ForumIAS

Mains Marathon Compilation

November, 2019

General Studies 1

Q.1) Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to their colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there?

Q.2) "Sardar Patel's contribution to the Indian Freedom struggle has been remarkable and incomparable." Comment.

Q.3) What is difference between a storm and a cyclone? Discuss various conditions that lead to formation of cyclones in tropical region.

Q.4) Discuss what was the most significant contribution of Kabir and Guru Nanakdev to Bhakti movement?

Q.5) How Indian secularism is different from secularism in west? Also, Illustrate how Secularism is an ancient concept in India?

Q.6) Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology.

Q.7) Discuss various consequences of Illegal immigration in India. What are various laws in place to tackle illegal non-citizens?

General Studies 2

Q.1) "According to All India Survey on Higher Education 2018-19 share of enrolled minorities still continue to be under-represented given their share of the total population." Discuss various reasons for such under-representation. Suggest some measures to improve minority enrolment in higher education.

Q.2) "Maritime security and connectivity in Indo-Pacific region are the priority areas that need to be focused for India's economic growth and sustainable development." Comment.

Q.3) As misuse of sedition laws by politicians is common which lead to abuse of human rights, do you agree that sedition laws need to be buried? Justify your answer.

Q.4) Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources the Panchayats can look out for financing developmental projects?

Q.5) "The poor are not only deprived of access to material benefits, but are robbed of the opportunity to participate in social, economic and cultural transactions from a plane of equality." Comment.

Q.6) "Revival of the traditional Indian systems of medicine, which comprises Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH), along with strengthening of modern medicine system will help in making healthcare system more accessible and affordable." Discuss.

Q.7) Is the National Commission for Women able to strategise and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer.

Q.8) "Without any harmony and co-ordination among various institutions and bodies, a society cannot progress and live in peace." Discuss in the light of recent brawl between Delhi police and lawyers.

Q.9) In light of rise in child sexual abuse, discuss the need and challenge of providing sexual education to children. Also, mention role of family, school and teachers in preventing child sexual abuse in the society.

Q.10) Discuss the significance of Kerala's K-fon project. Do you think such policy should be adopted at national level?

Q.11) "Even as malnutrition accounted for millions of deaths in children under the age of five in India, there is issue of rising obesity in schoolchildren in many States." Discuss.

Q.12) "According to a recent report, maternal death rate in India is declining." Discuss what led to such a decline? Also suggest some measures needed to further reduce the Maternal Mortality rate towards Sustainable development goal.

Q.13) "As globalisation gives way to Asian century and Asia takes a leading position, India could look to many of the opportunities arising out of the region's rapid integration and shifting networks to help drive its next chapter of growth." Comment.

Q.14) Examine the strategic significance of Indo-Pacific region for India. Also, discuss how India should tackle Chinese dominance in Indo-Pacific region?

Q.15) Discuss the key features of draft social security code, 2019. Mention various flaws in the draft social security code, 2019.

Q.16) Discuss the role and function of election commission of India. How Election Commission ensure free and fair elections in India?

Q.17) "Anaemia among men in India is an important public health problem which is widely ignored." Discuss.

Q.18) Discuss the role and function of pressure groups in India. Do you think pressure groups in India has been able to successfully deliver on their mandate?

Q.19) "BRICS is becoming a magnet for many emerging economies." In light of this discuss the significance of BRICS as a pillar of the emerging, fairer poly-centric world order.

Q.20) "The 'systematic failure' to address the needs of patients contributes to a higher mortality." Comment.

Q.21) "India's proud heritage of being one of the leading democracies in the world has taken a beating in recent times." Examine.

Q.22) "The linkage of hundreds of millions of the Aadhaar Card to social media accounts serves no useful purpose." Comment.

Q.23) Discuss the need and significance of draft e-Commerce Rules, 2019 in light of increasing tentacles of e-Commerce in Indian market.

Q.24) "To put India-Pakistan relations on a positive trajectory more confidence-building measures and steps like Kartarpur corridor are needed." Critically evaluate the statement.

Q.25) "India is home to 77 million diabetics, second highest in the world." In light of this discuss various causes and preventive measures required against diabetes.

Q.26) "Failure of state administration and mismanagement of water resources in urban cities has led to unsafe and poor drinking water quality endangering lives of many." Comment.

Q.27) "The recent National Education Policy document, despite its lacunae, is a vast improvement over earlier education policies." Comment.

Q.28) Discuss the role and mandate of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in disaster management.

Q.29) "A data protection law is needed more than ever in the recent times." Do you agree?

Q.30) "Ministers at both the Central and State levels should follow a model code of conduct which in turn would ensure democratic accountability." Comment.

Q.31) Discuss the need and significance of Code of wages, 2019. How will it impact the Indian economy?

Q.32) "While health outcomes have greatly improved, tribal communities still lag behind." Examine.

Q.33) "Maternity benefits, are very important for a working woman but the vast majority of Indian women, are left on their own and are unable to enjoy present maternity benefits." Discuss.

Q.34) Discuss the role of BRICS as a bridge between developed and developing countries. What are its current concerns and issues that must be resolved?

Q.35) "The Chief of Defence Staff should not become another interposed level between the Government and the service chiefs." Comment.

Q.36) Discuss the need and significance of a National Register for citizens in India? What are various concerns related to it?

Q.37) "Inclusiveness and equity are very important characteristics of a good public institution." In light of this discuss the need and significance of subsidies in higher education. What are related concerns?

Q.38) "Labour reforms are much needed for Indian progress towards a $5 trillion economy." In light of this discuss the changes made in The Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019? What are the issues related to the changes?

Q.39) Argue whether electoral bonds are an effective mechanism to conduct fair and transparent elections? Suggest some measures to improve transparency in electoral funding to political parties.

Q.40) "The increasing influence of social media in global politics and national elections demand strong measures." Comment.

Q.41) "The draft rules to the Wages Act, a law expected to provide economic and social justice, will only exploit workers further." Comment.

Q.42) "India had emerged as a hub of commercial surrogacy for couples in recent times, benefiting especially poor." In light of this critically examine 'The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019'.

Q.43) In light of recent NSO's survey findings on open defecation, critically examine whether Swachh Bharat Mission is a success or failure?

Q.44) India and USA are the two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based.

Q.45) "To what extent anti defection law has been able to curb unprincipled and unethical parliamentary defections." Critically examine.

Q.46) What do you understand by the term 'informational autocracy'? Do you agree that in recent times, India is becoming an informational autocracy?

Q.47) The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process. Comment.

Q.48) "India-Nepal relations has been deteriorated in recent times and need to be strengthened." Critically examine.

Q.49) It is imperative for citizens to strive for a perfect balance between their rights and duties in order to achieve local and national development goals. Comment.

Q.50) "Has the Governor been acting more of an 'agent of the centre' rather than being the 'constitutional head of state'." Analyse in the light of recent controversies involving the post of Governor in India.

Q.51) Discuss various provisions of The Transgender Persons (protection of rights) Bill 2019. Do you agree Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 undermines the rights of the individuals it seeks to protect?

Q.52) "The foreign policy of India has changed from 'non-alignment' to 'multi-alignment' in recent times." Examine.

General Studies 3

Q.1) "There is a need to build a "defence industrial ecosystem" in India." In light of this discuss the need and significance of establishing a Defence Industrial Corridor in India.

Q.2) What are various reasons for the rise in cases of bank frauds in last decade in India? Also discuss the need of bringing reforms in banking governance and impact of such frauds.

Q.3) Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of fast breeder reactor programme in India?

Q.4) "Failure of government to control air pollution menace is largely due to wrong policy measures and poor implementation of policies at ground level." Comment.

Q.5) Differentiate between 5g and 4g technologies. Discuss various advantages of 5g technology.

Q.6) "An effective response to prevent climate change and reduce air pollution is to make investment in urban mobility." Discuss.

Q.7) "In recent years, attack on stubble burning has increased due to its contribution to rising air pollution." In light of this discuss how stubble burning cause air pollution. Suggest some measures to tackle stubble burning menace in India.

Q.8) "Recent incidents like Pegasus snooping scandal, expose the vulnerability and threat of cyber-crimes to India" Comment.

Q.9) Discuss the potential application and significance of NavIC (Navigation in Indian Constellation).

Q.10) Discuss various challenges and significance of financial inclusion for Indian economy? Also mention steps taken by Indian government towards financial inclusion.

Q.11) "With rising pollution levels in Indian cities, India needs a Clean Air Act and an autonomous new body to enforce it." Comment.

Q.12) How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India?

Q.13) "Given that South Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change and most of the countries share ecological zones, borders and culture, advance preparation for migration is needed." Comment.

Q.14) "To showcase itself as a legitimate power in cyberspace, India have to shed its piecemeal approach about cybersecurity." Examine critically.

Q.15) India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics. Explain critically.

Q.16) What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics.

Q.17) "Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is considered one of the most significant challenges the world faces today." Discuss.

Q.18) "Paddy stubble burning in states neighbouring Delhi, is being seen as one of the reasons for the smog in the national capital. Change to a less water-guzzling crop will help address stubble burning." Do you agree?

Q.19) "The feeling of being overwhelmed by the challenges of climate change and the fear about the state of the environment has led to eco-anxiety." Comment.

Q.20) Elaborate the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.

Q.21) What do you understand by Integrated Farming System (IFS)? How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production?

Q.22) Assess the need and significance of strengthening intra-BRICS trade for Indian economy. What should be done to boost Indian trade with other BRICS countries?

Q.23) Despite Consistent experience of High growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.

Q.24) "There is need to move away from the present 'staple grain fundamentalism,' of Public Distribution System (PDS), to a more diversified food basket, with an emphasis on coarse grains." Comment.

Q.25) "India's female labour force participation rate ranks much low and is declining." What are various reasons for low labour force participation of women in India? Suggest some measures to correct the labour market's gender skew.

Q.26) Discuss the need and significance of NATGRID project? What are various concerns related to NATGRID?

Q.27) Examine the role of biotechnology in achieving food security in India. What are various challenges faced by biotechnology sector in India?

Q.28) "Free Trade Agreements with other countries do not guarantee economic growth or boost exports to other countries." Critically examine.

Q.29) Discuss various factors that has led to rise in india's ease of doing business ranking. Do you think this would help drive Indian economic growth?

Q.30) "Environmental migration is real and will increase multifold in the near future." In light of this discuss the impact of increasing environmental migration in India. How India should prepare itself to face it?

Q.31) Discuss the issue related to stubble burning. How co-operative federalism can help in solving this issue?

Q.32) Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India.

Q.33) What are Farmer Producer Organisations? Discuss why streamlining the agri-credit system is a much-needed reform to facilitate higher crop loans to farmer-producer organisations?

Q.34) What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?

Q.35) "ISRO has been one of the best performing Public Sector Undertakings in India. However, an involvement with the private sector can aid high-technology manufacturing in the space sector." Comment.

Q.36) Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyse the impact of sand mining along the Indian coasts, citing specific examples.

Q.37) "India could use green technologies to galvanise its faltering economy, create new jobs and become a climate leader." Comment.

Q.38) What do you understand by Agro-biodiversity? How Agro-biodiversity can help in reducing country's hunger problem?

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General Studies 4

Q.1) "Economics concerned solely with wealth and profits has led to un-ethical practices and climate change." In light of this statement discuss the need of adopting ethical considerations into business behaviour.

Q.2) With regard to the morality of actions, one view is that means is of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer.

Q.3) Effective utilisation of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilisation and mis-utilisation of public funds and their implications.

Q.4) One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real-life example.

Q.5) On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification.

Q.6) What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality?

Q.7) Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bond by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies?

General Studies 1

Q.1) Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to their colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Mention various reasons for indentured labour being taken by the British to their colonies. Discuss whether indentured labour been able to preserve their cultural identity or not?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Indentured labour was a bonded labour under contract to work for an employer for a specific amount of time, to pay off his passage to a new country. It was instituted following the abolition of slavery throughout British Empire in 1833 as newly free men and women refused to work for low wages on sugar, tea plantations and rail construction projects in British colonies of West Indies, Fiji, Mauritius and Ceylon. Indians were recruited and transported to many labour-importing colonies of Africa and Asia.

Reasons for indentured labour being taken by the British to their colonies:
1. **Industrial Demand:** The industrialisation of Britain followed by the other European countries accelerated the flow of trade, labour and capital across the world. The growing urbanism in Europe especially in Britain increased the demand for food and agricultural goods since most of the labour force was consumed by the factories and firms. Colonies in Africa and Asia became the lucrative destinations for investing in agricultural and raw commodities.
2. **End of slavery:** This provided for the immediate background for the Indentured labour system all over the world. British needed the labour to work in the plantation fields of African colonies. Hundreds of thousands of Indian and Chinese labourers went to work on plantations, in mines, and in road and railway construction projects around the world.
3. **African worker reluctance:** The natives of African countries were self sufficient and completely relying on cattle farming. They were reluctant to work in the British factories and farms, so Indians became the obvious choice. The main destinations of Indian indentured migrants were the Caribbean islands (mainly Trinidad, Guyana and Surinam), Mauritius and Fiji. Closer to home, Tamil migrants went to Ceylon and Malaya. Indentured workers were also recruited for tea plantations in Assam.
4. **Availability of labour:** Most Indian indentured workers came from the present-day regions of eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, central India and the dry districts of Tamil Nadu. In the mid-nineteenth century these regions experienced many changes – cottage industries declined, land rents rose, lands were cleared for mines and plantations. All this affected the lives of the poor. They failed to pay their rents, became deeply indebted and were forced to migrate in search of work.
5. **Escape from poverty:** Many migrants agreed to take up work hoping to escape poverty or oppression in their home villages. Agents also tempted the prospective migrants by providing false information about final destinations, modes of travel, the nature of the work, and living and working conditions. Often migrants were not even told that they were to embark on a long sea voyage. Sometimes agents even forcibly abducted less willing migrants. Nineteenth-century indenture has been described as a 'new system of slavery'.

6. **Indian labour suitability:** Indian workers were perceived as being quiet, docile and industrious by colonists and suitable for working in many plantation and construction works in different colonies of Britain. The recruitment and arrival were done by private parties initially later British government regulated the recruitment of indentured labour.

Have they been able to preserve their cultural identities?

1. Many of the indentured labourers did not return to their native countries and settled back in the colonies. They came to these colonies with hope and expectations. On arrival at the plantations, labourers found conditions to be different from what they had imagined. Living and working conditions were harsh, and there were few legal rights. But workers discovered their own ways of surviving.
2. Many of them escaped into the wilds, though if caught they faced severe punishment. Others developed new forms of individual and collective self expression, blending different cultural forms, old and new.
3. In Trinidad the annual Muharram procession was transformed into a riotous carnival called 'Hosay' (for Imam Hussain) in which workers of all races and religions joined.
4. The protest religion of Rastafarianism (made famous by the Jamaican reggae star Bob Marley) is also said to reflect social and cultural links with Indian migrants to the Caribbean.
5. 'Chutney music', popular in Trinidad and Guyana, is another creative contemporary expression of the post-indenture experience.

These forms of cultural fusion are part of the making of the global world, where things from different places get mixed, lose their original characteristics and become something entirely new. Most indentured workers stayed on after their contracts ended, or returned to their new homes after a short spell in India. Consequently, there are large communities of people of Indian descent in these countries. For example V.S Naipaul, Noble Prize winner writer had Indian roots. At the same time many of those who stayed back in the colonies elevated to highest positions after the process of decolonisation.

Q.2) "Sardar Patel's contribution to the Indian Freedom struggle has been remarkable and incomparable." Comment.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss contribution of Sardar Patel to the Indian Freedom struggle.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was a a prominent figure in the Indian Freedom Struggle, who later became India's first Deputy Prime Minister and first Home Minister. He is known for his contribution in integrating 565 princely states into a newly independent India. Sardar Patel who is popularly known as the Iron Man of India made many important contributions to Indian freedom struggle and modern India.

Contribution of Sardar Patel in Indian freedom struggle and modern India:

1. In 1918, Vallabhbhai took the responsibility of leading the farmers of Gujarat. He started the Kheda satyagraha that demanded the suspension of the revenue collection from farmers as there was a drought.

2. In 1920, the Congress started the non-cooperation struggle and Vallabhbhai gave up his practice. He setup the Gujarat Vidyapeeth where children could study instead of attending Government schools.

3. In 1928 he successfully organized the landowners of Bardoli against British tax increases. It was after this that Vallabhbhai was given the title of Sardar (Leader).

4. In 1931 he served as President of the Indian National Congress in its Karachi session which changed the nature of movement from a political struggle and added to it new socio-economic dimensions. As part of congress, he was part of the No changers faction and emphasised on the crucial role of constructive work in village regeneration and carrying the message of nationalism to the masses.

5. He was also the chairman of the congress parliamentary sub-committee which had complete control over congress ministries during 28 months of their rule under 1935 act.

6. He played a crucial role in the torturous negotiations with the British for freedom and Partition of the country.

7. Vallabhbhai Patel was one of the first Congress leaders to accept the partition of India as a solution to the rising Muslim separatist movement led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He had been outraged by Jinnah's Direct Action campaign, which had provoked communal violence across India, and by the viceroy's vetoes of his home department's plans to stop the violence on the grounds of constitutionality.

8. Constituent Assembly-Patel was part of constituent assembly to frame constitution of India. He was instrumental in collecting eminent people across country and also persuade Ambedkar to become member of drafting committee. Patel was the chairman of the committees responsible for minorities, tribal and excluded areas, fundamental rights, and provincial constitutions.

9. In 1947 when India got freedom, Sardar Patel became the Deputy Prime Minister. He was in charge of Home Affairs, Information and Broadcasting and the Ministry of States. He was given the task of integrating the 562 Princely States into the union. He skilfully achieved this and took strong steps like sending the army to Junagadh and Hyderabad to force them to align with free India. It is because of these strong steps he is called Iron Man of India.

10. It was Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision that the Civil Service should strengthen cohesion and national unity. He wanted a strong and vibrant federal administrative system in which the All India Services would play an important role.

Patel was a selfless leader, who placed the country's interests above everything else and shaped India's destiny with single-minded devotion. The invaluable contribution of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in building a modern and unified India needs to be remembered by every Indian as the country marches ahead as one of the largest economies in the world.

Q.3) What is difference between a storm and a cyclone? Discuss various conditions that lead to formation of cyclones in tropical region.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Differentiate storm and cyclone.
Body. Discuss various conditions for cyclone formation in tropical region.
Conclusion. Way forward.

A storm is an atmospheric depression with wind speeds below a cyclone. This atmospheric depression can be violent and is associated with unusual weather. Storms are associated with periods of strong often damaging winds, heavy flood-producing rainfall, thunder and lightning, heavy snowfall or blizzard conditions. A cyclone is another name for a low-pressure area. Tropical cyclones are revolving storms that begin in the tropics. Storms can be isolated events such as thunderstorms or they may be associated with weather fronts and many other situations. The major difference between the two is intensity, and speed of winds.

Conditions Favourable for Cyclone Formation:
1. **Good Source of Latent Heat:** Ocean waters having temperatures of 27° C or more is the source of moisture which feeds the storm. The condensation of moisture releases enough latent heat of condensation to drive the storm.
2. **Presence of the Coriolis force enough to create a cyclonic vortex:** The Coriolis force is zero at the equator (no cyclones at equator because of zero Coriolis Force) but it increases with latitude. Coriolis force at 5° latitude is significant enough to create a storm. About 65% of cyclonic activity occurs between 10° and 20° latitude.
3. **Small variations in the vertical wind speed:** Tropical cyclones develop when the wind is uniform. Because of weak vertical wind shear (differences between wind speeds at different heights), cyclone formation processes are limited to latitude equator ward of the subtropical jet stream. In the temperate regions, wind shear is high due to westerlies and this inhibits convective cyclone formation.
4. **Low pressure area:** A pre-existing weak low-pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation is must for cyclone formation in tropics.
5. **Humidity Factor:** High humidity (around 50% to 60%) is required in the mid-troposphere, since the presence of moist air leads to the formation of cumulonimbus cloud. Such conditions exist over the equatorial doldrums, especially in western margins of oceans (this is because of east to west movement of ocean currents), which have great moisture, carrying capacity because the trade winds continuously replace the saturated air.
6. **Upper divergence above the sea level system:** A well developed divergence in the upper layers of the atmosphere is necessary so that the rising air currents within the cyclone continue to be pumped out and a low pressure maintained at the centre.
7. **Low-level Disturbances:** Low-level disturbance in the form of easterly wave disturbances in the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) should pre-exist.
8. **Temperature contrast between air masses:** Trade winds from both the hemispheres meet along inter-tropical front. Temperature contrasts between these air masses must exist when the ITCZ is farthest, from the equator. Thus, the convergence of these air masses of different temperatures and the resulting instability are the prerequisites for the origin and growth of violent tropical storms.

The post-monsoon period sees a higher number of cyclones than the pre-monsoon period. This is because summers and pre-monsoons see dry and hot air moving from north-western India towards the Bay. This blocks the rise of air from the water, and the subsequent formation of clouds, preventing cyclone-friendly conditions. But the absence of this air movement in the post-monsoon phase increases the chances of cyclones.

Q.4) Discuss what was the most significant contribution of Kabir and Guru Nanakdev to Bhakti movement?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Mention contributions of Guru Nanak and Kabir to Bhakti Movement.
Conclusion. Way forward.

The Bhakti movement started during the period of Delhi Sultanate. There were numerous saints in the Bhakti movement such as Nimbarka, Chaitanya, Kabir and Guru Nanakdev. The advocates of the Bhakti movement succeeded to a considerable extent in uplifting the moral tone of the community and bridging the gap between Hindus and Muslims. However, the conservatism and orthodoxy of the people created barriers which could not be demolished with complete success. Guru Nanak and kabir is considered to be a part of the Bhakti movement.

Contribution of Guru Nanakdev to Bhakti Movement:
1. Guru Nanak Dev played a crucial role in the Bhakti movement. Sufism and bhakti contributed to Nanak's religious philosophy. He discarded retrograde elements selfishness, hypocrisy, falsehood and violence of Hinduism and Islam.
2. His teachings incorporated the noblest principles of both religions. According to him, God is omnipresent and through love, devotion, purity of soul, everyone can attain god's grace.
3. In his opinion, in order to link oneself to eternity, one must do good and virtuous to get the eternal liberation from the bondage of the world. Moral conduct and action on moral values were his core teachings.
4. Through Guru Nanak, the Bhakti movement in Punjab became a vehicle of social change and it was the intensity and depth of his message, fortified and consolidated by successor Gurus that served as an edifice on which the super-structure of Sikhism was built.
5. Guru Nanak played important role in integrating the contemporary Bhakti-Sufi tradition of spiritual quest with the socio milieu in the totality of the medieval Indian life. The essence of Nanak's religion consists in it's being a force and emancipating his followers from all religious and social shackles.
6. Guru Nanak consciously projected new goals, envisaging a socio-religious order based on the concept of universal brotherhood, social justice, and humanitarian cultural vision that would engender peaceful co-existence and mutual understanding through explicit acceptance of cultural pluralism.
7. Guru Nanak differed from other saints of the Bhakti movement on the concept of God and World. The policy of renunciation of the world or detachment with worldly responsibilities did not find place in his teachings.
8. He denounced the leading of life as an ascetic and put great emphasis on hard work and earning livelihood. For him taking care of one's family and providing food and shelter for them was one of the prime duties of man before God.

Contribution of Kabir to Bhakti Movement:
1. Kabir Das got fame all over the world because of his influential traditions and culture. Sant Kabir was prejudiced by the existing religious mood of that time like Hinduism, Tantrism as well as the personal devotionalism mixed with the imageless God of Islam.

