

Mains Marathon Compilation

October, 2019

General Studies – 1

Q.1) Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?

Q.2) “A recent study reported that 36 million Indians face flood risk due to climate change.” In light of this discuss how India should prepare itself to mitigate the threat of disasters posed by climate change?

Q.3) “The power to transform the world flows from the collective non-violent energies of ordinary men and women.” Comment.

Q.4) Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics.

Q.5) “The basic human rights cannot be denied on the basis of gender differences, religion or on the basis of ‘race’.” Comment.

Q.6) “Long-held assumptions and alignments rooted in the legacies of colonialism and the ideology of the Cold War are making way for new configurations and partnerships.” In light of above statement discuss the need of reforming NAM under current geo-political realities.

Q.7) Defining blue revolution. Explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India.

Q.8) “Appeasement of castes whether upper or lower by politicians for vote bank politics has led to strengthening of caste system in India.” Comment.

Q.9) Discuss various reasons for rising incidents of mob lynching in India. Give some solutions to prevent such incidents.

Q.10) Discuss how different and difficult would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi?

Q.11) Discuss the potential of rural tourism in India. What measures and precautions should be taken to promote rural tourism?

Q.12) “In the era of intolerance and polarisation, forgiveness and compassion are much needed values.” Comment.

Q.13) Discuss the issue of droughts and flood cycle in India. How better infrastructure for water management can help in preventing frequent droughts and flood?

Q.14) How the removal of gender issues and women empowerment can reduce the economic inequalities in India? Discuss.

Q.15) “India’s demographic dividend can turn into demographic disaster.” In light of this discuss why it is important for India to focus on demographic dividend?

General Studies – 2

Q.1) “Freedom of the press is a precious privilege that no country can forgo.” Discuss the significance of above statement. Do you think Indian Media is free?

Q.2) "India requires a national register for citizen's at national level." Critically examine.

Q.3) "In the era of high competition, reservation in jobs and higher education need to be rationalised." Comment.

Q.4) "Recently released Health Ministry's Comprehensive National Nutrition survey showed a direct correlation between the nutritional status of children and their mothers' education." In light of this discuss the importance and issues related to women education in India.

Q.5) What do you understand by the term Brexit? What are various causes and possible impact of Brexit on India?

Q.6) What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India?

Q.7) "The rise of Asia represents the beginnings of a shift in the balance of economic power in the world and the future will be shaped partly by how Asia exploits the opportunities and meets the challenges." In light of this statement, discuss the role of India in realising Asian Century.

Q.8) "Mere police reforms will be of no consequence unless simultaneous improvements are made in the prosecution, judiciary and in prisons." Comment.

Q.9) "India's relations with Saudi Arabia are one of the most important bilateral relationships in its extended neighbourhood." Evaluate.

Q.10) "India must not trade away its national data rights at the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations." Comment

Q.11) Analyse various area of convergence where India and the U.S. can work closely in reshaping the global order. How both countries can ensure better coordination among these areas of convergence?

Q.12) "Populist measures like highly subsidised food and goods although help poor but is an unsustainable policy measure and not a permanent solution." Comment.

Q.13) "Impartiality of the Judiciary is cornerstone of any healthy democracy." Comment.

Q.14) "Rivers have no boundaries and no regions." In light of this statement discuss various consequences of stopping river sharing to Pakistan. Do you think it is morally correct to stop sharing of river water to Pakistan?

Q.15) What is mean by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest?

Q.16) Discuss the role of Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people.

Q.17) "Reforms and polices which aim to weed out adverse practices often lead to disruptions and fail to achieve its objectives." Comment.

Q.18) What are various objectives of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)? Discuss its role in keeping the Indian government accountable to its people.

Q.19) Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force?

Q.20) "PM-KISAN scheme will not only lead to welfare of farmers, but can act as an important tool for India's economic growth." Discuss.

Q.21) Discuss various reasons for rise in crimes against certain sections of people in India. Argue whether it is a global phenomenon or confined to India only.

Q.22) "Schools in India has failed in inculcating scientific spirit and rational temper among Indians". Critically analyse.

Q.23) "With rising tensions and recent conditions of destabilisation in Afghanistan India need to figure out how to secure its interests in Afghanistan where it has a significant footprint." Discuss.

Q.24) Discuss the need of bringing uniformity in civil laws. Critically analyse the the consequences of bringing such uniformity.

Q.25) "India's foreign policy is undergoing a series of fundamental transformations in terms of its underlying narratives and processes." Discuss.

Q.26) Discuss salient features of Motor Vehicle amendment act, 2019. Critically analyse its objectives and significance.

Q.27) "Informal summits are seen as a platform for trust-building exercises." In light of this statement critically examine the relevance and success of such informal summits in resolving bilateral issues.

Q.28) "In a multi-polar world, it is very difficult for India to balance between rival nations." In light of this discuss how India should manage its interests in a multi-polar world?

Q.29) Discuss the Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment) Rules issued in 2018. Why these rules are important?

Q.30) Critically examine the salient features and objectives of Citizenship amendment bill, 2019. Does the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill go against Article 14 of the Constitution?

Q.31) "Media is a very important organ to fight terrorism." In light of this discuss the critical role media need to play in fight against the terrorism?

Q.32) "Democracy is not another name of majoritarianism, on the contrary it is a system to include every voice, where thought of every person is counted." Comment.

Q.33) Critically analyse the need and various fallouts of privatisation of Indian Railways. Do you think such a move will further displace the poorer sections?

Q.34) Examine the role of gram nyayalayas in dispute resolution. Discuss the effectiveness of mediation as a dispute settlement mechanism in various conflict situations.

Q.35) "China-India relations transcend the bilateral dimension and assume global and strategic significance." Discuss.

Q.36) "The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 has failed to protect women from sexual harassment at their place of work." In light of this discuss various reasons for the failure of state and the law to safeguard women at their place of work.

Q.37) Examine the issue of quota reforms in International Monetary Reforms. Discuss how this asymmetric power distribution in IMF has impacted India's interests?

Q.38) "India requires multiple interventions to prevent mental health disorders among adolescents." Discuss.

Q.39) "The recent success of women in almost every sector especially in sports, reflects that women are no less than men." Comment.

Q.40) Discuss various challenges in increasing access to education to students from deprived backgrounds? How these challenges can be removed?

Q.41) "Indian sedition law has become a privilege for politicians and curse to free speech and right to dissent." Discuss.

Q.42) "There is scope for India- Bangladesh ties to move to the next level, based on cooperation, coordination and consolidation." Comment.

Q.43) Discuss various provisions of disqualifications under Representation of people's Act. Do you think these provisions has helped in decriminalising Indian politics?

Q.44) Examine the doctrine of basic structure. Discuss its evolution and significance.

Q.45) "The claim that there can be a neat insulation of internal issues of a country from global concerns is antithetical to the rationale of all global institutions." In light of discuss how India should tackle Pakistan's false narratives on Jammu and Kashmir at various global platforms.

Q.46) "Despite of deep ties, India and Sri Lanka have seen some unpleasantness in bilateral relations in contemporary times." Discuss.

General Studies – 3

Q.1) What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap?

Q.2) Discuss the threat of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) to India. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE.

Q.3) Discuss the role of higher education institutes like IITs, IIMs in achieving \$5 trillion dollar economic goal.

Q.4) "Trade strengthens peace and there needs to be a revised strategy towards restarting cross-Line of Control trade." Comment

Q.5) "Any long-term solution to the problem of unemployment to which the slowing growth of the economy is related must start with agricultural production." Comment

Q.6) What do you understand by the term 'genome sequencing'? Discuss its Importance and associated challenges wrt genome sequencing in India

Q.7) Examine the need and role of a robust coastal ecosystem in India's economic growth and security.

Q.8) Discuss why just providing subsidised food is not suffice to tackle hunger issue in India? What else need to be done to end hunger problem in India?

Q.9) "In the world of intelligence, information is the principal currency." In this context illustrate how information plays an important role in security of any nation?

Q.10) Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing 'Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030)'. How is this framework different from 'Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005'?

Q.11) "Strengthening the manufacturing industry and increasing domestic demand are key imperatives for job creation and inclusive growth." Discuss.

Q.12) "The rise in India's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 survey is a positive development". In light of this discuss what led to this improvement? What else need to be done?

Q.13) Discuss the issue of air pollution in India. Despite of various efforts why government has failed to control air pollution menace in India?

Q.14) "For tackling Climate change in a better way it must be an integral part to the planning of Indian cities and towns." Comment.

Q.15) "With economic growth, the demand for power in India is only going to increase further." In light of this discuss how India should fulfill its energy needs without jeopardising environmental health?

Q.16) Explain what is quantum computing? Discuss its potential application in various fields.

Q.17) What is wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India.

Q.18) Discuss the issue of land acquisition as a major impediment in the development process. What steps should be taken to make land acquisition quick and easy?

Q.19) "Strategy for water resource management require new approach and not the continuation of failed policies of the past." Comment.

Q.20) What is Zero Budget Natural Farming? Critically examine whether Zero Budget Natural Farming should be included into agricultural policies or not?

Q.21) “To achieve its economic goals and to realise ‘Asian Century’ India need to work with the other civilisational power, like China.” Discuss.

Q.22) What are the various reasons for slower economic growth? Do you think recent tax sops announced by government are sufficient to arrest the slowdown?

Q.23) What is India’s plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?

Q.24) Examine the economic and strategic significance of border area development for India. What are various challenges related to border area management and development?

General Studies – 4

Q.1) What do you understand by voice of conscience? How voice of conscience can help in right decision making?

Q.2) Discuss how political interference in sports administration has led to poor performance of sports in India? Why it is important to establish accountability in sports administration in India?

Q.3) Distinguish between “Code of ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples.

General Studies – 1

Q.1) Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Discuss various types of revolutions in Agriculture after Independence in India. How these revolutions are significant in poverty alleviation and food security?

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is primarily an agricultural economy and majority of people are still dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. After independence, development of agriculture has been assured by various revolutions supported by government.

Various types of revolutions in Agriculture after Independence in India:

1. **Green Revolution:** This revolution led to tremendous rise in production of food grains, especially wheat, by use of high-yielding varieties of seeds, fertilisers and pesticide. In the agriculture sector in the decade of 1960 India started green revolution, and high yielding variety seeds were used in wheat, rice, maize. This experiment gave success and extended to most parts of the country.
2. **White Revolution:** Operation Flood (1970), an initiative of National Dairy Development Board has led to revolution in milk production in India. The world's largest dairy development programme transformed India from a milk deficient nation to world's largest milk producer. This has introduced in the new breeding technologies, high quality fodder, vaccination, veterinary facilities improved.
3. **Blue Revolution:** This revolution focussed on management of fisheries sector and has led to phenomenal increase in both fish production and productivity from aquaculture and fisheries resources of the inland and marine fisheries.
4. **Other revolutions:** Other revolutions are also significant includes yellow revolution (oil seed production), golden fibre revolution (jute), golden revolution (horticulture), silver fibre revolution (Cotton) and red revolution (meat production).

Significance of these revolutions in poverty alleviation and food security:

1. These innovations in agriculture have lifted millions of people out of poverty by generating rural income opportunities for farmers, farm labourers, and also reduced prices for consumers.
2. India has become self sufficient in food grain production with the help of green revolution. Green revolution increased the amount food grains enormously, with this India came out of PL-480 agreements, through which India imports food grains from USA.
3. White revolution in dairy sector came in 1970s, in this using co-operatives. In model farmers collectively increased the production of milk and India became the net exporter of milk. The exponential rise in milk production has led to nutritional security among the masses. Per capita availability of milk has reached all time high. With this supplementary income to the farmers increased and it improved the food and nutritional security of the people.
4. Blue revolution increased the sea food production. With this fishermen community get benefited and also provide food and nutritional security.
5. Also these revolutions provided income and employment to women leading to women empowerment helping millions to come out of poverty.

To further carry on the momentum of these programmes and assure food security in long run in face of ever increasing population, there is an urgent need for an 'evergreen revolution' that should focus on all round development of the agriculture sector. Recently govt started ever green revolution which focuses all aspects of agriculture pertaining to various products, it is also called as rainbow revolution. It also extend the results of green revolution eastern part of the country, it is a technology driven scheme.

Q.2) "A recent study reported that 36 million Indians face flood risk due to climate change." In light of this discuss how India should prepare itself to mitigate the threat of disasters posed by climate change?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Mention vulnerability of India to climate change risks. Discuss how India should prepare itself to tackle the threat of climate change?

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change owing to its geography and high economic dependence on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and even electricity generation. In 2013, India, together with the Philippines and Cambodia, led the list of the most-affected countries, in the Germanwatch Global Climate Risk Index. Therefore, there is an urgent need for integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) & Climate Change Adaption (CCA) into the ongoing and existing developmental plans, so that physical and economic damages from disasters are minimised.

Vulnerability of India to climate change:

1. 58% Indians rely solely on agriculture. Hence, any change in rain or temperature affects not only the country's food security and but also its economy.
2. Also, the long coastline of over 7,500 kilometres makes it highly susceptible to risks emanating from sea level rise and oceans turning more acidic.
3. The 10 states over which the Himalayas are spread, comprising 16 per cent of the country's geographical area, frequently face floods, landslides and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF).
4. In the last three years itself, India confronted enormous devastation caused by the Uttarakhand floods, Cyclone Phailin, Kashmir floods and an unprecedented heat wave this year.
5. It is often the poorest people who suffer most from climate change due to their higher dependence on nature.

How India should prepare itself to tackle the threat of climate change?

1. **Timely implementation:** The first National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was released in 2008, outlining 8 core national missions running through 2017. The progress made so far on these missions remains slow and uneven. The action plan should be implemented with timely deadlines.
2. **Harmonisation of policies and programs:** It is vital that INDC integrates and harmonises with the programmes undertaken by different ministries and sectors, and global processes such as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the newly agreed Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) targets. All the existing programmes and campaigns like Make in India, More crop per drop, Soil Health Card, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Programme need to incorporate features to reduce future disaster risk.
3. **Holistic measures:** Further, the risk management measures have to be holistic and must provide social protection for all citizens, especially the poor and vulnerable, to

address climate change-induced loss and damage, including several irreversible impacts.

4. **Vulnerability assessment:** The mechanisms such as setting up joint commissions or task forces for vulnerability assessment, planning and monitoring will go a long way in harmonising existing efforts on income generation, agriculture, water management and so on.
5. **Focus on Traditional knowledge:** The tradition of indigenous knowledge and the local improvisation of appropriate technology, popularly known as jugaad across north India, will need to be recognised and coupled with modern sciences. Investing in proven integrated farming systems practiced by small farmers, will promote food security as well as help absorb climate shocks and seasonal stresses.
6. **Public investment:** Agriculture extension services that build skills and ensure that useable information gets to the last farmer need to be reinforced through enhanced public investment. Successful examples of rainwater harvesting in the cities of Bengaluru, Chennai and the revival of mountain springs in Sikkim state must be replicated widely.
7. **Women participation and local action:** To enable informed participation and women's leadership in the decentralised and inclusive governance system, capacities of local communities and the authorities at the district and sub-district levels need to be strengthened. Further, adequate finance and policy support must be made available for the implementation of local adaptation plans by village-level panchayats and urban local bodies.

The Indian sub-continent is highly prone to natural hazards. The catastrophes such as flood, hail storm, earthquake, cyclone, drought etc. have been causing loss of lives besides immense destruction to physical infrastructure and economic assets. The government needs to act swiftly to improve its existing missions, to respond to the mounting climate impacts that will continue to occur over the next several decades.

Q.3) "The power to transform the world flows from the collective non-violent energies of ordinary men and women." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Discuss the significance of collective non violent action in instilling a social change.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Social change remains as necessary as ever in the present world. Humanity stands at cross-road today. Many are worried about the catastrophe that humanity faces if we do not act with restraint and reason. The problems like mass poverty and unemployment, the demoralisation that poverty leads to and the inadequacy of the accepted techniques of growth and development to solve these problems have compelled people to think in terms of a new approach to these problems. Mahatma Gandhi has always advocated a non-violent social change based on collective non-violent energies of ordinary men and women.

Significance of collective non violent action in instilling a social change:

1. Gandhian approach to resolve differences through non violent means remains relevant in light of conflict with in India as well as global level. An institutional approach to Gandhian method to ensure state backs the community and groups which want to resolve differences through Gandhian Methods like establishing committees of eminent citizens etc.
2. India has seen several social protests since independence by various groups. There is demand for separate states e.g. for Gorkhaland demand, insurgency, left wing

extremism etc. The protests sometime are violent and lead to loss of life and property. In such context Gandhi's approach to bring social change in gentle way is still relevant. If protests and Social movement can be achieved through his methods of Non-violence it will ensure the conflicts are not further escalated.

3. In global era new conflicts are emerging e.g. global terrorism, conflict due to illegal migration e.g. in USA is conceiving building a wall on USA- Mexico border, ethnic conflicts like Rohingya refugee crisis etc. These conflicts can be resolved through Gandhian approach of Non-violence and Satyagraha.
4. India is a diverse country with divisions along caste, culture and ethnicities. The diversity presents challenges due to competition for resources and need for protection of group identities e.g. language, cultures etc. Such conflicts can be resolved through peaceful gentle Gandhian approach.
5. An important feature of social change is the sense of belonging and group consciousness. Such consciousness can be brought about through active participation of the ordinary men and women.
6. Social change lead to the formation of an entirely new social, economic, and political order and thus must be based on collective change.
7. It is understandable that the social movements involve collective action instead of individual action. The objective of a social movement is to bring about or resist social change in the society.
8. Social movements often arise with the aim of bringing about changes on a public issue, such as ensuring the right of the tribal population to use the forests or the right of displaced people to settlement and compensation.

Gandhiji had visualised these problems and emphasised non-violent collective action of ordinary people to solve it. He adopted novel ways such as ahimsa, satyagraha and his use of the charkha in the freedom movement. He suggested solutions of the problem that this country is facing should be resolved by involving masses so that the process of growth and development enables even the lowliest to get deeply involved in the process of growth and development and prevent misuse of the process of growth for sectional and group interests.

Q.4) Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is mantle plume?

Body. Role of mantle plume in plate tectonics.

Conclusion. Contextual Conclusion.

Mantle plume is an upwelling of abnormally hot rock within the earth's mantle which carries heat upward in narrow, rising columns, driven by heat exchange across the core-mantle boundary. Eventually, the rising column of hot rock reaches the base of the lithosphere, where it spreads out, forming a mushroom-shaped cap to the plume. Heat transferred from the plume raises the temperature in the lower lithosphere to above melting point, and forms magma chambers that feed volcanoes at the surface. It is a secondary way through which earth loses heat.

Role of mantle plume in plate tectonics:

1. Mantle plumes transport primordial mantle material from below the zone of active convection that produce time-progressive volcanic chains, break up continents and act as a driving force for plate tectonics.
2. The narrow conduits of deep-mantle material rise through the solid mantle before spreading out laterally in the upper asthenosphere. From there, they cause the

lithosphere to swell and shear as the heat from the plume increases the temperature of lower lithosphere.

3. Mantle plumes are also thought to be the cause of volcanic centres known as hotspots and probably have also caused flood basalts. When a plume head encounters the base of the lithosphere, it is expected to flatten out against this barrier and to undergo widespread decompression melting to form large volumes of basalt magma. It may then erupt onto the surface.
4. As the plume remains anchored at the core-mantle boundary and it does not shift position over time, a string of volcanoes is created when the lithospheric plate moves above it.
5. The material and energy from Earth's interior are exchanged with the surface crust in two distinct modes:
 - the predominant, steady state plate tectonic regime driven by upper mantle convection, and
 - a punctuated, intermittently dominant, mantle overturn regime driven by plume convection. This second regime, while often discontinuous, is periodically significant in mountain building and continental breakup.
6. The formation of the Hawaiian Island and Emperor Seamount chain in the middle of the Pacific Plate are caused by mantle plume.
7. Numerical modelling predicts that melting and eruption will take place over several million years. These eruptions have been linked to flood basalts, although many of those erupt over much shorter time scales (less than 1 million years). Examples include the Deccan traps in India, the Siberian traps of Asia, etc.
8. The eruption of continental flood basalts is often associated with continental rifting and breakup. This has led to the hypothesis that mantle plumes contribute to continental rifting and the formation of ocean basins. In the context of the alternative "Plate model", continental breakup is a process integral to plate tectonics, and massive volcanism occurs as a natural consequence when it onsets.

Thus, mantle plumes are thought to be strong enough to induce rifting and the formation of plates. The relationship between plate- and plume-tectonics is considered in view of the growth and breakdown of supercontinents, active rifting, the formation of passive volcanic-type continental margins, and the origin of time-progressive volcanic chains on oceanic and continental plates.

Q.5) "The basic human rights cannot be denied on the basis of gender differences, religion or on the basis of 'race'." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Discuss basis on which human rights are violated in India. Various consequences of Inequalities in form of denial to basic rights.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Social exclusion refers to ways in which individuals may become cut off from full involvement in the wider society. It focuses attention on a broad range of factors that prevent individuals or groups from having opportunities open to the majority of the population. It is not accidental but is systematic and a result of structural features of society ultimately leading to human rights violations and gross social injustice.

Basis of human rights violations in India:

1. **Casteism:** The caste system is an ancient, age-old belief system that plagues India till today. Today also, discrimination against people of various caste groups is

common in rural areas, but surprisingly, even among educated urban dwellers. India's upper caste households earned nearly 47% more than the national average annual household income, the top 10% within these castes owned 60% of the wealth within the group in 2012, as per the World Inequality Database. These practices of discrimination are humiliating, exclusionary and exploitative.

2. **Untouchability:** Due to the above caste system, one of the most negative, yet unique features of India is the untouchability system. This system wrongly looks at the people from the lower castes as "impure". Other people of higher castes used to refrain from touching them, thus calling them "untouchables". When such cruel incidents are still seen in the news, it is an embarrassment to our country and us.
3. **Gender Discrimination:** In India, traditionally, females and males were given rigid roles that they had to follow. For example, in villages, women are expected to cook, clean, bear children and raise them and men are the ones who work and earn money. The law does not allow such kind of gender discrimination. The Global Gender Gap Report, 2018, ranks India at 142 among 149 countries. Unfortunately crime against women continues to happen and the state has failed to do so.
4. **Religious Discrimination:** In some places, people who follow a different religion than most people often face discrimination. They are looked down upon, often with suspicion. Religious identities can cause prejudices which may lead to economic exclusion and other forms of discrimination which can impact jobs and livelihood opportunities. Unfortunately certain religions are discriminated either due to political propagandas or ideologies. Recent rise in hate crimes and mob lynching is a dangerous trend.
5. **Racism:** India is a diverse country with people belonging to different places. People have different cultures, food, clothes and also look different and are sometimes discriminated or being abused. E.g. North-eastern peoples being called and labelled as Chinese.

Consequences of Inequalities in form of denial of basic rights:

1. Religious inequality tends to generate feeling of exclusion among religious minority groups. This reduces their participation in mainstream, in India religious minorities have large population their economic exclusion compromises the GDP growth of the nation as a whole.
2. Poor development indicators like IMR, MMR, low per capita income, lower education and learning outcomes at schools, high rate of population growth can be traced to existing socio-economic inequalities.
3. High economic inequality is detrimental to public healthcare and education. Upper and Middle classes do not have vested interest in well functioning public healthcare and education as they have means to access private healthcare and education.
4. Due to inequalities they are being denied equal opportunities in jobs, society etc. that prevent them to enjoy even basic rights due to poverty.

Equality is a basic human right and every human being on Earth deserves fair treatment and access to opportunities. Article 15 of Indian constitution says that state should not discriminate on basis of race, religion, sex, place. But it is important to understand that society also needs to play a role in stopping such discrimination. Mere laws will not help. It is important to recognise basic human rights of each and every citizen.

Q.6) “Long-held assumptions and alignments rooted in the legacies of colonialism and the ideology of the Cold War are making way for new configurations and partnerships.” In light of above statement discuss the need of reforming NAM under current geo-political realities.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Discuss the need of Nonalignment 2.0. What should be done?

Conclusion. Way forward.

A renewed state of political and economic tension between opposing geopolitical power-blocs, in the form of trade War, is being breaking out with one bloc led by China and the other led by the United States. Further, the current changing global politics and major global problems like terrorism posing a need of reforming NAM under current geo-political realities. Focus is being shifted from non-alignment to multi-alignment.

Need of Nonalignment 2.0:

1. World has again moved towards bi-polarity, one led by US and other by China-Russia. The war torn Syria is prime example of this, where both US and Russia is asserting power.
2. The escalating tension in Indo-pacific region due to China's assertion and US acting as a counterweight to check the Chinese expansionist policy.
3. The large scale migration in Europe and Asia due to the unstable regimes and ethnic conflict in different parts of world.
4. Issue of global climate change and occurrence of catastrophic disasters raising demand to form global consensus to deal with it.
5. Changing US policies, protectionism, prevalent terrorism and nuclearisation of middle east.
6. Formation of multiple regional economic groupings like TPP and RCEP and fading away of multilateral bodies WTO from global arena.
7. NAM establishes itself as a deliberative and coordinating platform for the developing countries as it deals with newly emerging problems from global warming, debt-affected low income countries to UN reforms.
8. NAM provides an alternative medium to tackle these issues in fresh and innovative ways.
9. Even while building alliances with others, we availed of the NAM umbrella to promote our national strategies when it suited us.
10. India recently is becoming closer to the U.S. Both China and Russia, are oppose to U.S. that can cause problems to India.
11. Doklam and the Maldives have shown that China is in no mood for a compromise. In fact, China has attributed the increase of its defence budget to the formation of the Quadrilateral, which is being seen as a direct threat to China.

What should be done?

1. An obvious way is to revive NAM by breathing new life into it and making it fit to deal with the new norm to suit current multipolar world.
2. A partnership of near equals like IBSA (India, Brazil and South Africa) with similar interests without any ideological conflict is probably the best model to follow.
3. Something on the lines of the G-15 organised by India and like-minded countries some years ago could be put together with the objective of dealing with the issues like climate change, terrorism and protectionism.
4. The members may have links with the U.S., China and Russia, but should be able to work together without the undue influence of the three.

NAM as a concept can never be irrelevant, principally it provides a strong base to foreign policy of its members. It should be seen as “Strategic Autonomy”, which is the need of the hour of today’s world. The principles of NAM still can guide the nations towards it. NAM is a platform where India can assert its soft power and provide an active leadership.

Q.7) Defining blue revolution. Explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Problems of pisciculture development in India. Strategies of pisciculture development in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The term “blue revolution” refers to the remarkable emergence of aquaculture as an important and highly productive agricultural activity. Blue Revolution, is important to achieve economic prosperity of the country and the fishers and fish farmers as well as contribute towards food and nutritional security, keeping in view the bio-security and environmental concerns.

