# ForumIAS

# Mains Marathon Compilation

July, 2019

## General Studies 1

Q.1) Examine the issue of skewed gender ratio at workplaces in India. What measures will ensure better gender ratio?

Q.2) Explain Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of Satyagrah. Do you think Satyagraha is still a relevant mode of protest in modern times?

Q.3) Discuss the issue and various causes of urban floods in India. Give some measures to prevent urban flooding in India.

Q.4) Interlinking of rivers is a double edged sword. Critically analyse.

Q.5) Discuss the changing nature of families in India. What are the main reasons behind it?

Q.6) Discuss the commercialisation of agriculture in India during colonial rule. Discuss various consequences of agricultural commercialisation.

Q.7) What is secularism? Discuss how Indian concept of secularism is broader than western concept?

Q.8) Examine the major factors that shaped the British land-revenue policy in India. How did it affect Indian society?

Q.9) "Ocean resources in Indian Ocean can boost India's economic and social progress." Comment.

## General Studies 2

Q.1) Do you think G20 summits have lost its significance? Critically analyse.

Q.2) Give a critical evaluation of ayushman bharat. How it can do wonders if implemented effectively?

Q.3) Delhi government recently flouted a gender based public transport fare subsidy programme. Critically analyse the subsidy program and its issues.

Q.4) 103rd amendment act strives to provide the social justice. Critically comment.

Q.5) Government of India, recently started the lateral entry scheme for appointing joint secretaries. Do you think it is a right decision? Critically discuss.

Q.6) Critically examine Caste based Reservation system in India. Discuss the way forward.

Q.7) What is section 124A of IPC? Do you think it should be scrapped from India's law book?

Q.8) What do you understand by democratic education? Discuss various advantages of democratic education.

Q.9) Discuss India-Africa trade ties. Analyse impact of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on India-Africa trade.

Q.10) What are powers and sources of LG of Puducherry? Compare powers of LG of Puducherry with the powers of LG Delhi.

Q.11) In the light of recent "Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, 2019" report, critically discuss the problem of malnutrition in India. What should be done to address this problem?

Q.12) "India has begun to feature prominently on a growing list of countries marked by hate crime, including hate speech in electoral campaigns". Critically examine. Discuss various consequences of hate crimes. Also, suggest some measures to stop hate crimes.

Q.13) "Parliamentary elections in India have increasingly been influenced by State-level political variables beyond the performance of the ruling parties and the Opposition at the Centre". In light of this critically discuss the feasibility of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies in India.

Q.14) "While most of the developed world has penalised marital rape, surprisingly, there is no law to protect married women against marital rape in India". Critically analyse the need of law against marital rape in India. Discuss various challenges while legislating such a law.

Q.15) A new study suggests that nutrition and health counselling delivered under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme is one of the best possible investments that can be made by any government. Discuss how nutrition counselling can solve malnutrition problem in India. Provide some other measures to prevent malnutrition in children.

Q.16) "The draft National Education Policy (NEP) 2019 recommends a restructuring of school years and the curriculum, in a wide-ranging manner but it lacks the critical components of education i.e. critical thinking and deeper understanding". Critically analyse. Give some measures to improve education system in India. (General Studies 2)

Q.17) "U.S.-Iran relations have reached a new low which can lead to serious economic consequences in the region". Comment. Discuss the impact of US-Iran tussle on India.

Q.18) "In the upcoming years, a host of geopolitical and economic issues need to be reconciled". In this context how India's foreign policy should be modelled in the upcoming years? Discuss how India should balance its interest among various nations?

Q.19) "Although Indian constitution provide a lot of provisions for the safeguard of socially weaker sections of the society, India still needs a social revolution to end discrimination and to socially uplift them". Comment. Discuss various provisions in the Indian constitution for socially weaker sections.

Q.20) "Judicial review is an essential aspect of the a constitutional democracy especially India". Critically examine. Discuss its importance in keeping executive in check.

Q.21) "103rd constitutional amendment present a more difficult judicial examination than usual". Comment. Discuss 103rd amendment act and its salient features.

Q.22) "National Register of Citizens though well intentioned, has many problems; majority of which are borne by the poorest". Comment. Examine the need of National Register of Citizens.

Q.23) "In the era of fake news and propagandas, a robust and unbiased media is must to ensure democracy in India". Critically analyse.

Q.24) Discuss the issue of permanent membership to UNSC. Highlight its importance for India.

Q.25) Critically examine the success of anti-defection law in India. Highlight its relevance in multiparty parliamentary system.

Q.26) Discuss salient features of draft National education policy. How does it ensure better learning and critical thinking?

Q.27) "RTI has been able to strengthen the movement for transparency and accountability in India". Discuss.

Q.28) Discuss the role and importance of parliamentary committees in a democracy like India.

Q.29) What do you understand by Parliament sovereignty? How Indian constitution check parliament sovereignty?

Q.30) Discuss the impact of US-China rivalry on India. How India should approach the two countries?

Q.31) "Government's efforts and legal frameworks to prevent sexual harassment against women has not been much successful." Discuss.

Q.32) Discuss various goals and function of UNAIDS. Why world needs a coordinated effort to prevent AIDS?

Q.33) "The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 try to balance altruistic and commercial interests." Examine.

Q.34) Discuss salient features of RTI Act, 2005. What are various issues and loopholes in RTI act?

Q.35) "The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 is a much needed step for women empowerment." Discuss.

Q.36) "Increasing drug menace across northern states in India need strict laws and coordination among various states." Comment.

Q.37) "Illegal organ trade is not only unethical but is a serious crime against humanity and society as a whole." Comment.

Q.38) "Uniform Civil Code is essential to promote national harmony." Critically analyse.

Q.39) Discuss the role of speaker of Lok of sabha in ensuring Parliamentary democracy in India.

Q.40) What is Judicial activism? Critically analyse the role of judicial activism in Indian democracy.

Q.41) "Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution has failed to prevent defections." Analyse.

Q.42) "Medical Commission Bill, 2019 seeks to ensure transparency and better medical standards." Discuss.

Q.43) Discuss the role and function of National Commission for Minorities in India. Do you think it needs more power to ensure social justice to Indian Minorities?

Q.44) What do you understand by asymmetric federalism? Discuss the importance of asymmetric federalism in India.

General Studies 3

Q.1) Crypto-currencies are expanding its tentacles. Discuss it's concerns.

Q.2) India face shortage of doctors especially in rural areas. In this context self-care can be a solution. What is self-care? Discuss self-care in context of Indian population and healthcare issues.

Q.3) India is facing a situation of water crisis in coming times. In context of environmental challenges and increasing population of India, discuss the situation. How India should manage the developing crisis situation?

Q.4) India is posed to become a $5 trillion dollar economy. Discuss various challenges and issues India face in achieving it.

Q.5) The global automobile fleet is marching forward to wean away from fossil fuels. Critically analyse various issues and challenges in front of Indian automobile industry to shift to electric vehicles. How India can become a world leader in electric vehicles industry?

Q.6) What is inheritance tax? Do you think it is need of the hour in India? Discuss various pros and cons of inheritance tax.

Q.7) What is Green Budgeting? Do you think that it can help in tackling the problem of climate change?

Q.8) India has contributed tremendously in space exploration. Do you think India should expand private player's role in its space industry? Critically analyse.

Q.9) India is targeting to become a $5 trillion economy by 2025, but the past experience of jobless growth is a headache for Indian intelligentsia. In light of this, discuss various causes of jobless growth in India in past. Give some measures to create job opportunities in India.

Q.10) Tourism industry has been a part of India's growth story in last decade, but still have not reached full potential. Discuss. Also suggest some measures to boost tourism in India.

Q.11) What is Somatic cell nuclear transfer? Explain its technology and enlist various potential application of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer technology.

Q.12) Enlist 10- points 'Vision for the Decade' flagged in Budget 2019-20. How it will help in developing a New India?

Q.13) Discuss the major problems faced by MSMEs in India. What are the measures presented in budget 2019-20 for MSME sector?

Q.14) What is Cellular Agriculture? Discuss various advantages and disadvantages of Cellular Agriculture. How it can ensure food security?

Q.15) What are various issues faced by sugar industries in india? Suggest some measures.

Q.16) In the light of recent "Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, 2019" report, critically discuss the problem of malnutrition in India. What should be done to address this problem?

Q.17) "5g could be one of the most important development in human history". Comment. Explain various challenges involved in adopting the 5g technology.

Q.18) While Centre aims to double farmers' income by 2022, a NABARD survey shows high levels of inter-State income inequality among agricultural households. In light of this discuss various issues faced by farmers in India. Suggest some measures to resolve these issues.

Q.19) "Inspite of various laws and regulations, India has made little progress in managing its plastic waste". Critically comment. Also discuss various provisions under "The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016".

Q.20) What is Zero Budget Natural Farming? Considering India's food needs, examine the need of it at a national level? Discuss various challenges.

Q.21) In India, investing in the laggard States will ensure population control. Discuss in the light of recently, released UN's World Population Prospects. Suggest some measures to control population in India.

Q.22) "Desalination technology is not an esoteric idea. However, it only has a limited application, given the operation cost". Discuss. What is desalination? Can desalination help India with its water crisis situation?

Q.23) "Antibiotic resistance is a slowly developing epidemic of 21st century". Comment. Discuss various causes of antibiotic resistant. Suggest some measures.

Q.24) "Trend of 'jobless growth' that was till recently confined largely, to the organised sector has now spread to other sectors of the economy". Discuss in the context of latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (2017-18). What should be done to ensure inclusive growth?

Q.25) "The consolidated codes on labour laws to simplify and consolidate labour rules and laws is need of the hour". Comment. Discuss the need of labour reforms in India.

Q.26) "The potential applications of Artificial Intelligence in public health are enormous." Discuss. How it can solve our country's health problems?

Q.27) "Faulty public distribution system in many states have denied food to many poor people". In light of this discuss various issues in public distribution system. Give some solutions to improve PDS.

Q.28) "It is estimated that in just 30 years from now, half of India will be living in cities". In the context of threat of water crisis, how can we ensure the next generations water security to next generations? Suggest some best eco-management practices to ensure water security.

Q.29) "Government's existing technology vision for the digital economy, hinges on data localisation to solve multiple problems, unfortunately it misses a number of issues and have hidden costs". Critically examine. Suggest some measures to resolve these issues.

Q.30) "Adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) amenities, including waste management and environmental cleaning services, are critical to safe functioning of health facilities." Comment. Discuss what should be done to improve health facilities?

Q.31) "20 million children worldwide missed out on life-saving vaccines last year, according to new data from the WHO and the UNICEF". In light of this discuss importance of vaccination in ensuring health security to children. How India can ensure timely vaccination to every child?

Q.32) "A transition to electric vehicle transportation demand major efforts by the government but also need extra efforts of Indian automobile industry". Discuss. What should be done to fast track the adoption of electric vehicles?

Q.33) "AIDS is one of the biggest challenge for health policymakers all over the world including India". Discuss. What should be done to reduce incidence of AIDS in India.

Q.34) "Contact farming can solve India's agricultural and food security issues". Comment. Discuss Model Contract Farming Act, 2018 in this context.

Q.35) ""By imposing a blanket ban on crypto currencies India may miss out on one of the biggest technology revolutions since the Internet.". Discuss.

Q.36) What do you understand by disinvestment? Critically examine the policy of disinvestment in India.

Q.37) ""Smart Cities Mission that aimed at providing better cities and infrastructure has failed to do so". Comment.

Q.38) "India need to follow East Asian model of growth if it has to achieve the $5-trillion economy status by 2024-25". Discuss.

Q.39) "Without factoring in agriculture, the vision of a $5-trillion economy will remain a distant dream". Discuss.

Q.40) "The ugly path of unilateralism and protectionism has affected the growth and stability of the world". Comment.

Q.41) ""The Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS) recently proposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs can have disastrous consequences". Critically analyse.

Q.42) "The public and private bank's inability to extend more credit for major infrastructure projects to debt ridden states, will jeopardise India's social and economic goals." Comment.

Q.43) Explain the mechanism behind Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS). Discuss various health risks associated with it.

Q.44) "India is facing the dual challenge of ensuring energy security and combating water crisis." Comment.

Q.45) What is deep learning? Discuss its potential applications.

Q.46) "A policy of population control should focus on choice rather than restrictions." Discuss.

Q.47) Discuss the 7 targets of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030). How Sendai framework envision to achieve these targets?

Q.48) What is Lagrange point? Discuss objectives and importance of ISRO'S Aditya-L1 mission.

Q.49) "Focus on fiscal deficit alone; as an economic management tool is not full proof." Discuss.

Q.50) What is difference between 5G and 4G technology? Discuss importance of 5G technology for India?

General Studies 4

Q.1) Budget 2019-20 announced a Gandhipedia to sensitise society. Discuss seven sins of Gandhi and it's relevance to sensitise the society.

Q.2) What is research ethics? Discuss the principles of research ethics.

Q.3) What are cyber-ethics? Discuss its relevance in modern times.

Q.4) Distinguish between attitude and behaviour. How attitude of an individual influence its behaviour?

Q.5) What do you understand by emotional intelligence? Discuss the importance of emotional intelligence in leadership.

General Studies 1

**Q.1) Examine the issue of skewed gender ratio at workplaces in India. What measures will ensure better gender ratio?**
**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Facts about the situation.
> **Body.** Causes of the skewed ratio.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

India stands at **108th position in global gender gap report** of World economic forum. There is also less participation of girls in Science, technology, engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Fields. IIT in 2016 got only 8% female student. Only 12% women legislators are there in India. IMF report suggested that Female Labour Work Force is less in India compared to other peer countries. This shows a clear gap when it comes to women at work wrt men in India.

**Reasons/ Causes.**
1. **Social Causes-** Patriarchal mindset prevailing in society where women is considered as housewife only. Also there is feudal mindset in society where women is often objectified and tied to family managing tasks. Social stigma prevails as some families still do not allow women to work.
2. **Safety Reasons-** Workplace safety is very important when it comes to women participation in industry. Apathy by employers to provide infrastructural facilities to women such as toilets, crèche facilities, transport facilities etc as organisations find it financial burden. Also Sexual harassment at work place also acts as a factor of skewed gender ratio leading to stress, fear etc. Study says 80% of women leave their jobs after facing with sexual harassment.
3. **Personal Causes-** Women has to balance between family tasks as well as official tasks which some women are unable to cope up with. Lack of self confidence among women as compared to their male counterparts is evident.
4. **Misconceptions**- Women are still considered less efficient to men when it comes to work along-with lack of awareness about the rights available to women coupled with delay in judicial mechanism.

**Measures needed**
1. **Awareness-** Creating awareness regarding women rights. NGOs/CSOs to take proactive measures in bringing the change.
2. **Legal-** Sexual harassment at work place law to be implemented in letter and spirit. Following Vishakha guidelines strictly. The pending Women Reservation bill should be passed so that at least 33% women will be represented in Loksabha and Assemblies.
3. **Skilling-** Upgrading skills of women, encouraging entrepreneurship spirit in them etc. Stand up India is a good initiative.
4. **Proactive efforts-** Promoting SHGs for inclusive and sustainable development of women e.g. SEWA organisation. Women should be encouraged to be more vocal about their rights e.g. METOO CAMPAIGN.

Government of India efforts such as **Beti bachao beti padhao, stand up India, MUDRA, maternity benefit act** etc. are steps in right direction. Stringent laws and punishment should be given to the person who harasses women in any form. Madhya Pradesh has law that give life sentence to the person who found guilty of raping a girl of less than 12yrs old. Such efforts should be implemented in letter and spirit to realise true potential of women to increase their participation in work force.

**Q.2) Explain Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of Satyagrah. Do you think Satyagraha is still a relevant mode of protest in modern times?**
**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Define what is Satyagraha.
> **Body.** Write some details about Satyagraha and its relevance.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward

**Satyagraha**, (Sanskrit and Hindi: "holding onto truth") as a concept was introduced by Mahatma Gandhi to designate a determined but **nonviolent** resistance to evil. Gandhi's satyagraha became a major tool in the Indian struggle against British imperialism and has since been adopted by protest groups in other countries.

**What is Satyagraha according to Gandhiji?**
The term Satyagraha was first coined by Gandhiji **in South Africa** to express the tendency of the Indian minds and methods of meeting violence, injustice or of thwarting unjust laws of racial discrimination practiced by the white minority there.

1. It is a method which involves a breach of the law, but without causing physical harm to the agents of the law. The **purpose** is to undermine the unjust system so that it gives way and reform can be achieved.

2. It was conceived as a **weapon of the strongest** and excludes the use of violence and hatred in any shape or form. Satyagraha is a relentless search for truth and determination to reach truth **not by inflicting of suffering on the opponent, by on one's self**.

3. Non-violence is the basis of Satyagraha. For Gandhi, a Satyagrahi **obeys the laws of society intelligently** and of his own freewill, because he considers it to be his sacred duty to do so.

4. Satyagraha, as conceived by Gandhi, **was never a mean to the disrupt the society**. According to this philosophy, satyagrahis- achieve correct insight into the real nature of an evil situation by observing a nonviolence of the mind, by seeking truth in a spirit of peace and love, and by undergoing a rigorous process of self-scrutiny. In so doing, the satyagrahi encounters truth in the absolute.

5. Satyagraha includes **more than civil disobedience**. Its full range of application extends from the details of correct daily living to the construction of alternative political and economic institutions. Satyagraha seeks to conquer through conversion: in the end, there is neither defeat nor victory but rather a new harmony.

**Is it a relevant mode of protest?**

As people begin to feel the injustice to which they and their fellow citizens have been subjected to, an injustice that needs to be battled, they also come to think about the methods that **should be used to battle these injustices.** In the process, they are politicised and motivated to act.

And this Gandhi felt was revolutionary because public opinion becomes a vital force, challenges injustice, and challenges the government for its acts of omission.

1. Satyagraha act as protest movement against authority or establishment, it **can serve not only as a check on the abuse of power but also as a medium of educating public opinion**.

2. The **first condition** precedent to any civil resister is that there should be surety against any outbreak of violence. It should be obvious that civil resistance cannot flourish in an atmosphere of violence.

3. Satyagraha **can communicate the idea that the rulers have no automatic claim to respect**. Unless people can exercise their judgment, employ their reason, and sound their conscience to evaluate the government and the laws they obey, they cannot be free, and at the same time, law-abiding citizens. Therefore, Satyagraha in its civil disobedience form is possible in any political system.

Examples of effectiveness of non-violent techniques can also be seen from countries other than India. The **Norwegians** organised an effective non-violent resistance against authorities during the German occupation in the Second World War. The **Czechs** organised protest against the Russian army for a couple of days. But what is happening today in the context of our social, political and economic life falls far short of the Gandhian values and methods. We find around ourselves strikes, fasts, dharnas, satyagrahas, picketing, gheraos, and many more things of the kind, all undertaken to back some demands. Ends are more important to us than the means.

**Q.3) Discuss the issue and various causes of urban floods in India. Give some measures to prevent urban flooding in India.**
**Ans.**

| **Demand of the question** |
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| **Introduction.** Give a brief introduction. |
| **Body.** Causes of urban flooding in India. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

Urban Flooding is **accumulation** of water in an area either by direct rainfall or through spill of huge amount of water from water bodies beyond normal limits. It lead to temporary relocation of people, **damage** to civic amenities, **deterioration** of water quality and risk of **epidemics**. Over the past several years there is increasing trend of urban flood disasters in India whereby major cities in India have been severely affected.

**Causes:**
**Natural causes:**

1. **Meteorological phenomenon**- Natural phenomenon like **storms, Cyclone** like Vardah, Phailin making landfalls in coastal areas induce heavy rainfall leading to floods.

2. **Heavy rainfall during monsoons-** Erratic monsoon, monsoon bursts lead to **tremendous amount of rain in short period** leading to the situation of floods. Further cemented paves and roads cause choking of drainage with water accumulating above it. Lack of exposed soil create a situation of water nit getting seeped into the ground and accumulating.

3. **Change in course of river**- Rivers changing it's normal course also lead to floods many times. This cause heavy human loss due to unpreparedness and lack of any planning as it is unexpected. E.g. *Kosi* in Bihar.

**Anthropogenic causes:**

1. **Deforestation and climate change-** Global climate change is resulting in **changed weather patterns and increased episodes** of high intensity rainfall events occurring in shorter periods of time. Then the threat of sea-level rise is also looming large, threatening all the coastal cities. **Cutting of trees** for personal, commercial and other purposes, especially to expand cities, not only put pressure on environment but also lead to inability of city to prevent flooding. It lead to soil erosion and more frequently floods.

2. **Encroachment of water bodies**- Urban areas are getting **congested**. Increasing Migration to the cities and reduced availability of land lead to more encroachment of water bodies and reduced economical services from water bodies putting stress on urban resources. Charkop Lake in Maharashtra is a well-known example of encroachment.

3. **Improper planning-** Drainage congestion caused by badly planned construction of bridges, roads, railway tracts, hampers the flow of water and the result is flood. Further no plan of how to tackle flooding situation cause trouble. Though cyclones and floods are routinely visiting India, disaster risk reduction concerns have not been integrated into the plan effectively.

4. **Increasing Urban population and congestion**- Increase in the urban population without corresponding expansion of civic facilities such as lack of adequate infrastructure for the disposal of waste results in waste clogging the natural channels and storm water drains. Thus lead to flooding. Also, Urban heat island effect has resulted in an increase in rainfall over urban areas.

5. **Lack of coordination-** Among centre and state, among state and civic bodies, and various departments at local level lead to poor planning and implementation of any national or state guidelines to control flood. Inability to coordinate lead to administrative inefficiency to deal with the urban flood situation.

6. **Haphazard development plan-** Such disasters of urban flooding are bound to come owing to the kind of haphazard development projects being carried out by builders in these cities. Illegal mining for building material such as sand and quartzite both on the catchment and on the bed of the lake have extremely damaging impact on the water body. For example, the *Jaisamand Lake* in Jodhpur, once the only source of drinking water for the city, has been suffering from illegal mining.

7. **Unregulated tourism-** Excessive and unregulated tourism lead to stress on water bodies, thorough increase demand, choking of drainage through waste, plastic etc. *Ashtamudi Lake* in Kerala's Kollam city has become polluted because of spillage of oil from motor boats. Using water bodies to attract tourists has become a threat to several urban lakes in India. Further no regulation on tourists like closing water bodies

during stressful season, banning eatables and plastic near water bodies further aggravate the issue.

8. **Unplanned release of water from dams-** Unplanned release of water from dams without Pre-warning and caution lead to floods many time. E.g. Unplanned release of water from Nepal had caused floods in Northern Bihar.

**Way forward:**

1. **Detailed survey of the wetlands** should be done and then every water body and its catchment should be brought under legal protection.
2. Inclusion of water bodies and their catchment **in the city development rules** will lead to a better planned development of the city.
3. **Comprehensive urban planning** with proper study of topography, drainage, rainfall, soil lithology with improved flood water disposal system.
4. Ensuring the information must be **available and easily accessible** to citizens.
5. Frequent awareness and targeted orientation programmes in a manner and language which is understandable to most vulnerable population of the city.
6. Help of dedicated NGOs/experts to build the capacity of residents to tackle the situation.
7. Several decades old drainage system in India should be improved as they are unfit to meet the demands of the present population. Urban government should use technology like satellite imagery data through Bhuvan and National Urban Information System (NUIS) to map natural drains.
8. Water should be taken as a factor while constructing and making architectures of buildings (water-centric approach).

Though climate change and other effects on environment may be the reason for these floods, they are also aggravated and occur frequently in big cities because of anthropogenic activities. There is a need to integrate all the development activities and urban governance. Various organizations and NGOs need to be coordinate with each other and work together.

**Q.4) Interlinking of rivers is a double edged sword. Critically analyse.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Give a contextual introduction.
**Body.** Various pros and cons of interlinking of rivers.
**Conclusion.** Way forward

India has 18 percent of the world's population but only 4 percent of the usable water resources. The proposal for interlinking of rivers (ILR) can resolve not only water security problems, but have many other benefits too. But there are many issues linked to interlinking of rivers which need to be discussed.

**Benefits:**

1. **Irrigation-** It will irrigate about 87 million acres of farmland. This will reduce farmers' dependence on monsoon rains by bringing millions of hectares of cultivatable land

under irrigation. This will not only benefit farmers but also help in reducing agricultural stress.

- **Greater water equity-** It will ensure greater equity in the distribution of water by enhancing the availability of water in drought prone and rain-fed area. Surplus area will share water with deficit areas, thereby reducing inequalities in water availability.
- **Flood Control**- Simultaneous floods and droughts lead to havoc in the country, and destroy many lives and livelihoods of millions. Interlinking rivers will ensure excessive water to deficit areas leading to flood control in surplus area and drought control in deficit areas.
- **Clean Energy**- India needs clean energy to fuel its development processes, and river water can be leveraged for this. It will generate additional generate hydroelectric power. This will ensure energy security. This will also help in government's mission to provide electricity to all and will reduce energy deficit in many areas.
- **Better Crop productivity-** Interlinking will lead to better soil moisture and groundwater around the areas it will link. This will help better crop production and water availability. Also it will enhance quality of soil.
- **Forestation-** linking River will rejuvenate many areas, leading to life flourish around it. More biodiversity, trees, plants, animals, will flourish around due to availability of water. This will be lead to a healthy ecosystem.
- **Revenue for state-** It will provide additional revenue to states through electricity and will save government expenditure. Further it will reduce bad monsoon impact on economy.
- **Water security and poverty alleviation**- The river linking project will ease the water shortages in western and southern India while mitigating the impacts of recurrent floods in eastern India. Fulfilling water needs impact socio-economic life of people which will help end poverty.
- **Cooperative federalism**- Interlinking of rivers will prevent inter-state water disputes leading to better coordination among states and will promote cooperative federalism. Also it will decrease migration to developed centres due to development of area around linked rivers, leading to less pressure on urban centres.
- **Tourism and transportation**- Tourism will increase. Also transportation through navigation and waterways will increase, broadening income sources in rural areas. Also fishing will flourish providing livelihoods to many. This will enhance overall economic growth.

**Issues:**

1. **Costly-** Interlinking of rivers is a very expensive project. It require a lot of government expenditures of centre and states. This will put fiscal burden on already debt ridden states and also will lead to fiscal deficit.
2. **Environmental Cost-** The river interlinking project will adversely affect land, forests, biodiversity, rivers and the livelihood of millions of people. Land will be diverted for this purpose that will destroy habitat of many species, endangering the ecosystem. E.g. **Ken-Betwa** link threatens about 200 sq. km of the **Panna** tiger reserve. Interlinking of rivers will lead to destruction of forests, wetlands and local water bodies, which are major groundwater recharge mechanisms.

3. **Loss of livelihoods-** Many will loose their land and properties which are source of their livelihood. Starting afresh at new place may be difficult to them. Also many may not find job and profession in new region.

4. **Displacement-** It causes massive displacement of people. Huge burden on the government to deal with the issue of rehabilitation of displaced people. Also providing compensation to them will not be easy and will put extra fiscal burden. Also it will lead to emotional and psychological stress to displaced communities.

5. **Will lead to wastage of land-** The Shah committee pointed out that the linking of rivers will affect natural supply of nutrients for agricultural lands through curtailing flooding of downstream areas. Also Irrigation potential from interlinking rivers will have limited impact. The net national irrigated area from big dams has decreased and India's irrigated area has gone up primarily due to groundwater.

6. **Change in River course-** Usually rivers change their course and direction in about 100 years and if this happens after interlinking, then the project will not be feasible for a longer run and lot of government resources will be wasted.

**Way forward:**

We must recognize that the Interlinking of rivers could profoundly impact the very integrity of India's monsoon system. The continuous flow of fresh river water into the sea is what helps maintain a low salinity layer of water and rainfall over much of the subcontinent is controlled by this layer of low-salinity water. A proper analysis of impact of interlinking project need to be done with proper cost-benefit analysis. As benefits of river interlinking are many but it comes at some cost. Therefore caution is must.

**Q.5) Discuss the changing nature of families in India. What are the main reasons behind it?**
**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Change in Indian family system. Factors responsible for it.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Indian Society was defined by its joint family system unique all over the world. In modern day this is replaced by nuclear family system leading to more individualism. Many factors like urbanisation, education etc. has caused more nuclearisation and change in Indian family system.

**Changing nature of indian family system:**

1. **The changing household-** As the nuclear family system has gained traction, the percentage of 'couple only' families has increased. The percentage of single mothers too has increased, corresponding to increasing rates of divorce in the country. Extended families (one or more parents or relatives) are also common. There are more single-mother households (5.4%) than single-father households.

2. **Decision Making-** In traditional family, wife had no voice in family decision-making. But in contemporary family, in budgeting the family expenditure, in disciplining the children, in purchasing goods and giving gifts, the wife now credits herself as equal in

power role. Though husband continues to play the instrumental role and wife the expressive role, yet both often talk things over and consult each other in the process of arriving at a decision. This also does not mean that husband-dominant family is changing into wife-dominant or equalitarian family.

3. **Equal work participation-** A rise in middle-class families is seen with many being uplifted from poverty, both husband and wife take active part in work. Women being more economically, legally and educationally empowered is no more restricted to kitchen or family management.

4. **Change in authority-** In traditional family, while power and authority was totally vested in the grandfather and he was virtually all powerful who decided everything about education, occupation, marriage and the career of children in the family. In contemporary family not only in nuclear but also in joint family the grandfather has lost his authority. The authority has shifted from patriarch to parents who consult their children on all important issues before taking any decisions about them.

5. **Less abuse and Increased freedom of children-**Children have also started discussing their problems with parents. They even oppose their parents. Children today enjoy more freedom. Some legislative measures have also given powers to children to demand their rights. Perhaps, it is because of all this that parents do not use old methods of punishing their children.

**Factors responsible for change in Indian family structure:**

1. **Industrialisation**: With the advent of the British in India a process of industrialisation started which brought about far-reaching changes in the Indian social and economic life. Industrialisation resulted in the migration of rural population to the urban areas for jobs and a better standard of living breaking their relationships with the joint family. Thus, modern industries shattered the very foundation of joint family system in India. The geographical mobility of some of the members of joint family has affected the traditional structure of the joint family as well as the relations among the members. Jobs in the factory have freed young men from direct dependence upon their families and from the control of the heads of the households.

2. **Urbanisation**: Along with the process of industrialisation, the process of urbanisation has resulted in the weakening of the joint family system in India. Urban population has grown at a faster rate in our country in last few decades. The result of urbanisation has been the establishment of nuclear families because urban-dwellers choose the nuclear families. Urbanisation has emphasised individuality and privacy which encourage the establishment of independent family units. In addition, the women who have got gainful jobs seek more freedom in many aspects. Therefore, they try to restrict the kinship ties.

3. **Education**: Education has affected joint family system in many ways. It has brought about changes in attitudes, beliefs, values and ideologies of the people. These changes are visible among both males and females who are educated. Education has also created individualistic attitudes among the educated persons. Hence, education has worked against the maintenance of the joint family system.

4. **Enlightenment of Women:** The educated Indian women are impressed by the modern family life. They have become conscious of their rights and equality with men. They have started making use of educational and employment opportunities. Education and jobs for women have brought about tremendous changes in their status. At present they earn their own living. This gives them a sense of independence. The effect of jobs

for women has been towards equality. Thus, the rises in the status of women and their economic independence have adversely affected the joint family system.

5. **The Impact of Western Culture:** The impact of Western culture can be seen in many ways. It resulted in the

- spread of ideals of liberty and equality.
- Spread of individualism.
- Materialistic behaviour.

As a combined result of this Western influence, the old and traditional Hindu values underwent tremendous changes and the very nature of joint living was affected.

6. **Change in Marriage System:** Change in age of marriage, freedom in mate selection and change in attitude of individuals towards marriage have also affected joint family system. The choice of the marriage partners is less and less determined by the head of the family. People are less subject to parental control and other forms of social pressure regarding whom and when they shall marry. The older external and one-sided control is replaced by choice of mate. This has weakened the patriarchal control over the family.

7. **Social Legislations:** The joint family system has received a great setback from several legislations. These Acts have not only modified the inter-personal relations and the composition of family but also the stability of joint family. The Hindu succession Act, 1956 has brought about fundamental changes in the Hindu joint family structure by conferring equal rights on women in inheritance. Special Marriage Act, 1954 has permitted the freedom of mate selection and marriage in any caste and religion without the parent's consent. This has affected the marriage system to a large extent.

8. **Decline in Agriculture and Village Industries:** The joint family system emerged as a product of agrarian society. The villagers depended on agriculture as well as agro-based collage industries. But the commodities produced by the village artisans and craftsmen could not stand the competition brought about by the price and quality of goods produced in the factories. Also over-population has caused excessive pressure on the agricultural and residential land. The agriculture no longer provides employment to the ever- increasing number of people depending on it. The poor and the unemployed desert their homes in search of employment elsewhere moving away from their families.

**Q.6) Discuss the commercialisation of agriculture in India during colonial rule. Discuss various consequences of agricultural commercialisation.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Discuss commercialisation of agriculture. Positive and negative impact.
**Conclusion.** Conclude contextually.

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The British rule had pronounced and profound economic impact on India. The various economic policies followed by the British led to the rapid transformation of India's economy into a colonial economy whose nature and structure were determined by needs of the British economy. One important aspect of British economic policy was commercialisation of agriculture.

**Commercialisation of Agriculture during British Period**:
The commercialisation of Indian agriculture started post 1813 when the industrial revolution in England gained pace. It became prominent around 1860 A.D (during American Civil War which boosted demand of Cotton from India to Britain as America was not able to export Cotton).

1. Its aim was not to feed the industries of India because India was far behind in industrial development as compared to Britain, France, Belgium and many other European countries of eighteenth century. But was done primarily to feed the British industries.

2. It led to production of only those agricultural products which were either needed by the British industries or could fetch cash commercial gain to the British in the European or American market. For example, several efforts were made to increase the production of cotton in India to provide raw and good quality cotton to the cotton-textile industries of Britain which were growing fast after the Industrial Revolution in Britain. Therefore, cotton growing area increase in India and its production increased manifold with gradual lapse of time.

3. Indigo and more than that, tea and coffee plantation were encouraged in India because these could get commercial market abroad.

4. Most of the plantations for commercial crops were controlled by the English. Jute was another product that received attention of the English company because the jute made products got a ready market in America and Europe.

5. Cash transactions become the basis of exchange and largely replaced the barter system.

6. The new land tenure system was introduced in the form of permanent settlement and Ryotwari Settlement had made agricultural land a freely exchangeable commodity. The Permanent settlement by giving ownership right to the zamindars created a class of wealthy landlords; they could make use of this ownership right by sale or purchase of land.

7. The agriculture which had been way of life rather than a business enterprise now began to be practiced for sale in national and international market.

8. Crops like cotton, jute, sugarcane, ground nuts, tobacco etc. which had a high demand in the market were increasingly cultivated. The beginning of the plantation crops like Tea, coffee, rubber, indigo etc heralded a new era in agricultural practices in India. These were essentially meant for markets and thus commercialisation of agriculture took to new heights with the expansion of the British rule.

9. The commercialisation of agriculture was a forced and artificial process for the majority of Indian peasants. It was introduced under coercion of the British and not out of the incentive of peasantry at large. The peasantry went for cultivation of commercial crops under duress. He had to pay the land revenue due to the British government in time. Moreover, he had to grow commercial crop on a specified tract of his land under the oppression of planters.

**Negative Impacts of Commercialisation of Agriculture**:
1. **Led to inequalities**-It should have acted as a catalyst in increasing agricultural productivity. But, in reality this did not happen due to poor agricultural organization, obsolete technology, and lack of resources among most peasants. It was only the rich farmers; who benefited and this in turn, accentuated inequalities of income in the rural society.

2.  **Benefited rich-**The commercialisation of agriculture beneficial to the British planters, traders and manufacturers, who were provided with opportunity to make huge profits by getting the commercialised agricultural products at, throw away prices. The commercialisation of Indian agriculture also partly benefited Indian traders and money lenders who made huge fortunes by working as middlemen for the British.

3.  **Exploitation of poor-**The poor peasant was forced to sell his produce just after harvest at whatever prices he could get as he had to meet in time the demands of the government, the landlord, the money lender and his family members' requirements. This placed him at the money of the grain merchant, who was in a position to dictate terms and who purchased his produced at much less than the market price. Thus, a large share of the benefit of the growing trade in agricultural products was reaped by the merchant, who was very often also the village money lender.

4.  **Loss of land-**Indian money lenders advanced Cash advances to the farmers to cultivate the commercial crops and if the peasants failed to pay him back in time, the land of peasants came under ownership of moneylenders.

5.  **Increased miseries of Indian farmers-**Most of the Indian people suffered miserably due to the British policy of commercialisation of Indian agriculture. It resulted in reduced area under cultivation of food crops due to the substitution of commercial non-food grains in place of food grains. This had a devastating effect on the rural economy and often took the shape of famines. The misery was further enhanced became the population of India was increasing every year, fragmentation of land was taking place because of the increasing pressure on land and modern techniques of agricultural production were not introduced in India. Thus, the commercialisation of agriculture in India by the British was also one of the important causes of the impoverishment of the Indian people.

6.  **Regional Specialisation-**Regional specialisation of crop production based on climatic conditions, soil etc., was an outcome of the commercial revolution in agriculture. Deccan districts of Bombay presidency grew cotton, Bengal grew jute and Indigo, Bihar grew opium, Assam grew tea, Punjab grew wheat, etc.

7.  **Impacted Indian market-**Another important consequence of the commercial revolution in agriculture was linking of the agricultural sector to the world market. Price movements and business fluctuations in the world markets began to affect the fortunes of the Indian farmer to a degree that it had never done before. The farmer in his choice of crops attached greater importance to market demand and price than his home needs. The peasant class got adversely affected owing to imbalances in market condition.

8.  **Decreased self-sufficiency-**Commercialisation of agriculture adversely affected self sufficiency of village economy and acted as major factor in bringing the declining state in rural economy. Commercialisation effected traditional relations between agriculture and industry. In India, traditional relations acted as factors for each other's development which were hampered.

9.  **Assisted Britain's industrialisation on the cost of India's growth-**The commercialisation of agriculture had mixed effects. While it assisted the industrial revolution in Britain, it broke the economic self-sufficiency of villages in India.

**Positive Impacts of Commercialisation of Agriculture:**
1.  **Encouraged social exchange-**In spite of having many negative effect commercialisations in one sense was progressive event. Commercialisation encouraged

social exchange and it made possible the transformation of Indian economy into capitalistic form.

2. **Linked Indian economy with global economy-**Commercialisation linked India with world economy. It led to the growth of high level social and economic system. The important contribution of commercialisation reflected in integration of economy.

3. **Growth of national agriculture-**It also created a base for growth of national economy commercialisation of agriculture led to growth of national agriculture and agricultural problem acquired national form. It also brought about regional specialisation of crops on an efficient basis.

4. **New commercial crops-** It led to introduction of a large number of commercial crops such as tea, coffee, indigo, opium, cotton, jute, sugarcane and oilseed.

5. **Capitalism-**It made possible the transformation of Indian economy in to capitalistic form. Commercialisation of Indian agriculture also partly benefited Indian traders and money lenders who made huge fortunes by working as middlemen for the British Integration of economy took place which also created for the growth of national economy.

6. The commercialisation of agriculture was a new phenomenon in Indian agriculture scene introduced by the British. While the upper class and British industries benefited from it, the Indian peasants' life was tied to remote international market. The worst effect of commercialisation was the oppression of Indian peasants at hands of European. This found expression in the famous Indigo revolt in 1859. Moreover, commercialisation of Indian agriculture got manifested in series of famines which took a heavy toll of life.

**Q.7) What is secularism? Discuss how Indian concept of secularism is broader than western concept?**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** What is secularism?
**Body.** Difference between Indian and western secularism. How Indian secularism is broad?
**Conclusion.** Conclusion.

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Secularism is the principle that determine the relationship between government and the religion. It plays an important role in a diverse country like India. The 42nd amendment of the Constitution of India, amended the Preamble of the Constitution declaring India as a secular nation. In India secularism means state view all religions as equal.

**Secularism in India:**
- In India secularism does not mean separation of religion from state. Instead, secularism in India means a state that is neutral to all religious groups.
- The 7th schedule of Indian constitution places religious institutions, charities and trusts into Concurrent List, which means that both the central government of India, and various state governments in India can make their own laws about religious institutions, charities and trusts.

**Differences from the Western concept:**
- Indian concept of secularism is different from the Western concept of secularism. In the West it is conceived as separation of state and religion. Although in India secularism is not separate from religion. Rather state see all religion as equal.
- The Western secularism means total non-interference of state and religion in the functioning of each other.
- On the other hand, in India the concept is not restricted to the question of how the religious groups are to be treated. Instead, secularism develops a positive relation between the state and religion.

**How Indian concept of secularism is broader than western concept?**
1. **Focus on Harmony than separation principle:** Indian secularism focus on harmony among all religions than tight separation between state and religion.
2. **Decreased conflicts:** It allow state to prevent conflicts on basis of religion through timely interventions which would have been disastrous for state if not controlled.
3. **Room for religious reforms:** Indian secularism is broader in a sense that it allow state intervention to help reform various evils and superstition. E.g many rules in Karnataka allowed the government to curb superstition that were against human rights.
4. **Protect rights over religion:** By accepting community-based rights for religious minorities, state can protect rights of Indian citizens.
5. **Tolerance:** By acceptance of all religions rather than tight separation it reflects tolerant attitude of state and its people.
6. **Faith in polity:** Secularism in India helped in keeping rights of its citizens allowing a deeper faith in polity and constitution.
7. **More liberal:** Indian secularism is more liberal in a sense it is not neutral rather accept every religion in a broader sense. It allow its citizens to preach whatever religion they want to follow.
8. **Liberal and Egalitarian:** Many religiously sanctioned social practices are oppressive by virtue of their illiberal and in egalitarian character, and deny a life of dignity and self-respect. Therefore, Indian secularism help liberal and egalitarian principles by reforming such practices through state intervention. E.g. up righting rights of women through various acts.

Thus Indian secularism is broader than western in a way, it provide state a chance to reform the evils in any religion keeping the rights of individuals intact. The state in India walked a tight rope between the requirement of religious liberty and the demand for equality and justice. Secularism in India simply had to be different from the western liberal model that does not recognize communities, and dictates strict separation between religious and political institutions.

**Q.8) Examine the major factors that shaped the British land-revenue policy in India. How did it affect Indian society?**

**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Factors behind British land revenue policy in India. It's impact.
**Conclusion.** Contextual conclusion.

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British introduced different types of land revenue policies in India during their rule like permanent settlement, ryotwari system. Although several major factors were responsible in shaping the British Land Revenue Policy in India, it was mainly guided by maximising revenue.

**Major factors behind British land-revenue policies in India:**
1. **Economic factors:** The permanent settlement and other settlements was seen as a fixed and stable income for the state. Further, it saved the Government the expenses that had to be spent in making collections. It was thought that the soil under cultivation would be improved for revenue generation. The British needed the land revenue to:
    * pay for purchase of Indian handicrafts and raw material,
    * meet the cost of conquest of whole of India,
    * pay for employment of thousands of Englishmen in superior administrative services and
2. **To create a Class of loyal zamindars:** The another major consideration was that the Permanent Settlement would create a class of loyal zamindars who would be prepared to defend the company at all costs because their rights were guaranteed by the British.
3. **Agricultural Indian society:** Indian society was predominantly agricultural. The revenue demand has to be fulfilled from agriculture. Other sectors such as industries sector was not fully developed. Thus British land revenue policies was guided by this, therefore maximising profit through agriculture and land.
4. **India as market:** The British government viewed India as a market for its finished products and a source for raw material. This was fulfilled by having zero import and export duty. This was done on the expense of revenue gathered from agriculture.
5. **Burden of war and administration:** The main burden of providing money for the trade and profits of the company, the cost of administration and the wars of British Expansion in India was borne through land revenue.

**Impact of British land revenue policies:**
1. **Pauperisation of the rural economy:** The rural economy as a whole was affected. All the classes from zamindars to peasants were affected. Many lost their livelihoods due to loss of land and right to cultivate.
2. **Shifting from food crops to cash crops:** In order to meet the high revenue demand the farmers had to shift from food to cash corps like indigo, cotton, which led them to buy food grains at higher prices and sell the cash crops at low prices.
3. **Food scarcity and famines:** The shifting to cash crops and decreasing productivity of land badly affected the society in the form of famines. This led to many famines in India, causing death of millions.

4. **Increase in money-lending:** The land settlements introduced a market economy with cash payments of revenue. This led to an increase in money-lending activities, which put Indian peasants under debt, which were exploited by money lenders.

5. **Led to inequalities:** The Land tenure system led to increase in social inequalities. While rich defended their properties, the poor didn't have any resources to do so. Further due to illiteracy they were exploited by money lenders for interests.

6. **Handicrafts and industries affected:** It impacted circular economy. The peasants and zamindars earlier had purchasing power to buy handicrafts. Loss of income of peasants affected the handicrafts industry too. Handicrafts men resorted to agriculture that further put pressure on land. The industries were affected due to lack of raw materials.

7. **Impact on local administration:** It deprived village panchayats of their two main functions: land settlements and judicial and executive functions. Thus the old politico-economic-social framework of village communities broke down.

The overall impact of the all this was stagnation and deterioration of agriculture. It led to series of famines in 19th century. The unsustainable system led to series of peasant revolts. The miseries of the peasant was one of the important cause for the revolt.

**Q.9) "Ocean resources in Indian Ocean can boost India's economic and social progress." Comment.**

**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
|---|
| **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction. |
| **Body.** How oceanic resources can help India's socio-economic growth. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

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. Government of India is promoting 'Blue Growth Initiative' which focus on utilisation of wealth from the marine and other aquatic resources of the country for improving the lives and livelihoods of fishermen and their families.

**Unexploited Important Oceanic resources in Indian Ocean:**

1. **Fishery:** Marine fisheries wealth around Indian coastline is estimated to have an annual harvestable potential of 4.4 million metric tonnes.

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.

4. **Salts:** Seawater contain economically useful salts such as gypsum and common salt. Gypsum is useful in various industries.

5. **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.

**Importance of these resources in Indian socio-economic progress:**
1. **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 dollar economy by 2022. Blue economy, through sustainable use of oceans, has great potential for boosting the economic growth.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **Energy security:** It will help in diversification of energy resources and will provide new resources for energy e.g. gas hydrates.
5. **Efficient transportation and logistics:** Indian Ocean is a major gateway of trade with 80% of global oil trade happening through it. Better connectivity in the region will significantly cut the transport cost and will reduce logistics inefficiencies.
6. **Women empowerment:** It will help in women empowerment especially fishery sector by providing them jobs. As these jobs do not require high skills, women will find it easy to earn a livelihood.
7. **Climate Change:** 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.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14), calls to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. India should expedite its efforts to exploit oceanic resources in Indian Ocean. What is required is use of technology to exploit oceanic resources in Indian Ocean. India has rightly launched O-SMART scheme aiming at regulated use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development in this direction.

General Studies 2

**Q.1) Do you think G20 summits have lost its significance? Critically analyse.**
**Ans.**

| |
|---|
| **Demand of the question** |
| **Introduction.** Mention about G20 |
| **Body.** Positives and negatives of G20 summit |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward |

The G20 is an annual meeting of leaders from the countries with the largest and fastest-growing economies. The countries that make up the G-20 (19 nations and the European Union) account for **85% of the world's nominal GDP.**

**Its relevance in changing times:**
As globalization progresses recent G20 summits have focused not only on **macroeconomy and trade,** but also on a wide range of **global issues** which have an immense impact on the global economy, such as development, climate change and energy, health, counter-terrorism, as well as migration and refugees.

**Issues and Challenges**
1. **Grouping and fragmentation-** Since 2009, the bloc of European countries has become very fragmented. Suspicions — over the G7 dictating the G20 agenda, the United States using the Trans-Pacific Partnership to contain China and so on — continue to lower cooperative spirit within the G20.
2. **Slowing Economies**- The **slowdown** in the pace of global finance reforms is another problem for the G20. Slow economic growth is spreading all around the globe as developing countries have performed relatively poor since 2013. In this environment of sluggish global growth, increasing investments to promote economic growth is an important challenge that the G20 has to address.
3. **Socio-economic issues-** The G20 focuses mostly on reforming the global financial system to increase global economic growth. But the world is also experiencing severe **socio-economic problems** such as increasing income inequality, youth unemployment and gender inequality. These problems increase social tensions and undermine democracy.
4. **Talk show-** G20 is criticised for being just a talk show where countries try to resolve their bilateral issues or do diplomacy with nations.
5. **Consensus-** Animosity, shifting coalitions and potential blocs within the G20 — such as the G7 and BRICS — affect the likelihood of reaching consensus within group. It is the major issue wrt G20 where all the big economies do not arrive at same platform on an issue. It is seen that developed countries and developing countries are on opposite sides on major issues especially economic issues. Recent turf between USA and China has further this divide.

**Ways ahead**
Although G20 has made important progress in reshaping the governance of global finance by implementing macro-prudential policies, G-20 failed to become either the economic or the political "global steering committee" that it wished to be. There is **need to facilitate G20's**

**transition** from a crisis-response mechanism to one focusing on long-term governance so as to better lead world economic growth and international economic cooperation. The G-20 is an important platform to discuss pressing issues, and it must not be detracted from its original purpose of promoting sustainable growth and financial stability.

**Q.2) Give a critical evaluation of ayushman bharat. How it can do wonders if implemented effectively?**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Brief about scheme
**Body.** Positives and negatives of the scheme.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

In 2011-12, more than **55 million Indians** were pushed into poverty because of rising expenditure on healthcare. Government of India sue to rising healthcare challenges launched Ayushman Bharat: National Health Protection Scheme (AB-NHPS) which has a defined benefit cover of ₹ 5 lakh per family per year covering over 10 crore. families. Pegged to be world's largest healthcare scheme it has some issues and challenges.

**Various issues and challenges**
1. **A state subject-** Under the 7th schedule of the Indian Constitution, health is a state subject. Apart from central institutions such as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, a major chunk of the hospitals/ medical centres is state-owned and - operated. A nationwide scheme of health insurance to supply healthcare facilities at the state level leads to a dilution of the state responsibility in the provisioning of the same. Further it require centre state on equal footing.
2. **Not a long term solution**- Conferring responsibility on private insurance could not be long term solution. As public private partnerships in past have been criticised for various issues, above can also lead to issues in the implementation of Ayushman Bharat. Further in rural areas private doctors are few as doctors are reluctant to work in rural areas. Mostly quacks or family doctor serve, so it can be an issue.
3. **Infrastructure**- Shortages in services such as infrastructure, Human Resources, quality of doctors etc have always been an issue. Many villages still lack roads, nearby hospitals, proper staff etc. Thus implementation of the scheme would be a huge task.
4. **Monetary-** It requires huge amount of funding and spending. States have to mobilise funds which will not be an easy task being many states are under debt, further borrowing may put balance sheet under stress. Further there is no uniform pricing system for other health interventions like medicines and diagnostics.
5. **Not Universal-** Developed nation has universal health coverage, while scheme doesn't cover all sections of society, so many may remain excluded. It cover *only 40%* of Indian population.

