caused by passenger and goods flow in urban areas. This need reduce ticket price, more AC-buses etc.

3. There is need of urban planning focusing on integrating and organising residential and commercial complexes so that travel time is reduced.
4. An efficient and convenient public transport to address the issue of air pollution and congestion in Indian cities is important . It include:
 - Data-driven planning and urban transport.
 - Focus on multi-modal systems.
 - Introduction of carbon tax.
5. Make public transport affordable, comfortable and accessible for urban India, to ensure better adoption is important.
6. Green Modes and Technologies should be adopted. It calls for rapid adoption of electric vehicles and non-motorised transport (NMT).
7. Intelligent Transport systems based on ongoing technological developments like hyper-loop, bullet trains is needed.
8. Well-defined Governance mechanism involving different stakeholders is important for urban planning. To address the institutional challenges there is a need for better cooperation among different transport agencies, departments, and ministries as well as better coordination of transport and land-use policies.
9. Further, there should be adequate funding to address various issues plaguing public transport infrastructure.

National Urban Transport Policy, 2006 envisages safe, affordable, quick, comfortable, reliable and sustainable urban transport through establishment of quality focused multi-modal public transport systems. A multi-pronged approach with increased focus on technology and urban planning is needed to make urban Transportation more sustainable.

Q.21) What is India's deep ocean mission. How it is significant for Indian economy?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is deep ocean mission?

Body. Significance of mission.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Deep Ocean mission is the Government of India's mission to study the various aspects of ocean in an integrated frame work. The focus of the mission will be on deep-sea mining, ocean climate change, underwater vehicles and underwater robotics related technologies. Two key projects are planned in the 'Deep Ocean Mission' report include a desalination plant powered by tidal energy and a submersible vehicle that can explore depths of at least 6,000 metres.

Significance of the Mission for Indian economy:

1. **Capabilities development:** The 'Deep Ocean Mission' plan will enable India to develop capabilities to exploit resources in the Indian Ocean Basin. IOB reserves contain deposits of metals like iron, manganese, nickel and cobalt.
2. **Minerals:** Indian Ocean contain vast amount of minerals, including the cobalt, zinc, manganese and rare earth materials. These minerals are needed for electronic industry to make smart phones, laptops and car components etc. This can help Make in India initiative.
3. **Energy resources:** The main energy resources present in Indian Ocean are petroleum and gas hydrates. Petroleum products mainly includes the oil produced from offshore regions. Gas hydrates are unusually compact chemical structures

made of water and natural gas. Deep ocean mission along with these resources would help in exploiting tidal energy and resources.

4. **Manganese Nodules and Crusts:** Manganese nodules contain significant concentrations of manganese, iron and copper, nickel, and cobalt all of which have a numerous economic uses.
5. **Sustainable development:** Marine resources from Indian Ocean would serve as the backbone of India's economic growth and can help India to become a 5 trillion dollar economy by 2022. Blue economy, through sustainable use of oceans, has great potential for boosting the economic growth.
6. **Employment generation:** It will provide jobs, improved livelihoods to many. This will help in inclusive growth.
7. **Climate Change:** It will help in study Impact of climate change on ocean. This would help India to prepare for any disaster due to climate change. Also, Oceans provide an alternate and more cleaner source of energy. It also act as an important carbon sink. This will help in mitigating climate change.
8. **Disaster preparedness:** Information from deep-ocean exploration can help predict earthquakes and tsunamis.
9. **Nation's Security:** It will play a significant role in the security of the nation as many critical military technologies rely heavily on rare earth elements which are abundant in Ocean.
10. **Technological advancements:** It can also help us in innovating technologies from underwater vehicles to underwater robotics.
11. **Health industry:** Unlocking the mysteries of deep-sea ecosystems can reveal new sources for medical drugs, food, and other products.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14), calls to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Thus deep ocean mission is a right step in this direction.

Q.22) Discuss e-commerce regulation in India. Do you think India should revisit its e-commerce policy?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is e-commerce?

Body. E-commerce regulation and need of e-commerce policy. Features and issues of draft e-commerce policy.

Conclusion. Way forward.

E-Commerce is a business model "enables a firm/individual to conduct business over an electronic network, typically the Internet." The consumer and seller or service provider interaction gets better and efficient.

E-commerce business in India:

1. E-commerce can be carried out for both wholesale trade or for retail trade (sale towards final consumption).
2. It can be either Business to Business (B2B) trading or Business to Consumers (B2C) trading.
3. There is no restriction on conducting e-commerce per se in India. However, certain restrictions exist, if e-commerce is being done by companies receiving FDI.
4. In India, 100% FDI under automatic route is allowed in Business to Business e-commerce since 2000.

5. A distinction is made between single brand retail (selling products of a single brand) and multi-brand retail with respect to permission for FDI and e-commerce.

Need for new e-commerce policy:

1. There is no commonly accepted definition of e-commerce. Further, there is inadequate data on the trade of digital products. Both these shortcomings require effective policy making in the country.
2. The e-commerce market is expected to reach US\$ 64 billion by 2020 and US\$ 200 billion by 2026 from US\$ 38.5 billion as of 2017. Thus there is a need for clearly laid-down rules for electronic commerce in the country.
3. E-commerce is currently regulated by multiplicity of government departments such as IT Department, industrial policy, revenue, and RBI. Hence, a national e-commerce policy would consolidate the various norms and regulations to cover all online retailers.
4. With the increasing online frauds, there is a need to strengthen the regulatory regime for protecting the consumer in the context of e-commerce

Main provisions Draft e-commerce policy:

1. A common definition of electronic commerce for the purposes of domestic policy-making and international negotiations would be adopted.
2. It proposes a single legislation to address all aspects of digital economy and a single regulator for issues related to FDI implementation and consumer protection.
3. It mandates localisation of data in India. The draft also says the government will have access to data stored in India for national security and public policy objectives.
4. The draft policy proposes 49% FDI under the inventory model for Indian-owned and Indian-controlled firms to sell locally-produced goods on their online platforms.
5. All active e-commerce portals in India will have to register with e-Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA). CCPA shall act as a nodal agency for intra-government coordination, checking frauds within the industry, formulating regulations and more.
6. On the matter of discounts, the draft policy suggests a period for every discount and offer, beyond which no e-commerce portal can be allowed to provide discounts.
7. It recommends Centralized registration instead of local registration of e-commerce companies.