2. Kabir Das is the first Indian saint who has coordinated the Hinduism and Islam by giving a universal path which could be followed by both Hindus and Muslims.
3. According to him every life has relationship with two spiritual principles (Jivatma and Paramatma). His view about the moksha that, it is the process of uniting these two divine principles.
4. His great writing, Bijak, has a huge a collection of poems. He simply followed the oneness in the God. He always rejected murti pujan of Hinduism and shown the clear confidence in bhakti and Sufi ideas.
5. He composed poems in a concise and simple style resonating the admire for factual guru. After being an illiterate he had written his poems in Hindi mixing with Avadhi, Braj, and Bhojpuri. The poems are called variously as dohe, saloka and sakhi.
6. Kabir has given the people an authentic fact about what is the religion of human beings that one should have. This has helped the common people to understand his message very easily.

Thus both Kabir and Guru Nanak was a significant figure and played an important role in Bhakti movement through their teachings and creations. Both helped Bhakti tradition to reach masses in their language and allowed spread of Bhakti Movement in various part of the nation.

Q.5) How Indian secularism is different from secularism in west? Also, Illustrate how Secularism is an ancient concept in India?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss Indian concept of secularism and how it is different from western concept? Illustrate how secularism is ancient India concept?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

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

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

Differences from the Western concept:
1. Indian concept of secularism is different from the Western concept of secularism. In the West it is conceived as separation of state and religion. Although in India secularism is not separate from religion. Rather state see all religion as equal.

2. The Western secularism means total non-interference of state and religion in the functioning of each other. The state is allowed to curtail the rights of citizens, if the religion is causing hindrance in the functioning of state.
3. On the other hand, in India the concept is not restricted to the question of how the religious groups are to be treated. Instead, the essence of secularism lies in forging a positive relation between the state and religion in the social and cultural realm.

Secularism- an ancient concept in India:
1. Indian religions are known to have co-existed and evolved together for many centuries before the arrival of Islam in the 12th century, followed by Mughal and colonial era.
2. The religion, practices and beliefs of the Indus Valley Civilisation was secular. Indus Valley people worshipped the male god and a mother goddess; the worship of many symbolic representations of the world around.
3. Vedic people worshipped rain god, fire god etc that reflect their secular sentiments.
4. Buddhism and Jainism embraced many people of all the faiths under their philosophy showing secular character. Also patronisation of Buddhism and Jainism by various kings shows secular character of ancient times in India.
5. Even art and architecture showed secular character and evolved as Indo-Islamic, Anglo-Indian etc. Ellora cave temples built between 5th and 10th centuries, shows a coexistence of religions and a spirit of acceptance of different faiths. It has Buddhist caves, Hindu caves and Jain caves, built in proximity, suggesting religious co-existence and secular sentiments.
6. Ashoka about 2200 years ago, Harsha about 1400 years ago accepted and patronised different religions. Ashoka's dhamma had helped in spreading of Buddhism across the nation.
7. Akbar tried to fuse ideas, professed equality between Islam and other religions of India, forbade forced conversions to Islam, abolished religion-based discriminatory jizya taxes, and welcomed building of Hindu temples. Akbar's idea of Sulh-i-kul was described by him a peaceful and harmonious relationship among different religions.
8. During colonial times Muslim and Hindu fought together. 1857 revolt was fought by many Hindu leaders like Rani Laxmibai, Nana Sahib and Muslim leaders like Begum Hazrat Mahal together. Even they unanimously declared Bhadur Shah Zaffar as their leader.
9. Gandhi's support for Khilafat movement, role of many Muslims like Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan (frontier Gandhi) in fighting together against British show secularism was there even at worse times.
10. The Parsis who fled Iran and came to India to escape persecution, survived in India subsequently and prospered, due to India's secular character. Dada bhai Nairoiji was one among many that contributed to Indian freedom.

The essence of secularism lies in accommodation of varied social groups and overcome tendencies that destructs the social fabric of the any society. In India where differences exists in terms of different religions and cultures secularism plays a crucial role. It is evident that Indian secularism since ancient India embraced many religions, sects, communities showing tolerance and true sense of accommodation, leading to a tolerant nation with social cohesion.

Q.6) Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss main reasons for mangrove depletion and their importance in Coastal ecology.
Conclusion. Way forward.

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

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

Importance of mangroves in maintaining coastal ecology:
1. The mangroves show edge effect, which means that they have large species diversity in comparison to marine or terrestrial ecosystem.
2. Mangroves are among the most productive terrestrial ecosystems and are a natural, renewable resource. For instance, Sundarbans in the Gangetic delta supports around 30 plant species of mangroves.

3. Mangroves provide ecological niches for a wide variety of organisms. They serve as breeding, feeding and nursery grounds for fisheries and provide timber and wood for fuel.
4. Mangrove forests act as water filters and purifiers as well. When water from rivers and floodplains flow into the ocean, mangroves filter a lot of sediments, hence protecting the coastal ecology including coral reefs.
5. They supply timber, fire wood, medicinal plants and edible plants to local people.
6. They provide numerous employment opportunities to local communities and augment their livelihoods.
7. Mangroves act as shock absorbers. They reduce high tides and waves and protect shorelines from erosion and also minimise disasters due to cyclones and tsunami.
8. Given their importance, strict enforcement of the coastal regulation measures, scientific management practices and participation of the local community in conservation and management are essential for the conservation and sustainable management of the precious mangrove forests.

Thus, the mangroves have an important role in sustaining and preserving coastal ecosystem. The threats posed by human activities can upset the natural balance and cause their depletion.

Q.7) Discuss various consequences of Illegal immigration in India. What are various laws in place to tackle illegal non-citizens?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss various consequences of illegal migration in India. Mention various provisions and laws to tackle illegal non-citizens.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

India has been witnessing immigration since independence. People who have faced religious and political persecution, economic and social discrimination, cultural repression and curbs on personal freedom have made India their home. Of all kinds of migration, illegal migration has become the most volatile and contentious issue in Indian polity today because of the socio-political conflicts it has brought in its wake. Illegal migration comprises of people across national borders in a way that violates the immigration laws of the destination country.

Consequences of Illegal Migration in India:
1. **Clashes due to Insecurity:** Illegal migration has resulted in periodic clashes between the citizens of India and migrants, leading to their loss of life and property, and thereby violating their constitutional rights.
2. **Political Instability:** Conflict over scarce resources, economic opportunities and cultural dominance ensues between the locals and migrants, along with the resultant political instability caused by the mobilisation of popular perception against the migrants by the elites to grab political power.
3. **Disturbance in Law and Order:** The rule of law and integrity of the country are undermined by the illegal migrants who are engaged in illegal and anti-national activities, such as entering the country clandestinely, fraudulently acquiring identity cards, exercising voting rights in India and resorting to trans-border smuggling and other crimes.

4. **Rise of Militancy:** The persistent attacks against the Muslims perceived as illegal migrants in Assam has given way to radicalisation within certain sections of the Muslim community with the formation of militant organisations, such as the Muslim United Liberation Tigers of Assam (MULTA).

5. **Human trafficking:** In the recent decades, trafficking of women and human smuggling have become quite rampant across the borders. Poverty and hunger forces either the parents to sell the girls to traffickers or the girls themselves leave home and fall prey to traffickers.

6. **Tighter Border Controls:** Indian government implemented a series of schemes, such as augmenting the manpower of the border-guarding force, increasing the number of border outposts along the border, constructing fences and issuance of multiple identity cards to border population.

Reasons for Illegal Migration in India:

1. **Political Factors:** Political factors have been one of the major reasons in forcing the Bangladeshi and Pakistani Hindus out of the country and into India.

2. **Religious Discrimination:** In Bangladesh, the already discriminatory land laws were further manipulated by vested interest groups and corrupt administrators to dispossess and alienate the Hindus from their own land and property. Religion has a particular effect in the case of the Rohingya Crisis.

3. **Growing Population:** Growing population creates greater demands on resources such as land, food, energy, water and forest products, and their consequent overuse results in deterioration of quality. This process, in turn, encourages inequality in resource distribution among the rich and poor as the rich corner them and deny the poor their share.

4. **Stagnant Economic Growth and Lack of Employment:** Industrialisation in India's neighbouring countries has not been able to keep pace with the growing labour force and as a result, the unemployment rate is declining. The working-age people who are unable to find jobs in the country look outside for employment opportunities.

5. **Porous Borders:** India shares long and porous international border with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. The border traverses a range of natural and cultural landscapes, which pose a challenge to its effective management.

Legal Framework in India:

1. **Article 51** states that the state shall endeavour to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organized people with one another. As the **Citizenship Act 1955**, an illegal immigrant can be:
   - Foreign national who enters India on valid travel documents and stays beyond their validity, or
   - Foreign national who enters without valid travel documents.

2. The **Foreigners Act, 1946,** gives the central government the right to deport a foreign national.

3. India is **not a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention and 1967 Protocol** relating to the Status of Refugees, and it does not currently have a national law on refugees.

4. While law and order is a State subject under the Indian Constitution, international relations and international borders are under the exclusive purview of the Union government. This has resulted in a variety of agencies, both of the Central as well as the State governments, having to deal with refugee matters connected with law enforcement.

5. In 2011, the Union government circulated to all states and Union Territories a Standard Operating Procedure to deal with foreign nationals who claimed to be refuges. So, India does not have on its statute book a specific and separate law to govern refugees.

6. **NRC in Assam:** A National Register of Citizens (NRC), containing information for each individual such as the father's name or husband's name, nationality, sex, age, means of livelihood, was prepared by the Assam government in 1951. The NRC was aimed to help identify and verify genuine Indian citizens and repatriate foreigners. Now, the Assam government has recently released the updated version of NRC.

7. **The Foreigner's Tribunals of 1964:** These tribunals had the power to take up cases to decide whether a person is foreigner or not, as specified in the Foreigners Act of 1946.

8. **Multipurpose Identity Card:** In 2010, Aadhaar Project was launched to provide a unique identity number to each resident of India and the Unique Identification.

9. **Amendment to Citizenship Act:** The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016 aims to provide citizenship to those who had been forced to seek shelter in India because of religious persecution or fear of persecution in their home countries. They are primarily Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis and Christians from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

It is obligation for state to work for the rights of humans in general especially citizens of its state. India has also voted affirmatively to adopt the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which affirms rights for all persons, citizens and non-citizens alike. Thus, it is important to tackle issue of illegal migration very carefully in order to work towards human rights.

General Studies 2

Q.1) "According to All India Survey on Higher Education 2018-19 share of enrolled minorities still continue to be under-represented given their share of the total population." Discuss various reasons for such under-representation. Suggest some measures to improve minority enrolment in higher education.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** What causes such under-representation of minorities in education? What can be done to attain full equity and inclusion in higher education?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Education is the single greatest tool for achieving social justice and equality. Inclusive and equitable education is critical to achieving an inclusive and equitable society. According to recent All India Survey on Higher Education 2018-19 share of enrolled minorities still continue to be under-represented. Unfortunately, prejudice and bias, especially against minorities among other factors, has impacted minorities capacity to benefit from the education system, that hold the nation back from growth, innovation, and progress.

What causes such under-representation of minorities in education?
1. **Lack of access:** A first basic cause for the exclusion is that children from minorities often suffer from a lack of access to schools, especially quality schools. Despite the dramatic leap in access to schooling over the past decade, there remain very serious barriers to access to education, especially for areas with large populations from educationally underrepresented groups.
2. **Poverty:** Poverty plays a major role in both exclusion and discrimination. Poor families struggle to send their children to school (even when there is access), and to provide support for their schooling when they do. Children from poorer homes often also suffer nutritional deficiencies that have a direct impact on learning.
3. **Lack of Infrastructure:** The lack of quality infrastructure, functional and secure toilets, and safe drinking water in schools in poorer areas represents a severe form of discrimination in education for children from socio-economically disadvantaged communities. The lack of good libraries, laboratories, and learning supplies at school hits children from disadvantaged communities the hardest, as they generally will not have as many educational resources at home.
4. **Social bias:** Social mores and biases also contribute in a serious way to discriminatory practices. For example, many communities believe that girls need not go through formal schooling.
5. **Poor curriculum:** Curriculum and textbooks often also play a role. An analysis of the existing curricula, pedagogy or textbooks exhibits a biased picture of life where the view of the "powerful" prevails. For example, the earning member of a family is almost always male in our textbooks; there are almost no references to people that are differently-abled. Thus many of our classroom processes do not welcome or encourage children from disadvantaged or underrepresented communities.

What can be done to attain full equity and inclusion in higher education?
1. Affirmative action and programmes are needed to increase enrolment of students who may have faced race, caste, gender, or geographical discrimination.

2. In addition, policies and schemes such as targeted scholarships, conditional cash transfers etc. can significantly increase participation of minorities in the higher education.
3. Reservations in higher education to minorities should be accompanied by structural changes like land reforms and an inclusive educational support system.
4. The poor should get special weightage but a watchdog body should keep an eye on their progress.

All the above measures are absolutely critical to attaining full inclusion and equity for all the minorities but they are not sufficient. What will also be required is a change in culture. All participants in the education system, including teachers, principals, administrators, social workers, counsellors, and students, will need to be sensitised to the requirements of all students, the notions of inclusion and equity, and the respect and dignity of all persons. Such an educational culture will be the best tool to help students become empowered individuals who, in turn, will enable society to transform into one that is responsible towards its most vulnerable citizens.

Q.2) "Maritime security and connectivity in Indo-Pacific region are the priority areas that need to be focused for India's economic growth and sustainable development." Comment.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss the significance of maritime security and connectivity in Indo-Pacific region for Indian growth.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

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

Significance of maritime security and connectivity in Indo-Pacific region for Indian growth:
1. **Strategic significance:** Indio-Pacific is a multipolar region, contributing more than half of the world's GDP and population. A stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific Region is an important pillar of India's strategic partnership with the other countries especially USA.
2. **Mineral Resources:** Maritime territories have also emerged as depositories of vital resources ranging from fish stocks to minerals and offshore oil and gas.48 The South China Sea, for instance, is estimated to hold some 10 per cent of the global catch of fish as well as 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas.
3. **Economic Growth:** According to a report of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), countries in the Indo-Pacific produce over 60% of global GDP, making the region the largest single contributor to global growth.

4. **Commerce:** The region consists of many of the world's vital choke points for global commerce, including the Straits of Malacca which is very critical for the growth of world economy. The Indo-Pacific region also stands at the intersection of international trade, with around 32.2 million barrels of crude oil pass through annually and 40% of global exports come from the region.

5. **Maritime Trade:** Pacific islands are strategically significant from New Delhi's point of view as they sit astride important sea lines of communication through which important maritime trade is conducted.

6. **Connectivity:** India is planning to put greater energy to the IORA because the heart of its Indo-Pacific policy is rooted in the Indian Ocean. This integrates the blue economy part of the Indian policy with the security part. It is important for India to engage with Singapore, Vietnam and Indonesia as a key partner in the region for India. This will involve the Quad and taking this new grouping to the region.

7. **Chinese threat:** China's increasingly active presence in the Indian Ocean region as well as its efforts to expand geopolitical reach in Asia and beyond by the use of trade and military Demand rule-based order to secure India's interests and free trade. In the present time, the control of sea lanes and ports would be the game.

8. **Rule based order:** It is important to adhere to freedom of navigation, adherence to rules-based order and stable trade environment. Also, for free sea and air lanes, connectivity and upholding international rules and norms.

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

Q.3) As misuse of sedition laws by politicians is common which lead to abuse of human rights, do you agree that sedition laws need to be buried? Justify your answer.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss how sedition law is an oppressive tool? Arguments in favour and against abolition of sedition law.
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. 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.
7. 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.

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

Need of continuation of Section 124A:
1. Freedom of speech although is protected through Article 19 (1) but it is not unlimited. Sometimes speech is used as a tool to destabilise country polity and to promote enmity in the society.
2. 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.
3. Maoist insurgency and rebel groups virtually run a parallel administration; it would be dangerous to abolish it. These groups openly advocate the overthrow of the state government by revolution. Thus, keeping section 124A is important for Indian security.

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

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

Q.4) Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources the Panchayats can look out for financing developmental projects?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Importance of Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Sources of finance of PRIs other than government grants.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Local self-governance means a system of governance where the locals take decisions for their own governance and development through their representatives or direct participation. Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) were constitutionalised under the 73rd Amendment Act of the Constitution of India in 1992. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments gave recognition and protection to local government. They are the statutory bodies which are elected at village, block and district level.

Importance of Panchayat system in India as a part of local government:

1. The PRIs are the local self-governing bodies that ensure the opportunity for people's participation and involvement in the formulation and implementation of rural development programmes.
2. The main objective of Panchayat System in India is to strengthen the base of democracy at the grass root level.
3. It was introduced as a real democratic political apparatus which would bring the masses into active political control from below, from the vast majority of the weaker, poor sections of rural India.
4. They play the role of a catalytic agent in integrating development of tribal masses in rural areas.
5. Plan documents of both the central and state governments and various committees have emphasised the importance of these bodies in the polity. Five-year plans have also laid special emphasis on the role of Panchayats in rural developments.
6. Rural Development includes measures to strengthen the democratic structure of society through the PRIs. PRIs have been used to improve the rural infrastructure, income of rural households and delivery systems pertaining to education, health and safety mechanisms. These institutions are to be galvanised to become effective instruments of social and economic change at the local level.

Sources of finance of PRIs other than government grants:

1. The taxes imposed by the Village Panchayats are important source of income of Gram Panchayats, such as:
   - taxes on land and houses
   - the custom duty
   - toll tax

- license fees
2. Money comes also as grants-in-aid from the Central or the State government or from the ZillaParishad or PanchayatSamiti.
3. Another source of earning of the Panchayat is the loan collected from the Central government, the State government or other financial agencies. Money collected from gifts through Government schemes such as MPLADS also becomes a source of earning for the Panchayat.

However, the decisions as to which taxes, duties, tolls and fees should be assigned to local governments and which should be shared by the State with them, continue to be with the state legislatures. Therefore, more devolution of financial powers to the PRIs is the need of the hour to make them as viable institutions to effect change in the socio-economic development of the rural India.

Q.5) "The poor are not only deprived of access to material benefits, but are robbed of the opportunity to participate in social, economic and cultural transactions from a plane of equality." Comment.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss how poverty cause inequalities and rob poor from various opportunities? What should be done?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The ILO Declaration of Philadelphia, 1944 states that "Poverty anywhere is a threat to prosperity everywhere." Poverty, therefore, has implications for stability of society and hampers it's progress. Poverty is one of the main reasons for inequalities in India and prevent poor from the opportunity to participate in social, economic and cultural events.

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

5. Poverty destroys the living environment not only of those who live in poverty but of all other human beings as well as non-human living things that depend on the same resources and ecosystem on which those living in poverty depend and survive.

6. Poor people live in conditions that are miserable, conditions in which some members of their family die of hunger, disease of famine. It lead to parents to sell their child into slavery or prostitution because of lack of resources to feed or care for that child and when government institutes fail to protect the rights of the poor. This is threat to social fabric.

What should be done?

1. Poverty redressal requires economic growth accompanied by an improvement in access to social services.

2. Unemployment is at the centre of poverty. For the poor, labour is the only asset that can be used to improve the lives and wellbeing. It is crucial to empower the poor who have the potential but often lack opportunities to shape their lives.

3. An important measure to generate employment opportunities for the poor and to raise their productivity is the speedy development of infrastructure. Since private sector is not attracted to make adequate investment in infrastructure, public investment needs to be stepped up for its development.

4. Besides physical infrastructure development, poverty can also be reduced through human resource development. Human resource development requires greater investment in educational facilities such as schools to promote literacy, technical training institutes and vocational colleges to import skills to the people. Further, human resource development requires health care by public investment in Primary Health Centres, dispensaries and hospitals.

5. For reduction of poverty growth of non-farm employ-ment in the rural areas is of special importance. Non-farm employment is created in marketing, transportation, handicrafts, dairying, and forestry, processing of food and other agricultural products, repair workshops

6. Empowering and facilitating all citizens to earn such levels of income that they can buy these services from the open market is important. Universal basic income can be provided to extremely poor people.

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

Q.6) "Revival of the traditional Indian systems of medicine, which comprises Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (AYUSH), along with strengthening of modern medicine system will help in making healthcare system more accessible and affordable." Discuss.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss how revival of traditional medicine will help in the achievement of universal healthcare?
Conclusion. Way forward.

In spite of incredible advances in modern science, technology and allopathic medicine a large we are unable to provide quality healthcare to all. Traditional medicine is considered as a major healthcare provider around the globe particularly in rural and remote areas. Indian traditional medicinal system like Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani has a very rich history of their effectiveness. Mainstreaming of such medicine is important for the people. Evidence based incorporation of Indian traditional medicine in clinical practice will help to provide quality healthcare to all.

How revival of traditional medicine will help in the achievement of universal healthcare?

1. In 21st century, tremendous advances in healthcare sector coexist with inequities in accessibility, availability and affordability of the healthcare facilities in many parts of India. Integration of Ayurvedic and others Indian traditional medicine in clinical practice will helpful to promote the health of the people who are unable to access the modern medicine properly.

2. Variety, flexibility, easy availability, religious/social acceptance, relative low side effect and cost are the key factor for the need of revival of traditional medicine.

3. The revival also provide us the opportunity to integrate such medicine in primary healthcare to facilitate the people health.

4. A study in rural area of West Bengal shows that folk medicine play a key role to prevent common diseases likes small injuries, skin disease, fever, dehydration, diabetes, high BP, liver disease etc in better way.

5. In rural areas, indigenous medicine play significant role in primary healthcare for prevention/management of common ailments.

6. In India, the ratio of the doctor-patient is 1:1700 if we consider only allopathic doctors, the ratio will come to 1:800 if the AYUSH practitioners are added. This is much better than the WHO recommendation of 1:1000.

7. At present, an acute shortage of allopathic doctors exists in the India and in rural areas this problem is higher and with very less presence in remote areas. AYUSH practitioners however have a much wider presence in rural and remote areas.

8. Similarly, if quacks are trained they can be a vehicle of providing low cost healthcare especially on remote areas.

9. Traditional medicine particularly herbal medicine playing important role in maintain of health in rural and remote areas. Inclusion of traditional herbal medicine in clinical practice will help to achieve the target 'health for all'.

Indian traditional medicine like Ayurveda and others have sound scientific background of effectiveness and also acknowledged by the recent researches. Although efforts are needed to overcome barriers like irrational use, quality control and standardisation issues etc. Stick implementation of rules, monitoring and periodic revision of regulations are absolute necessary to promote Indian traditional medicine. Overall, adequate knowledge about the system, high quality clinical trial, proper information about such drugs and their effectiveness among common people required towards the promotion of such medicine.

Q.7) Is the National Commission for Women able to strategise and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss how National Commission for Women been able to tackle problems faced by women? Also mention failures of National Commission for Women to tackle women issues.
Conclusion. Way forward.

National Commission for Women is a statutory organization formed in 1992. It is mandated to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women; recommend remedial legislature measures; facilitate redressal of grievances and advise the Government on all policy matters affecting women.

How National Commission for Women been able to tackle problems faced by women?