**How it can do wonders?**
1. **Better Reach-** Establishment of Ayushman Bharat National Health Protection Mission Agency at National Level and State Health Agency will ensure implementation of Scheme in a targeted manner ensuring effective implementation. The States and UTs

can implement scheme through various means like insurance company or Directly through Trust/Society. This would increase ambit of the Scheme at Ground levels.

2. **Creation of healthcare Infrastructure-** A strong Network of the 1,50,000 Health and Wellness Centres being developed will strengthen the national focus on preventive healthcare.

3. **Targeted coverage-** It will Cover more than 10 Crore Poor and Vulnerable Families of the Society.

4. **Penetration and increased access-** Participation of private sector will not only ensure more doctors but also near home availability of health facilities. It will increase the availability near Home in Rural Areas through trained professionals. It will also increase access to Vulnerable Sections of the Society to Healthcare. Further The scheme is portable in nature thus will also benefit the migrated population in unorganised sector which are often excluded in government schemes.

5. **Affordability-** Another impact of the PMJAY will be rationalisation of the cost of care in the private sector.

6. **Employment-** It will generate Employment and will create lakhs of jobs for professionals and non-professionals — especially women. It will give a boost to the health technology industry.

7. **Better Healthcare System-** It will be an enabler of quality, affordability and accountability in the health system. The empanelled hospitals have been tasked to follow the treatment guidelines. Patient outcomes will be monitored.

Government data suggests that about **63% of the people** have to pay for their own healthcare and hospitalisation expenses as they aren't covered under any health protection scheme. Hence, the Ayushman Bharat scheme is well-intentioned. However, its implementation in the current form need extra efforts and can solve nation's health issues, which require state-centre efforts and intent.

**Q.3) Delhi government recently flouted a gender based public transport fare subsidy programme. Critically analyse the subsidy program and its issues.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Write a brief about scheme.
**Body.** Analyse the positive and negatives of the scheme.
**Conclusion.** Way forward and measures.

Women in India travel far less than men. About 60% of women workers in India choose to work from home or at a place which is less than a km from home, according to the 2011 Census. A World Bank study in Mumbai report finds that the bus pass are expensive and pointed out that cheap bus travel would enable them to better access. Free rides to women will encourage them to travel through public transport and will empower women truly.

**Benefits-**

- **Increase usage of public transport-** Free rides will, undoubtedly, increase the use of public transport by women as metro rides have become rather expensive. It will encourage them to take metro route.

- **Economic empowerment of women-** This will benefit women who might consider taking up jobs for which they are better suited but are further away from home. Besides further enhancing safety, this directly impacts the economic empowerment of women by significantly improving access to education and job opportunities. Women can engage in a range of activities that promote their well-being.
- **Increase participation at workplace-** It will **decrease gender gap** at workplace. In Delhi, women account for only 11 per cent of the workforce — perhaps the least among Indian cities. India cannot aspire to be global superpower by ignoring the constraints faced by 50 per cent of its population.
- **Enhanced safety of women at public places-** Experts across the globe vouch that public transport is the safest mode of transport — there's safety in numbers. In Delhi, a large fraction of women from poor and lower middle classes, are constrained to walk long distances or use unsafe modes of transport than buying a bus ticket. The metro is not even an option for most of them. This scheme will enable them a safe and free transport medium.
- **Women rights- Article 13 in the United Nations' Universal Declaration** of Human Rights recognises freedom of movement as a basic human right. India ranks a lowly **95 out of 129** countries in the recently released SDG Gender Index. A survey by *Thomson Reuters Foundation* ranked **Delhi as the most unsafe** megacity in the world for women. Many factors contribute to this- like ineffective policing, poor conviction rates, dark spots, unsafe modes of transport, social norms towards women, among others. By providing unrestricted access to public transport, the government's decision also provides women an opportunity to reclaim public spaces.
- **Environment friendly-** Better public transport service is key to getting people out of cars, **reducing air pollution,** and making cities more liveable. Increased usage of public transport would reduce stress on environment and will help highly to reduce air pollution in the capital. It will encourage greener transport and will help in cleaning up the air.

**Challenges and issues-**

- **Complete Safety-** Public transport system may get choked or that last-mile connectivity and pedestrian safety also matter. Merely providing free rides would not ensure complete safety. Focus should also be on increasing women reserved coaches and seats.
- **Funding and financial viability-** Subsidies put stress on public resources. It will require a lot of funds and may put metro in financial stress. Also to mobilise resources, government need to tax others, this will increase fare of metro and can discourage people to travel through metro. This will put stress on metro earnings.
- **Crowding-** Additional and free riders, who would also spend much more time on stations, would be tremendous stress on the infrastructure of the metro. Crowding at some metro stations, stress on facilities ranging from air conditioning to security and to general wear and tear will increase. Free rides would put maximum pressure in the peak time zones - a time at which the system is least capable to endure additional load.
- **Demands from others-** Other section of society, differently abled, senior citizens may also demand free rides that can put further stress on metro authorities and government officials.

Wage discrimination, gender segregation in employment, and household labour divisions contribute to gender inequality in transportation. **Compromises** on education and jobs for travel purposes is one of the reasons for women earning less than men, leaving the workforce, and consequently being more cash-poor than men. A subsidy like this is most likely to benefit women who might consider taking up jobs for which they are better suited but are further away from home.

**Q.4) 103rd amendment act strives to provide the social justice. Critically comment.**
**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Write about 103rd amendment act
> **Body.** Pros and cons of the act.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act of 2019 has provided 10% reservation in government jobs and educational institutions for the "economically backward" in the unreserved category. Act amends **Articles 15 and 16** of the Constitution, by adding a clause which allows states to make "special provision for the advancement of any economically weaker sections of citizens". Principle of social justice calls for- equal treatment of equals and demands an affirmative action for less advantage sections.

**Pros of the Act**
- **Reduces Poverty**: It is expected to help the needy among the higher castes. They will get a better chance to get a job and come out of their pauper state.
- **Reduces fake beneficiaries**: It will eliminate the desperation of those who, in the past, resorted to obtain fake Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates.
- **Social justice**- It will ensure social justice as poor will be empowered and they will become efficient to buy basic needs and amenities like drinking water, healthcare, shelter etc.
- **Reduce subsidies burden and fiscal pressure**- As more people will be uplifted out of poverty, it will lead to less subsidies and use of fiscal resources in other social issues.

**Cons/Issues of the act**
- **Improper way**- Centre hurried and enough discussion on the act was not made in the Parliament. Thus all the caveats of the act were not discussed properly.
- **Lack of objectivity**: The government arrived at the figure of 10%, without any proper study and thorough documentation by any commission. Thus arrived 10% is not justified.
- **Systemic failure:** An element of injustice is based on the untouchability, whereas pure economic backwardness is due to the systemic inability to provide jobs to the higher castes. The lack of opportunities is not due to untouchability, but due to the inability of the state and the market to provide enough jobs for the qualified and the needy. **Indira Sawhney case** had further held that social backwardness cannot be determined only with reference to an economic criterion.
- **Discredits the principle of social justice:** The principle of social justice calls for 'equal treatment of equals' and 'affirmative action for less advantage sections'. Constitution outlines special provisions for only four classes – SCs, STs, Backward Classes and

Anglo Indians in the Articles 330-342 under Part 16. Thus this will create an unequal status.

- **Violation of DPSP-** *Article 46, says that the state shall promote educational and economic interests of "weaker sections", in particular SCs and STs, and protect them from "social injustices" and "all forms of exploitation".* Upper castes neither face social injustice nor are subjected to any form of exploitation.
- **Violation of Basic Structure Doctrine**: The 10% reservation will be in addition to the existing cap of 50% reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, taking the total reservation to 60%. This will violate of Article 14 (Right to Equality), which is a part of Basic Structure.

The quota for the economically poor among the upper castes has been seen essentially as a poverty alleviation. The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act though is a beneficial move, similar moves by previous governments have been judicially reviewed and struck down. It is important to look at alternatives to alleviate the conditions of EWS.

**Q.5) Government of India, recently started the lateral entry scheme for appointing joint secretaries. Do you think it is a right decision? Critically discuss.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** A contextual start
**Body.** Benefits, need and concerns wrt lateral entry.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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In a bid to rope in the expertise of private sector professionals, Union government had notified 10 positions of **joint secretaries through 'lateral entry' scheme**. Generally, senior bureaucrats are appointed as joint secretaries in several government departments.

**Need and benefits of Lateral Entry-**
1. **Inefficient Bureaucracy**- Bureaucracy in past is criticised for being inefficienct. There is need to change the inefficient behaviour and attitude of bureaucracy. Lateral entry can increase bureaucratic efficiency and productivity through their experience and expertise.
- **Experience and better governance-** Experience of industry can be used by government to prepare better public policies. Also they bring in fresh and vast ideas. Lateral entry like Manmohan Singh, Vijay Kelkar is an example.
- **Expertise**- Civil servants enter public services as **generalists**, building expertise starts quite late for them. Many sectors demands expertise such as water, energy, environment, revenue. **One person cannot be an expert on the entire sector.** Hence, expertise can be taken advantage of by bringing into government to frame appropriate policies and take necessary actions.
- **Monopolies**- Monopolies of bureaucrats especially IAS, in ministries like science and tech, home ministry, and other, lead to thinking themselves as superior and many a times cause corrupt practices, coordination issues. This must end.
- **Quick decision making**- Often bureaucrat **fear of taking decisions** due to their assumed consequences. It lead to delay in decision making. Lateral entry could remove

this and **ensure quick decision making** as professionals from industry usually do big projects and projects which require very quick decisions.

**Concerns**

1. **Accountability-** India has a high rate of corruption, particularly in states. So **to allow private people for short term** where they can leave without accountability and any responsibility is a major concern. There cannot be any disciplinary control over them or the actions taken.
2. **Difference in work culture-** Government departments **work differently** than private industry. While government focus on development of nation, main focus of industry is profit. This may cause mismatch and faulty decisions.
3. **The fairness of the selection process**- The **process of recruitment** should not be corrupt. But **lack of clarity on standards of selection procedure** can lead to misuse, and can turn into corrupt practices. There should be proper guidelines of selection criteria
4. **Lack of Experience**- The level of experience gained by regular bureaucrats during initial years dealing with common man problem will be absent in lateral entrants. Also **common man problem** is better understood by regular bureaucrats as they have better field experience.
5. **Demotivation**- It will be demotivate regular entrants and there might also be high attrition in bureaucracy. They will not find any incentive to join the bureaucracy.
6. **Political favouritism**- They might be inducted due to their political ideology, political connections. Political-corporate nexus is already evident. This will lead to attrition of quality of public services.
7. **Corruption and Nepotism**- There are high chances of them indulging in short term benefits and political executives might indulge in nepotism. Also there are **no checks and balances** to this.

**What should be done?**

1. There is a need to first bring in **political reforms along with administrative reforms.** The politicians should allow the civil servants to do their job properly.
2. There is a need to give **incentive** for good work. Having lateral selection after certain level of seniority within the government will allow sufficient competition in play and get good people.
3. Those who fail to perform, shall retire. It is not necessary that everyone who joins the services should retire at secretarial levels.
4. Even at state level such steps should be taken. There should be written examinations and interviews at middle level career to weed out incompetent people.

For the sectors that require more of technical and domain knowledge, lateral entry can be considered a good option. In principle it is a good idea. But the private sector should be involved only when there is a required gap to be filled. Along with recruitment, they should be also made accountable for the actions and decisions taken in capacity of a government officer.

**Q.6) Critically examine Caste based Reservation system in India. Discuss the way forward.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Write both positive and negative effects of caste based reservation system.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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Reservation in Indian law is a form of affirmative action whereby a percentage of seats are reserved in the public sector units, union and state civil services, union and state government departments and in all public and private educational institutions for the socially and educationally backward communities and the Scheduled Castes and Tribes who are inadequately represented in these services and institutions.

**Arguments that favour caste based reservation:**
1. **Equal Opportunities and respect-** The underlying theory for the reservation by the state is the under-representation of the identifiable groups as a legacy of the Indian caste system. The framers of the Constitution believed that, due to the caste system, SCs and the STs were historically oppressed and denied respect and equal opportunity in Indian society and were thus under-represented in nation-building activities.
2. **Oppression on weaker sections of the society-** The oppression of the weaker section of society (Including lower and backward castes and tribes) by the stronger (upper castes) section has not ended. In fact, it has been aggravated. A new era of social justice and equality still remains a dream to be achieved. The benefits of development have been appropriated by about 20 per cent of the population at the top.
3. **Social Justice-** It establishes a new social order that would secure to the underprivileged sectors of our society justice in social relations and equality of opportunity to rise in society.

**Arguments against the caste based reservation:**
1. **Increased Casteism-** Casteism has been granted a fresh lease of life. Our country is already divided into various groups. Reservation will further divide the population artificially. Earlier, reservations were accepted under special conditions for a period of fifteen years only, but continuing them forever will produce vested interests and separatism, and will lead to a caste-war and the disintegration of the country.
2. **Reduced meritocracy-** Merit and calibre have been replaced by mediocrity. Reservation policy has generated a spirit of self-denigration, each caste and community competing to be more backward than others.
3. **Breach of 50% limit-** The Supreme Court ruled that reservations cannot exceed 50% and put a cap on reservations. The central government of India reserves 27% of higher education, and individual states may legislate further reservations. Reservation in most states is at 50%, but certain Indian states like Rajasthan have proposed a 68% reservation that includes a 14% reservation for forward castes in services and education. However, there are states laws that exceed this 50% limit. For example, the caste-based reservation fraction stands at 69% and is applicable to about 87% of the population in the state of Tamil Nadu.

4. **Vote bank politics-** Attempts to include more and more castes/classes in the list of OBCs, have changed the social and economic landscape beyond recognition.

5. **Increased conflicts-** In some states for anti-reservation agitation have increased violence in the society. There is increase in discontent among people of advanced castes. The seventies, the eighties and the first six years of the nineties witnessed countrywide waves of violent protests.

6. **Impact on administrative efficiency-** This not only politicised the civil services but also affected the efficiency of the administration. Most of the officers are now working on the basis of caste and creed.

**Way forward**

Reservations should be accompanied by structural changes like land reforms and inclusive educational support systems. The demands for special concessions and privileges to the under-privileged are matters of right and not of charity or philanthropy. All the commissions and the committees that have examined this issue like the **Kelkar Commission** have accepted the need for compensatory discrimination to a certain limit. Reservation policy **should be reviewed every five years** so that the state can rectify distortions and people both backward and non-backward. The poor should get special weightage but a **watchdog body** should keep an eye on their progress. As soon as it is found that they no longer need the crutches of reservations, all jobs should be declared open to all.

**Q.7) What is section 124A of IPC? Do you think it should be scrapped from India's law book?**
**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Write about 124A of IPC.
> **Body.** Write issues and use of section 124A.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

**Section 124A of Indian Penal Code** was drafted by **Thomas Macaulay**, and was introduced in the 1870s, originally **to deal with** "**increasing Wahabi activities** between 1863 and 1870 that posed a challenge to the colonial government". Mahatma Gandhi, who was charged with sedition, famously said that the law was "designed to suppress the liberty of the citizen".

**Section 124A of the IPC defines sedition and says:**
- Whoever **by words** either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representation or otherwise brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, the government established by law; or
- Whoever by the above means excites or attempts to excite **disaffection** towards the government established by law, has committed the offence of sedition.
- According to the law, **disaffection includes** disloyalty and all feelings of enmity. However, disapprobation of the measures or administrative action of the government to obtain their alteration by lawful means is not an offence.

**Issue with section 124A of IPC:**

1. It is often under criticism because Centre and the States have invoked this section against activists, detractors, writers and even cartoonist seeking to **silence political dissent** by accusing dissenters of promoting disaffection.
2. According to the **National Crime Records Bureau,** 35 cases of sedition were reported in 2016. Many of these cases did not involve violence or incitement to violence. Figures reveal that in the two years preceding the JNU case, there were a total of 77 sedition cases.
3. A foremost objection is a strong criticism against government policies and personalities, slogans and stinging depictions of an unresponsive or insensitive regime are all likely to be treated as 'seditious'.
4. The reach of Section 124-A has extended even to faraway places. An entire village in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu had sedition cases slapped against it for resisting a nuclear power project. Adivasis of Jharkhand, resisting displacement, topped the list of those slapped with sedition in 2014.

**Why it should be abolished?**

1. **Colonial tool-** It was introduced by the British to suppress the freedom struggle and its existence at present is not justified. Britain itself abolished it 10 years ago, then why India still have the section alive.
2. India ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and misuse of sedition law under Section 124A and the arbitrary slapping of charges are inconsistent with the ICCPR.
3. **Against freedom of speech-** Section 124A has been invoked against activists, detractors, writers and even cartoonists on several occasion to suppress their freedom of speech and expression. Article 19 (1) of Indian constitution provide freedom of speech as a fundamental right. Section 124A is against Article 19 (1).
4. **Improper definition-** As pointed by the Law Commission of India, is that the definition of sedition does not take into consideration disaffection towards (a) the Constitution, (b) the legislatures, and (c) administration of justice, all of which would be as disastrous to the security of the State.

**Need of continuation of Section 124A**

1. **Misuse of freedom of speech-** Freedom of speech although is protected through Article 19 (1) but it is not unlimited. Sometimes speech is used as a tool to destabilise country polity and to promote enmity in the society. The main reason behind the continuation of Sedition act after independence was to prevent the misuse of free speech (**reasonable restriction**) that would be aimed at inciting hatred and violence.
2. **Internal security-** Maoist insurgency and rebel groups virtually run a parallel administration, it would be dangerous to abolish it. These groups openly advocate the overthrow of the state government by revolution. Thus keeping section 124A is important for Indian security.

**Way Forward**

The Supreme Court has persistently held that for the offence of sedition to be satisfied, there has to be a causal relationship between speech and acts of violence, and mere speech, regardless of how subversive it is, does not amount to sedition. Every irresponsible exercise of the right to free speech and expression cannot be termed seditious. While it is essential to

protect national integrity, it should not be misused as a tool to curb free speech. Dissent and criticism are essential ingredients of a robust public debate on policy issues as part of a vibrant democracy. Therefore, every restriction on free speech and expression must be carefully scrutinised to avoid unwarranted restrictions.

**Q.8) What do you understand by democratic education? Discuss various advantages of democratic education.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Define democratic education.
**Body.** Write various benefits of democratic education.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

An education which prepares young people for active participation in democratic society is a critical element of any education system, and is reflected best in curriculum. It reflects a deep understanding of the global economy and society in which young people from all walks of life participate.

**Democratic education** is an educational ideal in which **democracy** is both a goal and a method of instruction. It brings democratic values to education and can include **self-determination** within a community of equals, as well as such values as justice, respect and trust. Democratic education is often specifically emancipatory, with the students' voices being equal to the teacher's.

**Various advantages of democratic education:**
1. **Non-authoritarian education system**- Democratic education means the system where children are free to move around. They can go out, sit wherever they want. And you don't see the teacher all the time around them. There will be authority but it **won't be authoritarian**. And of course there has to be **respect**. The teacher will be there to guide, but is not the centre of the learning process. The children are. They can work individually or in small groups. There is no one way of sitting. The children cannot be viewed as consumers, an empty pot that the teacher has to fill.
2. **Freedom**- To prepare for democratic citizenship, students must learn to exercise their rights and understand their responsibilities. **Choice**, the ability to have autonomy in the direction of one's own educational path, and **Control**, the ability to decide how to approach major educational needs, are the two main principles of democratic education. Students are given choice and control over their own educational careers. Students are be allowed to choose an area of study, and the entire educational plan revolve around that subject area. Students are provided opportunities to express personal opinions, make meaningful choices, and solve problems together in ways that reflect democratic processes inherent to society. In the **American system**, for example, democratic schools support Supreme Court guidelines for student rights.
3. **Active Involvement**- Democratic Education views students as **active participants** in the process of their learning. It takes into account their views, treats each pupil as an individual who has their own skills and interests, and allows them to follow the path they want to pursue. It is **not limited** to a class lecture, an extracurricular activity, or even to the school grounds. It requires students to learn civic participation skills in

critical thinking, constructive debate, problem solving, collaboration, and working in groups. These skills must be reinforced through meaningful practice: **community service projects, integrated service learning**, participation in student government and student courts, and involvement in school and community decision making.

4. **Holistic learning-** We live in an increasingly global society, one in which a nation's progress depends on understanding the world beyond its borders. Democratic education provides opportunities for students to learn about and understand other cultures and to develop a commitment to protecting the inalienable rights of all. It **extends students' perspectives on rights and responsibilities** to consider those of others as well as their own.

5. **Equality-** Democratic education is education in which teachers and learners **work together as equals**. Democratic Education is **based on respect, tolerance and care**. Democratic education stems from a free and expressive dialogue with no rules, no conventions, just honesty and trust.

6. **Better Citizens-** Students learn to communicate as a thoughtful citizens by discussing school and community issues, as well as political topics, including current events and controversies. They involve in debates, constructive discourse and accept dissent in a democratic way. It requires free and thoughtful exchange; a democratic education provides a forum for all its stakeholders—students, parents, faculty, staff, and administrators—to think critically, listen actively, and express personal convictions.

7. **Decision Making-** Students in a way get trained for better decision making and make decisions that suit them. Class schedules are open for debate and vote so that all students in the class feel as if they have had a voice in the decision-making process of day-to-day educational tasks. Democratic education provide the student with real power to make decisions for the school in areas such as educational planning and programs to be offered.

8. **Sense of ownership-** The most important benefit of democratic education is student ownership of their education. When people own their choices, they are more engaged in making those choices work to their own benefit and good. When a choice is pushed on a person without consent, the person does not have a sense of ownership, and thus, does not always feel compelled to work to make the situation a success.

We are stuck in what we call the traditional system of education for the last 200 years and we are not able to come out of it. It requires the cultivation of democratic virtues to achieve a true democratic system. For example, the ability to imagine and articulate a minimally common good requires ability to distinguish what is merely good for me from what is the good of all. The democratic education recognise this.

**Q.9) Discuss India-Africa trade ties. Analyse impact of African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on India-Africa trade.**
**Ans.**

| **Demand of the question** |
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| **Introduction.** Give a brief about India-Africa ties. |
| **Body.** Analyse trade ties of India and Africa. Impact of AfCFTA on Indian trade in Africa. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

India and Africa have social and economic relations dating back many centuries. Deepening relations have been reflected in the patterns of trade and investment, as well as people-to-people interactions, cultural exchanges and cooperation at the continental and at the regional and bilateral levels. Trade and investment relations have witnessed strong growth in the recent past, reflecting expanding economic opportunities in both Africa and India.

**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**. Both the regions have worked closely and engaged constructively with each other. The synergy that exists between India and Africa can be gauged from the robust trends in trade relations, wherein **bilateral trade has increased five-fold in a decade – from $11.9 billion in 2005-06 to $56.7 billion in 2015-16.**
2. **Exports and imports-** 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. India's imports from Africa during the same period increased seven-fold from – from $4.9 billion to**$31.7 billion** – accounting for **8.3%** share in India's total imports. India's imports from Africa grew at an annual average of 29.8 percent while its exports to Africa grew at an annual average of 15.9 percent.
3. **Investment-** India's investments in Africa, saw an **upsurge** in last decade, mainly due to high-growth in some of the African markets and their mineral rich reserves. The Indian Multi National Enterprises (MNEs) have ventured into various sectors of investments spanning telecommunications, energy, computer sciences, power and automobile, among others. The major destinations of such investments were Mauritius, Mozambique, Sudan, Egypt and South Africa. However, India's investments in Africa have witnessed a reduction since 2013. According to the **World Investment Report 2018 of the UNCTAD,** Indian FDI in Africa stood at $14 billion in 2016-2017, which is lower than $16 billion in 2011-12. One of the reasons for this is that apart from India's traditional investors, few companies are looking at the continent for investment. An increase in the Government of India's Lines of Credits (LOCs) to the African continent is not matched by a similar increase in investments by the private and public sectors.
4. **Recent trends-** Recent trends show a **steady decline** in the India-Africa trade in both actual and comparative terms from 2013 to 2017. In 2014-2015, the total India-Africa trade stood at US $71.5 billion, which went down to US $56.7 billion in 2015-2016 and has further dropped to US$51.96 billion in 2016-2017.

The balance of trade has also shifted in favour of Africa. India had a surplus of US $2.1 billion in 2005-06, which turned into a deficit of US$6.6 billion in 2015-16. India's negative trade balance is mainly because of its high demand for oil and energy resources. India's exports to the African countries have also been dominated by petroleum products. Therefore, in order to correct the trade imbalance, India needs to expand and diversify its export basket to include both primary and manufactured goods. In spite of such realities, there exists an enormous potential for improving the India-Africa trade and investment partnerships if the AfCFTA comes into force.

**AfCFTA and its impact on India-Africa trade:**

1. **Robust Market for investment-** The AfCFTA will 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. Positive outcomes for the India-Africa trade and investment partnership are hinged on Africa having sufficiently integrated markets, enhanced regional and continental connectivity, and improved infrastructure facilities. These will, in turn, help the African countries to address the supply-side constraints, remove bottlenecks, and move up the regional value chains.
3. **Increase in exports-** A study reports that, if the AfCFTA is established, India's exports to Africa could increase by **US $4.3 billion (or 10%) by 2022** because it will provide the Indian industries and companies a larger, more unified market with less restrictive regulations. Since the trade balance between India and Africa is in favour of the African countries largely due to India's high demand for energy resources, crude oil and petroleum, the establishment of AfCFTA augurs well for India-Africa trade and investment partnership.

India agrees to the AfCFTA in principle and supports its successful implementation. This has been reiterated in the **2015 Delhi Declaration**. However, India and Africa need to move in tandem to ensure that the full gains are 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. It can also identify various African transnational corporations which are destined to play a greater role in a future continental common market and engage with them strategically. After the AfCFTA comes into force, it is expected not only to support industrialisation and structural transformation efforts in Africa but also offer a more visible and robust market for Indian firms and investors to access, thereby making Africa a top business partner for India.

**Q.10) What are powers and sources of LG of Puducherry? Compare powers of LG of Puducherry with the powers of LG Delhi.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Write a contextual introduction. |
| **Body.** Various powers and sources of LG of Puducherry. Compare with powers of LG of Delhi. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 provides for a Legislative Assembly of Pondicherry, with a Council of Ministers to govern the "Union Territory of Pondicherry". It states that the UT will be administered by the President of India through an Administrator (Lieutenant Governor).

**What are the powers and sources of LG of Puducherry?**
1. **Discretion:** Section 44 of the Union Territories Act, 1963, allows the LG to "**act in his discretion**" in the matter of lawmaking, even though the Council of Ministers has the task of aiding and advising him. In case of a difference of opinion between the LG and his Ministers on any matter, the Administrator is bound to refer it to the President for a

decision and act according to the decision given by the President. However, the Administrator can also claim that the matter is urgent, and take immediate action as he deems necessary.

2. **Mandatory Prior sanction-** Under Section 22 of the Act, **prior sanction** of the Administrator is required for certain legislative proposals. These include Bills or amendments that the Council of Ministers intends to move in the Legislative Assembly, and which deal with the "constitution and organisation of the court of the Judicial Commissioner", and "jurisdiction and powers of the court of the Judicial Commissioner with respect to any of the matters in the State List or the Concurrent List".

3. **Obligatory provisions:** Section 23 of the Act also makes it obligatory on the part of the UT government to seek the "recommendation" of the LG before moving a Bill or an amendment to provide for "the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax", "the amendment of the law with respect to any financial obligations undertaken or to be undertaken", and anything that has to do with the Consolidated Fund of the UT.

4. **Veto powers-** Once the Assembly has passed a Bill, the LG can either grant or withhold his assent; or reserve it for the consideration of the President. He can also send it back to the Assembly for reconsideration.

5. The manner in which the LG functions vis-à-vis the elected government (Council of Ministers) is also spelt out in the Rules of Business of the Government of Pondicherry, 1963, issued on June 22, 1963.

6. **Regulatory powers-** Under Rule 47, which deals with **persons serving in the UT government**, the Administrator exercises powers **regulating the conditions of service** of such persons in consultation with the Chief Minister. In case the LG has a difference of opinion with the Chief Minister, he can refer the matter to the central government for the decision of the President.

7. which deals with the Council of Ministers and its working, says the Council of Ministers headed by a Chief Minister will "aid and advise the Administrator in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory has **power to make laws**".

**Comparison with powers of LG of Delhi:**

| Powers of LG of Delhi | Powers of LG of Puducherry |
|---|---|
| The LG of Delhi has "Executive Functions" that allow him to exercise his powers in matters connected to **public order, police and land** "in consultation with the Chief Minister, if it is so provided under any order issued by the President under Article 239 of the Constitution". | The LG of Puducherry has no such "Executive Functions or powers". Puducherry legislative assembly deals with all these matters. |
| LG of Delhi is guided by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, the Transaction of Business of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Rules, 1993, and Union Territories Act, 1963. Thus | LG of Puducherry is guided mostly by the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 and provisions under it. Thus it's power are limited. |

| | |
|---|---|
| the LG of Delhi enjoys greater powers than the LG of Puducherry. | |
| Articles 239 and 239AA of the Constitution, as well as the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, clearly underline that Delhi is a UT, where the Centre, whose eyes and ears are the LG, has a much more prominent role than in Puducherry. | Articles 239 and 239AA of the Constitution, as well as the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, clearly underline that Delhi is a UT, where the Centre, whose eyes and ears are the LG, has a much more prominent role than in Puducherry. |
| Article 239AA imposes several restrictions on the legislature of Delhi. | No such restrictions had been imposed explicitly in the case of Puducherry under Article 239A. |
| Under the constitutional scheme, the Delhi Assembly has the power to legislate on all subjects except law and order and land. | The Puducherry Assembly can legislate on any issue under the Concurrent and State Lists |

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

**Q.11) In the light of recent "Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, 2019" report, critically discuss the problem of malnutrition in India. What should be done to address this problem?**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Give a contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Analyse status of malnutrition in India.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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Malnutrition especially that affecting young children is one of the principle public health problems in the developing world like India. A new report, '**Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, India, 2019**', published by the Government of India and the United Nations World Food Programme, states that even after 70 years of independence, still hundreds of millions of India's poorest and vulnerable citizens are living in hunger. Despite rapid economic growth, declining levels of poverty, enough food to export, and a multiplicity of government programmes, malnutrition amongst the poorest remains high.

**Malnutrition a vicious problem:**
The report shows the poorest sections of society are caught in a trap of poverty and malnutrition, which is being **passed on from generation to generation**.

- Mothers who are hungry and malnourished produce children who are stunted, underweight and unlikely to develop to achieve their full human potential.
- These disadvantaged children are likely to **do poorly in school** and subsequently have low incomes, high fertility, and provide poor care for their children, thus contributing to

the **intergenerational transmission of poverty**. In other words, today's poor hungry children are likely to be tomorrow's hungry, unemployed and undereducated adults.

- Also, the effects of malnourishment in a small child are not merely physical. A developing brain that is deprived of nutrients does not reach its full mental potential. Undernutrition **can affect cognitive development** by causing direct structural damage to the brain and by impairing infant motor development. This in turn affects the child's ability to learn at school, leading to a lifetime of poverty and lack of opportunity.

**Some facts and figures about the issue of malnutrition in India:**
India, with a population of over 1.3 billion, has seen tremendous growth in the past two decades.

- Gross Domestic Product has increased 4.5 times and per capita consumption has increased 3 times. Similarly, **food grain production has increased almost 2 times**. However, despite phenomenal industrial and economic growth and while India produces sufficient food to feed its population, it is unable to provide access to food to a large number of people, especially women and children.
- **According to FAO** estimates in '**The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2018**" report-
    - **195.9 million People are undernourished in India**. By this measure 14.8% of the population is undernourished in India.
    - Also, 51.4% of women in reproductive age between 15 to 49 years are anaemic.
    - Further according to the report 38.4% of the children aged under five in India are stunted (too short for their age), while 21% suffer from wasting, meaning their weight is too low for their height. Malnourished children have a higher risk of death from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhea, pneumonia, and malaria.
- The **Global Hunger Index 2018** ranks **India at 103 out of 119** countries on the basis of three leading indicators - prevalence of wasting and stunting in children under 5 years, under 5 child mortality rate, and the proportion of undernourished in the population.
- Although some progress has been made in reducing the extent of malnutrition. The proportion of children with chronic malnutrition decreased from 48% percent in 2005-06 to 38.4% in 2015-16. The percentage of underweight children decreased from 42.5% to 35.7% over the same period. Anaemia in young children decreased from 69.5% to 58.5% during this period. But this **progress is small.**
- India's efforts at improving access to food and good nutrition are led by the **National Food Security Act.** In spite of such interventions, 14.5% of the population suffers from undernourishment, going by the UN's assessment for 2014-16. At the national level, 53% of women are anaemic, Health Ministry data show.
- The government's **National Nutrition Mission (renamed as Poshan Abhiyaan)** aims to reduce stunting (a measure of malnutrition that is defined as height that is significantly below the norm for age) by 2% a year, bringing down the proportion of stunted children in the population to 25% by 2022. But even this modest target will require doubling the current annual rate of reduction in stunting. A year after it was launched, State and Union Territory governments have only used 16% of the funds allocated to them.

- Anganwadis are key to the distribution of services to mothers and children. But many States, including Bihar and Odisha, which have large vulnerable populations, are struggling to set up functioning anganwadis, and recruit staff.

**What should be done?**

1. **Population Policies:** The main cause of poverty and hunger is the fast growth of population. The control of population growth, therefore, should get the top priority, particularly in the developing countries. **Population control measures** like awareness campaigns, sterilisation etc. must be adopted. The population control will require rapid economic growth, research and the implementation of strict population policies.

2. **Greater Agricultural Productivity:** Green Revolution has failed to eradicate hunger from the developing world. The HYV need heavy doses of chemical fertilisers and adequate supply of water through controlled irrigation. These costly inputs are beyond the reach of marginal and small farmers of the Third World countries. There is a need to develop **drought resistant crops** which may be diffused in the areas of deficient rainfall. New areas and cultivable wastelands should be brought under cultivation to increase agricultural production. This will ensure increased productivity at lower costs and increase accessibility to food.

3. **Expansion of Agriculture in New Areas**: At present, only 10 per cent of the total area of the land surface is under cultivation. Some experts opine that the present cultivated area could be tripled. The possibility should be explored to increase more food production.

4. **Land Reforms**: It has been found that wherever land reform measures have been taken, production of crops has gone up substantially. In order to maintain the fertility of the soil the farmers have to invest in farm management. A tenant farmer cannot take a decision about the development of fields. The need for land reform is nearly worldwide. Unfortunately, progress in this area is too much slow.

5. **Search for Alternative Food**: It is urgently needed at the global level to protect the ocean resources while they are used. Until quite recently, only a few species of marine fauna were endangered by overfishing as whales. E.g *Aquaculture* i.e. the raising of fish in enclosure provide a great alternative source of food.

6. **Change in food habits:** The problem of hunger and malnutrition may also be minimised if the people change their food habits. Mass education, especially the female education, will also go a long way in overcoming the deficiencies of food and may eradicate hunger to a substantial extent. None of these efforts will bring the desired results unless a comprehensive programme is developed to check the growth of population, to reduce the food consumption in rich societies, and to develop alternative sources of food and proteins.

7. **Role of states-** The key to ending the tragedy of child nutrition lies with State governments especially states with the highest levels of stunted and underweight children like Jharkand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Malnutrition is a reflection of age-old patterns of social and economic exclusion. Over **40% of children from Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes**are stunted. Close to 40% of children from the Other Backward Classes are stunted. The lack of nutrition in their childhood years can reduce their mental as well as physical development and condemn them to a life in the margins of society.

8. **Food distribution System:** The food distribution system needs to be strengthened. Food storage facilities must be restored and steps should be taken to protect stored

grains from rodents. Although there are many leakages issue in public distribution system, still it provides food for many. Efforts must be made to stop leakages.

**Q.12) "India has begun to feature prominently on a growing list of countries marked by hate crime, including hate speech in electoral campaigns". Critically examine. Discuss various consequences of hate crimes. Also, suggest some measures to stop hate crimes.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Discuss hate crimes.<br>**Body.** Write about hate crimes in India. Discuss various consequences of hate crime.<br>**Conclusion.** Way forward and some measures. |

Hate crime is incitement to hatred primarily against a group of persons of any race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief and the like. They may be isolated, or may be the work of few individuals acting on their own.

**Hate crime in India:**
1. Studies of hate crimes in India show that they have**steadily risen over the past five years**. **Amnesty International India** documented 721 such incidents between 2015 and 2018. Last year alone, it tracked 218 hate crimes, which were against Dalits, Muslims, women, Christians, Adivasis, and transgenders. The more common hate crimes, they found, were **honour killings and 'cow-related violence**' that was rare earlier but has become more frequent over the past five years.
2. According to **Hate Crime Watch**, crimes based on religious identity were in single digits until 2014, when they surged from 9 in 2013 to 92 in 2018. **Uttar Pradesh** topped the list of States with the largest number of hate crimes for the third year, followed by Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Bihar.
3. The **Hate-Crime Watch** records that Muslims, who comprise 14% of India's population, were the victims in 62% of cases and Christians, 2% of the population, in 14% of cases. Hindus, constituting the majority or 80% of the population, were victims in 10% (25) of the cases. In many cases, the crimes were communal clashes prima facie motivated by a religious bias, where the victims' religious identity could not be clearly ascertained from the news reports.
4. In 2018, the Supreme Court directed Central and State governments to make it widely known that lynching and mob violence would 'invite serious consequence under the law' (**Tehseen S. Poonawalla v. Union of India & Ors**). In a May 2019 report, Human Rights Watch India pointed out that only some States had complied with the Supreme Court's orders to designate a senior police officer in every district to prevent incidents of mob violence and ensure that the police take prompt action. Those State governments that did comply, the report commented, did so only partially. In several instances, the police actually obstructed investigations, even filing charges against the victims.

**Various Causes of hate crimes-**
1. **Historical underpinnings-** Any historical enmity between various religious or societal groups can motivate them to do hate crimes. Hindu Muslim conflict are the major reason for hate. After learn about history and various communal incidents through any media, it may motivate them to take revenge.

2. **Politically motivated-** Often vote bank politics, use various communal or emotional tools to garner vote of few groups by inciting hatred in them. They use false stories, news, etc to incite such incidents.

3. **Consensus in society-** Sometimes society in general accept hatred against a particular group or nation based on past experience of atrocities. E.g many groups see refugees or migrated people as their enemies.

4. **Illiteracy-** Lack of education prevent overall development of an individual. Still about 23% of population in India is illiterate. This prevent development of tolerance and understanding of individuality in them.

5. **Unemployment-** Increasing unemployment lead to development of feeling of hatred against a particular group especially refugees and migrated one. People see them as an enemy and one who snatches there rights. This phenomenon is worldwide.

6. **Prejudice and bias-** Bias toward a particular group can be a reason for hate crimes. E.g upper caste is seen as enemies by many Dalits. It can incite hate crime against them without making any difference between culprit and innocent.

7. **Patriarchy-** This hold true mainly in case of hate crime against women. Honour killing of women is mainly due to patriarchal mindset where women is attached to one's falsified honour and women seen as an object tied to family respect.

8. **Lack of strong laws-** Lack of strong and clear laws lead to culprit roam free and increase their confidence of not getting punished for their act. Poor implementation of laws is another reason.

9. **Social media-** Social media has grown immensely in recent times. It's impact is enormous on a society. Fake news, propagandas are often invoked on social media against a particular group to destabilise a society.

**Way forward-**

1. The Rajasthan administration is introducing a Bill prohibiting cow vigilantism, but that deals with only one hate crime. Parliament should enact an act against hate crime, and the benchmarks for policemen and administrators to deal with hate crime should be set. **Germany**, for example, amended Section 46 of its Criminal Procedure Code, dealing with sentencing in violent crime, to say the sentence must be based on consideration of 'the motives and aims of the offender, particularly where they are of a racist or xenophobic nature or where they show contempt for human dignity'.

2. The legislature and political parties should suspend or dismiss members who are implicated in hate crimes or practise hate speech. Strict disciplinary act should be taken against such individuals and parties.

3. The electronic and print media should stop showing or publishing hateful comments and threats. Any act of incitement of hatred should be punished by cancelling license or through imprisonment or fine.

4. Values of tolerance and respect that are common to all religions should be preached and schools should revitalise courses on the directive principles of our Constitution.

For a demographically diverse country such as India, hate crimes — including crimes of contempt — are a disaster. Each of our religious and caste communities number in the millions, and crimes that are directed against any of these groups could result in a magnitude of disaffection that impels violence, even terrorism.

**Q.13) "Parliamentary elections in India have increasingly been influenced by State-level political variables beyond the performance of the ruling parties and the Opposition at the Centre". In light of this critically discuss the feasibility of holding simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies in India.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Analyse positives and negatives of simultaneous elections in India.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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

**Why do we need simultaneous election?**
1. **Frequent elections-** There are frequent elections in one or more states and if the elections to the local bodies are included there is no year without some elections taking place. Frequent elections divert precious time, energy and resources of the nation.
2. **Governance and consistency:** Elections in states lead to the imposition of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) puts on hold the entire development programme and activities. If all elections are held in one particular year, it will give a clear four years to the political parties to focus on good governance. Simultaneous elections allow them to use precious time for social work and to take people-oriented programmes to the grassroots. It will help to overcome the "**policy paralysis and governance deficit**" associated with imposition of the Model Code of Conduct at election time which leads to putting on hold all developmental activities on that area and also affects the bureaucracy's functioning.
3. **Slowdown development-** With multiple elections in the country, the Model Code of Conduct is in force for much of the time, which prevents the government from initiating new projects and ultimately slows down development work. It affects stability and economic development as announcements are more for the vote bank than the development of nation.
4. **Economical-** Expenditure can be reduced by conducting simultaneous elections. Simultaneous elections allow lesser amount to be spent on resources. It would reduce the massive expenditure that has been pegged at around Rs.4,500 crore. Thus it will save country's resources.
5. **Continuity in economy-** Continuous election has an impact on the functioning of essential services. Simultaneous elections will limit the disruption to normal public life associated with elections. The rallies and issues like traffic problems as well as loss of productivity can be reduced.
6. **Reduced manpower-** Also simultaneous election would reduce the type of manpower and resource deployment necessary for the conduct of elections. It is felt that crucial manpower is often deployed on election duties for a prolonged period of time. If simultaneous elections are held, then this manpower would be made available for other important tasks. For instance for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, which was held along with

4 state assemblies saw the deployment of 1077 in situ companies and 1349 mobile companies of Central Armed Police Force (CAPF).

7. **Peace in society-** During frequent elections there is increase in communalism, casteism, corruption and crony capitalism. Simultaneous elections will reduce such incidents and will ensure prevailed peace in society maintaining social fabric.

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

1. **Confused voter-** Not all voters are highly educated to know who to vote for. They may get confused and may not know whether they are voting for candidates contesting assembly or parliament elections. There is a 77% chance that the Indian voter will vote for the same party for both the state and centre, when elections are held simultaneously. Evidence from Brazil, Argentina, Canada, Germany, the US and Europe supports the idea that elections that are held simultaneously produce greater alignment between national and regional election outcomes.

2. **Lack of manpower-** There is a dearth of enough security and administrative officials to conduct simultaneous free and fair elections throughout the country in one go. Also it will require more manpower on a single day to ensure free and fair elections.

3. **Against multi-party democracy-** India is a multi-party democracy where elections are held for State Assemblies and the Lok Sabha separately; the voters are better placed to express their voting choices keeping in mind the two different governments which they would be electing by exercising their franchise. This **distinction gets blurred** somewhat when voters are made to vote for electing two types of government at the same time, at the same polling booth, and on the same day. There is a tendency among the voters to vote for the same party both for electing the State government as well as the Central government. This is a rule rather than an exception, not based on assumption but on evidence.

4. **Anti-federal-** Assembly elections are fought on local issues and, in the true spirit of federalism, parties and leaders are judged in the context of their work done in the state. Clubbing them with the general election could lead to a situation where the national narrative submerges the regional story. This could mean a regress for the federal character of the polity, which is best avoided.

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

### What is the way forward?

1. Standing committee recommended a **cycle of elections**, according to which elections to some legislative assemblies whose term end within six months to one year before or after the election date could be held during the midterm of Lok Sabha .For the rest of the states, elections could be held along with the general elections to Lok Sabha.

2. Cost can be brought under control by ensuring that the legal cap on expenditure of candidates is followed by all parties.

3. Accomplishing **one year one election** will be easier as it doesn't require as many legal amendments as simultaneous polls for which the Centre will have to make five amendments to the Constitution.

4. The Law Commission of India in its report of 1999 has dealt with the problem of premature and frequent elections. It had recommended an amendment of Rule 198 on the lines of the German Constitution, which provides that the leader of the party who

wants to replace the chancellor has to move the no-confidence motion along with the confidence motion. If the motions succeed, the president appoints him as the chancellor. If such an amendment to Rule 198 is made, the Lok Sabha would avoid premature dissolution without diluting the cardinal principle of democracy that is a government with the consent of the peoples' representatives with periodical elections.

**Q.14) "While most of the developed world has penalised marital rape, surprisingly, there is no law to protect married women against marital rape in India". Critically analyse the need of law against marital rape in India. Discuss various challenges while legislating such a law.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Write about issue of marital rape in India through data. Discuss various challenges in enacting marital rape law.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

According to the UN Women's 2011 report, out of 179 countries for which data was available, 52 had amended their legislation to explicitly make marital rape a criminal offence. India is one such country where marital rape is yet to be even recognised, least criminalised.

**Marital rapes in India:**
1. In a survey conducted by **International Centre for Research on Women** (2011) nearly 20% of Indian men reported at least once having carried out sexual violence against a female partner.
2. In another study by **National Health and Family Survey (NFHS-4)** for the year 2015-16, 5.6% women have been reported as victims under the category of "physically forced her to have sexual intercourse with him even when she did not want to".
3. In August 2017, the Centre, in an affidavit filed in response to pleas seeking to criminalise marital rape in the Delhi High court, stated that marital rape cannot be made a criminal offence as it could become a phenomenon which may destabilise the institution of marriage and an easy tool for harassing husbands.
4. In the aftermath of the Jyoti Singh gang rape in 2012, **Justice Verma Committee** constituted with an objective to strengthen the anti-rape laws in the country. strongly recommended that the exception for marital rape be removed. The Committee also highlighted the recommendations made by the CEDAW Committee in respect of India in 2007 which asked for "widening the definition of rape to reflect the realities of sexual abuse experienced by women and to remove the exception of marital rape from the definition of rape".
5. The recent judgment by the Gujarat high court in **Nimeshbhai Bharatbhai Desai vs State of Gujarat (2017)** elaborately dealt with the issue of marital rape, and stated that, "making wife rape illegal or an offence will remove the destructive attitudes that promote the marital rape"; however, due to non-recognition of marital rape as a crime under the Indian legal framework, the court held that the husband is liable only for outraging her modesty and unnatural sex.
6. Similarly, the apex court in **Independent Thought vs Union of India (2017)** has criminalised sexual intercourse with a minor wife aged between 15 and 18 years, but

has refrained from making any observation regarding the marital rape of a woman who is above 18 years of age.

7. Marital rape is a common but under-reported crime. A study conducted by the **Joint Women Programme**, an NGO, found that one out of seven married women had been raped by their husband at least once.20 They frequently do not report these rapes because the law does not support them.

**Issues and Challenges wrt marital rape law in India:**

1. **Difficult to prove**- It will be very difficult to provide evidence of marital law and prove the crime. An evidence need to be solid to prove any crime. In case of marital rape, whole family will support his son, and it will be tough for women to prove the crime.
2. **Threat to life**- It will further increase threat to woman's life by her husband and her in laws. Any attempt to go against them may lead to further atrocities and an attempt on her life.
3. **High illiteracy rate**- Country where 26% of total population, and 35% of women population are illiterate, such a law need enormous efforts. Many woman will not be able understand the law. Especially woman of lower strata where marital rape is more prevalent and is under reported, impact of such law would be minimal and need extra efforts for implementation.
4. **Poverty**- India where millions of people are living under poverty, such law may not be effective as woman may not be able to use effective means to use law due to poverty.
5. **Extreme religious beliefs and the very 'sanctity' of marriage**- Many woman still believes marriage as sacrosanct and husband as 'pati parmeshvar'. They would like to suffer than to break marriage. Thus sensitising them fir their rights and for such law will not be easy.
6. **Increase burden on judiciary**- Due to the near impossibility of proving marital rape, and false cases, its criminalisation would only serve as an increased burden to the already overburdened legal system.
7. **False cases**- Dissatisfied, angry, vengeful wives might charge their innocent husbands with the offence of marital rape. Further it will be difficult for husbands to prove his innocence.
8. **Increase in divorces**- Marital rape laws would destroy many marriages by preventing any possible reconciliation.

The mere fact that marital rape would be very difficult to prove is no reason for not recognising it as a crime. It may be showed that criminalisation of marital rape, serves to recognize rape in marriage as a criminal offence and would have a **deterrent effect** on prospective rapist husbands. Enacting such a law need proper debates and discussion. Also such law should be clear in objectives and definitions related to marital rape.

**Q.15) A new study suggests that nutrition and health counselling delivered under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme is one of the best possible investments that can be made by any government. Discuss how nutrition counselling can solve malnutrition problem in India. Provide some other measures to prevent malnutrition in children.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Introduce with ICDS.
**Body.** Discuss stats about nutrition counselling.
**Conclusion.** Way forward and solutions.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme is one of the world's largest programmes for early childhood care and development. A new study by India Consensus suggests that nutrition and health counselling delivered under the programme is one of the best possible investments that can be made by any government.