Issues in e-commerce policy:

1. Due to mandatory supervision of Competition Commission of India on Merger and Acquisition and regulation on discounts have led to apprehensions of return of license raj.
2. Data localisation norms in draft policy can discourage international firms to invest in India.
3. The FDI provision restricted to Indian firms may Influence the much the needed FDI in general and e-commerce industry in particular.
4. The policy state that the Indian government must have access to e-commerce data at all times. This is a dangerous as it allows state surveillance, in the guise of safeguarding the privacy of Indian citizens.
5. The policy fails to distinguish between personal and collective data and treats all data as one whole.

Thus e-commerce policy need a relook. It need to resolve data issue and also need to relook at regulatory provisions. Discounts regulation can impact the sector and overall growth of Indian economy.

Q.23) "Coastal zone management is important for India's sustainable growth and development." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is Coastal Zone management?

Body. Significance of coastal management for India. Major constraints in CZM.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Coastal zone management (CZM) is a process of managing the coast, in all aspects of the including geographical and political boundaries, to achieve sustainability. India has an exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.02 million sq. km and a long coastline of 8,118 km with rich and diverse marine living resources. Coastal zone management is critical for utilising these resources efficiently leading to inclusive growth.

Significance of coastal management for India:

1. **Resources:** It is important to enhance coastal resource efficiency and utilisation. Indian Ocean contain vast amount of minerals, including the cobalt, zinc, manganese and rare earth materials. These minerals are needed for electronic industry for manufacturing smart phones, laptops and car components etc. Seawater also contain economically useful salts such as gypsum and common salt. Gypsum is useful in various industries. This would help Make in India initiative.
2. **Environmental Protection:** Coastal management include habitat conservation activities such as mangrove afforestation/shelter beds, restoration of sea plants, eco-restoration of sacred groves etc. This is important for security of coastal communities and help in preventing floods.
3. **Sustainable development:** Marine resources from Indian Ocean can serve as the backbone of India's economic growth and can help India to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2022. Blue economy, through sustainable use of oceans, has great potential for boosting the economic growth.
4. **Good governance:** Coastal management would lead to building of collective capacity of communities and will enhance decentralised governance for adopting and implementing integrated coastal management approaches. This would help in participation of local people leading to good governance which is important for sustainable and inclusive growth.
5. **Tourism boost:** Coastal management include creation of infrastructure for tourism, restoration and recharge of water bodies, beach cleaning and development, and other small infrastructure facilities. This is important to promote tourism in environment friendly way.
6. **Employment generation:** It will provide jobs, improved livelihoods to many. This will help in inclusive growth. E.g improving fishery resources exploitation can provide livelihood to many. Livelihood improvement initiatives like demonstration of climate resilient or salinity resistant agriculture, water harvesting and recharge/storage, creation of infrastructure and facilities to support eco-tourism, community-based small-scale mariculture, seaweed cultivation, aquaponics etc. would do value addition to other livelihood activities.
7. **Pisciculture:** Marine fisheries wealth around Indian coastline is estimated to have an annual harvestable potential of 4.4 million metric tonnes. Thus coastal

management would provide a boost to fishery sector through development of infrastructure.

8. **Energy security:** The main energy resources present in Indian Ocean are petroleum and gas hydrates. Petroleum products mainly includes the oil produced from offshore regions. Gas hydrates are unusually compact chemical structures made of water and natural gas. Along with this tidal energy is also important that would provide electricity to locals.
9. **Food security:** It will lead to food security through fishery sector and other sea food resources. It would also help in reducing malnutrition issue in India as fishes are good source of nutrition.
10. **Efficient transportation and logistics:** Coastal management include development of infrastructure around the coasts. Coasts are major gateway of trade. Better connectivity in the region will significantly cut the transport cost and will reduce logistics inefficiencies.

Major constraints of coastal zone management in India:

1. The 'top-down' approach of administrative decision making in CZM is a major issue.
2. Coordination between centre and states and various ministries and departments for efficient coastal development is lacking
3. Disasters like tsunami pose great danger to coastal infrastructure and communities. It not only jeopardise coastal management efforts but also destroy valuable national assets.
4. Lack of good weather forecasting technology also add to the loss caused by various disasters.
5. Increasing climate change lead to rise in sea level that is endangering coastal security and infrastructure.

Coastal Zone management is important to develop and sustainably utilise the coasts for sustainable development. What is required is use of technology, community participation and removal of bottlenecks like lack of coordination at various levels.

Q.24) What are various challenges faced by business units in India. How India can ensure better business environment in India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Challenges faced by corporate sector in India. Solution to ease business environment in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India ranked 100th in World Bank's Doing Business Report 2018. Although India has recently made progress in ease of doing business, doing business in India is still not easy. There are many bottlenecks faced by corporate sector in India.