Problems of pisciculture development in India:

1. **High input cost:** The cost of inputs per unit of fish weight is higher than in extensive farming, especially because of the high cost of fish feed. Netting involves regular and labour intensive cleaning.
2. **Social problems:** Norms and religious values excluded women or other groups from participation in certain activities. Lack of family encouragement considering lower prestigious occupation.
3. **Lack of data:** There are lack of reliable database relating to aquatic and fisheries resources in India as well as lack of suitable policies of government and inefficiency of an enforcement agency to monitor the supply of good quality seeds and feeds.
4. **Lack of finance:** Lack of adequate financial support and proper transport and marketing facilities for the products.
5. **Inadequate family labour:** Multiple use of pond water especially domestic purposes restrict the commercial fish farming. Multiple ownership of land is the cause of dispute and opinion diversification. Disputed ownership of water areas.
6. **Technological problems:** Lack of value addition for enhancing profit margin. The market for processed fish is limited in the domestic market and is restricted to fish pickles, cutlets etc. Fish production technology is a complex technology. Lack of timely availability of inputs nearby, lack of quality feed in local market, lack of location specific improved technology, inadequate knowledge and skill about scientific fish farm management.

Strategies of pisciculture development in India:

1. Growth of aquaculture sector, particularly brackish aquaculture, is mainly export driven. Thus to sustain the momentum of growth, issues concerning ecological and economic sustainability of brackish aquaculture and its comparative advantage need to be studied on a multidisciplinary and regional framework.
2. Focus on the improvements in breeding technology, disease control, feeds and nutrition, and low-impact production systems to complement traditional knowledge to improve efficiency is required.
3. Formulation of public and private policies to provide financial support, enhance skill and make farmers aware and capable to practice sustainable pisciculture.

4. Emphasis on leveraging the latest information technology for better planning and monitoring is needed.
5. Brackish aquaculture should be encouraged only in the areas suitable for the purpose. These should be identified and delineated with the help of remote sensing and GIS techniques to minimise problems of ecological pollution and social conflicts.
6. Develop adequate legal and institutional measures to regulate the aquaculture activity in the ecologically fragile zones. These should be implemented and enforced by the local authorities.
7. Enforce quarantine measures on fish seed and feed to ensure that the imported material is neither infected nor unwanted.
8. Financial institutions should be strengthen the flow of credit to aquaculture sector but with due consideration to ecology and regulatory framework governing this sector.
9. For proper planning of freshwater as well as brackish water aquaculture, there is a need to strengthen the current database, which is neither adequate nor easily amendable to proper empirical policy analysis.

India is home to more than 10 percent of the global fish diversity and it ranks second in the world in total fish production. In the present era of food insecurity, pisciculture shows enormous potential to feed the ever increasing human population. Eco-friendly aquaculture in harmony with environmental and socioeconomic needs of the society has to be evolved.

Q.8) "Appeasement of castes whether upper or lower by politicians for vote bank politics has led to strengthening of caste system in India." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How vote bank politics is associated with strengthening of caste system?

Conclusion. Way forward.

The caste system, though considered to be a disgrace and taboo but is still pervasive and even celebrated by some sections in our complex and hierarchical society. Special provisions are included in the constitution for the betterment of lower-caste people, especially in the field of education and the government sector. Even though the scenario today isn't that rigid and regressive, especially in the urban areas, the menace of the caste system is yet to be completely eradicated due to various factors, one being is the political aspirations.

Vote bank politics and strengthening of caste system:

1. Mostly, political leaders are not at all interested in eradicating this system. Instead, they often instigate one section of people against another for their petty electoral gains.
2. The reservation system too has not been implemented thoroughly yet. Rather more soaps are given in the name of reservation to garner votes instead of helping the poor and needy which have diluted the real aim of reservation.
3. So, what was originally meant to be a temporary affirmative action-plan (to improve the lot of the unprivileged groups) is now being misused as a vote-grabbing exercise by many political leaders.
4. Usually caste is proving a heavy weight on the political system and people under the influence of caste do not even vote for the most suitable person not belonging to their caste. Not only this, but candidates for contesting elections are picked up taking caste structure of constituency into consideration.

5. Some constituencies and areas have always returned people belonging to the same caste. There is today no state which is free from the influence of caste, though in some cases its hold may be more, while in others comparatively less.
6. There are many instances both at local and national, where caste has influenced the course of elections and also in the selection of candidates. E.g. In Rajasthan Swatantra Party largely represented the wealthier classes, landlords and others and was dominated by the Rajputs.
7. Even on the village level, in Panchayat Raj elections, the caste system has prevailed. In Jodhpur Division during elections parties usually run for caste based issues like reservation to Jats etc. Similarly one finds that in Orissa Bhumihars, Kayastha and Rajputs pull in different directions at the time of elections and wish to see the candidates belonging to their castes in office.
8. Then another reason is the desire of the castes, particularly the low castes, not to give up their privileges. Since the British days, the low castes have been given certain privileges. These have considerably increased now. Since this caste was likely to lose its privileges by being categorised as forward class, therefore, it put political pressure and arranged to be classified as a backward caste.

Caste is not influencing politics in India but has impact, rather more forcefully and effectively. In free India it was hoped that caste would gradually cease to exert its influence. But it appears that things have not come up to our expectations and the caste still continues to influence politics. In free India where state was interested in having a casteless society but it is amazing that caste is more and more influencing both politics and elections.

Q.9) Discuss various reasons for rising incidents of mob lynching in India. Give some solutions to prevent such incidents.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Rising incidents of mob lynching. Reasons for the same.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Lynching is a premeditated killing of people of particular sect or community by a group of people. Instances of lynchings and similar mob violence can be found in every society. Mob lynching in India has increased in recent past. Crime against minority especially religious minority and killing of girls in the name of honour is not only a serious crime but a malaise that threaten our social fabric.

Rising incidents of mob lynching in India:

1. Such cases have increased in the past few years and have become hurdle in societal development.
2. Sections of the IPC and the CrPc were not adequate in dealing with such cases.
3. These actions of honour killing are also violative of certain fundamental rights in the Constitution of India, including the right to life, and liberty which includes the right to bodily integrity, and the right to choose whom to associate with.
4. In 21% of the cases, the police filed cases against the victims/survivors. (India spend report).
5. According to 'India spend' 52% of attacks in last 8 years is based on rumours.

Reasons for rising mob lynching

1. **Poor Implementation of minority's laws:** An act of lynching reflects failure of law to protect minorities and punish the culprits. State action is important in strict enforcement of law and punishing the culprits.
2. **No law on mob lynching:** There is no comprehensive law on mob lynching in India. This allow culprit to go free unpunished.
3. **Lack of accountability and conviction:** Mob has no face. This impunity leads mob to take extreme steps. Thus community and state role increase to stop such crimes. Active participation of civil society against such crimes and helping state and law enforcement agencies in nabbing the criminal is critical.
4. **Vote-bank politics:** Sometimes, political mobilisation that uses violence as a tool of politics, support such elements in society. Here community awareness and action against such politicians become necessary to prevent such vote bank politics.
5. **Police failure:** Indifferent attitude of Police leads people to take law in their own hands. Also police delays and inability to catch the criminals lead to more such incidents. State should be more proactive in police reforms. Strict action should be taken against any police officials who do not record such incidents in criminal records.
6. **Social media menace:** Rise in penetration of Social media and its usage to spread rumours and hatred has exaggerated such incidents. A vigil community with state action on taking action against cyber criminals is must to prevent fake news and rumours.
7. **High Unemployment rates:** High unemployment leave millions of youth unengaged. These young brains are often misguided and brainwashed through various ideologies and agendas. State action is important to provide more employment opportunities to youth with focus on economic development of the region.
8. **Against social peace:** These crimes impact solidarity of society and idea of Unity in diversity. This create an atmosphere of majority v/s minority. It could aggravate caste, class and communal hatred. Thus community and state need to work together to stop such crimes. Programs especially focused on teaching values of tolerance and secularism is important.

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

Q.10) Discuss how different and difficult would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How different would have been the independence without Mahatma Gandhi?

Conclusion. Way forward.

The effect of individuals in historical developments can be debatable but the fact of one free India is difficult to imagine without these Mahatma Gandhi. Without Mahatma Gandhi, free India might have been fragmented further. The importance of Mahatma Gandhi in Indian

Independence Movement should not be seen with respect to time it took to achieve or the ease with which it achieved the Independence with his philosophy.

Indian Independence without Mahatma Gandhi:

1. Free India would have fragmented without Gandhi. Gandhi held no political office, and tended to stay back, and managed to keep the peoples and leaders together. This enabled a Union of India, instead of five or six parts which could have emerged with the powerful provincial leaders in Punjab or Bengal, for instance.
2. Although there were many great leaders among the congress. Someone of them would have given the vision and philosophy and leadership needed. And he/they would have succeeded in achieving the independence sooner or later than 1947. But nature of this independence can't be ascertained.
3. The armed revolutionary movement could have become prominent and India might have got independence after a great armed rebellion. This didn't happen in India because the innovative ways of Gandhiji.
4. The path chosen by him included a vast majority of people of India in to the freedom struggle. Simple acts by individuals such as refusing to use foreign goods, refusing to pay taxes, lifting a fistful of salt, quitting government schools and jobs became the weapons of freedom struggle. This gave a feeling of integrity among the people. They embraced the struggle as their own.
5. Without Gandhi, there would not have such mass mobilisation in such a short span of time. All the classes of the people would not have united under one banner or leader. The freedom movement could have been violent without Gandhi.
6. The communal forces could have dominated the political scene of the country and things could have been different now. Swadeshi and boycott movements wouldn't have more successful without Gandhi.
7. The inclusion of peasants, students, women, industrialist (later after the 1930s) would have taken more time as Congress mass movement was limited in covering region and a certain class.
8. As divide and rule was first policy after 1858, inclusion of all religion would have been difficult. (convergence of Khilafat and Non-cooperation, meetings in East Pakistan during partition etc).

There is no doubt that India would have achieved Independence without Gandhiji but the role of Gandhi was very significant in achieving as well as preserving the Independence of India. The contribution of Gandhi ji in the achievement of Indian independence is invaluable.

Earlier the freedom movement was solely restricted to upper educated class. It would not have been the mass based movement. In Such situation, It would have taken longer time for attaining independence, as the pressure on the Britishers would have been lower .

Q.11) Discuss the potential of rural tourism in India. What measures and precautions should be taken to promote rural tourism?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Potential of rural tourism in India. Measures to promote rural tourism.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India with all its geographical and cultural diversity has always been an attraction for tourists. However, India especially rural area has much more to offer. Spread across its lakhs of villages lie untold venues in all their myriad colours and hues. If explored and developed as rural tourism sites, these venues could be instrumental in bringing out the

much needed turnaround of rural communities and at the same time providing a visitor wholesale tourism experience.

Potential of rural tourism in India:

1. The development of a strong platform around the concept of Rural Tourism is definitely useful for a country like India, where almost 74% of the population resides in its 7 million villages.
2. Numerous local traditions like plays, art forms, dances etc. enhance the cultural wealth of rural areas, making these attractive for the tourists.
3. Lush green forests in south Indian villages, sacred groves etc. make them an ideal site to promote tourism. Growing trend of short-break holidays, rural areas being near to cities can easily provide for great tourism destinations.
4. When developed to its fullest potential, it could provide jobs to many young men and women who otherwise are increasingly migrating to cities.
5. Rural tourism can revive many of the arts and crafts traditionally being practiced in the rural communities but dying a slow death.
6. Socially, it can open rural mindset to new thoughts and ideas from the outside world. On the other hand, for the urban citizen, a few days spent amidst traditional rural lifestyle may prove to be a great stress reliever.
7. Rural Tourism is any form of tourism that showcases the rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations, thereby benefiting the local community economically and socially as well as enabling interaction between the tourists and the locals for a more enriching tourism experience.

Measures and steps to promote rural tourism:

1. Improved infrastructure and connectivity of rural India can improve rural tourism.
2. Identification of strength's of villages in different states and introduction of customised trips like Cultural and Heritage walk in Rajasthan, Tribal tours in North-East India.
3. Promoting Farm and home stays to provide local and humane touch to tourists.
4. Destinations should be specific and proximate to the conventional tourist spots.
5. There should be an improvement in the accessibility, proper marketing and periodic maintenance of the destinations.
6. Home stays need to follow the traditional style of construction and lifestyle.
7. A concerted effort from both the Union Government and State Governments based on a proactive approach is needed.
8. Safety of tourists, especially females should be ensured.
9. Adequate finances must be devolved to the gram sabha for maintenance of basic infrastructure.
10. Training of villagers to avoid any kind of hostility towards tourists.
11. Adequate healthcare facilities must be provided.
12. Environment impact of increased number of tourists must be assessed.

It is important to prepare a roadmap for promoting tourism and at the same time preserving the cleanliness. Government initiatives of Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD will help develop tourist circuits on principles of high tourist value, competitiveness and sustainability in an integrated manner. Rural tourism can generate employment and would help in realising an inclusive growth.

Q.12) "In the era of intolerance and polarisation, forgiveness and compassion are much needed values." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Recent rise in intolerance and polarisation. Discuss the role of values like compassion, love and forgiveness.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Recently incidents of religious violence has risen sharply. There is a sharp increase in violent sectarian or religious tensions. These range from Islamic extremists waging global jihad and power struggles between Sunni and Shia Muslims in the Middle East to the persecution of Rohingya in Myanmar and outbreaks of violence between Christians and Muslims across Africa. In age of such intolerance and polarisation relevance of values like forgiveness and compassion have increased more than ever before.

Rise in intolerance and polarisation:

1. A 2018 Minority Rights Group report indicates that mass killings and other atrocities are increasing in countries both affected and not affected by war alike.
2. Most reported lethal incidents involving minorities were concentrated in Syria, Iraq, Nigeria, India, Myanmar, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
3. Hostilities against Muslims and Jews also increased across Europe, as did threats against Hindus in more than 18 countries.
4. 55 of the world's 198 countries imposed heightened restrictions on religions, especially Egypt, Russia, India, Indonesia and Turkey.

Role of values like compassion, love and forgiveness:

1. In an era of turbulence and uncertainty, interfaith tolerance and compassion for others offer an important antidote to violence.
2. The conscious spread of values of empathy, compassion, forgiveness and altruism help in reducing anger, pain and intolerance among individuals.
3. The persistent calls for patience, tolerance, understanding, face-to-face dialogue and reconciliation are more important than ever in today's polarisation environment and the dangerous anonymity provided by social media.
4. Interventions such as perspective taking that result in empathetic compassion can help one in overcoming anger and resentment.
5. Cultivation of empathy that involves connecting one to the common humanity as well as trying to see the situation from the other person's perspective can help in promoting harmony.
6. Teaching forgiveness is especially important to help reduce anger in children who have suffered injustice sufficient enough to compromise their emotional health.
7. Compassion and forgiveness can play a big part in how communities thrive when people begin to see more deeply the inherent worth of others.
8. Cultivating forgiveness is important because there are senseless crimes committed in a fit of anger where one brief moment can alter the course of many lives. People whose lives are affected by these crimes may not have the ability to forgive, thereby contributing to more resentment and anger in the world.

World is going through difficult times of rising polarisation, religious apathy and intolerance. The practice of loving-kindness and other positive states is application of wisdom to a difficult situation like thus. With the help of humility and patience one can resist the urge to retaliate and counteract a deluded states of mind. We should thus take a

step forward by deliberately familiarising themselves with the nature of suffering so we can become more tolerant of it.

Q.13) Discuss the issue of droughts and flood cycle in India. How better infrastructure for water management can help in preventing frequent droughts and flood?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Reasons and issues of frequent droughts and floods. How better infrastructure can help in preventing droughts and flood?

Conclusion. Way forward.

In the last two years, there have been devastating floods in Bihar, Brahmaputra plains in Assam and West Bengal, urban flooding in Chennai and erratic flooding during monsoons in central India. On the other hand, failure of monsoons (both South-west and North-east) for consecutive seasons in many parts of India has resulted in severe drought conditions. The following is a detailed analysis of the same.

Issue of droughts and floods in India and various reasons:

1. **Geographic variations:** India receives a variety of rainfall patterns in different parts of the country. Thus it is not surprising to see one part of the country is facing the destruction of floods while the other part stays drought-ridden.
2. **Monsoonal delay:** Drought is often caused by delayed onset of monsoon or early withdrawal of the monsoon. However, the diminishing ground water level as increased the frequency of the disaster.
3. **Mismanagement of water resources:** India receive this water for roughly two months a year whereas water is a necessity of life for all 12 months of a year. The rainwater as a water resource is not properly managed.
4. **Deforestation:** The deforestation is the major factor for the fact that the catchment area is gradually being reduced in size. More and more rainwater is running off instead of percolating into the soil and contributing to the groundwater.
5. **Groundwater exploitation:** Groundwater is exploited at a vigorous pace in India. The low groundwater level leads to drought on the one hand whereas the run-off water brings flooding on the other.
6. **Silted rivers:** The imminent cause of the flooding is the incapacity of river banks to hold water. This is further catalysed by the silting and erosion of river beds.
7. **Urbanisation:** Urbanization has been achieved at the expense of natural water bodies. It is a worldwide phenomenon. The cities like Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad in India are habituated by filling dozens of small lakes and ponds.

How better infrastructure can help in preventing droughts and flood?

1. Better infrastructure helps in replenishment of groundwater which is the most fundamental requirement towards dealing with the larger issues of droughts and floods.
2. Trees are known to have good water holding capacity. The catchment area should be rich with forests. It allows the water to trickle down into the soil which replenishes groundwater and also the minimal amount of run-off water will also prevent floods.
3. Urbanisation need to be carefully planned. Planned urbanisation and water management infrastructure helps in reducing wastage of water and allow better utilisation of water in a planned manner.

From scientific hydrology to traditional methods of water conservation, innovation in the field of water management is long overdue. Money should be pumped into ecological

researches and mass scale debates need to be conducted on possible solutions such as pan India inter-linkage of river bodies and lakes.

Q.14) How the removal of gender issues and women empowerment can reduce the economic inequalities in India? Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Link between gender and economic inequalities. Why women empowerment is important to reduce economic inequalities?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Despite progress, wide gaps between women and men's economic empowerment and opportunity remain, which policymakers need to tackle urgently. In most countries, more men than women work, and they get paid more for similar work. Also, there are considerable gender gaps in access to education, health and finance in a number of countries. There is mounting evidence that the lack of gender equity imposes large economic costs as it hampers productivity and weighs on growth. Thus removal of gender issues and women empowerment can help in reducing economic inequalities in India.

Link between gender and economic inequalities:

There are at least 3 reasons why higher gender inequality is associated with higher income inequality:

1. Gender wage gaps directly contribute to income inequality, and higher gaps in labor force participation rates between men and women result in inequality of earnings between sexes, thus creating and exacerbating income inequality.
2. Women are more likely to work in the informal sector, in which earnings are lower, which widens the gender earnings gap and exacerbates income inequality.
3. Inequality of opportunities, such as unequal access to education, health services, and finance are prevalent between men and women, and are strongly associated with income inequality.
4. Inequality of opportunity, in particular in gender gaps in education and health, pose an obstacle to a more equal income distribution.

Why women empowerment is important to reduce economic inequalities?

1. The evidence suggests that greater gender equity and increasing female economic participation are associated with higher growth, more favourable development outcomes, and lower income inequality.
2. A more level playing field would give women the option to become economically active should they so choose. This in turn would have beneficial macroeconomic effects.
3. Women empowerment is important for reducing pay gap among gender, that would pave the way for overall decrease in economic inequalities.
4. Equalising laws boosts female labour force participation. Specifically, granting gender equity under the constitution could increase the female labour force participation by as much as 5%.
5. Better infrastructure in rural areas and more access to water and improved transportation systems can reduce the time women spend on domestic tasks and enable them to seek work outside the home. This further would lead to reduced economic inequalities.
6. Women empowerment would also lead to savings in the house that is important for economic progress and also help poor to tackle bad situations in their life, thereby

reducing their dependence on debts and loans which lead to further economic stress and economic inequalities.

In order to combat deeper inequality of opportunities, such as unequal access to the labor force, health, education and financial access between men and women, policy makers should focus on more targeted policy interventions. It is important that women need to be empowered so as to make India an inclusive economy.

Q.15) "India's demographic dividend can turn into demographic disaster." In light of this discuss why it is important for India to focus on demographic dividend?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Demographic dividend as demographic disaster. Why India should focus on demographic dividend? What should be done?

Conclusion. Way forward.

India has a fairly young population. Young people are expected to contribute to the country's economy. This opportunity is known as the demographic dividend. But reaping the benefits of a demographic dividend is not guaranteed or automatic. It all depends on how much a country invests in key areas like education, health and nutrition, infrastructure, good governance, etc. and whether or not there is an environment suitable for young people so that they are able to contribute to the country's socio-economic growth.

Demographic dividend can be a demographic disaster:

1. The growth benefit of a demographic dividend is not automatic. Much depends on whether the increase in working population can be trained, and enough jobs created to employ the 10 million more people who will join the labour force every year.
2. While digital technologies may enable the creation of new products and more productive jobs, they may also substitute existing jobs. India may not be able to take advantage of these opportunities, due to a low human capital base and lack of skills.
3. Lack of jobs combined with a demographic dividend will increase the share of the population that is dependent on the working population increasing the economic insecurity of the elderly, as there will be fewer people generating wealth.
4. Whether the demographic dividend promotes growth or transforms into a curse depends on how prepared the states that should benefit from a young population are.

Why India should focus on demographic dividend?

1. **Economic growth:** Better economic growth brought about by increased economic activities due to higher working age population and lower dependent population. Demographic dividend has historically contributed up to 15 % of the overall growth in advanced economies.
2. **Effective policy making:** Fine-tuning of the planning and implementation of schemes and programmes by factoring in population dynamics is likely to yield greater socio-economic impact and larger benefits for people.
3. **Social benefit:** Increased fiscal space created by the demographic dividend to divert resources from spending on children to investing in physical and human infrastructure.
4. **Rise in workforce:** With more than 65% of working age population, India will rise as an economic superpower, supplying more than half of Asia's potential workforce over the coming decades.

What needs to be done?

1. **Building human capital:** Investing in people through healthcare, quality education, jobs and skills helps build human capital, which is key to supporting economic growth, ending extreme poverty, and creating a more inclusive society.
2. **Skilling:** Skill development to increase employability of young population. India's labour force needs to be empowered with the right skills for the modern economy. Government has established the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) with the overall target of skilling/ up skilling 500 million people in India by 2022..
3. **Education:** Enhancing educational levels by properly investing in primary, secondary and higher education. India, which has almost 41% of population below the age of 20 years, can reap the demographic dividend only if with a better education system. Also, academic-industry collaboration is necessary to synchronise modern industry demands and learning levels in academics.
4. **Health:** Improvement in healthcare infrastructure would ensure higher number of productive days for young labour-force, thus increasing the productivity of the economy. Success of schemes like Ayushman Bharat and National Health Protection scheme (NHPS) is necessary. Also nutrition level in women and children needs special care with effective implementation of Integrated Child Development (ICDS) programme.
5. **Job Creation:** The nation needs to create ten million jobs per year to absorb the addition of young people into the workforce. Promoting businesses' interests and entrepreneurship would help in job creation to provide employment to the large labour-force.
6. **Urbanisation:** The large young and working population in the years to come will migrate to urban areas within their own and other States, leading to rapid and large-scale increase in urban population. How these migrating people can have access to basic amenities, health and social services in urban areas need to be the focus of urban policy planning.

To reap the demographic dividend, proper investment in human capital is needed by focussing on education, skill development and healthcare facilities. Alongside that, we must invest much more in education, health and nutrition, infrastructure, and adopt an expansionary economic policy and create a favourable environment for local and foreign investment, so that we can increase production, productivity and consequent employment opportunities for the future workforce. If we succeed, we will ensure the prosperity of our people. And if we fail, our "demographic dividend" can turn into a "demographic disaster."

General Studies – 2

Q.1) “Freedom of the press is a precious privilege that no country can forgo.” Discuss the significance of above statement. Do you think Indian Media is free?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Significance of freedom of press for any country. Growing threat to freedom of press in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Press Freedom Index, released by Reporters Without Borders in August 2019, ranked India 140 out of 180 countries. The report highlighted how criminal prosecution, especially sedition, is rampantly used to abuse journalists. It also noted that “at least six Indian journalists were killed in connection with their work in 2018”. The recent death anniversary of Gauri Lankesh is a chilling reminder of the cost of standing up for truth in India. All these incidents reflect that press is endangered and not completely free. This is a dangerous situation in a democracy as press and media is the fourth pillar and voice for citizens in a democracy.

Significance of freedom of press for any country:

1. **Strengthening a nation:** Free media works towards strengthening the sovereignty and integrity of a nation.
2. **Fundamental to a democratic society:** The freedom of press is fundamental to a democratic society like India for it is helpful in strengthening democracy.
3. **Check on Government and Administrators:** An independent press and news-media press acts as an important check on Government and Administrators.
4. **Voice against any social ill or wrong:** It is also responsible to raise voice against any social ill or wrong.
5. **Acts for the public:** At national, regional and local level, it is the public’s voice, activist and guardian as well as educator, entertainer and contemporary chronicler.
6. **Source of information:** An unbiased information is important for a democracy and its growth. Media help in providing critical information to citizens. E.g data on economy, health, education etc. must be correct and accurate without any bias toward government.
7. **Educate:** Media is important to educate people on issues that are of utmost important for the society. E.g Increasing number of rape cases are threat to society. It is important to report exact number of cases and help in sensitising the society.
8. **Awareness:** Media make society aware of their democratic rights and fight the three institutions of democracy.
9. **Watchdog:** Media reporting on public affairs and investigations into wrongdoing in the administration of public affairs is must for a healthy democracy. This includes exposing frauds or corruption cases that personally benefit politicians. This help citizens to vote the best government defeating corrupt and dishonest government.
10. **Good Governance:** Media plays an important role in audit of the government policies and spending. An unbiased media is important for transparent reporting.

Growing threat to freedom of press in India:

1. India slipped two points on the World Press Freedom Index ranking and India’s ranking reflects growing bitterness towards journalists.
2. The antagonism towards the media which is openly encouraged by political leaders poses a great threat to democracy.

3. Government's pressure in the name of Regulation, bombardment of fake news and over influence of Social media is dangerous for the occupation. Security of journalists is the biggest issue. Killings and Assaults on the Journalists covering sensitive issues are very common.
4. Section 124a of IPC under which sedition is punishable by life imprisonment also endanger freedom of journalists.
5. Hate speech targeting journalists shared and amplified on social networks are targeted against journalists using social media.
6. Corruption-paid news, advertorials and fake news are threat to free and unbiased media.
7. Corporate and political power has overwhelmed large sections of the media, both print and visual, which lead to vested interests and destroy freedom.

It is irony in the biggest democracy of world that press and media enjoy less freedom. 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. In the interest of democracy it is essential that the exchange of ideas take place in an uninhibited manner where all citizens can access information free of bias and prejudice.

Q.2) "India requires a national register for citizen's at national level." Critically examine.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Benefit of NRC being implemented at national level. Issues related to National Register of Citizens being implemented at national level.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a document containing the name of all Indian citizens of Assam. The purpose of NRC update is to identify Indian citizens of Assam, thus leading to identification of illegal migrants residing in Assam. The NRC is seen as a major instrument for security and peace of Assam and other north-eastern states. On similar lines it is said that there should be an NRC at national level. Whether such a register is needed and can be simulated as national level need to be examined thoroughly.