**Nutrition Counselling as a solution to malnutrition:**
1. Empowering the mother- As a behavioural change intervention, nutrition and health counselling is relatively low cost for every person that is reached. It's important to note that this programme does not provide food, but instead provides information to the mother, making it more likely that the child will receive more and better food. And that in turn leads to lifelong benefits.
2. Many studies have now demonstrated that these benefits can be large. Improving the nutrition and health outcomes of the children of mothers reached makes this a highly cost-effective intervention.
3. Two analyses in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan, looking at a six-year campaign of nutrition counselling and hand-washing. It is estimated that counselling leads to a 12% reduction in stunting. This leads to better cognitive skills.
4. Quantifying the increase in earnings shows that the per unit benefit for Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan comes to ₹71,500 and ₹54,000. What these figures mean is that the investment generates returns to society worth ₹61 and ₹43, respectively, for every rupee spent. While the analysis will differ for other States, these results show that nutritional counselling is a phenomenal investment.

**Strategies to prevent malnutrition and improve nutrition:**
- **Nutritional planning:** This involves political commitment by the government. A well planned and well executed long term project can accelerate the developmental process and the benefits can be rewarding and permanent. Nutritional planning involves formulation of a nutrition policy and overall long term planning to improve production and supplies of food, ensure its equitable distribution and programs to increase the purchasing power of people. This may include-
    - Land reforms
    - Proper guidance in agriculture to help farmers to get better yields from their lands
    - Help in proper marketing of farm produce.
    - Income generating activities for the weaker sections of the community.

- Making available good quality food in affordable prices through proper public distribution system.
- **Direct nutrition and health interventions:**
  - **Improved health care system:** Infections like malaria, measles and diarrhoea are prevalent in our society and they precipitate acute malnutrition among children and infants. A good health care system that provides immunisation, oral rehydration, periodic deworming, early diagnosis and proper treatment of common illnesses can go a long way in preventing malnutrition in the society.
- **Nutrition education:** People can be educated on-
  - The nutritional quality of common foods.
  - Importance and nutritional quality of various locally available and culturally accepted low cost foods.
  - Importance of exclusive breastfeeding for six months and continuing to breast feed up to two years or beyond.
  - Damage caused by irrational beliefs and cultural practices of feeding.
  - Recipes for preparing proper weaning foods and good supplementary food from locally available low cost foods.
  - Importance of including milk, eggs, meat or pulses in sufficient quantities in the diet to enhance the net dietary protein value.
  - Importance of feeding children and adults during illness.
  - Importance of immunising their children and following proper sanitation in their day to day life.
- **Early detection of malnutrition and intervention:**
  - The longer the developmental delays remain uncorrected, the greater the chance of permanent effects and hence intervention must occur during pregnancy and first three years of life.
  - A well recorded growth chart can detect malnutrition very early. Velocity of growth is more important than the actual weight at a given time.
  - If growth of the child is slowed or is arrested, physician should be alerted and any hidden infection or any reason for nutritional deficiency must be evaluated and taken care of.
- **Nutrition supplementation:** Usually, biologically vulnerable groups like pregnant women, infants, preschool going and school going children are targeted by various welfare measures conducted by the government. Calories, proteins and micronutrients like iron, vitamin A and zinc can be supplemented.

**Objective of nutrition supplementation of infants and children includes-**
- To treat and rehabilitate severely malnourished subjects.
- Improve the general health and wellbeing of children.
- Increase the resistance to infectious illnesses and thereby decrease morbidity.
- Accelerate the physical growth and mental development of children.
- Improve the academic performance and learning abilities of children.

**Objective of supplementing pregnant and lactating women include-**
- Preventing anemia in the mother thus improving her health and the pregnancy outcome.
- Improving calorie intake and prevent low birth weight baby, thus breaking the vicious cycle of intergenerational cycle of growth failure.

- With returns like this at stake, there are compelling reasons to look favourably at approaches including nutrition counselling. Malnutrition need a multi-pronged approach.

**Q.16) "The draft National Education Policy (NEP) 2019 recommends a restructuring of school years and the curriculum, in a wide-ranging manner but it lacks the critical components of education i.e. critical thinking and deeper understanding". Critically analyse. Give some measures to improve education system in India.**
**Ans.**

| **Demand of the question** |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Contextual introduction. |
| **Body.** Discuss draft NEP and various issues in it. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward and solutions for improving education system. |

The draft National Education Policy (NEP) 2019 recommends a restructuring of school years and the curriculum. If properly implemented, it may help in better education. These include flexibility and wider scope at the secondary level, space for moral reasoning, re-emphasis on the true spirit of the three language formula, a focus on the core concepts and key ideas in subjects, vocational courses, and also a focus of assessment on understanding. However, the draft NEP also recommends much that may have just the opposite effect.

**Salient features of draft National Education Policy:**
1. The policy **covers school education, higher education and professional education** which in turn include agricultural education, legal education, medical education and technical education. It also looks at the verticals of vocational education by including teacher education and the research and innovation.
2. The policy also **tries to focus on certain foundational skills** that children should have in the proposed new structure of 5+3+3+4.The first stage of five years (for children of 3-8 years of age) i.e. foundational stage looks at discovery learning and learning by play. The foundational literacy and numeracy skills is a mission mode approach under it that includes National Tutors' Program, remedial instructional aid programmes etc. It considers nutrition as very critical for strengthening the levels of 3-8 years of children.
3. The next stage is Preparatory Stage for the children in the age group of 8 to 11 years (grades 3 to 5) followed by the Middle Stage (grades 6 to 8) for the students in the age group of 11-14 years and the Secondary Stage (Grades 9-12) for students in the age group of 14-18 years.
4. For school education, **governance level changes** have also been suggested. A State regulatory authority has been suggested for regulating education in the country. The body will decide the accreditation of different schools. The government will continue to fund and operate education in the country.
5. **Restructuring of the higher education system** into Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3.Tier 1 includes research universities focusing equally on research and teaching, Tier 2 includes teaching universities focusing primarily on teaching; and Tier 3 includes colleges focusing only on teaching at undergraduate levels. All such institutions will gradually move towards full autonomy - academic, administrative, and financial. The idea is to spread **'research culture'** at the undergraduate level. The policy also talks about National Scholarship Fund to financially support students for higher education.

**Issues in draft National Education Policy:**

1. **Misdiagnosis-**It misdiagnoses the causes behind the severe learning crisis, and fail to recognise the poor school and teacher accountability, with no mention of the chronic teacher absenteeism and low teacher effort as key problems. There is no fundamental reform proposed for revamping the accountability structures for schools. Instead, the NEP provides that school management committees (SMCs) – institutions without any powers shall hold schools and teachers accountable. SMCs already mandated under the RTE Act were ineffective.

2. **Window for corruption-**The danger for corruption exists while giving public money to private schools in reimbursement for educating disadvantaged children under the RTE Act. In 2017, it was reported that Madhya Pradesh private schools siphoned off Rs. 600 crore in RTE reimbursement fraud. A revised NEP can seriously consider giving public subsidy for the education of disadvantaged children as DBT (giving the parent freedom to choose a school), rather than giving that money to private schools via leaky government structures.

3. **Unviable schools-**While the NEP recognises the problem of unviable small public schools (28% of all public primary schools in the country have less than 30 students), it does not recognise the decreasing enrolment of public schools which have led them both unviable. An analysis of data shows that between 2010-11 and 2017-18, enrolment in public elementary schools fell by 2.4 crore students, while rising in the recognised private unaided schools by 2.1 crore students.

4. **A confused statement-**The draft NEP rightly criticises private pre-schools for being a downward extension of primary school and of there being formal teaching in them. But it goes on to recommend preparing children for primary by prescribing learning the alphabets of and reading in three languages (for 3-6-year olds).

5. **Three languages issue-**The draft policy mistakes "language acquisition when children are immersed in more than one languages" with a "language teaching" situation where immersion is impossible in three languages. It then extends it unjustifiably to a learning of three scripts. It prescribes teaching script and reading in three languages to three-year-old children, but writing is supposed to be taught to six-year-old children. It also wants to introduce "some textbooks" only at age eight. One wonders why there is a three year gap between teaching reading and writing.

6. **Burden of curriculum-**The draft policy stipulates that the "mandated contents in the curriculum will be reduced to its core, focussing on key concepts and essential ideas". This is to "yield more space for discussion and nuanced understanding, analysis, and application of key concepts". But it goes on to block more than the space vacated by prescribing six new subjects/courses in addition to the existing eight. Some of these new courses such as "critical issues" and "moral reasoning" can be taught in a much better way in a revised curriculum of social studies as the context for both is society.

7. **No emphasis on social studies-**Social studies seems to be missing entirely as it has been mentioned once and then left out of the entire discussion on curriculum. Social studies needs more space in the upper primary curriculum. The subject has to be taught in such a manner that it connects with society and can be a very good way of introducing critical issues and moral thinking.

8. **Not in sync with country's ideals-**The vision of the draft NEP rests on UNESCO declarations and reports rather than the Indian Constitution and development of democracy in this country; this in spite of wanting to make education India-centred. Thus, in the suggested curriculum changes, socio-political life is almost invisible.

**What do we need to change about the Indian Education System?**

- Focus should be on **skill based education**.
- **Reward** creativity, original thinking, research and innovation.
- **Get smarter people to teaching.** Thousands of terrible teachers all over India are wasting valuable time of young children every day all over India.
- The internet has created this possibility – the performance of a teacher now need not be restricted to a small classroom. The performance of a teacher can be opened up for the world to see. The better teacher will be more popular, and acquire more students.
- We **need leaders, entrepreneurs in teaching positions,** not salaried people trying to hold on to their mantle.
- Implement massive **technology infrastructure for education**. India needs to embrace internet and technology if it has to teach all of its huge population, the majority of which is located in remote villages.
- Instead of focussing on outdated models of brick and mortar colleges and universities, we need to **create educational delivery mechanisms** that can actually take the wealth of human knowledge to the masses. The tools for this dissemination will be cheap smartphones, tablets and computers with high speed internet connection.
- **Re-define the purpose of the education system.** The goal of our new education system should be to create entrepreneurs, innovators, artists, scientists, thinkers and writers who can establish the foundation of a knowledge based economy rather than the low-quality service provider nation that we are turning into.
- There is an urgent need for **effective de-regulation of Indian education** sector so that there is infusion of sufficient capital and those who provide or create extraordinary educational products or services are adequately rewarded.
- Our education system today encourages **mediocrity** – in students, in teachers, throughout the system. If we want excellence, mediocrity cannot be tolerated. Mediocrity has to be discarded as an option.

Indian Education system need an overhaul. Focus should be on inclusive and democratic education. Mere funding and policies would not help. Real work is needed on the ground.

**Q.17) "U.S.-Iran relations have reached a new low which can lead to serious economic consequences in the region". Comment. Discuss the impact of US-Iran tussle on India. Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Contextual introduction. |
| **Body.** Discuss US-Iran issue and its impact especially on India. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

Iran recently announced that it would begin enriching uranium above a concentration of 3.67% permitted under the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached by Iran and the P5+1 (China, France, Germany, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States).

The downward spiral in U.S.-Iran relations started with US decision to withdraw from the JCPOA against the advice of the U.S.'s European allies France, Germany, and the U.K. that are parties to the deal. The US administration followed it up with the re-imposition of stringent

economic sanctions against Iran that were being gradually dismantled following the 2015 nuclear deal. These included sanctions against foreign companies doing business with Iran and against countries buying Iranian oil.

**Economic Consequences of US-Iran tussle:**

1. **Sliding towards a deep recession:** Iran's economy was badly affected for several years by sanctions imposed by the international community over the country's nuclear programme. The reinstatement of US sanctions last year - particularly those imposed on the energy, shipping and financial sectors in November - caused foreign investment to dry up and hit oil exports. The sanctions bar US companies from trading with Iran, but also with foreign firms or countries that are dealing with Iran. As a result Iran's GDP contracted by 3.9% in 2018, according to estimates from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

2. **Oil exports have more than halved:** At the start of 2018, Iran's crude oil production reached 3.8 million barrels per day (bpd), according to data gathered by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec). The country was exporting about 2.3 million bpd. Most of the oil was bought by eight countries or territories that were granted six-month waivers by the US when sanctions on the Iranian energy sector took effect - China, India, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Turkey, Greece and Italy. By March 2019, Iran's oil exports had fallen to 1.1 million bpd on average, according to the consulting firm SVB Energy International. Taiwan, Greece and Italy had halted imports altogether, while the two biggest buyers - China and India - had reduced them by 39% and 47% respectively.

3. **The value of the rial has plummeted:** Iranian currency has lost almost 60% of its value against the US dollar on the unofficial market since the US sanctions were reinstated, according to foreign exchange websites. The rial's slide has been attributed to Iran's economic problems and a high demand for foreign currency among ordinary Iranians who have seen the value of their savings eroded and worried that the situation will get worse. Iran's currency problems have also led to shortages of imported goods and products that are made with raw materials from abroad, most notably babies' nappies.

4. **Living costs have risen dramatically:** IMF estimates that inflation soared to 31% in 2018 and predicts that it could reach 37% or more this year if oil exports continue to fall. The plunging value of the rial has affected not only the prices of imported goods but also of locally produced staples. In the past 12 months, the cost of red meat and poultry has increased by 57%, milk, cheese and eggs by 37%, and vegetables by 47%, according to the Statistical Centre of Iran. The poor have also been hit hard by almost 20% increases in the costs of housing and medical services in the past year.

5. **Companies exiting:** Many foreign companies have announced their intention to exit the Iranian market or forego new investments, unwilling to risk losing access to the U.S. market and exclusion from the dollar-based financial system. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts the Iranian economy will **contract by 1.5 percent this year and another 3.6 percent in 2019**, a sharp reversal from April when it forecasted 4 percent growth for both years. Unemployment is also rising, especially among younger workers.

**Impact of Sanctions on India:**

1. US has refused to renew the exemptions issued for eight countries including India. This means that Indian companies will either have to stop buying oil from Iran or resort to a Rupee payment mechanism as was done in the past.
2. Other than the oil sector, India is not directly affected by US sanctions on Iran though Indian companies involved in the Iranian automobile, iron & steel and mining sectors will be affected due to additional US sanctions on these sectors.
3. The Chabahar Port also does not come under US sanctions and hence Indian investments and involvement in it will not be affected. Nonetheless, due to sanctions on the iron & steel sector, certain infrastructure development projects such as the Chabahar-Zahedan railway and gas pipeline, part of Iran's plan to develop Chabahar as a transit hub between Central Asia and the world, could be affected.

**India's Challenges and Options:**

It might not be difficult for India to meet the shortfall in crude oil imports due to US sanctions on Iran.

1. While US shale production is expected to grow rapidly, the higher flows from countries such as Nigeria, Libya and Iraq have already offset losses from the decline in Iranian exports. Moreover, countries such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the US have publicly announced their willingness to help meet the shortfall in crude oil that India might face due to sanctions on Iran.
2. Then there are countries such as Iraq, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Angola, Mexico, etc. which are among the top ten sources of oil for India and have the capacity to increase production and exports in case of a rise in demand. Therefore managing the economic aspect of continued flow of oil to India might not be difficult.
3. The bigger challenge is the political aspect of managing relations with the US and Iran. On the one hand, if India were to stop sourcing oil from Iran, it will affect bilateral relations. On the other hand, if India were to continue to buy Iranian oil, say by sidestepping US sanctions, it is likely to impact the strategic relationship with the US.

**Given this scenario, India has two options:**

- One is to resort to buying Iranian oil through one or more informal arrangements including: devising a Rupee payment mechanism to overcome the sanctions; joining hands with the EU, Russia and China; teaming up with a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) initiative to defy US sanctions. If India were to undertake such a move, its multifaceted relations with the US will be hampered.
- The second and more plausible option is to continue negotiating with the US to either secure a formal waiver or to have an informal understanding to buy Iranian oil. In the meanwhile, India can offer to Iran to enhance its investments in the Chabahar Port development project as well as consider initiating other developmental and connectivity projects to strengthen linkages to Afghanistan, the Caucasus and Central Asia. This will help India not openly defy the US or subvert its policy towards Iran but also at the same time ensure that its relationship with Iran is not completely derailed and it is also able to pursue an independent foreign policy.
- The bottom line is that while India can wait for the easing of US-Iran tensions to resume buying oil from Iran, it is unlikely to undermine its relationship with the US to please Tehran.

**Q.18) "In the upcoming years, a host of geopolitical and economic issues need to be reconciled". In this context how India's foreign policy should be modelled in the upcoming years? Discuss how India should balance its interest among various nations?**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Various geopolitical issues. How India should balance
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The global situation that made all this possible has altered. Rivalries among nations have intensified. There is virtual elimination of the middle ground in global politics, and it has become far more adversarial than at any time previously. Even the definition of a liberal order seems to be undergoing changes. Several more countries today profess support for their kind of liberalism, including Russia and China. At the other end, western democracy appears far less liberal today.

**Various geopolitical issues and how should India face it?**
1. **Focus on South Asia-**India needs to rework many of its policies in the coming five years. South Asia, in particular, and the region of our highest priority, need close attention. The region is one of the most disturbed in the world and India has little or no say in any of the outcomes taking place. India-Pakistan relations are perhaps at their lowest point. India has no role in Afghan affairs and is also excluded from current talks involving the Taliban, the Afghan government, Pakistan, the U.S. and even Russia and China. India might have recouped its position more recently in the Maldives, but its position in Nepal and Sri Lanka need fresh efforts.
2. **Challenge of China-**Across much of Asia, China is the major challenge that India has to contend with. Smaller countries in the region are being influenced to participate in China's programmes such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India and Bhutan are the only two countries in this region that have opted out of the BRI. The challenge in the coming years for India is to check the slide, especially in Asia, and try and restore India to the position it held previously. India cannot afford to wait too long to rectify the situation.
3. **Balancing India- US relation-**Deepening India-U.S. relations today again carry the danger of India becoming involved in a new kind of Cold War. This is another area that needs special focus. India must ensure that it does not become a party to the conflicts and rivalries between the U.S. and a rising China, the heightened tensions between the U.S. and Russia, and also avoid becoming a pawn in the U.S.-Iran conflict. In the past, we manage a shift from non-alignment to multi-alignment, that could improve our relations with the United States without jeopardising our long-term relationship with Russia, all the while maintaining our strategic independence.
4. There is little doubt that current India-U.S. relations provide India better access to state-of-the-art defence items; the recent passage of the National Defence Authorisation Act in the U.S. makes India virtually a non-NATO ally. However, such close identification comes with a price. It could stress relations with Russia, which has been a long term ally and a defence partner of India. Closer relations with the U.S. also carries the risk of aggravating tensions between India and China, even as China and the

U.S. engage in contesting every domain and are involved in intense rivalry in military matters as well as competition on technology issues.

- **Big powers concern-**The U.S.-China-Russia conflict has another dimension which could affect India adversely. It will impact India's position in both Asia and Eurasia, with India being seen as increasingly aligned to the U.S. Hence, India needs to devise a policy that does not leave it isolated in the region. Again, notwithstanding the 'Wuhan spirit', India cannot but be concerned about China's true intentions, given the regional and global situation and its desire to dominate the Asian region. Within the next decade, China will become a mighty military power, second only to the U.S. The on going India-U.S. entente could well provoke a China to act with greater impunity than previously.

- **Disruptive technology challenge-**As India intensifies its search for state-of-the-art military equipment from different sources, it may be worthwhile for India to step back and reconsider some of its options. Today, disruptive technologies have tremendous danger potential and nations that possess these technologies have the ability to become the dominant powers in the 21st and 22nd Centuries. A major challenge for India will hence be how to overcome our current inadequacies in the sector of disruptive technologies rather than remaining confined to the purely military domain. The U.S., China, Russia, Israel and few other countries dominate these spheres as also cyberspace and cyber methodologies. New policy parameters will need to be drawn up by India, and our capabilities enhanced in areas such as artificial intelligence, biotechnology and cyber methodology, all of which constitute critical elements of the disruptive technology.

- **Slowing Economy issue-**India is aiming to become a $5-trillion economy by 2024-25, the reality today is that the economy appears to be in a state of decline. Jobs, specially skilled jobs, are not available in sufficient numbers and this should be a matter for concern. The ability to sustain a rate of growth between 8.5% and 9.5% is again highly doubtful. The looming challenge for India in the coming years, therefore, would be how to build a strong economic foundation, one that is capable of providing the kind of power structure needed for an emerging power, and also one possessing the best liberal credentials.

**How to balance India's interests at global platform?**

In response to the challenges China represents, India has four types of tools at its disposal: military power, potential partnerships with other countries (including China), multilateral diplomacy, and international economic integration. India needs to cultivate and enhance these tools as much as possible.

1. **Military power-**States are ultimately responsible for their own security, and for most states, except especially weak ones military power is a form of insurance that cannot be ignored. It is the most basic instrument that states have, and it is ultimately the only instrument that is entirely under the control of the state. That said, military power is often by itself insufficient, and expending too much effort in this area can potentially have deleterious consequences. Building sufficient military capabilities could conceivably allow India to deter China from using force against it or, if deterrence were to fail, to defend itself. Having such military capabilities may also give India a freer hand in a potential confrontation with its long-time rival Pakistan, because greater military strength in New Delhi would likely lessen the incentive for Beijing to open a

second front in such a conflict along the Indian border with Tibet. The army suffers from equipment shortages, especially artillery. In addition, there are concerns about the adequacy of the army's reserves, as well as a shortage of officers issues that could potentially affect combat effectiveness. These issues should be resolved.

2. **Partnership with other countries**- Countries who can help India balance against China and possibly help India enhance its own capabilities should be approached. This is because China is far wealthier and militarily stronger than India, and this reality is unlikely to change much over the next two decades because the gap between the two is already very wide. China's continuing high growth rate makes it difficult for India to significantly reduce this gap, especially since India's growth rate is not much greater than China's. This makes partnerships necessary for New Delhi, although such partners should share India's concerns about China and be capable and willing to use their own military forces to counter China's military power. Equally important, they should have enough clout in the international arena to be able to support India's interests. Additionally, they should be both able and willing to help India develop its own economic, technological, and military power so that it can better balance against China.

3. **Multilateral diplomacy**- India could potentially use multilateral institutions such as the United Nations to undermine the legitimacy of and constrain any aggressive Chinese behaviour in the international arena. In addition, although India is not a permanent UNSC member, New Delhi could conceivably garner support on issues it deems important from other states, especially more powerful ones like the United States, and, in so doing, attempt to isolate Beijing and deter China from acting against India's interests. Admittedly, China could opt to veto such proceedings in the UNSC, but it would likely pay a diplomatic cost for doing so, and such veto power does not extend to the UN General Assembly. Meanwhile, in some situations, New Delhi could also conceivably partner with Beijing in such venues, in order to give China an incentive to be more accommodating of India's interests.

4. **International economic cooperation and trade-** Trade and economic cooperation are useful tools for growing the Indian economy, generating greater wealth, and developing India's technological capacities. Greater wealth and technological capacities are essential building blocks of military power and greater international influence, both of which are necessary for meeting the challenge China poses. India can use trade and economic cooperation with China as one way of enhancing Indian economic growth, but New Delhi should be careful about buying into the idea that such cooperation can ameliorate potential conflict with Beijing. More broadly, greater trade and cooperation with friendlier countries and blocs, from the United States and the European Union to Japan and other countries in the Indo-Pacific region, can also help expand India's wealth and power.

**Q.19)** **"Although Indian constitution provide a lot of provisions for the safeguard of socially weaker sections of the society, India still needs a social revolution to end discrimination and to socially uplift them". Comment. Discuss various provisions in the Indian constitution for socially weaker sections.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Need of social revolution for weaker sections. Constitutional provisions.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The UN Human Rights Commission in October 2009 declared casteism as a form of human rights abuse and has begun the process of criminalising casteism. Caste plays an important role in every facet of life. Everyday humiliations faced by social weaker sections, demand asocial revolution. It can be done by bringing them into the wider Indian democratic experience. Our constitution has many provisions regarding weaker sections, but there are many challenges.

**Why social revolution is needed?**

1. The linguistic accessibility of the Constitution and its reach to the oppressed is extremely limited. Few peasants would consider the Constitution as a written word that would guarantee them protection from the landlord's real and financial whipcord. Similarly, beggars who are living on the mercy of donors' charity would think that this document guarantees them equality and access to freedom. Thus, it creates gaps while considering constitutional morality as a common virtue.
2. One has to pierce through the agenda of casteism by injecting a radical antidote to set a tone of mutuality and respectability. Unless this is settled, no further conversation can be foreseen that will yield real results.
3. Day to day mob lynching, atrocities against Dalits, especially women, demand a deeper look into society and prejudices.
4. The landmark case of **Surya Narayan Chaudhury v. State of Rajasthan** prohibited temples from discriminating against Dalits' right to worship and enter the sacrosanct spaces as a rule of law. But 'mere enactment of such a law or guaranteeing a right in the Constitution of India is not enough and the change needed is really in our hearts and not elsewhere. Inadequacies of legal provisions in the absence of society's willingness to acknowledge its prejudices is an issue.

**Constitutional provisions for protection of weaker section**: Constitutional makers provided the different safeguard in the Constitution of India to these depressed classes.

| I.A-Definition and Specification of STs | |
|---|---|
| **Art.** | **Title** |
| Preamble | |
| 342 | Scheduled Tribes |
| 366 | Definitions |
| **II.B - Educational, Economic and Public Employment-related Safeguards** | |
| 15 | Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth |
| 16 | Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment |
| 19 | Protection of certain rights regarding freedom of speech, etc |
| 46 | Promotion of Educational and Economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections |
| 335 | Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts |
| **II.C- Political Safeguards** | |
| 330 | Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the People |
| 332 | Reservation of seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assemblies of the States |
| 334 | Reservation of seats and special representation to cease after sixty years |
| 243D | Reservation of seats (in Panchayats) |
| 243T | Reservation of seats |
| **II.D- Agency for monitoring safeguards** | |
| 338A | National Commission for Scheduled Tribe |

- Article 14 gives that States might not deny any individual uniformity under the steady gaze of law or the equivalent insurance of laws inside the region of India.
- Article 15 operationalises the idea of equity in a way which particularly touches upon the states of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other in backward classes.
- Article 38 State to secure a social request for the advancement of welfare of the general population: The State might endeavor to advance the welfare of the general population by securing and ensuring as viably as it might a social request in which equity, social, monetary and political, should educate every one of the foundations of the national life. The State might, specifically, endeavor to limit the disparities in pay, and attempt to take out imbalances in status, offices and openings, among people as well as among gatherings of individuals dwelling in various territories or occupied with various occupations.
- Article 39 Certain standards of strategy to be taken after Article by the State : The State might, specifically, coordinate its approach towards securing:
  - that the national, men and ladies similarly, have the privilege to a satisfactory methods for job;
  - that the proprietorship and control of the material asset of the group are so appropriated as best to sub-serve the benefit of all;

- that the activity of the financial framework does not bring about the grouping of riches and methods for creation to the regular inconvenience;
- that there is equivalent pay for break even with work for the two men and ladies;
- that the wellbeing and quality of laborers, men and ladies, and the young period of youngsters are not mishandled and that residents are not constrained by monetary need to enter side interests unsuited to their age or quality;
- that youngsters are given open doors and offices to create in a solid way and in states of the opportunity and pride and that adolescence and youth are secured against abuse and against good and material deserting.
- Article 46 under the Directive Principles of State Policy gives that "The State should advance with exceptional care, the instructive and financial enthusiasm of weaker areas of the general population and specific of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and might ensure them social bad form and all types of misuse".
- Article 366characterizes Scheduled Castes and Article 34 distinguishes the procedure through which such gatherings will be recognized.
- According to Article 17, untouchability is annulled and its training in any shape is illegal. The authorisation of any inability emerging out of "untouchability has been made an offence culpable as per the law." Two critical enactments have been established to offer impact to substance of this Article. The Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 has been ordered with the target of giving discipline to lecturing and routine with regards to untouchability, in the implementation of any incapacity emerging there from and for issues associated therewith.
- Article 24 gives that no kid beneath the age of 14 years should be utilised to work in any manufacturing plant or mine or occupied with any dangerous business. There are focal and State Laws to avert kid work hones and giving alleviation to those drew in as kid work. The Central law is The Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

**Q.20)** "Judicial review is an essential aspect of the a constitutional democracy especially India". Critically examine. Discuss its importance in keeping executive in check.
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Importance of judicial review.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Judicial review is a process under which executive and (in some countries) legislative actions are subject to review by the judiciary. A court with judicial review power may invalidate laws and decisions that are incompatible with a higher authority; an executive decision may be invalidated for being unlawful or a statute may be invalidated for violating the terms of a written constitution. Judicial review is one of the checks and balances in the separation of powers: the power of the judiciary to supervise the legislative and executive branches when the latter exceed their authority.

**Judicial review- An essential aspect of constitutional democracy ensuring check on executive:**

1. **Essential for maintaining the supremacy of the Constitution**- The Constitution of India is the supreme law of the land. The Supreme Court of India has the supreme responsibility of interpreting and protecting it.

2. **Essential for checking the possible misuse of power by the legislature and executive**-Supreme Court exercises the power of determining the constitutional validity of all laws. It has the power to reject any law or any of its part which is found to be un-constitutional under the Judicial Review power. State High Courts also exercise this power but their judgements can be rejected or modified or upheld by the Supreme Court. A court with authority for judicial review may invalidate laws acts and governmental actions that are incompatible with a higher authority: an executive decision may be invalidated for being unlawful or a statute may be invalidated for violating the terms of a constitution.

3. **Protecting the rights of the people**- Supreme Court acts as the guardian protector of the Fundamental Rights of the people. Article 13 declares that the states must not make any laws inconsistent with part III of the constitution violating Fundamental Rights or that take away or abridge Fundamental Rights. Thus, the article provides a judicial review of the pre-constitutional and post constitutional laws providing a synchronizing approach to the provisions of the constitution.

4. **Maintaining the federal balance**-Judicial review is a strong tool to keep a check on public bodies and rendering their accountability if their decisions or policies go outside the powers that have been specified in the Constitution. It maintains effective checks and balances by controlling unriddled, arbitrary or unjust acts taken on behalf of the Executive and the Legislature.

5. **Essential for securing the independence of judiciary**- Judicial review secure independence of judiciary. It enable judiciary to act and protect the constitution enabling limitation on executive and legislature.

6. **Prevent tyranny of executive**- Judicial review enable judiciary to prevent any tyranny of the executive and ensure democracy. Any attempt to supersede constitution is limited by judiciary through judicial review.

Effective functioning of executive, judiciary and legislature is important for healthy state of democracy. Maintaining the dignity and respecting the sovereignty of each other would determine the progress of Indian democracy. Discrete incidences in India or in USA are unlikely to jeopardise the authority of judicial review in both the countries.

**Q.21) "103rd constitutional amendment present a more difficult judicial examination than usual". Comment. Discuss 103rd amendment act and its salient features.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
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| **Introduction.** Contextual introduction.<br>**Body.** Salient features of 103rd amendment act. Arguments against and in favour.<br>**Conclusion.** Contextual conclusion. |

The 103rd amendment act provide for reservation in appointments to posts under the state and in admissions to educational institutions to "economically weaker sections of citizens [EWS]".

This reservation, can extend up to 10% of the total seats available. On one hand it is lauded as a tool for economic justice but on the other hand, it is criticised for infringing on the very basic of the constitution.

**Salient features of the act:**
1. 103rd amendment act provides for reservation of jobs in central government jobs as well as government educational institutions. It is also applicable on admissions to private higher educational institutions.
2. It applies to citizens belonging to the economically weaker sections of any sect of society.
3. This reservation is "in addition to the existing reservations and subject to a maximum of 10% of the total seats in each category".
4. It mandates Article 46 of the Constitution of India, a Directive Principle that urges the government to protect the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of society.

**Amended articles of the constitution:**
1. Article 15 (6) is added to provide reservations to economically weaker sections for admission to educational institutions including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State, other than the minority educational institutions referred to in clause (1) of Article 30. The amendment aims to provide reservation to those who do not fall in 15 (5) and 15(4) (effectively, SCs, STs and OBCs).
2. Article 16 (6) is added to provide reservations to people from economically weaker sections in government posts. An explanation states that "economic weakness" shall be decided on the basis of "family income" and other "indicators of economic disadvantage."

**Arguments that are against the Act:**
1. **Lack of discussion and academic inputs:** The Bill was not circulated before being introduced in the parliament. It was also not examined by any committee. There was hardly any time between its introduction and final discussion.
2. **Difficult to accommodate new reservation:** It will be difficult to increase the number of seats for many institutions to accommodate new reservation. Even many government institutes lack adequate infrastructure and resources. Act will put extra burden on them.
3. **Mediocrity:** It will lead to mediocrity. Admission of poor quality students under the quota may impact the system of education.
4. **Violates basic structure:** It is argued that the amendment, where reservation is provided on individual economic status, violates the Constitution's basic structure.
5. **Against equality:** The amendment is against the idea of equal opportunity. It favours a few and provide them special privileges discriminating others.

**Arguments in favour of the act:**
1. **Not for certain sects:** The reservation mooted is for all economically weaker individuals. Thus idea of religion and caste is not used in reservation which had been the case till now as the new law of 10% quota in government jobs and education for economically weaker sections is irrespective of religion and caste.
2. **Not against basic structure:** It is established principle that reservation shall have a cap of 50%. The government notification providing 10% reservation to weaker economic sections of society was struck down in Indra Sawhney v. UOI. However these rulings were given in relation to a law and have never been discarded in violation of Basic Structure Doctrine. Also, the

existing articles 15(4), 15(5) and 16(4) do not mention that reservation shall be 50% explicitly, by way of legislation. Thus basic structure does not seem to be violated.

3. **Promote economic welfare:** 103rd amendment act promote economic welfare of the society. It enable inclusion of those who are left behind because of economic disabilities. Thus it enable economic welfare of the society.

4. **Decrease inequalities:** In India economic inequalities are high. About top 1% own major resources of the economy. 103rd amendment act ensure distribution of resources and reduce income inequality in the economy.

5. **Ensure economic growth:** 103rd amendment act ensure economic growth by reaping demographic dividend. It ensure an inclusive growth by providing equal opportunity to economically weaker section of society.

Although 103rd amendment act has many advantages it poses a difficult judicial examination than usual. No doubt it envision to uplift economically weaker sections of the society, but its constitutional validity need to be examined.

**Q.22) "National Register of Citizens though well intentioned, has many problems; majority of which are borne by the poorest". Comment. Examine the need of National Register of Citizens.**
**Ans.**

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| **Demand of the question** |
| **Introduction.** What is NRC? |
| **Body.** Issues related to NRC. Need of NRC. |
| **Conclusion.** Contextual conclusion. |

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

**Issues related to National Register of Citizens:**
1. **Discrepancies**: There are several discrepancies in the final draft of the NRC caused by misspelling of names and inclusion or nicknames instead or actual names. The names of 40.07 lakh applicants did not find a place in the final document.
2. **Law and order problem**: The implementation of NRC may lead to serious law and order problem not just in Assam but also in neighbouring states.
3. **Loss of Right to Vote**: Right to vote is a constitutional right. People whose names are not in NRC would be barred from voting. Thus loosing right to vote.
4. **Fake Cases**: There have been several cases of people having made fake official identity cards such as Aadhaar, PAN card, ration card and even voter's identity card. This will legalise their illegal migration.
5. **Loss of Properties**: The left out whose names are not in the list will not be able to buy land or a house in the country. It will increase selling of benami properties especially by those who loose their citizenship.

6. **Judicial burden will increase**: Since such 'non citizens' will go to judiciary for relief to substantiate their citizenship claim. Thus it will lead to overburdening of judiciary which is already overburdened.

7. **Threat to tribal rights**: Indigenous tribes who do not have any pre-1971 documents to prove their Identity will loose their rights. While all original inhabitants or Assam are to be included, it is not an easy task.

**Need of NRC:**

1. **Ensure People's Right**: An updated NRC will clear actual number of illegal migrants in Assam. It will prevent further illegal migration that will ensure rights of Indian citizens in Assam.

2. **Better policy measures and implementation**: It will provide a verified database to implement targeted policies and calibrated policy measures for benefits of Assamese especially tribal people. This will weed out fake beneficiaries.

3. **Enhance internal security**: It will enhance internal security of the nation by keeping a check on illegal migration. Illegal migration lead to terrorist threat, counterfeit money etc. endangering security of our nation.

4. **Prevent future illegal migration**: Publication of an updated NRC is expected to deter future migrants from Bangladesh from entering Assam illegally. The publication of the draft NRC has already created a perception that staying in Assam without valid documentation will attract detention/jail term and deportation.

5. **Will reduce fake voting**: Illegal migrants will find it difficult to procure Indian identity documents. Thus cases of vote for money through fake identities will reduce as persons whose names are not in list will loose voting rights. Thus it will strengthen our electoral process.

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

**Q.23) "In the era of fake news and propagandas, a robust and unbiased media is must to ensure democracy in India". Critically analyse.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Role of unbiased media.
**Conclusion.** Conclude contextually.

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Media is considered as "Fourth Pillar" in democratic countries along with Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary, as without a free media a healthy democratic system cannot exist. Democracy is meaningless without a free, neutral and active media. Today media has transformed from print to electronic which poses various challenges for especially to remain unbiased and filtering of fake news and propagandas.

### Importance of unbiased media in democracy:

1. **Source of information**: An unbiased information is important for a democracy and its growth. E.g. data on economy, health, education etc. must be correct and accurate without any bias toward government.
2. **Educate:** An unbiased media is important to educate people on issues that are of utmost important for the society. E.g. Increasing number of rape cases are threat to society. It is important to report exact number of cases and help in sensitising the society.
3. **Awareness:** Media should make society aware of their democratic rights and fight the three institutions of democracy.
4. **Ensuring Justice:** Media plays an important role in ensuring justice and benefits of the government policies reaching the weaker sections of the society. They act as a chain between the government and the citizens of the country.
5. **Watchdog:** Media reporting on public affairs and investigations into wrongdoing in the administration of public affairs is must for a healthy democracy. This includes exposing frauds or corruption cases that personally benefit politicians.
6. **Good Governance:** Media plays an important role in audit of the government policies and spending. An unbiased media is important for transparent reporting.
7. **Accountability:** Media ensure accountability of government by exposing bad state of democracy. This lead to questioning of government by the people leading to accountability and answerability.
8. **Scientific temper:** Media is important for developing a scientific temper in citizens. By informing about various technological advancements it help in developing an rational attitude among people free from social prejudices and bias.
9. It is irony in the biggest democracy of world that press and media enjoy less freedom. The 2019 World Press Freedom Index rank India at 140 out 180 nations. Media should have enough freedom and must be neutral in airing views. If media is honest and free democracy is bound to function more efficiently. If media is biased, corrupt and favours only a particular party or few individuals, it can prove to be very dangerous for the smooth functioning of democracy.

**Q.24) Discuss the issue of permanent membership to UNSC. Highlight its importance for India.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Introduce with what is UNSC.
**Body.** Issue of permanent membership. Importance for India.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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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.

### 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.

**Importance of permanent seat in the council to India:**
1. By inclusion into UNSC as permanent member India will be able to tackle China more comprehensibly.
2. India will be able to work better for its interests.
3. India's presence as a permanent member will be an acknowledgment of its rise as a global power, ready to play a key role in the council's objectives of international peace and security.
4. India will be able to enjoy the 'prestige' associated with the permanent membership of the council.
5. It will help in India to get involved more at international platform and will help its diplomatic missions.

Thus India's entry as permanent member is important not only for India but also for whole world for better distribution of powers. This demand comprehensive UNSC reforms.

**Q.25) Critically examine the success of anti-defection law in India. Highlight its relevance in multiparty parliamentary system.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
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| **Introduction.** Contextual introduction. |
| **Body.** Examine defection and anti-defection law. Importance of anti-defection. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

The anti-defection law was passed in 1985 through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act. It added the Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution. The law was framed in 1985 with the intent of combating the evil of political defections, unfortunately it led to several unanticipated consequences.

**How anti-defection law failed?**

1. **Loss of independence:** Anti-defection has led to loss of independence of an average legislator.
2. **Reduced accountability:** It prevents parliamentarians from changing parties that has led to reduced the accountability of the government to Parliament.
3. **Against dissent:** The law prevent dissent against party policies. Thus, it interferes with the member's freedom of speech and expression.
4. **Unbridled power to presiding officer:** The defection cases are decided by the presiding officer of the House concerned; whereas, in other matters of disqualification, decision making power rests with the President or the Governor of State. The impartiality of presiding officer is not always guaranteed.
5. **No respite in case kept pending:** A party aggrieved by the decision of the presiding office may approach the court. However, if the presiding officer does not dispose the matter and keeps it pending, the aggrieved fails to seek the aid of court.
6. **Puppet of political party:** It destroys the spirit of liberty and lead to the practice of puppetry within the party system in a parliamentary democracy.
7. **Prevent discussions and debates:** It prevent members to speak up their mind, thus leading to less discussions and lesser healthy debates and solutions in parliament.
8. **No incentives:** Due to lack of accountability and limit on speech and expression MPs/MLAs find no incentives to research and understand policies and to find solutions to various issues.

**Relevance of anti-defection law in Parliamentary democracy:**

1. It is important is to keep a check on corruption/horse trading in parliament, thus curbing the popular phenomenon of "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram " in the Indian polity of 1960s.
2. It prevents shifting of party allegiance by the members. Thus it provides stability to the government.
3. It promotes party discipline by ensuring that the elected candidates remain loyal to the party.
4. It has the advantage ensuring loyalty to party manifestos and thus make political party collectively responsible.

Thus, politics of defection calls for a relook. The thrust to tackle the problem of defections in Indian politics led towards the birth of an anti-defection law. The efficacy of defection is still haunting the polity.

**Q.26) Discuss salient features of draft National education policy. How does it ensure better learning and critical thinking?**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Salient features of NEP. How it ensure critical thinking and learning.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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The draft of New National Education Policy has been recently submitted by the Committee led by the Chairman Dr. Kasturirangan on education policy. The policy aims at making India a knowledge superpower by equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge.

**Key features of the draft Policy:**
1. The draft Policy recommends developing a two-part curriculum for early childhood care and education.
2. The draft Policy recommends extending the RTE Act to include early childhood education and secondary school education. This would extend the coverage of the Act to all children between the ages of 3 to 18 years.
3. It recommends that there should be no detention of children till class eight.
4. The current structure of school education must be restructured on the basis of the a 5-3-3-4 design comprising:
   - five years of foundational stage (3 years of pre-primary school and classes 1 and 2),
   - three years of preparatory stage (classes 3 to 5),
   - three years of middle stage (classes 6 to 8), and
   - Four years of secondary stage (classes 9 to 12).
5. The draft Policy recommends that multiple public schools should be brought together to form a school complex. Teachers should be deployed with a particular school complex for at least five to seven years.
6. For teacher training, the existing B.Ed. programme will be replaced by a four-year integrated B.Ed. programme that combines high-quality content, pedagogy, and practical training.
7. The draft Policy recommends separating the regulation of schools from aspects such as policymaking, school operations, and academic development. It suggests creating an independent **State School Regulatory Authority** for each state that will prescribe basic uniform standards for public and private schools.
8. It proposes setting up the **National Higher Education Regulatory Authority (NHERA)**. This independent authority would replace the existing individual regulators in higher education, including professional and vocational education.
9. Higher education institutions will be restructured into three types:
   - research universities focusing equally on research and teaching;
   - teaching universities focusing primarily on teaching; and
   - Colleges focusing only on teaching at undergraduate levels.
10. It recommends establishing a **National Research Foundation**, an autonomous body, for funding, mentoring and building the capacity for quality research in India. The Foundation will consist of four major divisions: sciences, technology, social sciences, and arts and humanities.
11. Recommends development of a **Continuous Professional Development programme** and introduction of a permanent employment (tenure) track system for faculty in all higher education institutions by 2030.
12. It recommends creation of a **National Education Commission or Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog**, as an apex body for education, to be headed by the Prime Minister. This body will be responsible for developing, implementing, evaluating, and revising the vision of education in the country on a continuous and sustained basis.

13. The Draft Policy reaffirmed the commitment of spending 6% of GDP as public investment in education.
14. It recommends **National Mission on Education through information and communication technology** that will include virtual laboratories which will provide remote access to laboratories in various disciplines. A **National Education Technology Forum** will also be setup under the Mission, as an autonomous body, to facilitate decision making on the induction, deployment and use of technology.
15. For vocational education it recommends:
    - Higher Education Institutions to offer vocational courses that are integrated into the undergraduate education programmes.
    - National Committee for the Integration of Vocational Education.
16. Establishing an **autonomous Central Institute of Adult Education**, as a constituent unit of NCERT, which will develop a National Curriculum Framework for adult education.

**National Education Policy and Critical thinking:**
Critical thinking is the process of active and skilful application, analysis, and evaluation of information gathered from, observation, experience, reasoning, or communication into actions. Draft NEP promote this through:
- 3 language formula developing multi-lingual skills in child.
- Lesser burden of curriculum through its reorganisation.
- Focusing on research in higher education.
- Restructuring of board exams providing options to students to choose from subjects.
- Liberal training that will develop a broader perspective in a child.
- Teacher training with a focus on their holistic development.
- Improved learning through a desirable student-teacher ratio of not more than 30:1.
- National Education policy holds a potential to improve Indian education system but it will require political will and government spending.

**Q.27) "RTI has been able to strengthen the movement for transparency and accountability in India". Discuss.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
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| **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction. |
| **Body.** An example of successful RTI. How it ushered transparency and accountability? |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

Transparency and accountability in administration is the sine qua non of participatory democracy. Right to information (RTI) ensured participation of Indian citizens in political and economic processes leading to good governance. Many cases have shown that RTI enabled more accountability and transparency in government administration.

**A case study reflecting how RTI enabled accountability and transparency?** In Rajasthan's Bikaner district ration shops were selling grains in the black market. Villagers used the Act to get all records of their ration shop in the village and exposed how grains meant for the poor were being black-marketed at a ration shop in Bikaner. After the move, the villagers got the

dealer removed. Besides losing dealership, the ration shopkeeper was also forced to pay poor families in the village the cash equivalent of the grains he had sold illegally.

## How RTI enabled a culture of accountability of transparency in Indian democracy?
1. **Increased responsiveness:**
   - The greater the access of the citizen to information, led to increased responsiveness of government to community needs.
   - Earlier government was less or not responsive to citizens' needs and grievances.
   - RTI enabled tracking of any project or policy through information at time.
2. **Awareness of rights:**
   - RTI has led to awareness of rights and responsibilities as citizens among people. This led to increased accountability of officials through RTI and litigation.
3. **Discharge of duties:**
   - Information through RTI has led to legitimate discharge of their duties by officers.
   - It raised the standards of public services.
   - Through information in public officer do their duty more diligently for not getting penalised.
4. **Led to Culture of obligation:**
   - Earlier information was protected by the colonial secrets Act 1923, which makes the disclosure of official information by public servants an offence.
   - RTI has developed obligation at village, district, state or national level to disclose information to the people.
   - Thus it enhanced transparency among various government bodies at all levels of the government.
5. **Empowered poor communities:**
   - RTI empowered poor communities to raise their voices on basis of information and demand for their rights from government.
   - This ensured government being answerable to poor.
   - This led to transparent approach towards working for poor communities.
   - It plugged incidence of corruption and plugged leakages.
6. **Proper grievance mechanism:** RTI provided for Central and the State Information Commissions to hear grievances related to RTI. These commissions have played an important role to play in the effective implementation of the Right to Information Act, 2005 ensuring its proper implementation.
7. **Informed Citizenry:**
   - Democracy requires an informed citizenry and transparency of information which for its functioning.
   - RTI enabled healthy democracy and also contained corruption and hold Governments and accountable to the people.

Though RTI has led to more accountability and transparency, the transformative power of the Act is yet to be fully realised. The citizens, the Government, the media and the civil society need to address several constraining factors to ensure a more effective and equitable implementation of the Act. Some of the constraints in the effective implementation of the Act

include lack of adequate public awareness, lack of proper system to manage and disseminate information, which need to be removed.

**Q.28) Discuss the role and importance of parliamentary committees in a democracy like India.**
**Ans.**

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| **Demand of the question** |
| **Introduction.** What are Parliamentary committees? |
| **Body.** Role and importance of Parliamentary committees. |
| **Conclusion.** Conclude. |

The Parliamentary committees are established to study and deal with various matters that cannot be directly handled by the legislature due to their volume. They monitor the functioning of the executive branch and provide legislature with various policy input, playing an important role in Indian democracy.

**Role and Importance of Parliamentary Committees in Indian democracy:**
1. **Lawmaking:**
   - Due to large the volume of legislature, discussion of all the bills in parliament in detail is not possible.
   - Committees do a detailed discussion and analysis on a proposed law, thus enabling that every law is for benefit of citizens.
2. **Executive accountability**:
   - Parliamentary committees ensure executive accountability through scrutiny of public spending and various laws.
   - The Public Accounts Committee is concerned with the manner and results of spending public funds. It scrutinise the accounts and the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, thereby ensuring accountability of any misspending.
3. **Better informed discussions:** Committee allows members for a more meaningful exchange of views as against discussions in open Houses where party positions take precedence. This allows them to take better decisions on policies.
4. **Expertise:**
   - Committees allow use of input and suggestions of various expertise on subject matter of law thereby helping to formulate better policies and laws.
   - Changes in technology and the expansion of economy bring new policy challenges that require the assistance of experts in dealing with such situations. It is through these committees that such expertise is involved in lawmaking.
5. **Help in Economic growth:** The Estimates Committee do a detailed examination of the budget estimates. It suggest alternative policies to bring about efficiency and economy in administration.
6. **Scrutiny of public funds:** The Public Accounts Committee scrutinise the government accounts and the report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. Thus reduce chance of misspending and also validate government's spending statistics.
7. **Ensure better laws and rules:** The Committee on Subordinate Legislation scrutinise and report to the house about regulations, rules, sub-rules, bye-laws, etc., conferred by the Constitution being properly exercised within the limits of various provisions.

8. **Ensure answerability:**
   - The Committee on Government Assurances committee scrutinise the various assurances, promises, undertakings, etc., given by ministers, from time to time report on the extent to which such assurances have been implemented.
   - This ensure answerability of government to public enabling democracy in true spirit.

9. **Ensure participation of MPs:**
   - The Committee on Absence of Members considers all applications from members for leave of absence from the sittings of the House and examine every case where a member has been absent.
   - This ensure participation of each member in constructive lawmaking process and various debates and discussions.

Although parliamentary and cabinet committees are not a part of the Constitution they ensure healthy democracy and governance through scrutiny and better policies. They enable the cabinet and Parliament to take difficult decisions.