Problems Faced by corporate sector in India:

1. **Regulatory Procedure and Related Delays:** Too many regulatory measures imposed by the Government on the private sector has resulted in lengthy procedure and delays in getting final clearance of a new industrial project. On the Government level, decision making system is poor delays completion of large investment project.
2. **Unnecessary Control:** From the beginning, the private sector of the country is subjected to unnecessary Government control. Price controls imposed by the Government on certain goods has resulted in disincentive to increase production.

Rather competition among the rival producers can enlarge the production base and thereby can reduce the prices automatically. Price controls, dual pricing etc. has resulted in black marketing and hoarding of such commodities.

3. **Inadequate Diversification:** The private sector has been suffering from inadequate diversification as the Government did not allow them to participate in basic, heavy and infrastructural sectors like defence and railways which were earlier reserved for the public sector.
4. **Lack of Finance and Credit:** Although the large scale industrial corporate units of the private sector are mobilising their fund from banks, development financial institutions and from the market through sale of their equities or debentures but the small scale units are facing acute problem in raising fund for their expansion. Further increase in NPA has led to decreased credit for private sector.
5. **Starting a business in India:** It is not easy to start a business in India. It can take between months to complete all the required procedures, with fees and add-on costs dependent on the size and type of business being registered.
6. **Poor implementation of law:** With the introduction of the Companies Act 2013, the law makers had intended to introduce a modular law to the Indian economy, but the stringent provisions led a setback to implementation. The increase in the compliance burden has, to a great extent, curbed the incorporation of companies in India.
7. **Land acquisition issue:** Land acquisition remains complex, because of the difficulties in establishing legal ownership. There are many litigations due to inheritance, fragmented holdings, and demands by sellers to be paid in cash.
8. **Electricity:** The demand is currently more than supply. As the economy booms, and there is a potential for power outages. Power is essential for manufacturing sector and service sectors.
9. **Infrastructure:** There is much focus on infrastructural development, boosting road transport, creating dependable power generation, and modernising state-owned railways. An infrastructure strain poses a challenge to distribution and logistics.
10. **Exports and imports challenges:** Despite government legislation to improve international trade, there are still various hurdles to importing and exporting goods. Exporters and investors face non-transparent and often unpredictable regulatory and tariff regimes. Several layers of bureaucracy make it challenging to move goods efficiently, and companies must file a long list of documents before moving products across borders.
11. **Skill gap in India:** Accessing the right skills is a challenge. Further, employment laws in India are complex. At present, there is a huge variety of laws which need to be consolidated.

How India can ensure better business environment?

1. Government should ease regulations.
2. Tariffs should be made predictable and transparent.
3. Focus should be on reducing paper work.
4. Digitisation of bureaucracy and ease of opening and closing business should be focus.
5. Law reforms should be initiated with aim to make labour laws and corporate laws easy and simple.
6. Infrastructure investment should be increased.
7. New sectors like railways and defence should be gradually opened to private sector.
8. Land reforms and digitisation of land should be completed to ease land acquisition.

Although over year government has initiated many reforms and schemes to support business in India like Start-up India, Benami property act, etc. More is needed to reduce other bottlenecks to do business in India. Government should reduce hurdles and paper work wrt doing business in India.

Q.25) "Bharat Stage VI (BS-VI) mass emission standards will benefit India technologically and environmentally. Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are Bharat Stage norms?

Body. Benefits of BS 6 norms.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Bharat Stage norms are standards instituted by the government to regulate emission of air pollutants from motor vehicles. The norms were introduced in 2000. With appropriate fuel and technology, they limit the release of air pollutants such as nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, particulate matter (PM) and sulphur oxides from vehicles. As the Bharat stage goes up, the control on emissions become more strict.

Need for emission norms:

1. Major pollutants such as fine particulate matter, sulphur dioxide are emitted by vehicles in India which severely affect the health of the people.
2. Higher sulphur and nitrogen content results in respiratory diseases.
3. Many Indian cities including Delhi are among top 10 cities in the world facing severe air pollution issue.
4. Other developing countries such as China having already upgraded to the equivalent of Euro V emission norms. India has been lagging behind.

Some major environmental and technological benefits of Bharat Stage VI norms:

1. Air pollutants in BS-VI fuel are much less as compared to BS-IV fuel. With BS-VI fuel, for every one kilometre, a car will emit nearly 70% lesser nitrogen oxide.
2. In BS-VI fuel, the volume of PM 2.5 ranges from 20 to 40 micrograms per cubic metre whereas in BS-IV fuel it is up to 120 micrograms per cubic metre. Thus the Particulate Matter (PM) emission will see a substantial reduction of 80% in diesel engines.
3. Real Driving Emission will be introduced for the first time that will measure the emission in real-world conditions and not just under test conditions.
4. Bharat Stage VI norms will also change the way particulate matter is measured. It will now be measured by number standard instead of mass standard thereby, regulating the fine particulate matter as well.
5. BS-VI fuel will bring down sulphur content by 5 times from the current BS-IV levels. Sulphur in the fuel contributes to fine particulate matter emissions. High sulphur content in the fuel also leads to corrosion and wear of the automobile engine.
6. BS-VI norms also seek to reduce the level of certain harmful hydrocarbons in the emissions that are produced due to incomplete combustion of fuel.
7. The shift from BS-IV to BS-VI compliant vehicles, will lead to better vehicles with more fuel efficiency and less wear and tear. Car makers will have to start producing BS VI fuel compliant engines as quickly as possible to avail benefits of the cleaner fuel.
8. On-board diagnostics, will help to detect the malfunction with the help of the error codes sent by the malfunctioning component. The OBD unit will be able to identify

likely areas of malfunction by means of fault codes stored on a computer ensuring that emission control device which is fitted in a BS-VI vehicle runs at optimum efficiency throughout the life of the vehicle.