1. Since its inception, the Commission has occupied a considerable space in protecting the rights of weaker section of the population on gender lines.
2. In the past, it has proposed the amendments to the acts such as IPC, 1860 to curb the sale of minor girls, Hindu Marriage Act 1955 to omit epilepsy as grounds for divorce, Dowry Prohibition Act in order to bring the problems of Dowry deaths in to the lime light and deal with them appropriately etc.
3. It had also proposed the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Bill which was passed in 2005.
4. In recent times, the Commission has adopted the multi-pronged strategy of assisting women in redressal of their grievances, facilitating speedy delivery of justice to women by organising Parivarik Mahila Lok Adalats in different parts of the country as well as launching the awareness campaign regarding women's rights.
5. NCW was instrumental in the campaign against Triple Talak and conducted detailed studies about the practice in various nations. It sought to protect women from arbitrary divorces.
6. NCW has undertaken various steps for the rehabilitation of acid attack victims .It has also recommended legislative and policy initiatives for preventing acid attacks.
7. NCW has regularly held seminars, research as well as awareness drive. It has also partnered with NGOs and provided them with grants to widen its reach.
8. NCW has undertaken inspection of jails and promoted the idea of violence free home. The government should take steps to make the body more independent.
9. Further, its Research Cell looks into the emerging problems of Indian women due to discrimination and gender bias.

Failure of National Commission for Women to tackle women issues:

1. There are examples which shows that the Commission has not been able to come up to the expectations of women in India. For example, on the other serious issue of use of sexual violence against women by police and army personnel in the highly militarised areas of Jammu and Kashmir, north-east and now Chhattisgarh, there has been a silence on this on the part of the commission.
2. NCW has been often criticised for its inability to effectively strategise and tackle the problems faced by women at both public and private spheres.

3. NCW found itself in the midst of controversy for its report on the Mangalore pub attacks. Later, on NCW member involved in the controversy was removed on disciplinary grounds.
4. NCW's recommendations regarding section 497 of Indian Penal Code that women were "the victim and not an offenders" in adulterous cases also came under fire.
5. Members have at times exhorted bias and prejudice due to influence of the prevalent patriarchy in our society.
6. Moreover, NCW has been criticised as toothless and spineless. The body is only recommendatory and has no power to enforce its decisions. The body has often been reactive and arbitrarily taken up select issues and responded to them.
7. Also, the commission has been limited in its fight for empowering Indian women due to shortcomings in its composition and structure:
   - NCW lacks concrete legislative power. It enjoys power only to recommend amendments and submit reports.
   - NCW has no power to take legal actions against the Internal Complaint Committees which have lackadaisical attitude towards grievance redressal of women facing harassments at workplace.
   - NCW's functions are dependent on the grants offered by the central government. Financial assistance provided to the Commission is very less to cater to its needs.
   - It does not have the power to choose its own members. The power selecting members is vested with the Union Government and the nature of country's volatile political scenario tends the commission to be politicised.
   - It lack constitutional status, and thus has no legal powers to summon police officers or witnesses.

Thus, it can be seen that though the NCW have done some good work for the women in India, the above-mentioned shortcomings must be addressed and must increase the awareness by conducting country wide campaigns, workshops and consultations. More awareness has to be created especially among the rural women about the existence of the Commission. The Commission can employ a person at the district level to bring into light the atrocities occurring at the district level.

Q.8) "Without any harmony and co-ordination among various institutions and bodies, a society cannot progress and live in peace." Discuss in the light of recent brawl between Delhi police and lawyers.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the need of harmony and co-ordination among police and court institutions for peace and harmony.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Administration of justice is one of the most essential functions of a state. The principle of rule of law is the bedrock upon which the constitution of a nation is built. Although it is the duty of the judiciary to ensure that those who commit offence of any kind do not go unpunished, it is also the duty of police to ensure law and order in the state. This calls for a fine balance, harmony and co-ordination between the two instructions to work for societal peace and prosperity with focus on individual human rights and social interests while combating crime.

Need of harmony and co-ordination among police and court institutions for peace and harmony:

1. The criminal justice system is enforced through a continuum of separate, but interlinked and interdependent subsystems: police and courts. Without harmony among them, peace and prosperity cannot be achieved as this would lead to state of disorder and lawlessness.

2. Court ensure law enforcement by prosecution of the persons apprehended by the police for violent conduct, adjudicates upon the question of their innocence or guilt, administers punishment if needed, and provide for the correction and rehabilitation of the persons adjudged legally guilty. Thus both must work in co-ordination without marred by tussles.

3. Harmony among them is important for social interests through the prevention and control of crime and delinquency.

4. Proper Administration of justice is a must for every democracy to succeed. It is therefore need to encourage harmony among them.

5. To maintain order and peace in society and to prevent, detect and control crime, the state provides law enforcement machinery, particularly the police and courts, with wide ranging powers. If used arbitrarily against each other, these powers could impinge each other working.

6. If two systems do not work in harmony, criminals will go unpunished and would lead to an atmosphere of chaos.

7. The courts and the police establishment are the two faces of the coin of justice, and it is essential, for the rule of law to prevail, that they work in close proximity and harmony. Any dissonance, or friction, between them, is deleterious to peace and harmony, and destructive of public interest, in the long run.

Recent brawl between police and lawyers is dangerous as criminal would go unpunished. Therefore, there is an urgent need to establish harmony between the two systems, because investigation of crime by the police and the prosecuting machinery need to work in co-ordination. Lack of continuous and effective co-ordination amongst the law enforcement agencies, i.e. the police, magistracy, judiciary and correctional administration in general, and the police and prosecuting agencies in particular is not good for whole society.

Q.9) In light of rise in child sexual abuse, discuss the need and challenge of providing sexual education to children. Also, mention role of family, school and teachers in preventing child sexual abuse in the society.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the issue of rising child sexual abuse and need of Sex Education in India. Mention role of family, school and teachers in preventing child sexual abuse.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Children are being subjected to neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation. A society cannot ignore child abuse as it is biggest crime and malaise in the society. Rather it must proactively work to prevent it. Thus it is important in changing times to provide children with sexual education so that they must be able to tackle any situation if may arise.

Rising child sexual abuse and need of Sex Education in India:

1. Nearly 50% of boys and girls, each, face sexual abuse in their young lives, in India, according to a survey by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It is the responsibility of adults to empower these young people with the knowledge to protect themselves against such abuse.

2. It is important to sensitise child about women and others and to teach them what is right or wrong. It is important to teach children about their role and responsibility towards one another, their role towards their families, and towards society, as a whole.

3. A young boy or girl who is just entering teens, needs to learn all aspects about physiological and emotional changes that he or she will be going through while growing up. This information and awareness is absolutely essential for that young individual, in order to ensure that he or she can protect themselves from being sexually abused.

4. It is due to this lack of information and awareness that children go through traumatic experiences that range from sexual abuse to emotional and physical abuse, without knowing the implications of these or what recourse to take and this leads to the victim being emotionally and sometimes, physically, scarred for life.

5. Therefore, it's the responsibility of society to ensure that every boy and girl is provided with the necessary information and is taught all the preventive and corrective measures to be taken in case of any eventuality.

6. There is a compelling need to increase the awareness of providing children with sexual education so they can be equipped with the right vocabulary to talk about sexual abuse.

7. Skills learnt through sexuality education will prepare children to recognise potentially inappropriate behaviour and disclose abuse promptly.

8. The justice process appears frightening to child survivors because no one has educated them about the practices of the court. Besides, unawareness of how and who to report the abuse goes against their interest. Sexual education will thus allow children to gain knowledge about the most effective ways to respond to sexual abuse.

Challenges to sex education in India:

1. A deep-rooted sense of morality binds the sentiment of a large population from seeing the benefits and necessities of launching such an education program throughout the country.

2. It is largely believed that talking about sexuality and its awareness may instead corrupt young adolescents.

3. It must be recognized there cannot be a one-size-fits-all approach. Given the sensitivity of the topic, each state or region would need to be handled specific to their value systems and cultures.

4. Socially acceptable norms in one region could be a taboo in another. So it is difficult to design a nationally acceptable curriculum on sex education.

Role of family, school and teachers in preventing child sexual abuse in the society:

1. **Role of family:** Parents should equip children with information and skills to build self-protective behaviour. They must be available when children need to talk.

   - Parents must keep visiting their child school to ensure accountability of teachers and staff.
   - They must teach their child about how to keep themselves safe and what is an abuse.
   - It is important that family must keep a vigil on their relatives and neighbourhood to prevent any kind of misbehave with the child.
   - It is important that parents must also keep a watch on child's peer group and friend circle and must ask tough questions from school teachers and principal.

2. **Role of Schools:** Schools are at the frontline of child protection since they have the potential to both teach protective behaviours effectively and to a greater number of children than any other system, including parental instructions.
   - Schools must make interview process of teachers rigorous and must do proper background checks on them, as teacher can also abuse.
   - Abusers must be punished harshly.
   - Further schools must appoint a counsellor to counsel students about right and wrong and also to help child post-traumatically.
3. **Role of teachers:** Teachers have a special role in combating child sexual abuse, as they possess the knowledge, training and opportunity to observe and respond to children's behaviour and physical conditions over a period of time.
   - Additionally, because of the close daily contact they are in a unique position to identify these children who need help and protection.
   - They must impart sex education to children based on their age and level of maturity.
   - Creating and strengthening a protective environment for children requires many levels of engagement, which in turn demand dialogue, partnerships, and coordination based on a shared analysis.

Child abuse is a stigma to whole society. It is our duty to protect children. The life of a child can be saved from abuse and can be changed with one's positive intervention. We all must have to prepare ourselves for it and know more about their problems as well as what you can do to help.

Q.10) Discuss the significance of Kerala's K-fon project. Do you think such policy should be adopted at national level?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the significance of K-Fon project and why such policy needs to be adopted at national level?
Conclusion. Way forward.

The Kerala government's Kerala-Fibre Optic Network (K-Fon) project aim to provide free high-speed internet connection to over 20 Lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) families of the state. Recently, in Faheema Shirin v. State of Kerala, the Kerala High Court declared the right to Internet access as a fundamental right forming a part of the right to privacy and the right to education under Article 21 of the Constitution. In present digital world where almost every service is being digitised, it is important to provide Internet to everyone that will help in growth and prosperity.

Significance of Kerala-Fibre Optic Network (K-Fon) project:
1. The program will give a push to the digitisation of government services like the e-health programs, IT parks, airports and seaports.
2. The program will also provide Net connectivity at affordable rate for families which do not fall in the BPL bracket. This will help in reducing digital divide
3. It will link houses and over 30000 government offices and educational institutions. Mobile towers will also be linked to provide faster mobile internet services. Thus would lead to good governance.

4. Digital literacy will allow people to access information and services, collaborate, and navigate socio-cultural networks.
5. It will help in establishing a minimum standard and quality of Internet as well as capacity-building measures which would allow all citizens to be digitally literate.
6. Through internet access and digital literacy, it will also make it easier to demand accountability from the state, as well as encourage the legislature and the executive to take a more proactive role in furthering this right.
7. Internet access would also further provisions given under Articles 38(2) and 39 of the Constitution reducing inequalities and furthering right of every individual.

Need of K-Fon project at national level:
1. **Social Justice:** Digital inequalities lead to gross social injustice and hinder development of the individuals. It prevent Indian citizens and marginalised to enjoy various services and rights provided to them. Thus, internet must be provided to reduce such inequalities.
2. **Access to services:** In recent times, several government and private sector services have become digital. Some of them are only available online. This leads to a new kind of inequality, digital inequality, where social and economic backwardness is exacerbated due to information poverty, lack of infrastructure, and lack of digital literacy. Thus, there is need to provide internet to poorest of poor.
3. **Digital economy:** We are moving to a global digital economy where knowledge of digital processes will transform the way in which people work, collaborate, consume information, and entertain themselves. This has been acknowledged in the Sustainable Development Goals as well as by the Indian government and has led to the Digital India mission. Thus it is important for an economy to provide equal access to Internet as a right.
4. **Preventing exclusion:** Services are now offered online with lesser cost and better efficiency. It also allows citizens to bypass lower-level government bureaucracy. In the absence of Internet access and digital literacy enabling that access, there will be further exclusion of large parts of the population, exacerbating the already existing digital divide.
5. **Good governance:** Moving governance and service delivery online without the requisite progress in Internet access and digital literacy do not make economic sense. For instance, Common Service Centres, which operate in rural and remote locations, are physical facilities which help in delivering digital government services and informing communities about government initiatives.
6. **Employment opportunities:** Lack of internet access prevent many people from equal employment opportunities vis-à-vis available to one who have Internet access and digital knowledge. Further digital illiteracy lead to lack of required skills, as digital skills are must nowadays to get any job.
7. **Women empowerment:** Digital literacy and internet access help in furthering women rights and help them to be aware of their rights. It help in educating women. Also it provide employment opportunities to them, as many women work from home through internet.

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

**Q.11) "Even as malnutrition accounted for millions of deaths in children under the age of five in India, there is issue of rising obesity in schoolchildren in many States."
Discuss.**

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the issue of obesity, various reasons for obesity and Impact of obesity in India.
Conclusion. Way forward.

While malnutrition continues to be the leading risk factor for deaths in children under five and illness in persons of all ages considered together, the problem of overweight among children is also rapidly increasing across the country. Thus there is pressing need to tackle not only malnutrition problem but also problem of obesity in India.

Issue of obesity in India:
1. A study conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has found that the prevalence of the overweight problem in children aged from 2 to 14 has increased significantly between 2010 and 2017.
2. The incidence of child overweight problem was 11.5 per cent as of 2017. It has projected that the number may rise to 17.5 per cent, which is 14.5% higher than the target of three per cent set by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
3. Among various malnutrition indicators, low birth weight is the most significant contributor to child deaths, followed stunting, underweight and wasting.

Reasons for obesity in India
1. **Lifestyle:** People are getting obese due to unhealthy lifestyle. This include unconventional food, sleep, physical activities etc.
2. **Diet:** Not taking recommended daily intake (RDI) despite improvement in nutritional status. Although cereal consumption has reduced in compared to 3 decades ago but intake of fat, sugar and oil have increased.
3. **Unawareness:** About the diet patterns, physical activity habits etc. which leads to developing of an unhealthy environment around children.
4. **Increased income and urbanization:** Increased income leads to a rise in the consumption of foods high in fats, sugar and salt and low physical activity.
5. **Poor sleep patterns:** No proper regime of eating, sleeping & doing physical activity is followed. It also intensifies the effects of genetic risk for obesity.
6. **Food:** Traditional foods are being replaced with packed & processed foods.
7. **Lack of exercise:** Only 28% of men & 15% of women exercised in the surveyed states.

Impact of Obesity:
1. Overweight adults and children are at greater risk for non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular heart disease.
2. It also brings inefficiency to the society, especially in India where labour is a major input factor for economic production.
3. It put extra pressure on already fragile health systems in India by posing a high risk of chronic diseases such as diabetes and some cancers.
4. At the same time, we lose out on a healthy and well-nourished workforce.

Nutrition is acknowledged as one of the most effective entry points for human development, poverty reduction and economic development, with high economic returns. Tackling obesity benefits the economy and the environment, as healthy and sustainable diets are good for productivity levels and the planet. While tackling undernutrition through assurance of adequate nutrition, we need to ensure that it is also about appropriate nutrition. Our policy response has to move from "food security" to "nutrition security".

Q.12) "According to a recent report, maternal death rate in India is declining." Discuss what led to such a decline? Also suggest some measures needed to further reduce the Maternal Mortality rate towards Sustainable development goal.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss various reasons for decline in maternal mortality. Mention some steps to further reduce the maternal mortality.
Conclusion. Way forward.

India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has seen a decline from 167 per 1 lakh live births in 2013 to 130 2016 and to 122 per 1 lakh live births in 2017, according to the latest Sample Registration System (SRS) 2015-2017 bulletin for MMR. This is good news for India as nearly 2,000 maternal deaths have been averted per year. The decline is important for India as 11 States have achieved the National Health Policy target of MMR 100 per lakh live births well ahead of 2020. This has been made possible through institutional deliveries and focused approach towards aspirational districts with benefits reaching the most marginalised and vulnerable mothers.

Reasons for decline in maternal mortality:
1. Focus on quality and coverage of health services through public health initiatives have contributed majorly to the decline. Some of these initiatives are:
   - LaQshya,
   - Poshan Abhiyan,
   - Janani Suraksha Yojana,
   - Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan,
   - Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana.
2. The implementation of the Aspirational District Programme and inter-sectoral action has helped to reach the most marginalized and vulnerable population.
3. Recently launched Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan Initiative (SUMAN) especially focusses on zero preventable maternal and newborn deaths.
4. The continuous progress in reducing the MMR will help the country to achieve the SDG 3 target of MMR below 70 by 2030.
5. With Janani Suraksh Yojna (JSY) under National Rural Health Mission, institutional births nearly doubled. It increased from around 38% to 78% between National Family Health Survey III (2005-06) and NFHS IV.
6. The web-based Mother and Tracking System tracked every pregnancy in the country since 2010. It sends messages to health workers and expectant mothers about ante-natal checkups, vaccinations etc.
7. NRHM also allowed auxiliary nurse midwives (ANMs). They administer antibiotics, intravenous fluids and drugs during emergencies under supervision.

Steps to further reduce the maternal mortality:
1. Every woman should know about the crisis (problem) that may come to her life from pre-reproductive period to post reproductive period.
2. Care and prevention should be instituted at early stage:
   - To protect against child hood and adolescent health issue.
   - To prevent complications of pregnancy through early detection and treatment.
   - To provide clean and safe delivery.
   - To promote the implementation of family planning programme.
   - Predicting the early diagnosis of post reproductive disease.
   - Encouragement fo Institutional delivery.
3. To ensure success it is important to involve obstetrician, midwife and paramedical staff– to find out any complications of pregnancy and prompt treatment.
4. To Involve government, NGOs, IMA- for Awareness Programme at schools, college, religious places regarding Reproductive Health Care and bad effects of drugs, smoking, alcohol etc.
5. To involve health care staff to perform community studies, household surveys and other measures and reproductive age mortality surveys.

Strategies to improve coverage of effective interventions during pre-reproductive period by involving doctor and govt and others manpower could reduce the incidence of health-related complications or mortality and morbidity in India. Early intensive efforts to improve family planning, to control of fertility choices, to provide safe abortion and integrated maternal health services are important interventions to reduce pregnancy related mortality.

Q.13) "As globalisation gives way to Asian century and Asia takes a leading position, India could look to many of the opportunities arising out of the region's rapid integration and shifting networks to help drive its next chapter of growth." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. What are various opportunities for India in realising Asian Century? What should be done to reap benefits from 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. India need to exploit the opportunities arising out of the region's to help drive its chapter of growth.

Opportunities for India in realising Asian Century:
1. Asian century can be realised only with the economic development in Asia, especially in India, which accommodate 2nd largest population of the world. Through adding the Asia focus, India could expect to target four opportunities to help drive its next chapter of growth.
2. As more advanced Asian countries like China move up the economic development ladder, phasing out manufacturing in favour of a shift to R&D and more knowledge intensive manufacturing, there is room for India to seize the baton and become a larger

sourcing base for global supply chains. Just the global sourcing value of mobile handsets is over $500 billion in scale, and India could aspire for a 15-20% share of this footprint.

3. There are opportunities for India to benefit from the flows of capital and investments powering development as Asia integrates more closely.

4. A rapidly growing Asia is catapulting its major cities into leading consumption centres, that offers a ripe market opportunity for Indian businesses ranging from IT services, tourism services, generic pharmaceuticals, automotive components, agrochemicals, and so forth.

5. 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 has an opportunity to play an important trade player in the region.

6. Alongside the movement of goods and capital, flows of people are a vital component of Asia's integration. While Inter-Asian tourism and talent flows are booming, India can exploit this opportunity for booming its tourism sector. Improving visa processes and creating programmes for talent and academic exchange could help in this regard.

7. Environmental protection is a potential and important area for long-term cooperation. As the most populous countries, joint efforts between China and India will be crucial to tackle environmental challenges like climate change. In this regard, both the countries are inextricably linked through a shared atmosphere, water resources, and the Himalayan ecology. India can emerge leader in green technologies and can boost its renewable energy exports.

What should be done to reap benefits from Asian century?

1. To fully realise this opportunity, more needs to be done, particularly in terms of improving infrastructure. Investments are needed to improve the logistical backbone supporting manufacturing, incentives are needed to encourage future investments in R&D, and large-scale innovation hubs need to be developed to move manufacturing to the next phase and help to capture the demand opportunity.

2. Much greater efforts are required to get better value out of value chains by opening markets, strengthening human capital and technological and innovative capacities.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. More needs to be done to realise the potential opportunity of investment flows from other countries. 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.

The Asian century is well and truly underway. 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.14) Examine the strategic significance of Indo-Pacific region for India. Also, discuss how India should tackle Chinese dominance in Indo-Pacific region?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.   **Body.** Discuss strategic significance of Indo-Pacific region for India. Mention Chinese threat and increasing presence and how India should tackle it?   **Conclusion.** Way forward.

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

Strategic significance of Indo-Pacific region for India:
1. **Strategic significance:** Indio-Pacific is a multipolar region, contributing more than half of the world's GDP and population. A stable, secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific Region is an important pillar of India's strategic partnership with the other countries especially USA.
2. **Mineral Resources:** Maritime territories have also emerged as depositories of vital resources ranging from fish stocks to minerals and offshore oil and gas.48 The South China Sea, for instance, is estimated to hold some 10 per cent of the global catch of fish as well as 11 billion barrels of oil and 190 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas.
3. **Economic Growth:** According to a report of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), countries in the Indo-Pacific produce over 60% of global GDP, making the region the largest single contributor to global growth.
4. **Commerce:** The region consists of many of the world's vital choke points for global commerce, including the Straits of Malacca which is very critical for the growth of world economy. The Indo-Pacific region also stands at the intersection of international trade, with around 32.2 million barrels of crude oil pass through annually and 40% of global exports come from the region.
5. **Maritime Trade:** Pacific islands are strategically significant from New Delhi's point of view as they sit astride important sea lines of communication through which important maritime trade is conducted.

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

How India should tackle Chinese dominance in Indo-Pacific region?

1. It is important to adhere to freedom of navigation, adherence to rules-based order and stable trade environment. Also, for free sea and air lanes, connectivity and upholding international rules and norms.

2. India should focus on the link between Indo-China border area and the East China Sea. It is important for India to cooperate with Japan and the US to deal with Chinese front. Japan and the US are willing to support India's efforts to modernize its defence in the Indo-China border area.

3. Japan, the US and Australia should share the know-how related with anti-submarine capabilities and enhance India's military preparedness.

4. Furthermore, developing infrastructure in other countries of the region is useful, too. E.g. Bangladesh has already chosen Japan's Martabali port project instead of China's Sonadia port project. If the Trincomalee port project involving Japanese assistance in Sri Lanka succeeds, then the importance of China's Hambantota port will decline. The Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC), a result of Indo-Japanese cooperation, will also counter China's growing influence in Africa.

5. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are strategically important. These islands are near the Malacca Straits, providing an excellent location for tracking China's submarine activities. India need to modernise the infrastructure to deploy more and larger warships and planes in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

6. India needs to have maritime alliances like Quad (India, Australia, the US and Japan) with different countries including US to protect its interests in the South China Sea without provoking China.

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

Q.15) Discuss the key features of draft social security code, 2019. Mention various flaws in the draft social security code, 2019.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Mention key highlights of the draft code. Mention various issues and flaws.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

To amalgamate a clutch of existing laws government of India has drafted a social security code and proposes several new initiatives including universal social security for unorganised sector workers and, insurance and health benefits for gig workers. This draft is seen as a major labour reform including others.

Key highlights of the draft:

1. **Insurance, life cover for unorganised sector employees:** Central Government shall formulate and notify, from time to time, suitable welfare schemes for unorganised

workers on matter relating to life and disability cover; health and maternity benefits; old age protection; and any other benefit as may be determined by the central government.