**Q.29) What do you understand by Parliament sovereignty? How Indian constitution check parliament sovereignty?**
**Ans.**

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Demand of the question
Introduction. What is parliamentary sovereignty?
Body. Various check by constitution on parliament.
Conclusion. Conclude.
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Parliamentary sovereignty means supremacy of the legislative body i.e parliament over all other government institutions including executive and judicial bodies. Sovereign legislature may change or repeal any previous legislation and is not bound by any written law like constitution. In India there is no parliament sovereignty rather there is constitutional sovereignty.

**Check to parliamentary sovereignty by various provisions of constitution:** Various check on parliament are:
1. **Written Constitution:** In India Constitution is written which put limitations on all organs of the state. Although parliament can amend constitution but it cannot supersede the written document. In UK, as there is no written constitution, the Parliament possesses legislative sovereignty. So any law passed by it cannot be questioned before any court on such grounds.
2. **Independent judiciary and Judicial review:** Judiciary is independent and the guardian of the Constitution. It can declare any law or ordinance passed by the legislature void, if any of its provisions violate one or more of the constitutional provisions.
3. **Federal structure:** Although constitution says India as a union of states, India is a federal polity. Various federal provisions especially some special powers for schedule area limit parliament powers where many parliamentary laws are applicable only on presidential and governor consent.

4. **Limited amendment power**: Parliament can amend most of the part of constitution but it cannot amend the 'basic features of the constitution'. Further some amendments need special majority and states' legislature resolution.

5. **Division of powers**: Schedule 7 divide law making power between centre and state. Parliament cannot make laws on state list. Any law in state subject would require state's consent through majority.

6. **Limit by Presidential vetoes:** A bill cannot become law without presidential assent. President can practice various veto powers like pocket veto that act as limitation on parliament sovereignty.

7. **Limited Doctrine of 'Separation of Powers':** In India there is no strict application of doctrine of separation of powers. So if the legislature encroaches into the functions of the other organs, judiciary can prevent it to do so.

8. **Bar on discussion of conduct of judges:** Article 121 and 211 of Indian Constitution states that no discussion shall take place in the Legislature of a state or in the Parliament with respect to the conduct of any judge of the Supreme Court or of the High court in the discharge of his duties. Thus legislature have no power to discuss judges conduct.

Thus Constitution being sovereign has balanced powers of parliament through sufficient checks and balance, needed to ensure democracy. It is successful in striving a balance between legislative, executive and judicial body.

**Q.30) Discuss the impact of US-China rivalry on India. How India should approach the two countries?**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Impact of China-US rivalry on India. How India should approach the two countries.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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World order is posed to change with emerging economies like China and India. The rivalry between the global power United States and rising China is increasing and is likely to deepen. It has intensified in past two years covering trade, technology, naval activities in the South China Sea, and diplomacy. This has enormous strategic implications for all including India.

**How US-China rivalry will impact India?**
1. **Relocation of Companies:** US tariffs are likely to induce foreign-invested companies to relocate from China. Vast majority of China's exports are still accounted for by foreign-invested companies. This may lead to companies moving to India. Recent Make in India initiative will boost this.

2. **Reduced Capital flows:** Due to China US rivalry, economies will go for Protectionist measures that will impact overall capital flows.

3. **Opportunity for India:** US-China rivalry offer an opportunity for India. India can become more competitive in segments such as textile, garments and gems and jewellery since India already has an edge.

4. **Weakening of rupee:** The rupee will be weaken more due to decreased capital flows. This will make imports costly but would help Indian exports which will become cheaper.

5. **Economic growth:** Current global economic order will be dismantled. Thus could impact India's exports and imports impacting its economic growth.
6. **Inflation:** This would reduce supply of finished goods and raw material which will increase the general price for the consumer. This would lead to inflation. Moreover, the burden of increased tax from the duties will also be borne by the final user.
7. **Indian stock markets:** Indian share market will go down as seen recently through drop in stock markets, due to the cautious approach of the investors. Also flow of foreign investment may be reduced.

**How India should approach US and China?**
Under present uncertain circumstances, there is a need for different plans suitable to different economic environments.

1. India should develop a balanced foreign policy outlook for both the nations focussing on its economic growth and development.
2. India should push US on visa reforms and on increasing foreign investment in India.
3. Strategic defence deals at lower price should be pushed using India's increased strategic significance in the region.
4. India should exploit this opportunity to emerge as new manufacturing hub by pushing US companies through better and easy regulations supported by labour reforms.
5. India should focus on the US market for items in the categories of machinery, electrical equipment, vehicles and transport parts, chemicals, plastics and rubber products. The supply chains in China for all these products are likely to shift to other economies.
6. India should correct its negative balance of trade with China through increased exports of pharmaceuticals and agricultural products to China, as the situation presents right time for India to further its cause.
7. India can focus on numerous goods for expanding its exports to the US and China markets following the hike in duties by both countries on imports from each other.
8. Foreign direct investments from the US and China should be encouraged by boosting confidence of firms in India's business climate. In the domestic industry, it is important for India to enhance productivity while adding technology to its domestic production in the identified products.

India is a major emerging power in the world. With present US-China rivalry it should not miss an opportunity to further its Make in India initiative and emerge as an export hub. What is needed is proper policy push and reforms in Indian market.

**Q.31) "Government's efforts and legal frameworks to prevent sexual harassment against women has not been much successful." Discuss.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Reasons for less impact of laws on sexual crimes against women.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Despite of enactment of various laws and rules like Sexual harassment at workplace, sexual harassment remains widespread across India. The underlying causes are complex. It is

undeniable that irrespective of how good the law maybe, sexual harassment still exists almost everywhere and mostly goes unreported.

**Reason behind inefficiency of laws and rules to prevent sexual harassment of women:**
1. **Under-reporting:** A recent report reveals that there is a 12% increase in the sexual offences. However these number are still very less as compared to crime in the country. Women still not report cases of sexual harassment due to fear of society and thus culprit roam around without being punished.
2. **Mindset:** Indian mindset is a major issue. People see sex still a taboo. Further patriarchal mindset downgrade women. Many women don't talk or report of sexual offence in starting which later become a major offence.
3. **Objectification:** Women are still viewed as a property and is seen as honour of husband especially in rural areas. Many women don't report sexual offence because of honour of family and husband. This lead to sense of confidence among culprit of not getting caught and punished and he further commits more crime.
4. **Non-supportive corporate sector:** Mostly companies are not supportive of Internal complaint Committee. It is primarily because the companies only take sexual harassment prevention as a compliance and not something which is vital for women at their workplace. They tend to ignore that even their top performing managers could be at fault too. They do not cooperate by supporting the victim to save their image.
5. **Loopholes in law:** Even law has a lot of loopholes. For example, under Sexual harassment at workplace act, the law states that there has to be an annual report that needs to be filed by companies, but there is no clarity with the format or filing procedure. The evidence to show that a company is compliant or not is also very subjective and needs clarity. The matter of non-compliance needs to be reported to a District Magistrate or district officer. In case of any absence, there is no clarity as to whom to approach next.
6. **Dilemma of Dignity vs. livelihood:** When a woman files a complaint about sexual harassment, she is labelled as impure at workplace and society by many and is often discriminated. Filing a complaint is not easy and it often comes at the cost of losing a job or being branded a trouble maker.
7. **Poor implementation of laws:** The Indian justice system has failed to investigate, prosecute, and punish the perpetrators and failed to provide effective redressal for victims. Especially state police attitude is not good in implementing laws against sexual crime. Many cases of misbehave with women by police has been reported.
8. **Lack of political will:** Many times sex crime against women is motivated politically to create an environment of tension and communal conflicts. E.g raping of Dalit by upper caste member. Politicians do not take action to keep their support of a community or sect for votes. Perpetrators are also rarely held accountable due to lack of political will.
9. **Lack of centralised database:** There exists no centralised mechanism to collect data on sexual harassment, which is why it is difficult to chart a trends analysis or pattern on harassment that women face.

#MeToo movement has moved the social media with women documenting their stories of sexual harassment, but this has to be followed by due process in order to build accountability of the state in protecting the rights of women.

**Q.32) Discuss various goals and function of UNAIDS. Why world needs a coordinated effort to prevent AIDS?**

**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Introduce with UNAIDS |
| **Body.** It's goal and functions. Why world need a coordinated effort? |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

Established by ECOSOC resolution, UNAIDS was officially launched in 1996. UNAIDS seeks to prevent the HIV/AIDS epidemic from becoming a severe pandemic. The mission of UNAIDS is to support an expanded response to HIV and AIDS.

**Goals and functions of UNAIDS:**

1. **Leadership and advocacy for effective action on the pandemic**: The aim of UNAIDS is to help and support an expanded response to HIV/AIDS. Promoting partnerships among various stakeholders and leadership for an effective action is one of its priority.
2. **Strategic information and technical support to guide efforts against AIDS worldwide:** UNAIDS strive on information and technical support. Addressing issue of stigma and discrimination is one such effort. Database utilisation is the main driver behind fighting against the epidemic.
3. **Tracking, monitoring and evaluation of the pandemic and of responses to it:** By monitoring the spread of the disease it allow various governments and stakeholders to develop a comprehensive response against HIV/AIDS. It sought to check epidemic by tracking various national targets and achievements and implementing success across the globe.
4. **Civil society engagement and the development of strategic partnership:** In particular, it calls for complementation of government efforts by the full and active participation of civil society, the business community and the private sector. It include:
   - Establishing and strengthening mechanisms that involve civil society including the private sector, and people living with HIV/AIDS at all levels.
   - Encouraging and supporting local and national organizations to expand and strengthen regional partnerships, coalitions and networks.
   - Full participation of people living with HIV/AIDS, those in vulnerable groups and people mostly at risk, particularly young people.
5. **Mobilisation of resources to support an effective response:** Through various governments at global, involving private sector, resources mobilisation is sought to achieve for an effective response.

**Need of coordinated effort across the globe against AIDS because:**

1. **Prevention of new infections:** A global effort is required to prevent new infections through proper check of migratory population, easy availability of drugs, awareness etc. Further global coordination is required to prevent refugees issues and restoration like Rohingyas. Migratory people are always at high risk of getting and spreading AIDS.
2. **Access to care:** In most of the developing countries and least developed countries treatment against HIV is very costly and inaccessible. Promotion of generic drugs is must at global level.

3. **Protection of human rights:** Social stigma and discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS still exist. This need awareness and coordinated efforts at global scale.

4. **Gender inequality:** Women across the world face discrimination at social and economic levels. Many a times, women living with HIV are reluctant to access health care due to fear of discrimination and marginalisation. There is need of global awareness and revolution like #MeToo to sensitise world.

5. **Database:** There is need of greater analysis of HIV data to prevent AIDS from turning into a pandemic. A global data with determination of hot pockets is necessary. Lack of integrated data systems limit its availability and use prevent efforts against AIDS. Migration to new places is increasing that increase the need of a database more to prevent AIDS.

6. **Removal of Infrastructural bottlenecks:** A global effort is needed to remove infrastructure bottlenecks especially in least developed countries. In recent years, there have been issues in the procurement, management and distribution of anti retroviral vaccines, HIV testing kits and other HIV commodities.

7. **Funding issues:** Ending HIV/AIDS require massive amount of funds. Funding to tackle the HIV epidemic need coordinations efforts especially by developed countries. The creation of a Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) and the slashing of prices of AIDS drugs are not sufficient. More is needed to invest in Research and development for finding cure against AIDS. Funding for non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations working on prevention has virtually dried up.

To combat HIV/AIDS there is need of a multi-sectoral and multilateral approach to the disease. It calls for an expanded global response. It is possible to halt the advance of the epidemic but this could be achieved only with the sustained mobilisation of the global community.

**Q.33) "The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 try to balance altruistic and commercial interests." Examine.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction. |
| **Body.** Altruistic objective of surrogacy bill over commercial. Issues in surrogacy bill. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 seeks to ban commercial surrogacy and intend to make it an entirely altruistic alternative, making surrogacy completely altruistic practice in India, with no emphasis on commercial interests. The Bill intend to prohibit the potential exploitation of surrogate mothers and to protect the rights of children born through surrogacy.

**How surrogacy bill seeks to achieve altruistic interest?**
- **Only altruistic surrogacy permitted:** Surrogacy is permitted when it is:
  - for intending couples who suffer from proven infertility;
  - altruistic purposes;
  - not for commercial purposes;
  - not for producing children for sale, prostitution or other forms of exploitation;
  - for any condition or disease specified through regulations.

- **Certificate for eligibility:** The intending couple should have a 'certificate of essentiality' and a 'certificate of eligibility' issued by the appropriate authority. Surrogate mother need to obtain a certificate of eligibility from the appropriate authority. Further, the surrogate mother cannot provide her own gametes for surrogacy. This would ensure genuine surrogacy practices.
- **Appropriate vigil authorities:** The central and state governments shall appoint one or more appropriate authorities within 90 days of the Bill becoming an Act. The functions of the appropriate authority include:
    - granting, suspending or cancelling registration of surrogacy clinics;
    - enforcing standards for surrogacy clinics;
    - investigating and taking action against breach of the provisions of the Bill;
    - recommending modifications to the rules and regulations.

Surrogacy clinics cannot undertake surrogacy related procedures unless they are registered by the appropriate authority. This will check commercial surrogacy.

- **Surrogacy Boards:** The central and the state governments shall constitute the National Surrogacy Board (NSB) and the State Surrogacy Boards (SSB), respectively. Functions of the NSB include
    - advising the central government on policy matters relating to surrogacy.
    - laying down the code of conduct of surrogacy clinics and
    - supervising the functioning of SSBs.
- **By removing situation of conflict:** A child born out of a surrogacy procedure will be deemed to be the biological child of the intending couple. An abortion of the surrogate child requires the written consent of the surrogate mother and the authorisation of the appropriate authority. Further, the surrogate mother will have an option to withdraw from surrogacy before the embryo is implanted in her womb.
- **Health of surrogate and mother:** The bill seeks to allow ethical altruistic surrogacy to the intending infertile Indian married couple between the age of 23-50 years and 26-55 years for female and male, respectively. A woman should be allowed to act as a surrogate mother only once and should be a close relative of the intending couple and should be an ever-married woman having a child of her own and between the age of 25-35 years. It will prevent exploitation of girls who were forced to enter into surrogacy business for money once they attain reproductive age.
- **Defined offences and penalty:** The offences under the Bill include:
    - undertaking or advertising commercial surrogacy;
    - exploiting the surrogate mother;
    - abandoning, exploiting or disowning a surrogate child; and
    - selling or importing human embryo or gametes for surrogacy.

The penalty for such offences is imprisonment up to 10 years and a fine up to 10 lakh rupees. The Bill specifies a range of offences and penalties for other contraventions of the provisions of the Bill.

**Some Concerns:**
1. Only Indian couples who have been legally married for at least five years would be allowed to opt for surrogacy, as per the bill. It is not mentioned that why should a couple have to wait for five years after marriage, and what is the definition of a legally married couple.

2. Past experience of anti-abortion laws suggest that complete banning on commercial activities may not be successful.
3. Infertility clinics will find legal loopholes or move surrogate mothers across borders. These activities expose surrogate mothers to great risks.
4. There is also the issue of in-vitro fertilisation and recruitment of surrogate mothers from other countries who would be implanted with the embryo in India by an infertility specialist, and then would be flown back to their own country.
5. It will be difficult for enforcement agencies to distinguish surrogate mothers in hospitals from other pregnant women.

In recent years, India has emerged as a surrogacy hub for couples from other countries.
There were multiple reports concerning unethical practices, exploitation of surrogate mothers, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy and rackets. Surrogacy Bill 2019 intend to stop these practices with an aim to make surrogacy completely an altruistic practice than a commercial business which it may fail to completely end. But it will surely put a check on commercial exploitation promoting altruistic cause.

**Q.34) Discuss salient features of RTI Act, 2005. What are various issues and loopholes in RTI act?**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Salient features of RTI act. Various issues and loopholes.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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Right to Information Act was enacted in 2005 with objective of enhancing transparency, accountability, containing corruption. Democracy requires informed citizenry which in turn is vital for its functioning, to hold government accountable to the people. RTI has tried to achieve these goals through access to information to citizens.
**Salient features of RTI Act, 2005:** Important features of the RTI Act are:
1. **Features that strengthened democracy:** Below features strengthened democracy through active participation of citizens:
   - 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.
   - Fee has been prescribed for seeking information to check fraudulent applications. However, persons below poverty line have been exempted from payment of fees.
2. **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.
3. **Features leading to accountability:**

- RTI Act provide for setting up of Central Information Commission and State Information Commission. These Commissions act as the Second Appellate Authority and also exercise supervision and monitoring over the functioning of Public Information Officers.
- Public authorities have to provide information as early as possible as but not later than 30 days (not later than 48 hours in the matters pertaining to life and liberty of an individual).
- In case of delay, the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission can impose a penalty. The Commission can also recommend disciplinary proceedings against the officials guilty of the not providing information with malafide intention.
- In case of denial or not providing proper information an appellate structure has also been provided. First appeal lies with the First Appellate Authority nominated by the Department while the second appeal lies with the Central Information Commission or State Information Commission.

**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. In order to service RTI requests, basic infrastructure such as photocopier machines at each Public Authority and basic level of connectivity is required.
5. **Low awareness level:** Awareness about RTI is yet very low. Nodal Departments in many states have not undertaken any substantial steps to promote the RTI Act. 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.
7. **Corporates not under RTI:** Corporate entities are not under the RTI Act. Apart from the fact that the corporate sector utilises money from the common public in the form of share capital a large number of entities in the private sector are performing functions similar to the public sector. E.g banking, insurance, telephony etc. where the private sector is performing functions similar to public sector.

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) "The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 is a much needed step for women empowerment." Discuss.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Import features of the bill. Why bill is important for women?
**Conclusion.** Conclusion.

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 makes declaration of talaq, including the written or electronic form, to be void and illegal. Talaq as talaq-e-biddat or any other similar form of talaq pronounced by a Muslim man results in instant and irrevocable divorce. Talaq-e-biddat refers to the practice under Muslim personal laws where utterance of the word 'talaq' thrice by a Muslim man to his wife results in an instant and irrevocable divorce.

**Some Important provisions of the bill:**
1. The Bill makes declaration of talaq a cognizable offence.
2. The Bill provides that the Magistrate may grant bail to the accused. The bail may be granted only after hearing the victim woman and if the Magistrate is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for granting bail.
3. Muslim woman against whom talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek subsistence allowance from her husband for herself and for her dependent children. The amount of the allowance will be determined by the Magistrate.
4. Muslim woman against whom such talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek custody of her minor children. The manner of custody will be determined by the Magistrate.

**A much needed step for women empowerment:**
1. The proposed Bill will protect the rights of women to live a life of dignity. Instant triple talaq is violative of Article 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution.
2. It provides the rights of subsistence allowance, ensuring women's economic rights
3. It will put an end to the suffering of Muslim women who have been at the receiving end of instant talaq for several years therefore leading to justice for Muslim women.
4. It will end gender discrimination faced by women in case of divorce, where only men was empowered to give instant talaq, thereby leading to gender equality.
5. It is a step towards uniform civil code as mentioned in Article 44 (directive principles) of the constitution and will ensure secularism.
6. The penal measure acts as a "necessary deterrent" and will strengthen women's confidence to raise their voice against other discriminatory practices. Muslim women will not fear of talaq while raising voice.
7. It will help in making civil society more sensitive towards women while recognising the rights of women.

8. Muslim Women will be empowered to access the opportunities available to them without fear and restriction of talaq.
9. It will allow Muslim women to participate in decision making related to her children and her life which was earlier curbed through fear of talaq.

**Some issues in the bill:**
1. No economic and socio-legal support is provided by the government in the Bill to women, children and other dependents, when the men are put behind bars.
2. The pronouncement of triple talaq having no legal consequences on the marriage means that such a proclamation by a Muslim man is essentially a desertion of the wife.
3. Subsistence allowance is not defined and is open to interpretation.
4. The Bill allows for the aggrieved woman as well as anyone related to her by blood or marriage to be the complainant. There is no provision for a relative to seek the consent of an aggrieved woman before filing a complain.
5. The terms of imprisonment up to three years is arbitrary and excessive.

Women empowerment provide power to women over their own lives contributing to the society, and in their communities freely. The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019 ensure this by removing fears, restrictions and empowering women by giving them their rights. But bill should be more clear wrt some provisions to prevent legal loopholes.

**Q.36) "Increasing drug menace across northern states in India need strict laws and coordination among various states." Comment.**
**Ans.**

| **Demand of the question** |
| :--- |
| **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction. |
| **Body.** Need of strict laws and state coordination. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

Drug abuse is one of the most serious health problems faced by the world today which not only destroys the person involved, but also his family, the society and the nation at large & lead to antisocial behaviour such as stealing, crime and violence. World Health Organisation defines Drug Abuse as the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive drugs, including alcohol and illicit drugs.

**Why India need strict laws?**
1. According to a survey by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, India has more than 70 million drug addicts. Different drugs are prevalent in different states of the country. This demand a targeted approach by recognising the most victimised state and pockets. E.g some states need to check cannabis usage while some states need to check heroine being sold online.
2. Drug abuse as an exclusively urban phenomenon is a myth. Drug abuse is more prevalent in rural areas especially among vulnerable groups like youth, street children, women, prisons, etc. Thus law and policies need to focus on these vulnerable groups and rural areas.
3. One of the major reasons for drug abuse is glorification in popular media such as television series and films. Quite often doing drugs are romanticised and some fictional

positive aspects of the same are shown. Thus a strict law is necessary to stop glorification of drugs by entertainment industry.

4. Rampant irregularities and torture of inmates are prevalent at de-addiction centres. Inmates are being ill-treated, subjected to sexual and physical torture. There are also unauthorised and illegally run centres. This hinder rehabilitation efforts. Strong laws and frequent inspections are necessary to stop such practices. Government must notify minimum standards for running de-addiction centres.

5. Also existing guidelines are sketchy. They do not elaborate administrative, clinical or human rights standards in managing drug dependence. It has produced greater confusions such as what constitutes treatment, who should deliver it and how.

6. Further reforms are needed in national drug control strategies, policies, laws and other important matters such as inclusion of all the stake holders in this matter. It is very important for the country to come up with a broad-based legislation/policy related to use of narcotic drugs and psychoactive substances.

**Why coordination among state is important?**

1. Proximity to the largest producers of heroin, the Golden Triangle (Southeast Asia) and Golden Crescent (Afghanistan - Pakistan & Iran) is one of the main reasons for drug trafficking in India. Additionally, Nepal is a also a traditional source of cannabis. This demand for coordination between different states bordering these countries to tackle drug menace.

2. India is both a destination and a transit route for drug traffickers. Thus state coordination is important to check the transit routes. These demand joint operations at inter-state borders, information sharing on drugs and drug dealers.

3. There is need of all states to share experiences and best practices in their respective campaigns. A closer collaboration is required to make the region 'drug free'.

Article 47 of the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution of India directs state to improve public health & endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption of intoxicating drinks & drugs which are injurious to health. What India need is better regulations and laws with state coordination to stop drug menace. A national policy focusing on these aspects should be formulated.

**Q.37) "Illegal organ trade is not only unethical but is a serious crime against humanity and society as a whole." Comment.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
|---|
| **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction. |
| **Body.** Issue related to illegal organ trade. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

The organ transplantation helped in saving many lives. In India, 'The Transplantation of Human Organs Act 1994' is the only legislation that regulate organ transplantation. But due to lack of implementation of policies and various loopholes organ transplantation has become a trade flourishing illegally. It impact society and is unethical endangering human rights.

**An unethical act against humanity and society:** Illegal organ trade not only jeopardise the holy cause of saving someone's life but it also endangers life of another healthy individual. It is highly unethical act as it lead to:

1. **Medical immorality:** Doctors are taught to save people's life. Illegal organ trade not only violate medical ethics, but also break trust between doctors and patients. Often doctors lure patients for money through wrong information or giving half knowledge about the effects of organ transplant on the donor.

2. **Issue of Consent:** Consent is the must for any organ donation activity. Donors must know all the implications of donating their body part. Illegal, forceful organ donation without knowledge of patient is a crime against humanity and violate human rights of life. It put life of donor in danger. The donor must be fully informed of the nature of the procedure and the possible complications.

3. **Impact on health:** The removal of the tissue or organ may impair the health of the donor. It may impact patient's immunity and put his life in danger. Many studies have found an increased threat of medical diseases like the transmission of HIV and the hepatitis B and C viruses associated with illegal organ donations. Donors do not receive follow-up care, due to financial and other reasons which endanger their life.

4. **Economic affects:** The money given to the recipient is lesser than he suffer. Sometime patients are ripped off from their organs without their knowledge without giving any amount of money. Research shows that the underlying motivation of most organ donors is poverty, and economic benefit after donation is limited or even negative because of the limited employability of such patients and the deterioration of their health.

5. **Human trafficking:** There is gap in demand and supply for organs. This lead to human trafficking from neighbour countries and in India for organ donation. Many women, men and child are kidnapped and are trafficked for illegal organ trade.

6. **Impact the most socially disadvantaged:** Organ donation is mainly done by donor due to economic needs. Mostly poor are the ones who bear the cost of illegal organ trade. Further, street children, women and migrants are always at the high risk due illegal organ business.

7. **Failure of state:** Illegal organ trade reflects administrative failure and failure of state to pull people out of poverty, who are forced for organ donation for money. This reflect failure of society as a whole.

8. **Affect the close ones:** Donating organ sometimes limit the ability of donor to do heavy work. This impact employability of donor impacting food and economic security of whole family. Also illegal organ trade don't involve the close relatives such as the spouse or adult children, of whom consent is also important.

**What should be done?**

1. India should adopt the Spanish system of "presumed consent" where everyone, post death, is considered as a donor unless one has opted out of the process during his life time. This will plug Demand supply gap.

2. Many organs can be easily transplanted from a brain dead person like kidney, eyes, lungs etc. Though retrieval of organs from brain dead persons was legalised in India in 1948, there are several hurdles before cadaver donation programme in India can be made successful.

3. An organ may be removed from the body of an adult living donor for the purpose of transplantation if the donor gives free consent. The donor should be free of any

influence and pressure and should be sufficiently informed about the risks, benefits, and consequences of consent.

4. No organ should be removed from the body of a living minor for the purpose of transplantation.

5. Giving or receiving payment (including any other compensation or reward) for organs should be prohibited.

6. Organs should be made available to patients on the basis of medical need and not on the basis of financial or other considerations.

Although organ transplantation is important to save human lives but there are issues involved in it. Illegal organ trade which endanger human rights should be strictly dealt by laws and regulations. Culprits should be punished. Further a collective effort of government, states, civil society is required.

**Q.38) "Uniform Civil Code is essential to promote national harmony." Critically analyse. Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Introduce with article 44.
**Body.** Argument in favour and against uniform civil code.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

In India, different communities are governed by different Personal laws. Article 44 of the Constitution says that, "The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens uniform civil code throughout the territory of India." UCC can promote justice, gender equality and national integration and it will simplify the cumbersome legal matters governed by personal laws.

**How Uniform Civil Code can lead to national harmony?**

1. **It will lead to equality:** India is a secular democracy. A common civil and personal law in India would ensure equality among all its citizens, irrespective of their religion, class, caste, gender etc. Thus UCC will lead to equality in society.

2. **It will prevent gender discrimination:** Personal laws of almost all religions are discriminatory towards women. Men are usually granted upper status in personal laws. Uniform civil code will bring both men and women at par and would reduce atrocities against women. It will promote gender equality and welfare of women.

3. **It will promote justice**: UCC can promote justice by incorporating similar laws for all citizens. It will help in providing justice to the women. Also it will lead to social justice by promoting equality in the Indian society among various sects.

4. **Simplification of legal matters:** UCC will simplify the cumbersome legal matters governed by personal laws. In the absence of UCC judges interpret various provisions like maintenance in case of Muslim women according to their prejudices and opinion. The introduction of UCC will prevent such interference and promote Uniform provisions.

5. **It will promote national integration:** Indian citizens are equal before the court of law as the criminal laws and other civil laws (except personal laws) are same for all. With the implementation of Uniform Civil Code, all citizen will share the same set of personal laws. There will be no scope of politicisation of issues of the discrimination or

concessions or special privileges enjoyed by a particular community on the basis of their religious personal laws.

6. **Will lead to societal reforms:** Existing personal laws are mainly based on the patriarchal notions of the society in all religions. UCC is will remove such patriarchal notions by destroying their sanctity.

**Some issues wrt Uniform Civil Code:**
1. It is practically difficult to implement. Further to come up with a common and uniform set of rules for personal issues like marriage is not easy due to vast cultural diversity in India across the religions, sects, castes, states etc.
2. Such a code, in its true spirit, must be brought about by making gradual changes. UCC can only emerge through an evolutionary process, preserving India's rich heritage.
3. The codification and implementation of UCC may not necessarily usher in the expected equality among genders and religions.
4. It would lead to widespread protests and will hamper stability of the nation.

In the absence of any consensus on a uniform civil code the best way forward is to preserve the diversity of personal laws, at the same time ensuring that personal laws do not contradict fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India. Enactment of Uniform civil code should be more gradual process leading to a better society.

**Q.39) Discuss the role of speaker of Lok of sabha in ensuring Parliamentary democracy in India.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.<br>**Body.** Role and function of speaker in lok sabha in parliamentary democracy.<br>**Conclusion.** Contextual conclusion. |

India is a parliamentary democracy where the Parliamentary proceedings are headed by the Speaker in the lok sabha. A parliamentary democracy is a system of government in which citizens elect representatives to a legislative parliament to make the necessary laws and decisions for the country. In a parliamentary democracy, the Speaker represents the dignity and the freedom of the House and the country's freedom and liberty.

**Role and functions of Speaker of the Lok Sabha in a Parliamentary democracy:**
1. **Ensure smooth proceedings of the house:** The Speaker presides over the meetings of the Lok Sabha and conducts its proceedings. He also presides over the joint sittings of the two Houses of the Parliament. Therefore it enable parliament to successfully carry over the debates and passage of important laws.
2. **Maintain discipline in the Lok Sabha:** The Speaker maintains discipline in the House. If any member disrupts or tries to disrupt the proceedings of the House, the Speaker can warn him or can ask him to leave the House. He can suspend a member from the House whom he finds guilty of violating the discipline and decorum. This ensure smooth functioning of lok sabha.
3. **Fix the Agenda of the House:** The Speaker, in consultation with other members of the business committee of the House and the Prime Minister, fixes the agenda of the

meetings of the House. This ensure timely debates and discussion on important issues of the country.

4. **Permission to ask questions:** Each member of the House can put questions to the ministers; the permission of the Speaker is required purpose. This helps the speaker to prevent unnecessary and politically motivated questions while ensuring discussion on the important questions.

5. **Conduct the business of the House:** The Speaker conducts the business of the House. He allows the members to introduce the bills or to move motions. He recognises the members on the floor of the House and gives them time for speaking in the House. He fixes time limit for the debates in the House, puts matters to vote, and announces the results. He can warn the members against the use of un-parliamentary language and can order the same to be expunged from the records.

6. **Interpretation of Rules of Procedure:** The business of the House is conducted according to definite and settled rules of procedure. In case of any dispute regarding the rules of the House, the Speaker interprets and applies these rules. The interpretation of rules made by the Speaker is final and cannot be challenged.

7. **Power to adjourn the House:** The Speaker can adjourn the meetings of the House if the quorum of the House is not complete or if the conducting the business of the House is not possible due to a disorderly behaviour of its members. This ensure presence of members in the parliament; performing his/her duties as mandated by citizens by electing him/her.

8. **Decision about a Money Bill:** If a dispute arise over the question as to whether a bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision is made by the Speaker. Such a decision is final and cannot be challenged inside or outside the House.

9. **Casting Vote:** The Speaker does not participate in the debates and discussions of the House. He even does not take part in the voting on bills. Although as a member he has the right to vote. In case of a tie over any bill, he can exercise his casting vote, thereby contributing to important legislations.

10. **Protect Privileges of the Members of the House:** The members of the House enjoy several privileges which are protected by the Speaker. The Speaker acts as the guardian of the privileges of the MPS and the House.

11. **Role regarding the Committees of the House:** The Speaker plays an important role in the composition of the Committees. He is the ex-officio Chairman of some of the important committees such as Business Advisory Committee, Committee on Rules and few others.

Thus, the Speaker plays the crucial role of ensuring that the Parliament carries forward its role of legislation peacefully, maintaining harmony in the Houses of Parliament and taking crucial procedural decisions of the House. The Speaker is thus, considered as the true guardian of the Indian Parliamentary democracy, holding the complete authority of the Lok Sabha.

**Q.40) What is Judicial activism? Critically analyse the role of judicial activism in Indian democracy.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** What is Judicial activism.
**Body.** Importance of Judicial activism in India. Issues of Judicial activism.

**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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

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

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

In India judicial activism has played an important role in keeping democracy alive. Pronouncements like Keshavnanda Bharti case, Minerva Mill Case etc has helped in keeping all the organs of government in balance and help in keeping society healthy and progressing.

**Q.41) "Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution has failed to prevent defections."
Analyse.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Introduce with mention of 52nd amendment act. |
| **Body.** 10th schedule provisions. Discuss issues of 10th schedule. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

The anti-defection law was passed in 1985 through the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act. It added the Tenth Schedule to the Indian Constitution. The law was framed with the intent of combating the evil of political defections. Unfortunately it has failed to do so.

**Provisions for Disqualification in 10th schedule:**
1. **Members of a Political Party:** A member of parliament or state legislature can be disqualified on the following grounds:
   - When voluntarily resign from his party or disobey the directives of the party leadership on a vote.
   - When does not vote/abstains as per party's whip. However, if the member has taken prior permission from the party within 15 days from such voting or abstention, the member shall not be disqualified.
2. **Independent Members:** If a member has been elected as "Independent", he/she would be disqualified on joining a political party.
3. **Nominated Members:** Nominated members who were not members of a party could choose to join a party within six months. After 6 months on joining a political party member will be disqualified.

**How 10th schedule has failed to prevent defections?**
1. **Open to interpretation:** The law is open to considerable interpretation, and many times the bias of the Speaker leads to confusion, often resulting in litigation.
2. **Unbridled power to speakers:** 52nd Amendment act introduced the provision that questions of disqualification on ground of defection shall be decided by chairmen and speakers of the legislative bodies. The intention was to have speedier adjudicative processes under the Tenth Schedule. This has led to unchecked powers to speaker.
3. **New mode of defections:** Defections numbering more than one-third of the party's strength were considered to be legal. Earlier, the 'aaya Ram, gaya Ram' phenomenon had created an alarming level of political instability. Now, a new phenomenon is at play. MLAs belonging to defeated parties have started migrating in large number to winning parties. This means parties that lose elections are all but wiped out of legislative bodies. The mass exodus of MLAs to victorious parties shows that they have no respect for the anti-defection law.
4. **Not able to prevent defections:** There have been instances where after the declaration of election results, winning candidates have resigned from their membership of the House as well as the party from which they got elected and immediatel joined the political party which has formed the government. They again contest from that political party, which appears to be a fraud and goes against the spirit of the democracy and 52nd constitutional amendment.

**Some issues related to anti-defection law:**
1. **Loss of independence:** Anti-defection has led to loss of independence of an average legislator.
2. **Reduced accountability:** It prevents parliamentarians from changing parties that has led to reduced the accountability of the government to Parliament.
3. **Against dissent:** The law prevent dissent against party policies. Thus, it interferes with the member's freedom of speech and expression.
4. **No respite in case kept pending:** A party aggrieved by the decision of the presiding office may approach the court. However, if the presiding officer does not dispose the matter and keeps it pending, the aggrieved fails to seek the aid of court.
5. **Puppet of political party:** It destroys the spirit of liberty and lead to the practice of puppetry within the party system in a parliamentary democracy.
6. **Prevent discussions and debates:** It prevent members to speak up their mind, thus leading to less discussions and lesser healthy debates and solutions in parliament.
7. **No incentives:** Due to lack of accountability and limit on speech and expression MPs/MLAs find no incentives to research and understand policies and to find solutions to various issues.

Anti-defection law aimed at bringing down the political defect but due to ever increasing political dishonesty and corruption this law never evolved properly. Politicians found loopholes in this law and used it for their own benefit. It is high time to revisit the issue to combat the menace of corruption and defection which has eroded the values of democracy. Anti-defection law should be amended to prevent mass defections and should be flexible to allow genuine dissent.

**Q.42) "Medical Commission Bill, 2019 seeks to ensure transparency and better medical standards." Discuss.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Introduce with issues of MCI.
**Body.** Key features and issues of the bill. It's significance.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The Medical Council of India (MCI) established under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, maintain standards of medical education, give approval to establish medical colleges and medical courses. 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.

**Key Features of the Bill for better medical standards and transparency:**
- **National Medical Commission:** The Bill sets up the National Medical Commission (NMC) which will consist of 25 members. Functions of the NMC are:
  - Framing policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals.
  - Assessing the requirements of healthcare related human resources and infrastructure, and

- Framing guidelines to determine fees for up to 50% of the seats in private medical institutions and deemed universities.
- **Autonomous Boards:** Four autonomous Boards have been set up under the supervision of the NMC. These boards will formulate standards for various medical courses and will regulate professional ethics of the doctors.
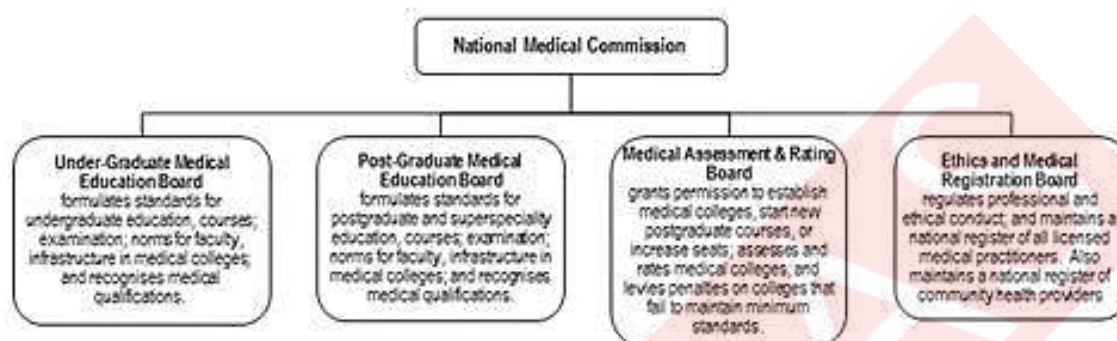


- **Medical Advisory Council:** The central government will constitute a Medical Advisory Council through which the states/union territories can put forth their views and concerns before the NMC. Further, the Council will advise the NMC on measures to enable equitable access to medical education.
- **Qualifying examinations:** There will be a uniform National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test for admission to under-graduate and post-graduate medical education in all medical institutions regulated by the Bill.
- **National Exit Test:** The Bill proposes a common final year undergraduate examination called the National Exit Test for the students graduating from medical institutions to obtain the license for practice. The National Exit Test will also serve as the basis for admission into post-graduate courses at medical institutions. This will help in reducing shortage of specialist doctors.
- **Community health providers:** The Bill states that the NMC may grant limited license to certain mid-level practitioners connected with the modern medical profession to practice medicine in primary and preventive healthcare. This will ensure healthcare services in rural areas.
- **Appeal on matters related to professional and ethical misconduct:** State Medical Councils will receive complaints relating to professional or ethical misconduct against a registered medical practitioner. If the medical practitioner is aggrieved of a decision of the State Medical Council, he may appeal to the Ethics and Medical Registration Board.

**Significance of the NMC Bill:**
1. It will help commission to regulate medical education and practice in India leading to better medical standards.
2. It will address the issue Corruption in medical education through transparent appointment to the commission.
3. It will help in reducing shortage of medical professionals by giving license to community health providers.
4. It will ensure ethical standards in the medical practice through Ethics board.
5. It will rationalise fees in private medical colleges thereby making medical education more affordable.

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

National medical will seek to set better medical standard ensuring transparency. It is need of the hour to replace old aged medical council of India which is facing various issues.

**Q.43) Discuss the role and function of National Commission for Minorities in India. Do you think it needs more power to ensure social justice to Indian Minorities?**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction. |
| **Body.** Role and function of NCM. Limitations of NCM. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

For minorities, Constitution of India has envisaged a number of rights and safeguards in Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State policy and also the Fundamental Duties. National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 in order to provide social justice to various minorities in India.

**Role and function of National Commission for Minorities:** It is a forum for appeal, set up to safeguard the rights and interests of India's minority communities. The NCM Act lists 9 functions of the Commission:
1. To evaluate the progress of the development of minorities under the Union and states.
2. To monitor the working of safeguards provided in the Constitution and in union and state laws.
3. To make recommendations for effective implementation of safeguards for the protection of minority interests.
4. To look into, and take up, specific complaints regarding deprivation of rights and safeguards of minorities.
5. To get problems of discrimination against minorities studied, and recommend ways to remove them.
6. To conduct studies, research, analysis on socioeconomic and educational development of minorities.
7. To suggest appropriate measures in respect of any minority to be undertaken by central or state governments.
8. To make periodic or special reports to the Centre on any matter concerning minorities; especially their difficulties.
9. To take up any other matter that may be referred to it by the central government.

**Issues and Limited powers of National Commission for Minorities:**

- The appointment to commission lacks transparency. There's no prescribed selection process for making appointments with arbitrarily picking up of names from a list suggested by the nodal ministry.
- NCM is a statutory body under National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992. It lack powers:
  - To inquire, suo moto, or on a representation presented to it by a member of any of the notified minority communities regarding any atrocities.
  - To investigate and use the services of any investigation agency of the central government or any state government.
  - To intervene in any proceeding including related to violation of constitutional safeguards of the minorities pending before a court with the approval of such court.
  - To visit any jail or any other institution under the control of the state government, where members of notified minority communities are detained or lodged.
- Functioning of NCM and also the operations of state minority commissions are dependent on central and state governments. Its entire work is dependent upon the goodwill of government.
- Growing number of commissions have overlapping mandate, thereby reducing the scope of NCM. For example, the formation of new Commission on Linguistic Minorities cut into the work of NCM, which was restricted to only religious minorities.

What required is to accord powers to NCM so that it can look into the matters related to its work area freely. NCM should be given a constitutional status and should be allowed to inquire into specific complaints with respect to deprivation of rights and safeguards of minorities, and to investigate and monitor all matters regarding safeguards provided for minorities under the Constitution or under any law.

**Q.44) What do you understand by asymmetric federalism? Discuss the importance of asymmetric federalism in India.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** What is asymmetric federalism?
**Body.** Asymmetric federalism in India. Importance of asymmetric federalism in India.
**Conclusion.** Contextual conclusion.

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

**Asymmetric federalism in India:**

1. **Special position of Kashmir:** During independence majority of population in the Kashmir valley was Muslim. State acceded to the Indian Union under special terms, which were subsequently incorporated in the Article 370 of the Constitution. This article provided the state with a unique position in the Indian Union, with its own

constitution. Specifically, the jurisdiction of the Centre was restricted to foreign affairs, defence and communications, with the state's legislature having residuary powers.

2. **Northeastern hill states:** In north-east there is a distinct difference in ethnicity from the rest of India. Several divisions are based on culture and other traditions. Most of these states were upgraded from the status of Union Territories. In Article 371 special powers are accorded to northeastern states. The safeguards provided to these states through these 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. State legislatures are typically given final control over changes in these provisions.

**Importance of asymmetric federalism in India:**

1. **Secure rights:** These special provisions in the Constitution help in protecting fundamental rights, and compensate for initial inequalities in the social system.

2. **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.

3. **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'.

4. **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

5. **Reduce radicalisation:** Special powers given to the state of Jammu and Kashmir help in reducing radicalisation. The state of Jammu and Kashmir was given special power because the state though include several diverse population, but the majority of the population of the state is Muslim, and the state was also near the new country "Pakistan' which is a major 'Muslim' country.

6. **Better representation in democracy:** It has helped in providing representation to minority areas and areas with less population providing them justice.

The unequal status between various states gives 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.

General Studies 3

**Q.1) Crypto-currencies are expanding its tentacles. Discuss it's concerns.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Write about cryptocurrency.
**Body.** Various issues of cryptocurrency.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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Facebook announced new global digital currency, Libra. Monetary policymakers should be worried, as they may find it **much harder to control** unemployment and inflation in a Libra world. In the first quarter of 2019, Facebook had 2.38 billion monthly active users. Libra could, therefore, become a dominant global currency—but one **run by a corporation, not a central bank.**
Cryptocurrency is a user-friendly technology and have a transaction cost of virtually zero.

**Concerns-**
1. **Privacy Concerns-** The privacy of users' data is at stake. There is concern regarding privacy of users data in using cryptocurrencies as all the transaction information is stored in distributed ledger (called blockchain), which is publicly visible. Thus Hacker can easily observe how the money flows.
2. **High Volatility-** The price of Bitcoin suddenly rose to almost $20,000 and then dropped to $6,000. Due to such incidents, it is complicated for the investors to trust the ecosystem.
3. **Cybersecurity Concerns**- Cryptocurrencies are prone to cybersecurity breaches and hacks. Various attacks are common, even companies and governments are not full proof to them. For example, the *Swiss blockchain company, Trade.io,* has recently reported that crypto tokens worth almost $8 million have been stolen from their cold wallet.
4. **Dark activities -** The possibility that the new money will nurture illicit activities and markets like drug selling, weapons etc through darknet is always high using cryptocurrency anonymously. It also increase risk for being in various terrorist activities across the border.
5. **Monetary control and economic behaviour-** It could dramatically change global monetary policymaking. People will exchange their national currencies—dollars, euros, renminbi and rupees—for the new digital coin in order to buy and sell the many products that will be priced in it. This will further impact profit of banks and will put stress on their balance sheet.
6. **Inflation**- Governments and policymakers will have reduced ability to control inflation. Usually, when inflation picks up, central banks take steps to control it through various monetary rates. Cryptocurrency will be out of control of central bank so liquidity control will be an issue. Also the effectiveness of such policies could be vastly diminished if one of the biggest money-creating authorities is a private organization.

Most institutional structures and systems in the world economy—barter, banking, paper money, financial markets and so on—emerged through slow, evolutionary processes. Deliberate attempts to establish entirely new systems have usually given rise to unanticipated challenges.

The creation of the euro was one such planned act of economic engineering that had unforeseen consequences. Nations should be vigil.

**Q.2) India face shortage of doctors especially in rural areas. In this context self-care can be a solution. What is self-care? Discuss self-care in context of Indian population and healthcare issues.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Write about health care and define it.
**Body.** Enlist benefits of self-care especially in Indian context.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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India has only 10 lakh registered doctors to cater to 1.3 billion citizens. While urban areas have 58% qualified doctors, in rural areas the number is as low as 18.8%. In this context self-care can be a solution.
World Health Organization has recently issued the guidelines for self-care. Providing self-care to vulnerable populations implies a safe and supportive enabling environment and ensuring quality products and interventions are available outside of formal health systems.

**Self-care according to World Health Organization** is the ability of individuals, families and communities to promote, maintain health, prevent disease and to cope with illness with or without the support of a health care provider. It encompasses several issues including hygiene, nutrition, lifestyle, environmental and socio-economic factors.

**Benefits-**
- **Prevention is better than cure-** India is a tropical country, burden of communicable diseases are more. Self-care promote hygiene, better diet and prevention of diseases. Self-care not only prevent diseases to occur but also lead to better management of any disease and reduce chances of spreading of a disease due to clean hygienic habits, through better knowledge of diseases, symptoms and ways to control it. E.g. dengue, malaria can be controlled if people and community focus on keeping environment and surroundings clean and hygienic.
- **Infrastructure and Human Resources-** The availability of public health care services is abysmal. They lack good infrastructure, proper management, dedicated staff and many other things which are required to provide reasonable and appropriate healthcare. There is only one government allopathic doctor per 10,189. Out of 1 million doctors in the country, only 10% of them work in the public health sector (according to National Health Profile). Self-care would enable less diseases and taking care of illness either with or without help of professionals.
- **Affordability-** 38.2% of India's population is below the poverty. Our private healthcare services are expensive for them. Self-care would not only enable prevention but also less expenditure on medicines by strengthening traditional methods of care. Also it will increase savings that were being spent on treatment.
- **Better health decision making-** Users will have information, autonomy and the agency to make decisions about their own lives and health. Self-care empower individuals, families and communities for informed health decision-making and make use of available health resources and successful management of a health condition.

- **Health equity**- Serious health and human rights consequences arise where people are unable to access the proper health facilities. To ensure that human rights are promoted and protected self-care must be promoted. It is particularly relevant for vulnerable groups who may face discrimination and violence in their efforts to secure access to care and exercise their rights to health.

A just system of public health is must to reduce and ultimately eliminate inequalities in the social basis of well-being, which is defined by sufficiency in six dimensions. The six dimensions of well-being are: health, personal security, reasoning, respect, attachment, and self-determination. These dimensions are all relevant to user autonomy wrt decisions in healthcare. Self-care strengthen all these.

**Q.3) India is facing a situation of water crisis in coming times. In context of environmental challenges and increasing population of India, discuss the situation. How India should manage the developing crisis situation?**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| :--- |
| **Introduction.** Give some facts |
| **Body.** Write various issues. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward and solution. |

According to the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) report released by the Niti Aayog in 2018, 21 major cities (Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and others) are racing to reach **zero groundwater levels by 2020**, affecting access for 100 million people. Although India has made improvements over the past decades to both the **availability and quality** of municipal drinking water systems, its large population has stressed planned water resources and rural areas are left out. In addition, rapid growth in India's urban areas has stretched government solutions, which have been compromised by over-privatisation.

**Issues-**
- **Freshwater deficit-** India's water needs are dependent mainly on monsoon. Environmental changes and increasing population combined with lack of overall long-term availability of water resources is a cause of concern. While India's aquifers are currently associated with replenishing sources, the country is also a major grain producer with a great need for water to support the commodity. Lack of strict state regulation on groundwater development has caused a strain on the amount of freshwater available. This put enormous stress on limited water resources.
- **Unsafe and Poor quality-** Regardless of improvements to drinking water, many other water sources are contaminated with both bio and chemical pollutants, and over 21% of the country's diseases are water-related. Furthermore, only 33% of the country has access to traditional sanitation. This lead to unavailability of clean and drinking water and endanger Indian population health.
- **Groundwater stress-** Many rural communities in India who are situated on the outskirts of urban sprawl also have little choice but to drill wells to access groundwater sources. There is no easy answer for India which must tap into water sources for food and human sustenance, but India's overall water availability is under enormous stress.