Benefit of NRC being implemented at national level:

1. **Ensure People's Right:** A national NRC will clear actual number of illegal migrants in Assam. It will prevent further illegal migration that will ensure rights of Indian citizens in a better way.
2. **Better policy measures and implementation:** It will provide a verified database to implement targeted policies and calibrated policy measures for benefits of Indian citizens especially tribal people. This will weed out fake beneficiaries.
3. **Enhance internal security:** It will enhance internal security of the nation by keeping a check on illegal migration. Illegal migration lead to terrorist threat, counterfeit money etc. endangering security of our nation.
4. **Prevent future illegal migration:** Publication of an NRC at national level would deter future migrants illegally. The publication of the draft NRC has already created a perception that staying in Assam without valid documentation will attract detention/jail term and deportation.
5. **Will reduce fake voting:** Illegal migrants will find it difficult to procure Indian identity documents. Thus cases of vote for money through fake identities will reduce

as persons whose names are not in list will lose voting rights. Thus it will strengthen our electoral process.

Issues related to National Register of Citizens being implemented at national level:

1. **Law and order problem:** The implementation of NRC may lead to serious law and order problem in India and also in neighbouring states.
2. **Loss of Right to Vote:** Right to vote is a constitutional right. People excluded from NRC would be barred from voting. Thus losing right to vote.
3. **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.
4. **Loss of Properties:** The left out whose names are not in the list will not be able to buy land or a house in the country. It will increase selling of benami properties especially by those who lose their citizenship.
5. **Judicial burden will increase:** Since such 'non citizens' will go to judiciary for relief to substantiate their citizenship claim. Thus it will lead to overburdening of judiciary which is already overburdened.

NRC exercise makes sense in Assam because in 1971 around 10 million people crossed over from Bangladesh to India and that caught the attention of authorities. However, there is no need to get into this kind of exercise at national level, as it can lead to unintended consequences.

Q.3) "In the era of high competition, reservation in jobs and higher education need to be rationalised." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Need of reservation in present time. Why reservation need to be rationalised?

Conclusion. Way forward and Conclusion.

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. In the era of high competition and with an eye on robust economic growth, it is important to discuss the fallouts and need of rationalisation of reservation policy.

Need of reservation in present time:

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. Without including the left outs and suppressed communities it is difficult to progress inclusively.
2. **Oppression:** The oppression of the weaker section of society 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, thus reservation is needed.
3. **Social Justice:** Reservation 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.

Why reservation policy need a relook?

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 which is not good for any 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. 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:

1. Reservations should be accompanied by structural changes like land reforms and an inclusive educational support systems.
2. Reservation policy should be reviewed every five years so that the state can rectify distortions and people both backward and non-backward.
3. 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.
4. 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

The demands for special concessions and privileges to the underprivileged are matters of right and not of charity or philanthropy. But a rationalisation would not only ensure meritocracy but would also help India to achieve new heights in the modern competitive world.

Q.4) "Recently released Health Ministry's Comprehensive National Nutrition survey showed a direct correlation between the nutritional status of children and their mothers' education." In light of this discuss the importance and issues related to women education in India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Issues related to women education in India. Why educating women is important?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Education is one of the most critical areas of empowerment for women. Among children who are not attending school there are twice as many girls as boys, and among illiterate

adults there are twice as many women as men. India has some of the world's worst public health outcomes, but educating girls can change that.

Issues related to women education in India:

1. In traditional Indian society sons are considered as assets while girls are considered as liability so spending on their education is not considered as a priority.
2. As per the traditional Indian society the role of woman in society is only to look after house and children which does not require any schooling.
3. There is concern that if woman is educated, then she will start earning and will become independent which might hurt the ego of a male. The structure of Indian society is patriarchal in which everything revolves around male and woman is reduced to negligible role.
4. In poor families, the girl child has to look after her siblings as well as do household chores so she could not have the luxury of money and time to spend on education.
5. Further poor sanitation in schools especially for women deter them from enrolling for school education.
6. Infrastructure issues like lack of roads, distance of school from village etc act as a constraint for women education.

Why educating women is important?

1. **Health benefits:** Female literacy is one of the most powerful levers to improve a society's health and economic well-being. Ensuring that the girl child is educated sets off a virtuous chain reaction; improved literacy leading to delayed age of marriage, fewer and healthier children and corresponding reduction in poverty.
2. **Poverty:** Women education help in removing families out of poverty through employment to women. Women labour force participation India is low at 26% in 2018. Thus women education is important to increase women labour participation. Also women have less bad habits like drinking and they often have a nature of saving.
3. **Social development:** Woman education will help to solve many issues faced by society. Kothari commission of 1968 recommended education as a tool for social development. By pacing woman education India can achieve the goal of social development.
4. **Gender equality:** Woman is part of unprivileged section of society. Education will help to close the gender gap in society. Co-education institutes will help children to give respect to female.
5. **Economic productivity:** It will bring economic gains not only to women but will also raise GDP of a nation.
6. **Reduction in infant mortality:** A well educated woman will have more chances of making better decisions for her family's health. Studies have shown that increased literacy among women will bring down infant mortality rate.
7. **Inclusive growth of a society:** As a developing nation India strives for growth in each sector for all sections of society and education is a way to achieve this goal.
8. **Woman empowerment:** Education is powerful tool for woman emancipation and empowerment. For long woman has been deprived of her rights. By educating herself she can achieve a place in society.
9. **Strengthening of democracy:** Education will create awareness among woman which will cause increased participation in politics which ultimately leads to strengthening of democracy. They could secure their rights through mobilisation.

An educated woman will also be more productive at work and better paid. Indeed, the dividend for educational investment is often higher for women than men. Studies from a number of countries suggest that an extra year of schooling will increase a woman's future earnings. Thus women education can play an important role in upliftment of lives of not only women but many others too.

Q.5) What do you understand by the term Brexit? What are various causes and possible impact of Brexit on India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is Brexit?

Body. Various reasons for Brexit. Impact of Brexit on india.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Brexit is the scheduled withdrawal of the United Kingdom (UK) from the European Union (EU). The EU was created in the wake of the 2nd World War in order to foster economic cooperation and to prevent further conflict between European countries. The UK, joined the EU in 1973, which was initially made up of the six founding countries. EU was posed to be a successful economic union, which unfortunately has not been fulfilled completely. Today the arguments in favour of Brexit have increased.

Various causes of Brexit:

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

Thus, various factors have contributed to the Brexit. The effect of Brexit on the global economy coupled with weakening/depreciating currencies of various countries will make it more harder for recovery. It would not only have impact on Europe alone but will impact many nations.

Q.6) What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Current issues and required reforms.

Conclusion. Way forward.

World Trade Organization (WTO) officially commenced in 1995 after replacing the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). It was intended to supervise and liberalise international trade. But recent trade wars, initiated by USA with China, India and other countries, evoke the need of reform in WTO if it has to survive in the present context.

Current issues:

1. There are clear signals that the current trading system represented by the WTO has lost its utility for the US and the EU.
2. The US and the EU have not been able to counter China's tariff manipulation. They are also bound by the commitments made under the WTO rules so they cannot raise import duties without violating WTO rules. But they do not want to meet the WTO obligations such as reducing agriculture subsidies.
3. Their game plan is to put the old obligations on the back-burner and push the WTO to form rules on e-commerce, an area where the US firms have a clear edge.
4. Most WTO member countries want them to first deliver on the agreed issues like reduction in agriculture subsidies.

The key areas of reforms are:

1. There is urgent need of reforms regarding bringing transparency, shortening of time frames, permanent panel body, special and differential treatment for developing countries etc. India can benefit from the reforms if proposals specific to developing countries are accepted.
2. Though WTO has come out with Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) in this regard, but it mainly addresses the trade of goods. India being a major service provider would benefit if reforms are carried out in trade facilitation of services. It is expected that there are considerable economic benefits from the better movement of people across borders.
3. The establishment of procedures and practices that are more inclusive of the majority of WTO Members, notably developing countries is needed.
4. Adoption of "peace clauses" for developing country implementation of current agreements. This will formalise the commitments made by major trading powers to allowing "grace periods" and to exercising "due restraint".
5. The Uruguay Round's single package approach is not working in the Doha Round and new types of negotiation modes have been advocated.
6. Dispute settlement mechanism must be strengthened and made faster.
7. Separation of political and human rights issues from trade disputes under SPS norms is needed.

The WTO is at a crossroads. Not only are the multilateral trade negotiations stuck, but overall rule-making has made little progress while alternative trade pacts, not least the mega-regional arrangements, have clearly challenged the position of trade multilateralism. The impasse of the Doha Round is not so much a result of transatlantic disagreement as a situation in which highly industrialised countries and large developing countries disagree over the type of market access and protection of vulnerable sectors of the economy.

Q.7) "The rise of Asia represents the beginnings of a shift in the balance of economic power in the world and the future will be shaped partly by how Asia exploits the opportunities and meets the challenges." In light of this statement, discuss the role of India in realising Asian Century.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Challenges and opportunities in front of Asian to take care of for realising Asian century. Role of India in realising Asian Century.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Asian Century is the projected 21st century dominance of Asian economics, politics and culture. The growing importance and emphasis of unity in Asia, demand progressive relationships among countries in the region to realise the 21st Asian Century. The success of Asian century depends upon how the Asian exploit the opportunities and how they tackle the challenges like environmental issues along with sustainable growth.

Challenges and opportunities in front of Asian to take care of for realising Asian century:

1. **Getting better value out of global value chains:** Much greater efforts are required to get better value out of value chains by opening markets, strengthening human capital and technological and innovative capacities.
2. **Focus on equality:** Discrimination, prejudice and persecution are rife in Asia, thereby preventing economies and societies to realise their full potential. E.g. women in common, India's lower castes etc need to be provided with equal opportunities, to realise the full potential.
3. **Solving demographic dilemmas:** Most Asian countries face demographic dilemmas. Much of the youth is not well educated and there are not enough jobs on offer. A potential demographic dividend could easily morph into an explosion of social frustration. It is important to prevent this.
4. **Combating piracy:** Asia is a major player in many aspects of economic crime like counterfeiting and piracy, Illegal drug production and trafficking, human trafficking and smuggling, corruption and money laundering. This criminality is eating away at the integrity of the state, as state actors are very often criminals themselves or are colluding with criminals.
5. **Peace and harmony:** While many factors have underpinned Asia's renaissance over the past half century or more, the relative peace that the region has enjoyed has been perhaps the most important. E.g. after the rise of China, it is engaged in a bitter power struggle, boundary disputes with its Asian neighbours.

Role of India in realising Asian Century:

1. **Economic development:** Asian century can't be realised without economic development especially of India, which accommodate 2nd largest population of the world.

2. **Demographic dividend:** India is undergoing through a phase of demographic dividend. India can provide brain and talent that is important for Asian century. By providing opportunities and employment driven by economic growth is necessary.
3. **Success of new organisations:** New Organisations like Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and economic deals like Trans Pacific partnership and RCEP are indicator of Asia emerging as a centre for geo-economics and geo-politics. These platforms as a centre of Asian century can not be successful without India's participation.
4. **Trade:** The fact that India and China are the two big Asian giants, it is imperative for both of them to be allies so as to support each other and continue their bid for the strongest power. Thus India need to play an important trade player in the region.

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

Q.8) "Mere police reforms will be of no consequence unless simultaneous improvements are made in the prosecution, judiciary and in prisons." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Need of holistic reforms for criminal justice. What should be done? **Conclusion.** Way forward.

With changing world, police and law and order challenges are increasing day by day. With change in nature of crime with threats of cyber crime, suicide bombings, mere police force reforms are not sufficient. A holistic reforms and simultaneous improvements in the prosecution, judiciary and in prisons is need of the hour.

Need of holistic reforms for criminal justice:

1. There are lack of technological capabilities necessary to perform quality investigations.
2. Politicisation and allegiance towards ruling party hinder the prosecution and overall process of justice.
3. Low rate of conviction points to the inefficiency of the Criminal Justice System of India - which includes the police, prosecutors, and the judiciary.
4. In India only about 16% of people booked for criminal offences are finally convicted.
5. Corruption is a major challenge especially in police force and judiciary. Lack of effective accountability mechanisms lead to gross injustice. Especially poor conditions of prisons and judiciary harm overall justice system
6. The system takes years to bring justice and has ceased to deter criminals. There is a lack of synergy among the judiciary, the prosecution and the police. A large number of guilty go unpunished in a large number of cases. On the contrary, many innocent people remain as undertrial prisoners as well.
7. Digitalisation of crimes became more prominent way of crime today. Therefore holistic reforms are needed overall to strengthen criminal justice system in India.
8. One of the reasons for low conviction rates in India is poor quality of investigation and prosecution. The police lack training and expertise required to conduct professional investigations. They also have insufficient legal knowledge and inadequate forensic and cyber infrastructure.

9. In India, control over the police and judiciary is with the executive. This has led to abuse of police personnel and interference with their decision-making authority.

What is needed?

1. Extra functions like traffic should be carried out by other government departments or private agencies.
2. States should have specialised investigation units within the police force for better investigation of crimes.
3. There is need to strengthen Criminal Justice System and grassroots level policing institutions.
4. Strengthening of investigative capabilities and emergency response infrastructure.
5. More investment is needed in the recruitment procedure.
6. Better training, better pay and allowances and creating a system that rewards initiatives need to be incorporated.
7. Increase budget expenditure is needed for Judiciary, police and prisons, to raise their efficiency.
8. It is important to improve overall infrastructure of all the justice system in India that is required to strengthen the justice delivery.
9. Police should be made more gender sensitive. 33% women reservation in police should be implemented

There is need for broader political awareness about the need for reform in criminal justice system. Some states like Kerala and Telangana have tried to take the process forward. State police forces are primarily in charge of local issues such as crime prevention and investigation, and maintaining law and order. Police force need to adopt modern methods like forensics, data analysis etc to ensure timely justice.

Q.9) "India's relations with Saudi Arabia are one of the most important bilateral relationships in its extended neighbourhood." Evaluate.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Why is Saudi Arabia significant to India? What are the key areas of cooperation?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Since its independence, India has sought to maintain strong ties with Saudi Arabia, an important regional power and trading base in West Asia. Relations between the two countries are rooted in strong historical and civilisational links. Saudi Arabia is also home to more than 1.4 million Indian workers. The mutually beneficial partnership encompasses active cooperation in a wide spectrum of spheres.

Why is Saudi Arabia significant to India?

1. **Indian Diaspora:** The 2.7 million strong Indian community is the largest expatriate group in Saudi Arabia. They send remittances of over US \$11 billion annually to India.
2. **Counter-terrorism:** India needs Saudi Arabia to support India's efforts against terrorism and against Pakistan. Saudi Arabia is an influential nation in Middle East and Muslim World. Riyadh has largely shown an understanding of India's terrorism-related concerns, and has agreed to work with India in countering the global menace.
3. **Strategic significance:** Saudi is geographically located near Strait of Hormuz. This is world's most important oil artery and strategically important for India's energy security.

4. **Investment:** Saudi has one of the largest Sovereign Fund in the World. It is an important nation to invest fund in India particularly in National Infrastructure and Investment fund (NIIF). India needs fund for its infrastructure sector.
5. **Against Pakistan:** Saudi Arabia has a substantial influence over Pakistan. India can use this influence to bring Pakistan to negotiating table for talks on terrorism and bilateral relations.
6. **Energy:** Saudi Arabia is a source of 17% or more of crude oil and 32% of LPG requirements of India and thus a key pillar of India's energy security. With US sanctions on Iran, India needs to import crude oil from other sources to meet its energy need. Saudi Arabia have offered India with additional crude oil supplies to meet India's growing needs.
7. **Cultural:** The Saudi Kingdom facilitates Hajj pilgrimage to over 1,75,000 Indians every year. This is one of the other reasons why Saudi Arabia is an important country for India.
8. **Exports:** Other areas of interest for joint collaboration are fertilisers, food security, infrastructure, renewable energy, etc. ICT, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, electronic and manufacturing facilities, and housing are other potential areas of enhanced cooperation.

What are the key areas of cooperation?

Relations between the two countries are rooted in strong historical and civilisational links. The mutually beneficial partnership encompasses active cooperation in a wide spectrum of spheres.

1. The Riyadh Declaration of 2010 had forged a Strategic Partnership between India and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia has identified India as one of the 8 strategic partners.
2. It intends to deepen partnership in areas of political engagement, security, trade and investment, and culture. As part of this engagement, the two sides are finalising the setting up of a Strategic Partnership Council at the Ministerial level.
3. With India's growing economic, political and strategic interests, it cannot stay aloof for long with current geopolitical environment in Middle East, whether it is war in Yemen to strained ties of UAE and others with Qatar and Iran. India will have to engage more vigorously with developments in the region.
4. Any kind of extended crisis in region will not just affect India's energy security but also create insecurity among large Indian Diasporas. This has to be a priority for India's foreign policy makers.

Indian Diaspora has been an important driver of Saudi's economy, from labour force to investments. India should use them as soft power for furthering Indian interests. India Saudi relationships are indeed going through golden phase but the former needs to maintain an incremental approach in furthering the interest of both. Short-term and long-term interest should form a proper mix in this approach.

Q.10) "India must not trade away its national data rights at the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership negotiations." Comment

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Issue of data localisation. Other issues related to joining RCEP.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is gigantic in size and scope. It aims to create a free trade zone of 10 ASEAN nations and Australia, China, India,

Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. The region is home to almost half of the world's population and hold a great potential for India's exports. But there are some issues and concerns that goes against Indian interests and stop it from joining RCEP.

Issue of right for Data regulation in RCEP:

1. The e-commerce chapter contains clauses that, if India had agreed to them, would have prevented it from implementing data localisation rules on companies doing business in India.
2. The section on transfers of information and processing of information says that "a party shall not take measures that prevent transfers of information, including transfers of data by electronic or other means."
3. Basically India cannot be prevented from asking financial companies to maintain a copy of their data within India, but it is unclear still whether India can mandate that such data must only reside within the country.

Why data control is necessary for India?

1. Data localisation is necessary to secure citizen's data and their privacy. It will not only enhance the 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 situations 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.

Other issues related to India joining RCEP:

1. RCEP will, remove customs duty on about 80-85% of items. The result will be that Chinese goods will flood the Indian market even more. Once the pact is enforced, India will give more market access to China and our trade deficit will increase further.
2. Assuming that India and China agree to eliminate customs duties on 85% of bilateral trade, Chinese goods imports worth \$62.3 billion (85% of \$73.3 billion) will become duty free. This will lead to an estimated loss of \$6.2 billion to the exchequer, going by the fact that India's average customs duty is 10%, assuming that the concessions are given at one go.
3. RCEP would favour ASEAN and Chinese interests more than Indian interest as these countries are already taking over as major exports centre in the new global order.
4. While trade deficit with ASEAN has grown four-fold during the implementation of ASEAN-India FTA, deficits with Japan and Korea have roughly doubled after the two CEPAs were implemented. Thus RCEP would further increase this deficit.

India should make multi-sectoral reforms in order to make its exports more competitive than other countries especially China. It should not jeopardise its interests and try to negotiate with RCEP countries to work for rules that are fair and in India's interests. Instead of RCEP India may go for bilateral trade agreements with ASEAN countries in favour of India. RCEP although is an ambitious trade project may jeopardise India's interests and freedom in formulating trade policies on its favour. Overall impact of RCEP can be negative and may not be favourable for India.

Q.11) Analyse various area of convergence where India and the U.S. can work closely in reshaping the global order. How both countries can ensure better coordination among these areas of convergence?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Areas of convergence between India and the US. Various issues between the two nations.

Conclusion. Way forward.

At present, India and the US share an extensive cultural, strategic, military, and economic relationship. After the decades of trust deficit which have plagued the relationship between India and the US, relations has achieved new heights and deepness. There are various areas of convergence that provide opportunities for both the nations to work together for a common goal.

Areas of convergence in India-US relations:

1. **Balancing the rise of revisionist China:** US considers India to be a chief security provider to counter the rise of China in the Indo-Pacific. Chinese adventurism in the South China Sea gave momentum to the formation of the Quadrilateral grouping between India, USA, Japan and Australia. Thus provide opportunity for twin nations to work together.
2. **Terrorism:** US policies are aligned with India's strong campaign against global terrorism. Designating Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar as global terrorist by UNSC signifies a new level of diplomatic cooperation between India and the USA. Thus, counter-terrorism is a major area of convergence.
3. **Defence cooperation:** Aggregate worth of defence acquisition from US has crossed over \$13 billion. Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) for co-production and co-development of weapon systems and platforms. New defence agreements like Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA), Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), etc. Hence, cooperation with the US is in India's strategic interests. However, there are certain contentious issues between India and the US, which forces India to look beyond US. For example:
4. **Energy Security:** US sanctions on Iran which led India to stop oil imports from Iran threatening India's energy security and economic stability. Rising energy demand in India can only be fulfilled if it is conveyed to USA about the same so that both nations work together without jeopardising India's interests.
5. **Bilateral trade:** Bilateral trade between both the countries is increased. It was fostered by closer ties between the Indian and American industries especially in the Information and communications technology (ICT), engineering and medical sectors. It is important for both the nations to work together. USA can help India to rise and take place of China in the view of ongoing India-US trade war.

Issues between India-US relations:

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

Way forward:

1. India and USA should work together to achieve growth and prosperity of both the nations.
2. Diplomatic efforts should be made frequently to resolve pending issues bilaterally.
3. It is important for both the nations to understand the aim and aspirations of each other.
4. People to people contact must be increased in order to strengthen bilateral relations.

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

Q.12) "Populist measures like highly subsidised food and goods although help poor but is an unsustainable policy measure and not a permanent solution." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How populist schemes are immediate relief and not a long term solution?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Schemes like offering free food or cooked food at very low prices although help in providing meal to needy but also put extra burden on public exchequer. It has also been seen as an undemocratic mean to gain public support. Populist measures like this shatters the hopes of a shift to market-driven policies and is not seen as a long term solution.

Populist schemes- an immediate relief.

1. These measures are important and act as immediate. It help the poor and needy by making resources accessible and affordable to them.
2. Competitive populism can also be a very effective way to identify the long-felt community needs. Since these are area-specific, political parties and candidates will focus on local problems, thereby making elections more issue-oriented and participatory, and our democracy more vibrant and responsive.
3. They will remain the critical components of the social safety net and poverty alleviation programmes of any government.

Populist measures- not a long term sustainable solution:

1. In an extremely diverse and heterogeneous society like ours, satisfying individual desires with scarce public resources is impossible. Specific forms of individual assistance will end up satisfying few, and even that only partially, while leaving the large majority dissatisfied.
2. Further, the scarce resources and huge demand does not benefit anybody, rather put extra pressure on states.
3. Focus should be on connecting roads, water supply, sewerage facilities, agriculture storage and marketing facilities, community halls and libraries, school and hospital buildings, and check-dams and irrigation channels. This improves the productivity and living standards of local residents, encouraging further investment, providing jobs and expanding economic and commercial opportunities.
4. Subsidy encourage inefficiency by relying more in the subsidy money that offered by the governments and do not address the real issues like increasing incomes of the poor.
5. These schemes put extra burden on state's purse and generally lead to fiscal deficit, thereby affecting growth prospects of state.
6. These schemes act as a tool of diversion from real issues, and suppress the real issues in the name of freebies.
7. These programmes are too complex to conceive and administer, and should be done so taking into account the varying needs and problems of different areas and communities. Their designing cannot be left to the caprices of the political marketplace.

The aim should not be to blindly eliminate populism, but to channel it towards achieving socially and economically desirable objectives. Ultimately, the state is spending money, and it is only appropriate that this expenditure generate the maximum benefit and social welfare.

Q.13) "Impartiality of the Judiciary is cornerstone of any healthy democracy." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Significance of impartiality of the Judiciary.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The most sacred of the duties of Judiciary is to do equal and impartial justice to all its citizens. In order to form a more perfect democracy it is important to establish justice, provide for the common defence, promote the general welfare, and secure the rights of individuals.

Significance of impartiality of the Judiciary:

1. Justice is one of the pillars upon which democracy runs. A fair and impartial judiciary is essential to democracy, upholding rights under the constitution.
2. This means that the judiciary must resolve disputes free from improper outside influence, self-interest, prejudice, or favouritism while applying the rule of law to the facts of cases, treating or affecting all equally with effective due process.
3. To do this, the judiciary must uphold the highest level of integrity in all its actions. A critical element in achieving and preserving fair and impartial justice is judicial independence.
4. The courts' function in our democracy is to protect the rights of all (individuals, corporations, governments, etc.), whether or not they have a voice in the political arena.
5. In order for justice to be done for everyone the majority and minorities alike, judges must be able to act free of the pressures of politics, politicians, the electorate, and special-interest groups.
6. Judicial impartiality is so important that it is a fundamental reason for the constitution's creation of the three separate branches of government.
7. Furthermore, the constitution provides safeguards to ensure that judges are able to rule fairly and impartially on the individual cases that come before them.

As one of the basic institutions, the judiciary has been a fundamental pillar of our nation's democratic institutions. It is critical to our court's to achieve fair and impartial justice, as well as providing excellent service to fulfill the public's trust in us as public servants. This would not only enable democracy in true sense but would lead to prosperity and peace in the society.

Q.14) "Rivers have no boundaries and no regions." In light of this statement discuss various consequences of stopping river sharing to Pakistan. Do you think it is morally correct to stop sharing of river water to Pakistan?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Consequences of stopping river sharing to Pakistan. Is it moral to stop river water sharing to Pakistan?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Indus Water Treaty was signed between India and Pakistan, over the utilisation of water of 6 rivers (Indus System) that flow through in India and then reach Pakistan. According to IWT, 3 eastern rivers namely Ravi, Beas and Sutlej are under control of India and 3 western rivers namely Indus, Jhelum and Chenab are under the control of Pakistan. Recently, due to rising India-Pakistan tensions, there are voices of reducing river water shared with Pakistan. It will not only affect Pakistan but would also have some consequences to India.

Consequences of stopping river sharing to Pakistan:

1. Any form of India's open withdrawal from the treaty will draw the World Bank into the dispute and in support of Pakistan. This would further deteriorate India's relations with Pakistan.
2. If India decides to withdraw from the treaty, Pakistan may take India to International Court of Justice (ICJ).
3. The Indus Treaty was mediated by the World Bank who is also a signatory. The reactions of the World Bank to the abrogation of the Treaty would be adverse, as would have been the reactions of the international community in general.

4. From the position of being praised for the steadfast maintenance of the Treaty, India will face international displeasure for violating the treaty.
5. Other countries with which India has similar treaties (Nepal, Bangladesh) might find their faith in India shaken and become apprehensive about their own treaties with us.
6. If India decides to ignore international norms and treats the Indus waters as a weapon to punish Pakistan, it will unfortunately lead to huge human insecurity in the neighbouring country that is environmentally and politically incorrect that would lead death of many people because of famine and it would harm some endangered species also.
7. Stopping water will give Pakistan the reason to defend its terrorist attacks on India and justify their acts of terrorism to Pakistani peoples. Terrorist would use this as a tool to radicalise youth for terrorist activities.
8. If India breaks the treaty and stop water, India's image around the world would be impacted and would give other countries reason to take side with Pakistan for whatever reason. So it will damage India's reputation as a peace loving country.
9. India may face environmental damage. Building dams could also cause flood in the area.

Is it moral to stop river water sharing to Pakistan?