9. For meeting gasoline fuel quality, desulphurisation technologies along with octane boosting units are being installed.

Thus Bharat Stage 6 would ensure environment friendly vehicles. As the problem of air pollution has turned into a global challenge, concerted efforts by all stakeholders are required to deal with this pressing issue. The aim is to reduce emissions from vehicles. This will ensure a healthy environment in India.

Q.26) "Floating farms can help in achieving sustainable agriculture and economic growth." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How floating farms would be beneficial for agriculture and economic growth?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Floating farms are farms that allows growth of vegetables and fruits on floating structures on water. It is a way of utilising areas which are waterlogged for long periods of time in the production of food. The technology is mainly aimed at adapting to more regular or prolonged flooding.

Mechanism of floating farms:

The approach employs beds of rotting vegetation, which act as compost for crop growth. These beds are able to float on the surface of the water, thus creating areas of land suitable for agriculture within waterlogged regions. Scientifically, floating agriculture may be referred to as hydroponics.

How floating farms would be beneficial for agriculture and economic growth?

1. **Food security:** To meet the challenge of feeding growing populations in a sustainable way, the farm, provide a new sustainable way of producing food close to where most of it is consumed in the world's cities. Floating farms could be the future for sectors of agriculture providing fruit and vegetables in parts of the world.
2. **Less maintenances:** Farms of the future will operate autonomously as they float on the open sea. Therefore it's maintenance cost and inputs are less.
3. **Pisciculture:** It is an eco-friendly concept which can support fish farms down below, thereby providing livelihood and food to many. By cultivating crops in water, it is also possible to simultaneously harvest fish populations which reside in the beds.
4. **Energy efficient:** Solar panels on the roof to keep things running. Much of the power needed for the floating farm would come from rooftop solar arrays. Thus it is energy efficient.
5. **Spacial efficiency:** Several floating farms could be clustered together to improve their efficiency even more to serve densely populated areas.
6. **Resource friendly:** The most important component would be the hydroponic garden, because hydroponics doesn't require natural precipitation, fertile land or pesticides to be effective and can serve as a model for people who live in arid regions or areas with poor soil. Hydroponic gardens can also be stacked, so they take up less space.
7. **Community benefits:** Floating agriculture can be used in areas where agricultural land is submerged for long periods especially during the monsoon season. The

practice helps mitigate land loss through flooding, by allowing cultivation of these areas to continue. In this way, the total cultivatable area can be increased and communities can become more self sufficient.

8. **More productive:** In addition to this, the area under floating cultivation is up to 10 times more productive than traditionally farmed land and no additional chemical fertilisers or manure is required. When the crops have been harvested and floating rafts are no longer required, they can be used as organic fertilisers in the fields or incorporated into the following years floating beds as a fertiliser.
9. **Livelihood creation:** The practice of floating agriculture also helps supplement the income of local communities and contributes to alleviation of poverty. Because the system is fairly labour intensive, it also has the capacity to provide employment opportunities within communities. As both men and women can carry out the floating agriculture practices, it can also lead to improvements in gender equity.

With its aquaculture, hydroponics, and photovoltaics features, the floating farm could produce food 365 days a year, regardless of water scarcity, drought, and even natural disasters. Thus it would not only ensure food security but will benefit agriculture sector and will ensure economic growth through employment opportunities.

Q.27) "Despite of various reforms since independence, India has not been able to achieve a sustained desired economic growth." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Reason of less economic growth.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India's economic reforms began in 1991 after facing severe balance of payments crisis. The reforms initiated in 1991 were different precisely because they recognised the need for a system change, involving liberalisation of government controls, a larger role for the private sector and greater integration with the world economy.

Why India have not achieved sustained high growth:

1. **Slow infrastructure development:** Almost all indicators scored poorly in India's infrastructure as compared to countries such as China. Due to slow infrastructure development India has not been able to achieve a sustained higher growth.
2. **Energy supply:** Power shortage is one of the biggest constraints for growth. Due to lack of cheap sustained energy to industrial and agricultural sector, India has not been able to achieve high growth.
3. **Failure to raise labour-intensive manufacturing:** In the post reform period, the share of manufacturing in total employment remained stagnant at 11-12%. In 2010, India accounted for 1.4% of the world manufacturing exports against China's share of a 15%. Reforms since 1991 have not been comprehensive enough to remove the bias towards capital and skill-intensive industries.
4. **Sluggish progress in education and skill levels of workers:** Not taking advantage of demographic dividend is one of the failures. Even in 2009-10, around 52% of total workers were either illiterate or had been educated only up to primary level. Overall, 10% of the workforce in the age group of 15-59 years received some form of vocational training. Vast majority of workers have non-formal vocational training. There are huge challenges in raising education and skills of workers.

5. **Slow social sector development:** Although there have been achievements in social sector during the reform period, the progress has been very slow. The rate of decline in poverty for India stood at around 0.97% per annum; inequality increased; poverty reduction was slower. India has failed to show progress in social indicators or the Millennium Development Goals including environment. This led to limited Human Resources available for industry.
6. **Governance failure:** Reforms were expected to improve governance at various levels. However, there are new problems in governance and persistence of old problems including corruption. Without overhaul of the country's administrative structure corruption cannot be reduced.
7. **Inadequate public investment:** Inadequate public investment in the post-reform period had an adverse impact on the economy in one respect. Due to target to contain fiscal deficit, government expenditure was less. It led to serious under-investment in critical infrastructure sectors such as electric power generation, roads, railways and ports.
8. **Less tax revenues:** Tax revenues actually declined as a percentage of GDP in the first 3 years of the reforms. This decline in the tax revenue was due to serious weaknesses in the tax system despite extensive reform of both direct and indirect taxes undertaken as part of the reform programme. Customs revenues declined steadily as a percentage of GDP in the initial years and then stabilised at a lower level.
9. **Non expansion of private sector:** These shortfalls would not have mattered if capacity in the private sector had expanded, but this did not happen. The end result was that total investment in infrastructure development was less than it should have been, leading to large infrastructure gaps.