- **Demographic needs-** Children in 100 million homes in the country lack water, and one out of every two children are malnourished. Environmental justice needs to be restored to India so that families can raise their children with dignity, and providing water to communities is one such way to best ensure that chance.
- **Corruption and lack of planning-** India's water crisis is often attributed to lack of government planning, increased corporate privatisation, industrial and human waste and government corruption. In addition, water scarcity in India is expected to worsen as the overall population is expected to increase to 1.6 billion by year 2050. To that end, global water scarcity is expected to become a leading cause of conflict in the future.

**Solution-**

- **Rain catchment programs-** As most of the water is displaced or dried up instead of used, rain catchment programs must be framed and put in place. Collected water can be immediately used for agriculture, and with improved filtration practices to reduce water-borne pathogens, also quickly available for human consumption.
- **Drip irrigation-** India is considered as exporter of water due to export of water guzzling agricultural crops like rice, sugarcane. As with all countries with large agricultural output, excess water consumption for food production depletes the overall water table. Drip irrigation reduce water wastage and also ensure food security.
- **Long-term planning-** Instead of relying on quick-fix proposals based on faulty logic, the city and state authorities should focus on addressing what underlies the actual problem. Reservoir depletion in general and a falling water table in particular. There should be government regulation, to curb the amount of groundwater a household can extract. This water should be metered and priced.
- **Mapping-** Indian cities have failed so miserably in mapping their groundwater reserves that a good policy framework is hard to adopt. Without a clue on how much water lies down there, neither can proper rules be framed nor prices be set. The National Project on Aquifer Management has begun taking tentative steps towards mapping large aquifers, but micro-level data of the kind that exists in some parts of Europe would be essential to the exercise.
- **Awareness-** More efforts to create awareness on water shortage, share knowledge of traditional methods of water storage and share information about individuals and NGOs working on water conservation is needed.
- **Farm ponds-** Farm ponds are constructed near the farming field. The rain water which runs off the ground are collected by these ponds. These ponds helps agriculture in dry lands.

There is a clear disconnect between water, society and economy. Currently, we are interested in laying large networks, constructing huge storage dams, fetching water from 150 kilometres and above, which involves a huge carbon footprint. We need to promote a decentralised approach, with a key focus on water conservation, source sustainability, storage and reuse wherever possible.

**Q.4) India is posed to become a $5 trillion dollar economy. Discuss various challenges and issues India face in achieving it.**

**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Give a contextual introduction.
> **Body.** Various challenges and issues wrt achieving the target.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Presiding over the 5th Governing Council meeting of NITI Aayog recently, Prime minister of India set a goal of $5 trillion for India's GDP by 2024, saying it is a difficult target but achievable. It will need India to grow annually at **12%** over the next 5 years. Achieving such an aspirational growth target calls for pulling all the economic growth levers- investment, consumption, exports, and across all the three sectors of agriculture, manufacturing and services.

**Various Challenges.**

1. **Shift in global trade pattern**- The **trade intensity** (ratio of global trade to global GDP) since the last financial crisis in 2008, has stagnated, in particular for merchandise trade from which developing countries have benefited for the last half century. However service trade, especially digitally enabled trade (both service and merchandise) where developed countries are advantaged, is growing much faster, which represents a major structural shift in global trade. Our growth strategies need to be built in preparation for this paradigm shift taking place in global trading pattern.

2. **Consumption slowdown**- Everything from car sales, two-wheeler sales, and tractor sales have been falling. People are clearly not spending money at the same pace as they were earlier. The government needs to increase its expenditure in this financial year and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) needs to cut the repo rate further. With private consumption slowing down, the government spending more will lead to increased income in the hands of people, and then they will spend more and economic growth will revive.

3. **Decreasing Savings**- At the same time, the government spending more means the government is borrowing more to finance the higher fiscal deficit. **Domestic Savings** are decreasing. In present scenario of around 33% saving rate, if the government decides to spend more, it will mean the government will have to borrow more. This will leave lesser for everyone else to borrow and push up interest rates. India need savings to be around **39%** to achieve $5 trillion status.

4. **Stressed Public sector banks**- The Public Sector Banks are driver of economic growth. They have been in a mess for some time now. As of 31 December 2018, the total bad loans of these banks amounted to ₹8.64 trillion. In the last two fiscal years, the government has invested ₹2.06 trillion into these banks to recapitalise them and to keep them going. Government will have to continue investing money in these banks in order to recapitalise them. The government also needs to prevent further accumulation of bad loans in the future.

5. **Lagging Exports**- In 2018-19, the exports of goods stood at $329.6 billion. Exports to GDP ratio in 2018-2019 stood at **12.09% of the GDP**. It was just about higher than the exports to GDP ratio of 11.78% in 2004-2005. This is a serious anomaly which needs to be set right. Also, India seems to be moving away from low-value exports.

6. **Shift in export nature-** India's export basket in recent years has shifted away from primary and traditional low value-added exports to higher value-added manufacturing and technology-driven items. India hasn't done well on front of low-value labour-intensive exports while **high-value skill oriented exports have done well**. In the recent past, we have lost out to other Asian countries. The new government needs to encourage labour-intensive exports at all costs. For starters, this means carrying out labour reforms, where the smaller firms aren't expected to follow the same rules as the larger ones.

7. **Loss-making PSUs-** Just after independence, India had only five central public sector enterprises (CPSEs). As of March 2018, there were 339 CPSEs. There are many loss-incurring CPSEs. **BSNL and Air India** are some examples. Any talk of selling or shutting down such companies creates a lot of criticism. There are many other small CPSEs, which make losses every year. They also don't employ many people like the bigger CPSEs. There is a lot of capital blocked in these companies. These companies and their can be sold, and money can be raised to build the better physical infrastructure that the country badly needs. Disinvestment by government is a right step.

8. **Agriculture distress-** The short-term reason for distress in agriculture has been falling food prices. There is a long-term reason also. In 2004-2005, agriculture, forestry and fishing, as a percentage of GDP, stood at around 21%. It has since **dropped to around 13.1%.** This means that people need to be moved away from agriculture and that is something which hasn't happened. Typically, as countries move from being developing countries to becoming developed countries, the farming labour first moves en masse towards low-end construction and real estate jobs, given that the skill set required for these jobs is very low. In India, that hasn't happened to the extent necessary.

9. **Environmental Concerns-** Indian cities are at top when it comes to air pollution rankings across the globe. Maintaining development with healthy environmental is a big challenge. India need to adopt sustainable measures to achieve sustainable growth and development. Green projects, green funding, implementation of Fame-India scheme, shifting to cleaner energy are right steps.

10. **Jobless and non-inclusive growth-** Although set to become a $5 trillion economy, India's recent growth story is non-inclusive. Jobless growth as was mentioned in economic survey is a big issue for India whose 23.6 % population is under poverty. Increasing automation, technological driven growth demand new skills and new jobs to be created for true inclusive growth and development.

Our economic development models are still very much geared to large scale **top-down approach**. We have to find innovative ways to identify, include and scale these development efforts in our national planning in the 21st century. There is an opportunity that the new government has to do a few things to resolve these challenges. Steps like **Skill India, Make in India, Saubhagya Scheme**, etc. will help India to achieve the feat facing these challenges, at an adequate scale. That's what India needs over the next five years.

**Q.5) The global automobile fleet is marching forward to wean away from fossil fuels. Critically analyse various issues and challenges in front of Indian automobile industry to shift to electric vehicles. How India can become a world leader in electric vehicles industry?**

**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Give a brief about the electric vehicle scenario.
> **Body.** Discuss various issues and challenges.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

According to the **Global Electric Vehicles Outlook** report released by IEA in 2017, the global electric car stock surpassed 2 million vehicles in 2016 after crossing the 1 million threshold in 2015, with similar trends in many nations. The **Vahan Dashboard website** of the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways shows that the total sale of all Electric Vehicles, including hybrids, saw an **impressive seven-fold increase in 2017.** India launched, **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicle (FAME) Scheme,** in 2015 with an aim to develop electric vehicles ecosystem in India. Also **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan** target of having 6-7 million electric vehicles by 2020.

**Issues and Challenges-**
1. **Taxes-** To incentivise electric vehicle sale government need to lower down registration price and taxes, which will not be an easy task and will put fiscal burden. Methods to mobilise funds and targeted subsidies should be explored.
2. **Charging infrastructure-** And the present level of charging infrastructure in India isn't encouraging. According to a **Bloomberg New Energy Finance report,** India currently has about 350 charging points, while China had about 215,000 installed at the end of 2016. Without adequate charging infrastructure, auto makers will not have the incentive to manufacture EVs. Consumers will not shift to EVs unless the very basic requirement of charging stations at regular intervals is met.
3. **Limited Range-** One of the largest disadvantages of EVs is their limited range, meaning they can run only for a fixed, limited distance on a single charge. This discourage customers to go for electric vehicles.
4. **Battery Cost and slow charging-** Two-wheelers have lead acid battery that takes longer to charge—8-9 hours. It also costs around Rs. 22,000 and has a warranty of only one year. Customers want shorter charging time and longer warranty period. This is a hurdle in electric vehicle sales.
5. **Vehicle Cost-** Average vehicle prices in India are very **low when compared globally**. For example, if we talk globally, people in US, EU would not mind spending around $35,000 on a new car. That figure is about $15,000 for people who buy a new car in China. But India, the average price of a car is less than $10,000. And therefore, people will be looking to buy an electric vehicle only when the prices of EVs will fall in that range.
6. **Lack of clear roadmap-** Although government has launched many initiatives and targets like FAME Scheme, it is **not clear how India will achieve it.** Manufacturers and sellers need **a single policy that laid out a roadmap for creating an EV ecosystem**, including charging stations and manufacturing and buying incentives.

7. **Lack of coordination-** It require not only a centre alone effort, **centre-state coordination** is must for implementation of any policy or target. Further **various departments and ministries** need to coordinate to make it feasible. E.g. EV charging station can be set up at petrol pumps which need coordination with oil ministry.

8. **Uninterrupted Electricity-** The government hasn't specified how it plans to generate uninterrupted electricity in cities, where power shortages are routine, let alone provide universal access to electricity in the hinterland.

**What the need to be done?**

1. An **electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure policy,** which will also allow individuals to set up charging station for commercial use to boost e-mobility is needed.

2. The government needs to implement **significant subsidy schemes** and put up mandates which will encourage car buyers to look at electric vehicles.

3. There should be a **good network charging infrastructure** across the country. **Private players** should be involved in this as well. Also, the state-owned utilities will need to invest in charging infrastructure as well although their financial health is not at par with state-owned electric utilities in other parts of the world.

4. **Factors** such as unreliable electricity supply, lack of co-ordination between different government levels and lack of demand for EVs keep private players away from investing in charging infrastructure should be taken care of.

India is trying to curb air pollution, strengthen energy security and mitigate climate impacts. Electric vehicles (EVs) provide these co-benefits. Official estimates show that India with ambitious EVs can save about 64 % of energy demand for road transport, 37 % of carbon emissions by 2030 and save $60 billion in diesel and petrol costs by 2030.

**Q.6) What is inheritance tax? Do you think it is need of the hour in India? Discuss various pros and cons of inheritance tax.**
**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question.**
> **Introduction.** Define inheritance tax
> **Body.** Discuss income inequality in India and need of Inheritance tax. Various pros and cons.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The World Inequality Report 2018 released by the World Inequality Lab says that income inequality in India has increased since economic liberalisation. It is in contrast to the earlier decades when inequality dropped under socialist policies.

**Need**

1. **Increasing inequalities-** Wealth and income inequality is high and is rising in India, particularly post-liberalisation. According to **Credit Suisse 2018 Global Wealth Report**, the richest 1% own 51.5%. In contrast, the bottom 60% of the population owns only a meagre 4.7% of it. The Gini wealth coefficient, in India has also gone up from 81.3% in 2013 to 85.4% in 2017, indicating a worsening of wealth inequality.

2. **Non inclusive growth-** Per capita income of Indians has been rising since liberalisation, but growth is not inclusive. An **inheritance tax coupled with associated**

**tax reforms**, can help in reducing the concentration of income and wealth in the hands of a few promoting and can address the distributional gaps.

3. **Income inheritance-** According to an **Oxfam survey in 2018**, the wealth of the richest 1% of the population increased by ₹20.91 trillion, equivalent to total budget of the central government in 2017-18. Moreover, 37% of Indian billionaires have inherited family wealth, and control 51% of the total wealth of billionaires in the country. The survey points out that 51 of a total of 101 billionaires are more than 65 years old and collectively own ₹10.54 trillion. If rising inequality is not properly monitored and addressed it can lead to various sorts of political, economic and social catastrophes.

**Pros**

1. **Revenue-** The biggest advantage of an inheritance tax is the revenue it provides for federal and state governments. Inheritance taxes provide revenue, which in turn government can use to fund projects various socio-economic schemes. An inheritance tax also allows governments to offer income tax breaks. This takes some of the tax burden off workers without forcing the government to cut spending or reduce services.

2. **Reduce fiscal burden-** If implemented well, can potentially help the government exchequer at a time when it has been scouting for additional sources of revenue to bridge the persistent gap between fiscal targets and outcomes. Recent policies on farm loan waivers, bank recapitalisation, universal health insurance, and the expansion of other social sector programmes will pose significant challenges in maintaining fiscal prudence.

3. **Progressive in nature-** Inheritance tax is a progressive tax. This means that it places a higher tax burden on wealthy individuals only. Thus it in a way help government to redistribute income in an economy reducing income inequalities.

**Cons**

1. **Difficult to evaluate-** Exact and justiciable tax value is not easy to achieve. It need proper data, study and market information to get a proper evaluation of assets. The costs of bringing in inheritance tax will also be higher per when compared to any other tax revenues. This is because the government incurs large levels of expense in the valuation of property and collection of the revenues.

2. **Can cause closure of businesses-** Losing businesses may close under burden of inheritance tax and inability to pay. Further it will create extra pressure on less profitable businesses and small businesses.

3. **Reduces available capital-** Even if a business is able to survive the inheritance tax, the amount that is owed will severely limit the amount of liquid cash the heirs will have available. This could force a potential bankruptcy or drive the company out of business over time because of the tax liabilities. In some cases, it could even be said that some of the income being taxed has already been taxed through other methods, creating a situation that is only beneficial to the government.

4. **Economic Impact-** One potential drawback of an inheritance tax is its ability to discourage savings and increase consumerism. Taxpayers may spend more and amass less in response to the higher tax rate. This will lead to inflation and difficult to manage. Further no one would be interested in creating assets and capital that would hamper economic growth.

5. **Secondary Tax-** Inheritance taxes fall under criticism for being a double tax. This is because much of the property or money inherited has already been taxed as earned income. Levying a second tax on the same property may appear unfair, especially in the case of estates that include little or no investment income.

6. **Loopholes-** Inheritance taxes may encourage taxpayers to search for loopholes to reduce or eliminate their tax burden. These loopholes may include gifting property in small amounts over an extended period of time or setting up joint ownership of property and bank accounts with family members. For governments that count on inheritance tax for revenue, these loopholes can present a gap between expected and actual revenue, contributing to a budget deficit.

**Way forward**

The rich and the middle class control a major share of the world's resources, which consequently is not available to the poor. They enjoy higher incomes from better jobs and investments. There is no inheritance tax in India, whereas the poor face high taxes on certain basic consumption goods. But Government needs to tread with caution and take a systemic approach. It have to look beyond taxes and ensure **social goods** — education and healthcare — for all in order to level the playing field. There requires imaginative public policy and a steady governance. Progressive taxation is essential to finance public investments in education or health for everybody but it is **just a mean and not the end**.

**Q.7) What is Green Budgeting? Do you think that it can help in tackling the problem of climate change?**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Define Green Budgeting. |
| **Body.** Various advantages. Significance. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

"Green budgeting" is the usage of the budget–taxes, spending and policy co-ordination– **to assess and promote the alignment** that is essential to meet environmental goals (OECD). It shows **financial outlays and tax policies** that have positive climate change impacts. It is not only about how much money is allotted to tiger or forest protection. It is more about **integrating it into every aspect of your economy** and ensuring there is no wasteful use of natural resources, ensuring a **transition to a low-carbon economy.**

**Various Advantages-**
1. **Sustainable development-** It lead to better usage of natural resources like lands, waters etc. and also provide the assurance that not only the present but the future generations are also hazard free and safe. The main idea of having the green accounting is to help understand the advantages of achieving traditional and desired economics goals in respect with environmental goals.
2. **Reduce fiscal deficit**- Integrating environmental information and better usage of natural resources, fines, taxes for dirty carbon provide increased Government resources and income and also reduce government spending on efforts to reduce air pollution. Also it help in better policies and better usage of government resources.
3. **Better Policies-** It increases the related information which is available for analysing key policy issues, especially when those vital and important pieces of information are often overlooked left unrecognised. This lead to better policies based on data in a wholistic and integrated manner.

4. **Research and development-** The Green accounting/budgeting helps to promote a sustainable future for businesses as it brings green research and development and green public procurement into the big picture.

5. **Integrated budget**- It include all the dimensions of sustainable development (ecological balance, social progress and economic growth) completely integrated in one single policy that is budget document. The major importance is given to non-economic targets such as percentage of reduction in carbon emission in a given year that the government expects to reduce. It **ensure coherence** of economic, social, sectoral, and environmental policies, and plans instruments, including fiscal measures and the budget.

6. **Better use of natural resources-** Unfortunately, the value and services that forests render are rarely captured in national accounting systems. The advantages of investing in our natural resources are many. For instance, the *Center for International Forestry Research* estimates that families living in and around forests derive an average of one-fifth to one-fourth of their income from forest-based resources.

**Way forward-**

India is considered to be one of the most vulnerable countries with various climate change danger like floods, drought, landslide, sea-level rise. Climate change will endanger our food security, agriculture, forests, water resources, marine biodiversity, coastal areas and coastal livelihoods. Green budgeting in India is thus quite relevant. Government can also create a Green Protection Fund (GPF) which could be used to protect existing wildlife, front-line forest protection force with better equipped, forest belts, free flowing of rivers without garbage and sludge, and better biodiversity protection.

**Q.8) India has contributed tremendously in space exploration. Do you think India should expand private player's role in its space industry? Critically analyse.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Write a contextual introduction.
**Body.** Need of privatisation of space. Benefits, and issues.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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India is among the global leaders in space exploration. ISRO has spearheaded India's success in space. From a modest beginning in the 1960s, India's space programme has grown steadily, achieving significant milestones. These include various satellite launch, space-launch vehicles, and a range of associated capabilities. But private sector has not contribute much to it.

**Why private sector should be involved in space industry?**

1. **Increasing Demand-** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s annual budget has crossed ₹10,000 crore ($1.45 billion) and is growing steadily. However, **demand for space-based services** in India is far greater than what ISRO can provide. With limited number of staff, it's difficult to meet the ever increasing demand from various stakeholders. Therefore, private sector investment is critical, for which a suitable policy environment needs to be created.

2. **Overall growth of space sector-** Private sector participation is needed to ensure overall growth of the space sector. ISRO has a strong association with the industry,

particularly with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and large private sector entities like Larsen and Toubro. But most of the private sector players are **Tier-2/Tier-3 vendors**, providing components and services. The Assembly, Integration and Testing (AIT) role is restricted to ISRO. Role of private industries should be increased.

3. **Very less global contribution-** The global space industry is estimated to be $350 billion and is likely to exceed $550 billion by 2025. Despite ISRO's capabilities, India's share is estimated at $7 billion (**just 2%** of the global market). Private sector role is must to increase India's contributions globally.

4. **International trends and experience-** Elon Musk's "SpaceX" and its high profile projects have highlighted the increasing significance of the private players in the space sector. In India, despite the various strategic, security and regulatory constrains, a limited private ecosystem has evolved around the ISRO. Private are merely contracting with national space agencies to build satellites and subsystems. Contrarily, the current trend is developing entire vertically integrated operations without licensing or purchase agreements with national agencies.

**Various Benefits of private sector's participation in space industry**

1. **Greater pool of resources-** Public resources- land, labour, capital are limited. Private sector participation will open new pool of resources and talent. It will bring more funding, and experience into space exploration activities.

2. **Human Capital-** Restricting space activities to ISRO, limits proper utilisation of talent all over the country. With demographic dividend, private sector participation can exploit the talent across the nation contributing a lot to space explorations in India.

3. **More time for ISRO-** Today every space mission is done by ISRO, whether its communication satellite or any weather monitoring satellite. With increased role of private player, ISRO can concentrate more on its pathbreaking innovations like Reusable PSLVs, Cryogenic rockets, mars inhabitation.

4. **Technological advancement-** Commercialisation will also develop better technologies which is important. It will allow integration of many other technologies like artificial intelligence into space exploration activities. With experience from space activities, private sector can increase role of technology in other areas.

5. **Risk Sharing-** Every launch consists Risk. Privatising helps in sharing the risk of cost factor. Failure costs will be distributed. Also with increased private participation, failures will reduce due to increased available human capital and mind. Joint venture brings the knowledge from various stakeholders minimises failures and increases productivity.

6. **Commercial demand-** There is need to enhance internet connectivity for the masses, which is another demand pull factor for increased commercial interest in space. Asteroid mining is also another potential area that looks promising, with scope for monetisation and disrupting commodity markets.

**Issues and Concerns of private participation in space industry**

1. **Data Risk-** Though space it gives an opportunity to entrepreneurs but raw data of ISRO in the hands of public is sensitive and consists of danger of misuse or improper utilisation of data.

2. **Regulation-** Though its a profitable investment, regulation of private sector participation is not easy. The time taken for regulatory clearances and unstable political institutions can cause delays and hurdle in decision making of investors.
3. **Revenue loss-** ISRO will loose a fair amount of money it is earning through its space activities. This will reduce government revenue.
4. **Unfair commercial practices-** Allowing private sector may lead to lobbying and unfair means to get space projects or launch of any satellite for their own profit. It may also lead to leakage of sensitive information by private players to other countries and companies to make profit.

India should create an independent body that can create a level playing field for government and private space enterprises. A new Space law for India should be framed which should aim at facilitating growing India's share of global space economy to 10% within a decade which requires a new kind of partnership between ISRO, the established private sector and the New Space entrepreneurs.

**Q.9) India is targeting to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2025, but the past experience of jobless growth is a headache for Indian intelligentsia. In light of this, discuss various causes of jobless growth in India in past. Give some measures to create job opportunities in India.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Write about India's growth. |
| **Body.** Reason for jobless growth. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward and measures. |

India has grown at about 7-8 % in recent years. But data and facts shows that Indian growth was jobless and not inclusive. According to Census 2011, the average growth rate of the economy was 7.7 per cent per annum, when it was only 1.8 per cent for employment. 66th round of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) data on employment in 2011 revealed that between 2004-05 and 2009-10, only 1 million jobs were added per year; in a period when the economy averaged a record 8.43% growth annually.

**Reasons behind the Jobless growth:**
1. **Service sector driven growth-** The biggest employer in India is the Agriculture sector, employing 45% of the population but it contributes only 15% to the GDP, whereas Service sector is the biggest contributor to the GDP but employs less than 30%. IT and Financial services are drivers of service sector growth in last 2 decades however both of these sector are not employment intensive. This is contributing to jobless growth in India.
2. **Failure of manufacturing sector-** Manufacturing sector is labour–intensive. But it did not become the engine of growth in India. Rather the knowledge-intensive services sector which is less labour intensive along with some other segments of capital intensive manufacturing was the engines of growth in India. These sectors did not lead to much employment generation.
3. **India's focus on higher education-** Since the second five-year plan India has focussed more on higher education rather than basic education. We failed to create enough

basic skilled workforce required for labour-intensive manufacturing. Thus, contribution of less labour intensive service sector increased significantly in India's GDP.

4. **Import-oriented economy-** Excessive imports have been damaging Indian manufacturing industry. India has failed to witness a strong growth in the labour-intensive segment of the manufacturing sector, as it did not move from the import to an export-oriented development strategy. If India had followed Labour intensive goods export-led model like Southeast Asian countries, it would have created many jobs in the MSME sector.

5. **Stagnation in manufacturing output and employment contraction-** Less jobs were created due to stagnant manufacturing output and contraction of labour-intensive segment of the formal manufacturing sector. This is due to **excessive rigidity in the manufacturing labour market** and **rigid labour regulations** has created disincentives for employers to create jobs. According to World Bank study Industrial Disputes Act has lowered employment in organised manufacturing by about 25%.

6. **Automation-** The nature of Indian manufacturing is not employment-friendly. Most of them are automated and any employment is highly skilled. Thus it has contribute to growth, and not generated much employment.

7. **Infrastructure Bottlenecks-** Infrastructural bottlenecks (especially in access to electricity), lack of backward and forward linkages between agriculture, industry and service sector has failed to create jobs and also hindered growth of labour intensive sectors.

8. **MSME problems-** The labour intensity of MSME is four times higher than that of large firms. But they face many problems. They have poor access to credit and are plagued by many serious problems which has limited there growth potential.

9. **Skill Mismatch-** Indian labour is not skilled as per industrial demands. Lesser skill levels of workers limit them the job opportunities. Also various programs by government like *Skill India and stand up* India are launched recently only. Industry focussed skills are needed to be inculcated.

**Some measures to increase jobs and employment-**

1. **Labour reforms-** Labour Laws should be reformed as due to the stringent Labour Laws Corporates in India are preferring Capital intensive mode of Production in a country where labour is abundant.

2. **Strengthen education system-** The education system needs to be revamped to create the desired skill-sets. At present, the education system is failing in delivering. Thus a closure look at education system is needed with emphasis on skills and basics.

3. **Promoting labour Intensive sectors**- Labour intensive sectors like food processing industry, leather industry, apparel, electronics, gems and jewellery, financial services, and tourism etc. should be encouraged. Appropriate subsidies and tax incentives should be given to incentivise them. **Make in India** initiative a great step forward which will boost the manufacturing.

4. **Strengthening MSME-** MSME sector should be promoted and supported. Easing regulations, subsidies will help. Also easy available of credit should be the priority. MUDRA has a potential to create required jobs in India.

5. **Implementing Niti Ayog action agenda-** The Action Agenda has provided several good ideas for job creation, including **labour law reforms at the state level**. The report emphasizes the role of exports in job creation and recommends establishing coastal

employment zones (CEZs), similar to China's special economic zones (SEZs). This agenda must be implemented in letter and spirit.

6. **Entrepreneurship-** The focus of economic policy must be on creating an enabling policy for youth to take up entrepreneurship and create more jobs in the market. India does not need five companies worth 5000 crores turnover but needs 5000 companies of 5 crore turnover.

With higher growth rates not having translated into more jobs, the government should formulate a National Employment Policy that takes these trends into account. Expansion of public employment and a national skilling programme could boost employment.

**Q.10) Tourism industry has been a part of India's growth story in last decade, but still have not reached full potential. Discuss. Also suggest some measures to boost tourism in India.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
|---|
| **Introduction.** Write a contextual introduction. |
| **Body.** Contribution of tourism in India's growth. Issues. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward and measures. |

India's culture and diversity make it a land of beauty and attraction. Tourism in India is important for the country's economy and is growing rapidly. Each city and state has so much to offer in terms of the heritage, architecture and experience that can be explored. India's tourism potential is huge.

**Contribution of tourism sector in India's growth story**
1. The **World Travel and Tourism Council** calculated that tourism generated ₹17 lakh crore (US$240 billion) or 9.2% of India's GDP in 2018 and supported 42 million jobs, 8.1% of its total employment. The sector is predicted to grow at an annual rate of 6.9% to ₹32 lakh crore (US$460 billion) by 2028 (9.9% of GDP).
2. India's medical tourism sector it is projected to grow to US$7–8 billion by 2020. In 2014, 1.85 lakh foreign patients traveled to India to seek medical treatment.
3. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are the most popular states for tourists. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Agra and Jaipur are the five most visited cities of India by foreign tourists
4. India has good air transport, particularly given the country's stage of development, and reasonable ground transport infrastructure. The country also has high natural and cultural resources. However, **there exists the potential to increase this growth rate to 30% - and when that happens tourism will contribute around 25% of our GDP**.

**Some issues related to tourism industry-**
1. **Infrastructure bottlenecks-** India's tourism infrastructure remain somewhat underdeveloped. The nation has less hotel rooms per capita by international comparison and low ATM penetration. Fast-track clearances of hotel projects should be done.

2. **Poor flight connectivity-** Poor air connectivity especially to rural area is a hindrance to Indian tourism. India's **Udan scheme** is a right step, but India has to increase number of airports. E.g. Mysore, has no commercial airport.

3. **Poor hospitality-** When it comes to the hospitality sector, even though the situation has improved in the last few years, it needs to do much better, especially in the second-tier cities. To do so, the sector must not just invest in brick-and-mortar infrastructure, but also in human resources. In the last few years, India has seen **several attacks on tourists**, especially women. This situation must be addressed not just because of the revenue but also because it tarnishes India's image.

4. **Decreased tourism-** The Survey 2019 pointed out that the tourism sector experienced a sharp slowdown in 2018, the Survey stated that the foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in 2018-19 stood at 10.6 million compared with 10.4 million in 2017-18. FDI in hotel and tourism also declined from $1,132 million in 2017-18 to $1,076 million in 2018-19.

**Measures to boost tourism industry-**

1. **Improving infrastructure-** Infrastructure should be strengthened. Land should be made available for hotels and reserve land for hotels in all new townships under planning.

2. **Skill development-** Skill development efforts should be increased to train more persons. Focus should be on training hospitality and humbleness. Proper language training is also needed.

3. **Promoting niche tourism-** Niche tourism refers to a type of speciality tourism that focuses on a specific concept or topic. This can be food, sports, wildlife tourism. Each of these tours will focus on their individual concepts. The Ministry of Tourism designs national policies for the development and promotion of tourism. Concerted efforts are needed to promote niche tourism products such as rural, cruise, medical and eco-tourism. The Ministry of Tourism's Incredible India campaign focus on promoting the tourism in India.

4. **Rural development-** The secret to enabling tourism growth is hidden in India's 600,000 villages, which together represent an ocean of heritage, culture and experiences waiting to be explored. Yet to unlock the hidden potential of India's villages, we need to approach the issue through the lens of impact tourism.

5. **Focus on Impact tourism-** It is a community and tourist-centred approach in which tourism is leveraged to help deliver sustainable community infrastructure. It gives tourists an authentic experience of local culture and traditions while helping the community. The **village-based impact tourism model** can boost tourism.

6. **Public private partnerships-** What is needed now is an effective partnership between the government and the private sector. A **National tourism board** should be created to provide the tourism sectors with a voice at government level. Currently the Indian tourism industry is self-governed by multiple agencies with no common goals. A tourism board, however, could clearly define the roles and responsibilities of both the government and private sector.

7. **Coordination at various levels-** There is a need to strengthen the coordination mechanism of various Ministries and stakeholders to resolve issues in promotion of tourism in the country. Also there is need for centre-state cooperation, and state-state cooperation.

8. According to **Economic Survey 2018-19** increased budgetary allocation for development of infrastructure, making land available for hotels, and reduction in taxes

is needed to boost tourism. Additionally, the State governments need to be sensitised about tourism being a major driver of employment and poverty alleviation.

India has immense tourism potential which is yet to be explored. Government policies should focus on infrastructure and grass root development. It will not only lead to generation of employment, but will also enhance India's soft power.

**Q.11) What is Somatic cell nuclear transfer? Explain its technology and enlist various potential application of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer technology.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Define Somatic cell nuclear transfer.
**Body.** Write about its technology and second part potential applications.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) is a laboratory technique for cloning for creating an ovum with a donor nucleus.

**Technology of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer:**
1. A somatic cell is isolated and extracted from an adult female.
2. Then the nucleus and all of its DNA from an egg cell is removed.
3. After that the nucleus from the somatic cell is transferred to the egg cell.
4. After being inserted into the egg, the somatic cell nucleus is reprogrammed by the host cell and is stimulated with a shock.
5. The egg cell, with its new nucleus, will behave just like a freshly fertilised egg.
6. It developed into an embryo, which is implanted into a surrogate mother.
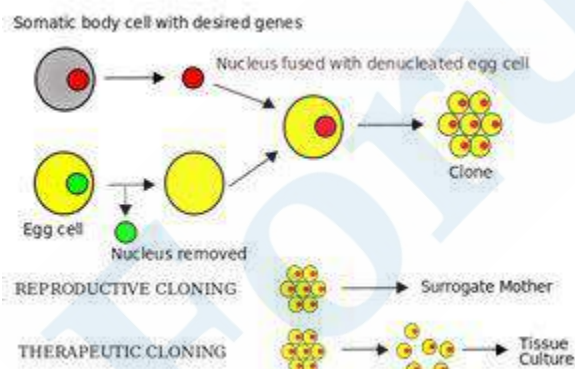


**Potential Applications of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer:**
1. **Stem cell research**- Somatic cell nuclear transplantation is being used in stem cell research. These cells are deemed to have a pluripotent potential because they have the ability to give rise to all of the tissues found in an adult organism. This could be used in therapies or disease research. This allows stem cells to create any cell type, which could then be transplanted to replace damaged or destroyed cells.
2. **Organ transplants**- Another application of SCNT stem cell research to generate tissues or even organs for transplant into the specific patient. The resulting cells would be

genetically identical to the somatic cell donor, thus avoiding any complications from immune system rejection.

3. **Therapeutic applications-** SCNT have ample scope of success in therapy and curing diseases. It can be used to treat diseases like diabetes, Parkinson's disease etc. In 2014, the New York Stem Cell Foundation was successful in creating SCNT stem cells derived from adult somatic cells. One of these lines of stem cells was derived from the donor cells of a type 1 diabetic. These insulin producing cells could be used for replacement therapy in diabetics, demonstrating real SCNT stem cell therapeutic potential.

4. **Reproductive cloning-** Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer technique is currently the basis for cloning animals (such as the famous Dolly the sheep), and has been theoretically proposed as a possible way to clone humans. But there are moral and ethical objections against reproductive cloning. In 2018, the first successful cloning of primates using somatic cell nuclear transfer, (the same method as Dolly the sheep), was successfully done with the birth of two live female clones.

5. **Preservation of endangered species-** Interspecies nuclear transfer (iSCNT) is a means of somatic cell nuclear transfer used to facilitate the rescue of **endangered species**, or even to **restore species after their extinction**.

Somatic cell nuclear transfer can be both boon and bane. It might help in many ways but it also has its share of effects which might include reduction of gene diversity, Nature's rule like survival of fittest, ethical and moral issues. If got into wrong hands (Terrorists, crime syndicate) it might prove to be a disaster in waiting. Thus caution is needed with proper regulation for its usage.

**Q.12) Enlist 10- points 'Vision for the Decade' flagged in Budget 2019-20. How it will help in developing a New India?**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Mention about new India.
**Body.** Discuss 10 points 'Vision for the Decade'.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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To commemorate 75 years of the Quit India Movement the government pledged to create a New India that is strong and prosperous. The New India envisages India free from **poverty, corruption, terrorism, communalism, casteism and uncleanliness and unite** the entire country by adopting good governance and using technology.
According to budget 2019-20, our economy has reached US$ 2.7 trillion. It aim to reach the US$ 5 trillion in the next few years. Budget 2019-20 mentioned **10-point Vision for the decade.** With this Vision set it strives to take India to new heights.

**10 points 'Vision for the Decade' and how it will help in aim of new India?**
1. **Building physical and social infrastructure-** Physical and social infrastructure are the basis of new India. Physical infrastructure development will lead to economic growth, employment generation, better production, more exports. Thus it will help to achieve New India's objective of decreasing inequalities and poverty. Further development of social infrastructure like education, health, connectivity will ensure healthy and skilled

population. Thus it will help in decreasing casteism, poverty through education, employment which is a vision of New India.

2. **Digital India reaching every sector of the economy**- Digital technology is an enabler. It has multiple benefits. This vision will not only enhance efficiency but also will increase productivity through timely output. It will enable farmer to access data at ease that will help him in increasing productivity. It will also decrease many issues like red tapism, corruption, and thus will increase accountability enabling New India.

3. **Pollution free India with green Mother Earth and Blue Skies-** Cleanliness and clean environment is the another objective of New India. Through better data, policies, regulations and green projects, carbon tax etc. the vision of pollution free India can be achieved. New India will be incomplete healthy environment.

4. **Team India with Jan Bhagidari- Minimum Government Maximum Governance**- New India strives to be a less corrupt India, with effective rules and regulations in place. Minimum Government Maximum Governance will reduce corruption and lead to better regulation and accountability. Further Jan Bhagidari will ensure true democracy and will lead to social audit and accountability resulting in less corruption.

5. **Space programmes, Gaganyan, Chandrayan and Satellite programmes**- Various space programmes will serve the community and society. It will prevent disaster, will help in agriculture crisis through better prediction and will also help overall technological advancement towards a new India.

6. **Water, water management, clean rivers:** Water is the lifeline of any economy. India is facing water crisis. This Vision envisage to provide water security through better water management and water saving. Clean water would not only lead to a healthy India but also a clean new India.

7. **Blue Economy:** Will boost employment and provide livelihood to many through fishery development. It will thus enable India to remove millions out of poverty toward a New India.

8. **Self-sufficiency and export of food-grains, pulses, oilseeds, fruits and vegetables:** This Vision will provide food security, leading to better nourishment and overall growth of a child, mother and society in general. It will also lead to exports and job creation leading to sustainable development.

9. **Achieving a healthy society via Ayushman Bharat, well-nourished women & children, safety of citizens**-It is must for any economy to grow, but equally important is to keep its population healthy. Ayushman Bharat will resolve India's health issues. Also well-nourished women and children will contribute more in economy and a healthy demography will be promoted.

10. **Make in India with particular emphasis on MSMEs, Start-ups, defence manufacturing, automobiles, electronics, fabs and batteries, and medical devices**- Make in India will create millions of jobs, and will lead to inclusive growth. A new India can't be with inequalities whether economic or social. Thus this Vision will ensure an inclusive new India.

The government has launched flagship schemes such as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Jan Suraksha Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Swachh Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Start UP India, Stand UP India, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Make in India etc.that will help in achieving these visions. Further New India and these visions not only require government efforts but need an overall community efforts.

**Q.13) Discuss the major problems faced by MSMEs in India. What are the measures presented in budget 2019-20 for MSME sector?**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** A contextual introduction.
**Body.** Problems MSME face.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

The budget 2019-20 aim at $5 trillion economy. This cannot be achieved without underperforming MSME. Budget focus on ease of doing business for MSMEs and ease of living for citizens.

**Problems faced by MSMEs**
1. **Problem of Raw Material:** A major problem that the micro and small enterprises have to contend with is the procurement of raw material. The problem of raw material has assumed the shape of:
    - An absolute scarcity,
    - A poor quality of raw materials, and
    - A high cost.

The small units that use imported raw material face raw material problem with more severity mainly due to difficulty in obtaining this raw material either on account of the foreign exchange crisis or some of other reasons. Even the micro and small enterprises that depend on local resources for raw material requirements face the problem of other type. An example of this type is handloom industry that depends for its requirement of cotton on local traders.
Nonetheless, micro and small enterprises with no special staff to liaise with the official agencies, these units are left with inadequate supplies of raw material. As a result, they have to resort to open market purchases at very high prices. This, in turn, increases their cost of production, and, thus, puts them in an adverse position vis-a-vis their larger rivals.
    - **Problem of Finance:** An important problem faced by micro and small enterprises in the country is that of finance. The problem of finance in micro and small sector is mainly due to two reasons.
        - Firstly, it is partly due to scarcity of capital in the country as a whole.
        - Secondly, it is partly due to weak credit worthiness of micro and small enterprises in the country. Due to their weak economic base, they find it difficult to take financial assistance from the commercial banks and financial institutions.
As such, they are bound to obtain credit from the money lenders on a very high rate of interest and are, thus, exploitative in character.
    - **Problem of Marketing:** One of the main problems faced by the micro and small enterprises is in the field of marketing. These units often do not possess any marketing organisation. In consequence, their products compare unfavourably with the quality of the products of the large-scale industries. Therefore, they suffer from competitive disadvantages vis-a-vis large-scale units.
    - **Problem of Under-Utilization of Capacity:** Studies shows the gross under-utilization of installed capacities in micro and small enterprises. On the basis of All India Census

of Small-Scale Industries, 50 to 40 per cent of capacity were not utilized in micro and small enterprises.

- **Power deficit-** The problems of under-utilization of capacity is further enhanced by power problem faced by micro and small enterprises. In short, there are two aspects to the problem: One, power supply is not always available to the small units on the mere asking, and whenever it is available, it rationed out, limited to a few hours in a day. Also, unlike large-scale industries, the micro and small enterprises cannot afford to go in for alternatives; like installing own thermal units, because these involve heavy costs. Since micro and small units are weak in economic front, they have to manage as best as it can within their available meager means.

- **Lack of Coordination:** There has been lack of effective co-ordination among the various support organisations set up over the period for the promotion and development of these industries. Quality consciousness has not been generated to the desired level despite various measures taken in this regard.

- **Other Problems:** In addition to the problems enumerated above, the micro and small enterprises have been constrained by a number of other problems also. These include technological obsolescence, inadequate and irregular supply of raw materials, lack of organised market channels, imperfect knowledge of market conditions, unorganised nature of operations, inadequate availability of credit facility, constraint of infrastructure facilities including power, and deficient managerial and technical skills.

**Measures for MSME in budget 2019-20**

1. **2% interest subvention scheme**- It will benefit MSME with more amount of capital and will help them to work toward Make in India. Also, ₹350 crore has been allocated for Financial Year 2019-20 for 2% interest subvention for all GST registered MSMEs on fresh or incremental loans. This keeps the supply chain intact and registered assesses get additional buoyancy in this sector.

2. The government has introduced a scheme for providing loans up to ₹1 crore within 59 minutes through a dedicated online portal. This will ensure quick availability of capital.

3. Budget provide to create a payment platform for MSMEs to enable filing of bills and payment on the platform itself to eliminate delays in government payments.

4. The government will extend pension benefit to about three crore retail traders and small shopkeepers whose annual turnover is less than ₹1.5 crore under a new scheme named Pradhan Mantri Karam Yogi Maandhan Scheme. Enrolment will be kept simple requiring only Aadhaar and a bank account.

5. Under the Scheme of Fund for Upgradation and Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI), 100 new clusters will be set up during 2019-20, enabling 50,000 artisans to join the economic value chain. SFURTI aims to set up Common Facility Centres (CFCs) to facilitate cluster-based development to make traditional industries more productive, profitable and capable for generating sustained employment opportunities.

6. Enrolment to be kept simple, requiring only Aadhaar, bank account and a self-declaration.

Government continues to push for Ease of Doing Business for MSMEs and industries, but effectiveness will depend upon connecting millions of MSME sellers, manufacturers and artisans with consumers efficiently in a cost effective manner.

**Q.14) What is Cellular Agriculture? Discuss various advantages and disadvantages of Cellular Agriculture. How it can ensure food security?**
**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Define cellular agriculture.
> **Body.** Various advantages and disadvantages.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Cellular agriculture is a branch of biology that focus on the production of agriculture products from cell cultures using a combination of biotechnology, tissue engineering, molecular biology, and synthetic biology to create and design new methods of producing proteins, fats, and tissues that would otherwise come from traditional agriculture. Various products like artificial muscle proteins, milk, eggs, gelatin, coffee, leather and silk are produced.

**Various advantages of cellular agriculture-**

1. **Less environmental impact-** Figures show 70% lower use of resources like land, food grain, water, and thus reduced carbon emissions to produce a kilogram of meat. From an environmental standpoint this means less water is used to produce meat, less methane gas is put into the atmosphere, and it's overall a much cleaner solution than factory farming.
2. **Better Products-** Another exciting aspect of cellular agriculture is the ability to design and tune what you are making. For instance, you could make meat with fewer saturated fats and more unsaturated fats, or you could make leather of different thicknesses. You could make milk without lactose, or eggs without cholesterol.
3. **It is more sustainable:** There is no doubt that it is a more sustainable solution. Unlike conventional animal husbandry that has pretty much reached the limits of its efficiency, cellular agriculture has the potential to improve its resource intensiveness over time. It can help make global food production more sustainable than it is now.
4. **Food security-** It could enable larger numbers of people to access higher quality nutrition and achieve better health outcomes. There are still hundreds of millions of people that don't have access to food at all, or don't have enough food. This number is expected to increase to billions in the coming years. Cellular agriculture can help to produce more food to feed the world's people that still go hungry
5. **Healthier and cleaner food products-** Producers can control the fat and protein content. They can also control the taste and other features. If we take fat for example, lab grown meat could be produced to contain more omega-3 fatty acids and less harmful fats. Products are grown in a sterile environment, so there is no contamination. This means that the products will be free of many potential diseases. A lot of the antibiotics and drugs that are used to treat sick livestock animals will no longer be necessary.
6. **Meet demands of growing population-** World population is expected to grow to between 10 to 13 million people between the years 2050 and 2100. India's population is also exploding. Lab grown consumables can use to feed many.
7. **Reduce risks-** It can minimise some risks associated with animal farming such as animal diseases, antibiotics, and growth hormones. Also lab grown meat can be more consistent in terms of quality – because more is in the producer's control, lab grown

meat may be of a particular standard/quality more consistently compared to farm grown meat which can vary in quality.

8. **Employment generation-** It adds jobs to the economy. Various lab and factory workers, researchers, scientists etc. get new jobs. Further research and development industry develop and boost with technological advancements.

**Various disadvantages and issues related to cellular agriculture-**

1. **Expensive-** It is very expensive to produce. Technology employed and expenditure on research and development increase the cost of the products and make it non-affordable at present.

2. **At the cost of animals-** It is true that cultured products save many animals from being slaughtered. However, many of the animals will be used for research and development purposes are probably animals that are on the slaughter lines. Harvesting of animal cells to culture require blood of foetuses from slaughtered pregnant cows as the growth medium. So, to mass-produce laboratory-grown consumables scientists would need a constant supply of live pigs, cows, chickens and other animals from which to take cells.

3. **Safety Concerns-** Whether genetically modified, factory-grown products are safe for us to eat is yet to be studied. There ethical concerns similar to GMO crops. There can be a lack of trust between consumers and companies.

4. **Potential issues over regulation**- The process behind food regulation takes a long time. This could impact how quickly quality and safety among all products are standardised. Regulation is not easy. Testing methods for safety, which governing bodies for regulation demand time and resources. This could push development even farther back.

5. **Cheaper alternatives**- Better, cheaper and more effective alternatives regarding food supply for the present and future are present. Some argue that moving towards more plant based diets (or diets with less meat, dairy and animal products) make better use of resources, and are cheaper, more effective, quicker to implement and healthier than what lab grown meat can offer as a food source. We also already have several plant based meat substitutes in the markets.

6. **Wrong priorities-** Considering greenhouse gases/climate change, and other forms of pollution agriculture only produces about 9% of total greenhouse gas emissions. Comparatively, transport, electricity generation, and industry produce almost 80% of total GHGs combined. If there is concern over GHG emissions and other environmental issues, it makes far more sense to focus on these sectors first, rather than food and agriculture.

7. **Complete Nutrition**- Cellular Agriculture can control nutritional content like fat and protein content. But, overall nutrition is important too. There are certain nutrients which we can only get in bulk from natural agriculture outside a lab.

India has an opportunity to become a major player in cellular agriculture. Union government charged Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology with the goal of producing lab grown meat on a commercial scale in five years. But the sector needs proper standards and regulation with greater public investment in research and development, as well as private investment in entrepreneurship.

**Q.15) What are various issues faced by sugar industries in India? Suggest some measures.**

**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Various issues faced by sugar industry.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

India is the only country in the world that produces plantation white sugar. Despite being the **second largest sugar** producing country in the world, worries of the sugarcane farmers are never ending.

**Sugarcane industry is suffering from the following issues-**

1. **Varying Prices:** Sugar prices have fallen because of the demand-supply mismatch and sugarcane farmers have been incurring heavy losses. Fixation of Fair Remunerative Price is a bone of contention between the Centre and sugar mills. The Centre decides FRP annually and the states can hike it by issuing a state advisory price. But mills want the price of sugarcane to be linked to the price of sugar.

2. **Surplus Production:** 36 MMT of sugar, against consumption of 26 MMT, is being produced since 2018, which involves high risks like high storage costs and spoilage. Further sugar prices in other countries are lesser than India, therefore Indian sugar suppliers are finding it difficult to export. E.g In Brazil, the price of sugar is ₹22 per kg while in India, we have fixed ₹32-34 per kg.

3. **Unpaid dues to farmers:** Due to increased sugar production across the country, sugar prices are reduced so much that the sugar mills are finding it difficult to pay dues to farmers. Cumulatively they owe Rs 22,000 crore to farmers for cane supplied in 2017-18.

4. **Implementation of government policies:** National Policy on Biofuels, call for blending petrol with 5 per cent ethanol. In 2015, the target was raised to 10 per cent. But this was never achieved. Brazil, the world's biggest sugarcane producer, depends on ethanol, and not sugar, as main revenue source from sugarcane and blends 27 per cent ethanol with petrol. There are several impediments which include sugar subsidies, issue of exporting excess production of sugar, production of ethanol from sugarcane to use in cars and buying excess sugar and hoarding it as buffer stock.

5. **Infrastructure issues:** Sugarcane is a weight-losing crop which needs to be crushed at the earliest from time of harvest. The poor connectivity, lack of transportation facilities and distant sugar-mills cause huge losses to farmers due to decline in quality of sugarcanes.

**Some Measures to resolve sugar industry issues:**

1. Ease the market control of government on export and import must be done. The move is to help India to enable its exports. Leaving it all to the market is risky.

2. The pricing shall be done on basis of scientific and economically viable principles.

3. Rangarajan Committee proposed that the states should encourage development of market-based long-term contractual arrangements, and phase out cane reservation area and bonding.

4. The new national policy on biofuels 2018, expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of Sugarcane Juice. Ethanol production should be promoted. Policy modifications to increase the ethanol blending is needed. Better prices for ethanol can also help in export of the same.

5. Other crops should be promoted to ensure. This requires long-term investment, and the government will have to encourage farmers to cultivate crops like pulses and oilseeds.

6. Sugarcane is a water guzzling crop. Better irrigation techniques to reduce the water usage, water harvesting, etc can improve water utilisation.

7. In order to increase competition and ensure a better price for farmers, minimum distance norm should be reviewed. Removing the regulation will ensure better prices for farmers and force existing mills to pay them the cane price on time.

8. Government should take proactive steps to maintain and revive growth in sugar industry like Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative.

9. The Rangarajan committee recommendation should be considered and adopted as soon as possible.

10. Further government should provide subsidy on new technology and equipment to both mill owner and farmers. New attractive schemes shall be launched for increasing investments and empowering entrepreneurs in sugar industry.