2. **Corporatisation of EPFO and ESIC:** The pension, insurance and retirement saving bodies including EPFO and ESIC will be body corporate. Labour minister, labour secretary, the central PF commissioner and Director General of ESIC may not be by default the head of such organizations.

3. **Benefits for Gig workers:** Central Government may formulate and notify, from time to time, suitable social security schemes for gig workers and platform workers and such schemes would encompass issues like life and disability cover, health and maternity benefits, old age protection and any other benefit as may be determined by the Central Government.

4. **Maternity benefits:** Subject to the other provisions of this Code, every woman shall be entitled to, and her employer shall be liable for, the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of the average daily wage for the period of her actual absence, that is to say, the period immediately preceding the day of her delivery, and any period immediately following that day.

What are the issues?
1. It merely clubs together existing schemes in the organised sector.
2. It has avoided the ambiguities over the basic criteria for availing social security benefits such as the minimum number of employees in an organisation and length of service.
3. The basic structural and conceptual flaws in the code are,
4. There is no uniform definition of social security.
5. No central fund. The corpus is proposed to be split into numerous small funds creating a multiplicity of authorities and confusion.
6. It is unclear how the proposed dismantling of the existing and functional structures, such as the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) — is a better alternative.
7. No clear definition for the crucial categories such as workers, wages, principal-agent in a contractual situation; and "organised-unorganised" sectors.
8. This will continue to impede the extension of key social security benefits such as PF, gratuity, maternity benefits, and healthcare to all sections of workers.
9. There is no commitment from the government to contribute to the listed social security measures, even as the Code is clear about employee and employer contributions.
10. How exactly the government proposes to facilitate their access to PF or medical care is not clear.

The Code on Social Security, 2019 once in place will merge 8 exiting labour laws including Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and Unorganised Workers 'Social Security Act, 2008. Although this is a much-waited reform in labour sector, there are some flaws that need to be rectified.

Q.16) Discuss the role and function of election commission of India. How Election Commission ensure free and fair elections in India?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the functions of Election Commission of India. Discuss how Election Commission ensure free and fair elections in India?
Conclusion. Way forward.

Election Commission of India plays a crucial role in organising elections. The most significant role of the Election Commission of India is to ensure free and fair elections as per the norms and the Model Code of Conduct. It is in charge of monitoring the actions and activities of the political parties and candidates and try to ensure free, fair and transparent elections in India.

Functions of Election Commission of India:
1. Election Commission of India superintendents, direct and control the entire process of conducting elections to Parliament and Legislature of every State and to the offices of President and Vice-President of India.
2. The most important function of the commission is to decide the election schedules for the conduct of periodic and timely elections, whether general or bye-elections.
3. It prepares electoral roll, issues Electronic Photo Identity Card (EPIC).
4. It decides on the location polling stations, assignment of voters to the polling stations, location of counting centres, arrangements to be made in and around polling stations and counting centres and all allied matters.
5. It grants recognition to political parties & allot election symbols to them along with settling disputes related to it.
6. The Commission also has advisory jurisdiction in the matter of post-election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures.
7. It issues the Model Code of Conduct in election for political parties and candidates so that the no one indulges in unfair practice or there is no arbitrary abuse of powers by those in power.
8. It sets limits of campaign expenditure per candidate to all the political parties, and also monitors the same.

How Election Commission ensure free and fair elections in India?
1. Election Commission ensure free and fair election by enforcing and maintaining a model code of conduct before elections and punishes any candidate or party that violates it.
2. The Commission had gone to the extent of disciplining the political parties with a threat of de-recognising if the parties failed in maintaining inner-party democracy.
3. It upholds the values enshrined in the Constitution viz, equality, equity, impartiality, independence; and rule of law in superintendence, direction, and control over the electoral governance.
4. It conducts elections with the highest standard of credibility, freeness, fairness, transparency, integrity, accountability, autonomy and professionalism.
5. It ensures participation of all eligible citizens in the electoral process in an inclusive voter-centric and voter-friendly environment.
6. It engages with political parties and all stakeholders in the interest of the electoral process.
7. It creates awareness about the electoral process and electoral governance amongst stakeholders namely, voters, political parties, election functionaries, candidates and people at large; and to enhance and strengthen confidence and trust in the electoral system of this country.
8. During the times of elections, it can order the government to follow some guidelines towards making the elections free and fair.
9. At the time of election duty, the government officers work under the control of EC and not the ruling party.
10. The Commission approaches the government well in advance to obtain the names of senior officers for the purpose of appointment as observers before any election.
11. Commission via SVEEP, ECI engages more and more voters in the electoral process and ensure their ethical and inducement-free participation in voting.

For the last 15 years, the EC is exercising its powers to full potential and has even increased them. Today the free and fair elections are just because of the working of EC. The internal system of monitoring by neutral and senior government officers has become time tested and been proving to be very useful during elections. Over the years influence of money and criminal elements in politics has increased along with violence and electoral malpractices resulting in criminalisation of politics. The ECI has been able to arrest this but not completely.

Q.17) "Anaemia among men in India is an important public health problem which is widely ignored." Discuss.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss the issue of anaemia among men, its causes, consequences and preventive measures.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines anaemia as a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet physiological needs. A recent study published in The Lancet Global Health has observed that 23.5 % of men (15-54 years age group) in India are affected with anaemia. Population-based studies on anaemia in India have mostly focused on women and children whereas men with the anaemia have received much less attention despite its adverse effect on health and economic productivity.

Issue of anemia among men in India:
1. An estimated 1.9 billion people (27%) in the world had anaemia in 2013 and 93% of these cases occur in low- and middle-income countries.
2. The prevalence of anaemia in men varied widely between states, ranging from 9 % in Manipur (lowest) to 33 % in Bihar (highest).
3. Higher prevalence has been observed for younger age groups.
4. Iron deficiency is the most common cause of anaemia, although other conditions, such as folate, vitamin B12 and vitamin A deficiencies, chronic inflammation, parasitic infections, and inherited disorders can all cause anaemia.

Cause of anaemia among men in India:
1. **Illiteracy:** Men with less education and those living in rural areas are more likely to have anaemia.
2. **Poverty:** Less household wealth lead to unavailability of proper nutritional diets and lead to anaemia.
3. **Neglect:** Men are branded as rough and tough in society. Health of men is often ignored and neglected especially in rural areas.
4. **Other factors:** Factors such as consuming smokeless tobacco, being underweight, level of urbanisation and household wealth are associated with a higher probability of developing the disease.

Consequences of Anaemia Among Men:
1. It can decrease productivity by causing fatigue, creating difficulty in concentrating, and lethargy.
2. Although male anaemia does not affect the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition but it may reduce overall work performance and quality of life.

3. It also lead to lack of harmony in family as men are irritated most of the time and show their anger on family.
4. It put life of men in danger as fatigue may lead to unintended consequences like falling on working site from rooftop.

Preventive Measures:
1. The distribution of iron tablets and food fortification with iron.
2. Higher awareness about anaemia and various nutritional deficiencies.
3. Health of men should not be ignored.
4. Focus must be on Erving issues like hidden hunger.
5. Men must be taught about bad effects of smoking that lead to less hunger and lead to other diseases.

The existing anaemia control measures in the country are majorly focussed on women and children. The inclusion of the males in the target population will help to eliminate anaemia completely from the country. In 2018, the government of India launched Anaemia Mukt Bharat (AMB) as part of the Intensified National Iron Plus Initiative (NIPI) Program for accelerating the annual rate of decline of anaemia from one to three percentage points.

Q.18) Discuss the role and function of pressure groups in India. Do you think pressure groups in India has been able to successfully deliver on their mandate?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss role and function of pressure groups. Mention influence and limitations of pressure groups wrt their mandate.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Pressure groups are forms of organisations, which exert pressure on the political or administrative system of a country to extract benefits out of it and to advance their own interests. Pressure groups have become a very important part of an administrative system. These groups try to pressurise the administrative and political system of a country either to ensure that their interests are promoted or to see that at least their interests are not relegated to the background. No system can function effectively without taking their viewpoint into consideration.

Role/Functions of Pressure Groups:
1. Pressure groups are agents of political socialisation in so far as they influence the orientations of the people towards the political process. They play an important role in the transmission of cultural values and in influencing the behaviour of the people in politics. They are the factors of sociological and psychological environment of the political system.
2. Through participation in the group activities and by influencing the nature of political process the members of various groups get engaged in political participation. Similarly, these groups play a vital role as two-way communication links between the people and the government.
3. The training that the members of the groups undergo as its office bearers or active members enables and encourages them to take up political roles. It is in this way that pressure groups perform the function of political recruitment.

4. Pressure groups, by nature are non-partisan groups. These indirectly play a crucial role in elections. When the political parties are selecting their candidates, these groups try to influence the choice. They try for the inclusion of favourable provisions in the election manifestoes of political parties. After elections, the pressure groups try to influence the choice of ministers from amongst the elected members.
5. In a political system, there is present a continuous process of interactions between political parties and pressure groups. The latter are always at work to influence the policies and activities of a political party (usually the majority party) or parties in such a way as can help them to secure their interests.
6. Pressure groups play a vital role in the legislative process, not only as important structures of interest articulation, but also as active agencies engaged in lobbying with the legislators for securing desired laws or amendments in laws and policies of the government.
7. Pressure Groups are actively involved with the process of administration. The important role played by the organised associations, unions, and trade unions of the civil servants is a well-known fact. Civil Servants are the real personnel behind the political executive, who manage the day-to-day administration and policies of the government.

Growing influence of Pressure Groups fulfilling their mandate:
1. For a successful democracy it is important to generate a public opinion, so that policy in question may be supported or condemned.
2. PGs help to educate people, compile data and provide specific information to policy makers, thus they work as an informal source of information.
3. Active constructive participation of numerous groups in polity helps to reconcile general interest with individual group interests.
4. Pressure groups played a leading role in the formulation of public opinion. Each pressure group is continuously engaged in evaluating all such laws, rules, decisions and policies which have a direct or indirect bearing on the interests it represents.
5. It has helped in placing the pros and cons not only before its members but also before the general public for eliciting popular support as well as for catching the attention of the government.
6. There are some groups that played important roles in developing policies and dissolving issues according to situations or for specific purpose. For example, anti-dowry, anti-sati.

Issues related to pressure groups:
1. Sometimes they have biased interests limited to few members. Most PGs except business groups & big community groups do not have autonomous existence.
2. They are unstable and lack commitment, their loyalties shift with political situations which threatens general welfare.
3. They many a times resort to un-constitutional means like violence. Naxalite movement started in 1967 in West Bengal is one such example. And since pressure groups are not elected, it is not fair that they decide crucial policy decisions in a democracy.
4. In India, organised groups largely influence the administrative process rather than the formulation of policy. This is dangerous as a gap is created between policy formulation and implementation.
5. Many a time factors of caste and religion eclipse the socioeconomic interests. The result is that instead of serving a useful purpose in the political administrative process, they are reduced to work for narrow selfish interests.
6. Moreover, many of the groups have a very short life because of the lack of resources. This explains the reason for the mushroom growth of pressure groups as well as their

withering away as it becomes difficult to sustain the interest of the persons, initially attracted to form these pressure groups.

In a country like India the tendency to politicise every issue, whether it has social, economic, cultural import, restricts the scope, working, and effectiveness of pressure groups. Instead of the pressure groups exerting influence on political process, they become tools and implements to subserve political interests. The factors which inhibit development of sound civic consciousness, also hinder emergence of healthy and functional pressure groups as a legitimate means of projecting legitimate socio-economic-ethnic and cultural interests of the citizen.

Q.19) "BRICS is becoming a magnet for many emerging economies." In light of this discuss the significance of BRICS as a pillar of the emerging, fairer poly-centric world order.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the significance of BRICS in poly-centric world.
Conclusion. Way forward.

BRICS is the acronym for five fastest growing nations of the world, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. It was formed to encourage cultural, commercial and political operation among BRICS nations. The BRICS nations are all leading developing or newly industrialised nations and has gained importance in emerging and fairer poly-centric world order.

Significance of BRICS in poly-centric world:
1. BRICS consist of about 41% of world population as of 2015. Combined nominal GDP of these 5 nations is US $16.6 trillion, equal to approx. 22% of Gross World Product as of 2015.
2. The BRICS group acts as a bridge between developed and developing countries.
3. Self-sufficiency and not dependency on the west dominated nations is one of the key goals of BRICS.
4. Establishment of BRICS Business council is important:
   - To enhance market access opportunities and ease market linkage.
   - To promote mutual trade, investments and create a business-friendly environment.
   - To strive for inclusive economic growth to eradicate poverty and address unemployment.
   - To promote information exchange through BRICS Virtual Secretariat and BRICS Economic Exchange Platform.
   - To meet Regional development goals.
5. The launch of New Development Bank (NDB) marked a milestone in BRICS co-operation and international development. The CRA (Contingent Reserve Agreement) was setup to give support, strength and principal stability of other nations.
6. The steps of NDB and Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) shows the BRICS strength in market and policy space. Through NDB & CRA BRICS will offer alternate option to IMF to other countries.

7. BRICS is important for moving towards a multipolar economic and political order and towards making the global economic system more robust.
8. The BRICS will significantly increase their share in the world economy and trade. A new global financial system with a significant presence of these countries, compared with the current situation, will be created.

BRICS have become the building block of world economy. The BRICS markets keep strong characteristics that can attract equity investors. There are worries and uncertainty around this which will likely to create some angst in the Global market. However, able to see a strong economic growth of BRICS in world economy it is important to utilise favourable demographics, rich natural resources and strong finances in the near future.

Q.20) "The 'systematic failure' to address the needs of patients contributes to a higher mortality." Comment.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss inadequacies in India's healthcare system leading to higher mortalities.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The nationwide violence against doctors, is invariably the result of systemic problems in the healthcare sector in the form of expensive and unaffordable treatment, poor infrastructure, overburdened doctors and poor doctor-patient ratio that adversely affects optimal attention to patients which in turn creates trust deficit in doctor patient relationship and paves the way for violence against doctors. The inefficiencies and systematic failure has not only led to poor healthcare and contributed to higher mortalities.

Inadequacies in India's Healthcare System:
1. **Ailing Public health sector:** Meagre healthcare budget, overcrowding, long waiting time and the need for multiple visits for investigations and consultations frustrate patients on a daily basis.
2. **Paucity of Resources:** Doctors work in extreme conditions ranging from overcrowded out-patient departments, inadequate staff, medicines and infrastructure.
3. **Expensive Private Medical Education:** increasingly high cost of medical education in the private sector is forcing many students in India to look for cheaper destinations abroad. Expensive medical studies are responsible for dearth of doctors in India as after acquiring studies from abroad they do not prefer to practice their profession in India because of the necessity to clear the exam conducted by the Medical Council of India.
4. **Overburdened Doctors:** Owing to disproportionate Doctor Patient ratio, limited number of doctors, nurses and medical staff have to cater to a large number of patients.
5. **Doctor-Patient Ratio:** Studies and Survey reveal that in India, there is one government doctor for every 10,189 people (the World Health Organisation recommends a ratio of 1:1,000) implying a deficit of 6,00,000 doctors.
6. **Unaffordable Treatments:** More than 17% of Indian population spends at least 10% of household budgets for health services. Catastrophic healthcare related expenditure pushes families into debt, more than 24% households in rural India and 18% of the population in urban areas have met their healthcare expenses through some sort of borrowings. Competition Commission of India report on affordability stated that 50 to 65% of Indians did not have regular access to essential medicines.

7. **Doctor Patient Relation:** The highlighting of errors by doctors, medical staff, and hospitals, as well as corruption among doctors, has further eroded the trust patients have in the medical facilities. Trust deficit between doctors and patients is also gradually becoming a concern, with rising violence against doctors.

8. **Ineffective Implementation of Laws:** Inspite of having the laws that envisage imprisonment besides recovery of compensation from perpetrators for loss or damage to Medical professionals and property, states are lacking in its effective implementation. For example, West Bengal has also enacted a law for protection of doctors but due to its poor implementation it has failed to curb the ongoing doctor-patient crisis.

Thus it is important to create conditions and remove systematic failures in order to prevent mortality especially among poor. It is also important, we should also address the underlying factors such as overcrowding, lack of resources, behaviour of frontline service providers and how they should handle cases sympathetically.

Q.21) "India's proud heritage of being one of the leading democracies in the world has taken a beating in recent times." Examine.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the threat to Indian image of democracy.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Over the past few months, there had many instances that struck democracy by various issues and incidents. There is disconnectedness between elite and mass concerns and bring out its implications for the future of Indian democracy. Successful democracy encompasses both procedural aspects- political equality, effective institutions, tolerance for different opinions, ruler accountability, respect for the rules, and a strong political engagement. Recently, successful functioning of democracy has been hit by incidents like mob lynching, hate crime, over-centralisation etc.

Procedural democracy issues and threats:

1. Several of political institutions which are constitutionally mandated to be autonomous agencies, have recently come under a cloud because of their perceived inability to work independently of the political executive or because of the lack of transparency in their performance.
2. The other major apprehension is the threat posed to the "idea of India" as a plural and inclusive polity by the rise of Hindutva and its political instrument.
3. The third major concern is the discernible rise in populist and authoritarian tendencies in the country that threaten to reduce India to merely a procedural democracy where elections are held primarily to anoint populist leaders.
4. Jobs and livelihood are endangered by caste and communal threats and demonstration of sectarian divide. Even middle-class Indians feel economically vulnerable in the absence of a social safety net and are incessantly nervous about job insecurity.
5. One factor that appears to cut across caste and linguistic divisions is the attraction for many voters to hyper-nationalism, sometimes bordering on jingoism. Hyper-nationalism has always been the favourite strategy of populist leaders seeking to retain or to attain power which dent Indian democracy.

6. The recent action of government in Jammu and Kashmir although for safe future of the region has raised voice around the globe supported by propagandas and misinformation which need to be managed.

The rise of majoritarianism and the proliferation of populist and authoritarian tendencies, most voters are unconcerned about these issues. It is true that India has been able to remain as a democratic country for the last seven decades proving many political analysts wrong. A combination of the factors outlined above, lack of concern for institutions, preoccupation with livelihood issues, obsession with caste and community benefits, and the propagation of hyper-nationalism taken together facilitate populism, which, as history shows, can easily lead to authoritarianism. In spite of the country's long commitment to democracy and repeated peaceful transition of power, Indian democracy is still vulnerable with a number of soft spots.

Q.22) "The linkage of hundreds of millions of the Aadhaar Card to social media accounts serves no useful purpose." Comment.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss negative and positive aspects of linking Aadhaar to social media accounts.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

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

Linking social media to Aadhaar- a dangerous and not useful exercise:
1. **Infringement of Privacy:** The privacy of users' data is at stake. Aadhaar contains vital information like age, sex, date of birth, address of the individual. Linking Aadhaar to social media would expose this data to cyber criminals. Linking Aadhaar and stalking peoples' is a direct impingement of right to privacy under article 21.
2. **Threat to democracy:** Democracies are established with the purpose of protecting the rights of their citizens. Linking Aadhaar to social media is a threat to democracy in a way that it can be used to influence elections and voting behaviour of individuals through surveillance. This is a serious threat to people's power and freedom.
3. **Risk to financial security:** Aadhaar is linked to banks, various social schemes etc. Linking it to social media will expose users data and possibly all the transaction information. Hacker can easily exploit how the money deposits, and may cause a financial fraud risking financial security of individual and of our nation. Hackers may use Aadhaar info linked to social media accounts to steal money.
4. **Dark activities:** The possibility that the linking Aadhaar will nurture illicit activities and markets like drug selling, weapons etc through darknet by using stolen ids, Aadhaar information from social media accounts. It also increase risk for being used in various terrorist activities across the border.
5. **Threat to transparency:** The government's surveillance may not be always about increasing security. It can be used in the to avoid transparency, leading to the loss of basic human rights. Decisions about surveillance are taken by the executive branch (including the review process), with no parliamentary or judicial supervision.

6. **Threat to social security:** Social media websites keep track of all interactions used on their sites and save them. These companies like Facebook are found to be involved in cyberstalking, location disclosure, social profiling, 3rd party personal information disclosure, and without the safeguard of a search warrant. Linking Aadhaar would expose sensitive info to be out in the market which could be used for blackmailing, targeted advertisements etc. infringing social security.

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

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

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

Q.23) Discuss the need and significance of draft e-Commerce Rules, 2019 in light of increasing tentacles of e-Commerce in Indian market.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Mention the need, provisions and issue of draft e-commerce rules, 2019.
Conclusion. Way forward.

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

E-commerce business in India:
1. E-commerce can be carried out for both wholesale trade or for retail trade (sale towards final consumption).
2. It can be either Business to Business (B2B) trading or Business to Consumers (B2C) trading.

3. There is no restriction on conducting e-commerce per se in India. However, certain restrictions exist, if e-commerce is being done by companies receiving FDI.
4. In India, 100% FDI under automatic route is allowed in Business to Business e-commerce since 2000.
5. A distinction is made between single brand retail (selling products of a single brand) and multi-brand retail with respect to permission for FDI and e-commerce.

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

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

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

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

Q.24) **"To put India-Pakistan relations on a positive trajectory more confidence-building measures and steps like Kartarpur corridor are needed." Critically evaluate the statement.**

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Significance of corridor and need of CBMs. Discuss various issues and challenges.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Kartarpur gurudwara is the revered shrine across the border where Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism spent the last 18 years of his life. The corridor connect the holy shrines of Dera Baba Nanak Sahib in Gurdaspur district of Punjab in India with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur in Pakistan. Such a corridor not only reduce needed to tensions among India and Pakistan but is critical at this time with other confidence building measures for peace and good relations in India and Pakistan.

Significance of the corridor and need of other similar confidence building measures:
1. The forward movement on the Kartarpur corridor can be considered a big development since despite the India-Pakistan deadlock in talks, both New Delhi and Islamabad have been able to form a consensus on the issue.
2. Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) are those steps or agreements on which the states agree with mutual benefit in mind, and states have faith that such agreement shall be obeyed by all the concerned. There is need of diverse arrangements such as hotlines, people-to-people exchanges, and prior notifications of military exercises that can help reduce tensions and promote good neighbourly relations.
3. These steps or agreements ultimately develop trust between the states and help in having peace and stability in the region. The need for sustained dialogue to effectively address issues of regional security and to establish effective CBMs for stable relationship in South Asia cannot be overemphasised.
4. The two traditional regional rivals and their neighbours in South Asia and beyond are now, more than ever before, stakeholders in any efforts that would reduce tensions, build confidence and encourage regional cooperation. The political and economic stability of the countries of the region, individually and collectively, are dependent on the ability of the region to develop sustainable, achievable and effective set and process of CBMs and institutionalised regional cooperation.
5. Since the volatile relationship between India and Pakistan is often referred to as the most dangerous potential flash point in today's international system. Any future conflict may likely turn into war increases if one adds the misunderstandings, the missed signals, and the involvement of non-state elements to the scenario of confrontation. Thus the urgent requirement of enforcing the existing CBMs, and devising new CBMs, ultimately leading to peace and stability of the region.