1. Ending river water sharing unilaterally is immoral and inhumane as it would lead to famine like situation causing death of several innocents.
2. Further, it is not needed to stop river water sharing as Pakistan is already under pressure internationally for sponsoring terrorists and is under threat of being blacklisted by FATF.
3. It will further deteriorate India's relations with Pakistan to lowest level and would further increase the threat of attacks on India jeopardising India's security and peace.
4. It is inhuman and immoral to segregate rivers as boundaries and a tool to put pressure on anyone.
5. It is against principle of nature and natural justice.

It is true that recent relations between India and Pakistan are strained to a new low. By stopping river water to Pakistan it would be injustice to humanity and would be an immoral act. What is needed is that India should resolve its issues with Pakistan bilaterally and should not stop basic natural resources to Pakistan, as instead of serving the purpose, it would lead to further low in India Pakistan relations.

Q.15) What is mean by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is public interest?

Body. What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest?

Conclusion. Way forward.

The term 'public interest' means matters concerning welfare of the people. Public Interest is anything that affects the rights, health, or finance of the public at large. It is a common concern among citizens in the management and affairs of local, state, and national government. Like the Prime Minister had said that civil servant should consider every action in public interest, which means the ultimate aim should be the welfare of the masses.

The principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest are:

1. Civil servants shall perform their official duties in compliance with the Constitution and law. When performing their operations, civil servants shall act exclusively in the public interest.
2. Civil servants shall ensure equal treatment of the citizens and the legal entities when performing official duties.
3. Civil servants shall perform their activities in the most conscientious, direct, the most efficient, timely and methodical manner in the interest of the citizens and the other entities in realising their rights, duties and interests.
4. When communicating with citizens and other legal entities, the civil servants shall act in a manner that enables establishment of relations of mutual confidence and cooperation between these entities and the administration.
5. In their relations with the citizens and the other legal entities, the civil servants shall show understanding, courtesy, respectability and highest possible will to help and shall not impede the realisation of their rights and interests.
6. Any financial or other consideration either in respect of themselves, families or friends is to be avoided; public interest should be the sole principle consideration of decision making.
7. If a policy that is being formulated is perceived by the civil servant to be against public interest, his/her responsibility is to convince the political executive about the adverse implications of such a policy. However, if the political executive does not agree with such an advice, there is little that the civil servant can do other than putting his/her views clearly on record.
8. Institutional mechanisms such as the Parliament, the CAG, Judiciary and ultimately the electorate hold the political executive to account for bad policy which ignores public interest.

Civil service or public service is for the welfare of the people. As such policies and their implementation should be guided by public interest or public welfare. All government works have the overriding motive of public interest. Civil servants should be guided solely by public interest in their official decision making.

Q.16) Discuss the role of Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How Public Accounts Committee help in establishing accountability of the government to the people? Some issues and challenges.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Public Accounts Committee is considered the most important financial Committee of Parliament in the financial accountability process. It comprises of 22 members of parliament. India being a parliamentary democracy establishes accountability of the government to the people through parliamentary supervision and control. Public Accounts Committee (PAC) aids the parliament in financial scrutiny of the government.

How Public Accounts Committee help in establishing accountability of the government to the people?

1. Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a financial committee constituted every year to examine the annual audit reports of submitted by the Comptroller Auditor General (CAG) and reports its finding to the parliament.

2. PAC acts as the watchdog of the public purse by examining the audit report on appropriation account and finance account.
3. It scrutinise the appropriation account to verify:
 - If the funds were legally available.
 - If a competent authority sanctioned its use.
 - If the rules laid by procedure were followed.
4. PAC's function has been sometimes criticised since it does not look into the policy aspect and is only recommending. Yet, PAC has been in establishing financial accountability of the government to the people.
5. It further establishes the accountability of the government by examining the budgetary appropriations and accounts of the government and Reports of Comptroller and Auditor General (under article 151) on the execution of the projects and programmes by the various ministries.
6. Examining the demand for excess grants before they are presented to the Parliament for regularisation.
7. The committee examines public expenditure not only from legal and formal point of view to discover technical irregularities but also from the point of view of economy, prudence, wisdom and propriety to bring out the cases of waste, loss, corruption, extravagance, inefficiency and nugatory expenses.

Some issues and challenges:

PAC in India is not able to enforce the accountability of the government to the people in true sense because:

1. Even if it brings out the irregularities in the public expenditure there are no mechanisms to enforce the corrective measures.
2. It examines the expenditure which has already been done by the government.
3. Its recommendations are only advisory in nature and are not binding on the ministry of the day.
4. PAC has got no mandate to examine the policy in broader sense.

However PAC at times, through its criticism of the inefficient public expenditure of the government, creates a strong public opinion against the government. The incumbent government to remain in power tries to rectify the inefficiency in its public expenditure and policy making. Thus the committee helps in enforcing accountability of the executive to the people.

Q.17) "Reforms and policies which aim to weed out adverse practices often lead to disruptions and fail to achieve its objectives." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Discuss the Issue of disruption due to reforms and various reasons for reforms and policy failures.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Improved governance requires an integrated, long-term strategy built upon cooperation between government and citizens. This requires proper design of policies keeping all stakeholders benefits in mind along with proper implementation of programmes and policies at the ground level. Reforms and policies generally aim to remove inefficiencies and adverse practices, but that often lead to changes that are not comfortable and thus many policies fail to achieve its objectives.

Issue of disruption due to reforms and various reasons for reforms and policy failures:

1. The critical element of governance is policy making. Generally policy design create problems for the citizens and society, that hinder its implementation. E.g. Many reforms are opposed by citizens as it try to change the traditions of the society.
2. Public policy making is the principal function of the state. It decides major guidelines for action, mainly by the governmental organs. Often these guidelines cause disruption. E.g. recent increase in traffic violation fines has caused unease to many which many state governments tried to modify.
3. Public policy can be authoritative imposition by the political system. This often lead to opposition and poor implementation of reforms.
4. One of the main problems with policy-making in India is extreme fragmentation in the structure. Such fragmentation fails to recognize that actions taken in one sector have serious implications on another and may work at cross purposes with the policies of the other sector.
5. Part of the problem is that the enactment of right based schemes in an environment of illiteracy and lack of awareness and empowerment does not ensure that people will claim their rights or are ready to accept the reforms.
6. Another problem is the excessive overlap between implementation, program formulation and policy making which creates a tendency to focus on operational convenience rather than on public needs. This ignorance of public needs lead to disruption and failure of policies and reforms.
7. Often public policy is made without adequate input from outside government and without adequate debate on the issues involved. The policy processes and structures of Government have no systematic means for obtaining outside inputs, for involving those affected by policies or for debating alternatives and their impacts on different groups. Thus reforms are many times become radical in nature.
8. Policy decisions are often made without adequate analysis of costs, benefits, trade-offs and consequences.

In India there has been a dramatic rise in expenditure on programmes of social inclusion in the last five years but this is accompanied by growing complaints about implementation. However, it is also true that the schemes continue to be implemented in a business-as-usual mode, while what is demanded by these programmes is an innovative break with the past. Without reforms in implementation structures, schemes aimed at social inclusion will continue to be afflicted by the poor quality.

Q.18) What are various objectives of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)? Discuss its role in keeping the Indian government accountable to its people.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Mission and objectives of NCRB. Discuss the role of NCRB in keeping the government accountable.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The National Crime Records Bureau, is a government agency responsible for collecting and analysing crime data. It was set up to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.

Mission of NCRB:

1. Mission of NRCB is to Empower Indian Police with Information Technology and criminal Intelligence to enable them to uphold law and protect people.

2. And also to provide leadership and excellence in crime analysis particularly for serious and organized crime.

Objectives of NCRB:

1. Create and maintain secure sharable National Databases on crimes and criminals for law enforcement agencies and promote their use for public service delivery.
2. Collect and process crime statistics at the national level and clearing house of information on crime and criminals both at National and International levels.
3. Lead and coordinate development of IT applications and create an enabling IT environment for Police organizations.
4. National repository of fingerprints of all criminals.
5. To evaluate, modernize and promote automation in State Crime Records Bureaux and State Finger Print Bureaux.
6. Training and capacity building in Police Forces in Information Technology and Finger Print Science.

Role of NCRB in government accountability:

1. It collect and process crime statistics at the National level that help people to keep government account for any increase in crime and law and order issues.
2. It receive from and supply data to penal and correctional agencies for their tasks of rehabilitation of criminals, their remand, parole, premature release etc. Thus any inaction is being reflected in data released by NCRB.
3. Data released by NCRB is considered by civil societies in analysing government effectiveness in maintaining law and order, thus keeping government accountable.
4. Crime rate and Cases of discrimination like gender discrimination when increase in society, put pressure on government and institutions to act.

NCRB is the Nodal Agency for authentic source of data on crime, accidents, suicides, and prisons for policy matters and research. Ultimately it empower institutions with Information Technology and criminal Intelligence to enable them to uphold law and protect people and to provide leadership and excellence in crime analysis particularly for serious and organized crime.

Q.19) Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Discuss the grounds of Declaration of financial emergency and it's consequences.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The rationality behind the incorporation of Emergency provisions in the Constitution is to safeguard the sovereignty, unity, integrity and security of the country, the democratic political system, and the Constitution. During an Emergency, the central government becomes all powerful and the states go into the total control of the Centre. It converts the federal structure into a unitary one without a formal amendment of the Constitution. This kind of transformation of the political system from federal during normal times to unitary during Emergency is a unique feature of the Indian Constitution.

Grounds of Declaration of financial emergency:

1. The President of India proclaims the Financial Emergency under Article 360 of the Constitution, when he is satisfied that the financial stability or credit of India or of any part of the territory thereof is threatened.

2. The 38th Amendment Act of 1975 made the satisfaction of the president in declaring a Financial Emergency final and conclusive and not questionable in any court on any ground. But, this provision was subsequently deleted by the 44th Amendment Act of 1978 implying that the satisfaction of the president is not beyond judicial review.

Consequences of Financial Emergency:

1. The executive authority of the Centre extends:
 - to direct any state to observe such canons of financial propriety as are specified by it and
 - to direct the state as the President may deem necessary and adequate for the purpose.
2. Any such direction may include a provision requiring:
 - the reduction of salaries and allowances of all or any class of persons serving in the state and
 - the reservation of all money bills or other financial bills for the consideration of the President after they are passed by the legislature of the state.
3. The President may issue directions for the reduction of salaries and allowances of
 - all or any class of persons serving the Union and
 - the judges of the Supreme Court and the high court.
4. Thus, during the operation of a financial emergency, the Centre acquires full control over the states in financial matters.
5. Once approved it continues indefinitely without repeated legislative approvals. President can revoke this proclamation anytime. This doesn't require parliamentary approval.

Article 360 empowers Union govt to take control over state govt on every financial matter deals by a state. The Financial Emergency has never been imposed in any part of country, neither has Article 360 been used till now.

Q.20) "PM-KISAN scheme will not only lead to welfare of farmers, but can act as an important tool for India's economic growth." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Need of PM-KISAN scheme. How PM KISAN would lead to farmers welfare and economic growth?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Recently, Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) programme to provide an assured income support to the small and marginal farmers. Vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land upto 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs 6,000 per year.

Need of PM-KISAN scheme:

1. Declining prices of agricultural commodities in the international market and fall in food inflation in India since 2017-18, relative to non-food sector, therefore reduced the returns from farming.
2. To increase the income of farmers as small and fragmented land holdings and their further divisions has contributed in declined income.
3. To provide structured income support for procuring inputs such as seeds, fertilisers, equipment, labour and other needs.

4. This component is not linked to extent of land owned and will greatly benefit share croppers and actual cultivators most of whom own very small extent of land.

How PM KISAN would lead to farmers welfare and economic growth?

1. PM Kisan Scheme would act as a strong consumption stimulus, that will help in economic growth especially due to ongoing slower economic growth due to decreased rural demand.
2. PM KISAN would help in more autonomy thereby giving the power to farmers to utilise money according to their needs. This will help in enhancing agricultural productivity and output leading to overall growth and income.
3. PM-KISAN would help in reducing poverty, ensure sustainable food security, and inclusive growth and wellbeing of farmers. The farmers will have complete independence to take up interventions as per their needs.
4. PM-KISAN will entrust farmers with the responsibility of using welfare spending as they see best, this may not be the case with in-kind transfers. This will help them in better decision making and will help them to increase their income and overall growth.
5. This income floor will provide a safety net against health, income and other shocks.
6. This will encourage greater usage of bank accounts, leading to higher profits for banking correspondents (BC) and an endogenous improvement in financial inclusion.
7. A guaranteed income will reduce the pressures of finding a basic living on a daily basis thereby instilling farmers with confidence and thus will motivate them to work more efficiently.

Thus PM-KISAN is an important scheme for farmer's welfare. This would help in economic growth and would plug the slow rural demand that has led to slow economic growth. Government should ensure the timely release of funds to the scheme and should try to include other pools too.

Q.21) Discuss various reasons for rise in crimes against certain sections of people in India. Argue whether it is a global phenomenon or confined to India only.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Reasons for rising atrocities against certain section of the society. Illustrate how it is a global phenomenon?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Premeditated killing of people of particular section or community is on rise in India. Recent incidents of lynchings and similar mob violence shows rising intolerance in the society. Crime against minority especially religious minority and killing of girls in the name of honour is not only a serious crime but a malaise that threaten our social fabric.

Reasons for rising atrocities against certain section of the society:

1. **Poor Implementation of minority's laws:** An act of lynching reflects failure of law to protect minorities and punish the culprits. State action is important in strict enforcement of law and punishing the culprits.
2. **Lack of accountability and conviction:** Lack of accountability of the law and order institutions and lack of conviction of culprit lead to increase in such activities. Thus community and state role increase to stop such crimes. Active participation of civil

society against such crimes and helping state and law enforcement agencies in nabbing the criminal is critical.

3. **Patriarchy:** Patriarchal mindset not only lead to atrocities against women but also many crimes against women are due to this. Honour killing, domestic violence are on rise due to increasing women voice that is challenging patriarchal mindset.
4. **Vote-bank politics:** Sometimes, political mobilisation that uses violence as a tool of politics, support such elements in society. Here community awareness and action against such politicians become necessary to prevent such vote bank politics.
5. **Police failure:** Indifferent attitude of Police leads people to take law in their own hands. Also police delays and inability to catch the criminals lead to more such incidents. State should be more proactive in police reforms. Strict action should be taken against any police officials who do not record such incidents in criminal records.
6. **Social media menace:** Rise in penetration of Social media and its usage to spread rumours and hatred has exaggerated such incidents. A vigil community with state action on taking action against cyber criminals is must to prevent fake news and rumours.
7. **High Unemployment rates:** High unemployment leave millions of youth unengaged. These young brains are often misguided and brainwashed through various ideologies and agendas. State action is important to provide more employment opportunities to youth with focus on economic development of the region.

Is it confined to only India?

1. It is a global phenomenon. Polarisation along the lines of religious lines is occurring across the globe.
2. Women is suffering not only in India but all over the world. Recent #Metoo movement is e.g. of this that reflects worldwide harassment of women.
3. Europe is being endangered by recent terrorist attacks due to radicalisation of youth.
4. Similarly, in USA rise in incidents of gun attacks show increasing hatred against particular sections especially migrants.

Thus it can be said that such incidents are increased recently in India and over the world. Programs especially focused on teaching values of tolerance and secularism is important. Government has launched Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat for sustained and structured cultural connect between citizens of different regions. There is need of proactive role played by community and state governments. For a demographically diverse country such as India, such crimes are a disaster.

Q.22) "Schools in India has failed in inculcating scientific spirit and rational temper among Indians". Critically analyse.

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is scientific temper?

Body. Give some facts reflecting poor scientific temper in India. What are the reasons for failure of schools to develop the scientific temper?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Scientific Temper represents spirit of enquiry and as such involves the process of logical reasoning. Recent incidents of divorcing a frog couple to the floods in Madhya Pradesh after their grand wedding two months ago, for rains indicate that scientific temper as was mentioned in Article 51A as a fundamental duty has not been achieved even after 70 years

of growth and development. One of the reason for this is poor education system and inability of our schools to inculcate scientific values in students.

Facts reflecting poor scientific temper in India:

Unfortunately, the vision of the Constitution to develop 'scientific temper' has lost, which can be inferred by following:

1. Recently a frog was divorced as they were married in hope of giving rains.
2. Rationalist thinkers like Kalburgi, Dabholkar and Pansare were killed for their crusade against superstition and orthodoxy in society.
3. As per NCRB data, between 2005 and 2015, more than 2000 women were killed in India following allegations of witchcraft.
4. Prevalence of 'God-men' catering to the educated middle class who even spread their superstitious ideas through media and social media is a glaring example of pseudo-scientific society.

Reasons for failure of schools to develop the scientific temper:

1. **Wrote learning:** Schools and curriculum focus on wrote learning. Indian schools focus on exams and marks (factory approach) rather than thinking and reasoning.
2. **Focus on getting jobs:** The Indian education system is evolving into a platform of gaining employment rather than gaining knowledge. This restricts the spirit of enquiry.
3. **Poor teaching:** Teaching and learning methods used in most schools discourage questioning, learning, application and creativity. Also teachers are less qualified and not interested in teaching.
4. **Illiterate parents:** Still millions of people are illiterate. About 25% Indians are illiterate. This is a major hindrance to developing an attitude of scientific temper in Indians. Driven by pressing short-term economic needs, most parents are reluctant to send their children to school. They often pose obstacles to learning.
5. **Poverty:** Poor background push people to seek jobs and focus on jobs and earning rather than learning. Winning bread to come out of poverty is major focus.
6. **Women backwardness:** Indian women are still not fully empowered. And empowered educated women is must to instil a scientific temper among its children and in the house.
7. **Religion:** Often the structural rigidities have their roots in religion. This religious roots makes it a daunting task as there are high chances of communal tension flaring up when these rigidities are challenged.
8. **Orthodox Society:** The orthodox elements of the Indian society restrict the inquisitiveness among the children. Thus the spirit of enquiry gets buried in childhood itself.
9. **Attitude:** Even the educated blindly follow the norms and superstitions due to lack of spirit of enquiry. This results in growing of superstitions blindly and it is trickling down from generation to generation.

In our country, where a large section of the society is still caught in the quagmire of superstitions and obscurantist practices, inculcating Scientific Temper among the citizens is of paramount importance for development of the nation. This is best done during the childhood and is therefore essential that the school curriculum should serve this important need. This demands inculcation of values like spirit of inquiry, courage to question, objectivity, honesty and truthfulness, which are precursors to the development of various traits characterising Scientific Temper.

Q.23) "With rising tensions and recent conditions of destabilisation in Afghanistan India need to figure out how to secure its interests in Afghanistan where it has a significant footprint." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Discuss the impact of destabilisation and tensions in Afghanistan on India's strategic interest. How India should secure its interests in Afghanistan?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Recent attacks by the Islamic State (IS), including the suicide bomb attack at a wedding reception in Kabul that killed many Afghans, have created a situation of tensions and conditions of destabilisation in Afghanistan. Further, US desire to reduce military footprint in Afghanistan will create increasing pressure on regional powers to step up their game. India will be no exception. So, India's Afghanistan policy should rapidly adapt to the evolving realities and play a role that suits India's stature in the context of the wider South Asian region.

Impact of destabilisation and tensions in Afghanistan on India's strategic interests:

1. **Increased Pakistan leverage:** The reason for Taliban's resilience is the support it receives from Rawalpindi. Pakistan's leverage in Afghanistan is set to grow. India's Afghanistan policy has a major objective to curtail Islamabad's influence in Kabul and deny Pakistan's state and non-state agents leverage to plot against Indian interests.
2. **Unstable Kashmir:** The destabilisation in Afghanistan will affect the Kashmir Valley as terrorist outfits may feel empowered and would increase their presence in Kashmir.
3. **Geopolitics:** Afghanistan is tied to India's vision of being a regional leader and a great power, coupled with its competition with China over resources and its need to counter Pakistani influence. China is already making inroads into Afghanistan with her BRI project. The process will be further easier.
4. **Economic Interests:** India's Afghanistan policy's another objective is to gain access to vast energy markets in Central Asia, is also at stake. India has presence in Afghanistan after the construction of the Chabahar Port in Iran and the highway that links it to Kabul. Indian infrastructure projects of Salma dam, Parliament building, infrastructure projects will be at stake.
5. **India's image:** India's ability to mentor a nascent democracy will go a long way to demonstrate to the world that India is indeed a major power, especially a responsible one. Any destabilisation would impact such efforts.

How India should secure its interests in Afghanistan?

1. India must focus on assisting Afghanistan in every manner possible to ensure that the country's sorts are as peaceful and participative as possible.
2. On the military front as well, India must move quickly to provide helicopters as well as engineering/tech support for Afghan hardware.
3. Inactive SAARC must now be revived to strengthen the regional co-operation in South Asia.
4. For regional security there must be closer involvement of regional powers in international efforts to ensure non-interference and a stable Afghanistan. This also requires involvement of the Central Asian Republics, which border Afghanistan. It is important for India to coordinate its efforts with those of Russia and Iran to ensure success.

5. India must seek to build capacities and capabilities of Afghan nationals and its institutions for governance and delivery of public service, develop socio-economic infrastructure, secure lives and promote livelihood.

Afghanistan is important for India's strategic and economic interests. Further India has a lot at stake in Afghanistan. Continuing the efforts of implementing mega infrastructure projects, providing military equipments and training to Afghan personnel on the sidelines is important. India must use regional groupings like SCO to combat the terrorism emanating from Afghanistan.

Q.24) Discuss the need of bringing uniformity in civil laws. Critically analyse the the consequences of bringing such uniformity.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Why Uniform civil code is needed in India? Positive and negative consequences of bringing uniformity in civil laws.

Conclusion. Way forward.

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

Why Uniform civil code is needed in India?

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

Positive benefits of bringing uniformity in civil laws:

1. **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. **Will reduce 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. **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. **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. **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.

Negative consequences of bringing uniformity in civil laws:

1. Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India is ignorant of the diversity of its cultures, customs, traditions, castes, ethnicity, languages and religious ideologies. From north to south and from east to west, each state in India has a different culture and a different outlook towards life.
2. The Hindu Marriage Act was passed in 1955 and later, other acts related to issues of succession and maintenance were also passed. Some might believe that these enactments brought uniformity in law for all sections of Hindus.
3. UCC will be detrimental to communal harmony of India and will be against the ethos of religious freedom.
4. UCC is disadvantageous for all minorities, and also for a good number of Hindu castes. It will only create conflicts and disputes among them.
5. Article 44 is just one of the several other directive principles of state policy, so it carries only a persuasive force for the legislature. Moreover, Articles 25, 26 and 29 which deal with religious and cultural freedom are the fundamental rights and both conflict with each other. In such conflicting situation, fundamental rights are mandated to prevail constitutionality.
6. A common code anywhere can harm national integration, for true integration in a democracy stands for tolerance and coexistence of various communities Wrenching the laws and culture that are beloved to a community and deriving it to adopt alien laws can hardly create goodwill or harmony between communities.
7. The diversities of family law of different communities, the tribal's own laws and customs, the belief of the people about the source of law and religion are intermixed and interwoven. This has prompted people to oppose the Uniform Civil Code from its very inception.

UCC is sometimes perceived as the imposition of the Hindu code and procedures, and this adds to its opposition from the minorities. Some people also argue that it would lead to a loss of the culture and the identity of the minorities in the Indian society. The better course would be to bring about small reforms, correcting some inherent irrationality in some of the personal laws, and make them suitable for modern times. The focus should also be on removing disparities between different religions. This might lay the foundation of implementing a UCC at a later date.

Q.25) "India's foreign policy is undergoing a series of fundamental transformations in terms of its underlying narratives and processes.". Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Discuss the recent shifts in foreign policy of India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The recent India-Pakistan crisis, while raising the spectre of war in South Asia, also highlighted that the likes of France, Germany, Australia, and the United States are willing to stand behind India in the international arena. Three emerging shifts in the international order have played a key role in catalysing India's rising stature in the international order: terrorism, climate change, and the rise of China. In the last four years, India has sought to play a greater role in solving global challenges and shaping the rules, norms, and processes that guide these efforts.

Recent shift in foreign policy of India:

1. **Centrality of economic development:** India, buoyed by its growing economic engagement with the rest of the world, captured this opportunity to grow and develop and also target Pakistan at a time when Islamabad was unable, and at times unwilling, to rein in terror organizations operating on its soil. This involves an implicit benchmarking of the technological capabilities of the Indian economy with respect to the global best practices and/or global technology frontier.
2. **Integrations of domestic and foreign policy:** Another important change is much greater alignment of foreign policy with domestic objectives. Both the domestic programs "Swachh Bharat", Digital India/Smart Cities was mentioned in public statements at various international platform. Further Yoga is now being celebrated as an international day by U.N.
3. **Emphasis on national power:** A greater emphasis is being laid on overall national power, with a more realistic assessment of the appropriate role of military power. One of the implications of this policy is the increased focus on unconventional threats. Another implication is a much greater focus on national capability to produce a broad range of defence equipment in India.
4. **Greater emphasis on global socio-politics and soft power:** Another change is a greater emphasis on global socio-politics and "soft power", the third dimension of national power. This includes the expansion of common ground based on religious and cultural heritage & history of India, as well as the Indian diaspora across the World.
5. **Confident pragmatism:** This involves freeing up of self-imposed, historical and mental, constraints on developing the full potential of economic or security relations with any country. Thus India's economic relationships with potential adversaries pursued relatively independently from the security relationship, without one constraining the other or being completely parallel. This is most clearly apparent from India's economic agreements reached with China and the formation of the BRICs Bank and Asian Infrastructure Bank.
 - **Leader of Climate change efforts:** At the same time India engaged with the rest of the world, including China, and made bold commitments to combat climate change. In 2016, India announced that all countries should make legally binding commitments to meet key climate change goals- a major shift in policy and then quickly ratified the Paris Agreement, drawing worldwide accolades for its goal of installing clean energy capacity that would equal 40% of the country's total energy capacity by 2030.

Even though these changes are not explicitly articulated by the new government, they are implicit in their actions and view of the world. India projected itself as a emerging super-power at international arena. India has used its para diplomacy and forged special relation with several countries of Indian interest in order.

Q.26) Discuss salient features of Motor Vehicle amendment act, 2019. Critically analyse its objectives and significance.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Salient features of the MVA, 2019. Issues with the amendment.

Conclusion. Way forward.

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

Salient Features of the Bill to ensure safer roads:

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

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

Issues and challenges with the amendment:

1. With a Fund already existing to provide compensation for hit and run accidents, the purpose of the new Accident Fund is unclear.
2. While the penalties for contravening provisions of the proposed scheme on interim relief to accident victims are specified in the Bill, the offences that would warrant such penalties have not been specified. It may be argued that imposing penalties without knowing the nature of the offences is unreasonable.
3. There will be implementation challenges at all-India level.
4. Road transport being a subject on the Concurrent List, State governments are also free to make their own laws and rules. Some states feel that the amendment infringes upon the rights of the states.
5. For effective monitoring of traffic violations and accidents and ensuring that the perpetrators don't go scot-free, electronic surveillance is essential that needs installation of CCTVs, Speed guns, and other equipments. This could involve substantial investment, and it is not clear who will bear the cost.
6. Laxity of vehicle-manufacturers in implementing safety features is also a concern.
7. States also have concerns about their powers being curtailed in the Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill.