**Q.16) In the light of recent "Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, 2019" report, critically discuss the problem of malnutrition in India. What should be done to address this problem?**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Give a contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Analyse status of malnutrition in India.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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Malnutrition especially that affecting young children is one of the principle public health problems in the developing world like India. A new report, '**Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, India, 2019**', published by the Government of India and the United Nations World Food Programme, states that even after 70 years of independence, still hundreds of millions of India's poorest and vulnerable citizens are living in hunger. Despite rapid economic growth, declining levels of poverty, enough food to export, and a multiplicity of government programmes, malnutrition amongst the poorest remains high.

**Malnutrition a vicious problem:**
The report shows the poorest sections of society are caught in a trap of poverty and malnutrition, which is being **passed on from generation to generation**.

- Mothers who are hungry and malnourished produce children who are stunted, underweight and unlikely to develop to achieve their full human potential.
- These disadvantaged children are likely to **do poorly in school** and subsequently have low incomes, high fertility, and provide poor care for their children, thus contributing to the **intergenerational transmission of poverty**. In other words, today's poor hungry children are likely to be tomorrow's hungry, unemployed and undereducated adults.
- Also, the effects of malnourishment in a small child are not merely physical. A developing brain that is deprived of nutrients does not reach its full mental potential.

Undernutrition **can affect cognitive development** by causing direct structural damage to the brain and by impairing infant motor development. This in turn affects the child's ability to learn at school, leading to a lifetime of poverty and lack of opportunity.

**Some facts and figures about the issue of malnutrition in India:**
India, with a population of over 1.3 billion, has seen tremendous growth in the past two decades.

- Gross Domestic Product has increased 4.5 times and per capita consumption has increased 3 times. Similarly, **food grain production has increased almost 2 times**. However, despite phenomenal industrial and economic growth and while India produces sufficient food to feed its population, it is unable to provide access to food to a large number of people, especially women and children.
- **According to FAO** estimates in '**The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2018**" report-
  - **195.9 million People are undernourished in India**. By this measure 14.8% of the population is undernourished in India.
  - Also, 51.4% of women in reproductive age between 15 to 49 years are anaemic.
  - Further according to the report 38.4% of the children aged under five in India are stunted (too short for their age), while 21% suffer from wasting, meaning their weight is too low for their height. Malnourished children have a higher risk of death from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhea, pneumonia, and malaria.
- The **Global Hunger Index 2018** ranks **India at 103 out of 119** countries on the basis of three leading indicators - prevalence of wasting and stunting in children under 5 years, under 5 child mortality rate, and the proportion of undernourished in the population.
- Although some progress has been made in reducing the extent of malnutrition. The proportion of children with chronic malnutrition decreased from 48% percent in 2005-06 to 38.4% in 2015-16. The percentage of underweight children decreased from 42.5% to 35.7% over the same period. Anaemia in young children decreased from 69.5% to 58.5% during this period. But this **progress is small.**
- India's efforts at improving access to food and good nutrition are led by the **National Food Security Act.** In spite of such interventions, 14.5% of the population suffers from undernourishment, going by the UN's assessment for 2014-16. At the national level, 53% of women are anaemic, Health Ministry data show.
- The government's **National Nutrition Mission (renamed as Poshan Abhiyaan)** aims to reduce stunting (a measure of malnutrition that is defined as height that is significantly below the norm for age) by 2% a year, bringing down the proportion of stunted children in the population to 25% by 2022. But even this modest target will require doubling the current annual rate of reduction in stunting. A year after it was launched, State and Union Territory governments have only used 16% of the funds allocated to them.
- Anganwadis are key to the distribution of services to mothers and children. But many States, including Bihar and Odisha, which have large vulnerable populations, are struggling to set up functioning anganwadis, and recruit staff.

**What should be done?**

9. **Population Policies:** The main cause of poverty and hunger is the fast growth of population. The control of population growth, therefore, should get the top priority, particularly in the developing countries. **Population control measures** like awareness campaigns, sterilisation etc. must be adopted. The population control will require rapid economic growth, research and the implementation of strict population policies.

10. **Greater Agricultural Productivity:** Green Revolution has failed to eradicate hunger from the developing world. The HYV need heavy doses of chemical fertilisers and adequate supply of water through controlled irrigation. These costly inputs are beyond the reach of marginal and small farmers of the Third World countries. There is a need to develop **drought resistant crops** which may be diffused in the areas of deficient rainfall. New areas and cultivable wastelands should be brought under cultivation to increase agricultural production. This will ensure increased productivity at lower costs and increase accessibility to food.

11. **Expansion of Agriculture in New Areas**: At present, only 10 per cent of the total area of the land surface is under cultivation. Some experts opine that the present cultivated area could be tripled. The possibility should be explored to increase more food production.

12. **Land Reforms**: It has been found that wherever land reform measures have been taken, production of crops has gone up substantially. In order to maintain the fertility of the soil the farmers have to invest in farm management. A tenant farmer cannot take a decision about the development of fields. The need for land reform is nearly worldwide. Unfortunately, progress in this area is too much slow.

13. **Search for Alternative Food**: It is urgently needed at the global level to protect the ocean resources while they are used. Until quite recently, only a few species of marine fauna were endangered by overfishing as whales. E.g *Aquaculture* i.e. the raising of fish in enclosure provide a great alternative source of food.

14. **Change in food habits:** The problem of hunger and malnutrition may also be minimised if the people change their food habits. Mass education, especially the female education, will also go a long way in overcoming the deficiencies of food and may eradicate hunger to a substantial extent. None of these efforts will bring the desired results unless a comprehensive programme is developed to check the growth of population, to reduce the food consumption in rich societies, and to develop alternative sources of food and proteins.

15. **Role of states**- The key to ending the tragedy of child nutrition lies with State governments especially states with the highest levels of stunted and underweight children like Jharkand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Malnutrition is a reflection of age-old patterns of social and economic exclusion. Over **40% of children from Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes**are stunted. Close to 40% of children from the Other Backward Classes are stunted. The lack of nutrition in their childhood years can reduce their mental as well as physical development and condemn them to a life in the margins of society.

16. **Food distribution System:** The food distribution system needs to be strengthened. Food storage facilities must be restored and steps should be taken to protect stored grains from rodents. Although there are many leakages issue in public distribution system, still it provides food for many. Efforts must be made to stop leakages.

**Q.17) "5g could be one of the most important development in human history".
Comment. Explain various challenges involved in adopting the 5g technology.
Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Discuss what is 5 technology.
**Body.** Write some benefits and applications of 5g technology.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

5g is the next generation cellular technology that will provide faster and more reliable communication with ultra-low latency. A government panel report points out that with 5G, the peak network data speeds are expected to be in the range of 2-20 Gigabit per second (Gbps). The primary use of the technology will go beyond delivery of services on personal mobiles devices.

**How it can be the most important development in the human history?**

1. **High speed:** 5G will revolutionise the mobile experience with supercharged wireless network, which can support up to **10 to 20 GBPS of data download speed.** It is equivalent to a fibre optic Internet connection accessed wirelessly. Compared to conventional mobile transmission technologies, voice and high-speed data can be simultaneously transferred efficiently in 5G. This will further enhance and support government's effort to promote **digital India.**

2. **Better Governance-** Better speed and connectivity can reduce red tapism. It will enhance speedy completion of projects and better implementation of policies. It will enable accountability in the system through a better monitoring system and will reduce corruption.

3. **Low latency:** It is one of the most important features of 5G technology which is significant for **autonomous driving and mission critical applications.** 5G networks are capable of latency less than a millisecond.

4. **Employment generation-** 5G wireless technology will open greater opportunity for new device manufactures and application developers. New VoIP devices and smart devices will be introduced in the market and thus **more job opportunities** as well.

5. **Less energy efficient-** Device-to-device communication techniques are suggested to further enhance network performance and support during limited access or absence of mobile networks. Small cell concept used in 5G will have multiple advantages of better cell coverage, maximum data transfer, **low power consumption** and cloud access network etc.

6. **Entertainment and multimedia industry-** Analysts found that 55 percentage of mobile Internet traffic has been used for video downloads globally in 2015. This trend will increase in future and high definition video streaming will be common in future. This will help in growth of entertainment industry and thus more jobs will be there. It will also increase government revenue.

7. **Internet of Things – Connecting everything-** Internet of Things (IoT) is another broad area for development using supercharged 5G wireless network. Internet of Things will connect every objects, appliances, sensors, devices and applications into Internet. 5G wireless network will be utilised by **smart appliances** which can be configured and accessed from remote locations, closed circuit cameras will provide high quality real-time video for security purposes.

8. **Logistics and shipping-** Logistic and shipping industry can make use of smart 5G technology for goods tracking, fleet management, centralized database management, staff scheduling and real-time delivery tracking and reporting.

9. **Smart cities-** Smart city application like traffic management, instant weather update, local area broadcasting, energy management, smart power grid, smart lighting of street, water resource management, crowd management, emergency response etc. can use reliable 5G wireless network for its functioning.

10. **Industrial Growth-** Future industries will depend on smart wireless technologies like 5G and LTE advanced for efficient automation of equipment, predictive maintenance, safety, process tracking, smart packing, shipping, logistics and energy management. Smart sensor technology offers unlimited solutions for industrial IoT for smarter, safe, cost effective and energy efficient industrial operation.

11. **Smart farming-** 5g technology will be used for agriculture and smart farming in future. Using smart RFID sensors and GPS technology, farmers can track location of livestock and manage them easily. Smart sensors can be used for irrigation control, access control and energy management.

12. **Healthcare and mission critical applications-** 5G technology will support medical practitioners to perform advanced medical procedures with reliable wireless network connected to another side of the globe. Connected classrooms will help students to attend seminars and important lecturers. People with chronic medical conditions will benefit from **smart devices and real-time monitoring**. Doctors can connect with patients from anywhere anytime and advice them when necessary. Scientists are working on smart medical devices which can perform remote surgery. Smart medical devices like wearable will continuously monitor patient's condition and activate alert during emergency.

13. **Security and surveillance-** 5G wireless technology is one the best solution for security and surveillance due to higher bandwidth and unlicensed spectrum. It will enhance better coordination among various agencies.

14. **Efficient transportation-** 5G can also help make transport infrastructure more efficient by making it smart. 5G will enable vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communication, making driverless cars, among other things, a reality.

**Challenges present to adapt to 5G are:**

1. **Frequency allocation:** Indian operators have far less spectrum in comparison to international operators. The high investment cost which makes telecom companies unsure about Return on Investment. Though 4G LTE already operates on established frequency bands below 6GHz, 5G requires frequencies up to 300GHz.

2. **Infrastructure issues-** Despite 5G offering a significant increase in speed and bandwidth, its more limited range will require further infrastructure. Even with antennas and base stations getting smaller in this scenario, more of them would likely have to be installed on buildings or homes. Cities will probably need to install extra repeaters to spread out the waves for extended range, while also maintaining consistent speeds in denser population areas. Spreading out access to rural areas will be as much of a challenge as it was with LTE.

3. **Cost to build and buy-** Building a network is expensive, and carriers will raise the money to do it by increasing customer revenue. Much like LTE plans incurred a higher initial cost, 5G will probably follow a similar path. And it's not just building a layer on top of an existing network, it's laying the groundwork for something new altogether.

4. **Expensive Devices**- 5G-enabled smartphones and other devices, availability and affordability will depend on how expensive they are for manufacturers to make, as well as how quickly ubiquitous the network becomes. Thus in a price conscious market like India deploying 5g at such an early stage is a challenge.

5. **Security and privacy-** 5g rollout will have to contend with both standard and sophisticated cybersecurity threats. Though 5g falls under the **Authentication and Key Agreement (AKA)**, a system designed to establish trust between networks, it would currently be possible to track people nearby using their phones. They could even eavesdrop on live phone calls. The onus will be on the carriers and network consortiums to provide a digital safety net for customers, except user complacency could be equally problematic.

6. **Network investment-** In India, the telecom sector is facing capital investment issues which need to be resolved. Non-availability of funds for investment is an issue. Many of the Indian operators are also under debt. Thus funding will be an issue.

**Way forward for India:**
5G is one of the most sophisticated wireless technologies we have ever developed so far. It will revolutionize the entire area where wireless network can be used for efficient and secure communication. India should not miss the opportunity and should proactively work to deploy 5g technology. We should focus on strengthening our cyber infrastructure. Funds should be allocated and local technology and telecom firms should be incentivised to develop their internal capacities which would in turn help 5G technology succeed in the country. 5g start-ups that enable this design and manufacturing capabilities should be promoted. Coverage, reliability, and scalability must be optimised and seamless mobile networks will require a unified management policy to ensure consistent standards.

**Q.18) While Centre aims to double farmers' income by 2022, a NABARD survey shows high levels of inter-State income inequality among agricultural households. In light of this discuss various issues faced by farmers in India. Suggest some measures to resolve these issues.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Give a contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Discuss issues faced by Indian farmers.
**Conclusion.** Way forward and solutions.

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Historically, India has been an agrarian country. The Green Revolution after independence resulted in an increase in production of food grains, especially wheat and paddy. However, the improvements in agriculture did not sustain much longer. The crisis we see today was building for decades, and farming has lost the joy and has become a source of income for those who cannot opt for any other means to earn. Indian farmers are facing a variety of issues which need urgent attention.

**What are the various issues faced by Indian farmers?**
1. **Fragmented and small land holdings**- Indian landholdings are so small that makes little marketable surplus. This makes them to go for **subsistence agriculture** and also difficult for mechanisation. Also due to more number of family members after

independence, land was divided into smaller pieces leading to fragmentation. Cultivation on such a small area is not economically feasible. Such small farmers have become vulnerable. In some cases, the farmers are not the owners of the land, which makes profitable cultivation impossible because significant portion of the earnings go towards the payment of lease for the land owner.

2. **Unaffordable good quality Seeds**- Seed is a critical and basic input for attaining higher crop yields and sustained growth in agricultural production. Distribution of assured quality seed is as critical as the production of such seeds. Unfortunately, good quality seeds are out of reach of the majority of farmers, especially small and marginal farmers mainly because of exorbitant prices of better seeds.

3. **Low average yield**- Indian soils have been used for growing crops over thousands of years without caring much for replenishing. This has led to depletion and exhaustion of soils resulting in their low productivity. The average yields of almost all the crops are among lowest in the world. This is a serious problem which can be solved by using more **manures and fertilisers**.

4. **Irrigation**- Although India is the **second largest irrigated country** of the world after China, only one-third of the cropped area is under irrigation. Irrigation is the most important agricultural input in a tropical monsoon country like India where rainfall is uncertain, unreliable and erratic India cannot achieve sustained progress in agriculture unless and until more than half of the cropped area is brought under assured irrigation.

5. **Lack of mechanisation**- In spite of the large scale mechanisation of agriculture in some parts of the country, most of the agricultural operations in larger parts are carried on by human hand using simple and conventional tools and implements like wooden plough, sickle, etc. This lead to lesser productivity.

6. **Agricultural Marketing**- Agricultural marketing still continues to be in a bad shape in rural India. In the **absence of sound marketing facilities**, the farmers have to depend upon local traders and middlemen for the disposal of their farm produce which is sold at throw-away price. Most of the farmers are left with small volume of produce. Taking them to Government mandi will be a **burden as transportation costs**, **storage costs** adds up. So they sell it to middle men at distress price. The middlemen will make it to Mandi and get lucrative prices that is often not shared with farmers.

7. **Scarcity of capital**- Agriculture is an important industry and like all other industries it also requires capital. The role of capital input is becoming more and more important with the advancement of farm technology. Since the agriculturists' capital is locked up in his lands, he is obliged to borrow money.

8. **Unreliable Monsoon**- Indian Monsoon is always a gamble. If it's doesn't rain farmers will be worst hit of drought and famine. Excessive rain may destroy farmer's crop or he would not get good price due to high supply in Market due to over production. This happens in 2017, where prices of Onion, Pulses went down due to good production after two years of below normal Monsoon. Lesser rain lead to low productivity and hence lesser income.

9. **Social Problems**- Indian farmers get birth in debt, live in debt & died in debt. This is the important social problem in our country. General causes of social problems :
   - Drought & Natural calamities.
   - Totally depend on agriculture.
   - Lack of supplementary side business.

- Traditional method of agriculture & lack of updates knowledge.
- Conflict, dispute among family members.
- Unwanted activities & expenditure on modern life style.

10. **Unorganised agriculture**- No systematic institutional & organisational planning in cultivation, irrigation harvesting & marketing. Minimum purchase price fixed by the government do not reach to the poorest farmers.

11. **Literacy & opposition to developments**- Most of the marginal farmers are illiterate. Therefore he find difficult to learn about new techniques. Similarly, farmers are superstitious, traditional & not easily accept challenges & inventions. This culture called as a **poverty of culture**.

12. **Poor Government program penetration**- Government Initiative and programs does not reach up to many farmers. Government has implemented agricultural debt waiver, debt relief scheme etc. Most of the subsides & welfare schemes announced by the central & state government do not reach up to poor farmers. On the contrary, only big land holders are benefited by these schemes.

13. **New threats of Climate Change**– Noted agricultural scientist, M S Swaminathan already pointed out that the **one degree Celsius rise** in temperature could lead to wheat yield **losses of around 6 million tonnes per year in India**. He also insisted that increase in temperature not only affects the grain output but is also critical in terms of grain filling and pest attack. Read more about Climate change and Agrarian distress in India that goes in length and breadth about the issue.

**Some Measures to improver condition of farmers in India:**

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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.

4. **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. 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.

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 rained 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.

Huge R&D investment is required for development of smart and technological solutions to Agricultural problems of Indian . Advocating use of Drones and smart phones to assess crop failures in PM fasal bima yojna crop insurance scheme , e NAM are few Policy initiatives. But there is huge scope for government to solve farmers problems by technological solution.

**Q.19) "Inspite of various laws and regulations, India has made little progress in managing its plastic waste". Critically comment. Also discuss various provisions under "The Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016".**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Give a contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Discuss progress of plastic waste management in India. Write about Plastic waste management rules 2016 and 2018 amendment.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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A document of National Geographic depicted a recent December 2018 report from Britain's Royal Statistical Society highlighted a fact that only 9% of the plastic ever made has been recycled. This means that 91% of the plastic produced is 'non-recycled' or 'unprocessed' and continually deteriorating the global ecosystem. The facts pose a challenge to the world in dealing with plastic waste. India being one of the fastest developing nations and leader of the new age global scenario took aggressive steps to curb plastic waste and regulate efficient waste management systems.

**Progress in Plastic waste management in India:**
1. The government is trying to curb the use of plastics of thickness less than 50 microns and multi-layered plastics, yet the **enormous Rs. 110,000 Crore plastic industry** is continually fuelling the production of plastics.
2. The facts by CPCB and MoEF have showcased nearly 60% recycling of plastic waste, but the **global statistics paint the opposite picture**. The majority of the people working in Indian Waste Management System belong to the informal sector and Landfills are practically their livelihood.
3. A study from Proceedings of the **National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)** stated that Mumbai is the fifth largest producer of waste with a whopping 11,000 tonnes of waste

generated every day. The finance capital of the country was even marked as a city 'being buried under a mountain of its own trash'. Nevertheless, the widespread criticism forced the administration to fasten the belts and Mumbai put a complete **effective ban on single-use plastics in June 2018.**

4. 2018 ended with high aspirations of the Indian Environment Minister's resolution - **'to eliminate all single-use plastics from our beautiful country by 2022'.** It may sound promising but one must be critical to evaluate all the aspects of progress made by India and the prospected efficiency of existing legislatures and policy frameworks.

5. According to **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) estimates** in 2015, Indian cities generate about 15,000 tonnes of plastic waste per day and about 70% of the plastic produced in the country ends up as waste. Nearly 40% of India's plastic waste is neither collected nor recycled and ends up polluting the land and water. Also many companies have not specified a timeline or a plan to collect the plastic waste that results from their business activities.

**Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016**
Indiscriminate disposal of plastic has become a major threat to the environment. In particular, the plastic carry bags are the biggest contributors of littered waste and every year, millions of plastic bags end up in to the environment vis-a-vis soil, water bodies, water courses, etc and it takes an average of one thousand years to decompose completely. Therefore, to address the issue of scientific plastic waste management, the Government has notified the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 which were **amended in 2018.Salient**

**Features-**
1. **Rural areas have been brought in ambit** of these Rules since plastic has reached to rural areas also. Responsibility for implementation of the rules is given to **Gram Panchayat**.

2. First time, **responsibility of waste generators** is being introduced. Individual and bulk generators like offices, commercial establishments, industries are to segregate the plastic waste at source, handover segregated waste, pay user fee as per bye-laws of the local bodies.

3. Plastic products are left littered after the public events (marriage functions, religious gatherings, public meetings etc) held in open spaces. First time, **persons organising such** events have been **made responsible** for management of waste generated from these events.

4. Use of **plastic sheet for packaging,** wrapping the commodity except those plastic sheet's thickness, which will impair the functionality of the product are brought under the ambit of these rules. A large number of commodities are being packed/wrapped in to plastic sheets and thereafter such sheets are left for littered. Provisions have been introduced to ensure their collection and channellisation to authorised recycling facilities.

5. **Extended Producer Responsibility**- Earlier, EPR was left to the discretion of the local bodies. First time, the **producers** (i.e persons engaged in manufacture, or import of carry bags, multi-layered packaging and sheets or like and the persons using these for packaging or wrapping their products) and brand owners have been made responsible for collecting waste generated from their products. They have to approach local bodies for formulation of plan/system for the plastic waste management within the prescribed timeframe.

6. State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) will **not grant/renew registration** of plastic bags, or multi-layered packaging unless the producer proposes the action plan endorsed by the concerned State Development Department.

7. Producers to **keep a record of their vendors** to whom they have supplied raw materials for manufacturing carry bags, plastic sheets, and multi-layered packaging. This is to curb manufacturing of these products in unorganised sector.

8. The entry points of plastic bags/plastic sheets/multi-layered packaging in to commodity supply chain are primarily the retailers and street vendors. They have been assigned the responsibility of not to provide the commodities in plastic bags/plastic sheets/multi-layered packaging which do not conform to these rules. Otherwise, they will have to pay the fine.

9. **Plastic carry bag will be available only with shopkeepers/street vendors pre-registered with local bodies** on payment of certain registration fee. The amount collected as registration fee by local bodies is to be used for waste management.

10. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been **mandated to formulate the guidelines for thermoset plastic** (plastic difficult to recycle). In the earlier Rules, there was no specific provision for such type of plastic.

**Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2018 as follow-

1. The amended Rules lay down that the **phasing out of Multilayered Plastic (MLP)** is now applicable to MLP, which are "non-recyclable, or non-energy recoverable, or with no alternate use."

2. The amended Rules also prescribe a **central registration system** for the registration of the producer/importer/brand owner. The Rules also lay down that any mechanism for the registration should be automated and should take into account ease of doing business for producers, recyclers and manufacturers. The centralised registration system will be evolved by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the registration of the producer/importer/brand owner. While a national registry has been prescribed for producers with presence in more than two states, a state-level registration has been prescribed for smaller producers/brand owners operating within one or two states.

Central, State, and Local bodies are collectively trying to enforce a strict ban on non-recyclable multi-layer plastics packaging. Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Municipalities are also putting efforts to ensure segregation of waste sources and resource recovery. The combined efforts of CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) and NGT (National Green Tribunal) have **resulted in the emergence of rules** to effectively control the plastic waste issues in India. Comparing with India's past nation has gained a some momentum on several fronts in the last 5 years, especially in curbing plastics. But still a lot is needed to do.

**Q.20) What is Zero Budget Natural Farming? Considering India's food needs, examine the need of it at a national level? Discuss various challenges.**
**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Define zero budget natural farming.
> **Body.** Analyse need of zero budget national farming. Discuss various challenges.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Indian economy is facing a deep agrarian crisis that is making small scale farming an unviable occupation. Privatised seeds, inputs, and markets are inaccessible and expensive for peasants. Indian farmers increasingly find themselves in a vicious cycle of debt, because of the high production costs, high interest rates for credit, the volatile market prices of crops, the rising costs of fossil fuel based inputs, and private seeds. Under these circumstances Zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) can be an effective alternative. Budget 2019-20 also aim to promote ZBNF.

**What is Zero budget natural farming?**
'Zero Budget' means without using any credit, and without spending any money on purchased inputs. 'Natural farming' means farming with Nature and without use of fertilisers. Zero budget farming is a **set of farming methods that involve zero credit for agriculture and no use of chemical fertilisers**. The four-wheels of zero budget natural farming-
- Water vapour condensation for better soil moisture.
- Seed treatment with cow dung and urine based formulations
- Mulching.
- Ensure soil fertility through cow dung and cow urine based concoctions.

**How Zero budget natural farming can help at national level?**
In the subsequent years, methods employed in promoting the Green Revolution and farming has led to-
- Massive loss of local agro-biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge.
- Undermining of seed sovereignty.
- Increased dependence on credit to purchase proprietary seeds, insecticides and pesticides.
- Indebtedness on part of farmers due to low monetary returns from agriculture.
- Stagnation in productivity.
- Low value of agricultural produce.

All these have contributed to an unprecedented **suicide epidemic among farmers**. **0.35 million suicides** are officially acknowledged as farm suicides during 1995-2015. In addition, farmlands are reporting high soil toxicity due to the use of pesticides and fertilisers, thus endangering public health. **Various benefits** of Zero budget natural farming are as follow-
1. **Low input cost**- Agriculture in its prevailing form requires farmers to rely heavily on inorganic external chemical inputs such as fertilisers and pesticides. Zero budget farming promises to end a reliance on loans and cut production costs, ending the debt cycle for desperate farmers.

2. **Higher yield**- Besides reduced input cost, farmers practising ZBNF gets higher yields. In Andhra Pradesh Yields of five crops (paddy, groundnut, black gram, maize and chillies) have increased by 8-32% for ZBNF farmers. Farmers use bio-fertilisers and that make the soil fertile, thus giving higher yields. It has the ability to solve the food and farm crisis in the country by cutting the cost of production and doubling productivity and production.

3. **Increase in Net income**- There will be increase in net income for farmers and will improve the cash flow of poor and vulnerable farmers, and may enhance their ability to deal with economic shock. Crop cutting experiments from 2016 and 2017 indicate that ZBNF farmers in Andhra Pradesh earn better net incomes and can raise their disposable incomes. Farmers vulnerable to economic shocks have an important safety net against short-term shocks.

4. **Food and nutritional security**- As a result of increased crop yields, it will be able to improve food and nutritional security at national level. The practice of intercropping growing multiple crops in proximity to each other is encouraged under ZBNF as it ensures vulnerable communities access to a suite of nutritional sources and income generating crops throughout the year. In the long-run, due to the use of local inputs, the project is likely to contribute to maintaining the genetic diversity of seeds and crops.

5. **Environmental benefits**- It is free from health hazards, as no chemical or organic materials are used for farming. Prevailing agricultural practices such as mono-cropping decrease soil moisture content, causing tremendous stress on water resources . Wide-scale adoption of ZBNF would help reduce the release of harmful chemicals to the air, water and soil.

6. **Soil fertility**- It utilises only natural resources as inputs. Thus increases the fertility of the soil. Fertilisers and pesticides have been shown to have adverse impacts on farmers as well as consumers. Farmers are exposed to contaminants when applying chemical inputs to their crops. By replacing such external inputs with locally made natural concoctions, the project could help in reducing the incidence of non-communicable diseases.

7. **Water efficient**- ZBNF can help prevent over-extraction of groundwater, enable aquifer recharge, and eventually contribute to increasing water table levels. Zero budget natural farming **requires only 10% water and 10% electricity** than what is required under chemical and organic farming. It might help to reduce the leaching of nitrogen and phosphorous from the soil into groundwater or surface water, and eventually into rivers and oceans.

8. **Climate resilient**- ZBNF might help farmers build resilience against extreme climate events by improving the fertility and strength of the soil. ZBNF farmers have shown that crop losses due to droughts, floods and other extreme events have been lower than in non-ZBNF farms.

9. **Reduce Ocean acidification**- Zero budget natural farming eliminates chemical fertilisers and pesticides, and would help reduce ocean acidification and marine pollution from land-based activities. High concentration of ammonium nitrate in fertilisers, and hazardous chemical pollutants from pesticides which run-off into rivers and oceans can severely impact aquatic life. The use of natural concoctions in ZBNF will help to reduce the contamination and degradation of rivers and oceans.

**Challenges posed and way forward:**

1. Efficacy of ZBNF is doubtful in resolving agrarian distress in India as it is not tested on a wider scale and on all soli types. Government should first address issues that resulted in agrarian crisis like rising input costs, better MSP to farmers and falling or stagnant prices.

2. Even if even if ZBNF is adopted, challenges associated with modern agricultural farming like **knowledge gap, availability of native seed banks, cold chain facilities, MSP, and marketing issues remain unresolved.** ZBNF farmers want the government to play a more active role in terms of bridging knowledge gap, establishing local markets and provision of inputs among others.

3. There are no other official policies to promote ZBNF. A proper policy is needed. Government must increase efforts and should promote and incentivise Zero budget farming through subsidies.

4. A particular challenge is marketing. Many farmers sell their natural produce as if were chemically grown, to private traders or to government as wholesale, with no price differential. Other farmers rely on their own local marketing networks, such as to some organic shops and individual customers, but policy support in this area is crucial.

The implementation of this project at scale will impact a multitude of stakeholders, and also help India progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations (UN) to facilitate the post-2015 development agenda. The agriculture ministry plans to offer cash incentives to farmers who take up 'yogik' farming, 'gou mata kheti' and 'rishi krishi' is right step in promoting Zero budget natural farming in India.

**Q.21) In India, investing in the laggard States will ensure population control. Discuss in the light of recently, released UN's World Population Prospects. Suggest some measures to control population in India.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
|---|
| **Introduction.** Introduce with UN report. |
| **Body.** Discuss population statistics of various states. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward and solutions. |

United Nations in its 26th revision of World Population Prospects forecast that India will overtake China as the most populous country **by 2027**. In 2015, it was predicted that India would overtake China in 2022, but in the 2019 projections it is 2027. The UN has revised India's expected population size in 2050 downward from 1,705 million in 2015 projections to 1,639 million in 2019 projections. This is **due to faster than expected fertility decline**.

**Why India should invest in laggard states?**

- National-level population trends shows the **significant heterogeneity across states** in terms of fertility, mortality, age-structure, and the ageing phenomenon already underway in some states.
- The southern states, **Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal and Maharashtra are already quite advanced in the demographic transition**, with-
    - TFR already well below replacement level fertility;
    - population growth mainly due to momentum;

- more than 10 per cent of the population over the age of 59; and
- at most one-third of the population below the age of 20.

- In contrast, states such as **Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh** are still in the early stages of demographic transition. Population growth in the north and central parts of India is far greater than that in south India. This shows regional variations wrt population growth in India.

- As the United Nations Population Fund estimates, over the next 20 years, the window of opportunity will be open for moderate achievers such as Karnataka, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir. As the demographic window of opportunity closes for these States, it will open for Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other States that are the last to enter fertility transition. This suggests that workers of Bihar will be supporting the ageing population of Kerala in 20 years.

- In order to maximise the demographic dividend, **we must invest** in the education and health of the workforce, particularly in States whose demographic window of opportunity is still more than a decade away. This is because current laggards will be the greatest contributors of the future for everyone, particularly for ageing populations of early achievers. Enhancing their productivity will benefit everyone.

**Measures to Control Population of India:** Measures can be classified into 3 heads-
**Social Measures:**
1. **Minimum age of Marriage:** As fertility depends on the age of marriage. So the minimum age of marriage should be raised. In India minimum age for marriage is 21 years for men and 18 years for women has be fixed by law. This law should be firmly implemented and people should also be made aware of this through publicity.
2. **Raising the Status of Women**: There is still discrimination to the women. They are confined to four walls of house. They are still confined to household activities. So women should be given opportunities to develop socially and economically. Free education should be given to them.
3. **Spread of Education**: The spread of education changes the outlook of people. The educated men prefer to delay marriage and adopt small family norms. Educated women are health conscious and avoid frequent pregnancies and thus help in lowering birth rate.
4. **Adoption**: Some parents do not have any child, despite costly medical treatment. It is advisable that they should adopt orphan children. It will be beneficial to orphan children and children couples.
5. **Change in Social Outlook**: Social outlook of the people should undergo a change. Marriage should no longer be considered a social binding. Issueless women should not be looked down upon.
6. **Social Security:** More and more people should be covered under-social security schemes. So that they do not depend upon others in the event of old age, sickness, unemployment etc. with these facilities they will have no desire for more children.

**Economic Measures:**
1. **More employment opportunities:** The first and foremost measure is to raise, the employment avenues in rural as well as urban areas. Generally in rural areas there is disguised unemployment. So efforts should be made to migrate unemployed persons from rural side to urban side. This step can check the population growth.

2. **Development of Agriculture and Industry**: If agriculture and industry are properly developed, large number of people will get employment. When their income is increased they would improve their standard of living and adopt small family norms.

3. **Standard of Living**: Improved standard of living acts as a deterrent to large family norm. In order to maintain their higher standard of living people prefer to have a small family. A study found that those who earn less than Rs. 100 per month have on the average a reproduction rate of 3.4 children and those who earn more than Rs. 300 per month have a reproduction rate of 2.8 children.

4. **Urbanisation**: It is on record that people in urban areas have low birth rate than those living in rural areas. Urbanisation should therefore be encouraged.

**Other Measures**:

1. **Late Marriage:** As far as possible, marriage should be solemnised at the age of 30 years. This will reduce the period of reproduction among the females bringing down the birth rate. The govt. has fixed the minimum marriage age at 21 yrs. for males and 18 yrs. for females.

2. **Self-Control**: Self-control is one of the powerful methods to control the population. It is an ideal and healthy approach and people should be provided to follow. It helps in reducing birth rate. Contraceptive measures should be promoted.

3. **Family Planning**: This method implies family by choice and not by chance. By applying preventive measures, people can regulate birth rate. This method is being used extensively; success of this method depends on the availability of cheap contraceptive devices for birth control.

4. **Recreational Facilities**: Birth rate will likely to fall if there are different recreational facilities like cinema; theatre, sports and dance etc. are available to the people.

5. **Publicity**: The communication media like T.V., radio and newspaper are the good means to propagate the benefits of the planned family to the uneducated and illiterate persons especially in the rural and backward areas of country.

6. **Incentives**: The govt. can give various types of incentives to the people to adopt birth control measures. Monetary incentives and other facilities like leave and promotion can be extended to the working class which adopts small family norms.

7. **Employment to Woman**: Another method to check the population is to provide employment to women. Women should be given incentive to give services in different fields. Women are taking active part in competitive examinations. As a result their number in teaching, medical and banking etc. is increasing rapidly. In brief by taking, all there measures we can control the growth of population.

**Q.22) "Desalination technology is not an esoteric idea. However, it only has a limited application, given the operation cost". Discuss. What is desalination? Can desalination help India with its water crisis situation?**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Give a contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Discuss desalination technology. Limitations of desalination.
**Conclusion.** Way forward and solutions.

India facing a developing water crisis situation. Exploring technologies to harness fresh water is seen as one of the idea to deal with it, desalination being one of them. Desalination technology is not an esoteric idea, rather Chennai already uses desalinated water. However, it only has a limited application, given the operation costs.

**What is desalination technology?**
Desalination is a technology that convert salt water into freshwater using reverse osmosis (RO). Osmosis involves 'a solvent (such as water) naturally moving from an area of low concentration, through a membrane, to an area of high concentration.

A reverse osmosis system applies an external pressure to reverse the natural flow of solvent and so seawater or brackish water is pressurised against one surface of the membrane, causing salt-depleted water to move across the membrane, releasing clean water from the low-pressure side'. In desalination a plant pumps in salty or brackish water, filters separate the salt from the water, and the salty water is returned to the sea. Fresh water is sent to households.

**Limitations of desalination in harnessing potable water from the sea?**
**Energy intensive-** Engineering such plants have to factor in various constraints, for instance, salt levels in the source water that is to be treated, the energy required for the treatment and disposing of the salt back into the sea. To remove the salt required, there has to be a source of electricity, either a power plant or a diesel or battery source. Estimates have put this at about 4 units of electricity per 1,000 litres of water.

1. **Hyper-salinity-** Because RO plants convert seawater to fresh water, the major environmental challenge they pose is the deposition of brine (highly concentrated salt water) along the shores. Ever since the Chennai plants have started to function, fishermen have complained that the brine being deposited along the seashore is triggering changes along the coastline and reducing the availability of prawn, sardine and mackerel. Hyper salinity along the shore affects plankton, which is the main food for several of these fish species.

2. **Danger to sea life-** Moreover, the high pressure motors needed to draw in the seawater end up sucking in small fish and life forms, thereby crushing and killing them, again a loss of marine resource.

3. **Wastage of land and freshwater-** Another problem is that the construction of the RO plants required troves of groundwater. This was freshwater that was sucked out and has since been replaced by salt water, rendering it unfit for the residents around the desalination plants.

4. **Expensive-** Desalination is cost intensive and water this produced is also costly. In light of India's poor population, desalination may not work out. Investment is required to set up infrastructure, energy requirements and waste disposal.

5. **Waste Disposal-** As with any process, desalination has by-products that must be taken care of. The process of desalination requires pre-treatment and cleaning chemicals, which are added to water before desalination to make the treatment more efficient and successful. These chemicals can be used for only a limited amount of time. Once they've lost their ability to clean the water, these chemicals are dumped, which becomes a major environmental concern. These chemicals often find their way back into the ocean, where they poison plant and animal life.

6. **Health Concerns-** Desalination is not a perfected technology, and desalinated water can be harmful to human health as well. By-products of the chemicals used in

desalination can get through into the "pure" water and endanger the people who drink it. Desalinated water can also be acidic to both pipes and digestive systems.

Excessive costs, energy consumption and the threat to fisheries and marine should make communities think twice about desalination as their solution. Conservation and recycling programs are usually much less expensive and less risky alternatives to building desalination plants. Companies today are helping homes and business make more efficient use of their water. By using water-efficient product choices—with no sacrifice to quality or product performance we can help conserve our most precious natural resource.

**Q.23) "Antibiotic resistance is a slowly developing epidemic of 21st century". Comment. Discuss various causes of antibiotic resistant. Suggest some measures.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Give a contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Discuss issues of antibiotic resistance. Give reasons for antibiotic resistance.
**Conclusion.** Way forward and solutions.

**World health Organisation WHO** released top 10 threats to global health in 2019, among which antimicrobial resistance (AR) accounted for a huge contribution with **1.6 million deaths every year** due to the tuberculosis drug resistant microbe. The study '**Understanding drivers of antibiotic resistance genes in High Arctic soil ecosystems**' by Environment International journal shows that a total of 131 Antibiotic-Resistant Genes (ARGs) material were detected, among which the blaNDM-1 gene, first found in surface water in India in 2008, has spread to the Arctic in just 11 years. This reflect that antibiotic resistance is a new epidemic threat of 21st century.

**A global epidemic:**
This is no more a local problem and has to be looked as a **global health concern**. Annually, 700,000 deaths occur worldwide due to the AR bacteria, says a report titled "anti-microbial resistance benchmark".
Bacteria are carried in the gut of animals and people, and were likely spread through the faecal matter of these animals, humans as well as migratory birds. India has witnessed an increase in antibiotic consumption — about 65 per cent in 2015 compared to 2000, while the rate of consumption increased from 3.2 to 6.5 billion daily defined doses (DDDs) in the same period.
**Various Causes of antibiotic resistance:** Microbes can become resistant to drugs for both biological and social reasons.

**Microbial behaviour:** As soon as scientists introduce a new antimicrobial drug, there is a good chance that it will become ineffective at some point in time. This is due primarily to changes occurring within the microbes. These changes can come about in different ways:
1. **Mutation**: When microbes reproduce, genetic mutations can occur. Sometimes, this will create a microbe with genes that help it survive in the face of antimicrobial agents.
2. **Passing on of genes through generations**: Microbes that carry these resistance genes survive and replicate. The newly generated resistant microbes carry gene from their parents and eventually become the dominant type.

3. **Gene transfer**: Microbes can pick up genes from other microbes. Genes conferring drug resistance can easily transfer between microbes.
4. **Phenotypic change**: Microbes can change some of their characteristics to become resistant to common antimicrobial agents. This occur in environment of already resisting microbes.

**People's behaviour:** Not following recommendations for the use of some drugs can increase the risk of antimicrobial resistance. The way in which people use antimicrobial drugs is a significant contributing factor. Some individualistic reasons:

- **Inexact diagnosis**: Doctors sometimes prescribe antimicrobials "just in case," or they prescribe broad-spectrum antimicrobials when a specific drug would be more suitable. Using these medications in this way increases the risk of AMR.
- **Inappropriate use**: If a person does not complete a course of antimicrobial drugs, some microbes may survive and develop resistance to the drug. Resistance can also develop if people use drugs for conditions that they cannot treat. For example, people sometimes take an antibiotic for a viral infection. Also antibiotics recommended by quacks or pharmacist contribute to magnify the issue.
- **Agricultural use**: Using antibiotics in farm animals can promote drug resistance. Scientists have found drug-resistant bacteria in meat and food crops that have exposure to fertilisers or contaminated water. In this way, diseases that affect animals can pass to humans.
- **Hospital use**: People who are critically ill often receive high doses of antimicrobials. This encourages the spread of AMR microbes, particularly in an environment where various diseases are present.

**Prevention and control measures:** Antibiotic resistance is accelerated by the misuse and overuse of antibiotics, as well as poor infection prevention and control. Steps can be taken at all levels of society to reduce the impact and limit the spread of resistance.

- **Individuals:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, individuals should:
  - Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a certified health professional.
  - Never demand antibiotics if your health worker says you don't need them.
  - Always follow your health worker's advice when using antibiotics.
  - Never share or use leftover antibiotics.
  - Prevent infections by regularly washing hands, preparing food hygienically, avoiding close contact with sick people, practising safer sex, and keeping vaccinations up to date.
  - Prepare food hygienically, following the WHO Five Keys to Safer Food (keep clean, separate raw and cooked, cook thoroughly, keep food at safe temperatures, use safe water and raw materials) and choose foods that have been produced without the use of antibiotics for growth promotion or disease prevention in healthy animals.
- **Policy makers:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, policy makers should:
  - Ensure a robust national action plan to tackle antibiotic resistance is in place.
  - Improve surveillance of antibiotic-resistant infections.
  - Strengthen policies, programmes, and implementation of infection prevention and control measures.

- Regulate and promote the appropriate use and disposal of quality medicines.
- Make information available on the impact of antibiotic resistance.
- **Health professionals:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, health professionals should:
    - Prevent infections by ensuring that their hands, instruments, and environment are clean.
    - Only prescribe antibiotics when they are needed, according to current guidelines.
    - Report antibiotic-resistant infections to surveillance teams.
    - Talk to their patients about how to take antibiotics correctly, antibiotic resistance and the dangers of misuse.
    - Talk to their patients about preventing infections (for example, vaccination, hand washing, safer sex, and covering nose and mouth when sneezing).
- **Healthcare industry:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, the health industry should invest in research and development of new antibiotics, vaccines, diagnostics and other tools.
- **Agriculture sector:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, the agriculture sector should:
    - Only give antibiotics to animals under veterinary supervision.
    - Not use antibiotics for growth promotion or to prevent diseases in healthy animals.
    - Vaccinate animals to reduce the need for antibiotics and use alternatives to antibiotics when available.
    - Promote and apply good practices at all steps of production and processing of foods from animal and plant sources.
    - Improve biosecurity on farms and prevent infections through improved hygiene and animal welfare.

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

**Q.24) "Trend of 'jobless growth' that was till recently confined largely, to the organised sector has now spread to other sectors of the economy". Discuss in the context of latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (2017-18). What should be done to ensure inclusive growth?**
**Ans.**

| **Demand of the question** |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Contextual introduction. |
| **Body.** Discuss finding of survey. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward and solutions for inclusive growth. |

The findings of the latest employment survey, called the **Periodic Labour Force Survey** (2017-18), are a cause for concern. The two biggest issues reported are: the shrinking share of the labour force; and the rising unemployment.

**Findings of the survey:**
- The **labour force participation rate** (% of people working or seeking work in the above-15 years age category) in the earlier survey of 2012 was 55.5%. This has shrunk to 49.7% in 2018. There is an absolute decline in the number of workers from 467.7 million in 2012 to 461.5 million in 2018.
- The figure for the overall **unemployment rate at 6.1%** is 2.77 times the same figure for 2012. The rise in overall unemployment has both **locational and gender dimensions.** The unemployment rate is-
    - Urban women- 10.8%
    - Urban men- 7.1%
    - Rural men- 5.8%
    - Rural women- 3.8%.
- There is severe unemployment among **men at 6.2%** which is higher than among **women at 5.7%**. However, given the **sharp decline in women's labour force participation rate**, due to the double whammy of **exclusion from the labour force and an inability to access employment when** included in the labour force. The decline in women's labour force participation from 31% to 24% means that India is among the countries with the lowest participation of women in the labour force.
- The issue of **educated unemployment,** given its link with not just growth but also with transformative development, has never been as acute as at present. Defined as unemployment among those with at least a secondary school certificate, it is at 11.4% compared to the previous survey's figure of 4.9%.
- But what is significant is that the unemployment rates go up as levels of education go up. Among those with secondary school education, it is 5.7% but jumps to 10.3% when those with higher secondary-level education are considered. The highest rate is among the diploma and certificate holders (19.8%); followed by graduates (17.2); and postgraduates (14.6%).
- Among the educated, women face a more unfavourable situation than men despite a low labour force participation rate. Compared to the earlier 2012 survey, unemployment of educated men has more than doubled in both rural and urban areas and in the case of women, the rate has nearly doubled. However, it is important to remember is that the rate was higher for educated women, when compared to educated men, in both the periods.
- Youth unemployment rate (unemployment among those in the 15-29 years age category) has reached a high **17.8%**. Even here, the women stand more disadvantaged than the men, especially urban women.

**Solutions for inclusive growth:**
1. **Infrastructure**: India needs to invest an additional 3-4% of GDP on infrastructure to sustain current levels of growth and to equalise its benefits. Although this will clearly require a government role, the relative roles of the government and private sector need to be defined. Infrastructure is important to equalise growth as investments raise productivity and farmer incomes in agriculture, infrastructure help in creating jobs, as

well as the infrastructure is needed to connect rural India with the benefits of a growing economy.

2. **Labor regulations**: India's restrictive labor regulations have constrained the growth of the formal manufacturing sector. Better designed regulations can attract more labor-intensive investment and improve the job prospects for India's unemployed millions, those trapped in poor quality jobs, and the 80 million new entrants who are expected to join the work force over the next decade.

3. **Financial sector**: Problems in accessing finance are a major impediment to the performance of small and medium size businesses in India. Improving financial intermediation and ensuring broader access to financial services is critical for equalising growth. Inclusive growth needs financial institutions to be strong and efficient. The experience with cooperative banks under dual regulation, and deposit taking NBFCs with poor governance, points out the challenges in ensuring effective regulation and supervision of entities allowed to access public deposits.

4. **Agriculture and the rural economy**: Agriculture is the largest contributor to India's employment sector. Ensuring sustainable and profitable agriculture would ensure inclusive growth. Raising agricultural productivity requires a return to investments in agricultural technology and infrastructure. Getting the rural economy moving will also require facilitating rural-non farm entrepreneurship.

5. **Lagging states**: Faster economic growth has seen rising inter-state disparities. Lagging states need to bring more jobs to their people by creating an attractive investment destination. Reforming cumbersome regulatory procedures, improving rural connectivity, establishing law and order, creating a stable platform for natural resource investment that balances business interests with social concerns, and providing rural finance are important. Good understanding and coordination between the government machinery is essential for development and inclusive growth.

6. **Empowerment and opportunity**: In order to achieve inclusive growth, policy reforms should focus on empowerment and opportunity, enabling all Indian citizens to engage with the emerging economy on fair terms. Expanding rural infrastructure is good, but without complementary investments in empowerment and opportunity will not be enough. Increased access to rural finance can be important, but only if embedded with other reforms to make the rural economy work for the poor.

7. **Accountability of reforms**: Outlays do not necessarily mean outcomes. The people of the country are concerned with outcome. Emphasis should be laid on the need to improve the quality of implementation and enhance the efficiency and accountability of the delivery mechanism. The fruits of reforms are now being enjoyed by the rich and to some extent by the middle class and they are not reaching the poor. Hence, efforts should be made in this direction.

8. **Land reforms**: While raising agricultural productivity is a must to cope with the shrinkage of agricultural land, the very slow growth of non-farm opportunities for employment (The rising demand for industrialisation, including SEZs, and for housing in expanding urban areas) and livelihoods and social security for small holders poses a challenge and argue for a careful and calibrated approach for land acquisition.

9. **Inclusive governance**: Governance has to be viewed and shaped in the context of ongoing social change through the functioning of our democratic system. Experience has amply demonstrated that anticipatory or inclusive governance is indispensable for achieving inclusive growth. Creation of legal entitlements for an individual's right to work has added to resilience and dynamism in our rural economy. The right to

information and the right to education are effective tools of empowerment for removing social imbalances.

The trend of 'jobless growth' that was till recently confined largely, to the organised sector has now spread to other sectors of the economy, making it more generalised. This calls for a thorough re-examination of the missing linkages between growth and employment. Inclusive growth is a wider connotation encompassing social, economic and political factors. Socially, lack of inclusive growth leads to unrest among many people. The measures which raise equity also promote economic growth.

**Q.25) "The consolidated codes on labour laws to simplify and consolidate labour rules and laws is need of the hour". Comment. Discuss the need of labour reforms in India. Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Introduce with Code on wages bill.
**Body.** Discuss population statistics of various states.
**Conclusion.** Way forward and solutions.

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To simplify and consolidate labour rules and laws under four codes, the Occupational, Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, was approved. The Code on Wages Bill seeks to include more workers under the purview of minimum wages and proposes a statutory national minimum wage for different geographic regions, to ensure that States will not fix minimum wages below those set by the Centre.