These inadequacies come in the way of achieving sustained higher economic growth in the post reform years as investment in infrastructure was not expanded. These limited the growth of India and led to lesser economic growth than what India could achieve over years.

Q.28) Why extremism is a big problem for India? Discuss potential solutions to tackle extremism in India

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is extremism?

Body. Extremism in India. Impact of extremism.

Conclusion. Potential solutions and way forward.

Extremism 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: India faces various form of extremism threats. These are:

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.

Impact of extremism:

1. **Security threats:** Extremism causes threat to the security of the nation and assets of the country. It threaten unity and diversity of the nation. Radicalisation of youth pose a threat to internal security. It has impacted development of the affected region leading to many people still living under poverty.
2. **Social impact:** It violates human rights and endanger fundamental rights of indian citizens. It lead to intolerance in communities, thereby endangering peace and cohesion in society.
3. **Psychological impact:** It instil a fear of life in minds of citizens. Trauma due to violence not only impact psyche of the individual but create a tense environment in the region.
4. **Economic impact:** The direct costs of extremism are the destruction of infrastructure and stoppage of developmental activities. Its indirect costs are multiple and arise out of general loss of confidence in the economy. Further it impact flow of investment to the nation thereby restricting growth potential of the country. It lead to various costs on intelligence, military, and police organizations.
5. **Political Instability:** Extremism has impacted domestic political structures in India in a negative way. It has lead to political instabilities across the nation.
6. **Demographic loss:** Extremism has misguided the youth of the region on the basis of false ideologies for destructive activities by brainwashing them. This has not only endanger demography but also lead to loss of demographic dividend in the region.
7. **Impact Tourism:** Extremism impact tourism industry. Cultural diversity of India is huge, which remained unexploited due to terrorism. People usually avoid visiting countries under threat of violence.

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.29) “India-Africa relation and trade is crucial for India to achieve \$5 trillion economic goal”. Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Present trade scenario. Future prospects in Africa.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India and Africa have social and economic relations since centuries. Africa has vast market which provide opportunities for trade and investment. With India aiming to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, Africa provide an opportunity to achieve it through exports, investments and exploiting resources of Africa. There exists an enormous potential for improving the India-Africa trade and investment partnerships.

India-Africa trade Scenario:

1. **Bilateral Trade:** India is Africa's third largest trading partner. Since 2000, the economic cooperation between India and Africa has increased, helped by the India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) process.
2. **Exports:** India's exports to Africa increased almost four-fold from \$7 billion in 2005-06 to \$25 billion in 2015-16 – accounting for 9.5% share in India's total exports.
3. **Recent trends:** Recent trends show a steady decline in the India-Africa trade in both actual and comparative terms from 2013 to 2017. India's negative trade balance is mainly because of its high demand for oil and energy resources.

Africa as pivot to India's \$5 trillion economic goal:

1. **Robust Market for investment:** Africa provide a number of opportunities for the Indian firms and investors to tap into a larger, unified, simplified and more robust African market. It is critical for India to view Africa not just as a destination for short-term returns but as a partner for medium and long-term economic growth.

2. **Investment destination:** Africa has high mineral rich reserves like oil, metals, non-metals etc. The Indian Multi National Enterprises (MNEs) should venture into various sectors of investments viz. telecommunications, energy, computer sciences, power and automobile, among others. The major destinations of such investments are Mauritius, Mozambique, Sudan, Egypt and South Africa.
3. **Exports:** Exports are the key to achieve the \$5 trillion goal. India's exports to the African countries is dominated by petroleum products. There are opportunities for India to export pharmaceutical products, computer services, automobile etc. In order to reap the benefits of African market, India needs to expand and diversify its export basket to include both primary and manufactured goods.
4. **Resource rich region:** Africa is known as the land of untapped potential. It has incredible natural resources like oil, gas, gold, iron ore, manganese, uranium, diamonds, etc. This would help in boosting India's manufacturing sector and Make in India initiative.
5. **Infrastructure opportunities:** Africa also has countless opportunities for infrastructural development. For the fastest developing nation like India, which is eyeing an almost 9.0 percent growth rate, all this makes Africa a much desirable market for the growth of the Indian companies.
6. **An opportunity for MSMEs:** MSMEs' contribution is critical to India's sustainable growth. Large, medium and SMEs need more presence in Africa on a war footing basis strategising an aggressive marketing and business plans for additional revenue as part of their linear business growth overseas.
7. **Medical Tourism:** Affordable healthcare still remains a big challenge in Africa and thus remain the highest priority in every country in the continent. It opens up medical tourism business opportunities for Indian healthcare stakeholders.

India should ensure that the full gains from Africa are being realised. As the next step, New Delhi can help the AU Commission prepare the requisite architecture, such as common external tariffs, competition policy, intellectual property rights, and natural persons' movement.

Q.30) Discuss how farm ponds can benefit Indian farmers and agriculture sector? Discuss methods to resolve agricultural issues in India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How farm ponds can help Indian farmers? Methods to resolve agricultural issues in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

With an increased variability of monsoons and rapidly depleting groundwater tables, large parts of India are reeling under water stress. A number of peninsular regions like Bundelkhand, Vidarbha and Marathwada have been facing recurring drought-like situations. There is need to implement innovative water management measures, particularly the rainwater harvesting. Farm ponds can be a cost-effective solution and can transform rural livelihoods.