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

Q.27) "Informal summits are seen as a platform for trust-building exercises." In light of this statement critically examine the relevance and success of such informal summits in resolving bilateral issues.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Relevance and significance of informal summits. Success of such informal summits.

Conclusion. Way forward.

In globalised world with increasing conflicts and disputes, world leaders try to negotiate various issues at various levels through formal and informal means. Various efforts are made to further the peace and stability between countries, through diplomatic efforts and talks. In recent times, informal summits and talks are emerged as a way to discuss and work out resolution for various issues at bilateral levels.

Relevance and significance of informal summits:

1. Informal summits help in exchanging views on international matters in a broad and long-term perspective with the objective of further strengthening special and privileged Strategic Partnerships.
2. These act as a platform to discuss national developmental priorities and bilateral matters in keeping with the tradition of regular consultations between two countries at highest levels.
3. Informal summits allow world leaders to speak freely, unconstrained by a pre-planned agendas.
4. The Idea of such meetings is to have an informal exchange, with the goal of not producing a pre-negotiated set of agreements, but to have clear communication at the leadership-level.
5. Multilateral summits like the G20 meeting don't give leaders time to have protracted discussions and they can't be substitutes for informal talks.
6. Formal summits involve months of minute diplomatic planning and choreography, and topics to be avoided during the discussions are often as important as those on the agenda. Informal summits lack such preparations and thus act as an instrument to openly talk about issues and perspectives without constraints.
7. By not setting expectations or deliverables, there is that much less pressure on the leaders.

Success of such informal summits:

1. Till now, such summits has worked. The informal meet has set up a new trend for leaders to meet 'informally' in order to know and understand each other better.
2. The meeting recent Sochi and Wuhan Summit has turned out to be a success and another step in ensuring strengthening of relations of India with Russia and China.
3. Informal summits have positive results in the long term, as during 'official' meetings, the atmosphere is often not favourable to get a deeper understanding.
4. The 'informal' summits has helped in reasserting the tradition of independent Indian diplomacy while avoiding a formal strategic tilt toward America's adversaries.

Thus, informal summits are an important platform for resolving disputes and settling bilateral issues. These help in bringing nations close and help in making region stable and peaceful. It is not only an effective tool of high level diplomacy but also a way to express one's concerns and interests more freely.

Q.28) "In a multi-polar world, it is very difficult for India to balance between rival nations." In light of this discuss how India should manage its interests in a multi-polar world?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How India should balance it's strategic interests in a multi-polar world?

Conclusion. Way forward.

As an emerging global power, India plays a key role in the current multipolar world. To maintain the rules-based global order, therefore, it is vital that the EU and India implement effective multilateralism and global economic governance. The EU will seek to consolidate dialogue on multilateral issues, and to coordinate positions with India. Cooperation in the framework of the United Nations, the WTO and the G20 will be of priority.

How India should balance it's strategic interests in a multi-polar world?

1. India should aim to strengthen the Strategic Partnerships by focusing on sustainable modernisation and on common responses to global and regional issues.

2. India should work to promote common global agendas on human rights and democracy, data protection, gender equality and women's empowerment and the inclusion of young people. Enhancing humanitarian coordination and developing joint actions on food security and disaster relief, would bring clear added value.
3. India should seek regular exchanges and coordination with all the important nations on major foreign policy issues. Cooperation on security and defence policies should be enhanced in order to address together inter alia terrorism, cyber security, hybrid threats and maritime security. Crisis management ties, including military-to-military relations, should also be developed.
4. India should seek more coordination between its initiatives and those of other countries towards India. India should work together with all nations to provide a better understanding of the India to the world.
5. India's approach to the emerging multipolar world should be progressive, constructive and unequivocal.
6. India should also work to make the India's public diplomacy more effective so as to garner support in favour of India.
7. It is important for India to lobby hard for its interests. Also, India should focus more on backstage channels and diplomacy.
8. It is important for Indians to increase their presence all over the world. Indian Diaspora should increase, so that other countries' policies should a tune to Indian demands.

Selective engagement with a globalised world is impossible for a country that is itself globalising. Besides, as an emerging power, India's long-term interests lie in positioning itself to influence the formation of the new world order. Above all, the birth of the new world order also coincides with a historic shift in the locus of power from the West to the East. New value chains are being formed and India must remain open to them.

Q.29) Discuss the Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment) Rules issued in 2018. Why these rules are important?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What are intermediaries?

Body. What are Key provisions of Intermediaries Guidelines Rules, 2018? Significance of the Intermediaries Guidelines.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Intermediaries are entities that store or transmit data on behalf of other persons. They include internet or telecom service providers, and online market places. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology had proposed to amend Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules under Section 79 of the Information Technology Act. The Rules are viewed as a way to remove fake news and propagandas through intermediaries regulation.

Key provisions of Intermediaries Guidelines (Amendment) Rules, 2018:

1. **Prohibited Categories:** The Rules require each intermediary such as Facebook, Google, WhatsApp, and others to publish terms of use. These terms of use are required to prohibit the user from hosting certain content, including content that is grossly harmful or obscene. The Draft Rules prohibit a new category of information which threatens 'public health or safety', and includes promotion of cigarettes or tobacco products or consumption of intoxicants including alcohol and nicotine.
2. **Removal of content:** Any intermediary must, on receipt of a court order or on being notified by the government, remove access to unlawful content. These are acts

related to the sovereignty of India, security, and public order, among others. Such removal must be done by the intermediary within 24 hours. Further, intermediaries must also deploy automated tools to identify and remove public access to unlawful content.

3. **Assistance:** Intermediaries must provide assistance to government agencies (based on a lawful order), within 72 hours. Further, they must enable tracing of the originator of the information on its platform.
4. **Registered physical presence:** Certain intermediaries must be incorporated in India, under the Companies Act, 2013. These are those with more than fifty lakh users or as notified by the government. They must also have a permanent office in India, and designate persons for coordination with government agencies.

Significance of the Intermediaries Guidelines:

1. This should help in proactively identifying and removing or disabling public access to unlawful information or content.
2. It will help in enhancing the internet security more stringently. The intermediaries are now required as per 2018 Rules to inform the user once every month.
3. If the Rules and regulations, privacy policy and user agreement to access or usage of Intermediary computer resource are not complied with, then the intermediaries reserves the right to terminate such access and usage.
4. It will Act as a constant reminder for the users about such policies and regulations and prevent them from committing breach, which can lead to bad repercussions.
5. The 2018 Rules further provides that whenever an order is issued by the government agencies seeking information or assistance concerning cyber security, then the intermediaries must provide them the same within 72 hours. Initially such request could have been made only through writing but now the government has included that such requests can now be made even via electronic means.
6. It will make social media accountable under law and protect people and intermediaries from misusing the same.
7. This step would help to crack down on fake and inflammatory posts and messages that can cause violence including lynching across the country.

Although the draft rules have been criticised for expanding the scope for state surveillance of citizens. Internet/Online Intermediary. But these draft rules are in line with various judgments given by the Supreme Court (SC) to deal with malicious online content. There are some concerns but there is also scope to make regulations better and improved.

Q.30) Critically examine the salient features and objectives of Citizenship amendment bill, 2019. Does the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill go against Article 14 of the Constitution?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Key features of the bill. Issue related to the bill and how it is against article 14?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Citizenship is the legal right that belong to a particular country. Citizens of a nation enjoy particular civil and political rights in a sovereign state. Recently, the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 seeks to ease norms for religious minorities from neighbouring nations (non-muslims) to get Indian citizenship by amending age-old Citizenship Act, 1955. The amendment has been criticised for instilling fear among many that it will result in demographic change due to immigration.

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

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

Issue related to the amendment bill and how it violates article 14 of Indian constitution:

1. **Violation of Right to Equality under article 14:** Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality to all persons, citizens and foreigners, differentiating between people on the grounds of religion would be in violation of the constitution. The Bill makes illegal migrants eligible for citizenship on the basis of religion. This may violate Article 14 of the Constitution which guarantees right to equality. The bill violates the Right to Equality (Article 14) as it seeks to grant citizenships to illegal migrants on the basis of religion. It fails the test of reasonability contained in Article 14. This is because it does not provide any concrete reasons for limiting eligibility of citizenship to 6 minorities of only 3 countries.
2. **Violation of Assam Accord:** Section 6A of the Citizenship Act relates to provisions for citizenship of people covered by the Assam Accord. The Act fixes March 25, 1971 as the cut-off date for granting citizenship to Bangladeshi migrants in Assam. However, the Bill makes December 31, 2014 as the cut-off date. The bill would undermine the rights of indigenous Assamese people and would be in violation of Clause 6 of Assam accord which ensures constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, to protect, preserve and promote the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people
3. **Conflict with NRC:** There is an apprehension that the Bill would be in conflict with the ongoing exercise to update the National Register of Citizens in Assam, for which the cut-off date is March 25th, 1971
4. **Vague procedure to cancel OCI registration:** The Bill allows cancellation of OCI registration for violation of any law. But the offences covered under this have not been mentioned, hence, OCI can be cancelled for petty offences.
5. **Fails on the tenets of international refugee law:** Although India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Refugee Convention, granting refuge based on humanitarian considerations is arguably a norm of customary international law. The bill considers persecuted minorities as migrants whereas word migration refers to the voluntary movement of people, primarily for better economic prospects. Contrarily, refuge is an involuntary act of forced movement.
6. **Concerns over Insurgency:** The North Eastern states have vehemently opposed the bill over the concerns that citizenship to illegal migrants would pose a threat to their cultural and linguistic identity and put a strain on resources and economic opportunities.

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

Q.31) "Media is a very important organ to fight terrorism." In light of this discuss the critical role media need to play in fight against the terrorism?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Role of media in tackling terrorism. How media should help in anti-terrorism?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Media is connecting link among citizens and state. It plays an important role in keeping the public informed and safe. In a way it provide information about various issues, threats and inefficiencies of system and security agencies to the citizens. As a fourth pillar it plays and important role in ensuring safety of the citizens by keeping them vigil.

Role of media in tackling terrorism:

1. **Source of information:** Information is important for a safety of a nation and its growth. Media help in providing critical information to citizens. E.g media inform about any attack, or about any warning by state for its citizens etc.
2. **Educate:** Media is important to educate people on security issues that are of utmost important for the society. E.g Loopholes in police system are threat to society. It is important to report exact number of cases and help in sensitising the society.
3. **Awareness:** Media make society aware of propagandas and fake news that are used to spread panic and an environment of insecurity among citizens.
4. **Watchdog:** Media reporting on public affairs and investigations into wrongdoing in the administration of public affairs is must for a healthy democracy. This includes exposing frauds or corruption cases that personally benefit politicians. This is critical especially in defence procurements that could jeopardise India's security and interests. E.g. rafale exposure and related corruption.

How should media help in anti-terrorism?

1. Access to the site of events should be provided only with the consent of law enforcement officers responsible for communication with the media, under their reliable protection and only if all participants are guaranteed safety.
2. Actions of media representatives should not endanger the lives of victims (hostages) and other persons.
3. Direct interviews with terrorists and their hostages should be prohibited.
4. The media have no right to transmit information that could damage the course of the hostage rescue operation.
5. The media should not broadcast or publish terrorist claims without the permission of authorised persons.
6. Incident coverage should be objective.
7. The media should commit themselves to refrain from sensational and panic-inducing headlines, as well as from the constant reproduction of bloody photographs (and bloody images on TV).
8. When covering terrorist attacks, the media should take into account the feelings of hostages, other victims, their relatives.
9. A "Code of the press" i.e. some general principles should be established.

Unfortunately it is seen that media often end in sensationalising terrorist incidents that harm more than ensuring safety of the citizens. Media should be neutral in airing views, as it is a vital link to Indian citizens. If media act responsibly and sensibly, it can play an important role in anti-terrorism efforts.

Q.32) "Democracy is not another name of majoritarianism, on the contrary it is a system to include every voice, where thought of every person is counted." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Rising majoritarianism in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Majoritarian democracy, refers to democracy based upon majority rule of a society's citizens. Majoritarian democracy have the inherent danger of becoming a "tyranny of the majority" whereby the majority in society oppress or exclude minority groups, which lead to oppression. Democracy rather is a system that include every voice, every sect, where thought of every person is counted. Recent

Rising Majoritarianism in India:

1. The main problem of the country is communally-charged and a permanent religious majority. There are often majority-minority tussles involving languages and castes, for example. None of these factors are changing must, which is what made majority rule inadvisable for Indian conditions sometimes.
2. The political parties in India get benefited by dividing people on basis of caste and class politics. The Majoritarianism is generally used as a tool by these parties. Parties have used sedition as a mean to curb criticism and voice of the people.
3. The failure of law and order agencies to deliver their duty within specific time erodes the faith of community. The attacks on minority community by majority groups in some areas of the country leads to the majoritarianism in that particular area.
4. The personality cult and blind faith too drives the mob psychology towards violent activities that may create threat to the democratic fabric of the nation.
5. Virtual platforms and social media is another dimension of this issue as it has reduces the physical distance among the communities, making them very easy to come together for the purpose.
6. The religious agenda many times takes the form of violent vigilantism. The lack of rationality and awareness about the involved issue leads to the blind following by people.
7. With concentration of power in hands of majority, minority is often being harassed and targeted which lead to injustice.

If the country is not open to positive criticism, there lies little difference between the pre and post-Independence eras. Expressions used in thoughts might be harsh and unpleasant to some, but that does not render the actions to be curbed. If the country is not inclusive and open criticism, it turn out as majoritarian democracy rather than a true democracy.

Q.33) Critically analyse the need and various fallouts of privatisation of Indian Railways. Do you think such a move will further displace the poorer sections?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Need and fallouts of Ray privatisation. Concerns for poor and common man.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The Indian Railways is among the world's 3rd largest rail networks. At present, several domestic and foreign companies are also looking to invest in Indian rail projects. So far, the private sector's participation in railways has been very less in India, compared to sectors like ports, telecom, electricity, airports and roads.

Need of Privatising Indian Railways:

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

Various fallouts privatisation of Indian Railways:

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

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

Related concerns for a poor people:

1. In the long-run, privatisation of railways may no longer be a low-cost common man's mode of transport and will be more on the lines of privatised services.
2. As fares will increase, it will put pressure on poor people who can't afford hike in prices.
3. It would hinder health and market access to poor, and will put extra burden on them.
4. Also it is against farmers, as it will lead to increase in cost of transportation putting extra burden on them.

In order to keep Indian Railways affordable for the lower strata of the society (post privatisation), the government must offer subsidies and tax incentives to companies that would provide low cost services, similar to low cost airlines, to these very pocket of population. This in the long run would make railway network more efficient and affordable.

Q.34) Examine the role of gram nyayalayas in dispute resolution. Discuss the effectiveness of mediation as a dispute settlement mechanism in various conflict situations.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Role of gram nyayalayas in dispute resolution. How mediation is an effective dispute settlement mechanism in various conflict situations?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Gram Nyayalayas are mobile village courts in India established under Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 for speedy and easy access to justice system in the rural areas of India. They are aimed at providing inexpensive justice to people in rural areas at their doorsteps.

Role of gram nyayalaya in dispute resolution:

1. Gram Nyayalaya is a mobile court and exercises the powers of both Criminal and Civil Courts.
2. It can try criminal cases, civil suits, claims or disputes which are specified in the First Schedule and the Second Schedule to the Gram Nyayalaya Act.
3. The Gram Nyayalaya are supposed to try to settle the disputes as far as possible by bringing about conciliation between the parties and for this purpose, it can make use of the appointed conciliators.
4. The judgment and order passed by the Gram Nyayalaya are deemed to be a decree and to avoid delay in its execution, the Gram Nyayalaya can follow summary procedure for its execution.
5. The Gram Nyayalaya are not bound by the rules of evidence provided in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 but are guided by the principles of natural justice and subject to any rule made by the High Court.
6. Gram Nyayalayas aim to provide a cost-effective forum at the grass-root level for the poor living in villages to settle legal matters. These are established for speedy and easy access to justice system in the rural areas of India and are aimed at providing inexpensive justice to people in rural areas at their doorsteps, with emphasis on mediation as a major way to resolve the disputes.

Effectiveness of mediation as a dispute settlement mechanism:

1. Mediation is a form of dispute resolution that is actively encouraged by the courts as a way of settling disputes rather than going through formal court proceedings. Not only that, but mediation is also often preferred by clients due to the fact that it is a much more efficient form of dispute resolution.
2. Mediation saves resources and time for all parties involved as well as the judicial system. It is no wonder then, that it has become an ever more valuable dispute resolution tool.
3. No court rules or legal precedents are involved in mediation. The mediator does not impose a decision upon the parties. As opposed to adversarial forums, the mediator helps to maintain a business like approach to resolving a dispute. There are no fixed solutions in mediation. Parties can look to developing creative solutions to resolve matters and the solution rests with the parties themselves.
4. The mediation conference takes place in a private setting such as a conference room at any of the Arbitration Associations. Mediation is not a matter of public record. Its confidentiality is maintained.
5. Mediation generally lasts a day. Complex matters may require more time due to highly technical issue and/ or multiple parties. Without the formalities found in litigation, mediation usually results in substantial costs savings.
6. Parties have control over their participation in mediation. A party can decide to terminate their participation at any point in mediation. Mediators help parties maintain control over the negotiation that takes place.

Mediation is becoming increasingly popular as people begin to observe the benefits of settling outside of court. Participants of mediation often feel more empowered and in control of the outcome than in court. Even when the mediation does not end in a clear settlement, few participants would disagree that the mediation process leaves them with a better understanding of the dispute as a whole and the other party's perspective, leading to more long-term gains and the re-establishment of healthy channels of communication between both parties. This is essential, particularly in corporate disputes in which parties wish to continue doing business with one another.

Q.35) "China-India relations transcend the bilateral dimension and assume global and strategic significance." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Global and strategic significance of India-China relationship. How these relations can be strengthened?

Conclusion. Way forward.

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

Global and strategic significance of India-China relationship:

1. **Economic significance:** Asia is experiencing robust economic performance over the three decades, spearheaded by India and China. Robust growth can't be realised without economic development of the two countries and moving out millions of people in the region out of poverty. Both nation must enhance bilateral relations in a positive way leading to a path of development.

2. **Demographic dividend:** Population growth in Asia is expected to continue for at least the first half of the 21st century. This will result in huge demographic dividend in the region. Thus coordination between two nations by providing opportunities and employment driven by economic growth is necessary.
3. **Investment:** India and China relations has not reached full potential due to lack of bilateral investments. Where China can provide market for India to invest in pharmaceutical industry, agricultural products, software industry; India is a market for China for its technological industry. Creation of New Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Asian Development Bank are new engine of growth in the region. These institutions would fail without cooperation among New Delhi and Beijing.
4. **Success of global organisations:** Global Organisations like Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, United nation, etc and economic deals like Trans Pacific partnership and RCEP are centre for geo-economics and geo-politics. These platforms as a centre of collective progress would be successful only when two engines of growth cooperate with each other and work together.
5. **Regional Stability:** Terrorism has impacted regional structures in South Asian countries in a negative way. It is very important for two countries to stand together against terrorism to promote stability in the region. Regional stability would ensure mutual growth and global peace.

How these relations can be strengthened?

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

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

Q.36) "The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 has failed to protect women from sexual harassment at their place of work." In light of this discuss various reasons for the failure of state and the law to safeguard women at their place of work.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Reason behind inefficiency of laws and rules to prevent sexual harassment of 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.37) Examine the issue of quota reforms in International Monetary Reforms. Discuss how this asymmetric power distribution in IMF has impacted India's interests?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. What are IMF quotas? Why IMF quota is important especially for India's interests?

Conclusion. Way forward.

IMF's primary aim is to ensure stability of international Monetary System (i.e. exchange rates etc.) for the purpose of smoother transactions among member countries or all over the world. It does it in three ways: surveillance of economy of all the member countries, lending to countries with balance of payments difficulties, and giving practical/technical help to members by helping in framing economic or financial policies etc.

What are IMF quotas?

1. When a country joins the IMF, it is assigned an initial quota in the same range as the quotas of existing members of broadly comparable economic size and characteristics. The IMF uses a quota formula to help assess a member's relative position.
2. The current quota formula is a weighted average of GDP (weight of 50%), openness (30%), economic variability (15%), and international reserves (5%). For this purpose, GDP is measured through a blend of GDP—based on market exchange rates (weight of 60%)—and on PPP exchange rates (40%). The formula also includes a “compression factor” that reduces the dispersion in calculated quota shares across members.

Why IMF quota is important especially for India's interests?

1. Higher IMF quota simply means more voting rights and borrowing permissions under IMF. But it is unfortunate that formula is designed in such a way that some countries are over represented in the IMF and that's why emerging countries are against this quota scheme of IMF.
2. BRICS countries accounts for 1/5th of world GDP and 2/5th of world population but still hold less quotas and thus under-represented.
3. IMF quota determines voting power of any member in IMF decisions. Thus less quota means less voting rights.
4. IMF quota is used to decide amount of finance a member can obtain from IMF. Thus lesser quots lead to lesser amount of money from IMF to its members that hinders its development objectives.
5. Quotas determine the size of contingency funds at the disposal of the IMF to lend to countries in need of help, as well as the power of individual countries to influence lending decisions and tap into the funds themselves.
6. Though developing countries hold less than half the overall quota at the moment, with their rapidly increasing economic heft they have demanded a greater share. India has been pressing for IMF quota reforms as it would give more say to developing nations in the activities of the multi-lateral organisation.
7. In the current environment of competition, the IMF will have to do more than just superficially tinker with its asymmetric power structure and outdated quota system. Else, it could be slowly but steadily pushed into irrelevance.

India's share has increased to 2.75% from 2.44%, making it the 8th largest shareholder in the quota system. The quota system of is most controversial due to its asymmetric power structure. Today the world is looking towards developing countries due to their fast growing economy, but their say in IMF is minimal. Hence considering the current economic scenario there is an urgent need to make comprehensive reforms in the current quota system.

Q.38) "India requires multiple interventions to prevent mental health disorders among adolescents." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Issue of rising mental illness.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Mental health problems and suicide are the leading cause of mortality in young people globally. India is home to the largest number of adolescents in the world. A world changing at a fast pace and further poses a challenge to mental health, especially for the young who are in a formative stage of life. In this background, it is multiple interventions are needed for addressing mental health issues in India.

Issue of rising mental illness:

1. In the last few decades, the world has been changing very fast, especially with the invention of faster modes of transport, ease of migration across countries and the revolutionary developments in information technology (IT). This has brought major challenges to the mental health professionals.
2. The IT revolution has been accompanied by ill effects such as reduced social interaction, physical activities and intimacy and a more sedentary lifestyle. Real life in-person interaction is being increasingly replaced by an artificial sense of intimacy through the social networking platforms.
3. The current day youth spends a substantial time of the day on the internet and is exposed to information implosion including cybercrime, cyberbullying and violent video games. The internet is also a source of (mis)information, source of which is often not verified and has a potential of harming the young mind. Blue Whale game is a recent example of such a harm.
4. Increasing violence in the young people is another important issue needing attention since youth are at risk of being victims as well as perpetrators of violence.
5. Cyberbullying is another mode of bullying, which has become increasingly common in the last few years with the increased access to and use of the internet-based services. Behavioural addictions and cyberbullying are two important harmful effects of the modern digital age, which especially affect the young.
6. Mental ill-health, substance use and violence in the young population are some important challenges faced by the mental health professionals as well as the society.

Recently concluded National Mental Health Survey of India estimates the current prevalence of mental disorders in the age group of 18-29 yr at 7.39% (excluding tobacco use disorder) and lifetime prevalence at 9.54%. The young people also suffer a high rate of self-harm, with suicide being a leading cause of death. Thus a multiple approach is needed to tackle rising mental health issues.

Q.39) "The recent success of women in almost every sector especially in sports, reflects that women are no less than men." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Show how women are equal as men?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Taking into consideration the contribution being made to each and every sphere of life in the country, it can be certainly contended that women are no less indispensable to society

than men. Recent success stories of women as CEO, political leaders, new start ups, as bank managers, in sports has proved that women are as efficient as men.

Women as equal to men:

1. Women are naturally more choosy and sensitive towards their things that makes them more adept and talented individuals just like men.
2. Women are becoming even more powerful and empowered in the society that enabling them to work as a full time employee like men.
3. The digital platforms have engaged a lot of women in different industry works. This has led many women including students and house wives to start doing work from home.
4. Women are now changing with the time and becoming more goal oriented and less intuitive driven. That making the approaches more clearer and focused.
5. Women in India now participate fully in areas such as education, sports, politics, media, art and culture, service sectors, science and technology, etc.
6. India has one of the highest number of female politicians in the world. Women have held high offices in India including that of the President, Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Leader of the Opposition.
7. Contrary to common perception, a large percentage of women in India are actively engaged in traditional and non-traditional work. Statistics seriously understate women's contribution as workers. However, there are far fewer women than men in the paid workforce. In urban India, women participate in the workforce in impressive numbers. For example, in the software industry 30% of the workforce is female.
8. Women like PV Sandhu, Saina Nehwal, Mary Kom have shown their might in sports sector and made India proud at international platform. This shows that women are no more just isolated to kitchen work.
9. In 2015, the Indian government announced that women could serve as fighter pilots in the Indian Air Force (IAF), having previously only been permitted to fly transport aircraft and helicopters. This shows that today women is everywhere and not less than anyone. Various achievements in their name is just a reflection of this.

There is no denying the fact that women in India have made a considerable progress in the last fifty years but yet they have to struggle against many handicaps and social evils in the male dominated society. The Hindu Code Bill has given the daughter and the son equal share of the property. The Marriage Act no longer regards woman as the property of man. But passing of law is one thing and its absorption in the collective thinking of society is quite a different matter. In order to prove themselves equal to the dignity and status given to them in the Indian Constitution they have to shake off the shackles of slavery and superstitions.

Q.40) Discuss various challenges in increasing access to education to students from deprived backgrounds? How these challenges can be removed?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Various challenges in increasing access to education. Reforms needed.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Access to education is a major bottleneck in Indian education. Currently there is a situation of relatively lower enrolment rates in upper primary and secondary education. Ensuring mobility of students from elementary to primary to secondary to tertiary education is a key

challenge. Relatively slower progress in reducing the number of illiterates is also a huge challenge.

Various challenges in increasing access to education:

1. **A lack of funding for education:** Developing countries can't rely solely on their own financing for education, there's also a need for more foreign aid. Lack of funds lead to inaccessibility of education due to poor schools or lack of teachers.
2. **Having no teacher, or having an untrained teacher:** Teacher effectiveness has been found to be the most important predictor of student learning. There aren't enough teachers to achieve universal primary or secondary education, and many of the teachers that are currently working are untrained. As a result, children aren't receiving a proper education.
3. **Poor Infrastructure:** A child cannot learn without the right environment. Children in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa are often squeezed into overcrowded classrooms, classrooms that are falling apart, or are learning outside. They also lack textbooks, school supplies, and other tools they need to excel. It's not just a lack of classrooms that's the problem, but also all the basic facilities you would expect a school to have — like running water and toilets. When girls don't have access to safe toilets, they are often harassed or attacked when looking for a private place to go.
4. **The exclusion of children with disabilities:** Despite the fact that education is a universal human right, Many disables are being denied access to school. Students with disabilities have lower attendance rates and are more likely to be out of school or leave school before completing primary education. They are suspended or expelled at a rate more than double the rate of their non-special education peers.
5. **Distance from home to school:** For many children around the world, a walk to school of up to three hours in each direction is not uncommon. This is just too much for many children, particularly children living with a disability, those suffering from malnutrition or illness, or those who are required to work around the household. Many children, especially girls, are also vulnerable to violence on their long and hazardous journeys to and from school.
6. **The expense of education:** Many of the poorest families, school remains too expensive and children are forced to stay at home doing chores or work themselves. Families remain locked in a cycle of poverty that goes on for generations.