**Why Simplification and consolidation of labour laws?**
1. **Welfare of labour**: Labor protection legislation is one of the basic features of welfare state and aims at providing social justice. The main aim of such laws should be to create more, safer, and rewarding jobs for the labour. This includes standards on minimum wages, working conditions, overtime controls etc. Thus simplification of labour laws is must.
2. **Numerous laws**: For the fulfilment of above needs, there are numerous overlapping, rigid and isolated acts (about 145), which are applicable to firms at any point of time. This gives immense powers to public officials and results in harassment of employers. It leaves **room for corruption** and increases compliance costs in terms of money and time. This type of policy runs counter to above stated desirable objectives. This makes our firms uncompetitive to foreign firms. It is quite apparent from the perpetual dismal performance of Indian manufacturing sector.
3. **Huge Informal Sector**- India have about 85-90 % of the workforce employed in informal sector on which these laws are not applicable. These are micro firms employing as low as 5-10 persons. These employers are discouraged to expand their businesses, by such huge number of regressive laws. Neither they have understanding of laws to that level and services of Lawyers to ensure compliance is much expensive. Further, huge majority of workforce get no formal training. This results in low productivity and low value addition.
4. **Entry and exit Barriers for firms and Job security for workers**- Law for this provides that government approval should be taken before retrenchment of the workers (in case industrial dispute act apply). As a rule for good economic environment, there should

least entry and exit barriers for Firms in any business. But in addition, social security of the workers is indispensable. It should be notice that a businessmen will scale down his operations almost only in face of losses or in drive of modernisation.

5. **Informalisation**: Indeed, a major weakness of the Indian economy is the 'informalisation' of the economy with large numbers of workers who have little job security and earn less too. Moreover, since contract and casual workers can be easily fired, the inability to fire the workers they hire cannot be the constraint on employers growing their enterprises.

6. **Changing technologies**: Technologies are changing rapidly and automation is leading to loss of jobs. Thus rights of workers for decent treatment, fair wages, and adequate social security need to be taken care of through simple rules and regulations easy to understand.

7. **Archaic laws**: India's labour laws are archaic, too many, often contradictory, and badly administered. They must be reformed. The reformed laws must suit emergent conditions. They must provide more flexibility to employers. Above all, they must ensure fair treatment of workers, and provide a wider social safety net. Reforms must be made with consensus amongst workers and their unions, and employers and their associations.

**Labour reforms- are they the need of the hour?**

1. **Complex law system-** Under the Constitution of India, Labour is a subject in the concurrent list where both the Central and State Governments are competent to enact legislations. As a result, a large number of labour laws have been enacted catering to different aspects of labour e.g occupational health, safety, employment etc. Therefore, there are 44 labour legislations at central level and almost four times of them at State level. As a result, it created a lot of redundancy and loopholes in the legal system which paves way to exploitation of labour. Implementation of this complex system of laws has also become a challenge to limited number of Labour Enforcement Officers in India.

2. **Labour exploitation-** Because of the predominantly heavy handed labour regulations (also called as Inspector Raj) with exploitable gaps, the MNCs and domestic organizations have resorted to alternate ways i.e. employing contract labours at less than half the payroll of a permanent employee. India has 94% of its workforce in its unorganised sector. With a second highest workforce of 487 million workers (next to China), Indian GDP is grossly undervalued. This 94% of unorganised workforce accounts for 57% of GDP while the remaining 43% comes from the meagre 6%. This huge workforce getting trapped in unorganised sector is largely attributed to our stringent labour laws. Thus labour reforms are needed.

3. **Impact of delay of labour reforms**: The Labour Reforms if not implemented soon, it would take a gross hit on India as an investment destination. Also it would incur huge loss to the economy due to undervalued GDP production. This reflect the dire need for reforms. The other reason we quoted was economic loss. The data shows that 94% of Labour force in India is in unorganised sector and that shows how grossly Indian GDP is undervalued. This is so because the income of these people in workforce is very much less than the permanent workforce for the same output. The improper regulations coupled with complexity have led to misuse of vast Labour of India.

4. **Issue of contract labour-** One of the main reason for labour reforms is the concept of contract labour. Trade Unions suggest that this concept itself should be removed. There is stringent hiring and firing process defined in Industry Disputes Act. It makes it

mandatory for the organization to seek Government permission before removing an employee.

This highly regulated firing process would motivate Employers and MNCs to hire contract labour. Balancing this has become a challenge to Government. Easing of firing rules would also have a detrimental effect on collective bargaining power of employees as it makes easier for employers to fire the employees and harass them in the event of encouraging the union formations. But on the other side, having a strong labour policy would make the nation a more socialist country. Thus labour reforms are needed.

Simplification and rationalisation of labour laws will require examination of labour laws individually. If necessary, certain laws may be considered for being repealed. A consensus will have to emerge from the stakeholders regarding this. Similarly, few common definitions can be provided for things like classification of work force etc. Also the wage difference between contract and temporary should have a ceiling.

**Q.26) "The potential applications of Artificial Intelligence in public health are enormous." Discuss. How it can solve our country's health problems?**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** Various potential application of artificial intelligence.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quickly evolving and is already being used to support and improve health services in many high-income countries. AI holds great promise for improving the delivery of health services in resource-poor settings. Further research and investments are needed to accelerate its deployment in such settings.

**Some of the potential applications of AI in public health are:**
1. **Diagnostics and screening**: Artificial Intelligence can help in identifying or predicting diseases based on expressed symptoms. It will not only reduce diagnostic errors but will diagnose precisely based on patient's history.
2. **Health worker performance and productivity**: Artificial Intelligence will track the data captured by health workers, and use it to direct their efforts where they are most needed. This will enhance their efficiency and productivity. It will also reduce workload.
3. **Improving client adherence**: Artificial Intelligence will help in identifying patterns and gaps in people's health-seeking behaviour and will suggest who might drop out of a health programme or course of treatment. This will improve public health and will reduce unnecessary expenditure.
4. **Health informatics**: Health informatics describes the acquisition, storage, retrieval and use of healthcare information to improve patient care across interactions with the health system. Health informatics can help shape public health programmes by ensuring that critical information is available for making sound policies and programme decisions.
5. **Electronic medical records (EMRs)**: EMRs, which are digital versions of patient and population health information, are an important source of data for health informatics. Their use has become much more prevalent in low-resource settings, which in an era of

networked computers, has expanded potential applications of AI to improve public health informatics and decision making.

6. **Cloud computing**: The expansion of cloud computing has led to the expansion of AI applications for health. Cloud computing refers to the use of a network of remote servers to store, manage, access and process data rather than a single personal computer or hard drive. While EMRs can be maintained in the cloud with adequate privacy and security precautions, cloud computing can be used with a multitude of data related to public health. Researchers recently tested a cloud computing application using patient data that aimed to improve interactive voice response telephone calls for managing non-communicable diseases.

7. **Mobile health**: Health uses mobile and wireless technologies to achieve health objectives. The rapid availability and expansion of mobile phones in low-income countries has created several opportunities for using these technologies to support health efforts. Mobile phones have been used by community health workers (CHWs) to improve the provision of health services within resource-poor settings. Mobile phones have also been used to communicate health information to patients in resource-poor settings when face-to-face interactions are not feasible. The use of short message service to address demand-side barriers to vaccination and improve immunisation coverage has been thoroughly documented through randomised controlled trials in settings.

In India where public health system is not robust and millions live under poverty, Artificial Intelligence can ensure accessibility to public health. Rural areas where doctors are less can be reached using technology and artificial intelligence. Also artificial intelligence can reduce diagnostic errors but will also provide person centric services.

**Q.27) "Faulty public distribution system in many states have denied food to many poor people". In light of this discuss various issues in public distribution system. Give some solutions to improve PDS.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
|---|
| **Introduction.** Contextual introduction. |
| **Body.** Discuss various issues of PDS. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward and solutions. |

Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, the PDS ensures 5 kg of food grain per person per month to those who hold these cards. Antyodaya families, or the poorest of the poor, are entitled to 35 kg of food grain per family per month under the Act.There are dozens who claim that they are not receiving food grain under the PDS.

**Various issues related to Public Distribution System are:**
1. **Inclusion issues**: The deletion of ration cards, problems in linking ration cards to Aadhaar the system seems to create more problems than it solvesexcluding many families rather than including them. The Socio-Economic and Caste Census of 2011, which helps identify PDS beneficiaries, is also seen as faulty and outdated. Identification of poor by the states is not fool proof. A large number of poor and needy

persons are left out and a lot of fake cards are also issued. Fair Price Shop owner gets fake Ration cards and sell the food grains in the open market.

2. **Connectivity issues**: In a majority of the ration shops of the State, delivery is through an electronic point of sale (EPOS) machine. It is through this machine that the biometrics of a beneficiary, mostly thumb impressions, have to be entered and verified from the server database. The EPOS machine works only if it is connected to the Internet. If the beneficiaries face no hiccups in any of these stages, they get their quota of food grain.

3. **Dislocation**: It is wrong to believe that once a fair price shop is set up, the common man's requirements of consumer goods are met at reasonable prices. The fair price shops do not often lift the sanctioned quotas due to one reason or the other, causing dislocation in the smooth flow of commodities from producing centres to numerous (and often distant) consuming areas.

4. **Poor Quality**: The poor quality of commodities supplied seems to be the proximate cause of poor off-take of commodities like wheat and rice in urban areas. Easy availability in the open market also tends to reduce the quantity of purchase from the PDS. Experience has shown that when the supply of a commodity covered under the PDS is abundant; consumers turn away from the fair price shops and buy their requirements as far as possible from the open market. Thus the PDS is effective mainly in times of shortages and rising price.

5. **Lack of Integrated Approach**: An efficient PDS requires strong link among production, procurement, transportation, storage and distribution of the selected commodities. In the past, responsibilities for these have been divided among many people and, thus, there has been a lack of an integrated system or an integrated approach which alone could ensure an efficient PDS.

6. **Lack of Demand-Supply Balance**: Continuous increase in production in response to rising demand is absolutely essential to ensure price stability. There are few problem areas of continued demand-supply imbalance in essential commodities like pulses, edible oils, sugar, etc. It has not been possible to achieve technological breakthrough in the production of pulses and oilseed while sugarcane production has been marked by cyclical fluctuations. The problem posed by the stagnation in the production of pulses is compounded by the fact that the supply of pulses cannot be increased significantly through imports.

7. **Lack of Profit Margin**: Low profit margin turned out to be the major complaint of fair price shop-owners. Most of the shopkeepers have to go to warehouses more than once to take delivery of their allotted quotas.

8. **Partial Success**: The role of PDS in controlling prices has been partly effective as in the case of food-grains and to some extent in edible oils. While procurement of cereals has been rising in recent years, the off-take has fallen sharply. The existence of a buffer stock is acting as a cushion against any attempt by traders to raise prices artificially in times of shortage.

9. **Leakages**: The strengthening of the PDS has almost put an end to black marketing of food-grains in the country. However, in the case of edible oils, despite massive imports year after year, strict control on their prices could not be enforced largely due to leakages from the PDS. There are instances of imported oil being sold in the open market at higher prices.

10. **Urban Bias**: A close look at the geographical distribution of fair price shops reveals that administrative convenience rather than the essential objectives of the PDS had

determined its expansion. It has an urban bias, with most of the shops being located in cities and towns. As a consequence the benefits of PDS are available to the urban rich and not to the rural poor.

11. **Public Procurement**: It may also be emphasised that the operation of price control and rationing has to be supplemented by public procurement. The government's procurement drive has not been very effective over the years.

**The following measures should be taken to improve the present Public Distribution System (PDS):**

1. Implementation of measures such as door-step delivery of food grains should be explored.
2. Viability of fair price shop operations should be improved.
3. Greater monitoring and vigilance of fair price shop, and PDS system should be done through use of technology.
4. Food grains off take should be improved.
5. Correct identification of beneficiaries is needed. In cases where technical issues related to technology are faced, there an exception should be made and food grain should be distributed, keeping proper record of the house.
6. Smart system communication like information provided to consumers by SMS about rations should be employed.

The Government has undertaken several measures from time to time for streamlining the implementation and improving the efficacy of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). Measures such as door-step delivery of food grains, correct identification of beneficiaries, improve food grains off-take, greater monitoring and vigilance, improving viability of fair price shop operations, etc. are welcome. More needed to be done to remove PDS inefficiencies.

**Q.28) "It is estimated that in just 30 years from now, half of India will be living in cities". In the context of threat of water crisis, how can we ensure the next generations water security to next generations? Suggest some best eco-management practices to ensure water security.**

**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
|---|
| **Introduction.** Contextual introduction. |
| **Body.** Developing water crisis. Some measures. Eco-management practices around the nation. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

The demand for water in India is steeply increasing. India's population which was 1.3 billion in 2005 is expected to rise to 1.66 billion in 2050. There is also going to be a major impact on development in the form of urbanisation. In 2007, 28.2% of the Indian population was living in urban areas and the urban population is expected to increase to 55.2% by 2050.

**Developing Water crisis situation:**

1. Increased industrialisation will demand more water as its contribution to GDP will increase from 29.1% in 2000 to 40% by 2050. Thus, the demand for water will increase from 30 billion cubic meter in 2000 to 161 billion cubic meter in 2050.

2. While the consumption of water in India will increase by over 50%, the supply will increase only by 5-10% during the next 12-15 years. This will lead to water scarcity situation and most of the people, particularly those who are dependent on agriculture and living in poverty will suffer the most. Water scarcity will affect the food production, biodiversity and the environment. Environmental degradation will accelerate global warming, which in turn will accelerate water crisis.

3. In the absence of harnessing rainwater in the forests and denuded hilly terrains, inadequate soil and water conservation measures are leading to severe soil erosion, silting of rivers beds and reservoirs and frequent flooding across the country. Presently, over 40 million ha are prone to floods in the country. One of the major reasons for soil erosion and silting of rivers is severe deforestation. As a result of soil erosion, many of the rivers have been changing their courses almost every year damaging fertile agricultural lands.

**Some steps to ensure water security:**

1. **Protection of groundwater and fresh water resources**- Groundwater, that which is stored in rocks beneath the earth's surface, is far more abundant than fresh surface water, less susceptible to contamination and requires less treatment to make it drinkable. Thus, it makes sense to utilise groundwater resources as much as possible. However, mapping of a country's groundwater resources is often only partially completed. Lack of accurate knowledge of where or how much water there is in an area often results in over extraction.

2. **Augmentation of water resources**-The solution is to tap all the possible water resources and make them available for sustainable use, while improving the water use efficiency. This can be done by addressing various concerns and initiating suitable actions for development of new water resources, augmentation of available resources, prevention of water pollution and improving the efficiency of water use in all the sectors.

3. **Increasing water storage capacity**- Activities such as farm ponds, percolation tanks, water reservoirs and construction of small and medium size dams and rivers can retain more surface water, while increasing the ground water recharge. Series of contour bounds particularly in undulating areas will facilitate percolation of water in the soil and improve the ground water table, while reducing soil erosion. Gully plugging, construction of series of small dams on rivulets will help in storing water in reservoirs.

4. **Interlinking of rivers**- It will help in preventing floods while improving water distribution in the country. Control of water flow and floods will prevent soil erosion. Presently, billions of tons of fertile soils along with precious nutrients are washed out of our fertile agricultural lands and forests. In fact, the amount of nutrients lost due to soil erosion is almost equivalent to the chemical fertilisers produced in the country. This highlights the impact of soil erosion control on the food production. Reforestation of degraded forests and development of wastelands through afforestation will help in soil and water conservation.

5. **Judicious distribution of water for different uses**-It can help in preventing water scarcity. The water distribution for different purposes is influenced by powerful lobbies and vested interests. Many sectors receive more water than what is needed at the cost of others. To overcome such inefficiency and wastage of resources, a suitable investment mechanism should be developed based on the needs and return on

investments. A transparent programme implementation mechanism and regular monitoring for quality can improve the speed and quality of the projects.

6. **Efficient irrigation practices**- Efficiency in irrigation is most essential, if the country wants to face the challenge of water crisis. As most of the crops are watered through flood irrigation, over 70% of the water used for irrigation is wasted. Furthermore, as the water supplied is not measured, farmers have a tendency to flood the field with excessive water without any additional cost. The Government of India should consider enforcing a ban on flood irrigation in the country. Simultaneously, metered supply of irrigation water, recovery of water cost, promotion of micro-irrigation systems and involvement of water users' group for water distribution would significantly help in improving the water use efficiency and reducing the cost of agricultural production.

7. **Watershed development**- Development of watersheds is an important programme to make best use of the rainwater for agricultural production while improving soil conservation and biodiversity. Government of India has given top priority for watershed development to provide assured water supply of agriculture in rain fed areas. It is estimated that over 63% of the cultivated lands in the rain fed areas need to be brought under watershed development to conserve soil and water, which in turn would improve the crop yields as well as ground water table. The watershed development programme is presently focussing on contour bunding and gully plugging, as the budget provided by the Government of India is just adequate to carry out these activities. Additional funds are required to support the farmers to adopt improved agricultural practices.

8. **Control of water pollution**- Excessive use of water for agriculture, industries and domestic uses is leading to water pollution, because such excess water is transformed into saline water, sewage or effluent. Thus, rewards and punishments should be introduced for persuading people to make optimum use of the precious water. Discharge of sewage and affluent into water bodies and rivers must be banned and recycling of waste water must be pursued and enforced. This will help in keeping the water sources clean and reducing the future demand for water. Treated sewage and effluent can be used for agriculture and industrial production.

9. **Desalination of sea water**- Over 70% of the global water resources being saline, economic desalination of sea water is an excellent option to meet the future shortage of sweet water particularly to meet the human consumption. Presently, desalination of sea water is expensive and non-popular. However, with solar power, desalination can be a viable alternative to meet the water needs in coastal areas.

10. **Research and development**- There is a need for investing in research related to ground water monitoring, weather forecasting, breeding water efficient and drought resistant crops and varieties which can cope up with the changing climatic conditions, arising due to global warming.

**Some eco-management practices across the nation:**

- **Mission Kakatiya, Telangana**- Mission Kakatiya is a flagship program under Telangana government aimed at restoring minor irrigation sources of water like ponds and tanks. The objective is to enhance the development of Minor Irrigation infrastructure, strengthening community based irrigation management in a decentralized manner and to adopt a comprehensive programme for restoration of tanks and sources of water.

- **'Har Khetko Paani', Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh**- The steps taken up during intervention were renovation of traditional water structures and promotion of crop

diversification. Under the program "Har Khet Ko Pani" comprehensive Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of all components in the chain of Tanks was carried out through Community Based Organisations (CBOs). Under More Crop per Drop, the advanced technologies were installed and the bore well mapping was done. By implementation of GIS based technologies like geo-tagging of assets the online application procedure was simplified.

- **Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM),Waghad, Maharashtra**- The steps carried out during the intervention were awareness programs that promoted conjunctive use of surface and ground water and enforcement of water use entitlement which is monitored and regulated by Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority.

- **Jal Dal- Children's Institutions for Water Management, Rajasthan**- Due to lack of availability of drinking water, Government School in Godawas experienced poor enrolment and attendance rates. Children had to help their mothers fetch water from distant places and were at the suffering end of the problem of water access. The Gram Panchayat of the village constructed a 40,000 litre tank in school, enlargement of village pond and created a Jal Sabha in the village. To ensure maintenance of the newly constructed tank, a student body of 10 members called Jal Dal was constituted. The Jal Dal took the responsibility of cleaning the roof and ensuring clean water in the tank. They were also responsible for cleaning of silt chambers and meticulous functioning of the hand pump. The school children were also involved in environment conservation drives and in disseminating information about water stress to the villagers.

- **Mazhapolima Initiative, Thrissur District, Kerala**- Thrissur District Administration along with various NGOs working in Kerala launched an artificial groundwater recharge program called Mazhapolima, meaning bounty of rain. In the rainy season, the rooftop rain water is led through pipes with sand filter at the end, to open dug well to replenish the aquifer. Under this initiative, employees of 100 NGOs received training to install roof water harvesting systems.

- **Some Traditional Water Management practices**-
  - Johads, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
  - Ahar Pyne, Bihar
  - Apatani, Arunachal Pradesh
  - Phad, Maharashtra
  - Kuls/Kuhls in Himalayan Region, Himachal Pradesh
  - Bamboo Drip Irrigation, Meghalaya
  - Artificial Glaciers, Ladakh

Urban centres should adopt, remodel and implement some of the best water management practices to avoid disaster. Te answer perhaps lies in the tendency of policymakers to discount the future and of their obsession of focussing on the here and now.

**Q.29) "Government's existing technology vision for the digital economy, hinges on data localisation to solve multiple problems, unfortunately it misses a number of issues and have hidden costs". Critically examine. Suggest some measures to resolve these issues.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Need of data localisation and various issues related to it.
**Conclusion.** Way forward and solution.

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Data localisation means collection, and storage nations' citizens or residents data inside the country. It enables governments to secure privacy of their citizens and secure their rights. India has recently promulgated a number of data localisation requirements that need companies to localise all data processing related to payment transactions in India. This is in line with the government's existing technology vision for the digital economy.

**Why data localisation is necessary for India?**

1. Data localisation is necessary to secure citizen's data and their privacy. It will not only enhance nation's security but would also lead to economic and technological advancement of the country.
2. Indian users' data is stored outside the country. This could lead to a situation of conflict of jurisdiction in case of any dispute. Thus Data localisation would help Indian judiciary to deal with situation of conflict according to Data norms.
3. Digital technologies like machine learning (ML), artificial intelligence (AI) and Internet of Things (IoT) can generate tremendous value out of various data. Data localisation would enable India to en-cash upon the data generated through these technologies.
4. This will benefit India by creating a local ecosystem of data and data centres. It will provide jobs and livelihood to many.
5. International companies by entering Indian market will carry technology and experience with it. Data localisation is an opportunity for Indian technology companies to grow.
6. It will enhance cyber security framework of India by providing valuable inputs and experience.

**Various issues India facing wrt digital regulation:**

1. **Anti-competition:** Foreign companies have an advantage over all other Indian firms. They have large social base which provide them with an edge over Indian companies. E.g. Facebook, WhatsApp have a large social media and messaging base that enable them to influence their users. Providing a level playing field to the local firms is difficult.
2. **Privacy Concerns:** The larger concern is related to the of privacy of the citizens. Even if companies agrees to set up data localisation in India, companies will still have access to data on all transactions, which could be misused. E.g Facebook can use its social media data linking it with transactions made through WhatsApp.
3. **Short term solution:** Having data in India does not mean that domestic companies will be able to access this data. Localisation may help in the growth of the local data centres and the cloud computing industry in India, but such an approach is a short term measure as major of data will be with outside companies.

4. **Against e-commerce sector:** Mandating localisation will be against government policy to promote e-commerce. Further mandating a strict data localisation regime could be perceived as a trade barrier and will adversely impact India's economic growth.

5. **Would impact industry:** Data localisation will lead to rise in prices of foreign company services. They may increase cost of their services like cloud computing. It will impact industries as well as start-ups relying on these services.

6. **Burden on judiciary:** Due to Data localisation conflicts will increase leading to litigations. This will put extra burden on judiciary which is already overburdened.

**What should be done?**

1. We need a set of clear guidelines on digital transactions, along with requirements for storing and processing payments. Elaborate and clear definitions would make rules simpler and will help in better implementation.

2. Detailed study and analysis is needed on how digital technologies will impact different sectors, especially finance and payments. Efforts should be made to promote competition, enabling local firms. Also studies on protecting consumer data and promoting data sovereignty is needed.

3. Domestic enterprises should be encouraged and supported to use the local market to emerge as global champions. Local firms will need much more support and incentives in the digital payments market.

4. There must be clarity on how citizens' data will be stored, and for how long. This will remove confusions and will also aware citizens about their rights. Any violation of rule can help Indian firms and citizens to sue the companies.

5. There is an urgent need to have an integrated, long-term strategy for policy creation for data localisation. Data localisation needs to integrate a wide range of social, political and economic perspectives.

6. Adequate infrastructure in terms of energy, real estate, and internet connectivity also need to be made available for India to become a global hub for data centres.

India's digital vision talks about data sovereignty and giving domestic firms an advantage. With the right policy incentives, local firms could capture large shares of the digital payments market to become e-commerce players on a global scale. These are crucial to guarantee the rights of all Indians as we move from a cash-based to a cashless economy.

**Q.30) "Adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) amenities, including waste management and environmental cleaning services, are critical to safe functioning of health facilities." Comment. Discuss what should be done to improve health facilities? Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Importance of WASH. How to improve health facilities?
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Healthcare facilities include primary, secondary, tertiary healthcare. A healthcare facility poor in WASH services i.e. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene lead to threat of infections and prevention of disease is severely compromised. Adequate water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) amenities,

including waste management and environmental cleaning services, are critical to their safe functioning.

**Why WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) is Important?**
1. **Reduce incidence of diseases:** There is clear evidence that shows that hygienic behaviour, in particular hand-washing with soap can significantly reduce the incidence of diseases like diarrhoea, which is the second leading cause of death amongst children under five years old.
2. **Prevent spreading of disease:** Good hand-washing practices reduce the spread of many diseases. It prevent spreading of microbes causing diseases.
3. **Risk to patients and health workers:** Poor hygiene, sanitation put patients and health workers at risk of getting sick from avoidable infections. Poor WASH facilities lead to increased chances of infection at health facilities.
4. **Antimicrobial Resistance:** Lack of WASH facilities also results in unnecessary use of antibiotics, thereby spreading antimicrobial resistance. Poor Hygiene lead to microbes getting adapted. Flush of antibiotic in water lead to development of microbial resistance.

**How to improve health facilities?**
1. **Develop National standards and accountability mechanisms:** Health authorities should establish national standards and accountability mechanisms. Lack of quality data limits authorities' understanding of the problem. A national road-map is needed to improve WASH services in healthcare facilities.
2. **Behavioural Change and culture of cleanliness:** Health authorities should work towards developing a culture of cleanliness and safety in all healthcare facilities. Swachh Bharat Scheme should give special focus on healthcare facilities. A behaviour change must be instilled among community towards WASH and it's benefits.
3. **Ensure timely data collection:** Authorities should ensure that collection of data on key WASH indicators should be done on time. It will accelerate progress by promoting continued action and accountability.
4. **Conduct situation analysis and assessment:** An analysis to examine health and WASH policies, governance structures, and funding is needed. An assessment is necessary for updated figures on WASH coverage and compliance in health facilities. Together, these documents form the basis for prioritising policies and mobilising resources.
5. **Improve and maintain infrastructure:** Health facilities' infrastructure should be improved to meet national standards. It should be accompanied by various policies inputs.
6. **Develop health workforce:** All workers engaged in the health system, from doctors, to nurses, midwives, and cleaners should have access to up-to-date information on WASH and infection prevention and control practices during pre-service training and as part of regular professional development.
7. **Engage communities:** Community members play an important role in using and providing feedback on health services. They must be included in the development of WASH policies and in the regular review of WASH coverage and implementation data.
8. **Conduct research and share learning:** External review and research is important for testing and scaling-up approaches. It help in reflecting and revising programmes and various strategies.

As member states strive to achieve the 'flagship priorities' and work towards the SDG targets, outcome is crucial. Indeed, whatever the healthcare facility, whoever the provider, and

wherever it is located, securing safe health services is an objective member states must boldly pursue.

**Q.31) "20 million children worldwide missed out on life-saving vaccines last year, according to new data from the WHO and the UNICEF". In light of this discuss importance of vaccination in ensuring health security to children. How India can ensure timely vaccination to every child?**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Importance if vaccination. What should be done?
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Vaccination is the administration of a vaccine (a microorganism or virus in a weakened or killed state, or proteins or toxins from the organism) to help the immune system develop protection from a disease. Recent data shows that twenty million children worldwide missed out on life-saving vaccines against diseases such as measles, diphtheria and tetanus in 2018.

**Why vaccinating child is important?**
1. **Saves life:** Vaccination protect child against life threatening diseases. Many diseases kill thousands of children annually. Vaccination prevent such diseases. Some diseases have been eliminated completely due to safe and effective vaccination. E.g Polio.
2. **Save money:** Some diseases can result in prolonged disabilities which can be prevented through vaccination. It put financial burden in terms of cost of medical bills. Vaccination reduce such costs by limiting diseases.
3. **Protects future generations:** Vaccination protects future generation by preventing disease spreading from one generation to other. For example, smallpox has been eradicated worldwide. E.g. by vaccinating against rubella (German measles), the risk that pregnant women will pass this virus on to their foetus or newborn has been dramatically decreased.
4. **Promote health:** Unlike many other health interventions, they help people stay healthy, ensuring human development. It improve our body's fighting mechanism and enhance our immune system.
5. **Prevent epidemic:** They protect individuals, communities, and entire populations. Vaccination stops disease in individual and prevent its further spread.

**What is needed?**
1. **Political and Bureaucratic Support:** Vaccination programs need political and bureaucratic support at all levels. There is need to increase focus on routine immunisation.
2. **Vaccine Stock management system:** Many health facilities lack proper stock of vaccines. Ensuring an uninterrupted supply of all vaccines to state level through a vaccine stock management system is must.
3. **Proper Information, education and communication:** Lack of awareness is the main barrier for vaccination. Focus should be on increasing demand for vaccination by bringing immunisation closer to the communities.
4. **Methods to Improve Routine Immunisation:** The number of immunisation 'delivery points' especially in rural and remote area should be increased. 'Immunisation booths' should be

constructed at every locality in urban areas particularly in slums, and local municipality board member should be made accountable for their performances.

5. **Proper Monitoring of the Program:** The administrative and governance-related loopholes need to be addressed. Some states have been performing very well. Best practices should be emulated in bad performing states.

6. **Accountability needs to be set and monitored:** Accountability is needed from health worker level till the highest level. Each level of the healthcare facility should be accountable to the immediate superior rung in the hierarchy. Immunisation sessions should be supervised by a medical officer as done in Tamil Nadu, the only state of the country having this arrangement.

7. **Regulatory Authority:** There is an urgent need of strengthening the regulatory framework. A national regulatory authority should be created. Currently, the Indian NRA, i.e. the Drug Controller General of India is overburdened with performing many diverse tasks including marketing authorization and licensing activities related to drugs, cosmetics, vaccines, etc. We need a vaccine specific NRA to oversee different issues related to vaccines such as licensing, post-marketing surveillance etc. Also there should be a single window system to avoid regulatory delays.

8. **Support to Indigenous Vaccine Industry:** Though, the current national vaccine policy seems supportive of Indian vaccine industry, there is still need to further improve Indian vaccine sector to meet the indigenous demand of vaccines.

9. **Research and Development (R&D):** Investment in research and development is must to develop new vaccines and improved vaccines.

Immunisation has delivered excellent results in reducing mortality from childhood infections in the last 50 years. Although the success has not been as spectacular. More is needed to achieve a healthy nation.

**Q.32) "A transition to electric vehicle transportation demand major efforts by the government but also need extra efforts of Indian automobile industry". Discuss. What should be done to fast track the adoption of electric vehicles?**
**Ans.**

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
> **Body.** Need of of government and industrial efforts. How to fast track adoption of EVs?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

India has aligned its policies with its commitment to the Paris accord on climate change. Government of India is pushing for rapid adoption of electric vehicles as a way to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions through various schemes like FAME (Faster Adoption And Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles). Although lot is needed to be done by Government and Indian automobile industry to develop an ecosystem of electric vehicles in India.

**Need of efforts of Indian Government and Indian automobile industry:**
1. **Increasing efficiency of vehicles**: There is need to increase vehicle efficiency. This will help in reducing energy consumption and will enable to a vehicle to travel the same distance on a smaller battery.

2. **Testing Indian Conditions**: Performance of electric vehicles at Indian humid conditions and hot temperatures need to be tested.
3. **Need of innovation:** Automobile sector need to focus on innovation to enhance performance of electric vehicles.
4. **Focusing battery life:** Indian automobile industry should focus on battery life to enhance performance of EVs. India should encourage manufacturing of battery cells in India.
5. **Need of power-electronics**: EVs use power-electronics extensively. Power-electronics industry India has not kept pace with new developments. India would need a new power-electronics industry. A special effort is needed to promote such industries.

### How to fast track adoption of electric vehicles?
Adoption of electric vehicles can be fast tracked through:
1. **Infrastructure**: The present batteries capacity limit the driving range of electric vehicles.
    - This can be addressed by developing an ecosystem of fast-charging. This requires creating of an infrastructure, maybe even at every kilometre in dense areas.
    - India has to be creative to make electric vehicles and its infrastructure economically viable from the very beginning.
2. **Market incentives**: Early plants can be set-up either by international manufacturers or as joint ventures between Indian companies and international manufacturers.
    - Tax incentives need to be provided to these companies.
    - Incentives/subsidies could be given in the form of Tradable Auto-Emission Coupons or credits based on Carbon dioxide emissions per km as well as on a basis of vehicle efficiency. This will encourage the market to build efficient vehicles with lower emissions per km.
3. **Technical Expertise**: India should invest in developing technical expertise.
    - Research and Development (R&D) in EV and its components should be promoted.
    - Energy efficiency can be enhanced by using more efficient electric motors, using better tyres, enhancing the aero dynamics of the vehicles and reducing its weight.
    - Efforts should be made to bring together IITs, private manufacturing and government to work together.
4. **Policy Measures**: India would need various policy measures:
    - Local manufacturing should be promoted.
    - Policies measures focusing on securing materials used in Lithium-ion batteries are needed.
    - Scanning of these resources within India should be done.
    - Strategic investments in mines in India and outside for these materials is needed.
    - India would need to introduce strict norms for recycling every Lithium-ion battery.
    - The necessary electricity should be made available to support EVs industry. Regular supply of electricity is must for growth of EVs industry.

Electric Vehicles carry many inherent advantages especially in era of climate change. A collaborative effort of Government of India, state governments and various stakeholders for the e-mobility is needed. Coordination is needed among the department of heavy industries, the finance ministry, the department of science and technology, the ministry of road transport and highways and the ministry of urban development.

**Q.33) "AIDS is one of the biggest challenge for health policymakers all over the world including India". Discuss. What should be done to reduce incidence of AIDS in India.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Some facts. Barriers. What is needed to be done?
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) is a number of condition of weak immune system caused by infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). It is a headache for policymakers around the globe as it is not curable (but can be prevented). Data shows that In 2016, about 36.7 million people were living with HIV and it resulted in 1 million deaths.

**Some Facts related to AIDS in India:**
- In 2017, HIV prevalence among adults was an estimated 0.2% i.e 2.1 million people in India are living with HIV. Overall, India's HIV epidemic is slowing down. Between 2010 and 2017 new infections declined by 27% and AIDS-related deaths more than halved, falling by 56%.
- The epidemic is concentrated among key affected populations especially sex workers and migrants. However, injecting drug use in the north and northeast of the country is also pushing HIV prevalence up.

**Barriers to the HIV policies in India:**
1. **Stigma and discrimination:** Although AIDS (prevention and control) Act 2014 criminalises discrimination against people with HIV and AIDS, people living with HIV face high levels of discrimination. Often people justify their attitude by saying that people who got HIV through sex or drugs got what they deserved.
2. **Gender inequality**: Women, particularly in rural areas, have little control or decision-making powers over important aspects of their lives. This means they are often unable to negotiate protection from risk of infection. Women living with HIV are reluctant to access health care for fear of discrimination and marginalisation.
3. **Data issues**: There is need for greater analysis related to HIV data.
   - Lack of integrated data systems limit its availability and use.
   - Also lack of HIV and accurate key population size estimates create hurdles.
   - Further inadequately trained staff to monitor the epidemic is an issue.
   - There are also challenges to track people under HIV treatment.
4. **Infrastructural bottlenecks**: In recent years, there have been issues in the
   - procurement, management and distribution of antiretroviral vaccines, HIV testing kits and other HIV commodities, mainly due to supply chain bottlenecks.

- The operation of the drug procurement system, particularly in remote locations, needs to be strengthened. For example, slow internet speeds, late payments can disrupt the system.

5. **Funding issues**: Funding to tackle the HIV epidemic in India relied heavily on international funding. However, in 2012 India committed to financing 90% of its HIV and AIDS programmes. Mobilisation of resources for this is not easy.

**What is needed to control AIDS in India?**

1. **Targeted Intervention**: Targeted interventions for key affected groups and those at high risk of HIV transmission is needed.
   - This can be achieved through the HIV treatment plan, education, care and support.
   - Prevention of new HIV infections by reaching out key affected populations with targeted interventions is needed. For example, targeting interventions towards female sex workers.

2. **Education**: Increasing awareness among the general population and key affected populations about HIV prevention is needed.
   - A number of innovative programmes to increase awareness of HIV testing, prevention and treatment should be implemented. These include the use of folk media to reach people, particularly remote places.
   - An education Programme in the schools to help adolescents cope with negative peer pressure and improve awareness on sexual health and HIV should be employed.

3. **Preventing mother-to-child transmission**: HIV infections among children must be eliminated. Antiretroviral treatment for all pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV should be done.

4. **Proper Counselling**: For people who inject drugs in India
   - proper counselling and therapy should be promoted.
   - Sensitisation of youth through media, education, schools is needed.
   - A community-based effort should be made to keep vigil on children.
   - Interventions along with psychosocial support are needed.

5. **Civil society's role**: Indian civil society should come together to shun stigma related to HIV in society through awareness programs and education.

6. Over the past decade, India has made significant progress in tackling its HIV epidemic, especially in comparison with other countries in the region. Although continued effective prevention programmes like **National AIDS Control Programme Phase-IV (NACP-IV)** must remain in place, focus should be on targeting vulnerable groups. A coordinated effort of government, civil society and various NGOs is must.

**Q.34) "Contact farming can solve India's agricultural and food security issues". Comment. Discuss Model Contract Farming Act, 2018 in this context.**
**Ans.**

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|---|
| **Demand of the question** |
| **Introduction.** Contextual introduction. |
| **Body.** Contract farming benefits. Salient features of Model Contract farming act, 2018. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

Contract farming can be defined as agricultural production carried out according to an agreement between a buyer and farmers, which establishes conditions for the production and marketing of a farm product or products. Typically, the farmer agrees to provide agreed quantities of a specific agricultural product.

**How Contract farming can resolve agricultural issues and food security issues?**
1. **Consistent Supply**: In case of agri-processing level, it ensures consistent supply of agricultural produce with quality, at right time and lesser costresulting in a better control over the factors of production.
2. **Better supply chain management**: Assured supply aids Food processing industries in better supply chain management. It reduce demand supply gap plugging supply side constraints. Contract farming also enable the food processing industries to invest in the warehouses, cold storages and design the logistics in long term.
3. **Beneficial to farmers**: It makes small scale farming competitive. Small farmers can access technology, credit, marketing channels and information while lowering transaction costs. Assured market for their produce at their doorsteps, reducing marketing and transaction costs.
4. **Reduce risks**: It reduces the risk of production, price and marketing costs. Contract farming can open up new markets which would otherwise be unavailable to small farmers, thereby reducing intermediaries thus providing more options to farmers.
5. **Better quality production**: Contract farming also ensures higher production of better quality, financial support in cash and /or kind and technical guidance. It enable optimal utilisation of installed capacity, infrastructure and manpower, and respond to food safety and quality concerns of the consumers.
6. **Increase investment**: It lead to direct private investment in agricultural activities as they find it profitable. The farmers enter into contract production with an assured price under term and conditions.

With a view to integrate farmers with bulk purchasers including exporters, agro- industries etc. budget for 2017-18 announced a "Model Contract Farming Act". **Salient features of**

**Model Contract Farming Act, 2018 are**:
1. The Act lays special emphasis on protecting the interests of the farmers, considering them as weaker of the two parties entering into a contract.
2. In addition to contract farming, services contracts all along the value chain including pre-production, production and post-production have been included.
3. "Registering and Agreement Recording Committee" or an "Officer" for the purpose at district/block/taluka level for online registration of sponsor and recording of agreement is provided.
4. Contracted produce is to be covered under crop / livestock insurance.
5. Contract framing is to be outside the ambit of APMC Act.
6. No permanent structure can be developed on farmers' land/premises.
7. Promotion of Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs)/Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) to mobilise small and marginal farmers has been provided.
8. It ensure buying of entire pre-agreed quantity of one or more of agricultural produce, livestock or its product of contract farming producer as per contract.
9. Contract Farming Facilitation Group (CFFG) being created for promoting contract farming and services at village/panchayat at level provided.

10. Accessible and simple dispute settlement mechanism at the lowest level possible is provided for quick disposal of disputes.
11. India with its diverse agro climatic zones, can be a competitive producer of a large number of crops. Contract farming offers one possible solution.

**Q.35) ""By imposing a blanket ban on crypto currencies India may miss out on one of the biggest technology revolutions since the Internet.". Discuss.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Introduce with cryptocurrency and blockchain.
**Body.** Potential benefits of blockchain technology.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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A cryptocurrency is a virtual currency used for financial transactions. It uses **blockchain technology** for various transactions. The **Banning of Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019** has proposed stringent provisions for holding, selling or dealing in cryptocurrencies. This may lead to India missing on blockchain technology which has many potential.

**Potential Applications of biotechnology:**
1. **Financial Services:** Blockchain is cheaper, more transparent, and more effective.
   - It can be used to expedite payment processing and money transfers.
   - Blockchain networks can be used in equity trading to validate and settle transactions quickly.
   - It simplifies the process by canceling the need for intermediaries.
   - The blockchain provides a system for risk-free management and transparency in insurance sector.
   - Blockchain can also be used to monitor supply chains.
2. **Real estate Sector**: Registration can be stored on the ledger along with contractual details and access would be provided to the permitted party only. It decreases risks of fraud and benami transactions.
3. **Security:** With billions of devices linked together, information security is a challenge. The blockchain technology can provide security by keeping information encrypted.
4. **Healthcare:**
   - Personal health records could be encoded and stored on the blockchain with access to specific individuals.
   - It can also be used for general health care management, such as supervising drugs, regulation compliance, testing results, and managing healthcare supplies.
5. **Entertainment industry**: The blockchain and smart contracts technology can solve issues of ownership rights, royalty distribution, and transparency of film makers by creating a comprehensive and accurate decentralized database.
6. **Agriculture:** The blockchain provides a big database which can be used by farmers to perform precision farming.
7. **Governance**:
   - The blockchain technology can expedite process of passport generation.

- The blockchain could make record-keeping more reliable. Eg. By encrypting birth and death certification and empowering citizens to access this crucial information it can reduce inefficiencies.

8. **Policy formulation and implementation:**
   - Database generated by blockchain technology can be used by governments to target weaker section and implement better policies. This will reduce leakages and reduce government expenditure.
   - Blockchain can also be used to for tax compliance. For example, companies can use blockchain as a means to record their sales. This can be used as a record for their tax compliance and can be used by tax authorities to track any tax offence.
   - It is important to note that blockchain technology has many potential benefits which India may miss with a blanket ban. Need of the hour is to study impact of cryptocurrency on various sector and formulate a tight regulation framework to ensure its transparent use.

**Q.36) What do you understand by disinvestment? Critically examine the policy of disinvestment in India.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
|---|
| **Introduction.** What is disinvestment? |
| **Body.** Disinvestment policy. It's benefits and issues. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

Disinvestment means to the act of selling or liquidating of assets. The process of dilution of a government's stake in a PSU (Public Sector Undertaking) is disinvestment. It allows the transferring of the government's enormous public debt of PSU to the private sector. Disinvestments, in most cases, are primarily motivated by the optimisation of resources to deliver maximum returns.

**Disinvestment Policy:**
1. The government of India has decided to privatise the Public sector enterprises in a gradual and phased manner through disinvestment.
2. It will be done by bringing down government's equity shares in all non-strategic Public sector enterprises to 26% or lower.
3. The Government has decided to permit up to 49% disinvestment of equity so that the government would continue to hold 51%.

**Benefits of disinvestment policy:**
1. **Benefit of government:**
   - It will reduce government's debt.
   - It will save resources by spending less on PSUs which can be used by government for welfare purposes.
   - It will help in reducing fiscal deficit.
   - It enable government to raise funds that can be used to strengthen physical and social infrastructure.
2. **Benefit of society:**

- It will increase government's focus on society welfare.
- It will ensure resources in the hands of public.
- Consumers will get better services.
- Companies will expand that will lead to more jobs.

3. **Benefit of market:**
   - It would bring more competition into various sectors thus improving the quality of services.
   - It will increase market profitability and hence companies' profits.

4. **Benefit of PSUs:**
   - It will ensure modernisation of PSUs with changing times.
   - It distribute loss and failure risks of PSUs to the private sector.

**Issues in disinvestment policy:**
1. There are controversies about the prices at which some of the initial shares were sold, even though all the disinvestment has been done through an auction process.
2. It has been just a resource raising exercise by the government than reforming PSU.
3. The valuation of shares is affected by the decision not to reduce government holdings to less than 51 per cent.
4. With the continuing majority ownership of the government the disinvested public enterprises would continue to operate within the constraints of the public sector.
5. Loss making units don't attract investment so easily.
6. It may lead to emergence of private monopolies.
7. Mere change of ownership from public to private does not ensure higher efficiency and productivity.
8. It may lead to loss of jobs of many workers. Private sector governed by profit motive has a tendency to use capital intensive techniques which will worsen unemployment problem in India.

Divestment should not be seen as a short-term fiscal measure; instead, it should be part of a long term plan to improve the production of goods and services in India. The government should strengthened the regulatory framework that ensures efficient market conditions.

**Q.37) ""Smart Cities Mission that aimed at providing better cities and infrastructure has failed to do so". Comment.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
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| **Introduction.** What is smart cities mission? |
| **Body.** Achievements so far. Issues related to smart cities mission. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

Smart Cities Mission was launched in 2015 with an aim to develop 100 cities across the country, making them citizen-friendly and sustainable. Unfortunately the mission has not achieved the pace and till now has failed to attain its objectives.

**Progress of projects under smart cities mission:**
1. The total proposed investment in the selected cities under the scheme is over Rs 2.05 lakh crore. Government data shows only 33% of the total 5,151 Smart City Mission

projects have been completed or are under implementation, utilising 25% of the envisaged investment.

2. Total approved budget between 2015 and 2019 is ₹48,000 crore is the, just half of that has been allocated till now.

3. According to data of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, 67% of the projects have either just been tendered or are yet to go through the process. In 28 cities not a single project has been completed.

**Causes of failure of smart cities mission:**

1. **No framework for development**: The mission fails to develop a framework for urban development. A sustainable blueprint for governance for smart cities is still not prepared. There is lack of a city development model and adequate standards to guide project implementation, including for housing, water, sanitation, health, and environmental sustainability.

2. **Multiple of policies for urban India**: The Swachh Bharat Mission; Housing for All; the National Urban Livelihoods Mission; and the Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) has not been converged with smart city mission.

3. **Multiplicity of projects:** There are multiple infrastructure projects like expansion of city roads and highways, water reservoir and storage-related development which are mostly undertaken by development authorities or the State governments. The Smart Cities Mission's convergence with all these projects is not done.

4. **Decreased role of local governments**: In the guidelines for the mission, the role of the local governments was significantly reduced, delegating the decision-making powers to a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), a body to be set up and which would implement the mission. This lead to poor governance of the projects and lack of coordination.

5. **Exclusionary approach**: Government is incentivising development of a small areas in patches and not the entire city. By focusing on only 100 cities and on select areas within those cities, the Mission demonstrates a restrictive approach to urban development.

6. **Overlapping powers**: The Mission Guidelines require each 'smart city' to create an entity called the special purpose vehicle (SPV). This resulted in in overlapping powers, substantively diluting local government role and thus poor governance.

7. **Issue of funding**: It is estimated that the implementation of India's Smart Cities Mission would require investments worth 150 billion US dollars over the next few years, of which 120 billion dollars would be required from the private sector. This is not an easy task.

8. **Absence of human rights-based standards and monitoring indicators**: With the absence of any human rights-based indicators to monitor implementation, missions ability to deliver on its aims and ensure the fulfilment of rights and entitlements of all city residents is questionable.

India added about nine million people to the urban areas in last decade. Further, the growth in total urban population is higher than the absolute rural population growth. It is in this context that a close scrutiny of the Smart Cities Mission is needed.

**Q.38) "India need to follow East Asian model of growth if it has to achieve the $5-trillion economy status by 2024-25". Discuss.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** What is East Asian model.
**Body.** How East Asian model can help in becoming a $5 trillion economy?
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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The East Asian model generally refers to the model of development followed in East Asian economies such as Hong Kong, China, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Key aspects of the East Asian model include high rate of savings, increased private investment and exports supporting sustainable growth.

**How the East Asian model can help in achieving objective of a $5 trillion economy?**
To achieve the objective of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy by 2024-25, India needs to sustain a real GDP growth rate of 8%. Such growth can only be sustained by a "virtuous cycle" of savings, investment and exports catalysed and supported by a favourable demographic phase.

1. **Investment:** Capital investment lead to job creation as capital goods production, research and development, and supply chains generate jobs.
   - Unemployment rates decreases with greater gross capital formation as was seen in East Asia and Pacific.
   - Investment, especially private investment will lead to increased demand, creation of capacity, increased labour productivity, introduction of new technology and will generate jobs.
   - The investment, productivity growth, job creation, demand and exports will feed into each other and enable animal spirits in the economy.
   - Investment generates infrastructure thus leading to growth of an economy.
2. **Savings:** A high investment effort must be backed by domestic savings as was done in East Asian economies.
   - Research has shown that savings and growth are positively correlated.
   - High savings reduces external debt of the government, and reduce fiscal burden due lesser cost of loans and also create the jobs due to investment.
   - The evidence from China and East Asia in recent times is that high growth rates have only been sustained by a growth model driven by savings.
3. **Exports:** High level of savings will reduce share of consumption in GDP. Thus consumption need to come from exports.
   - An aggressive export strategy must be a part of investment-driven growth model.
   - A strong correlation between growth in exports and GDP growth for the high growth East Asian economies is evident.
   - The global market is extremely competitive with the firms able to produce at the lowest costs. Thus productivity of firms in the economy is crucial to export competitiveness.
   - Capital investment enhances total factor productivity, which in turn enhances export performance. Therefore, investment becomes crucial to enhance export performance.

4. **Demographic dividend:** India is undergoing face of demographic dividend which is must for achieving high economic growth.
   - The rise in household savings should come from positive demographic dividend. Thus employment and spilling of demography is important.
   - A high investment rate would lead to capital formation and employment generation.

Thus India need to adopt an East Asian model of sustained growth backed by high rates of savings, investment, exports supported by demographic dividend. This will ensure India achieving its goal of becoming a $5 trillion economy by 2024-25.

**Q.39) "Without factoring in agriculture, the vision of a $5-trillion economy will remain a distant dream". Discuss.**
**Ans.**

| **Demand of the question** |
| :--- |
| **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction. |
| **Body.** Role of agriculture in achieving $5 trillion aim. |
| **Conclusion.** Conclude. |

To achieve a $5 trillion economic goal, the growth of key sectors is important for economic growth. Agriculture is the key sector to achieve this target. Agricultural progress is essential to provide food for growing non-agricultural labour force, raw materials for industrial production and saving to support development of the rest of the economy, to earn foreign exchange and to provide a growing market for domestic manufactures.