How farm ponds can benefit Indian agriculture?

1. **Water Harvesting:** Farm ponds aid in superior water control through the harvesting not just of rainfall but also of surface run-off and subsurface flows.
2. **Recharge points:** They function as recharge points, contributing to groundwater replenishment.

3. **Irrigation:** They can help in providing supplemental irrigation in the kharif season and an enhanced irrigation coverage in Rabi season. The yield of paddy can thus contributing to greater food security.
4. **Retention of water:** Farm ponds can retain water for 8-10 months of the year; thus farmers could enhance cropping intensity and crop diversification within and across seasons.
5. **Promote commercial crops:** The area used to cultivate vegetables and other commercial crops also increased. They also support cultivation of water-intensive and more profitable commercial crops like papaya, beyond the traditional cotton, onion, etc.
6. **Cost-Effective:** Ponds are financially viable plan, with a fairly high Rate of Return, of about 19%, over 15 years.
7. **Increased income of farmers:** With zero maintenance cost and no requirement of intensive technology, farm ponds can provide extra income to farmers not only through better crops but also through other methods like aquaculture and fishery in farm ponds.

Although farm ponds can help in improving agricultural output, there are many issues faced by agricultural sector. These issues require innovative solutions.

Some Measures to improve agricultural issues in India:

1. **Irrigation facilities:** Small land farmers are unable to arrange irrigation systems. They need proper irrigation. So government should have to take initiative for providing irrigation to the small land owners.
2. **Education to farmers:** Many farmers are not aware about crop rotation. Though education in urban areas has improved a lot, the government has ignored the same in rural areas in general & in agriculture sector. So Government agencies should start efficient mechanism in this regard.
3. **Need for better water management:** Currently available irrigation facility do not cover the entire cultivable land. In most cases, it is not the lack of water but lack of proper water management that causes water shortage. Improved modern methods of rain water harvesting should be developed. Farm ponds are a viable solution. Surplus water from perennial rivers can be diverted to the needy areas. Connecting the rivers throughout the country will solve this problem. Construction of national waterways will improve the irrigation facility, which in turn can save the farmers, if the monsoon would fail.
4. **Processing industries and cold storage facility:** Today 90% farmers want processing unit and cold storage facility in the villages, especially for vegetables and fruits. So that farmers will get proper marketing & rates. This will reduce middlemen exploitation. Government should incentivise industry to open food processing units and cold storage facility near villages.
5. **Developing alternate source of income for farmers:** The Government should take up the responsibility for providing training to the farmers to acquire new skills to reduce the dependence on agriculture. New areas like horticulture, aquaculture, fishery should also be promoted.
6. **Sustainable farming methods:** Organic farming is the way out for sustainable farming. Organic certification process should be more faster. Precision farming helps to get out of drought adversities by targeted input delivery. It requires minimum input and also reduces cost of production. Already Micro-irrigations are helping rainfed farmers in drought conditions. These methods should be promoted.

7. **Women support:** Women farmers don't enjoy entitlement to their land. GoI is in process of digitisation of land records. In that process women farmers of that family can also be done to get their Rights. Further smart farm tools and machineries must be gender neutral in its accessibility.
8. **Climate Resilience farming (CRF):** It depends mostly on technological tools like smart weather forecast using Big data analytics. Plant biotechnology by developing short duration varieties, submerged crop varieties for coastal regions, drought resistant varieties for arid areas can further promote CRF.

In Maharashtra, the State government is promoting farm ponds under a flagship programme that aims to dig over one lakh structures by offering a subsidy of up to ₹50,000 per farmer. They can help enhance water control, contribute to agriculture intensification and boost farm incomes. However, this is possible only if they act as rainwater harvesting structures and not as intermediate storage points for an increased extraction of groundwater or diversion of canal water. The latter will cause greater groundwater depletion and inequitable water distribution.

Q.31) What is gender budgeting? How it can help in women empowerment in India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is gender budgeting?

Body. How gender budgeting is important for women?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Gender budgeting means preparing budgets from a gender perspective. It aims at dealing with budgetary gender inequality issues, including gender hierarchies and the gender pay gap. Gender budgeting allows governments to promote equality through fiscal policies by setting goals or targets for equality and allocating funds to support those goals.

Gender budgeting involves:

1. Gender sensitive formulation of legislation, programmes and schemes.
2. Gender based allocation of resources.
3. Monitoring of expenditure and public service delivery from a gender perspective.
4. Audit and impact assessment of programmes and schemes on women.
5. Follow-up corrective action to address gender disparities.

How gender budgeting can ensure women empowerment in India?

1. It act as a powerful tool for achieving gender mainstreaming so as to ensure that benefits of development reach women as much as men.
2. It recognise the need of an affirmative action to address specific needs of women.
3. It sensitise government and society towards discrimination and gaps among women and men in a given sector.
4. Gender responsive budgets policies can contribute to achieve the objectives of gender equality, human development and economic efficiency.
5. Gender budgeting at department/ministry lead to more focus on issues of women's inequality and empowerment and thereby led to more specific allocation on such schemes.
6. It put pressure and focus on gender sensitive programme formulation and implementation. Therefore, it mainstream gender concerns in public expenditure and policy.
7. It lead to women empowerment by increasing and improving the social, economic, and political situation of the women, and ensure equal rights to women. It helps

women to control and benefit from resources, assets and income, as well as the enable them to manage risks and take decisions good for them.