Reforms needed:

1. Appropriate regulatory and monitoring rules and mechanisms should be designed for private pre-schools.
2. Curricular reforms should be carried out to meet the emerging aspirations and align to national goals of social cohesion, religious amity and national integration.
3. Each State should undertake a detailed exercise of school mapping to identify schools with low enrolment and inadequate infrastructure.
4. Minimum standards for provision of facilities and student outcomes across all levels in school education should be laid down.
5. Framework and guidelines for ensuring school safety and security of children should be developed.
6. The government should should steps for reaching the long pending goal of raising the investment in education sector to at least 6% of GDP as a priority
7. Instead of setting up new institutions, which require huge investments, priority of the Government should be to expand the capacity of existing institutions.

India currently has the highest number of non literates in the world. Research highlights the importance of early childhood education. Participation in pre-school education remains low in the country. Expanding access to early childhood education and provide equal opportunity to all children to prepare them for formal education should be a priority task.

Q.41) "Indian sedition law has become a privilege for politicians and curse to free speech and right to dissent." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How sedition law is used as an oppressive tool?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Sedition is an offence incorporated into the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 1870. Section 124A of the IPC defines says whoever by words either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representation 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. The offence is punishable with imprisonment for life and is turn out to be a tool by politicians many a times to prevent criticism against them jeopardising free speech and dissent.

Sedition Law as an oppressive mechanism:

1. According to the National Crime Records Bureau 35 cases of sedition (all over India) were reported in 2016.
2. It is very often under criticism because Centre and the States have invoked the section against activists, detractors, writers and even cartoonist seeking to silence political dissent by accusing dissenters of promoting disaffection.
3. It has been invoked against several public personalities, particularly those critical of the government such as against Assamese scholar.
4. 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'.
5. 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.
6. 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, but it is used to curb any dissent or criticism of government or government policies.
7. Draconian laws such as the Section 124-A only serve to give a legal veneer to the regime's persecution of voices and movements against oppression by casting them as anti-national.
8. Beyond the high-profile urban cases, the reach of Section 124-A has extended even to faraway places. An entire village in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu had sedition cases slapped against it for resisting a nuclear power project.
9. Instead of critically analysing why citizens, be they in Kashmir or Chhattisgarh or Bhima Koregaon, are driven to dissent, the government is using an iron-fist policy with the sedition law playing a leading role to completely shut out contrarian views.

The word 'sedition' is thus extremely nuanced and should be applied with caution. The courts have stressed on the importance of contextualising the restrictions while ascertaining the permissibility of expression. Balancing freedom of expression with

collective national interest is one of the key ingredients of this law. Though it is argued that this law is a colonial vestige, the Indian courts have upheld its constitutionality.

Q.42) "There is scope for India- Bangladesh ties to move to the next level, based on cooperation, coordination and consolidation." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Present relations and issues. What should be done to improve the relations?

Conclusion. Way forward.

India and Bangladesh share a common border of 4096 km running through five Indian states, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. India's relations with Bangladesh are traditionally, cultural, social and economic. There is a much that brings them together. Today, the India-Bangladesh border is one of India's most secured. The signing of the Land Boundary Agreement in 2015 was a milestone, where the two neighbours amicably resolved a long-outstanding issue. But there are many long-standing issues.

What are the present areas of co-operation?

1. **Connectivity:** India's 'neighbourhood policy' has focussed on Bangladesh, which has emerged as a key interlocutor in India's 'Act East Policy' and sub-regional groupings like BIMSTEC and the BBIN Initiative. The Padma multipurpose bridge and the Akhaura-Agartala rail link will dramatically change connectivity within Bangladesh and with India.
2. **Cyberspace:** Bangladesh has provided cyber connectivity between the international gateway at Cox's Bazar to Agartala for faster Internet connectivity in India's northeastern States.
3. **Energy:** India has also become a partner in Bangladesh's nuclear power programme, with the beginning of construction at the Rooppur nuclear power plant. India is poised to export around 1100 MW of power to meet the energy deficit in Bangladesh.
4. **Trade:** Bangladesh is India's largest trading partner in South Asia with an annual turnover of around \$9 billion plus an estimated informal trade of around \$8-9 billion. To enable more Bangladeshi exports to flow into India, duty free entry was granted in 2011 under the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA).
5. **Credit:** Indian investment in Bangladesh has reached \$3 billion. To offset the economic asymmetry, India has granted Bangladesh generous lines of credit (LOCs) and grants, with commitments reaching \$8 billion. While LOCs flow into infrastructure and connectivity projects, grants flow into social sector development.
6. **Tourism:** Over a million visas are issued to Bangladeshi citizens by India annually. Both countries have signed Revised Travel Arrangement 2018 (RTA 2018) for further liberalising the visa regime, including enhanced duration for employment and student visas.

Issues Influencing Relations:

1. **Illegal trade:** The porous borders are often used as a route for smuggling food items, livestock, drugs and medicines from India to Bangladesh.
2. **Water Dispute:** India and Bangladesh share 54 trans-border rivers, varying in sizes. There is major dispute and a bone of contention over India's plans to construct and operate the Farakka Barrage. The inadequate water during the lean season is unable to meet the assessed demands in the two countries became the root cause of conflict between bordering countries.

3. **Illegal Migrations:** Illegal migration has been the most problematic issue between these two countries. Since 1971, when war of independence broke out that led to the creation of Bangladesh, millions of Bangladeshi immigrants (the vast majority of them illegal) crossed into the neighbouring states in India.
4. **Security Concerns:** Over the years, insurgency has strained the relations between India and Bangladesh. Since 1956, Northeast India has been the worst hit region facing insurgency due to growing ethnic separatism among the inhabitants. Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), National Liberation of Tripura (NLFT) and National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFM) are major insurgent groups that have created an atmosphere of terror in Northeast India.

Where should the future focus lie?

1. Ties on basis of cooperation, coordination and consolidation should move forward and should aim better economic ties and relations.
2. The Rohingya issue has imposed a huge economic and security burden on Bangladesh. Thus issue should be resolved bilaterally.
3. India, on its part, published the draft National Register of Citizens in Assam to account genuine Indian citizens residing in Assam and to curb the flow of illegal migrants in the future. Thus the illegal migrants issue, along with sharing of river waters, will require deft handling of bilateral ties between the two countries.
4. Also, China's security and economic footprint has grown in South Asia and managing this will remain a challenge for both countries. While Bangladesh is overwhelmingly dependent on military hardware from China, India has provided a \$500 million LOC for procurement of defence-related goods from India.

In any case, course has changed after the difference in government in India, which advocates a solid 'neighbourhood first' outside approach. We need to go past the geopolitical impulses and move towards more concrete provincial collaboration like what the Europeans and Southeast Asians are doing. The shared colonial legacy, history and socio-cultural bonds demand that the political leadership of the two countries inject momentum into India-Bangladesh relations.

Q.43) Discuss various provisions of disqualifications under Representation of people's Act. Do you think these provisions has helped in decriminalising Indian politics?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Provisions of disqualification under Representation of Peoples Act 1951. Whether these provisions has helped in decriminalising Indian politics or not?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Democracy in form of representation of people exists in India. The members of the legislature are mandated to represent the aspirations and concerns of the people whom they represent.

The very spirit and objective of democracy could be lost if India continues to suffer at the hands of corrupt law-makers who are a liability to the society. In addition to this, India stands witness to an alarmingly high number of people with criminal background who have polluted Indian polity. Although there are provisions of disqualification under Representation of Peoples Act 1951, criminalisation of politics is still and issue in India.

Provisions of disqualification under Representation of Peoples Act 1951:

Section 8 deals with disqualification of representatives on conviction for certain offences. A person can be disqualified on below grounds:

1. Disqualification on conviction for certain election offences and corrupt practices in the election.
2. A person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years.
3. Disqualification on the ground of corrupt practices.
4. Disqualification for dismissal for corruption or disloyalty.
5. Disqualification for office under Government Company.
6. Disqualification for failure to lodge account of election expenses.
7. Disqualification for promoting enmity between different groups or for the offence of bribery.
8. A person must not have been punished for preaching and practicing social crimes such as Untouchability, Dowry, Sati etc.

Disqualification under Representation of people Act, 1951 and criminalised politics:

1. It is the Representation of People Act which specifies what can disqualify an individual from contesting an election. The law does not bar individuals who have criminal cases pending against them from contesting elections.
2. The disqualification of candidates with criminal cases depends on their conviction in involved cases. With cases dragging in courts for years, a disqualification based on conviction becomes ineffective.
3. Low conviction rates in such cases compounds the problem. The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) in their report from 2014 reported that 30% of sitting MPs and MLAs were facing some form of criminal proceedings, and only 0.5% were convicted of criminal charges in a court of law.
4. Politicians are able to influence the witness and whistleblowers through power and money, thereby diluting the cases against them.

Thus mere disqualification under RPA, has not been able to decriminalise politics in India. Free and fair elections are the hallmark of a well functioning democracy. While we are justifiably proud of our democracy, there are a number of areas which need to be strengthened for us to realize the true potential of a well functioning democracy. Our election system, from the selection of candidates, to the manner in which funds are raised and spent in election campaigns, are in dire need of significant changes. There is need of a robust system to prevent criminals from entering polity in India.

Q.44) Examine the doctrine of basic structure. Discuss its evolution and significance.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Evolution and significance of basic structure of constitution.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The basic structure doctrine, termed as Judicial Innovation evolved by the SC is a Judicial principle that states that the core underlying features termed basic are not subjected to the amending power of the legislature under article 368. Though the court did not explicitly define what are those principles few of them can be derived from various SC judgements over the years like supremacy of the COI, Rule of law, judicial review, federalism, secularism, Fundamental rights, Article 32, balance between FR and DPSP etc. and are not static but dynamic and continuously evolving.

Basic Structure doctrine:

1. Doctrine of Basic Structure': It was propounded by the Indian Judiciary on 24th April 1973 in Keshavananda Bharati case to put a limitation on the amending

powers of the Parliament so that the 'basic structure of the basic law of the land' cannot be amended in exercise of its 'constituent power' under the Constitution.

2. Basic structure though is not exactly defined but through its contents which have been provided by the judiciary clarifies a scope defining the frame or the structure of the constitution. Some of its constituents are Rule of law, Sovereignty, liberty and republic nature of Indian polity, judicial review, Separation of power, secularism, and Republic nature of India etc.

Evolution of the Basic Structure: The word "Basic Structure" is not mentioned in the constitution of India. The concept developed gradually with the interference of the judiciary from time to time to protect the basic rights of the people and the ideals and the philosophy of the constitution.

1. The First Constitution Amendment Act, 1951 was challenged in the Shankari Prasad vs. Union of India case. The amendment was challenged on the ground that it violates the Part-III of the constitution and therefore, should be considered invalid. The Supreme Court held that the Parliament, under Article 368, has the power to amend any part of the constitution including fundamental rights.
2. In Golak Nath vs State of Punjab case in 1967, the Supreme Court overruled its earlier decision. The Supreme Court held that the Parliament has no power to amend Part III of the constitution as the fundamental rights are transcendental and immutable. According to the Supreme Court ruling, Article 368 only lays down the procedure to amend the constitution and does not give absolute powers to the parliament to amend any part of the constitution.
3. The Parliament, in 1971, passed the 24th Constitution Amendment Act. The act gave the absolute power to the parliament to make any changes in the constitution including the fundamental rights. It also made it obligatory for the President to give his assent on all the Constitution Amendment bills sent to him.
4. In 1973, in Kesavananda Bharti vs. State of Kerala case, the Supreme Court upheld the validity of the 24th Constitution Amendment Act by reviewing its decision in Golaknath case. The Supreme Court held that the Parliament has power to amend any provision of the constitution, but doing so, the basic structure of the constitution is to be maintained. But the Apex Court did not any clear definition of the basic structure. It held that the basic structure of the Constitution could not be abrogated even by a constitutional amendment.

Significance of basic structure:

1. The basic structure doctrine is a testimony to the theory of Constitutionalism to prevent the damage to essence of COI by brute majority of the ruling majority.
2. The basic doctrine saved the Indian democracy as it acts as a limitation of constituent power or else unlimited power of parliament might have turned India into a totalitarian
3. It helps us to retain the basic tenets of our constitution so meticulously framed by the founding fathers of our Constitution.
4. It certainly saved Indian democracy from degenerating into authoritarian regime.
5. It strengthens our democracy by delineating a true separation of power where Judiciary is independent of other two organs. It has also given immense untold unbridled power to Supreme Court and made it the most powerful court in the world
6. By restraining the amending powers of legislative organ of State, it provided basic Rights to Citizens which no organ of State can overrule.
7. Being dynamic in nature, it is more progressive and open to changes in time unlike the rigid nature of earlier judgements.

The basic structure doctrine though subject to intense debate from the date of its inception and lack of textual basis of the same still continues to hold forte to hold up delicate constitutional balance of powers.

Q.45) "The claim that there can be a neat insulation of internal issues of a country from global concerns is antithetical to the rationale of all global institutions." In light of discuss how India should tackle Pakistan's false narratives on Jammu and Kashmir at various global platforms.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How India should tackle Pakistan's false narratives on Jammu and Kashmir?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Isolating a rogue regime requires assiduous lobbying so that no country buys Pakistan's denials of complicity in terrorism or its narrative of a freedom struggle in Kashmir. But these steps are in themselves insufficient to deter a garrison state like Pakistan where the military controls policy making and is ideologically predisposed to harm India at any cost. Thus India need to tackle Pakistan more vigorously at international forums.

How India should tackle Pakistan's false narratives on Jammu and Kashmir?

1. India should expose Pakistan by presenting facts, figures and statistics about Pakistan's history in keeping human rights intact.
2. It is important for India that it should deal with Pakistan as a mature democracy and nation to secure its sovereign interests.
3. A detailed Plan of Action (PoA) to counter Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir at the United Nations and other forums is needed.
4. India should employ online propaganda techniques to reach out to ordinary Pakistanis and mould their opinions about the venality, corruption and brutality of their own military establishment, which has repeatedly caused ruin.
5. Government should appoint permanent envoys to travel the globe and disseminate reams of proof of Pakistan's complicity in terrorism to foreign leaders, intelligence agencies and news media.
6. As victims of cross-border terrorism, Indians assume that everyone around the world is already fully familiar with how thuggish military-run and jihadi-infested Pakistan is and how righteous secular and democratic India is. But isolating a rogue regime requires assiduous lobbying and convincing so that no country buys Pakistan's denials of complicity in terrorism or its narrative of a "freedom struggle" in Kashmir.
7. More such strategic interventions are necessary. Government should keep leveraging India's booming economy to get influential Islamic nations to invest and trade with India.
8. Western countries in charge of IMF should be swayed to impose terrorism and democracy-related conditionalities on Pakistan for receiving economic bailouts.
9. The government has spurred partner countries to grey-list Pakistan for terror financing under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Such endeavours have to be significantly scaled up.

It is important for India to think and act systematically. It is time to leave no stone unturned to protect our sovereign interests. It is important to deface terrorist supporting nations at international forums in their own hands.

Q.46) "Despite of deep ties, India and Sri Lanka have seen some unpleasantness in bilateral relations in contemporary times.". Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Relations with Sri-lanka and various issues.

Conclusion. Way forward.

The relationship between India and Sri Lanka is more than 2,500 years old. Both countries have a legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious and linguistic interaction. The relationship has been marked by close contacts at all levels. Trade and investment have grown and there is cooperation in the fields of infrastructure development, education, culture and defence. But there are times when relations between two countries hit a blow.

Relations with Sri-Lanka:

1. **Cultural Relations:** The People of Indian Origin (PIOs) who have settled down in Sri Lanka and are engaged in various business ventures. The Cultural Cooperation Agreement has been signed between both the countries. The Indian Cultural Centre in Colombo actively promotes awareness of Indian culture by offering classes in Indian music, dance, Hindi, and Yoga. Every year, cultural troops from both countries exchange visits. Buddhism is a connecting link between India and Sri Lanka on religious lines.
2. **Education:** Education is another important area of cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. India offers scholarship slots annually to deserving Sri Lankan students.
3. **Tourism:** Tourism also forms an important link between India and Sri Lanka. India is the largest source of market for Sri Lankan tourism.
4. **Trade Relations:** Sri Lanka is India's second largest trading partner in SAARC. India and Sri Lanka signed FTA in 1998, which facilitated increased trade relations between the two countries.
5. **Defence and Security Cooperation:** Sri Lanka and New Delhi have long history of security cooperation. In recent years, the two sides have steadily increased their military-to-military relationship. India and Sri Lanka conducts joint Military ('Mitra Shakti') and Naval exercise (SLINEX). India also provides defence training to Sri Lankan forces. A trilateral maritime security cooperation agreement was signed by India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives to improve surveillance, anti-piracy operations and reducing maritime pollution in Indian Ocean Region.

Issues and Conflicts In India-Srilanka relations:

1. **Strategic Issues:** In the period of low profile relationship between the two nations, SL apparently started favouring China over India. The presence of China in Sri Lanka increased significantly in the recent years. As part of Maritime Silk Route (MSR) policy, China built two ports, one in Colombo and another in Hambantota. China has also collaborated in satellite launching activities with Supreme SAT (Pvt.), Sri Lanka's only satellite operator.
2. **Fisherman Problem:** Fishing disputes have been a constant area of concern between the two South Asian neighbours for a long time. Sri Lanka has long expressed concerns about illegal fishing by Indian fishermen within its territorial waters across the Palk Strait. The country regularly arrests Indian fishermen for crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) that demarcates Indian and Sri Lankan waters. India also detains Sri Lankan fishermen for the illegal fishing.
3. **Katchatheevu Island:** It is an uninhabited island that India ceded to Sri Lanka in 1974 based on a conditional agreement called "Katchatheevu island pact". The

central government recognises Sri Lanka's sovereignty over the island as per the 1974 accord. But Tamil Nadu claimed that Katchatheevu falls under the Indian territory and Tamil fishermen have traditionally believed that it belongs to them and therefore want to preserve the right to fish there.

Given the proximity of the territorial waters of both countries, especially in the Palk Straits and the Gulf of Mannar, incidents of straying of fishermen are common. As both countries have a democratic setup there is scope for broadening and deepening the ties. Both countries should try to work out a permanent solution to the issue of fishermen through bilateral engagements. Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) must be signed to improve the economic cooperation between both countries .

General Studies – 3

Q.1) What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is MSP?

Body. How MSP help farmers from low income trap?

Conclusion. Way forward.

MSP is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices during bumper production years. The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution. It is the price at which government purchases crops for the farmers, to safeguard the interests of the farmers. It is an important part of India's agricultural price policy. It supports the food security program through PDS and also gives sufficient remuneration to the farmers.

MSP help in rescuing farmers from low income trap in the following ways:

1. **Fixed Remunerations:** The farmers are financially secured against the vagaries of price instability in the market.
2. **Diversification of crops:** The MSP announced by the Government of India for the first time in 1966-67 for wheat has been extended to around 24 crops at the present. This will encourage the farmers to grow these diverse crops to maximise their income.
3. **Prevents Distress-Sale:** Farmer rarely has surplus savings for buying inputs for the next cropping season. Access to credit (loans) is also difficult for small and marginal farmers. So, they are forced into distress-sale of produce at throw-away prices, and are not able to buy high quality seeds, fertilisers, pesticides & tractor-rent for next cropping season, which will further decrease their income from the next cycle. MSP prevents this phenomenon.
4. **Helps informed decision making:** Government announces MSP before the sowing season for 23 crops including cereals, pulses, oilseeds & certain cash crops. This advance information helps the farmer to make an informed decision about which crop to sow for maximum economic benefit within the limitations of his farm size, climate and irrigation facilities.
5. **Acts as a benchmark for private buyers:** MSP sends a price-signal to market that if merchants don't offer higher than MSP prices the farmer may not sell them his produce. Thus it acts as an anchor or benchmark for agro-commodity market. While it doesn't guarantee that market prices will also be higher than MSP, but atleast it ensures the market prices will not drastically lower than MSP.

However, a lot is yet to be done as far as MSPs for different crops are concerned. Besides increased quantum and diversification of MSPs, the procurement of food grains must also be streamlined in order to sustain investment in agriculture and ensure food security in the country.

Q.2) Discuss the threat of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) to India. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Discuss the danger of LWE in India. What is Indian Government approach to

counter the challenges posed by LWE.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Left Wing Extremism or Naxal Movement has been the source of extreme violence in some parts of the country. These extremists are internally waging wars against the state. It is considered to be the most important security concern. These extremist movements have disconnected several tribal villages from the national main stream. They want abolition of state to establish the rule of people. These extremists attack the symbols of the country's power such as the police, schools and other government institutions.

Danger of LWE in India:

1. They threaten the locals before the conduct of elections and prevent them from voting. Violating the principle of participative democracy.
2. They resort to violence through their guerrilla tactics and attempt to setup their own government in the local villages.
3. They destroy the roads, transport system and government resources, thereby creating hindrance in governance and last mile connectivity. The poor are deprived further.
4. Urban Naxals, who sometimes operate under the cloak of NGOs or social-work units, raise questions about the use of force by government machinery. This helps them build a strong bastion of sympathisers and volunteers in towns and cities and across social media.
5. They resort to extortion, abduction of important personalities like Politicians, bureaucrats, police etc and put up their demand.
6. They hire vulnerable people who have low literacy levels, unemployed or low income, particularly the tribals, who aren't aware of consequences of joining such forces, building up their cadre.
7. They also have nexus with politicians, they find this as a medium to put up their demands through voices of Politicians.
8. They attack the police, government and collect weapons, technological devices to fight against them on technological front.

Government of India's approach to counter LWE:

1. The Government's approach is to deal with Left Wing Extremism in a holistic manner, in the areas of security, development, ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities, improvement in governance and public perception management.
2. The foremost focus of Government is to strengthen the connectivity in these areas so as to improve its engagement with the rest of the country. Infrastructural enhancements like road, railways and airport construction, instalment of mobile towers are taking place. For example- National Policy and Action Plan.
3. Smart Leadership and better coordination with the State governments is being encouraged by the Government to expand its reach in the LWE affected areas.
4. An aggressive strategy is being followed to modernise and strengthen the capacity of armed forces.
5. Special emphasis is being laid on the implementation of Forest Rights Act and ensuring entitlement of local communities over Minor Forest Produce.
6. To stop the maintenance and sustained survival of Left Wing Extremism, the Government is attempting to block Left Wing Extremist outfits' access to financing.
7. Surrender-cum-Rehabilitation Scheme is being implemented to ensure militants' rehabilitation and return to the mainstream.

8. To counter the ideological effect of Left Wing Extremism on people, gaps between Security Forces and local people are being bridged through close interactions, Tribal Youth Exchange programmes, radio jingles, documentaries, pamphlets etc.
9. The Union Home Minister enunciated an integrated strategy through which the LWE can be countered with full force and competence. The new strategy is called SAMADHAN, which is a compilation of short term and long term policies formulated at different levels.

As per reports, the total area affected by Naxalism has shrunk to 90 districts of the country from 165 districts and at least 122 Maoists have been killed across the country in the first six months of 2018 which is highest in past eight years. So, it is true to say that the trajectory of LWE has been showing a downward trend.

Q.3) Discuss the role of higher education institutes like IITs, IIMs in achieving \$5 trillion dollar economic goal.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. How higher education institutes like IITs, IIMs can help in achieving \$5 trillion dollar economic goal?

Conclusion. Way forward.

India has one of the largest higher education systems in the world. However, there is still a lot of potential for further development in the education system. Education provides a foundation for development, the ground work on which much of our economic and social well-being is built. It is the key to increasing economic efficiency and social consistency. It helps to ensure that a country is competitive in world markets now characterized by changing technologies and production methods.

How higher education institutes like IITs, IIMs can help in achieving \$5 trillion dollar economic goal?

1. **By creating a quality workforce:** The modern workplace is in a constant state of evolution. Even within the last decade, job roles and the skills required to succeed in them have changed enormously, with technological advancements being a key factor. The higher education sector is pivotal in delivering training to people at all stages of their careers, from students and recent graduates to senior managers.
2. **Skilled manpower:** Skills training has an immensely positive impact on the wider economy. A well-trained, highly-skilled workforce is better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the modern workplace. Staff with the right expertise work more efficiently and confidently than those struggling to keep up with the changing demands of their roles. Ultimately, a skilled workforce increases productivity, boosts output, and propels growth in the wider economy.
3. **Drive Innovation:** A key role of higher education institutions is to drive innovation, with the aim of finding solutions to global challenges in areas that matter to society, such as healthcare, environmental protection, resource security, international development, and population trends.
4. **By Increasing Employability:** Applicants are faced with a highly-competitive job market, in which their qualifications might not be enough to secure the kind of work they desire. As the economy moves further toward competency-based recruitment, with its focus on skills and experience over pure academics, graduates and established professionals must be armed with the tools they need to find and succeed at work. Higher education institutions are critically important.

5. **Upskill Existing Workforces:** As digitisation changes the landscape for working professionals, higher education can provide them with the opportunity to enhance their existing knowledge and learn new skills. For employers, this has a positive impact on productivity, output, and staff morale. It also helps companies to drive efficiency and thus profitability.
6. **Boost Graduate Earning Power:** Graduates with the right knowledge and skills have the ability to demand higher salaries, as they are equipped to make significant contributions to the revenue and growth of the companies they work for. This feeds back into the rankings and employment prospects lists, strengthening the reputation of universities as both centres of innovation and places where the future of the economy is made.
7. **Collaborate Between Education and Business:** In the last decade, there has been substantial growth in the number of research deals between companies and universities. It's helpful for universities and their collaborative partners in industry to be geographically close in order to create research hubs that attract the best academics and continued industrial investment.
8. **Feed into a Knowledge-Based Economy:** A knowledge-based economy is characterized by dependence on a highly-skilled, well-educated, and technically-minded workforce. It makes use of advancements in technology alongside intellectual capital to move away from material consumption and aim toward an economy built on knowledge and data. The higher education sector is a natural partner to the knowledge-based economy. As the source of advanced learning and new information from research, universities help train the workforce of tomorrow while supporting the innovations of today. Knowledge creation has been identified by economists as a key driver of economic growth.

The higher education sector has a wide-ranging, proven influence on the economy. Its confluence with business provides commercial value to innovation, while academic instruction and skills training help individuals and organizations to have the tools to succeed in a knowledge-based economy. Thus higher institutions are important for achieving \$5 trillion economy mark.

Q.4) "Trade strengthens peace and there needs to be a revised strategy towards restarting cross-Line of Control trade." Comment

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Impact of India-Pakistan tussle on cross-loc trade. Why cross-loc trade is important? What are the trade facilitation measures need to be taken? **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The India-Pakistan face-off in the recent period is having more repercussions than intended, with border economies the worst hit. In February 2019, in the wake of the Pulwama attack, India decided to withdraw the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan.