**Why agriculture is important for $5trillion economic goal?**
- India ranks second worldwide in farm outputs.
- As per 2018, Agriculture **employed 50% of the Indian work force**.
- Agriculture sector **contributed 17-18% to country's GDP**.
- Agriculture is **demographically the broadest economic sector**.
- It plays a significant role in the overall **socio-economic fabric of India**.
- About **67% of people still live in rural areas**.

**How agriculture can lead to $5 trillion objective?**
1. **By contribution to National Income**:
   - It is well known fact that economic development of many developed countries was backed by agricultural sector.
   - Agriculture sector being the largest employing sector of the country contributing about 18% to GDP is important for $5 trillion goal.
2. **Food security**: Agriculture is the basic source of food supply.
   - If agriculture fails to meet the rising demand of food products, it is found to affect adversely the growth rate of the economy.
   - Therefore increase in food supply by agricultural sector is must for economic growth of a country.
3. **Raw Material Source for other sectors**:

- Agricultural advancement is necessary to improve the raw material supply for the agro-based industries (flour mills, oil mills, bread, meat, milk products, sugar factories, etc).
- The shortage of agricultural goods impact adversely on industrial production and lead to rise in prices of the goods.
- It will hinder the growth of the country's economy.

4. **Exports of agricultural products**: The progress in agricultural sector lead to surplus production. This increase the exports of agricultural products.
5. **Creation of Infrastructure**: The development of agriculture create roads, market, storage, transportation, railways, and many other services. This will boast economic growth.
6. **Plug Inequalities**:
    - India is predominantly an agricultural economy with greater inequality of income between the rural and urban areas of the country.
    - To reduce this inequality of income, it is necessary to grow agricultural sector.
    - The growth of agriculture would raise the income of the majority of the rural population and thus the disparity in income may be reduced to a certain extent.
7. **Growth of other sectors**:
    - The development of agricultural sector will increase the purchasing power of rural and poor people which will help in growth of the non-agricultural sector of the country.
    - It will provide a market for increased production. Therefore, it will be helpful in stimulating the growth of the non- agricultural sector.
8. **Rural Welfare:** The growing agricultural sector will improve social welfare, particularly in rural areas. The living standard of rural masses will rise.

Thus agricultural development is must for the economic development of a country. Even developed countries lay emphasis on agricultural development. $5 trillion mark cannot be achieved without agricultural growth. Government should focus on removing agricultural bottlenecks and increasing investment in agriculture.

**Q.40) "The ugly path of unilateralism and protectionism has affected the growth and stability of the world". Comment.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** What is unilateralism and protectionism. |
| **Body.** How it affect world's growth and stability? |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

**Unilateralism** is an approach in international relations in which states act and formulate policies without considering the interests of other states or welfare of others. **Protectionism** is the economic policy of restricting imports from other countries through methods such as tariffs on imported goods, import quotas, and a variety of other government regulations. Unilateralism and protectionism prevent free trade and restrict economic flow.

**How it affect world's growth and stability?**
1. **Economic impact:**

1. **Economic Growth**:
   - Protectionist policies and unilateralism hurt the world economy overall.
   - For example, GNP growth during Europe's liberal period averaged 1.7% per year, while industrial growth averaged 1.8% per year. However, during the protectionist era of the 1870s and 1890s, GNP growth averaged 2.6% per year, while industrial output grew at 3.8% per year.
2. **Destruction of free trade**:
   - The principle of comparative advantage shows that the gains from free trade outweigh any losses as free trade.
   - This lead to reduction in competition and rise in general prices of the goods and services.
3. **Destroy Jobs:** These practices destroy more jobs than it creates because it prevent outflow of skilled people due to protectionist measures like visa regulations. This impact their employability and remittance to the nation.
4. **Limited choice to consumers:**
   - A key effect of trade protectionism is that consumers will have a limited choice of products and goods since there may be quotas on how much may be imported.
   - If consumers have a limited choice, they will settle for lower quality, and pay more for a particular product thus causing inflation to possibly greatly increase.
5. **Trade war among nations**:
   - Other nations will also retaliate through countervailing tariffs, quotas, subsidies, and exchange rate controls, to name a few, in order to deal with another nation's actions.
   - A trade war will ultimately mean increased import costs as manufacturers and producers must pay more for equipment, commodities, and intermediate products from foreign markets. This will also affect a nation's real GDP growth.
2. **Social impact:**
   1. **Decrease standards of living**:
      - Protectionism prevent free trade thus prevent welfare of poor impacting their standard of lives.
      - Free trade helps workers in developing countries through stringent health and labour standards demand lifting wages and living conditions.
      - Also free trade reduces the costs of goods, which impact poor adversely further.
   2. **Rise in conflicts:** Protectionism has been accused of being one of the major causes of war and conflicts.
3. **Impact on polities:** Unilateralism and Protectionism will lead to instability in political framework of nations as 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 international organisations:** Unilateralism and Protectionist measure lead to lack of coordination at international organisation like UN where countries may not

come a t a common point to various problems like environmental change. It destroys the international order.

Thus Unilateralist and Protectionist policies hurt nation economically, socially and politically. It prevents welfare of the poor and rise of world at large.

**Q.41) ""The Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS) recently proposed by the Ministry of Home Affairs can have disastrous consequences". Critically analyse.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** What is facial recognition system?
**Body.** Concerns related to AFRS
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

A facial recognition system is a technology that can identify a person by analysing person's facial features and shape. A person can be verified from a digital image or a video. Recently, Ministry of Home Affairs proposed Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS) to identify criminals against existing records in the Crime and Criminal Tracking Networks and System (CCTNS) database. But there are many issues and concerns related to AFRS.

**Concerns related to Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS):**
1. **Against right to privacy:**
   - Article 21 of the Indian constitution ensures right to privacy. AFRS will collect biometric of our faces. Thus it will invade right to privacy of Indian citizens where state will have access to critical biometrics which can be misused.
   - Consumers may not understand or be aware of the purpose for which their data is being used.
   - Recent misuse of individuals' data by Facebook like images, names etc already raised concern of threat to privacy.
2. **Mass surveillance:**
   - Facial recognition can potentially lead to a system of mass surveillance. In the absence of safeguards, state will have a high degree of discretion.
   - Recent reports of USA surveillance on its citizens using data raises such concerns even more.
3. **Threat to democracy:**
   - It can be used by state to suppress dissent and other freedoms.
   - This will impact governance, accountability and answerability of the government which are important for democracy.
4. **Punishment to innocent:**
   - The system will treat each person captured in images from CCTV cameras and other sources as a potential criminal.
   - This means that all will be treated as potential criminals where any error in data can lead to an innocent treated as guilty.
5. **Inaccurate technology:**
   - Accuracy rates of facial recognition technology is low particularly in the case of women and children.

- In August 2018, a facial recognition system used by the Delhi police was reported to have an accuracy rate of only 2%.
- Thus chances of an individual being wrongly identified as a criminal are high.

6. **Tough to prove innocence:** A person once recorded as a criminal in facial database reduce his/her chances to prove him not guilty even in if he is innocent.
7. **Security Concerns:** Such a critical and large amount of data is always vulnerable to cyberattacks. This can endanger citizens' and nation's security.
8. **Misuse in Elections:** Such a database maybe misused by politicians to garner votes through blackmailing and other threats. This jeopardise free and fair elections.

Thus employing such an inaccurate technology at such a massive scale can prove disastrous. Even stringent laws and regulations cannot ensure complete security and privacy. Thus AFRS need to be revisit by government with proper study of its impact on various sector.

**Q.42) "The public and private bank's inability to extend more credit for major infrastructure projects to debt ridden states, will jeopardise India's social and economic goals." Comment.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** How inability to lend more will jeopardise India's socio-economic goals?
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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Indian banks are experiencing stress due to non-performing assets from long time. This led to decline in lending to industry and states especially for infrastructural sector. Banks are decreasing their overall lending with focus on correcting their balance sheets. These trends have implications for growth in the immediate future.

**How inability to lend more will jeopardise India's socio-economic goals?**
1. **Decreased growth:** Indian growth in last decade was based on credit financed investment and consumption spending.
   - So a decrease in credit availability will lead to slower economic growth.
   - This may jeopardise India's $5 trillion target by 2024.
2. **Infrastructure creation:** India's growth strategy need investments in infrastructure.
   - Public sector banks had been the vehicles for financing the infrastructure projects in the past.
   - Inability to lend will slow India's infrastructure projects, thereby creating further bottlenecks.
3. **Agricultural growth:** Agricultural sector is already facing crisis due to dependence on monsoon, lack of irrigation and climate change.
   - Due to non-availability of capital, states may find it difficult to wave off loans to farmers and support agriculture through subsidies.
   - Also, agriculture is driven by lending though banks and money lenders. With limited capabilities banks will further reduce lending to agriculture.
   - This will further stress agricultural growth.
   - This will jeopardise interests of farmers and food security in India.

- Further it will reduce agricultural exports.
4. **Decline in Exports**: Due to inability to lending it will impact exports.
   - This will stress India's balance of trade.
   - It will jeopardise India's objective of becoming an export hub and world's next manufacturing hub.
5. **Fiscal consolidation:** Due to rise in cost of loans and decrease in loan availability, state may find it hard to achieve their fiscal consolidation roadmap.
6. **Capital formation:**
   - Unavailability of loans will hinder capital formation by states like roads, transport etc.
   - This will impact linkages and will slow down India's growth.
7. **Impact on energy sector:** Cost of energy and electricity will increase due to inability of states to provide subsidy that they are providing at present. This will jeopardise energy security in India.
8. **Will hurt MSME:** Limited availability of loans will hurt MSMEs and will prevent their growth. This will impact India's exports and Make in India initiative.
9. **Public confidence:**
   - Credibility of banking system is affected greatly due to higher level NPAs.
   - It reduces the confidence of general public in the soundness of the banking system.
10. **Inflation:**
    - As the loan cost will increase, it will lead to higher prices.
    - This will jeopardise government's goal of containing inflation at normal level.
11. **Decreased competition:** As many industries will not get credit it will reduce their productivity and profitability, thereby decreasing competition in the market among companies leading to higher prices and less choice of products.
12. **Unemployment:** Due to lesser credit companies' profitability will be reduced due to decreased production. This may lead to companies' inability to pay their employees and will lead to loss of jobs.

Thus bank's inability to lend to state and private sector may jeopardise India's economic and social targets. What is need of the hour is to correct balance sheet of banks through selling of bad assets. Restructuring of NPA should be done efficiently.

**Q.43) Explain the mechanism behind Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS). Discuss various health risks associated with it.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** What is ENDS.
**Body.** Components of ENDS. Mechanism behind ENDS.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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

**Components:**

An ENDS consists of a

- battery,
- a vaporiser and a heating coil,
- a mouthpiece, and
- a cartridge containing liquid nicotine.
- This liquid is vaporised and inhaled. The liquid also contains flavours, anti-freeze, and **carcinogens** such as nitrosamines.

**How ENDS Work?**

- As the user inhale on the mouthpiece, a sensor activates a heating element that vaporises a flavoured liquid solution held in the mouthpiece. The person then inhales, the aerosol solution.
- A small plastic cup within the mouthpiece holds an absorbent material soaked in the liquid solution.
- The atomiser is a heating element that heats the liquid, causing it to vaporise. The solution can then be breathed in, or inhaled.
- The solution, also known as e-liquid or e-juice, is made by extracting nicotine from tobacco and mixing it with a base, usually propylene glycol, and flavouring.

**Associates health risks and other ill effects of ENDS:**

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

10. **Dual users:** Teens who use e-cigarette products are more likely to start using regular tobacco as well.

Thus ENDS poses major health risks. Ensuring Health of citizens is state's responsibility. Therefore, the Union Health Ministry in 2018 issued an advisory to all states and UTs to stop manufacture, sale and import of ENDS. Some states have already banned use and sale of e-cigarettes. Recently India proposed a complete ban on ENDS product which is a right step.

**Q.44) "India is facing the dual challenge of ensuring energy security and combating water crisis." Comment.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Dual challenge of energy security and combating water crisis.
**Conclusion.** Way forward and solution.

India's energy and water demands are rising day by day. Increasing population, global warming, urbanisation and many other factors are the main cause behind it. While India is facing a water crisis situation it can jeopardise India's energy security goals.

**Dual Challenge of energy security and combating water crisis:**
1. **Economic growth:** With an aim to become a $5 trillion economy, India's industry need more electricity and water.
   - As per the estimates of Government of India (GoI), to ensure a sustained 8% growth of the economy, by 2031-32 India needs to increase its primary energy supply by three to four times and its electricity generation by five to six times of the 2003-04 levels.
   - Further agricultural crisis demand more irrigational facilities. This put challenge for India to ensure energy security and combating water crisis.
2. **Urbanisation:** With increasing urbanisation and government plans to develop smart cities, it requires more clean energy and water.
   - Further unplanned urbanisation, urban sprawls reduce efficient energy and water use leading to water and energy wastage.
   - Thus there is challenge to ensure efficient urban planning securing India's energy and water needs.
3. **Water dependent thermal power plants:** Report shows that
   - 90 percent of India's thermal power plants which provide the country with most of its electricity rely on freshwater for cooling.
   - 40 percent of the country's thermal power plants experience high water stress and are located in water-stress regions. This poses a challenge of ensuring energy and fresh-water in India.
4. **Environment Change:** With global warming demand for air conditioners, electric vehicles is going increase. This will lead to increase in energy demand.
   - In India electricity is produced mainly by thermal power plants or coal based plants that may shut down due to rising pollution levels and water deficit.

- Also India's water needs are dependent mainly on monsoon. Environmental changes and increasing population combined with lack of overall long-term availability of water resources is a cause of concern.
5. **Increasing Population:** India is posed to be world's largest population surpassing China. This will lead to increase in demand of electricity and water. Further many water sources are contaminated with both bio and chemical pollutants. This lead to unavailability of clean water and endanger energy and water security of India.

**Solution to India's dual challenge:**
1. Improving electricity plant efficiency and shift toward solar and wind energy. India already has a robust target that 40 percent of its power supply will come from renewable sources by 2030, under the Paris Agreement on climate change.
2. By prioritising solar photovoltaic and wind energy in areas of high water stress, India can boost its resilience, save water, and reduce carbon.
3. There is a need to focus on technological options for improving energy efficiency in the industry, power generation and commercial buildings, and promoting renewable energy technologies in different end-use sectors.
4. Judicious supply of water and energy to agricultural and non-agricultural consumers in rural area is needed. Strengthening of transmission and distribution infrastructure is also important.
5. India has only 4% of the world's renewable water resources and about 18% of the world's population, should consumes water more sensibly.
6. India will need to balance the needs of its growing economy with its increasing water stress.
7. Stringent implementation of standards for judicious water use by thermal power plants is important.

A green growth economy is the need of the hour. The Union Cabinet had in November approved the launch of Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) for ensuring 24x7 power supply. After all, India's rapid and enduring economic growth is intrinsically linked to the increasing consumption of energy and natural resources.

## Q.45) What is deep learning? Discuss its potential applications.
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** What is deep learning technology? |
| **Body.** Potential applications of deep learning. |
| **Conclusion.** Conclusion. |

Deep learning is a machine learning technique in which computers learn by examples. Deep learning is a key technology behind driverless cars, enabling them to recognize a stop sign, or to distinguish a pedestrian from a lamppost.

**Potential Applications of deep learning:**
1. **Self-Driving Cars:** Deep learning technology is being employed in self-driving cars. It allow cars to learn roads, paths, stop signs, vehicle in front or back using proximity sensors, cameras etc allowing it to drive by itself.

2. **Voice recognition:**
    - Deep learning is very successful in voice recognition technology.
    - All major commercial speech recognition systems (e.g. Microsoft Cortana, Skype Translator, Amazon Alexa, Google Now, Apple Siri, etc.) are based on deep learning.
3. **Image recognition:**
    - Deep learning based image recognition produce more accurate results.
    - Deep learning based vehicles now interpret 360° camera views.
4. **Language translation:** Deep learning has helped in improving machine translation. Google Translate uses deep learning technology.
5. **Pharmaceutical applications**: A large number of drugs fail to get regulatory approval.
    - These failures are caused by insufficient efficacy, undesired interactions or toxic effects.
    - Researchers have uses deep learning to reduce such failures.
6. **Predicting Earthquakes and weather forecasting:** Harvard scientists used Deep Learning in predictions of earthquakes.
    - Deep Learning improved calculation time by 50,000%.
    - Also deep learning has potential application in developing accurate weather forecast models.
7. **Bioinformatics:** Deep Learning is used in bioinformatics to predict gene related functions. Deep learning has also showed efficacy in healthcare.
8. **Healthcare application:** Deep learning has been used in medical applications such as cancer cell classification, lesion detection, organ segmentation and image enhancement.
9. **Advertising:** It has been used by both publishers and advertisers to increase the relevancy of their ads and boost the return on investment of their advertising campaigns.
10. **Financial fraud detection:**
    - Deep learning is used in financial fraud detection and anti-money laundering.
    - Deep learning system can recognize relationships and similarities between data and learn to detect anomalies or classify and predict specific events.

Deep Learning is changing the way we look at technologies. Machines can now recognize objects and translate speech in real time. Deep learning applications are already making an impact in our life. With time it's application will only grow. Indian industry should start exploring deep technology in various fields.

**Q.46) "A policy of population control should focus on choice rather than restrictions."
Discuss.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction. |
| **Body.** Disadvantages of restrictive population policy. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

India is set to be the largest populated country in the world. In past India's population policy focused on incentives like offering money or gifts. There is an ongoing debate on introducing a

two child policy in India from many decades. A two child policy is not only restrictive in nature but raise many social and ethical issues.

### Why population policy should not be restrictive rather offer choice?

1. **Social Cost:** Restrictions in form of stopping all government aid and subsidies to the family with more than prescribed number of child have great social costs.
   - Restrictions may include stopping free and compulsory education to third child. This would be contrary to the constitutional Right to Education (Article 21A, Article 45 and 51A).
   - Parents may be punished by depriving them of the opportunity to contest elections and apply for jobs. This would be contrary to the constitutional Right to Contest Elections and equal opportunities of jobs as envisaged in directive principles. It would create two sets of citizens, and thereby violate the constitutional Right to Equality.
   - A study conducted in five states shows that the two-child norm was responsible for the largest number of disqualified candidates in panchayat elections. Of these, Dalits, Adivasis and OBCs formed an overwhelming 80%. This violates the 73rd amendment, which aims to give political representation to people from marginalised communities in democratic processes.

2. **Women abuse:** Restrictive population policy has enormous bearing on women. International experience of restrictive population policy like China's one child policy is not good.
   - It would lead to increased cases of women abuse. Many women's would be subjected to forced sterilisations or abortions. She may be harassed by in laws for not giving birth to son.
   - Newborn girls would be killed or would be abandoned by parents.
   - Women from neighbouring countries would also suffer as victims of human trafficking.
   - Further a skewed sex-ratio will make it more difficult for young men to find wives.
   - Son-preference in rural as well as urban India is well documented. A legal restriction to two children could force couples to go for sex-selective abortions as there are only two 'attempts'.
   - A study, conducted between 2001 and 2004 to explore the consequences of two-child norms in five states found an increase in cases of neglect and death of female infants, cases of pre-natal sex determination and induced abortion of female foetus, child given away for adoption etc.

3. **Economic Cost:** As the fertility rate start declining, it will go below replacement level fertility rate of 2.1. It is difficult for restrictive population policies to keep a check at lowering fertility rate. Keeping fertility rate at 2.1 will be challenging, which is possible when people are given choice rather than restricted. A shrinking population will hamper economic growth. Above discussed social impact would also hinder economic growth.

4. **Ethical issues:** Putting restrictive policy to control population is not ethical. It has bearing on reproductive rights of women. Also the effects are already evident in villages of states like Haryana and Punjab, leading to an unethical thriving bride business. It would lead to unethical abortion practices and pre-natal sex determination.

**What should be done?**
National Family Health Survey-4 (2015-16) reveals that women who have little access to health and education and those caught in a cycle of poverty, produce more and more children. Also the latest Economic Survey points out that states with high population growth are also the ones with the lowest per capita availability of hospital beds. 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.47) Discuss the 7 targets of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030). How Sendai framework envision to achieve these targets?**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** 7 targets of Sendai framework. How it sought to achieve?
**Conclusion.** Contextually conclude.

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The Sendai Framework is the successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015. It is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognises that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk. It aims for the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health.

**The Seven Global Targets:** To support the assessment of global progress in achieving the outcome and goal of the present Framework, seven global targets have been agreed. These targets will be measured at the global level. The seven global targets are:

1. **Target 1 to reduce mortality:** First target aim to substantially reduce global disaster mortality by 2030, with an aim to lower average per 100,000 global mortality rate in the decade 2020-2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
2. **Target 2 to reduce the number of affected people:** Second target aim to reduce the number of affected people globally by 2030, with target to lower the average global figure per 100,000 in the decade 2020 -2030 compared to the period 2005-2015.
3. **Target 3 to reduce direct disaster economic loss**: It target to reduce loss in global gross domestic product (GDP) due to disaster by 2030.
4. **Target 4 to substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services**: This include reducing damage to health and educational facilities through developing their resilience by 2030.
5. **Target 5 to spread disaster risk efforts:** It envisage tosubstantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
6. **Target 6 to increase cooperation and support:** It aim to enhance international cooperation to developing countries through adequate and sustainable support to complement their national actions for implementation of this Framework by 2030.
7. **Target 7 to increase accessibility:** It target to substantially increase the availability and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people by 2030.

**Sendai framework chart out Four Priorities for Action for achieving its goals:**

1. **Understanding disaster risk:** It states that disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions. Such knowledge can be used for risk assessment, prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response.
2. **Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk:** Disaster risk governance at the national, regional and global levels is very important for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, and rehabilitation. It lead to collaboration and partnership.
3. **Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience:** Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through structural and non-structural measures are essential to enhance the economic, social, health and cultural resilience of persons, communities, countries and their assets, as well as the environment.
4. **Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response:** The growth of disaster risk means there is a need to strengthen disaster preparedness for response, take action in anticipation of events, and ensure capacities are in place for effective response and recovery at all levels. The recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phase is a critical opportunity to build back better, including through integrating disaster risk reduction into development measures.

Sendai framework stress on shared responsibility of each State, authority, sector and various stakeholders to prevent and reduce disaster risk through international, regional and bilateral cooperation. It rightly emphasise that disaster risk reduction requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership.

**Q.48) What is Lagrange point? Discuss objectives and importance of ISRO'S Aditya-L1 mission.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
**Body.** What is Lagrange point? Objective and importance of aditya L1 mission.
**Conclusion.** Contextual conclusion.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch the first solar mission, Aditya-L1. Aditya-L1 mission is aimed at studying the Sun from an orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrangian point 1 (L1) which is about 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth.
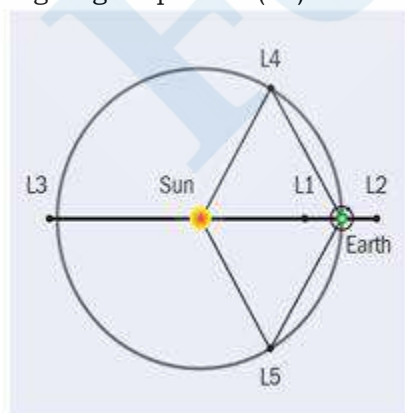
**What are Lagrange points?**

Lagrange Points are are positions where the gravitational pull of two large masses precisely equals the centripetal force required for a small object to move with them.

- These are positions in space where the gravitational forces of a two body system like the Sun and the Earth produce enhanced regions of attraction and repulsion.
- These can be used by spacecraft to reduce fuel consumption needed to remain in position.
- There are five special points where a small mass can orbit in a constant pattern with two larger masses. Of the five Lagrange points, three are unstable and two are stable. The unstable Lagrange points are L1, L2 and L3 and the stable Lagrange points L4 and L5.
- The L1 point of the Earth-Sun system provide an uninterrupted view of the sun. In order to get the continuous view of the sun Aditya- L1 satellite will be placed in the halo orbit around the Lagrangian point 1 (L1) of the sun-earth system.

**Objectives of Aditya-L1 mission:** Aditya-L1 is the India's first dedicated scientific mission, which aims to send a satellite to study sun's chromosphere.

1. The objective of the mission is to study the dynamic nature of the sun's outer most layers, the corona and the chromosphere.
2. To collect data about Coronal Mass Ejections (CME).
3. It will study on origin of solar storms and their path through the interplanetary space from the Sun to the Earth.
4. The studies will also focus on collection of information for space weather prediction.

**Importance of Aditya-L1 mission:**

1. This mission will present clear picture of sun's chromosphere, which in turn will help us to understand the concept of sun's corona visible during solar eclipse.
2. It will help to study the discharging of charged particles into space which affect the environment there called solar wind.
3. The data from Aditya mission will be helpful in discriminating different models for the origin of solar storms and also for constraining how the storms evolve and what path they take through the interplanetary space from the Sun to the Earth.
4. It will help in measuring solar irradiance variations.
5. It will help in study the variation of solar wind properties as well as its distribution and characteristics.
6. It will help in studying the heating mechanism of the solar corona.
7. It will further enhance ISRO's capabilities for more challenging missions.

This project provides an opportunity to scientists from multiple institutions within the country to participate in space based observations. Aditya-L1 project will enable a comprehensive understanding of the different processes of the sun. The challenge before ISRO is placing the satellite at L1 point where it will send Indian spacecraft for the first time.

**Q.49) "Focus on fiscal deficit alone; as an economic management tool is not full proof."**
**Discuss.**
**Ans.**

| **Demand of the question** |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** What is fiscal deficit? |
| **Body.** Constraints of fiscal deficit as economic management tool. |
| **Conclusion.** Contextual conclusion. |

Fiscal Deficit is the difference between the total revenue of the government and its total expenditure. A fiscal deficit situation occurs when the government's expenditure exceeds its income. High fiscal deficit means that the government has been spending beyond its revenue. Many government target fiscal deficit for a stable economic growth. India target to retain fiscal deficit around 3-3.5% of GDP.

**Issues with fiscal target as sole focus:**
1. Indian government target to keep fiscal deficit at 3-3.5% of the gross domestic product. The scientific basis for this figure is not known. Whether 3% figure is good or bad for economy is arguable.
2. The fiscal deficit reflects the overall imbalance in the Budget. A fiscal deficit does not always reflect status of revenue accounts of the government which indicates whether the government is saving or spending more than it receives. One cannot deduce the soundness of economic management from a mere reduction in the fiscal deficit. Revenue deficit is also important.
3. It is argued that fiscal deficit targeting, rewards economies. But the impact of fiscal deficit targeting on soundness of economy is yet to be established scientifically. The slowdown of exports and the rise in unemployment suggest that fiscal deficit targeting has not led to desired result.
4. The Government of India (GoI) doesn't borrow from overseas to fund FD. It is funded mostly out of domestic savings. GoI can run high levels of FD without triggering a currency crisis. This is the exact opposite of theory of targeting FD to prevent crisis as was seen in Russia, Argentina, Greece where high FD triggered economic crises.
5. In practice, fiscal policies may be applied inappropriately because fiscal deficit sometimes miscalculate the true constraints in budget and give a misleading picture of the economy's fiscal stance. For diagnosing economic problems and finding appropriate fiscal policies to address them, the correct measurement of the public sector's requirements is important. To understand a country's fiscal stance, it may be necessary to view the budget from several angles.
6. Any error in accounting or false numbers by government lead to the failure of fiscal deficit as a measure to convey fiscal health. Involvement of other measurements like revenue deficit would reflect the right situation.
7. Fiscal deficit as a sole indicator hides a number of ambiguities and usage date. Problems include the accounting and the gap between the budget and macroeconomic developments.
8. It is evident that the measurement of the deficit has significant policy implications. Thus only fiscal deficit as economic management tool may lead to bad policy formulation and implementation.

9. The basic issue in slow Indian economic growth is lack of demand. Thus there is need to stimulate demand. Obsession with targeting FD jeopardises government expenditure and thus limit growth and ability to service debt in the long term.

10. To meet the target, the government imposes arbitrary spending cuts on maintenance and on critical investments in social and physical infrastructure. This result in lowering of national productivity, leading to lower long-term growth.

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) law was enacted in 2003 to enforce discipline through prescribed targets. Unfortunately, this has led to focus of elected representatives on a key policy tool to react to economic distress. For better economic management and long term economic growth other factors and measures should be considered along with fiscal deficit.

**Q.50) What is difference between 5G and 4G technology? Discuss importance of 5G technology for India?**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** What is 5G technology?
**Body.** Difference between 5G and 4G. Importance of 5G in India.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

5g is the next generation wireless cellular technology that will provide faster and more reliable communication with ultra-low latency. A government panel report points out that with 5G, the peak network data speeds are expected to be in the range of 2-20 Gigabit per second (Gbps). This can help in good governance and can lead to higher economic growth in India.

**How is 5G different to 4G?**

| 5G | 4G |
|---|---|
| 5G uses utilises much higher radio frequencies of 28 ghz. | 4G uses lower reading frequencies of 700 mhz to 2500 mhz. |
| 5G transfer more data over the air at faster speeds. | 4G speed is lesser with less data transfer. |
| 5G has lower latency i.e the delay before a transfer of data begins following an instruction. Latency for 5G is predicted to be below 10 milliseconds, and in best cases around 1 millisecond. | 4G has higher latency as compared to 5G. Latency for 4G is around 20-30 milliseconds. |
| 5G uses millimetre wave spectrum which enables more devices to be used within the same geographic area supporting around one million per square kilometre. | 4G support lesser number of devices of about 4,000 devices per square kilometre. |
| 5G uses a new digital technology that improve coverage, speed and capacity. | 4G has led to more congestion and lesser coverage as |

| | compared to 5G. |
|---|---|

**How 5G technology is important for India?**

1. **High speed and digital India:** 5G will revolutionise the mobile experience with speedy wireless network, which can support up to 10 to 20 GBPS of data download speed. Compared to conventional mobile transmission technologies, voice and high-speed data can be simultaneously transferred efficiently in 5G. This will enhance and support government's effort to promote digital India.

2. **Better Governance:** Better speed and connectivity would reduce red tapism. It will enhance speedy completion of projects and better implementation of policies. It will enable accountability in the system through a better monitoring system and will reduce corruption.

3. **Low latency:** It is one of the most important features of 5G technology which is significant for autonomous driving and mission critical applications. 5G networks are capable of latency less than a millisecond. This help in logistics improvement and would reduce overall cost of goods and services.

4. **Employment generation:** 5G wireless technology will open greater opportunity for new device manufactures and application developers. New VoIP devices and smart devices will be introduced in the market and thus more job opportunities as well. This will help in inclusive growth reaping demographic dividend.

5. **Enhanced network coverage:** Device-to-device communication techniques will further enhance network performance and support during limited access or absence of mobile networks. Small cell concept used in 5G will have multiple advantages of better cell coverage, maximum data transfer, low power consumption and cloud access network etc. This will help in reducing digital gap in India.

6. **Entertainment and multimedia industry:** Analysts found that 55% of mobile Internet traffic has been used for video downloads globally in 2015. This trend will increase in future and high definition video streaming will be common in future. This will help in growth of entertainment industry and thus more jobs will be there. It will also increase government revenue.

7. **Enhanced Security:** 5G wireless technology is one the best solution for security surveillance due to higher bandwidth and unlicensed spectrum. It will enhance better coordination among various agencies. Smart appliances which can be configured and accessed from remote locations, closed circuit cameras will provide high quality real-time video for security purposes.

8. **Logistics and shipping:** Logistic and shipping industry can make use of smart 5G technology for goods tracking, fleet management, centralized database management, staff scheduling and real-time delivery tracking and reporting.

9. **Smart cities:** It will fuel government's smart city project. Smart city application like traffic management, instant weather update, local area broadcasting, energy management, smart power grid, smart lighting of street, water resource management, crowd management, emergency response etc. can use reliable 5G wireless network for its functioning.

10. **Industrial Growth:** Future industries will depend on smart wireless technologies like 5G and LTE advanced for efficient automation of equipment, maintenance, safety, tracking, smart packing, shipping, logistics and energy management.

11. **Agricultural applications:** 5g technology can be used for agriculture and smart farming in future. Using smart RFID sensors and GPS technology, farmers can track location of livestock and manage them easily. Smart sensors can be used for irrigation control, access control and energy management.

12. **Healthcare and mission critical applications:** 5G technology will support medical practitioners to perform advanced medical procedures with reliable wireless network connected to another side of the globe. Doctors can connect with patients from anywhere anytime and advice them when necessary. Scientists are working on smart medical devices which can perform remote surgery. Smart medical devices like wearable will continuously monitor patient's condition and activate alert during emergency.

India should not miss the opportunity and should proactively work to deploy 5g technology. We should focus on strengthening our cyber infrastructure. Funds should be allocated and local technology and telecom firms should be incentivised to develop their internal capacities which would in turn help 5G technology succeed in the country. 5g start-ups that enable this design and manufacturing capabilities should be promoted.

General Studies 4

**Q.1) Budget 2019-20 announced a Gandhipedia to sensitise society. Discuss seven sins of Gandhi and it's relevance to sensitise the society.**
**Ans.**

**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Contextual introduction.
**Body.** Seven sins and it's relevance.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

Gandhiji mentioned Seven Sins in Young India in 1925. These sins are quite relevant even till today. It reflects the importance of balancing values with growth.

**Seven Sins by Gandhiji and it's relevance-**
1. **Wealth without Work- this** refers to the practice of getting something for nothing - manipulating markets and assets so you don't have to work or produce added value, just manipulate people and things. Today there are professions built around making wealth without working, making much money without paying taxes, benefiting from free government programs without carrying a fair share of the financial burdens, and enjoying all the perks of citizenship of country and membership of corporation without assuming any of the risk or responsibility. New social mores and norms are cultivated that cause distortions in their judgement.
2. **Pleasure without Conscience:** People seem to want pleasures without conscience or sense of responsibility, even abandoning or utterly neglecting spouses and children in the name of doing their thing. To learn to give and take, to live selflessly, to be sensitive, to be considerate, is our challenge. Otherwise there is no sense of social responsibility or accountability in our pleasurable activities. The ultimate costs of pleasures without conscience are high as measured in terms of time and money, in terms of reputation and in terms of wounding the hearts and minds of other people who are adversely affected by those who just want to indulge and gratify themselves in the short term. Conscience is essentially the repository of timeless truths and principles - the internal monitor of natural law.
3. **Knowledge without Character:** As dangerous as a little knowledge is, even more dangerous is much knowledge without a strong, principled character. Purely intellectual development without commensurate internal character development makes as much sense as putting a high-powered sports car in the hands of a teenager who is high on drugs. In the academic world, we do not focus on the character development of young people. Values should be infused in society through our education system and through corporate training and development programs. A better balance between the development of character and intellect should be achieved.
4. **Commerce (Business) Without Morality (Ethics):** If we ignore the moral foundation and allow economic systems to operate without moral foundation and without continued education, we will soon create an amoral, if not immoral, society and business. Economic and political systems are needed to be based on a moral foundation. Our economic system comes out of a constitutional democracy where minority rights are to be attended to as well.

5. **Science Without Humanity:** If science becomes all technique and technology, it quickly degenerates into man against humanity. Technologies come from the paradigms of science. And if there's very little understanding of the higher human purposes that the technology is striving to serve, we becomes victims of our own technocracy. Threats like terrorism, species loss, biodiversity loss will continue.

6. **Religion Without Sacrifice:** Without sacrifice religion doesn't fulfill the purpose. It takes sacrifice to serve the needs of other people - the sacrifice of our own pride and prejudice, among other things. A sense of service or inner work ship is must. The great servant leaders sacrifice their pride and share their power. Sadly, many people want "religion," or at least the appearance of it, without any sacrifice. They want more spirituality but would never miss a meal in meaningful fasting or do one act of anonymous service to achieve it.

7. **Politics Without Principle:** If there is no principle, there is no true politics. Politicians spend huge amount of money just to create an image, even though it's superficial, lacking substance, in order to get votes and gain office. And it leads to a political system that is inefficient and corrupt.

The key to a healthy society is to get the social will, the value system, aligned with correct principles. Thus Gandhiji seven sins not only guide what is done, but it strives to achieve a balance and correctness leading to sustainable development of an individual, society and an economy.

**Q.2) What is research ethics? Discuss the principles of research ethics.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** About research ethics.
**Body.** Importance and principles of research ethics.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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Research ethics are the standards of conduct that governs the scientific research. It is important to adhere to ethical principles in order to protect the dignity, rights and welfare of research participants. These standards also help members of the discipline to coordinate their actions or activities and to establish the public's trust of the discipline.

**Importance of Research ethics**
1. Norms promote the aims of research, such as knowledge, truth, and avoidance of error. For example, prohibitions against fabricating, falsifying, or misrepresenting research data promote the truth and minimise error.
2. Since research often involves a great deal of cooperation and coordination among many different people in different disciplines and institutions, ethical standards promote the values that are essential to collaborative work, such as trust, accountability, mutual respect, and fairness.
3. Many of the ethical norms ensure that researchers can be held accountable to the public. Policies on research misconduct, conflicts of interest, the human subjects protections, and animal care and use are necessary in order to make sure that researchers who are funded by public money can be held accountable to the public.

4. Ethical norms in research also help to build public support for research. People are more likely to fund a research project if they can trust the quality and integrity of research.

5. Many of the norms of research promote a variety of other important moral and social values, such as social responsibility, human rights, animal welfare, compliance with the law, and public health and safety. Ethical lapses in research can significantly harm human and animal subjects, students, and the public.

**Various Principles of research ethics-**

- **Social and clinical value:** Every research study is designed to answer a specific question. The answers to the research question should contribute to scientific understanding of health or improve our ways of preventing, treating, or caring for people with a given disease to justify exposing participants to the risk and burden of research.

- **Fair subject selection:** The primary basis for recruiting participants should be the scientific goals of the study — not vulnerability, privilege, or other unrelated factors. Participants who accept the risks of research should be in a position to enjoy its benefits. Specific groups of participants (for example, women or children) should not be excluded from the research opportunities without a good scientific reason or a particular susceptibility to risk.

- **Favourable risk-benefit ratio:** Uncertainty about the degree of risks and benefits associated with a clinical research study is inherent. Research risks may be trivial or serious, transient or long-term. Risks can be physical, psychological, economic, or social. Everything should be done to minimise the risks and inconvenience to research participants to maximise the potential benefits, and to determine that the potential benefits are proportionate to, or outweigh, the risks.

- **Independent review:** To minimise potential conflicts of interest and make sure a study is ethically acceptable before it starts, an independent review panel should review the proposal and ask important questions, ensuring the trial free of any bias. The panel should also monitors a study while it is ongoing.

- **Informed consent**: Potential participants should make their own decision about whether they want to participate or continue participating in research. This is done through a process of informed consent in which individuals-
  - are accurately informed of the purpose, methods, risks, benefits, and alternatives to the research
  - understand this information and how it relates to their own clinical situation or interests, and
  - make a voluntary decision about whether to participate.

- **Respect for potential and enrolled participants:**Individuals should be treated with respect from the time they are approached for possible participation — even if they refuse enrolment in a study — throughout their participation and after their participation ends. This includes:
  - respecting their privacy and keeping their private information confidential.
  - respecting their right to change their mind, to decide that the research does not match their interests, and to withdraw without a penalty.
  - informing them of new information that might emerge in the course of research, which might change their assessment of the risks and benefits of participating.

- monitoring their welfare and, if they experience adverse reactions, unexpected effects, or changes in clinical status, ensuring appropriate treatment.
- **Honesty:** Honest research and efforts are very important in all science. Honestly report data, results, methods and procedures, and publication status. Do not fabricate, falsify, or misrepresent data. Do not deceive colleagues, research sponsors, or the public.
- **Objectivity:** Strive to avoid bias in experimental design, data analysis, data interpretation, peer review, personnel decisions, grant writing, expert testimony, and other aspects of research where objectivity is expected or required. Avoid or minimise bias or self-deception. Disclose personal or financial interests that may affect research.

Research ethics are very important in the field of science. When conducting research on human subjects, minimising harms and risks and maximising benefits; respect human dignity, privacy, and autonomy; special precautions should be taken with vulnerable populations; and should strive to distribute the benefits and burdens of research fairly.

**Q.3) What are cyber-ethics? Discuss its relevance in modern times.**
**Ans.**

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**Demand of the question**
**Introduction.** Define cyber ethics.
**Body.** Discuss issue of privacy etc. and importance of cyber ethics.
**Conclusion.** Way forward.

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Cyberethics is the philosophic study of ethics pertaining to computers, encompassing user behaviour and what computers are programmed to do, and how this affects individuals and society. For years, various governments have enacted regulations while organizations have defined policies about cyberethics.

**Is there a need for cyber-ethics?**
1. **Increasing Cybercrime:** Cyber-crime, hacking into people's bank accounts and stealing their money, or defrauding people in a myriad of ways is becoming trend now. This increasing trend of cyber-crime demand need of proper set of codes and rules.
2. **Increasing unethical behaviour**: There are many kinds of ethically or morally irresponsible behaviour, in the space opened up by the internet from actions involving people's financial status, through hate-speech or writing regarding gender, race, culture, and a host of other morally dubious (if not constitutionally illegal).
3. **Spying**: Actions such as governments or corporations spying on individuals, individuals spying on governments or corporations, and so on, raise the need of cyber ethical code. A cyber ethical code would enlighten citizens about what is good or bad for them and will held government accountable for unethical actions.
4. **Threat to privacy**: Over 100 years later, the internet and proliferation of private data through governments and e-commerce is an area which requires a new round of ethical debate involving a person's privacy. Privacy from an ethical and moral point of view should be central to dignity and individuality and personhood. Privacy is also indispensable to a sense of autonomy to 'a feeling that there is an area of an individual's life that is totally under his or her control, an area that is free from outside intrusion.' The deprivation of privacy can even endanger a person's health. Individuals

surrender private information when conducting transactions and registering for services.

5. **Frauds**: Fraud and impersonation are some of the malicious activities that occur due to the direct or indirect abuse of private information. Identity theft is rising rapidly. Public records search engines and databases are the main culprits contributing to the rise of cybercrime. Ethical business practice protects the privacy of their customers by securing information which may contribute to the loss of secrecy, anonymity, and solitude.

6. **Ownership**: Ethical debate has long included the concept of property. This concept has created many clashes in the world of cyberethics. One philosophy of the internet is centred around the freedom of information. The controversy over ownership occurs when the property of information is infringed upon or uncertain.

7. **Intellectual property rights**: The ever-increasing speed of the internet and the emergence of compression technology, opened the doors to Peer-to-peer file sharing, a technology that allowed users to anonymously transfer files to each other, previously seen on programs. Much of this, however, was copyrighted music and illegal to transfer to other users. Whether it is ethical to transfer copyrighted media is another question. Restrictions are required because companies would not invest weeks and months in development if there were no incentive for revenue generated from sales and licensing fees.

8. **Digital rights management (DRM)**: Blind making of audio books of PDFs, allowing people to burn music they have legitimately bought to CD or to transfer it to a new computer etc. are seen as violation of the rights of the intellectual property holders, opening the door to uncompensated use of copyrighted media. Another ethical issue concerning DRMs involves the way these systems could undermine the fair use provisions of the copyright laws. The reason is that these allow content providers to choose who can view or listen to their materials making the discrimination against certain groups possible.

9. **Accessibility, censorship and filtering**: Accessibility, censorship and filtering bring up many ethical issues that have several branches in cyberethics. Many questions have arisen which continue to challenge our understanding of privacy, security and our participation in society. Throughout the centuries mechanisms have been constructed in the name of protection and security. Internet censorship and filtering are used to control or suppress the publishing or accessing of information. The legal issues are similar to offline censorship and filtering. Whether people are better off with free access to information or should be protected from what is considered by a governing body as harmful, indecent or illicit is a new debate.

10. **Freedom of information**: Freedom of information, that is the freedom of speech as well as the freedom to seek, obtain and impart information brings up the question of who or what, has the jurisdiction in cyberspace. The right of freedom of information is commonly subject to limitations dependent upon the country, society and culture concerned. Generally there are three standpoints on the issue as it relates to the internet.

    - First is the argument that the internet is a form of media, put out and accessed by citizens of governments and therefore should be regulated by each individual government within the borders of their respective jurisdictions.
    - Second, is that governments of the Industrial World have no sovereignty over the Internet.

- Internet supersedes all tangible borders such as the borders of countries, authority should be given to an international body since what is legal in one country may be against the law in another.

11. **Digital divide**: An issue specific to the ethical issues of the freedom of information is what is known as the digital divide. This refers to the unequal socio-economic divide between those who have had access to digital and information technology, such as cyberspace, and those who have had limited or no access at all. This gap of access between countries or regions of the world is called the global digital divide.

Thus in modern times with concerns of privacy, spying, hacking etc. where no government has control on cyber space, an international body is must based on consensus. This body should work on a cyber-ethical "code" or set of guidelines that would potentially be capable of regulating people's behaviour on the internet.

**Q.4) Distinguish between attitude and behaviour. How attitude of an individual influence its behaviour?**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Define what is is attitude and behaviour. |
| **Body.** Difference between attitude and behaviour. How attitude determines behaviour? |
| **Conclusion.** Conclude. |

**Attitude** is a person's mental outlook, which defines the way we think or feel anything. It has a strong impact on our decisions, actions, stimuli, etc.
**Behaviour** is an individual's reaction to a particular action, person or environment. It is the manner of acting or controlling oneself towards other people.

| Attitude | Behaviour |
| --- | --- |
| Attitude refers to a person's mental view, regarding the way he/she thinks or feels about someone or something. | Behaviour implies the actions and conduct of an individual or group towards other persons. |
| Attitude is more personal. | Behaviour is more social. |
| Factors like environment, experiences, and moral values mainly influence attitudes. | Attitudes, character traits, biological factors like endocrine and nervous responses influence our behaviour. |
| It is a hypothetical construct whose direct observation is not possible. | Behaviour is visible through consequences and result. |
| A person's attitude is mainly based on the experiences gained by him during the course of his life and observations. | The behaviour of a person is basedon the situation and circumstances. |
| Attitude is a person's inner thoughts and feelings. | Behaviour is an expression of person's attitude. |

| Attitude is defined by the way we perceive things. | Behaviour is ruled by social norms. |
|---|---|
| Attitude reflects one's emotions, opinions and thoughts. | Behaviour reflects one's attitude as actions are the reflection of our thoughts. |

**How attitude guides an individual's behaviour?**

Attitude is one of the main factors that trigger emotions, decision-making, thinking and behaviour in an individual. Following are some examples of how attitude influence the behaviour:

1. A **positive attitude** can will lead to a positive behaviour. E.g. A person who has positive attitudes towards work and co-workers (such as contentment, friendliness, etc.) can positively influence those around them.
2. Similarly **negative attitude** lead to negative behaviour. E.g. if a person have a negative attitude towards women, he will discriminate women in all fronts of life.
3. A **selfish attitude** will guide individual's action in same manner. E.g. A cricketer who put his self interest and profit above the nation, will take money to loose the game.
4. **Logic or rational attitudes** develop a rational behaviour. E.g. a rational person will not act superstitiously and will always try to find rational behind any act.
5. An **egoistic attitude** will result in a negative attitude and behaviour. E.g. elder individuals control their younger siblings even if they are wrong to satisfy their ego of being elder.
6. An **attitude based on values and beliefs** will act according to the values. E.g. in India touching feet of elders is guided by attitude of giving respect to them.

Thus it can be said that attitude guides one behaviour. Therefore a person's attitude will define his/her actions.

**Q.5) What do you understand by emotional intelligence? Discuss the importance of emotional intelligence in leadership.**
**Ans.**

| Demand of the question |
|---|
| **Introduction.** What is Emotional Intelligence? |
| **Body.** Importance of Emotional Intelligence in leadership. |
| **Conclusion.** Contextual conclusion. |

Emotional intelligence (EI) is the capability of a person to assess, manage and control one's own emotions as well as emotions of others. It is critical to manage our behaviour and decision making. It has 5 components- self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy and social skills. These 5 components are key in leadership.

**Importance of Emotional Intelligence in Leadership**

1. **Realistic Goal setting:** Self-awareness ability allow a leader to not only know his/her strengths and weaknesses, but also strength and weaknesses of his team members. This help a leader in setting realistic achievable goals and in managing team through using his/her strengths. This also help in delegation of work based on strengths of

team. Emotional intelligence enable a leader to work upon his/her and his/her teammates weaknesses while using strengths optimally toward achieving a goal.

2. **Develop Empathy:** Having empathy is critical to manage a successful team or organisation. Ability to recognize others' emotions help leaders to practice empathy. It help them to understand their colleagues' feelings and perspectives, which enables them to communicate and collaborate more effectively with their peers.

3. **Management of stressful situations:** Emotional Intelligence help leaders to manage their and their teammate's emotions, particularly in stressful situations, and maintain a positive outlook despite setbacks. Leaders who lack emotional intelligence tend to react and have a harder time in keeping their impulses in check.

4. **Conflict resolution:** Emotional Intelligence help leaders to influence and mentor others and help in resolving conflict effectively.

5. **Motivation:** Emotionally Intelligent leaders work consistently toward their goals, and establish extremely high standards for the quality of their work. This drive and motivate other teammates to achieve these standards and goals.

6. **Effective Communication:** Emotionally intelligent leaders are great communicators. They know what to say and when to say. An effective communication in a team help them to develop better strategies and increase their efficiency by synchronising their efforts.

7. **Emotional intelligence helps leaders to adapt:** Leaders should be able to adapt to changing circumstances in their workplaces. E.g. if a teammate leaves, an emotionally intelligent leader will try to find a suitable replacement and know how to keep his team motivated. Ability to understand and manage their emotions and of those around them help emotionally intelligent leaders to navigate through difficult circumstances.

8. **Better team performance:** Emotionally Intelligent leader focus on collaboration between team members, which creates synergy and a better experience for employees. They support others and always celebrate the successes of their employees and encourage them to learn more and develop their skills. This lead to confidence building and better team performance.

9. **Decision making**: Emotionally Intelligent leaders make objective decisions based on accumulated wisdom and understanding with time. A leader who manages his or her emotions will take quick and strong decisions without emotions being involved after proper cost-benefit analysis.

10. **Ability to Bounce Back from Adversity:** Emotional Intelligence help leaders to bounce back quickly after a setback. It help them to manage their and their teammates' emotions motivating them to the next goal.

Emotional intelligence in the leadership is critical for team's effectiveness. It plays an important role in driving team and organisation together towards a goal and help in conflict resolution. It enable a leader to be more empathetic, professional, understanding and goal oriented.