8. It ensure that benefits of development reach each women as much as it benefit men. E.g. Schemes like Sukanya Samridhi Yojana enhance economic status of girls.
9. It lead to increased focus on education, health, and safety of women. E.g. Beti bachao, beti padhao has resulted in increased child sex ratio in vulnerable areas.
10. It ensure women's health through policies and schemes. E.g Janani suraksha yojana, Maternity Benefit Act 2016 ensure good health of women.

Thus gender budgeting has various benefits especially for women. It empower women in true sense and help government to trickle down benefits of economic growth to women. It ensure rights and dignity of women leading to gender equality.

General Studies – 4

Q.1) What do you understand by ethical dilemma? How an administrator should deal with the situations of ethical dilemma? (General Studies 4)

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Various situations of ethical dilemmas and how civil servants should deal with it?

Conclusion. Way forward.

An ethical dilemma is a situation of conflict among various principles, creating a difficulty in decision making. An ethical dilemma arises when one has to choose between ethical values and rules in order to determine the right-thing-to-do. Administrators too face ethical dilemmas many times. This lead to difficulty in decision making and require conscience to resolve such dilemmas.

Situations of ethical dilemmas faced by civil servants:

1. Dilemmas between professional ethics and own personal values.
2. Dilemma due to duty towards the community and being responsive to the government.
3. In his desire to hold onto a job versus the professional ethics.
4. Ethical dilemmas can arise, when two equally striking options are justified as right in certain situations.
5. For a public servant attempting to function as a professional, the demands of law, his duty, fairness, due process, provides a productive ground in which ethical dilemmas arises.
6. Other types of ethical dilemmas in which public servants may find themselves include conflict between:
 - The values of public administration.
 - Unclear or opposing answer-abilities.
 - Personal morals and work ethics versus administrative directive.
 - Validations for the institutions.
 - professional ethics and director or executive directive.
 - Features of the code of conduct.

Process of resolving an ethical dilemma in administration:

1. Personal self-interest should be secondary to the common good in all situations, especially when such circumstances give rise to conflict of interest.
2. A dilemma should be dealt appropriately by considering and reformulating all the options in a systematic and coherent manner.
3. To resolve such ethical dilemmas, an order or a sequence of logical reasoning is must to integrate and rearrange the process of dealing with ethical dilemmas.
4. The decisions should be guided by following principles:
 - The provisions of Indian Constitution.
 - Democratic accountability of administration.
 - The rule of law and the principle of legality.
 - Professional integrity.
 - Impartiality and neutrality.
 - Larger public good.
 - Responsiveness to civil society.
5. The bureaucracy should be loyal to the country and it's people while decision making considering consequences of such decisions.

6. It is fundamental ethical duty of civil servants to show a spirit of neutrality and discretion and keep their own personal preferences out in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Civil servants are responsible for providing justice to many lives. Their impartiality and neutrality is must to uphold his/her duty towards a society. Dilemmas arise many times in life of civil servants while performing their duties. What required is the objective decision making for larger public benefit.

Q.2) What do you understand by integrity. Why integrity is important for civil servants?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is integrity?

Body. Significance of integrity in civil services.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Integrity means the ability of an individual to remain consistent and committed to his/her personal and professional values. It means that one adheres to ethical and moral values, code of conduct and code of ethics. It is the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.

Integrity include:

1. Soundness of moral principles.
2. Uprightness.
3. Honesty and sincerity.
4. Synchronisation between one's thought, speech and action.
5. Loyalty to rational principles.

Why integrity is critical in civil services.

1. Civil servants are provided with immense powers and responsibilities towards society. Their impartiality and honesty is important for social good and development.
2. It is essential to counter the evil of corruption in public administration, which deny Many their just rights and also hinder our economic development.
3. The actions of public servants have a direct bearing on the character of the community, thus they should have integrity that prevent them to take wrong decisions which could harm the society.
4. They are responsible for managing public resources and money entrusted to them for the benefit of the citizens for instance funds to be used for development has been raised through taxes are used for provision of public good.
5. Civil servants have an important role to play in development and achievement of goals of social, economic and political justice and equality of status and opportunity in society.
6. To deal with public and their affairs fairly, efficiently and sensitively to the best of his abilities integrity in nature is important.
7. It ensure that civil servant do not misuse his/her official position to further his private interest for instance taking bribe by police to file an FIR.
8. It is important for good governance and to prevent failures which may occur due to resistance to accountability and transparency.
9. A person of integrity do his/her duties with conscience. E.g. Policeman ordered to fire on unarmed peaceful protestors. Honest policeman will obey the order. Policeman of integrity, will refuse to fire.

Thus, integrity is critical in civil services to ensure good governance and allow a civil servant to perform his/her duties with honesty and allow better administration. What is needed is to ensure integrity through training and proper vigilance.

Q.3) Write about major teachings of Swami Vivekananda. Do you think Ideas of Swami Vivekananda are still relevant?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Teachings of Swami Vivekanand and it's relevance today.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Swami Vivekananda was a great social reformer of the 19th century. He was a devote follower of Vedanta. He tried to apply Vedanta to practical every day life. Hence his teaching are also referred to as Practical Vedanta.