Some issues and challenges:
1. Mere confidence building measures would not be helpful if such steps are being used for terrorist activities and support in future. E.g. use of Kartarpur corridor to increase Khalistan support.
2. Without military support from Pakistan, its government and steps like confidence building measures would not help.
3. Without check on terrorism from Pakistan, none of the measure could be successful as it will only lead to rise in conflicts.
4. India and Pakistan have in the past concluded bilateral agreements or arrangements to reduce risk of conflict. They have also been part of the initiative to institutionalised regional cooperation in the form of SAARC, which has agreeably achieved only limited, if any, success in promoting regional stability. A central problem in utilising CBMs is the difficulty in faithfully implementing the existing CBMs already in place.
5. The possibility of false perceptions or accidents could exacerbate the ongoing impasse over Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and add to tensions along the sensitive, fragile and overly militarised Line of Control (LoC) that could precipitate an unintended, unwanted, nuclear exchange.

A state of low intensity conflict exists between India and Pakistan in the disputed region of Kashmir, characterised by cross-border shelling and exchanges of gunfire as a daily occurrence. Therefore, proposing steps for increased nuclear transparency between these countries could easily seem futile to the casual observer. However, the Indian and Pakistani relationship is complex and works at many levels. The complexity of the Indian and Pakistani relationship provides glimmers of hope that progress can occur in some areas of interaction even while there are major setbacks in others.

Q.25) "India is home to 77 million diabetics, second highest in the world." In light of this discuss various causes and preventive measures required against diabetes.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Primary cause of diabetes. Preventive measures for the same.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Diabetes is a kind of metabolic ailment in which the body is incapable of producing insulin, leading to high blood glucose in the body leading cardio vascular diseases, kidney ailments, eye problems etc. India's economic development has brought higher incomes, improved health and social conditions over the past several decades; but it also brought a new health ailment known as diabetes.

What are the primary causes for diabetes?
1. **Lack of exercise:** Exercise of any kind, enables muscle cells to use insulin and glucose more efficiently, thus lowering diabetes risk. Lack of exercise can cause muscle cells to lose their sensitivity to insulin, which controls levels of sugar in the blood. According to a survey by an insurance firm, around 30% of Indians aged between 18-47 years do not have any form of physical exercise particularly in urban areas.
2. **Hereditary factors:** The epidemic increase in diabetes in India backed by many studies on migrant and native Indian show that Indians have an increased predilection to

diabetes and the main reason genetic factor. Genetic susceptibility appears to play an important role in the occurrence of Type 2 diabetes.

3. **Sedentary life style:** Studies have proved that socio-economic development over the last four decades have brought tremendous change in the lifestyle leading to the reduction of physical activities due to technological advancement, affluence leading to consumption of diets rich in sugar, fat and calories and a high mental stress. This has led to obesity and a sedentary life style, which ultimately disturbed insulin production and caused diabetes.

4. **Obesity and diabetes:** Being overweight increases the chances of getting diabetes. According to a recent study in North India, there was a high prevalence of abdominal obesity and generalized obesity as determined by presence of body fat. Another study showed that overweight (obesity) significantly associated with diabetes. Obesity among the children played a causative role in the escalating prevalence of diabetes in the young.

Preventive measures required against diabetes:

1. There is urgency to develop and implement multi-sectoral strategies to combat the growing epidemic. Diabetes, being a lifestyle disorder with multidimensional causative factors, definitely needs a multidimensional approach.

2. India needs a more effective national diabetes prevention programme which will require cooperation from several quarters, including medical education, health awareness in schools, and urban planning.

3. In addition to people with diabetes, the country also has a huge burden of pre-diabetics. If we target them with information on the right lifestyle options to help keep blood sugar, lipids and blood pressure under control, we can prevent at least a third of people from developing diabetes.

4. The country should also be ready to offer treatment options, at least basic care for all who are living with diabetes, and provide for the treatment of various complications, and that is likely to be a massive challenge in future.

5. Diabetes requires daily personal diet care and if there is a complication, it can have a significant impact on quality of life and can even reduce life expectancy. Though there is no cure for diabetes, one can live a comfortable and enjoyable life by adapting and learning about the conditions and effectively managing it.

The increase in the diabetic population in the country is mainly due to strong genetic factors tied with rapid urbanization and lifestyle modification. Since Indians have appear to be generally more insulin resistant, it would be prudent to advise a healthy lifestyle across the different geographic regions with regard to age groups, proper diet schedule (rich in fibres), follow an exercise (yoga or any other physical activities). Such efforts are urgently needed to tackle the sudden increase in diabetes and lower the burden of the Indian social and economic conditions.

Q.26) "Failure of state administration and mismanagement of water resources in urban cities has led to unsafe and poor drinking water quality endangering lives of many." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Mention the state of poor drinking water quality. How state failure led to such issues.
Conclusion. Way forward.

The report of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has raised issue of poor tap water quality in major Indian cities. City water systems are normatively required to comply with the national standard for drinking water, but it is not being adopted. Their lack of initiative could be attributed partly to the expanding footprint of packaged drinking water, especially in populous cities, coupled with the high dependence on groundwater in fast-growing urban clusters where State provision of piped water systems does not exist.

Poor drinking water quality:
1. According to data from the World Bank:
   - 163 Million Indians lack access to safe drinking water.
   - 210 Million Indians lack access to improved sanitation.
   - 21% of communicable diseases are linked to unsafe water.
   - 500 children under the age of five die from diarrhoea each day in India.
2. India ranks a dismal 120 out of 122 nations for its water quality index and 133rd out of 180 nations for its water availability.
3. Nearly 75% of India's surface water is contaminated by human, animal, agricultural and industrial waste, and its groundwater often contains high levels of fluoride and other mineral contaminants.
4. A recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) pointed out that only 18% of the rural population has access to potable piped water, failing to meet the 2017 target of 50%.
5. The Asian Development Bank has forecast that by 2030, India will have a water deficit of 50 percent.

State failure- a reason for poor quality of drinking water:
1. Decreasing water quality due to poor waste management laws, growing financial crunch for development of resources and scarcity of safe drinking water.
2. Inadequate institutional reforms and ineffective implementation of existing provisions affect the performance level for water service delivery.
3. Despite Namami Gange, water quality of Ganga continues to worsen. The waters of the Yamuna, Ganga and Sabarmati flow the dirtiest with a deadly mix of pollutants both hazardous and organic. Inability to stop the discharge into rivers has led to rise in pollution levels in rivers.
4. In practice, municipal water fails due to the lack of accountability of the official agencies, and the absence of robust data in the public domain on quality testing.
5. Central Ground Water Board estimates that nearly a fifth of the urban local bodies are already facing a water crisis due to excessive extraction, failed monsoons, and unplanned development.

6. On the issue of regular testing, there is a no body to entrust, therefore a separate agency with the task in each State is needed, rather than relying on the same agency that provides water to also perform this function.

The Centre's approach to the issue relies on naming and shaming through a system of ranking, but this is unlikely to yield results, going by similar attempts to benchmark other urban services. Making it legally binding on agencies to achieve standards and empowering consumers with rights is essential, because State governments would then take an integrated view of housing, water supply, sanitation and waste management. A scientific approach to water management is vital, considering that 21 cities including many of those found to have unclean tap water could run out of groundwater as early as 2020, as per a NITI Aayog report.

Q.27) "The recent National Education Policy document, despite its lacunae, is a vast improvement over earlier education policies." Comment. (GS 2)

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss main improvements in draft National education policy.
Conclusion. Way forward.

The draft National Education Policy provides for reforms at all levels of education from school to higher education. It seeks to increase the focus on early childhood care, reform the current exam system, strengthen teacher training, and restructure the education regulatory framework. It also seeks to set up a National Education Commission, increase public investment in education, strengthen the use of technology and increase focus on vocational and adult education, among others.

Key features of NEP- improvement over earlier education policies:

Issues	Provisions in draft NEP
Currently, the RTE Act provides for free and compulsory education to all children from the age of six to 14 years.	The draft Policy recommends extending the ambit of the RTE Act to include early childhood education and secondary school education. This would extend the coverage of the Act to all children between the ages of three to 18 years. In addition, the draft Policy recommends that the recent amendments to the RTE Act on continuous and comprehensive evaluation and the no detention policy must be reviewed. It states that there should be no detention of children till class eight. Instead, schools must ensure that children are achieving age-appropriate learning levels.
The current education system solely focuses on rote learning of facts and procedures.	The current structure of school education must be restructured according to the draft on the basis of the development needs of students. It recommends that the curriculum load in each subject should be reduced to its essential core content. This would make space for holistic, discussion and analysis-based learning.
The current board examinations:	To track students' progress throughout their

(i) force students to concentrate only on a few subjects, (ii) do not test learning in a formative manner, and (iii) cause stress among students.	school experience, the draft Policy proposes State Census Examinations in classes three, five and eight. Further, it recommends restructuring the board examinations to test only core concepts, skills and higher order capacities.
The establishment of primary schools in every habitation across the country although has helped increase access to education. However, it has led to the development of very small schools (having low number of students).	The draft Policy recommends that multiple public schools should be brought together to form a school complex.
There has been a steep rise in teacher shortage, lack of professionally qualified teachers, and deployment of teachers for non-educational purposes.	The draft Policy recommends that teachers should be deployed with a particular school complex for at least five to seven years. Further, teachers will not be allowed to participate in any non-teaching activities (such as cooking mid-day meals or participating in vaccination campaigns) during school hours that could affect their teaching capacities. For teacher training, the existing B.Ed. programme will be replaced by a four-year integrated B.Ed. programme that combines high-quality content, pedagogy, and practical training.
The current higher education system has multiple regulators with overlapping mandates. This reduces the autonomy of higher educational institutions and creates an environment of dependency and centralised decision making.	It proposes setting up the National Higher Education Regulatory Authority (NHERA). This independent authority would replace the existing individual regulators in higher education, including professional and vocational education.
Poor service conditions and heavy teaching loads at higher education institutions have resulted in low faculty motivation. Further, lack of autonomy and no clear career progression system are also major impediments to faculty motivation.	The draft Policy recommends development of a Continuous Professional Development programme and introduction of a permanent employment (tenure) track system for faculty in all higher education institutions by 2030. Further, a desirable student-teacher ratio of not more than 30:1 must be ensured.
The curricula remain rigid, narrow, and archaic. Moreover, the faculty often lacks the autonomy to design curricula, which negatively impacts pedagogy.	It recommends that all higher education institutions must have complete autonomy on curricular, pedagogical and resource-related matters.
There is a need to revisit the existing system of governance in education, and bring in synergy and coordination among the different ministries, departments and agencies.	In this context, it recommends the Creation of a National Education Commission or Rashtriya Shiksha Aayog, as an apex body for education, to be headed by the Prime Minister. This body will be responsible for developing, implementing, evaluating, and revising the vision of education in the country on a continuous and sustained basis.

Thus, national education policy is vast improvement over past and solve many issues. In time of consumerism educational institutions become malls, everyone ends up a loser, most of all the student. The market has, ironically, made our native vision of education urgently relevant. Thus, education policy focus on qualitative education inculcating satisfaction and mental peace in students.

Q.28) Discuss the role and mandate of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in disaster management.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss main role and mandate of NDRF. Also mention some issues.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India created the National Disaster Management Authority under which is an agency called National Disaster Response Force was established in 2009 in Delhi. This agency focused on disaster management and specialised response to natural and man-made disasters.

Role and Mandate of NDRF:
1. Specialised response during disasters through a proactive response.
2. Proactive deployment of forces and community during impending disaster situations.
3. Acquire and continually upgrade its own training and skills towards disaster mitigation.
4. Liaison, Reconnaissance, Rehearsals and Mock Drills wrt possible disasters and post-disaster management.
5. Impart basic and operational level training to State Response Forces (Police, Civil Defence and Home Guards).
6. Community Capacity Building Programme for building capabilities of communities to fight in disaster time.
7. Organise Public Awareness Campaigns about disaster management and safety during the disaster.
8. To fight all-natural disasters including radiological, biological, chemical and nuclear disasters.
9. Conduct search and rescue operations in the event of any natural catastrophe.

Issue in NDRF:
1. The effectiveness of the NDRF has been hampered due to lack of trained manpower and an absence of systematic training facilities and equipment.
2. A country like India which is disaster prone, there is a need to have a comprehensive planning and implementation.
3. It is deprived of necessary funds and infrastructure from the Centre. A major reason for the delay is the unavailability of personnel is that the remuneration is not attractive enough.
4. There is great ambiguity in the control and command structure. While the MHA controls funds and execution, the NDMA has administrative control over the force. This results in a tussle between the two. Since the NDMA is an autonomous body with members appointed by the government, the force has to deal with two bosses for everything complicating and delaying processes.

5. Most of the states are largely lethargic in creating a disaster response mechanism as mandated by the Disaster Management Act of December 2005. Till now only 16 States have taken some action, and only six states have a modicum of a structure so as to deal with disasters. Of these, Odisha alone has raised an ultra-efficient force which, collaborated with the NDRF, efficiently controlled destruction during the recent cyclones there.

Since its inception NDRF has continued to win hearts of millions of countrymen, by demonstrating its expertise and compassion while handling disaster situations. Issues like finding should be resolved by the government. Currently, a National Calamity Contingency Duty (NCCD) is levied to finance the NDRF and additional budgetary support is provided as and when necessary. A provision also exists in the DM Act to encourage any person or institution to make a contribution to the NDRF. However, this source has not yet been tapped.

Q.29) "A data protection law is needed more than ever in the recent times." Do you agree?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Why data protection law is needed?
Conclusion. Way forward.

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

Need for Data Protection law in India:
1. For efficient management of data in the age of digitisation, a data protection law is needed. One of the major challenges to big data is information privacy which necessitates a robust data protection.
2. To check unauthorised leaks, hacking, cybercrimes, and frauds. Economic cost of data loss/theft is high. Recent rise of crimes like WhatsApp Pegasus scam demands a data protection law in place.
3. Large amounts of personal data have been collected by state agencies and private companies and their flow across national boundaries has been a cause for concern. There are many instances that the state and private agencies who are using the personal data are not transparent on the purpose for which the data is being utilised.
4. Until now, the only legal framework for the information technology in India is the Information Technology Act, 2000. However, it doesn't provide for guidelines or norms for data collection, storage, and processing.
5. The need for legislation also got attention particularly after the landmark judgement of Supreme Court (SC) in Justice K.S Puttaswamy vs Union of India case, that maintained the right to privacy as an inherent part of the fundamental right under Article 21 of the constitution.
6. To improve business process, and for securing digital transactions and addressing customer and privacy protection issues.

7. With a billion population, India has the second highest internet user base in the world. India has 450 million internet users and expected to increase up to 730 million by 2020. Therefore, a strong data protection law is needed to protect their personal data.

8. Privacy is the constitutional core of human dignity. Privacy has both a normative and descriptive function. At a normative level privacy sub-serves those eternal values upon which the guarantees of life, liberty and freedom are founded.

9. To curtail the perils of unregulated and arbitrary use of personal data. As most of the servers like Google, Facebook is outside India.

10. It is important to strike a right balance between digital economy and privacy protection. The law should encompass all the aspects- data collection, processing and sharing practices.

Privacy of individual is important for which data should be secured. A firm legal framework for data protection is the foundation on which data driven innovation and entrepreneurship can flourish in India. Thus a data protection law must be put in place.

Q.30) "Ministers at both the Central and State levels should follow a model code of conduct which in turn would ensure democratic accountability." Comment.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss the need of code of conduct for ministers and legislative individuals. What is the importance of such a code of conduct?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The Ministerial Code means setting out rules and standards for government ministers especially while any public dealing. In a major move to curb disruptions in legislative bodies and ensure responsible public speaking, a uniform code of conduct for lawmakers is important. It is important in the wake of disruptions and poor productivity of legislative bodies in term of laws and bills passed on national issues.

Need of code of conduct for legislative individuals:

1. There is need of a code of conduct to ensure public morality and accountability in public speech among ministers.

2. Codes of conduct for ministers are amongst a range of initiatives designed to respond to perceptions of the erosion of ministerial accountability, and to preserve public trust in the institutions of cabinet government.

3. There has been continuous disruption of parliament by members in the past. The second half of Budget Session of 2018 witnessed complete washout. Frequent disruptions lead to adjournment of the house. The productivity of the Lok Sabha and that of the Rajya Sabha is impacted by such disruptions.

4. The behaviour of parliamentarians is seen by the whole country and it impacts the legitimacy of the institution of parliament.

5. The politicians representing their constituencies in the Parliament and must focus on the issues than political propagandas which often lead to disruption.

6. It is important to prohibit MPs from misusing the power and privileges they get.

7. A code of conduct for legislators is essential at the time, to develop a discipline in the house and check derogatory remarks.

Importance of code of conduct:

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

Code of conduct is necessary to put in place some mechanism to check unruly Members of Parliament. It should also be ensured that the Code should not become a tool to curb the speech.

Q.31) Discuss the need and significance of Code of wages, 2019. How will it impact the Indian economy?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the need and significance of code of wage. Mention its impact on Indian economy.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Codes on Wages, 2019 will codify relevant provisions of four existing laws and intends to increase the legislative protection of minimum wage to the entire workforce. The codification proposes to simplify 32 central labour laws into four codes to bring them in sync with the emerging economic situation, facilitate easier compliance by establishments, promote ease of living and ensure labour welfare and wage and social security for workers. The bill aims to transform the old and obsolete labour laws into more accountable and transparent ones and seeks to pave the way for the introduction of minimum wages and labour reforms in the country.

Need for a national minimum wage:

1. One argument for a national minimum wage is to ensure a uniform standard of living across the country.
2. At present, there are differences in minimum wages across states and regions. The introduction of a national minimum wage may help reduce these differences and provide a basic standard of living for all employees across the country.
3. To streamline the definition of wages as present labour laws consist of 12 different definition of wages which is the major cause of litigation and inefficiency in the implementation of labour laws.
4. The definition has been simplified and is expected to reduce litigation and will entail at a lesser cost of compliance for an employer.
5. An establishment will also be benefited as the number of registers, returns, forms, etc., not only can be electronically filed and maintained, but it is envisaged that through rules, not more than one template will be prescribed.

Significance of the code of wage:

1. Codification of labour laws will remove the multiplicity of definitions and authorities, leading to ease of compliance without compromising wage security and social security to workers.
2. The new Code on Wages will ensure minimum wages to all and timely payment to employees irrespective of the sector without any wage ceiling.
3. It is expected to treat contract labour on par with regular employee to have dignified life.
4. It is expected to provide for an appellate authority between the claim authority and the judicial forum which will lead to speedy, cheaper and efficient redressal of grievances and settlement of claims as that of earlier.
5. The code is expected to benefit over 50 crores employees across the country.
6. The code is expected to go for digital mode/cheques as the mode of payment of wages. This would promote digitisation and extend wage and social security to the worker.
7. Will ensure decent Minimum wage for all which will result into increase in disposable incomes in turn help in eradicating Poverty, hunger to achieve SDGs.
8. It will ensure humane working conditions through minimum working hours, overtime etc. and prevent exploitation of labour.
9. The Code prohibits gender discrimination on wage-related matters. It would also help in reduce regionalism by reducing wage disparity across different regions.

Impact on the Indian economy:

1. It would help to reduce compliance costs for employers and is expected to reduce litigation as it streamlines the definition of wages. This would ensure better labour satisfaction and more efficient economic activities.
2. It will substantially reduce the number of minimum wages in the country from the, existing more than 2000 rates of minimum wages. This would ensure that every worker gets a minimum wage which will also be accompanied by an increase in the purchasing power of the worker thereby giving a fillip to growth in the economy.
3. A statutory national minimum wage would have multiple impacts including helping lift wage levels and reducing wage inequality, thus furthering inclusive growth.
4. For India to reap the much touted 'demographic dividend', robust wage expansion would ultimately be essential to help buoy consumption-led economic growth.

The Article 43 of the Constitution of India states that the state shall endeavor to secure by suitable legislation or economic organization or in any other way to all workers a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of pleasure and social and cultural opportunities. Some of the issues like what would the states which already provide higher minimum wage than the proposed national minimum wage do. The minimum salary needs to be adjusted regularly to keep pace with inflation. A mechanism should be developed to adjust minimum wages regularly and more frequently.

Q.32) "While health outcomes have greatly improved, tribal communities still lag behind." Examine.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss various health issues among tribals and reasons for the same. Suggest some measures.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Tribal people account for 8.6% of the country's population and their problems like health, poverty still is an issue. The health status of India's tribal communities is in need of special attention. Being among the poorest and most marginalised groups in India, tribals experience extreme levels of health deprivation. The tribal community lags behind the national average on several vital public health indicators, with women and children being the most vulnerable.

Tribal health issues:
1. **Child Mortality:** There are improvements in parameters but there is certainly a gap between tribals and rest of India. Under-five mortality rate declined from 135 in 1988 to 57 in 2014. Under-five child mortality for the rest of India was around 39 in 2014.
2. **Malnutrition-** The percentage of underweight ST children is around 40% in 2015-16. Tribal constitutes 8% of India's total population but they have 30% of all cases of Malaria. Prevalence of TB in rest of India is 256 per 100,000 cases but in tribals, it is 703 cases per 100,000 almost three times.
3. **Women health:** Several studies on maternal health show poorer nutritional status, higher levels of morbidity and mortality, and lower utilisation of antenatal and postnatal services among tribals. Starvation deaths continue to be reported from tribal areas, including from advanced States like Kerala.
4. **Diseases:** Health problems prevalent in tribal areas include endemic infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and diarrhoeal diseases, apart from malnutrition and anaemia. Prevalence of chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes mellitus, hitherto rare in these populations, is rising, and stroke and heart disease are now the leading causes of death.

Reasons for poor health care of tribal population:
1. Reasons for poor health Research has shown that 75 per cent of India's tribal population defecates in the open and 33 per cent does not have access to a clean source of drinking water.
2. Insanitary conditions, ignorance, lack of health education and poor access to healthcare facilities are the main factors responsible for the poor health of tribals.
3. Further, displacement from their traditional forest homes and natural source of food and lack of livelihoods makes them dependent on the public distribution system (PDS). Most tribal groups are traditionally hunter-gatherers and not accustomed to agriculture their diets.
4. Posts of doctors and paramedics are often vacant. Additionally, the non-availability of essential drugs and equipment, inadequate infrastructure, difficult terrain and constraints of distance and the lack of transport and communication facilities further hinder healthcare delivery.
5. The geographical and infrastructural challenges to public health and the lack of health-related knowledge among tribals are exploited by quacks (unqualified medical practitioners), who are often available at the doorstep.
6. Levels of illiteracy are high, with 47 per cent in rural areas and 21.8 per cent in urban areas being unable to read and write.

What should be done?
1. Primary care in the community should be taken care by trained local tribal youth and ASHA's with support from gram sabha.
2. Financial protection through government medical insurance scheme should be provided to tribals for secondary and tertiary care.

3. For tribal people living outside scheduled areas committee recommends ST Health Card which will help them to avail their benefits at any like insurance at any health care institutions.

4. To provide doctors dedicated to working in tribal areas, there should be dedicated medical colleges in tribal districts exclusively for tribal areas.

5. To reduce malnutrition food security should be ensured and Integrated Child Development Services should be strengthened.

6. A state of tribal health report should be published every 3 years and placed before the nation.

7. Various national surveys should aim to estimate various health parameters in tribal areas.

8. It is necessary that all tribals whether living within or outside tribal areas should be covered under the health insurance scheme.

Despite the high dependence of tribals on the public health care system. It continues to be characterized by low quality, low output, and low outcome delivery system, often targeting wrong priorities. It is necessary to restructure and strengthen the public health care system in accordance with the needs and aspirations of the tribal communities, with their full participation.