Hard hit cross-loc trade:

1. The impact of the escalating tensions has trickled down to trade relations between both the countries, much severe this time.
2. In 2018-19, bilateral trade between India and Pakistan was valued at \$2.5 billion which has come down.
3. India's decision in regards with the withdrawal of MFN status and imposition of 200% duty has hurt Pakistan's exports to India.

4. The exports fell from an average of \$45 million per month in 2018 to \$2.5 million per month in the last 4 months.
5. With Pakistan deciding to completely suspend bilateral trade, cotton exports from India to Pakistan might get affected the most, eventually hurting Pakistan's textiles.
6. Decision on India-Pakistan trade has a direct impact on the local economy and the people of Amritsar. Since February 2019, estimatedly, 5,000 families have been directly affected in Amritsar because of breadwinner dependence on bilateral trade.

Why cross-line of control trade is important?

1. The trade measure enable converting social interconnectedness into commercial interdependence of the two similar yet separate sides of the LoC.
2. In all, the LoC trade rise to hope in the virtuous cycle between trade, trust and people-to-people connect, building bridges and reconnecting communities
3. The Cross-LoC trade is much more than a mere commodity exchange as the sentiments of the people attached to it kept it successful.
4. Importantly, cross-LoC trade help to connect the two divided sides of Jammu and Kashmir.
5. It, thereby, is important to create a constituency of peace in an otherwise tense region.

What are the trade facilitation measures need to be taken?

1. Given the present situation in J&K, it is imperative that India plans an outreach connecting all stakeholders including the ecosystem of cross-LoC trade.
2. Besides, there is a need for a revised strategy towards the re-initiation of cross-LoC trade.
3. The lack of transparency needs to be addressed in the complete ecosystem. The measures could include standard operating procedure, invoicing, GST norms, and trader registration.
4. Other steps to address the long-standing concerns around cross-LoC trade include:
 - Clarifications on harmonised system codes to avoid misrepresentation of commodities.
 - Rules of origin to avoid third country goods.
 - GST rates and inter-State taxation rules to avoid tax evasions.
5. A trader registration policy to ensure that credible traders are involved in the trade
6. Digitisation of systems and procedures at the trade facilitation centres is another important step to help take LoC trade to the next level.

Until the trade suspension, both bus links and trade had survived for more than a decade despite intermittent suspensions and ceasefire violations. The current suspension of LoC trade could be seen as a window of opportunity to address the concerns hitherto unaddressed. The cross-LOC trade should be revived in a stronger and more organised manner. In its new avatar, Cross-LoC trade could continue to prove the value of a peace-through-trade policy, and one that has stood the test of time globally.

Q.5) “Any long-term solution to the problem of unemployment to which the slowing growth of the economy is related must start with agricultural production.” Comment

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Why focus on agriculture production is important to tackle unemployment? What should be done?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Growth has slowed for the past few quarters. Figures reported in the report of the last Periodic Labour Force Survey point to a dramatic rise in the unemployment rate since 2011-12. Rural incomes are growing so slowly. The low productivity of agriculture is one of the reason and thus need to be focused to reduce unemployment in India.

Why focus on agriculture production is important to tackle unemployment?

1. The rural population focus is important because of their low incomes. The future growth of demand for much of industrial production is likely to come from there.
2. The high unemployment rate for ‘Rural Males’ does suggest that unemployment is mainly due to lack of focus on rural stimulus.
3. A focus on agricultural production is important as it would help in stimulating demand in market that would boost economy and would lead to employment.
4. Unstable agricultural production first lowers the demand for agricultural labour and, subsequently, its supply, showing up in greater unemployment.
5. It has been pointed out that the investment rate has declined. When non-agricultural firms observe slow agricultural growth, industrialist likely to reduce their investment plans. Thus, attempting to influence the private investment rate is to only deal with a symptom. It is rural income generation that is the problem.
6. Farming and the food industry sustain a significant proportion of employment and income. In recent decades, a number of trends in agribusiness have reduced the capacity of those activities to sustain employment.
7. Unemployment rates are generally significantly higher in rural than in urban regions. In rural areas, it is estimated that “hidden unemployment” (involving underemployed farmers and farm workers) is higher than in urban areas.

What should be done?

1. A decentralisation of food processing, packaging and marketing functions could bring new employment to rural cities creating local value-added.
2. The main economic challenges for young entrepreneurs and small farms are access to farming resources (such as land and capital) and access to markets, particularly in terms of bargaining power in the food chain. Such bottlenecks should be removed.
3. The new communication technologies and infrastructures, like the Internet, have made numerous jobs independent of the place they are performed. These technologies also give access to knowledge, consultancy services and to the world market. Rural cities, or individuals living in rural areas, can thus offer their products, skills and services to a broader market. Thus digitisation drive should reach rural areas and remote places.
4. By developing strong partnerships, local producers can engage in 'cooperation', or the sharing of resources from equipment to ideas while operating as competing individuals.

Agri-food production still plays an important role in terms of GDP, employment and environmental sustainability. When implemented successfully, a local food system can have a positive impact on three critical levels: environmental sustainability, economic viability

and social equity. Acting on these three critical levels generates opportunities for young workers to start up new business, create qualified jobs, improve their quality of life and wellbeing, strengthen their sense of belonging and integrate them into the community.

Q.6) What do you understand by the term 'genome sequencing'? Discuss its Importance and associated challenges wrt genome sequencing in India

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is genome sequencing?

Body. Discuss its significance and related challenges wrt genome sequencing.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Genome sequencing is process of figuring out the order of DNA nucleotides, or bases, in a genome that make up an organism's DNA. The human genome is made up of over 3 billion of these genetic letters.

Significance of human genome sequencing:

1. **Determining gene-disease link:** Human genome sequencing is important to establish link between certain disease and the unique genetic make-up of each individual. Genomic sequencing can provide information on genetic variants that can lead to disease or can increase the risk of disease development, even in asymptomatic people.
2. **Better understanding of cancer:** While genes may render some insensitive to certain drugs, genome sequencing has shown that cancer too can be understood from the viewpoint of genetics, rather than being seen as a disease of certain organs.
3. **Mapping population diversity:** Participants of genome-sample collections represent diversity of the country's population.
4. **Better diagnostic and treatment:** The primary purpose of sequencing one's genome is to obtain information of medical value for future care. For people experiencing a health-impacting condition, DNA sequencing can provide a precise diagnosis which might affect the medical management of symptoms, or provide treatment options.
5. **Drug efficacy:** Another advantage of genome sequencing is that information regarding drug efficacy or adverse effects of drug use can be obtained. The relationship between drugs and the genome is called pharmacogenomics.

Challenges and issues related to genome sequencing:

1. How accurately and reliably genome sequencing measures genome variants is a big challenge.
2. The role of most of the genes in the human genome is still unknown or incompletely understood. Therefore, a lot of the "information" found in a human genome sequence is unusable at present.
3. Most physicians are not trained in how to interpret genomic data.
4. An individual's genome may contain information that they DON'T want to know. For example, a patient has genome sequencing performed to determine the most effective treatment plan for high cholesterol. In the process, researchers discover an unrelated allele that assures a terminal disease with no effective treatment.
5. The volume of information contained in a genome sequence is vast. Policies and security measures to maintain the privacy and safety of this information are still new.
6. The introduction of whole genome sequencing may have ethical implications. Genetic testing has potential downsides such as genetic discrimination, loss of anonymity, and psychological impacts.

Given the benefits of genome sequencing, it will help in better understanding of human body and processes and will help in treating earlier untreatable diseases. Although there are some issues and challenges but these can be handled and resolved. CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) plans to undertake genome sequencing to determine unique genetic traits, susceptibility (and resilience) to disease which will help Indian citizens.

Q.7) Examine the need and role of a robust coastal ecosystem in India's economic growth and security.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Significance of robust coastal ecosystem for India economy. Major constraints in developing coastal ecosystem in India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

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

Significance of robust coastal ecosystem for India economy:

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

7. **Energy security:** The main energy resources present in Indian Ocean are petroleum and gas hydrates. Petroleum products mainly includes the oil produced from offshore regions. Gas hydrates are unusually compact chemical structures made of water and natural gas. Along with this tidal energy is also important that would provide electricity to locals.
8. **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.
9. **Efficient transportation and logistics:** Coastal ecosystem require development of infrastructure around the coasts. Coasts are major gateway of trade. Better connectivity in the region will significantly cut the transport cost and will reduce logistics inefficiencies.

Major constraints in developing coastal ecosystem in India:

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

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

Q.8) Discuss why just providing subsidised food is not suffice to tackle hunger issue in India? What else need to be done to end hunger problem in India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Hunger issue in India. Why hunger still persists? What should be done?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Despite rapid economic growth and food being subsidised, many in India remain hungry without access to adequate food and nutrition. Many children are stunted, i.e. are less tall than expected for their age. Faced with learning difficulties and limited employment opportunities as they grow older, they often face a life of poverty. A rising population coupled with changing climates further add to hunger issue.

Issue of hunger in India:

1. Malnutrition amongst children in India is projected to remain high, despite of all the progress made in food security.
2. Almost one in three Indian children under five years will still be malnourished by 2022 going by current trends.
3. Access to food has not increased. Food-grain yields have risen 33% over the last two decades, but are still only half of 2030 target yields
4. The consumer's access to rice, wheat and other cereals has not increased at the same rate, due to population growth, inequality, food wastage and losses, and exports.

5. Despite positive trends and patterns in improving food security, the prevalence of hunger in India remains high, with many people, especially women and children, suffering from micronutrient deficiency.

Why hunger persist still all the efforts?

1. **Poverty:** Poverty is far from being eradicated. It is estimated 23.6% of Indian population, or about 276 million people, is living below \$1.25 per day on purchasing power parity. Poverty alone does not lead to malnutrition, but it seriously affects the availability of adequate amounts of nutritious food for the most vulnerable populations.
2. **Lack of access to food:** Most major food and nutrition crises do not occur because of a lack of food, but rather because people are too poor to obtain enough food. Non-availability of food in markets, difficult access to markets due to lack of transportation, and insufficient financial resources are all factors contributing to the food insecurity of the most vulnerable populations.
3. **Lack of safe drinking water:** Water is synonymous with life. Lack of potable water, poor sanitation, and dangerous hygiene practices increase vulnerability to infectious and water-borne diseases, and are direct causes of acute malnutrition.
4. **Climate change:** In 30 years, the number of natural disasters — droughts, cyclones, floods, etc. linked to climate change has increased substantially. The effects of climate change are often dramatic, devastating areas which are already vulnerable. Infrastructure is damaged or destroyed; diseases spread quickly; people can no longer grow crops or raise livestock. The decline in agricultural production caused either directly or indirectly by climate change would dramatically increase the number of people suffering from hunger in the coming years.
5. **Multidimensional nature:** Hunger and the related under nutrition is the result of various associated factors ranging from water, sanitation, access to food items. A person's 'nutritional quotient' is also dependent demographic factors like gender, caste, age, etc. For instance, the nutritional needs of girl child's and elderly are not adequately addressed in our society.
6. **Ineffective implementation:** Another important reason behind the persistent hunger is the poor implementation of the schemes and policies. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and the National Health Mission (NHM) have not achieved the adequate coverage.

What should be done to resolve hunger issue?

1. Farmers should be encouraged and incentivised for agricultural diversification.
2. Innovative and low-cost farming technologies, increase in the irrigation coverage and enhancing knowledge of farmers in areas such as appropriate use of land and water should be encouraged to improve the sustainability of food productivity.
3. The government should improve policy support for improving agricultural produce of traditional crops in the country.
4. Storage capacity should be improved to prevent post-harvest losses.
5. The targeting efficiency of all food safety nets should be improved, especially that of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), to ensure that the poorest are included.
6. In addition, fortification of government-approved commodities within the social safety net programmes can improve nutritional outcomes.
7. Child feeding practices should be improved in the country, especially at the critical ages when solid foods are introduced to the diet.

8. Fortification, diversification and supplementation may be used as simultaneous strategies to address micro and macronutrient deficiencies.

Goal 2 of the 2030 Sustainable Development agenda seeks to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition and double agricultural productivity in the next 15 years. There is a need for more robust measures that can take cognisance of all aspects of SDG 2. All the major welfare programmes need to be gender sensitive. Ensuring this sustainable access to nutritious food universally will require sustainable food production and agricultural practices.

Q.9) "In the world of intelligence, information is the principal currency." In this context illustrate how information plays an important role in security of any nation?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Significance of right information for internal security.

Conclusion. Way forward.

With rising threats of terrorism, fake news and propagandas by other states, role of information, data, surveillance and intelligence has ever increased in a society. It is important for the security of a nation to gather right information and to act on it to prevent any attack. Failure of information is not only hazardous but can lead to other attacks similar to Mumbai attacks or 9/11.

Significance of right information for internal security:

1. **Deter any attacks or threats:** At the state level, intelligence may help to save lives. It is important to prevent wars, attacks and terrorism, and hence save lives.
2. **To develop intelligence:** It must be noted that 'information' and 'intelligence' are two different terms. The latter is produced by a process of analysis or evaluation of the former. Thus right information is must for intelligence services and secure our nation.
3. **To prevent security lapse:** The events of the past decades- 9/11, Iraq 2003 and Mumbai attacks- indicate that the failure of intelligence and information structures and processes which are still not error-free.
4. **Regulating unregulated domain:** Social media platforms are self-regulated as government does not regulate content appearing on social network platforms. Hence due diligence and information of radical elements on social media is need of the hour.
5. **Organised crime:** Information about organised crime is a tool for facilitating related threats of terrorism and propagandas like efforts to provoke extremism, money laundering, violence and crime.
6. **Neutralising terrorist activities:** Surveillance is important to counter possible terrorist activities by offering better information on potential terror attacks.
7. **Policy making:** Information provides the basis for policy or decisions and allow people, organizations and states, to act rationally. Policy is usually formulated based on principles or grounded in ideologies. Information help in formulating an objective and rational policy related to national security.
8. **Drug trafficking and other crimes:** Also, intelligence based on information is must to disrupt the activities of criminal organizations that are involved in drugs, arms or people trafficking.

Information and Intelligence is not only a foundation for state policies, it has always play a significant role in informing and exercising actions that are not widely appreciated and, indeed, may actually breach domestic or international law. Intelligence agencies not only engage in rather passive activity of gathering intelligence on world affairs, but also try to intervene covertly to influence events on the basis of reliable information.

Q.10) Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing 'Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030)'. How is this framework different from 'Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005'?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Measures taken before and after signing Sendai Framework for DRR. How it is different from Hyogo Framework?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Disaster leads to sudden disruption of normal life, causing severe damage to life and property. Its origin can be natural or man-made. India due to its geography and scarce resources is more prone to Disasters. For disaster management India has enacted many guidelines and laws. It has signed Sendai Framework and earlier Hyogo Framework and continuously work towards protecting its vulnerable community.

Measures taken in India for DRR before signing Sendai Framework

1. Before signing the Sendai Framework for DRR, the Disaster Management Act was enacted in 2005, which ushered in a paradigm shift from a relief-centric approach to a more proactive regime that laid greater emphasis on preparedness, prevention and mitigation.
2. The plan also aims at maximising the ability to cope with disasters at all levels of administration as well as among communities.
3. The National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM) has been prepared in pursuance of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, which laid the framework/roadmap for handling disasters in a holistic manner.
4. In 2016, India released the country's first ever National Disaster Management Plan, a document based on the global blueprint for reducing disaster losses, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It will cover all phases of disaster management, from prevention and mitigation to response and recovery.

Measures taken in India for DRR after signing Sendai Framework

1. India recently released first ever National Disaster Management Plan, a document based on the global blueprint for reducing disaster losses, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
2. The plan is based on the four priority themes of the Sendai Framework, namely: understanding disaster risk, improving disaster risk governance, investing in disaster risk reduction (through structural and non- structural measures) and disaster preparedness, early warning and building back better in the aftermath of a disaster.
3. The plan has a regional approach, which will be beneficial not only for disaster management but also for development planning.
4. It is designed in such a way that it can be implemented in a scalable manner in all phases of disaster management.
5. It also identifies major activities such as early warning, information dissemination, medical care, fuel, transportation, search and rescue, evacuation, etc. to serve as a checklist for agencies responding to a disaster.

The difference between Hyogo Framework and Sendai Framework:

1. The Sendai Framework (2015-30) is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-15).
2. The Hyogo framework was the first plan which explained, described and detailed the work that is required from all different sectors and actors to reduce disaster losses.
3. Sendai framework recognises that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.
4. The Hyogo Framework sets five priorities for action, the first two being: governance and risk identification.
5. The Sendai Framework sets four priorities for action to be implemented at national & local levels and at global & regional levels-
6. Understanding disaster risk.
7. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk.
8. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience.
9. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

India has been traditionally vulnerable to natural disasters on account of its unique geo-climatic conditions. Floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes and landslides have been a recurrent phenomenon in the country. India has adopted the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction and the first country to have drawn a national and local strategy with a short term goal achievement target set for 2020.

Q.11) "Strengthening the manufacturing industry and increasing domestic demand are key imperatives for job creation and inclusive growth." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Reasons behind low manufacturing and low demand. Some measures to boost manufacturing and demand.

Conclusion. Way forward.

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 low manufacturing and low demand:

1. **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%.
2. **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.

3. **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.
4. **Low demand:** Low demand has led to slow economic growth and led to loss of jobs of many due to loss to companies. This is mainly due to less lower purchasing power and concentration of wealth in hands of few.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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 boost manufacturing and demand:

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. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.12) "The rise in India's ranking in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 survey is a positive development". In light of this discuss what led to this improvement? What else need to be done?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Mention recent improvements in Ease of doing business survey, 2020. Discuss various reasons for recent improvements in ease of doing business.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Recent rise in India's ranking by 14 places to 63 in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business 2020 survey is a positive development. India also figures in the top ten most improved countries in the world for the third consecutive year. From being ranked 142 in 2014 to 63 in 2020, it has been a significant upward journey for the country in a rank list that is an important input in the plans of global investors.

Recent improvements in Ease of doing business survey, 2020:

1. The latest improvement has come on the back of the implementation of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). India's rank has improved from 108 to 52 in the "resolving insolvency" category with the overall recovery rate for lenders.
2. The reforms in trade procedures and paperwork as a result of India signing the Trade Facilitation Agreement at the World Trade Organisation are beginning to show. The country's ranking in the "Trading across borders" category jumped 12 places from 80 to 68 signifying the abatement of paperwork in favour of electronic filing of documents and single-window customs procedures.
3. There has been improvement in a parameter of "Dealing with construction permits". The country's ranking has improved by 25 places from 52 to 27.

Reasons for improvements in ease of doing business:

1. **Starting a Business:** India made starting a business easier by fully integrating multiple application forms into a general incorporation form. India also replaced the value added tax with the GST (Goods and Services Tax) for which the registration process is faster. At the same time, Mumbai abolished the practice of site inspections for registering companies under the Shops and Establishments Act.
2. **Dealing with Construction Permits:** India streamlined the process of obtaining a building permit and made it faster and less expensive to obtain a construction permit. It also improved building quality control by introducing decennial liability and insurance.
3. **Getting Electricity:** The Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission reduced charges for low voltage connections. Getting electricity was also made easier in Delhi through a reduction in the time for the utility to carry out the external connection works.
4. **Getting Credit:** India strengthened access to credit by amending its insolvency law. Secured creditors are now given absolute priority over other claims within insolvency proceedings.
5. **Paying Taxes:** India made paying taxes easier by replacing many indirect taxes with a single indirect tax, the GST, for the entire country. India also made paying taxes less costly by reducing the corporate income tax rate and the employees' provident funds scheme rate paid by the employer.
6. **Trading across Borders:** India reduced the time and cost to export and import through various initiatives, including the implementation of electronic sealing of containers, the upgrading of port infrastructure and allowing electronic submission of supporting documents with digital signatures.

7. **Other reasons:** Separately, the government had also announced implementation of eBiz portal which will offer Government-to- business (G2B) services for investors and business activities, through a single window to cut time and cost and improve business environment.
 - The establishment of debt recovery tribunals in India “reduced non-performing loans by 28 percent and lowered interest rates on larger loans, suggesting that faster processing of debt recovery cases cut the cost of credit.
 - Under its National Trade Facilitation Action Plan 2017-2020, India implemented several initiatives that improved the efficiency of cross-border trade, reducing border and documentary compliance time for both exports and imports.
 - Investor facilitation cell created under the Invest India agency.
8. Government of India has also started to rank its 36 states and Union Territories “to further promote Ease of Doing Business” in the country which is promoting Competitive Federalism.

More efforts needed:

1. While the improvements are impressive and the rise in overall rankings in the last few years is noteworthy, the fact is that India is still below its competitors for global capital, particularly China, which at rank 31 is one level above France.
2. The country lags in key metrics such as “Starting a business”, “Enforcing contracts” and “Registering property”.

Although, it is not easy to streamline processes across the country given India's federal set up where States have a big say in several parameters that go into the ranking such as securing building permits, land approvals, electricity connections, registering assets etc. Yet, this is the ideal that the country should be striving for. The Centre must convince the States to reform their systems.

Q.13) Discuss the issue of air pollution in India. Despite of various efforts why government has failed to control air pollution menace in India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Mention Air pollution Scenario in India. Various Causes of Air Pollution in India. Why government efforts has failed to control air pollution menace in India?

Conclusion. Way forward.

With every winter there is news of elevated pollution levels in the national capital. The problem of pollution disrupts not only the NCR area but many other prominent urban areas like Allahabad and Ludhiana which figure above Delhi in the pollution ranking across the world.

Air pollution Scenario in India:

1. According to WHO, of the 20 most polluted cities in the world, the top 14 are Indian cities. These include Kanpur, Faridabad, Varanasi, Delhi, etc.
2. The Environmental Performance Index (released by World Economic Forum) ranked India 178th out of 180 countries in terms of air quality.
3. According to Central Pollution Control Board data, 11 most polluted cities in country are from Uttar Pradesh. Ghaziabad is the most polluted city in the country followed by Gurugram.

Causes of Air Pollution in India:

1. **Vehicular pollution:** Mainly due to trucks, tempos and other diesel run vehicles. These vehicles negate the impact of cleaner fuel and emission technology.
2. **Combustion and burning:** Combustion in power plants and industries using dirty fuels, like pet coke, FO and its variants, coal and biomass release hazardous air pollutants. Garbage burning, both in landfills and other places where there is no collection, processing or disposal.
3. **Agricultural activities:** Use of insecticides, pesticides and fertilisers in agricultural activities release ammonia which is a major air pollutant. Crop residue burning-large-scale burning of crop residues from paddy crop in October-November and then wheat in April in the neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh contributes significantly to the air pollution in the Delhi NCR Region every year. The climatic conditions during winter aggravate the condition.
4. **Cold Weather:** During the winter, dust particles and pollutants in the air become unable to move. Due to stagnant winds, these pollutants get locked in the air and results in smog.
5. **Mining Operations:** During the process of mining, dust and chemicals are released in the air causing massive air pollution.
6. **High dependence on coal for power:** share of coal in power generation in India continue to be around 80%. Power plants with poor technology and efficiency continue to be the major source of pollutants like CO and oxides of nitrogen and sulphur.
7. **Exploitation of resources:** Over exploitation of commons like forests, grazing lands and mindless deforestation reduces the natural capacity to absorb pollutants.

Why government efforts has failed to control air pollution menace in India?

1. **High levels of poverty:** Dependence on fuelwood and kerosene for the purpose of lighting and cooking leads to high level of pollutants being released in rural and urban periphery.
2. **Poor governance:** The issue of environment and pollution is still to get the policy priority it deserves. While agencies like CPCB and SPCBs continue to be under-resourced and under-staffed, multiplicity of the state authorities at the ground level leads to poor coordination, lax enforcement of rules and lack of accountability as seen in Delhi. Absence of environmental governance continues to be a major challenge.
3. **Access to technology:** India's industrial landscape continues to be dominated by MSMEs which lack access to cleaner technologies. Agricultural waste burning is also the result of poor access to farm technologies.
4. **Unplanned urbanisation:** Haphazard growth of urban areas has led to proliferation of slums and poor public transport has increased the burden of personal vehicles on the road. Landfills used for waste management also releases pollutants in the air. The rapid urbanization of the recent years if left unmanaged will further exacerbate the problem

Pollution and its health burden are inevitable in the near future. Therefore it is necessary to equip public healthcare systems with adequate resources for facing this emerging challenge and shield poor from catastrophic healthcare expenditures. Coherent environmental policies are needed. Since air pollution knows no boundaries, states and centre have to harmonise their strategy to deal with it. Platforms like inter-state council apart from serving this objective can also help resolve pollution related disputes among states.

Q.14) "For tackling Climate change in a better way it must be an integral part to the planning of Indian cities and towns." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Significance of climate change as an integral part to the planning of Indian cities and towns? How India should shape its economic policies in light of climate change?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Climate change is a global phenomenon having no boundaries. It requires a nationwide effort especially efforts at local and state level. It is responsibilities of all sectors to contain climate change. But a more active role for climate change action is needed to be played by the cities and towns and thus must be an integral part to the planning of Indian cities and towns.

Significance of climate change as an integral part to the planning of Indian cities and towns?

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

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

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

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

Q.15) "With economic growth, the demand for power in India is only going to increase further." In light of this discuss how India should fulfill its energy needs without jeopardising environmental health?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Challenge of rising energy needs and climate change. Measures to fulfill India's energy needs.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Rapid economic growth in India requires sufficient and cheap energy to ensure energy security. However, large incremental energy demand makes emissions reduction more difficult and costly. The issue of low energy efficiency of present energy infrastructure and high energy demand need proactive government policies and efforts. From the perspective of development, economic growth needs to be sustained by sufficient energy supply and simultaneously meet environmental constraints. For this there is need for sustainable production of energy in an environmental friendly way. This can be achieved through focus on wind, solar, nuclear energy.

Rising challenge of energy security and climate change:

1. **Rise in Energy Demand:** Climate change has already started influencing energy demand in most sectors. India's energy demand outpaced global demand growth in 2018 according to the International Energy Agency. According to the IEA's Global Energy & CO2 status report, India saw primary energy demand increase 4 % or over 35 million tonne of oil equivalent. This accounts for 11 % of global demand growth.
2. **Decrease in Energy Supply:** Energy supply has been negatively affected by changing weather patterns. As water reservoirs decreases due to lower precipitation and increased evaporation, capacity for electricity production from hydropower and other water-intensive generation technologies may decline. Decreasing water availability can also negatively affect cooling and cleaning systems required for Solar Power, nuclear power, and various other thermal generation technologies.
3. **Poor energy Infrastructure:** The existing energy infrastructure in India is not sufficient to meet the rising energy demands, as a result risks of system failures are manifesting themselves through increasing numbers of energy outages.
4. **Transportation sector:** The existing transportation infrastructure is currently not designed to address the challenges of climate change and is not adequate for meeting the expected increasing needs of its societies. Any future incentives for mitigating climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon pricing, electric vehicles will require major changes in the region's energy sector.
5. **Construction sector:** Energy needs are also increasing important due to changes in the housing sector as increasing temperatures, particularly in summer months, are also increasing the demand for air conditioning. In the phase of expanding urbanization, with large numbers of new construction projects, it is tough to meet energy demands.