Some teachings of Swami Vivekanand:

1. **Tolerance:** Swami Vivekananda preached tolerance and peace for humankind. His idea of peace and tolerance was global and included people of all the religions and sects. If humans are to thrive and prosper, they need to tolerate the diversified views and strive for the prosperity of all.
2. **Right Education:** He stressed that good education is not merely learning of facts but also development of character. He redefined the concept of education which was not limited to exploring means of earning only. For him education was way to build one's character, strength, intellect etc. Such idea of education would help in evolving oneself as better person in both personal and public life.
3. **Strength:** Swami Vivekananda stresses on the importance of being strong in the life. Weakness comes with number of difficulties for one in a life. Whether its personal goals or professional goals, a person need to be fearless and firm to achieve them.
4. **Compassion for Weaker Sections:** He stressed that success at the cost of poor is not worth having. He tells us that as a part of society every person is responsible for the welfare of poor and marginalised people. It emphasizes the need to have empathy and compassion for the weaker sections of the society.
5. **Religion:** He argued in favour of religious reforms. He stressed that rationality must be applied to root out evils in religion. His meaning of religion had no place for superstitions, unending rituals and practices and religion that was adrift of spiritual content. His idea of religion was humane, did not have necessity of middlemen to connect with one's god and did not have barriers of caste, community etc. Such progressive understanding of the religion would relieve people from wrong notions of religion and provide them with real spiritual upliftment.
6. **Fraternity:** Swami Vivekananda focuses on the values like Love, Patience, Perseverance in one's life. This would increase the brotherhood and fraternity among the people, reduce conflicts among them and would bind the society as a whole.
7. **Self-faith:** Having faith on oneself is the most important. In order to live a good life, people make all sorts of efforts, but they forget to trust themselves, lack confidence and depend on supernatural powers to help them out of their miseries.

Relevance of Swami Vivekanand's teaching today:

1. The relevance of Swami Vivekanand today is with the ideals and goals that he devised for the youth. He wanted the youth to have that much of faith in themselves.

The youth needs to rediscover Vivekananda's message of looking inward rather than being a restless soul stuck up in an incessant effort. Understanding Swami Vivekananda and his message and putting it across our youth can be the simplest way to address many problems faced by India today.

2. Another aspect of Swamiji's teaching was universal brotherhood. Today the world realises that to bring peace, there is no other ideology more proper than this. Vasudhev Kutumbakam – i.e. belief in the world as a family has become necessary in growing era of protectionism and de-globalisation.
3. He said that lack of education is the root cause behind all problems in India. He believed that education should be freed from the stranglehold of the upper class and spread to every section of the society. He was not in favour of just career-oriented education. Unfortunately, that kind of education is not available today and given the risk of automation and poor job growth rate in India, gaining true education, as defined by Vivekanand, would surely help youth of today to excel in various fields.
4. He was in favour of allowing women to take their own decisions. He emphasised on the women's education and believed that it will lead to greater development of society as a whole. He also advocated the need to impart martial arts training to women so that they could defend themselves. Considering the sexual crime against women, girl drop outs from school and also reducing female labour force participation, Swami's teaching are still relevant.

It is high time for the youth to come forward by shedding their fears to shape up India. Swamiji laid great stress on Vasudev Kutumbakam. He argued that instead of differences if we focused on the similarities we all share then this world would be a happier place. His teachings are relevant today since many problems remained the same. His teachings reflects a path to these problems.

Q.4) What do you understand by the term trusteeship? Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's views on principle of trusteeship

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Mahatma Gandhi's views on the principle of trusteeship.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Trusteeship is a socio-economic concept put forward by Mahatma Gandhi. Trusteeship means a way by which the wealthy people would be the trustees of trusts that looked after the welfare of the people in general. In modern times concept of corporate social responsibility is close to the idea of Trusteeship.

Mahatma Gandhi's Views on Principle of Trusteeship:

1. According to Mahatma Gandhi those who sought to attain God through social service, even if they controlled vast possessions, should not regard any of it as their own. They should rather hold their possessions in trust for the benefit of those less privileged than themselves.
2. The theory of trusteeship applies equally to both tangible and intangible property such as the muscular energy of the labourers and the talents.
3. By trusteeship he meant that the wealthy should not just claim their possessions to be theirs entirely as that they cannot not accumulate their wealth without the labour and cooperation of workers and the poorer sections of society.

4. Basically Gandhi suggested this doctrine as an answer to the economic inequalities of ownership and income - a kind of nonviolent way of resolving all social and economic conflicts which grew out of inequalities and privileges of the present social order.
5. According to him, wealthy people are morally bound to share their wealth in a fair manner with their workers and the poor.
6. Just as it is proposed to give a decent minimum living wage, a limit should be fixed for the maximum income that would be allowed to any person in society. The difference between such minimum and maximum incomes should be reasonable and equitable and variable from time to time, so much so that the tenancy would be towards the obliteration of the difference.
7. It does not exclude legislation of the ownership and use of wealth. Wealthy people should voluntarily surrender part of their wealth and hold it in trust for those working for them. But by the 1940s, he had come to believe that state legislation would be necessary to ensure compliance with the principle of trusteeship.
8. It does not recognise any right of private ownership of property except so far as it may be permitted by society for its own welfare.
9. He believed that adoption of this doctrine at an individual and national level is the only way to form an egalitarian and non-violent society.
10. He said that the rich man should spend his wealth only when reasonably required for his personal needs and should act as a trustee for the remainder to be used for society.
11. The whole idea of possessing wealth only to guard it from being misused and to distribute it equitably aims at protecting human dignity.
12. Gandhi did not believe in inherited wealth as a trustee has no heir other than the public.
13. By trusteeship he doesn't mean compulsion to surrender the wealth as the forcible dispossession of the wealthy would deny to society the talents of people who could create national wealth. His method was to persuade the wealthy to act as trustees, failing which satyagraha could be adopted.

Trusteeship provides a means of transforming the present capitalist order of society into an egalitarian one. It gives no quarter to capitalism, but gives the present owning class a chance to reform itself. It is based on the faith that human nature is never beyond redemption.

Q.5) What do you understand by conscience? How conscience help an individual in resolving moral dilemma?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How conscience resolve moral dilemma?

Conclusion. Way forward.

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. 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 resolve moral dilemmas:

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.

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.