Q.33) "Maternity benefits, are very important for a working woman but the vast majority of Indian women, are left on their own and are unable to enjoy present maternity benefits." Discuss.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss how maternity benefits acts are benefitting only a few?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Maternity benefits are important for large population of women in India especially who are are working. Government has launched various schemes like Maternity benefit act, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) etc. Unfortunately, the benefits under these schemes have not reached to women much due to various issues. There are concerns that the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Act 2017 and PMMVY that have a negative impact in the women well-being. There is a need for better understanding on the issue to materialise the genuine objectives behind.

Maternity benefits- benefitting few:
1. **Maternity Benefit Act:** Maternity benefits, are only for a small minority of Indian women employed in the formal sector and covered, in principle at least, under the Maternity Benefit Act. The vast majority of pregnant women are left behind.
   - The National Commission for Women (NCW) received a lot of complaints from women that they are being denied maternity benefits at the workplace. This comes even after the government amended key guidelines to increase the period of paid maternity leave to 26 weeks from 12.
   - The high costs of maternity leave drive companies to discriminate against women in higher-level jobs.

- Childcare is treated solely as women's responsibility. Unspecified parental leave ends up being taken mainly by women. In India, central government employees get only 15 days of paternity leave.
- Around 93% Indian women workers are in the informal sector. The 2017 Maternity Benefit Act does not apply to them.
- It is also unclear about women working on family farms, doing home-based work, urban self-employed, casual workers on contract.
- Even in the formal sector, the child will need care after 6 months of maternity leave. But India largely lacks facilities where women can leave their children for care. Integrated Child Development Services to provide nutrition and childcare up to 6 years of age, lack in quality and coverage.

2. **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** Under the National Food Security Act, 2013, all pregnant women (except those already receiving similar benefits under other laws) are entitled to maternity benefits of ₹6,000 per child. In pursuance of this announcement, a maternity benefit scheme was rolled out- the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). Issues in PMMVY are:
   - The coverage and benefits are less (compared with NFSA norms, which are very modest in the first place). This defused public demand for PMMVY.
   - The application process is tedious. Aside from filling a long form for each instalment, women have to submit a series of documents, including their 'mother-and-child protection' card, bank passbook, Aadhaar card and husband's Aadhaar card. Essential details in different documents have to match, and the bank account needs to be linked with Aadhaar.
   - There are frequent technical glitches in the online application and payment process. When an application is rejected, or returned with queries, the applicant may or may not get to know about it. Grievance redressal facilities are virtually non-existent.
   - There're also Aadhaar-related problems. Some of them are- rejected payments due to mismatch (like in the spelling of the beneficiary's name) between a person's Aadhaar card and bank account. More than 20% of the respondents mentioned that they had faced difficulties because the address on their Aadhaar card was that of their parents' home, not of their in-laws' house.

There is a need for more comprehensive and gender-balanced alterations to the maternity benefit act and PMMVY. Media campaigns to change social norms, favouring childcare by fathers are essential. It is surely a joint social responsibility and not just the mother's. What is needed is pro-active role of both states and centres to ensure maternity benefit and proper implementation of the schemes.

Q.34) Discuss the role of BRICS as a bridge between developed and developing countries. What are its current concerns and issues that must be resolved?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Show how BRICS act as a bridge between developed and developing countries. Mention various concerns and issues in front of BRICS.
Conclusion. Way forward.

BRICS, has evolved from an abstract forum into an influential forum in the international arena and it has become not just a manifestation of globalization, but increasingly a key control lever of global processes. During the years of existence and development, BRICS is in a constant process of transformation. BRICS has a critical role in global processes of building a new world order through the consolidation of international efforts.

BRICS role as a bridge between developed and developing countries:

1. The BRICS group acts as a bridge between developed and developing countries. For example, in the WTO, the BRICS countries are trying to promote a fairer order regarding agricultural policies.
2. BRICS are also attempting to promote the liberalisation of the international economic order to diminish agricultural subsidies in the United States and the European Union, which would make developing countries' agricultural products more competitive.
3. The BRICS countries act as one to promote a more legitimate international system, including advocating reform of the UN Security Council. By acting together, they can share their resources to realise national interests.
4. The long-awaited NDB, with initial capital of $50 billion, and a CRA worth $100 billion represent alternatives to the World Bank and the IMF, which are led by the Global North. In this sense, the BRICS group is a South-South framework for cooperation.
5. The BRICS group will also play an increasingly important role in assisting developing countries in gaining an advantage in trade and climate change negotiations, as well as on issues related to the export of manufacturing products. Developing countries on the periphery of the group will be able to leverage the NDB and the CRA to increase their bargaining power.
6. BRICS' cooperation has been driven not only by economic and political factors but also the failure of the existing global economic governance framework to satisfy the needs of many countries. As a result, the BRICS countries have established a new cooperative mechanism that promotes political and security governance structure reform in the UN and in the international financial, monetary and trade systems.
7. Importantly, cooperation between the BRICS countries not only produces outcomes that align with their own interests but also reflects the interests of other countries. Their cooperation will lead to progressive changes in the international system and minimise the inevitable shocks that may result from reform.
8. The BRICS countries also participate in regular informal leaders' meeting during the G20 summits. This not only helps to improve BRICS' influence through forming alliances but also provides a platform for them to express their stance on certain global issues.
9. The financial and economic cooperation of BRICS has served as a new and innovative model for achieving further cooperation. This is seen in the BRICS countries carrying out the UN Millennium Development Goals action plans and providing liquidity guarantees, debt reduction, market entry and technology transfers to support poverty-stricken countries. Individual BRICS countries have also expanded the scale of foreign aid for under-developed countries.

Concerns and issues of BRICS:

1. It is claimed that heterogeneity (diverse nature of countries) of the BRICS nations with its diverse interests possess a threat to the viability of the grouping.
2. All the countries in BRICS grouping trade with China more than each other, therefore it is blamed that as a platform to promote China's interest. Balancing trade deficit with China is huge challenge for other partner nations.

3. Amidst, global slowdown, trade war and protectionism, the critical challenge for the BRICS consists in the development of a new global model of governance which should not be unipolar but inclusive and constructive.

4. While BRICS and other emerging economies have been pushing for deep reforms in global governance, their national interests and world views differ. Since 2013, structural problems in BRICS' economies have also been significant, including large income gaps, lack of financial transparency and infrastructure deficiencies.

5. BRICS need to pay attention to their internal cohesiveness- that is, the governance of economic and social issues in and among the BRICS countries. The Sino-Indian Doklam border confrontation before the Xiamen summit chilled relations between China and India, and it raised many worries about the participation of India in the Xiamen summit.

6. In addition, because the economic structures and development trends of the BRICS countries are very similar, it is inevitable that there will be economic competition and even conflicts. Therefore, it is necessary to establish an arbitration mechanism to resolve such conflicts.

The BRICS need to face these internal challenges and pursue structural economic reforms such as improving their infrastructure, supporting independent innovation and promoting the business environment to boost economic diversification. Collective leadership within the BRICS framework is the face of globalisation. The future of the BRICS depends on making these internal and external adjustments.

Q.35) "The Chief of Defence Staff should not become another interposed level between the Government and the service chiefs." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Why CDS post is needed? Why post of CDS can become another interposed level between government and agencies? Role of CDS.
Conclusion. Way forward.

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

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

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

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

Role a Chief of defence need to play:
1. CDS need to take control of newer organisations being set up for tackling future threats rather than merely becoming another interposed level between the Government and the service chiefs.
2. Development of future technologies and means to face emerging threats in the cyber, space, missiles domain, nurturing of AI-based platforms, usage of drones for various roles and such modern conflict realities is indeed important. These advancements are extremely costly, and the CDS can facilitate optimal, cost-effective integrated development and deployment of such structures.
3. The CDS can be the vital point to undertake prioritisation and rationalisation, and, therefore, can play a vital role in the perspective planning and development function. Considering the high cost of future technology, the CDS can also contribute towards the optimisation of existing structures.
4. Future conflict situations would possibly need an integrated application of fighting formations and resources, with unitary operational control of deployed elements. The CDS would be better placed for integrated employment of war-fighting potential, and therefore logically needs to be part of the operational control chain.
5. It is important provide effective leadership at the top level to the three wings of the armed forces. The CDS must lead to greater coordination and synergy among the tri-services.
6. The CDS is important to help in the tackling of threats from cyber and space sector in an integrated manner and would help in optimal use of available resources. Policy-making on operations, procurement and joint logistics must be improved.
7. It will provide a single, all-encompassing coherent and cohesive perspective, instead of disaggregated individual single service perspective. This will correct the anomaly of civic-military interface during the shaping/ deterrence phase, during operations, or after the occurrence of threatening situations.

It is important for national security that Chief of defence must take holistic management for optimised results and single point military advice on matters of national security including nuclear weapons. India is the only country with an MoD without military professionals, with bureaucrats lacking a military background and knowledge. As a result, we lack a cohesive national security strategy; national security objectives remain undefined. There is little synergy within the military and also the military-industrial complex remains in a pathetic state. A post of CDS will remove such issues.

Q.36) Discuss the need and significance of a National Register for citizens in India? What are various concerns related to it?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the need and significance of NRC being implemented at national level. Various related concerns.
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.

Need of NRC at national level:

1. The influx of immigrants has led to security issues in the region and led to various conflicts in the region. The recent Bodo-Muslim violence in the BTAD has its root on the issue of illegal migration.
2. Large areas of forest land were encroached upon by the immigrants for settlement and cultivation and thus need to be monitored.
3. Due to the similar language spoken by illegal migrants, it becomes difficult to identify and deport the illegal migrant.
4. The commission on integration and Cohesion found that tension usually exist with the presence of high levels of migration combine with other forms of social exclusion like poverty, poor housing etc.
5. Immigration has increased pressure on the part of government, as the government has to increase the expenditure on education and health facilities to the immigrants.
6. There is a fear particularly during a recession that immigrants take jobs which would otherwise be taken by local people; in particular place and circumstances there can be competition and conflict.
7. Most of the immigrants have got their names enlisted in the voting list illegally, thereby claiming themselves as citizens of the state. The immigrant's population act as a vote bank for the political parties in Assam.
8. Pakistan's ISI has been active in supporting militant movements. Among the illegal migrants there are also terrorists, who enter into India to carry out the terrorist activities.

Significance 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 loose voting rights. Thus it will strengthen our electoral process.

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

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.37) "Inclusiveness and equity are very important characteristics of a good public institution." In light of this discuss the need and significance of subsidies in higher education. What are related concerns?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the need, Importance and issues of subsidies in higher education.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Recently, the proposed fees hike of residential hostels in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has sparked a widespread protest and controversy over subsidies in higher education.

Need of subsidy in higher education:
1. Almost more than a fifth of the population is below official poverty limits and 93% of the workforce is engaged in unorganised sector, subsidised education provides access to quality education to the poor.
2. Subsidies in education education generates a host of positive externalities such as health improvement, reduction in poverty, crime and population growth.
3. It directly or indirectly influences almost all facets of social life, and therefore should be viewed as a non-negotiable public good and by far the most potent social investment.

Advantages of Subsidies in Higher Education:
1. **Inclusiveness and Equity:** Subsidies in higher education have enabled the marginalised and socio-economically backward sections of the society to get access to quality higher education which has largely been the domain of socially dominant groups in the society. Inclusiveness and equity are very important characteristics of a good public institution. And, over the years, this has actually increased in public institutions and that is entirely because of subsidy.
2. **Economic contribution:** The subsidised education plays a significant role in building an economy as in the case of India. Students' engaged with research and specialised education go on to become better contributors to the economy. Higher education boosts innovation, creative thinking and innovations.
3. **Demographic Dividends:** India is one of the youngest nations in the world comprising huge chunk of population in favourable demographic phase. However, this young populations educational and skill status is not aligned to the requirements of the market. Therefore, subsidies in higher education sector has a greater role to play in reaping the benefits of demographic dividends.
4. **Social Mobility:** Earlier, higher education used to be the exclusive preserve of elites, and other socially and economically backward classes were deprived of higher education. But due to the efforts made by the government (in the form of subsidies and other benefits) to make it within the reach of every social group, a large number of poor and the marginalised have to begun to express their aspirations for social mobility through access to higher public education institutions.
5. **Human Capital:** The country has developed a wide network of institutions like CSIR, IITs and Central Universities which provide quality subsidised education to the masses. These institutions have become the nucleus of providing trained man force in propelling research and development and economic growth in the country. Students of all sections of society from these institutions went on to occupy the higher positions in government in forms of engineers, doctors, bureaucrats etc.

Problem with Subsidies in Higher Education in India:
1. **False beneficiaries:** A World Bank study argued that the rich stood to gain more than the poor from public provision of services such as healthcare and education due to various factors. Despite free provisioning, availing of services entails private costs which the rich found easier to pay.
2. **Do not guarantee quality education:** Access without assured quality is no access. Also, there has been a lot of clamour that subsidies hampers meritocracy.
3. **Does not guarantee an increase in incomes:** An analysis of a cross-national data showed that, on average, education contributed much less to growth than would be expected in standard economic models.

4. **Uneven distribution:** There is considerable unevenness in the distribution of public finances. Student subsidies for premier institutions like the IITs and engineering colleges are incomparably higher than those for universities and colleges, particularly for liberal arts institutions.
5. **Privatisation:** Private institutions are generally not likely to be amenable to measures promoting access and equity. Therefore, a large number of private education institutions remains inaccessible to economy weaker sections.

Way Forward:
1. Technological improvement like Aadhaar, direct benefit transfer can be used to eliminate inclusion and exclusion errors. The third-party verifications of beneficiary will help in eliminating the free riders.
2. University administrations should be encouraged to look for funds. To look for endowments, donations newer generation opportunities are emerging. Self-financing courses must be started to make both ends meet.
3. Public provisioning of higher education can also serve as an important tool in reducing inequality.
4. Below a certain income level, students can participate in higher education without payment of any fee and fee applicable for richer students.
5. If a person was born in the most backward 100 districts, then she can get deprivation points. This criteria can be used for subsidising, for charging fee and for admission purposes.
6. Rationalisation of fee structure according to the demand of programmes based on marketability, affordability and input cost and according to different income groups could pave the way for optimal utilisation of subsidies.
7. A proper regulatory mechanism should be placed in order to make private institutions in line with the government's goal of making higher education accessible and affordable to vulnerable section.

Education is one of those genuinely long-term businesses. A public effort is needed to frame a different management style, better autonomy and accountability. Subsidies can help in improving access to higher education and bridge socio-economic divides across communities in the country. However, these can be rationalise in order to reap optimum benefits.

Q.38) "Labour reforms are much needed for Indian progress towards a $5 trillion economy." In light of this discuss the changes made in The Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019? What are the issues related to the changes?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the importance, changes and issues related to The Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019.
Conclusion. Way forward.

The road to a $5 trillion economy by 2025 is beset with many road blocks, one being various labour issues. Government is trying to push various labour reforms like The Code on Wages, 2019. The Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019 is another such effort which proposes to amalgamate The Trade Unions Act, 1926, The Industrial Employment Act, 1946 and The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

Importance of The Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019:

1. The most important aspect of the Bill is that it presents the legal framework for ushering in the concept of 'fixed-term employment' through contract workers on a pan-India basis. Currently, companies hire contract workers through contractors.
2. With the introduction of fixed-term employment, they will be able to hire workers directly under a fixed-term contract, with the flexibility to tweak the length of the contract based on the seasonality of industry.
3. These workers will be treated on a par with regular workers during the tenure of the contract.
4. The move to include it in a central law will help in wider reach, and states are expected to follow similar applicability.
5. Fixed-term employment will help in keeping salaries and facilities to workers such as Provident Fund, gratuity, and medical benefits, the same as those for permanent labour.

Changes in The Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019:

1. The threshold required for government permission for retrenchment has been kept unchanged at 100 employees, as against the proposal for 300 employees in an earlier draft of the Bill, which was opposed by trade unions.
2. Instead, the government has now provided flexibility for changing the threshold through notification. The rigidity of labour laws about laying off labour has often been cited by industry as the main reason limiting scalability and employment generation. At present, any company having 100 workers or more has to seek government approval for retrenchment.
3. The provision of fixed-term employment, which helps in the flow of social security benefits to all workers along with making it easier for companies to hire and fire, in The Industrial Relations Code Bill.
4. Workers under a fixed-term contract would be taken up depending upon the seasonality of the industry, but would be treated on a par with regular workers.

Issues related to Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019:

1. The unclear provision regarding retrenchment would lead to uncertainty, and discretionary behaviour during implementation by the central or state government.
2. The moment the law will provide flexibility for the applicability, it leaves the matter to the discretion to the appropriate government (states or Centre). Then the clause can be misused.
3. Any discretion in law leads to uncertainty, lack of clarity, discriminatory implementation, and provides scope for unnecessary usage.
4. The government should be clear whether to increase the threshold or retain the threshold and face the consequences.
5. Also, fixed-term employment needs to be introduced with adequate safeguards, otherwise it runs the risk of encouraging conversion of permanent employment into fixed-term employment.

The Industrial Relations Bill, 2019 is a welcome step towards labour reform needed to push nation towards $5 trillion economic goal by 2025. Labour reforms are one of the driver of economic growth and is must to push industrial productivity and efficiency. Government should accelerate their efforts in pushing such reforms for the economic health.

Q.39) Argue whether electoral bonds are an effective mechanism to conduct fair and transparent elections? Suggest some measures to improve transparency in electoral funding to political parties.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. What are electoral bonds?
Body. Discuss the effectiveness, rationale and issues related to electoral bonds.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Electoral bonds are instruments that allow donors to pay political parties using banks as an intermediary. Although called a bond, the banking instrument resembling promissory notes do not carry any interest. These are meant to ensure transparency in political funding and thus fair elections in India.

Effectiveness of electoral bonds:
1. Electoral bonds scheme only ensures that contributions come from legitimate, tax-compliant sources. Since we can't know who gave which party how much, it is impossible to assert that no political influence was bought with these anonymous bond contributions.
2. In 2017-18, according to data collected, some 95% of the ₹222 crore of electoral bonds issued landed up with the major political party as anonymous contributions.

Rationale for introduction of the electoral bonds:
1. Electoral bonds have been introduced to promote transparency in funding and donation received by political parties.
2. The scheme envisages building a transparent system of acquiring bonds with validated KYC and an audit trail. A limited window and a very short maturity period would make misuse improbable.
3. The electoral bonds will prompt donors to take the banking route to donate, with their identity captured by the issuing authority. This will ensure transparency and accountability and is a big step towards electoral reform.
4. The previous system of cash donations from anonymous sources is wholly non-transparent. The donor, the donee, the quantum of donations and the nature of expenditure are all undisclosed.
5. According to government the system of Bonds will encourage political donations of clean money from individuals, companies, HUF, religious groups, charities, etc.
6. After purchasing the bonds, these entities can hand them to political parties of their choice, which must redeem them within the prescribed time.
7. Some element of transparency would be introduced in as much as all donors declare in their accounts the amount of bonds that they have purchased and all parties declare the quantum of bonds that they have received.
8. The electoral bonds are aimed at rooting out the current system of largely anonymous cash donations made to political parties which lead to the generation of black money in the economy.

Concerns related to electoral bonds:
1. The move could be misused, given the lack of disclosure requirements for individuals purchasing electoral bonds.
2. Electoral bonds make electoral funding even more opaque. It will bring more and more black money into the political system.

3. With electoral bonds there can be a legal channel for companies to round-trip their tax haven cash to a political party. If this could be arranged, then a businessman could lobby for a change in policy, and legally funnel a part of the profits accruing from this policy change to the politician or party that brought it about.

4. Electoral bonds eliminate the 7.5% cap on company donations which means even loss-making companies can make unlimited donations.

5. Companies no longer need to declare the names of the parties to which they have donated so shareholders won't know where their money has gone.

6. They have potential to load the dice heavily in favour of the ruling party as the donor bank and the receiver bank know the identity of the person. But both the banks report to the RBI which, in turn, is subject to the Central government's will to know.

Measures to ensure transparency in political funding:

1. To make electoral funding transparent, two types of needs should be addressed:
   - One is the funding of political parties, which need to engage in political activity all through the year, whether there is an election or not.
   - The other is the funding of candidates.

2. The electoral bonds scheme makes no sense, and needs replacement with a more transparent means of funding political parties, where both the donor and political recipient are identified clearly.

3. An alternative to electoral bonds is a National Electoral Fund to which all donors can contribute. The funds would be allocated to political parties in proportion to the votes they get. Not only would this protect the identity of donors, it would also weed out black money from political funding.

4. At the candidate level, we have to seriously consider state funding. Direct funding of candidates, who will be reimbursed according to their final share of the votes cast is needed.

5. The best way to bring about such transparency in political funding is to put a complete ban on cash donations by individuals or companies to political parties. Making it mandatory for all parties to receive donations only by cheque, or other modes of money transfer.

6. There should be clear provisions for getting tax benefits for all those making such donations. Make it mandatory for political parties to submit details of all donations received with the Election Commission and also with the income-tax department.

7. State funding of political parties can be considered. The Indrajit Gupta Committee on State Funding of Elections had endorsed partial state funding of recognised political parties.

The mechanics of this process need to be carefully worked out to establish the allocation of money to national parties, State parties and independent candidates, and to check candidate's own expenditure over and above that which is provided by the state. Voters have to be made aware through awareness campaigns about ill effects of money power during elections. Bringing political parties under the preview of RTI act.

Q.40) "The increasing influence of social media in global politics and national elections demand strong measures." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the need of media regulation. Some positive aspects and measures needed.
Conclusion. Way forward.

In recent years internet has expanded exponentially to every corner of the world. With rise in social media and its penetration, a wave of 'mediatisation' of Indian politics i.e. the media's ability to set political agendas has expanded, and elections have been transformed into an image contest between prominent personalities. As media and politics grow ever more intertwined, media exposure has impacted voting behaviours and opinions. This Demand strong measures and regulation by the government,

Why political Advertising need stricter regulation?
1. Democracy requires free and fair elections. Voters should be given all the details they need to make an informed decision.
2. The spike in circulation of unverifiable information or fake news has been a major cause for concern during the current elections.
3. Media is used to influence vote-choice through election ad campaigns and other propagandas.
4. Misinformation is proliferated and highly emotive subjects handled in ways that could easily be construed as manipulative. This harms the spirit of fair elections.
5. The distribution of this manipulative content through TV and social media is proving destructive for the democracy.
6. Political parties are morally responsible to follow a code of conduct during elections. In the absence of independent controls, the only thing we are left to cling to in the hope that political campaigning follows some set of rules are the morals of politicians which is absurd.
7. Politicians simply shrug off the issue and continue without any regulation . Self-regulation model of media has failed and brought fissures to the surface and it needs to be regulated.
8. Freedom of speech does not grant the right to deceive. Freedom of speech provides that political advertising should not be strictly regulated. But freedom of speech is meant to ensure protection of diversity of opinion and the individual's right to express in a reasonable manner. Lies, deception and treachery are not covered under freedom of speech to influence voting behaviour. Manipulated content is incongruous with freedom of speech.
9. There is a blurred line between editorial content and advertising. Advertisements must be distinguishable from editorial content. However, by mimicking the style of a news program or documentary, party political broadcasts intentionally lose that distinction.
10. Online advertising allows, especially on social networks, personalised targeting based on multiple attributes that wasn't possible at the same level before. These platforms make it possible to go from manufacturing consent to manipulating consent. A person is continuously fed with information to vote for a particular party.
11. Invisibility of online political advertising. In advertising on a social media platform, not everyone gets to know the sponsor of the advertisements. These advertisements are frequently treated as content.