How India should fulfill its energy needs without jeopardising environmental health?

1. At the national/state level, it will be important for countries to shift to renewable energy sources in their energy mix in order to reduce demand competition for non-renewable sources such as fossil fuels.
2. Efforts like e-vehicles, target of 175 GW through renewable means, green bonds, green projects etc. are important in this context.
3. There is need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and switch to alternate way of producing energy in a sustainable way.
4. Governments should pay special attention to improving energy infrastructure management and improving planning to cope with the impacts of climate change.
5. This will also require appropriate policies and regulatory frameworks that incentivise energy efficiency and behavioural change.
6. Governments will need to encourage small businesses' activities in the energy sector, for example by enacting policies that support local-level development of renewable energy sources.
7. It is important to promote nuclear energy and investment should be made to establish nuclear energy infrastructure.
8. Incorporating likely climate change effects into energy forecasts and planning will be critical for all countries and international institutions.
9. Strengthening cooperation among the public sector, the private sector, and academia would be critical.
10. Planning and budgeting for the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change should become a priority for the energy sector.

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

Q.16) Explain what is quantum computing? Discuss its potential application in various fields.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Potential applications of quantum computing.

Conclusion. Way forward.

A quantum computer is a type of computer that uses quantum mechanics so that it can perform certain kinds of computation more efficiently than a regular computer can. A normal computer stores all information in a series of 0's and 1's. Each unit in this series of 0's and 1's is called a bit, the smallest unit of memory. A quantum computer does not use bits to store information. Instead, it uses something called qubits (or Quantum bits).

The potential applications for Quantum Computing:

1. **Machine Learning:** Machine learning is a hot area right now as there are significant deployments at the consumer level at many different platforms. We are now seeing aspects of this every day in voice, image and handwriting recognition, to name just a few examples. Quantum computing has a lot of potential in machine learning technology and enhancing its accuracy.
2. **Computational Chemistry:** There are many problems in materials science that can achieve a huge payoff on finding the right catalyst or process to develop a new material, or an existing material more efficiently. A quantum computer can be used

to simulate the quantum mechanical processes that occur. Potential applications include:

- Finding new materials that can achieve a room temperature superconductor or
 - Finding a catalyst that can improve the efficiency of carbon sequestration.
 - Developing a new battery chemistry that can significantly improve the performance over today's lithium-ion batteries
3. **Financial Portfolio Optimisation:** Finding the optimum mix for a basketful of investments based upon projected returns, risk assessments, and other factors is a daily task within the finance industry. By utilizing quantum technology to perform these calculations, one could achieve improvements in both the quality of the solutions as well as the time to develop them.
 4. **Logistics and Scheduling:** Many common optimisations used in industry can be classified under logistics and scheduling. Quantum computing can make logistics more efficient. For example:
 - Airlines can figure out how to stage his airplanes for the best service at the lowest cost.
 - Factory manager can minimise cost, time and maximise output.
 5. **Drug Design:** Many of the drugs being developed still do so through the trial and error method. This is very expensive and if more effective ways of simulating how a drug will react would save a ton of money and time.
 6. **Cyber Security:** Cyber security is becoming a larger issue every day as threats around the world are increasing their capabilities and we become more vulnerable as we increase our dependence upon digital system. Various techniques to combat cyber security threats can be developed using some of the quantum machine learning approaches mentioned above to recognize the threats earlier and mitigate the damage that they may do.

Although above applications are still in preliminary stage. With time it will evolve into a better maximising the potential of each application. Quantum Computing in a way can revolutionise many sectors and can lead to a lot of time and cost cutting.

Q.17) What is wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Ramsar concept of "wise use". Ramsar sites from India.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Wetlands are areas intermediate in character between deep water and terrestrial habitats. They are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They include mangroves, marshes, rivers, lakes, deltas, floodplains and flooded forests, rice-fields, and even coral reefs. These habitats experience periodic flooding from adjacent deep water habitats and therefore support plants and animals specifically adapted to such shallow flooding or water logging of the substrate.

Ramsar concept of "wise use"

1. According to Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, 'Wise use' of wetlands is the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the spirit of sustainable development.
2. 'Wise Use' guidelines encourage Contracting Parties to:

- adopt national wetland policies with legislations and institutional arrangements to deal with wetland;
 - develop programmes of wetland inventory, monitoring, research, training, education and public awareness; and
 - take actions involving the development of integrated management plans covering every aspect of the wetlands and their relationships with their catchments.
3. Wise use can thus be seen as the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and all the services they provide, for the benefit of people and nature.
 4. India has 26 Ramsar Sites which are the Wetlands of International importance. The important Ramsar sites are: Chilika lake (Odisha), Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan), Loktak Lake (Manipur), Ashtamudi Wetland (Kerala) etc.

Ramsar sites from India:

1. Loktak Lake, Manipur was included on the Montreux Record of Ramsar Convention in 1993, as a result of ecological problems such as deforestation in the catchment area, infestation of water hyacinth and pollution.
2. Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan was placed on the Montreux Record in 1990 due to water shortage and unbalanced grazing regime around it.

Wetlands are vital for human survival as they are among the world's most productive environments, cradles of biological diversity that provide water and productivity upon which countless species of plants and animals depend for survival.

Q.18) Discuss the issue of land acquisition as a major impediment in the development process. What steps should be taken to make land acquisition quick and easy?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Land acquisition issue as a major Impediment in the development process. Steps to make it quick and easy.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Land acquisition is required for most of the nation building projects, however, it is not a simple process and is often the sole impediment in the development. Many development projects get delayed due to land acquisition issues. Further these delays add up to costs of many projects, making it a less efficient and more costly project for development. Therefore land acquisition must be smooth and easy in order to make development less costly and sustainable.

Land acquisition issue as a major Impediment in the development process:

1. Delays important infrastructure projects and increases their costs making them unsustainable.
2. Increasing NPAs in infrastructure sector can be attributed to some extent to the delays in land acquisition.
3. Under the 2013 Act, land acquisition is estimated to take minimally four to five years. In addition, there remains uncertainty with respect to eventual successful completion of acquisition. There is need for a less time-consuming alternative to the current regime for private or PPP projects in areas such as rural roads, affordable housing, infrastructure and building cities remains.
4. Inadequate compensation to the owners, mostly poor farmers exclude them from agriculture as well as prevent them from a decent living standard.

5. Using agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes, on one hand creates infrastructure whereas on the other hand serves as an impediment in the food security.
6. Poor land acquisition policies in one region can transfer the development to other regions with favourable policies.

Steps to make it quick and easy:

1. The land to be acquired from the land owners should be acquired either on a long lease or in the form of equity for the proposed business. This option will ensure a steady income for the affected families.
2. Under the Indian Constitution, land acquisition belongs to the Concurrent List. Article 254(2) of the Constitution allows a state to amend a central act on the Concurrent List provided the central government approves of the amendment. Under the present government, states of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have amended several labour laws that fall under the Concurrent List. The same instrumentality can be applied to land acquisition subject to the central government giving its approval.
3. The role of governments should be restricted to ensuring that adequate provisions are made for the protection of interests of the landless tillers of the land to be acquired.
4. In case of outright sale, open bidding through minimum prices acceptable to all landholders.
5. An additional instrument that governments may use to make acquisition more acceptable to landowners is land pooling. The idea here is to purchase or acquire more land than is required for the project and eventually transfer each landowner a fraction of her land back from the excess land after the project is complete.
6. Alternatively, government may take land on long-term lease rather than purchase or acquire it. Again, landowners may find this option attractive because it allows them to keep ownership of land, earn an assured return and retain the option to renegotiate the terms once the initial terms of the lease expires.

Unfortunately, land acquisition is still an issue and is impediment to development projects. By reducing major land acquisition roadblocks like compensation issue, judicial delays etc. development in India can be accelerated. A major political push is required for this.

Q.19) "Strategy for water resource management require new approach and not the continuation of failed policies of the past." Comment.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Major issues causing water crisis. Why Water resource management need a new outlook?

Conclusion. Way forward.

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.

Major Issues leading to water crisis:

1. **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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.

Water resource management need new approach:

1. Water availability is not only dependent on ecological conditions. Rivers here have been tamed, controlled, and managed in order to exploit them in the service of the economy, the people and the state. But the control and the exploitation, (i.e. the management patterns of these rivers) have created social and economic inequalities, sometimes even dramatic ecological consequences.
2. Because of the rising tensions at various scales, government institutions should advocate a new water management approach in order to better integrate various national, regional, local stakeholders, as well as users from the agricultural, industrial, and drinking water sectors.
3. The new approach must focus on the Integrated Water Resource Management, which is closely linked to the river basin. Water flows according to natural characteristics and does not respect administrative boundaries, therefore water should be managed in an integrated manner on scientific basis.
4. As 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.
5. 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.
6. 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 km 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.20) What is Zero Budget Natural Farming? Critically examine whether Zero Budget Natural Farming should be included into agricultural policies or not?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is Zero Budget Natural Farming?

Body. Why or why not ZBNF should be adopted in agricultural policies?

Conclusion. Way forward.

‘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.

Why Zero Budget Natural Farming should be included into agricultural policies?

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.

Why ZBNF should not be adopted as a policy measure?

1. ZBNF is not zero budget methodology of farming. There are several costs such as cows maintenance cost, paid up cost for electricity and pumps, labour etc.
2. There are no independent studies to validate the claims that ZBNF plots have a higher yield than non-ZBNF plots.
3. Indian soils are poor in organic matter and several other micronutrients varying as per the type of soil. ZBNF insists on one blanket solution for all the problems of Indian soils. This cannot solve region specific soil problems.
4. 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.
5. 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.

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 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) "To achieve its economic goals and to realise 'Asian Century' India need to work with the other civilisational power, like China." Discuss.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Importance of working with other civilisations power like China for economic goal.

Conclusion. Way forward.

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

Importance of working with other civilisations power like China for economic goal:

1. **Economic development:** Asia is experiencing robust economic performance over the three decades, spearheaded by India and China. Asian century can't be realised without economic development of the two countries and moving out millions of people in the region out of poverty. Both nation must enhance bilateral relations in a positive way leading to a path of development.
2. **Demographic dividend:** Population growth in Asia is expected to continue for at least the first half of the 21st century. This will result in huge demographic dividend in the region. Thus coordination between India and other nations by providing opportunities and employment driven by economic growth is necessary.
3. **Investment:** India and China relations has not reached full potential due to lack of bilateral investments. Where China can provide market for India to invest in pharmaceutical industry, agricultural products, software industry; India is a market for China for its technological industry. Creation of New Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and Asian Development Bank are new engine of growth in the region. These institutions would fail without cooperation among New Delhi and Beijing.
4. **Regional Stability:** It is important for economic progress that region should be stable and free from any terrorism, which will hurt India's growth. Terrorism has impacted regional structures in South Asian countries in a negative way. It is very important for India and other countries to stand together against terrorism to promote stability in the region. Regional stability would ensure mutual growth.
5. **Trade:** China is India's largest trading partner. The fact that both these countries are the two big Asian giants, it is imperative for both of them to be allies so as to support each other and continue their bid for the strongest power. Also, it is important for India to boost ties with other nations in order to boost its exports and trade.

Some important steps to boost bilateral relations among two nations:

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

6. Increase people to people contacts through tourism and cultural exchange.

It should be noted that countries like China, USA and other powers continues to be major power in 21st centuries. With India growing very fast and emerging as other power, it is important for India to work with other nations especially China for its own interests. Without Chinese cooperation and change in attitude it is tough to realise progress on bilateral relations. India should push China and other powers for better relations and should try to establish trust among among various nations.

Q.22) What are the various reasons for slower economic growth? Do you think recent tax sops announced by government are sufficient to arrest the slowdown?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Reason for economic slowdown. Are tax sops enough to accelerate the economy?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Indian economy is facing slowdown in recent times. This has created a panic environment in the environment and the government officials. There are structural issues in land, labour, agricultural marketing which need to be addressed and is being ignored that need urgent attention. Various steps like tax concessions being taken in hope to boost economic growth that may not help in long turn.

Reasons for slowdown of economy:

1. **Crisis in agriculture:** There is a crisis in agriculture that runs deep. GDP per capita in the agricultural sector has been less than one-tenth GDP per capita in the non-agricultural sector for 25 years. Growth in output is monsoon-dependent. Employment creation is negligible. The outcome is rural distress.
2. **De-Industrialisation:** The share of manufacturing in GDP and employment is lower than it was 25 years ago. India's share in industrial production and manufactured exports in the world economy has declined steadily. The beginnings of de-industrialisation are discernible.
3. **Exports:** The exports have reduced in recent times. The US dollar value of merchandise exports stagnated during the last three years.
4. **Consumption:** Private consumption contributes nearly 55-60%, to India's GDP has been slowing down. While the reduced income growth of households has reduced urban consumption, drought/near-drought conditions in three of the past five years coupled with collapse of food prices has taken a heavy toll on rural consumption.
5. **Investment:** Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF), a tool to measure investment in the economy has declined from 34.3% in 2011 to 28.8% in 2018. Similarly, in the private sector, it has declined from 26.9 per cent in 2011 to 21.4 per cent in 2018. The household sector, which is the biggest contributor to the total capex in the economy, has lost steam since demonetisation.
6. **Failure of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC):** IBC has met limited success. It has been unable to resolve insolvency Cases in a time-bound manner. Therefore it has led to limited resolution of Non-performing assets and cases.
7. **Rising global trade tension:** Recent trade war between USA and China and other global trade wars has impacted growth all over the world. It has impacted manufacturing and exports in different parts of the world, impacting Indian economy too.
8. **Unemployment:** Unemployment is all time high and has impacted the buying ability of individuals. Usher of new technologies, bad policies and inability of

manufacturing sector to boost up the growth has impacted the overall growth of the country.

Are tax sops enough to accelerate the economy?

1. The recent announcement of tax sops for big corporates are not enough as it is only a short term measure.
2. A credible export agenda requires policy interventions that lie outside the domain of the commerce ministry. These include improvements in infrastructure and logistics, building coastal employment zones, better bank finance for exporters, and most important, labour law reform.
3. Slowdown is mainly due to fundamental deficiencies and thus need grass root actions. Issues such as labour reform with a strong political effort is necessary.
4. If there is a slowdown or downturn in an economy, governments should use counter-cyclical, expansionary, macroeconomic policies to revive growth.
5. Fiscal policy should provide a stimulus, preferably by stepping up public investment. Monetary policy should provide a stimulus to private investment by lowering interest rates.
6. Under the current macro environment, monetary policy seems to be less effective than fiscal policy as 'improper transmission mechanism' fails to pass on benefits to the real economy.

The global economy is undergoing a crisis and has weakened significantly. It is extremely volatile at this stage, investor's confidence across the globe has fallen sharply and downside risks are emerging each day. So the government should take appropriate measures to improve the credit cycle through investment and savings and promotion of foreign investment will bring the economy from slowdown in future.

Q.23) What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. What is ISRO's space station plans? It's significance.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India plans to have its own space station in the future and conduct separate missions to study the Sun and Venus. As the nation moves to bolster its status as a leader in space technologies and inspire the young minds to take an interest in scientific fields, India's space agency will work on its space station following its first manned mission to space, called Gaganyaan in 2022.

ISRO's space station plan:

1. India want to have a separate space station of its own. For this India will launch a small module for conducting microgravity experiments. Gaganyaan aims to send a crew of two to three people to space for a period of up to seven days. The spacecraft will be placed in low Earth orbit of 300-400 km.
2. The agency will submit to the government after the Gaganyaan mission a detailed report on how it intends to set up the space station. It currently believes it would take five to seven years to conceptualise the space station.
3. The Indian space station will be much smaller than the International Space Station and will be used for carrying out microgravity experiments (not for space tourism).
4. Preliminary plan for the space station is to accommodate astronauts for up to 20 days in space, and the project will be an extension of the Gaganyaan mission.

5. ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) is working on space docking experiment (Spadex), a technology that is crucial for making the space station functional. Space docking is a technology that allows transferring humans from one spacecraft to another.

Significance of the space station:

1. Space station is essential for collecting meaningful scientific data, especially for biological experiments.
2. Provide platforms for greater number and length of scientific studies than available on other space vehicles. (as Gaganyaan will take humans and experiments in microgravity for few days only).
3. Each crew member stays aboard the station for weeks or months, but rarely more than a year.
4. It would help in different microgravity science experiments in diverse fields such as astrobology, astronomy, materials science, space medicine and space weather.
5. Space stations are used to study the effects of long-term space flight on the human body.

India's space agency has specialised in low-cost space launches since the early 1960s, when components of rockets were transported by bicycles and assembled by hand. In 2014, it sent a spacecraft to Mars for \$74 million. In early 2017, the nation launched a flock of 104 satellites into space over the course of 18 minutes, setting a new global record. Building a space station is not easy and carry various challenges. But it would pave a way for India to become a space super-power.

Q.24) Examine the economic and strategic significance of border area development for India. What are various challenges related to border area management and development?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Significance of border infrastructure. Various challenges related to border area management and development.

Conclusion. Way forward.

India is bordering 17 states having the international borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh. All of this border comprised of unique topography, culture and varied socio-economic challenges. Considering unity of the nation and neighbourhood first policy of India, it is imperative to develop modern and competitive border road infrastructure.

Significance of border infrastructure:

1. One of the most important advantages is development of legal and amicable trade relations with neighbouring countries. Examples of it are trade through Attari-Wagha border and Border Haats with Bangladesh and many more with Nepal, Bhutan, etc.
2. Proper border road infra will reduce trafficking and smuggling, which is currently a big cause concern for India and neighbouring countries.
3. Another major economic benefit is inclusive growth and development. Border road infrastructure, especially in harsh terrains such as northeast and Jammu & Kashmir provides avenue for self-employment and boost to traditional small scale Industries.

4. Furthermore, tourism in Himalayas has not reached to its full potential due to improper road infrastructure. To tap full potential of natural tourism avenues we must further improve our border road infra.
5. One of the major advantages is that through border road infra India will be successful in pushing for her ambitious neighbourhood first and act east policies. It will act as soft power in terms of creating people to people contacts. Best example of this is the most recent project of Kartarpur Corridor.
6. Border road infra helps in maintaining peace and stability by controlling the security concerns related to inter-region and intra-region issues.
7. The task of national integration which started with independence of India and still going on will be incomplete without border road infra. Connectivity and inclusivity are the important tools for national integration of far-flung areas such as Northeastern states and Ladakh, etc.
8. Another important advantage of border roads is in proper and swift disaster management. Difficult and harsh terrains of Indian borders and relatively low development of bordering countries make it inevitable for India to prepared and self-sufficient to handle any kind of disasters.

Various challenges related to border area management and development:

1. **Lack of implementation:** Even after about 10 years of implementation of BADP, the border blocks are yet to be opened up and are in utter backwardness due to their isolation and inaccessibility.
2. **Limited sources:** The State Government, though handicapped by its limited resources, is committed to accelerate the pace of development and is trying its best for development of the border areas.
3. **Irrational funding:** Presently, 10% of BADP fund allotted to the State Government is earmarked for security related schemes to be implemented by the state police and paramilitary forces and the balance 90% fund is equally distributed amongst the bordering blocks.
4. **Other issues:** National credit registry politics in Arunachal Pradesh, Sinhalese prosecution in Sri Lanka are some of the other domestic politics. Rough and difficult terrain, tough Weather and Climatic conditions, Seismically active areas in most of the border, Inadequate manpower, funds with Border Road organisation (BRO), Redtapism and bureaucratic delays in projects also act as hindrance.

BRO has been frequently in news due to delays and other lacunae with regard to border road infrastructure. Proper and defined autonomy with respect to 3F: Funds, Functions and Functionaries will help to boost the rapid development of border road infra, ultimately leading to economically integrated and strategically amiable South Asia.

General Studies – 4

Q.1) What do you understand by voice of conscience? How voice of conscience can help in right decision making?

Demand of the question

Introduction. What is voice of conscience?

Body. How voice of conscience can help in right decision making?

Conclusion. Way forward.

Conscience is inner moral sense of a person which guides him/her to regulate his behaviour. Voice of conscience corresponds to an inner voice that judges your behaviour. Voice of conscience is the source of ethical decision making for many.

How voice of conscience can help in right decision making?

1. Conscience can be defined as something within each of us that tells us what is right and what is wrong. Therefore if one use his/her conscience when making decisions it would be guided by what is the right thing to do and what is wrong.
2. Our conscience is our inner guide and it helps you figure out how to make good choices. As we grow up, we learn right from wrong. Our conscience is the thought and feeling we have that tells us whether something is a right or wrong thing to do or say. Thus voice of Conscience is a consistent guide to ethical decision making.
3. A person can prepare himself/herself to heed to the voice of conscience by:
4. Pausing and thinking about the dimensions of issue.
5. Practicing the power of silence.
6. Meditating and prayer.
7. Freeing oneself from external influences and selfish interests.
8. A human being always comes across ethical dilemmas in the decision making the process. Voice of Conscience acts as the guide for taking correct decisions when we have to choose between competing sets of principles in a given, usually undesirable or perplexing, situation. Example: Helping accident victim on your way to an interview.
9. The voice of conscience of an individual helps in analysing the situation from different perspectives and help in taking the right decision.
10. Voice of Conscience helps in avoiding Conflicts of interest for better decision making. It can help in deciding between personal gains and public welfare.
11. Voice of Conscience is our ability to make a practical decision in light of ethical values and principles.
12. Voice of Conscience is a person's moral compass of right and wrong as well as the consciousness of one's actions. Expressions such as 'gut feeling' and 'guilt' are often applied in conjunction with a conscience.
13. The voice of conscience might suggest different principles and different behaviours to different situations. But it for a moment help individual from not doing wrong based on universal values.

A voice of conscience which is both well-formed (shaped by education and experience) and well informed (aware of facts, evidence and so on) enables us to know ourselves and our world and act accordingly. Thus, Voice of conscience act as a source of ethical decision making.

Q.2) Discuss how political interference in sports administration has led to poor performance of sports in India? Why it is important to establish accountability in sports administration in India?

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Issue of political interference in sports administration that led to poor sports performance. Why establishment of accountability is must in sports? **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Rather than just being a form of recreation, sport has become a matter of national pride and is both socially and economically important to the development of the country. However, in spite of the growth of sports in the country, there has not been any significant improvement in the management of sporting activities, with poor sports governance persisting at every level of administration. One of the main reasons for this has been increased political interference in sports governance in the country.

Issue of political interference in sports administration that led to poor sports performance:

1. India, with a pool of talented sportspersons, hasn't really been able to make a mark on the international stage. Despite the government spending a substantial amount of money in developing sports infrastructure and training methods, the country still needs proper administration and governance to uplift the standards.
2. Sports federations and associations in India function in a very political manner having office bearers as politicians or businessmen.
3. Most of the sporting federations in the country, including the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) are politically dominated organisations that build a compelling ground for a law which drives for the transparent administration of sports in the country.
4. The federations need to be headed by experienced sports personalities who can understand the technicalities of the sport rather than by people who are money minded and corrupt.
5. Given the manner in which politics has pervaded every sphere of life in India, it is inevitable for sports to not remain oblivious from political influence. E.g. Cricket, the most followed game in the country, has been deeply affected from the politicisation of sports. The office bearers of the BCCI, the administrative body for cricket in India, either have strong political backgrounds or have held political offices before.

Establishment of accountability is must in sports:

1. A law is needed to prohibit people having a political background from holding positions in sports federations and associations.
2. Running these federations without any political influence will be an immense boost for sports in the country.
3. A stable solution that could go a long way in improving sports administration in the country is having ex-sportspersons take a step forward to work for sports by either joining politics or being office bearers of sports federations.
4. Poor accountability lead to:
5. Politicians being employed as the administrators.
6. Heads of the sports organizations are simply people favoured by the ruling party.
7. Poor Infrastructure which often lead to poor performance. This is mainly due to corruption in sports administration.

An apt example is that of Sachin Tendulkar, who retired from all formats of cricket in 2013, but continues to work towards the development of sports in India by being an active member of the Rajya Sabha and also being a part of the advisory committee of the BCCI. In another example, Padma Shri, Arjuna awardee and Olympic silver medallist Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore was given independent charge of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Q.3) Distinguish between “Code of ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples.

Demand of the question

Introduction. Contextual Introduction.

Body. Explain what is code of ethics and code of conducts with example. Difference between code of ethics and code of conduct.

Conclusion. Way forward.

Both Code of Ethics and a Code of Conduct are similar as they are used in an attempt to encourage specific forms of behaviour by employees. Ethics guidelines attempt to provide guidance about values and choices to influence decision making. Conduct regulations assert that some specific actions are appropriate, others inappropriate. With similarities, comes differences.

Code of ethics:

1. Code of Ethics are referred to as a Values, which behaves like the Constitution with general principles to guide behaviour, outlining a set of principles that affect decision-making.
2. Code of ethics would include the principles of integrity, impartiality, commitment to public service, accountability, devotion to duty, exemplary behaviour etc.
3. It defines the minimum requirements for conduct, and behavioural expectations instead of specific activities.
4. When faced with ethical dilemmas or debatable situations, what's articulated in the Code of Ethics can help guide decision making.
5. Code of ethics helps members in understanding what is right or wrong. The codes are disclosed publicly and hence addressed to the interested parties to know the way the company does business.

Example of code of ethics: E.g. Civil servants are committed to public services. The Code of Ethics will state that decisions of the public servant should be guided by larger common good and to choose the most beneficial solution for the community.

Code of Conduct:

1. It is a set of rules, standards, principles and values outlining the expected behaviour for the members of an organisation.
2. These are legally enforceable which sets out the standards of behaviour expected of those working in the public service.
3. These are designed to prevent certain types of behaviours like conflict of interest, self-dealing, bribery and inappropriate actions.
4. The Code of Conduct outlines specific behaviours that are required or prohibited as a condition of ongoing employment.

Example of code of conduct: E.g. code of conducts include guidelines on acceptance of gifts by government servants and specific behaviour regulating codes (class I officer shall not permit son or daughter to take employment with a company with which she has official dealings' or 'acquiring immovable property with previous knowledge of prescribed authority' and so on).

CODE OF ETHICS	CODE OF CONDUCT
It include core ethical values, principles and ideals of the organisation.	It is a directional document containing specific practices and behaviour, that are followed or restricted under the organisation.
Code of ethics is a set of principles which influence the judgement.	Code of conduct is a set of guidelines that influence employee's actions.
Code of ethics are wider in nature as compared to code of conduct.	Code of conduct are narrow.
Ethical standards generally are non-specific and are designed to provide a set of values or decision-making .	Conduct standards generally provides a fairly clear set of expectations about which actions are required, acceptable or prohibited.
It enable employees to make independent judgments about the most appropriate course of action.	It enable employees to work in compliance with rules and actions are guided by the codes.
A particular rule in the Code of Ethics might state that all employees will obey the law.	A Code of Conduct might list several specific laws relevant to specific areas of organisational operations, that employees need to obey.
Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct are the standards that a group must adhere to, so as to remain the member of the organisation. These help the institutions in regulating the day to day business efficiently. While code of conduct is something that states organized values, code of ethics is used to observe ethical norms and gives a foundation to rules of conduct. Check out the article to know more on these two topics.	