Some initiatives and positive aspects:
1. There are several initiatives pushing for change. The Election Commission of India recently launched an app to encourage voter mobilisation. Fact-checking websites such as Alt News and IndiaSpend's FactChecker.in attempt to debunk misinformation.
2. Similarly, other platforms such as Jaano India and Mumbai Votes aim to equip citizens with relevant information on government policies and candidates' performance. However, the effectiveness of these programmes, and the impact of various media on voter behaviour in India, have not been rigorously analysed.
3. An analysis of randomised evaluations conducted across the world allows some insights into the role of the media in improving the quality of political participation. It shows that it is indeed possible to deliver information through the media in a way that positively impacts citizen engagement in the democratic process, and that the magnitude and duration of impact varies by content type and delivery mechanism.
4. Increasing access to political information through the mass media may enable citizens to monitor incumbents' behaviour, and use this information in voting decisions. Exposure to debates improve voters' political knowledge and the alignment between voters' reported policy positions and those of the candidates they voted for.

What should be done?
1. Digital media literacy awareness/education initiatives are needed.
2. Fact checking initiatives, i.e. Facebook and the Journal.ie partnership to identify fake news
3. Data Protection law requires data processors to have consent from data subjects for processing their data.
4. The ECI must ensure parity of treatment between political advertising on social media and traditional media.
5. Election commission should strictly enforce model code of conduct and should increase vigilance on cyber activities of political parties.

To summarise the efforts taken by the EC to tackle digital media, it would not be wrong to say that the self-regulations are not enough for the social media platforms to keep an eye over the content, the EC is having a hard time to enforce its powers not having specific laws to deal with the upcoming issues like propaganda spreading, fake news, paid news, et cetera for which the use of digital media and social media is being made.

Q.41) "The draft rules to the Wages Act, a law expected to provide economic and social justice, will only exploit workers further." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Mention how of the draft rules to the Wages Act will lead to economic and social justice? Mention issues that may lead to exploitation.
Conclusion. Way forward.

The draft rules to the Wages Act proposes to simplify labour laws to bring them in sync with the emerging economic situation, facilitate easier compliance by establishments, promote ease of living and ensure labour welfare and wage and social security for workers. The draft aims to transform the old and obsolete labour laws into more accountable and transparent ones

and seeks to pave the way for the introduction of minimum wages and labour reforms in the country.

How of the draft rules to the Wages Act will lead to economic and social justice?
1. Draft rules will remove the multiplicity of definitions and authorities, leading to ease of compliance without compromising wage security and social security to workers.
2. It will substantially reduce the number of minimum wages in the country from the, existing more than 2000 rates of minimum wages. This would ensure that every worker gets a minimum wage which will also be accompanied by an increase in the purchasing power of the worker thereby giving a fillip to growth in the economy.
3. It is expected to treat contract labour on par with regular employee to have dignified life.
4. It is expected to provide for an appellate authority between the claim authority and the judicial forum which will lead to speedy, cheaper and efficient redressal of grievances and settlement of claims as that of earlier.
5. The code is expected to benefit over 50 crores employees across the country. It would help to reduce compliance costs for employers and is expected to reduce litigation as it streamlines the definition of wages.
6. The code is expected to go for digital mode/cheques as the mode of payment of wages. This would promote digitisation and extend wage and social security to the worker.
7. Will ensure decent Minimum wage for all which will result into increase in disposable incomes in turn help in eradicating Poverty, hunger to achieve SDGs.
8. It will ensure humane working conditions through minimum working hours, overtime etc. and prevent exploitation of labour.
9. The Code prohibits gender discrimination on wage-related matters. It would also help in reduce regionalism by reducing wage disparity across different regions.

Issues that may lead to exploitation of worker:
1. There are many anomalies in the draft rules on Code on Wages which need to be amended. The new rules are silent about many provisions clearly provided in the 4 Acts subsumed in the Code.
2. There is no clarity on the working hours in the draft rule. The working hour should be 6 hours a day. Besides, there are issues related to fixation of minimum wage in the draft rules.
3. The rules does not provide for up-gradation of a workers' to semi-skilled or skilled category from unskilled. That generally happens in any trade. People join job as a fresher and improves his or her skills. That is missing in the draft rules.
4. The draft rules does not provide for representation of trade unions in the wage fixation committee. The earlier four Acts subsumed in the Code, provided for that.
5. The new law provides for the arbitrary deduction of wages (up to 50% of monthly wage) based on performance, damage or loss, advances etc. The deduction clause will lead to reduced bargaining power and right of association of workers. The workers will not be able to demand even basic work rights in fear of wage deduction.
6. In India, the informal sector employers dominate the workers due to caste and higher social status, therefore the above provision may have the potential to become a handy tool for exploitation of these workers.
7. The rules do not clarify the governance and institutional structure for "labour inspection system". The rules propose an ad-hoc unclear mechanism called "inspection scheme". The scheme provides for appointment of Inspector by notification by the appropriate government. This may lead to the revival of inspector-raj system in the labour market.

The Article 43 of the Constitution of India states that the state shall endeavor to secure by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way to all workers a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of pleasure and social and cultural opportunities. Some of the issues like what would the states which already provide higher minimum wage than the proposed national minimum wage do. The minimum salary needs to be adjusted regularly to keep pace with inflation. A mechanism should be developed to adjust minimum wages regularly and more frequently.

Q.42) "India had emerged as a hub of commercial surrogacy for couples in recent times, benefiting especially poor." In light of this critically examine 'The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019'.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss salient features of surrogacy bill, 2019. Various issues in the bill.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

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

Features of the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019:
1. It provides for constitution of surrogacy boards at the national as well as state levels to ensure effective regulation.
2. It seeks to allow ethical altruistic surrogacy to the intending infertile Indian married couple between the age of 23-50 years for female and 26-55 years for male.
3. Only Indian couples who have been legally married for at least 5 years would be allowed to opt for surrogacy.
4. It makes it mandatory for the couple to obtain a certificate of essentiality and also a certificate of eligibility before going ahead with surrogacy. It also provides that intending couples should not abandon the child born out of surrogacy under any condition.
5. It also stipulates a separate eligibility criterion for the surrogate mother.
6. The surrogate must be a close relative of the intending couple and be a married woman having a child of her own.
7. She should between the age of 25-35 years, not have been surrogate earlier and must be certifiably mentally and physically fit.
8. On the legal status of a surrogate child, the Bill states that any child born out of a surrogacy procedure shall be the biological child of the intending couple.
9. The new born child shall be entitled to all rights and privileges that are available to a natural child.
10. The Bill also seeks to regulate functioning of surrogacy clinics. All surrogacy clinics in the country need to be registered by the appropriate authority in order to undertake surrogacy or its related procedures.

What are the issues related to Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019?
1. Currently, Surrogacy in India is legitimate because no Indian law prohibits surrogacy. However, Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019 seeks to prohibit commercial surrogacy and provide only for Altruistic surrogacy.

2. The Bill specifies that the intending couples should be married Indian couples. There is no mention of Non-Resident Indians working or studying abroad who may want to come back home to have a baby.

3. The Bill leaves out a lot of people who might want to have a baby through surrogacy, including unmarried couples, homosexual couples and single men and women. Having a child is a basic human right.

4. The Judiciary in India also has recognized the reproductive right of humans as a basic right. If the reproductive right is basic constitution right then the right to have a child through surrogacy should also be a basic constitutional right.

5. The Bill further clarifies that any form of monetary compensation or advertising about the act of surrogacy is a punishable criminal offence. But due to this, the livelihood of poor women who are engaged in commercial surrogacy will get compromised.

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

7. Past experience of anti-abortion laws suggest that complete banning on commercial activities may not be successful.

8. There is also the issue of in-vitro fertilisation and recruitment of surrogate mothers from other countries who would be implanted with the embryo in India by an infertility specialist, and then would be flown back to their own country.

9. It will be difficult for enforcement agencies to distinguish surrogate mothers in hospitals from other pregnant women.

Way forward:

1. For surrogacy to happen, we need embryos, and embryos are cultured in various In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) laboratories. So regulation of surrogacy must be preceded by law on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART).

2. Rather than penalising surrogacy, the person providing a womb for surrogacy must be secured with a contract, ensuring proper, insurance and medical checks.

3. Right to privacy of donor as well as surrogate mother should be protected.

4. Surrogacy should be made inclusive for all class of people irrespective of their sexuality

5. The Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill 2019 cements the ban on commercial surrogacy, but it fails to effectively tackle the larger social, physical, psychological, emotional and economic issues that continue to challenge the welfare and safety of both the surrogate mother and the child.

There were multiple reports concerning unethical practices, exploitation of surrogate mothers, abandonment of children born out of surrogacy and rackets. Surrogacy Bill 2019 intend to stop these practices with an aim to make surrogacy completely an altruistic practice than a commercial business which it may fail to completely end. But it will surely put a check on commercial exploitation promoting altruistic cause.

Q.43) In light of recent NSO's survey findings on open defecation, critically examine whether Swachh Bharat Mission is a success or failure?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Mention recent National Statistical Office (NSO) survey findings. Discuss whether SBM is a success or failure? Various issues wrt SBM.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched in 2014 with the aim of ensuring a 'clean India'. The objectives of the Swachh Bharat Mission included Eliminating of open defecation, Eradication of manual scavenging, 100% collection and scientific processing/disposal reuse/recycle of Municipal Solid Waste, and to bring about a behavioural change in people with regards to healthy sanitation practices. SBM has played a great role in instilling a silent revolution of cleanliness in recent times, but some issue still remains.

Recent National Statistical Office (NSO) survey findings:
1. The latest National Statistical Office (NSO) survey on sanitation, showed that about 71% of rural households had access to toilets as contrary to government's claim of 95%.
2. Large States which had been declared ODF included Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. According to the NSO, almost 42% of rural households in Jharkhand had no access to a toilet at that time. In Tamil Nadu, the gap was 37%, followed by 34% in Rajasthan.
3. In Gujarat, which was one of the earliest States declared ODF, almost a quarter of all rural households had no toilet access, the NSO data showed. The other major States listed also had significant gaps.
4. According to NSO, there may be respondent bias in the reporting of access to latrine. The 71% access to toilets was still a significant improvement over the situation during the last survey period in 2012, when only 40% of rural households had access to toilets.

Swachh Bharat- Success or failure?
1. Since its launch in October 2014, the SBM, the world's largest sanitation program, has changed the behaviour of hundreds of millions of people with respect to toilet access and usage.
2. 500 million people have stopped defecating in the open since the SBM began, down from 550 million at the beginning of the programme to less than 50 million today.
3. The National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19, conducted by an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) under the World Bank support project to the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), has found that 96.5% of the households in rural India who have access to a toilet use it.
4. A recent WHO study reports that Swachh Bharat would have led to the saving of 300,000 lives by 2019 and around 150,000 lives would be saved annually thereafter.
5. The NSO's statistics on toilet usage are also encouraging. It reported that 95% of people with access to toilets in rural India used them regularly, indicating that the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan's efforts to change behaviour have borne fruit. Only 3.5% of those with toilet access in rural India said that they never used them. This was aided by the fact that water was available around the toilet in more than 95% of cases.

Thus, overall facts and data reflect that swachh bharat is a big success based on various data available but still there are some issues which once solved will make Swachh Bharat a complete success.

Issues need to be resolved:
1. The next big challenge lie in the disposal of waste. According to NSO data, more than 50% of rural Indian households with toilets had septic tanks, while another 21% used single pits, both of which need to be cleaned and produce faecal sludge that must be disposed of safely.
2. There are concerns regarding the durability and quality of construction of toilets. It is observed that fall back rate of ODF declared villages in the past was high because of the non-sustainability of toilets.
3. SBM has made inadequate attempts at critical areas of eradication of manual scavenging and rehabilitation of such workers.
4. There has been an insufficient investment on procuring mechanised sludge and pump machines for physical removal of excreta.
5. Moreover, the campaign does not address a reworking of the underground sewerage system.

Way forward:
1. The government should focus on creating a demand for toilets. Policymakers must make sure that a higher proportion of funds are directed towards educating people about hygiene and the social marketing of toilets.
2. To resolve the issue of over/under reporting of government set targets, verification of facts on the ground is highly important.
3. Proper facilities for the disposal of excreta should be established. People started using toilets but the faecal material goes untreated which harms the environment.
4. Different cost-effective technologies must be adopted for sewage treatments and proper disposal of waste from toilets.
5. Use of technology can play a crucial role in eradicating the practice of manual scavenging. Empowering the lower castes by encouraging them to pursue alternative jobs and possibly providing them with subsidies to build latrine facilities can also be a step in this direction.

Q.44) India and USA are the two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Mention the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

India and USA are the two large representative democracies in the world. In USA, democracy got its full swing with the drafting of the US Constitution in 1789 while the democracy in India is partially a result of British rule followed by the enforcement of the new, modern and living constitution, framed after Independence.

The basic tenets on which the two political systems based are:

1. **Written constitution:** Both US and India have a written constitution based on which the federal political structure has been set up and both federal governments are functioning. Both constitutions have provisions for amending the constitution to meet the growing socio, political and economic needs and demands of their respective countries.

2. **Bill of Rights and Fundamental Rights:** The US constitution has ensured the fundamental rights of its citizens like right to equality, freedom, right against exploitation, freedom of religion, cultural and educational rights, etc. The Indian constitution has guaranteed the fundamental rights of the people through articles 14 to 34 in Part III.

3. **Supremacy of the Federal or Union Government:** Both in US and India, states which have acceded to the Federal set up have no unilateral power to secede from the Federal Government or the Union Government. The law enacted by the Federal or Union Government will have overriding effect over the law enacted by the states on the same subject.

4. **Division of Labor and Separation of Powers:** The executive governs the country, the legislature enacts laws and the judiciary administers justice. President of US is the chief executive head of US, whereas the Union cabinet headed by the Prime Minister is the real chief executive body in India.

5. **Powers of Checks and Balances:** Though there exists a clear-cut division of labor known as separation of powers into executive, legislature and judiciary in both countries, still there is a threat. to democracy. The powers of checks and balances have been the effective mechanism both in the US and in India in safeguarding the democracy in both countries.

6. **Rule of Law and Republicanism:** Both, the countries have written constitutions ensuring rule of law and guaranteeing fundamental rights to their citizens. Both the countries are republican in nature and provide adult franchise to the citizens.

7. **Independent Judiciary:** Both the political systems provide for an independent judiciary to interpret the constitution and enforce the law. However, in India single system of courts enforces both the central laws as well as the state laws but in USA, the federal laws are enforced by the federal judiciary and the state laws are enforced by the state judiciary.

Thus, though the US and Indian political systems are similar in many respects, yet they are the product of their unique history and socio-economic milieu, and varying political culture. However, they should cooperate with each other on many fronts to provide a hope to the humanity which is facing numerous challenges.

Q.45) "To what extent anti defection law has been able to curb unprincipled and unethical parliamentary defections." Critically examine.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Mention the provisions for Disqualification in 10th schedule. Discuss the success and failure of anti-defection law.
Conclusion. Way forward.

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

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

Evaluation of the Act:
The Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (which embodies the anti-defection law) is designed to prevent the evil or mischief of political defections motivated by the lure of office or material benefits or other similar considerations. It is intended to strengthen the fabric of Indian parliamentary democracy by curbing unprincipled and unethical political defections.

Advantages
The following can be cited as the advantages of the anti-defection law:
(a) It provides for greater stability in the body politic by checking the propensity of legislators to change parties.
(b) It facilitates democratic realignment of parties in the legislature by way of merger of parties.
(c) It reduces corruption at the political level as well as non-developmental expenditure incurred on irregular elections.
(d) It gives, for the first time, a clear-cut constitutional recognition to the existence of political parties.
(e) It played an important role in keeping a check on corruption/horse trading in parliament, thus curbing the popular phenomenon of "Aaya Ram Gaya Ram " in the Indian polity of 1960s.

Criticism
Though the anti-defection law been hailed as a bold step towards cleansing our political life and started as new epoch in the political life of the country, it has revealed may lacunae in its operation and failed to prevent defections in toto. It came to be criticised on the following grounds:
1. It does not make a differentiation between dissent and defection. It curbs the legislator's right to dissent and freedom of conscience. Thus, 'it clearly puts party bossism on a pedestral and sanctions tyranny of the party in the name of the party discipline'
2. Its distinction between individual defection and group defection is irrational. In other words, 'it banned only retail defections and legalised wholesale defections'.
3. It does not provide for the expulsion of a legislator from his party for his activities outside the legislature.

4. Its discrimination between an independent member and a nominated member is illogical. If the former joins a party, he is disqualified while the latter is allowed to do the same.

5. Its vesting of decision-making authority in the presiding officer is criticised on two grounds. Firstly, he may not exercise this authority in an impartial and objective manner due to political exigencies. Secondly, he lacks the legal knowledge and experience to adjudicate upon the cases.

6. Even sometimes speaker favours party in the rule and help majority to thrive through defections.

Way forward:

1. The power to the party whip should be reduced so that the only those members who vote against the party manifesto are subject to disqualification and not those who vote against the party in a not-so-important matter or a matter which is not core to the party manifesto. This will in a way help the members to have some individual viewpoint on various issues.

2. The law must explicitly set out what it means by the words 'voluntarily giving up Membership' in order to avoid any confusion.

3. The provision relating to mergers whereby it exempts members from disqualification if they defect in large numbers i.e. two- third, must be amended to make the reason for defection as the basis for exemption from disqualification rather than mere numbers.

The introduction of the Tenth Schedule in the Indian Constitution was aimed at curbing political defections. Though the law has succeeded in a reasonable way but due to some of its loopholes, it has not been able to achieve the best it can. The Supreme Court guidelines must be followed in spirit.

Q.46) What do you understand by the term 'informational autocracy'? Do you agree that in recent times, India is becoming an informational autocracy?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** What is informational autocracy?
> **Body.** Discuss the issues of informational autocracy. Argue whether India is becoming an informational autocracy or not.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

In recent years, a less bloody and ideological form of authoritarianism has been spreading termed as 'informational autocracy'. Informational autocracy means manipulation of information to perpetuate power, and subverting institutions vital for democracy by leaders for posing themselves as competent and public-spirited leaders. Rather than jailing thousands, they target opposition activists, harassing and humiliating them, accusing them of fabricated crimes, and encouraging them to emigrate. Informational autocrats artificially boost their popularity by convincing the public they are competent. To do so, they use propaganda and silence informed members of the elite by co- optation or censorship.

Informational autocracy:

1. Informational autocrats favour a rhetoric of economic performance and provision of public services.

2. Authoritarian leaders are increasingly mimicking democracy by holding elections and, where necessary, falsifying the results.

3. A key element of informational autocracy is the gap in political knowledge between the "informed elite" and the general public. While the elite accurately observes the limitations of an incompetent incumbent, the public is susceptible to the ruler's propaganda.
4. They manipulate information, coopting the elite to remain silent, censoring private media, and disseminating propaganda in order to boost their popularity and eliminate threats to their rule.

Arguments for India becoming an informational autocracy:
1. Social science researchers across the world have expressed concern that the Indian statistical machinery is in a state of disarray. The government rejected adverse consumer spending data this month.
2. Several of political institutions which are constitutionally mandated to be autonomous agencies, have recently come under a cloud because of their perceived inability to work independently of the political executive or because of the lack of transparency in their performance.
3. Earlier, the Centre delayed and then belatedly released the 2017 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data.
4. Also, broader concerns on information manipulation have stemmed from attempts to distort the facts on events like Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.
5. The recent incidents of punishing journalists and cartoonists on basis of sedition is a cause of concern and would lead to censorship.
6. There is a wide gap when one observe in statistics released by various institutions in India that reflects basic informational errors.

Arguments that support that India is far away from informational autocracy:
1. Judiciary is independent and working fine to hold constitutional supremacy and Indian democracy thriving.
2. Institutions are working fine but issues like under-staff, lack of infrastructure and funds has hit the functioning of various institutions.
3. One reason for such discrepancies is increased fake news and propagandas and increased tentacles of social media.
4. Election in India are still free and fair with universal adult franchise.
5. What we seeing is not a pure informational autocracy but over-centralisation of powers with majoritarian rule in the centre.

A combination of the factors like lack of concern for institutions, preoccupation with livelihood issues, obsession with caste and community benefits, and the propagation of hyper-nationalism taken together facilitate populism, has led to authoritarian tendencies. The danger of this occurring is reinforced by the rising use of social media and fake news and propagandas.

Q.47) The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process. Comment.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss the positive impacts of women representation in local government. Mention why reservation of seats for women in local government has little impact on Patriarchal Indian Political Process?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Constitution through 73rd amendment 1992 provided for one third reservation for women in both rural and urban local bodies. It brought an unprecedented huge number of women in governance arena in India. A million women have been elected at the village, block and district levels, following the 73rd Constitutional Amendment which reserved 33 percent of seats in Panchayati Raj Institutions for women. The process of decentralisation has provided representation but representation has not always led to their participation in the Indian political process.

Positive impacts of women representation in local government:
1. Women have done considerable development work on the ground, for example, women sarpanch of Dhani Miyan Khan Gram Panchayat in Haryana built a training centre for women and ensured that every village child went to school.
2. Elected women representatives are more accessible than their male counterparts who are often not around.
3. It has been seen that though women lacked confidence initially but exposure to local politics gave them new confidence to take independent decisions and not become a proxy of male candidates.
4. There has been a marked improvement in social development parameters such as education and health where panchayats are led by women.
5. Education leading to (social, political, economic) empowerment of women. Ex: MBA graduate who quit her job to ensure clean water, solar power, paved roads, etc in Soda GP in Rajasthan.
6. A lot of them have been part of mother committees to effectively implement mid-day meals scheme, anganwadi programs.
7. Families are more likely to educate their daughter and generate political aspirations among women.
8. They have also taken part in sanitation drives and prohibition campaigns.

Why reservation of seats for women in local government has little impact on Patriarchal Indian Political Process?
1. The effective political power and decision making are wielded by husbands or other male relatives of elected women representatives. Most of these women are just rubber stamps with the men in their house taking the major decisions. They also work as proxies for rural elites hence restricting their autonomy.
2. Lack of exposure of women themselves to politics and the absence of any experience in exercising their political responsibilities hinder their participation. Since most women are illiterate and do not have any training of handling technical issues and financial deals, they have no option but to take assistance from male family members.

3. Stereotypes and traditional norms relegates women to the domestic sphere and dissuades them to engage in public affairs.
4. Caste and class factors also play a key role that restrict women to take leadership roles. The burden of household responsibilities, purdah (veil) system, etc adversely affect their performance.

Way forward:
1. Capacity Building of Elected Women Representatives (EWR) and Functionaries of PRIs is important. This would prepare women to discharge multiple roles, enabling them to raise local priorities to the planning process.
2. Government initiatives and schemes such as Mahila SashaktiKaran Abhiyan should be implemented in letter and spirit.
3. Article 243D can be amended to increase the percentage of women in Panchayat. for example in states like Maharashtra and Bihar it is around 50%.
4. Innovative initiatives like mahila gram sabhas can also be organized to focus on women specific issues.
5. Strengthening women's groups and building networks is need of thr hour. Formation of women's forums and networks to develop a sense of solidarity amongst the women.
6. Institutionalisation of mechanisms to strengthen the capacity building of EWRs to better understand and perform their functions.
7. Mobilisation of community and strengthening the processes of constituency building to enable women to better articulate their voices and participate in the electoral process.

The reservation of women at the local level has had various social and developmental impacts like promotion of nutrition, sanitation drive, behavioural changes, etc. Also, women are more aware of their rights now which could be seen in women voters outnumbering men voters in states like Bihar. However, women's participation in politics in a true sense is still to be realised. Their participation in the political process is a matter of human right and a key in deepening our democracy. It would also help India in realising the SDG-5 (Sustainable Development Goal) that aims to end gender inequality in all forms.

Q.48) "India-Nepal relations has been deteriorated in recent times and need to be strengthened." Critically examine.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss various issues and recent deterioration in India-Nepal ties. Mention areas of Cooperation that need to be strengthened further.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Nepal is an important neighbour of India and occupies special significance in its foreign policy because of the geographic, historical, cultural and economic linkages/ties that span centuries. The two countries shared a very strong relation for a long time which has been impacted by some recent events and issues.

Issues and recent deterioration of India-Nepal ties:
1. **Border issues:** Nepal and India have some contentious issues relating to the border, including the two major areas of dispute at Susta and Kalapani (India-China-Nepal tri-

junction). Countries agreed to start talks at the foreign secretary-level in order to resolve the problem however, only a single talk has taken place in 2015.

2. **Internal Security:** Open border between India and Nepal leads to illegal migration and human trafficking threatening Indian security. Indo Nepal border is used as launch pad by maoist, terrorist and drug traffickers.

3. **Nepal's new constitution and its aftermath:** A new constitution was promulgated in Nepal in 2015. It gave extensive political privileges to the ruling hill tribes and discriminated against the people living in plains including Madhesis. It also made obtaining citizenship by Madhesis very difficult. This issue has emerged as a contentious issue between India and Nepal that was seen in form of economic blockade including blockade of gas supply, fuel etc. by India.

4. **Big Brother attitude:** There is a widespread perception in Nepal that India does not respect the country's sovereignty and that it often intervenes in Nepal's domestic affairs. India has been perceived to be playing a role of big brother in the region.

5. **Peace and friendship treaty:** The India-Nepal treaty of 1950 has been criticised by the Nepali political elite as an unequal one. Treaty obliged Nepal to inform India and seek its consent for the purchases of military hardware from third countries. Nepal wants to change this provision.

6. **Nepal's growing proximity to China:** In recent times China's presence has increased in Nepal that has heightened India's security concerns. China plans to extend the Tibet railway to Kathmandu across the border in the next few years. Nepal signed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Framework agreement with China last year. China is trying to contest Indian interests by cultivating local interest groups that could advance China's interests in Nepal.

7. **Demonetisation:** Demonetisation has badly affected Nepali nationals because those notes were legal tender in Nepal too. Nepal has time and again requested that the Indian government make arrangements for the exchange of those notes held by Nepali nationals and its central bank.

Areas of Cooperation that need to be strengthened further:

1. **Trade and Economic:** India is Nepal's largest trade partner and the largest source of foreign investments, besides providing transit for almost the entire trade which Nepal has with other countries. Trade must increase more to make relations better.

2. **Water Resources and energy cooperation:** A three–tier mechanism established in 2008, to discuss all bilateral issues relating to cooperation in water resources and hydropower. Nepal has many fast flowing rivers and its terrain makes it ideal for hydroelectric power generation. A 900 megawatts hydropower project Arun III has been launched recently.

3. **Defence Cooperation:** The Gorkha Regiments of the Indian Army are raised partly by recruitment from hill districts of Nepal. Since 1950, India and Nepal have been awarding Army Chiefs of each other with the honorary rank of General. India must work with Nepal for cooperation in defence area.

4. **Infrastructure and connectivity:** India provides development assistance to Nepal, focusing on creation of infrastructure at the grass-root level. Recently a MoU was signed on Raxaul-Kathmandu railway line. Both the countries are also focused on inland waterways connectivity. India should continue such efforts.

Way forward:

1. India should counter Chinese hard power by projecting soft power. In contrast to China's efforts to muscle its way into Nepal, India should emphasise on its historically close cultural, religious, and people-to-people relations with Nepal.

2. Both the countries are affected due to the misuse of open border by internal and external forces, the responsibility of border management and regulation depends on both.
3. India should provide an alternative narrative for India-Nepal ties, one that takes into account longstanding people-to-people ties and cultural connect.
4. India should focus on fructifying the potential of hydropower cooperation, which has remained untapped largely due to differing perceptions.

Thus, India should maintain the policy of keeping away from internal affairs of Nepal, meanwhile in the spirit of friendship India should guide the nation towards more inclusive rhetoric. With its immense strategic relevance in the Indian context as Indian security concern, stable and secure Nepal is one requisite which India can't afford to overlook.

Q.49) It is imperative for citizens to strive for a perfect balance between their rights and duties in order to achieve local and national development goals. Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Mention about rights and duties and their necessities. Discuss why a balance between their rights and duties- must to achieve developmental goals?
Conclusion. Way forward.

While governments, institutions and civil societies work for citizen's rights, inherent duties remain crucial for individuals in order to ensure the efficacy of the system at large. It is the moral duty of citizens to introduce and enhance a positive "work consciousness" and reject the tendency to find loopholes in rules and laws in order to suit convenience.

Rights and their necessities:
1. Rights are rules of interaction between people. They place constraints and obligations upon the actions of the state and individuals or groups. For example, if one has a right to life, this means that others do not have the liberty to kill him or her.
2. Rights are defined as claims of an individual that are essential for the development of his or her own self and that are recognised by society or State.
3. These are legal, social, or ethical principles of freedom or entitlement and are the fundamental normative rules about what is allowed to people or owed to people, according to some legal system, social convention, or ethical theory.
4. Rights are often considered fundamental to civilisation, being regarded as established pillars of society and culture.
5. The fundamental rights are the basic rights which can be enforced in court of law like freedom of speech and expression, right to live with human dignity, Right to Equality, Right to Freedom of Religion etc are enshrined in Part three of the constitution.

In India people are quite aware of their Fundamental Rights. Along with Fundamental Rights it is important that the people also perform their Fundamental Duties. The Fundamental Duties of citizens were added to the Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976. It is something we do for the nation and something the nation does for us. But the rights have real meaning only if individuals perform duties.

Duties and their necessities:

1. A duty is something that someone is expected or required to do. They serve as a reminder to the citizens that while enjoying their rights, they should also be conscious of duties they owe to their country, their society and to their fellow citizens.

2. Duties are the fundamental aspects in any civilised society. Constitution makes it clear that what is expected from the civilised citizens in the name of duties. Integrity of the nation, sovereignty of the nation should not be put to any threat in the name of freedom of expression.

3. They serve as a warning against the anti-national and antisocial activities like burning the national flag, destroying public property and so on.

4. They serve as a source of inspiration for the citizens and promote a sense of discipline and commitment among them. They create a feeling that the citizens are not mere spectators but active participants in the realisation of national goals.

5. When we say scientific temper, various kinds of superstitious beliefs which can be harmful, child marriages, honour killing etc should be discouraged. Anyone who creates a hostile atmosphere for different communities should be discouraged.

6. There should be more emphasis that the duty of respect towards other religion and other's views should be also considered as Fundamental duty of every citizen.

A balance between their rights and duties- must to achieve developmental goals:

1. Rights and duties are closely related and cannot be separated from one another. Both go side by side. Citizens need to fulfil their duties and obey laws too. For example, Having basic household amenities like electricity and clean tap water are citizens' rights. However, it is their duty to end practices that lead to the wastage of electricity and water.

2. If the state gives the right to life to a citizen, it also imposes an obligation on him to not to expose his life to dangers, as well as to respect the life of others. For instance, citizens have the right to get better roads, infrastructure and better traveling facilities. But following traffic rules is their duty.

3. India is the largest democracy of the world. Citizens have the right to vote, but casting that vote is their duty. Citizens are certainly entitled to get better civic facilities for easier daily living, but their responsibility also includes timely payment of taxes for the welfare of the nation.

4. Rights can be enjoyed only in the world of duties. For every right there is corresponding duty. When the people fail to discharge their duties properly, the rights all become meaningless. Like it is the citizen's right to get clean streets, but it is the individual's duty to stop throwing garbage on roads, and put trash into the right bins or dispose it in a proper manner.

5. Rights originate in society. Therefore, while enjoying rights, we must always try to promote social interest. It is the duty of every one of us to use our rights for promoting the welfare of the society as a whole. For example, Citizens are entitled to get better health and healthcare facilities, but it is the duty of individuals to act towards Swachhta and vaccination.

6. It is indeed the right of the people to get a pollution-free atmosphere and natural calamity-free ecosystem. But for that to happen, voluntary citizen service is required for planting trees, reforesting wasteland, cleaning rivers, protecting forest cover, and population control measures, along with requisite governmental efforts.

Thus a citizen has both Rights and Duties. He enjoys rights and performs his duties. Rights and Duties are the two sides of the same coin. A perfect balance between rights and duties is must to achieve local and national development goals. Unless we promote the culture of duty

and responsibility, the aims and objectives enshrined in the Preamble, and under Article 51A of the Constitution, cannot be truly achieved in letter and spirit.

Q.50) **"Has the Governor been acting more of an 'agent of the centre' rather than being the 'constitutional head of state'."** Analyse in the light of recent controversies involving the post of Governor in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss how governor is acting as agent of centre in recent times. Mention the importance of governor as constitutional head.
Conclusion. Way forward.

The governor is the chief executive head of the state. He is a nominal executive head and also acts as an agent of the central government. In recent times, the office of Governor came under scanner especially in Karnataka when instead of inviting the post-poll alliance partners which had the number in the floor of the house, the Governor invited the single largest party which was way short of the majority. Governor is being criticised for being a puppet of central government as agent of centre than being the constitutional head of state.

Governor acting more as an 'agent of the centre':
1. **Misuse of Article 356:** Under Article 356, as a discretionary power, Governor need to submit report to advise the President to proclaim emergency if there is constitutional breakdown. This power has been abused by political parties in power at centre to dismiss governments in state governed by parties in opposition.
2. **Power of Reserving bill:** Constitution provides that Governor can reserve the bill for consideration of President. Even though constitution does not provide centre the power to veto state's legislation, through power of reservation centre exercises this power by vetoing or delaying any legislation through President refusal to assent to state's legislation.
3. **As an agent of political party in power at centre:** Governors are not shy of revealing their partisan preference. For instance, in recent times Governors have exhorted voters to vote for particular party. Recently, the Governor of Rajasthan has been charged with the violation of the model code of conduct.
4. **Partisan role in Hung assemblies:** In case of hung assemblies, there is discretion for Governors as to which party or coalition of parties are in best position to form the government. This discretion is abused by Governors in partisan manner at the instruction of centre. There are numerous instance where despite the parties apparently having lesser seats than the parties in opposition are invited to form government. E.g. Recently, Governor invited BJP for forming government in Karnataka despite opposition coalition claiming majority.
5. **Arbitrary Removal of Governors:** There have been instances of removal of governors in States with Government change at the centre. Thus governors most of the time due to fear of removal favour political party in centre and work as agent for them.

Governor as a constitutional head:
However governor plays an Important role as a constitutional head and a bridge between centre and state governments. It is necessity in federal scheme of government because:

1. Governor manage things in transition phase like election period and presidential rule in states. A Governor see that a stable Government is formed in a state.
2. The Governor looks into the legal validity of the laws passed by state legislature. He can raise an objection and ask the Government to reconsider certain provisions of law which he finds needing change.
3. Dismiss the council of minister if fail to prove confidence of the state legislative assembly.
4. For many states like in North states we have autonomous regions and also the less developed area. Under direct union supervision, governor has a responsibility to ensure the development of these regions.
5. Governor is important to ensure a state machinery and efficient government and to ensure the constitutional spirit.

Way Forward:
1. The post of the Governor should be reserved for non-political appointees, and the Supreme Court should lay down the law on how the Governor ought to act when an election yields a fractured verdict.
2. The Sarkaria Commission recommended that Article 356 should be used in very rare cases when it becomes unavoidable to restore the breakdown of constitutional machinery in the State.
3. The "Punchhi commission" recommended that these Articles 355 & 356 be amended. It sought to protect the interests of the States by trying to curb their misuse by the Centre.
4. A national panel should be prepared after involving the opposition, ruling party, civil society and the judiciary in the selection process. The governor should be appointed from this panel after consultation with the CM of the state in which he or she is to function.
5. In the current political climate examples being Goa (2017), Meghalaya (2018), Manipur (2017) and Karnataka (2018), point to the need to ensure proper checks and balances to streamline the functioning of this office.
6. In order to enable the governor to successfully discharge his functions under the constitution, an agreed 'Code of Conduct' approved by the state governments, the central government, the parliament, and the state legislatures should be evolved.

The role of governor is indispensable for the successful working of the constitutional democracy. He must refrain from aligning himself to any political ideology. The virtue of impartiality must be withheld to ensure a free and fair election in a democracy. This will go a long way in preventing the dismissal of state governments on petty and manufactured grounds of lawlessness.

Q.51) Discuss various provisions of The Transgender Persons (protection of rights) Bill 2019. Do you agree Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 undermines the rights of the individuals it seeks to protect?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Mention key provisions in the bill. Various issues in the bill that would undermine the rights of transgenders.
Conclusion. Way forward.

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

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

Key Provisions:

1. **Definition of a transgender person:** The Bill defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth. It includes transmen and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as kinnar and hijra.
2. **Certificate of identity:** A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'.
3. **Prohibition against discrimination:** The Bill prohibits discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to:
   - Education, employment, healthcare.
   - Access to or enjoyment of goods, facilities, opportunities available to the public.
   - Right to movement, right to reside, rent, or otherwise occupy property.
   - Opportunity to hold public or private office.
   - Access to a government or private establishment in whose care or custody a transgender person is.
4. **Health care:** The Bill also seeks to provide rights of health facilities to transgender persons including separate HIV surveillance centres, and sex reassignment surgeries. It also states that the government shall review medical curriculum to address health issues of transgender persons, and provide comprehensive medical insurance schemes for them.
5. **Punishment:** It states that the offences against transgender persons will attract imprisonment between six months and two years, in addition to a fine.
6. **Welfare measures by the government:** The Bill states that the relevant government will take measures to ensure the full inclusion and participation of transgender persons in society.
7. **National Council for Transgender persons (NCT):** The bill seek to establish NCT for the cause of transgenders.

How various issues in bill undermines the rights of the individuals:

1. This Bill does not go far enough to protect transgender persons who are subjected to abuse relentlessly, and with relative impunity.
2. The Bill fails to legally recognise a self-defined gender identity which is recognised by the Supreme Court in National Legal Services Authority versus Union of India. Bill lays out a vague bureaucratic procedure to be followed for legal gender recognition, which violates the right of trans persons to have their self-identified gender recognised.
3. The Bill recognises certain categories of crimes committed against transgender persons, all of which are punishable with imprisonment of up to two years. The Bill does not fully recognise the range of violence they face, and does not provide for sentences commensurate with their gravity.

4. Additionally, the Bill does not specifically recognise, and provide appropriate penalties for, violence that transgender persons face from officials in educational and health care institutions, police stations, jails, shelters and remand homes, or other places of custody.
5. It fails to address the lack of an effective mechanism to enforce the legal prohibition against discrimination on the ground of gender identity.
6. A District Screening Committee would issue a certificate of identity to recognise transgender persons. This is also a violation of Fundamental Right to Privacy.
7. The bill is also silent on whether a trans person who holds a male or female gender certificate will have access to government welfare schemes and programs meant for transgender people.
8. The Bill does not mention any punishments for rape or sexual assault of transgender persons as according to Sections 375 and 376 of the Indian Penal Code, rape is only when a man forcefully enters a woman.

Way forward:
1. The mention of intersex persons in the Indian bill is an important inclusion but the bill should be renamed the Rights of Transgender and Intersex Persons Bill and include explicit protections for intersex people in line with India's international human rights obligations.
2. The bill should be revised to emphasise training teachers to help them adopt inclusive teaching methods to ensure that children are not harassed or discriminated against by staff or other children.
3. The government should implement stigma and discrimination reduction measures through a variety of ways like mass media awareness for the general public to focused training and sensitisation for police and health care providers.
4. India should take lessons from Thailand. It is one of those model countries wherein all the required facilities are being made available to the Transgender Community.
5. There should be a population of the community. The community should be involved in this exercise. For the time being, United Nations Development Programme(UNDP has more authentic data on Transgender in India. It could be be used for planning welfare schemes.

The Supreme Court in National Legal Services Authority and Navtej Singh Johar case clearly upheld the equal rights for transgender as envisioned in Indian constitution. Transgender bill although has many salient provisions but some issues still remains, that must be removed.

Q.52) "The foreign policy of India has changed from 'non-alignment' to 'multi-alignment' in recent times." Examine.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the situation of India's foreign policy shift. Reason for shift towards multi-alignment.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Non alignment meant not about joining any of the bloc and taking a balanced approach. Multi-alignment means having a series of parallel relationships that strengthen bilateral

partnerships and seek a common approach towards security, economic equity and the elimination of existential dangers like terrorism. Policy of Non-alignment had its genesis in the backdrop of cold war. However scenario has significantly changed with emergence of multiple power dynamics with a shift towards multi-alignment and multi-polar world.

India's shift towards multi-alignment:
1. **Deepening India-U.S. ties:** Indian ties with USA has reached new heights despite of many issues. India signed a nuclear deal with US in 2008. India today is a signatory to 3 of 4 US foundational agreements that it signs with its strategic defence partners that is LEMOA, COMACASA and GSOMIA. US changed the name of its Pacific command to Indo-Pacific command.
2. **Change in attitude for Israel:** India today has vibrant relations with Israel which were earlier marred with Palestinian considerations. India's traditional stance has always been of recognition of Arab rights of Palestine and limited relations with Israel.
3. **Focus on Asia:** India is a member of QUAD which partners Japan, US, Australia and India. It looks to further Indian interest in pacific region creating a major power bloc in the region. India is also member of major groupings such as BRICS, ASEAN and BIMSTEC etc. Emphasising Indian engagement in multiple global fronts.
4. **Reaffirming ties with Russia:** Russia is India's long term friend. The strong links that exist between the two nations still exist. Russia is regaining its position as India's principal defence supplier. The list of agreements drawn up in Moscow covers nuclear, space, energy and defence. Russia has committed to building additional nuclear reactors at Kudankulam (Tamil Nadu) and in Andhra Pradesh.
5. **Relations with China:** India's biggest border dispute is with China. Despite the 1962 war, serious localised fighting at the Nathu La and Cho La passes in 1967; and the Doklam stand-off in June 2017, China maintains good economic relations with India. It was because of the maturity of political leadership on both sides, as well as a commitment made by the two nations to non-violence three decades before.
6. **Focus on middle-east:** Relations between India and Pakistan remain stagnant, but with other Islamic countries like Saudi, Oman, Iran has deepened significantly. Significant investment has been made by Middle East countries in India. Middle East is one of major supplier of oil to India and relations with missile east countries has reached new heights recently.
7. **Relations with Japan:** Japanese relations with India, is more than strategic, with defence, foreign policy, and economic aspects all receiving attention. Japan's willingness to cooperate on peaceful nuclear energy and willingness to acknowledge India as a reliable and trustworthy nuclear power (despite not being a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) is again certain to have a positive impact on nuclear establishments across the world.

Reason for shift towards multi-alignment:
1. Economic needs of the fast developing India had to be supported by opening of its economy and getting more foreign assistance.
2. World that emerged post soviet era saw the rise of US as both an economic and strategic power. It was difficult to pursue India's growth trajectory without engaging with US.
3. Globalisation, growing interdependence, and the emergence of transnational challenges have pushed India to engage with multiple global partners.
4. Emergence of economic powerhouse in form of China has also posed a new challenge in front of India.
5. Indian foreign policy is evolving to encompass the growing needs of its national security and prosperity.

India's current foreign policy, Act east link west, Project Mausam, Indian Ocean overreach, Neighbourhood First policy, SCO, BRICS etc. are steps in right direction which will be beneficial for India. Non-alignment served India well during the difficult years from the mid to the late 20th century, but had apparently outlived its utility. The time had possibly come to shift towards multi-polar world, and India is just doing that. Today, India's commitment to peace has been layered by a realistic appreciation of the shifting contours of a dynamic challenge.

General Studies 3

Q.1) "There is a need to build a "defence industrial ecosystem" in India." In light of this discuss the need and significance of establishing a Defence Industrial Corridor in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Need of defence industrial corridor and it's significance.
Conclusion. Way forward.

A defence corridor refers to a mechanism through which domestic productions of defence equipment by public sector, private sector and MSMEs are lined up to enhance the operational capability of the defence forces. The government has now opened up private investment in defence production including liberalising foreign direct investment. The Defence Industrial Corridor has the potential to attract investment worth Rs 50,000 crore and create 2.5 lakh job in the next 5 years.

Need of defence industrial corridor:
1. It is important to indigenise the defence production, because of high expenditure on defence equipments from outside.
2. Dependence on other countries for defence products, jeopardise India's abilities to negotiate.
3. With China and Pakistan as adversaries, there is a need to keep our armed forces modernised.
4. India is the largest arms importer in the world and spends annually on an average about $3.6 billion, which is more than the combined imports of both Pakistan and China.

Significance of defence industrial corridor:
1. Defence industry is one of the 25 identified sectors under the Make in India programme, and is also part of the 10 'Champion Sectors' that will generate significant employment opportunities.
2. The setting up of Defence Corridor will facilitate the development of internationally competitive enterprises to manufacture and maintain all major defence ecosystem and platforms within the country in order to become strategically independent in defence manufacturing.
3. The development of these corridors will not only help in accelerated growth and regional industry agglomeration, but will also facilitate a well-planned and efficient industrial base which will lead to increased defence production in the country and the region.
4. This will also help the industry to integrate with the global supply chain of Defence manufacturing.
5. It has potential to become engine of economy and drive double digit growth in leading India to $5 trillion economy.
6. It will improve the technological abilities and connectivity of the defence forces.
7. It will encourage domestic production of defence equipments and benefit all small and medium manufacturers along the corridor
8. It will make the Nation self-reliant for meeting our defence needs.

9. Industry, particularly the private sector, has long demanded special incentives such as infrastructure status for their investment, and deemed export benefits for certain types of procurement, to incentivise their entry into the defence production sector.

India at present does not have a structured framework and a robust system to prepare its human resources to address all issues connected with building and sustaining defence systems. Thus it is important to bridge the skills gap that include measures like changes to academic curriculum to setting up institutions that specialise in defence and security to raising a new generation of system integration managers. The government must consider these carefully.

Q.2) What are various reasons for the rise in cases of bank frauds in last decade in India? Also discuss the need of bringing reforms in banking governance and impact of such frauds.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Give some examples of bank frauds and related data. Various reasons and Impact of bank frauds. Discuss some measures.
Conclusion. Way forward.

In the present-day economic system, banks play a very important role in the economic development of the country. Nowadays, banks have diversified their activities and are getting into new schemes and services that create opportunities for financial inclusion. As the banking sector is flourishing, it is getting plagued by some operational problems such as frauds etc.

Bank frauds and rise in last decade:
1. Financial Stability Report of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) shows, that the Indian banking system reported about 6,500 instances of fraud involving over ₹30,000 crore in 2017-18.
2. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) analysed the top 100 banking frauds in different sectors and has also suggested some measures that will help avoid such unethical activities in the future.
3. Banking frauds attracted national attention when the Punjab National Bank reported earlier this year that it had been defrauded by companies related to jeweller Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi.
4. In 2014, Vijay Mallya was also declared a wilful defaulter by Union Bank of India, following which other banks such as SBI and PNB followed suit.

Various reason behind these frauds:
1. **Poor banking governance:** Most frauds show that banks did not observe due diligence, both before and after disbursing loans. Poor level of checks and balances in the banking system is one of the reason.
2. **Poor monitoring:** Lack of technology and fraud monitoring agencies to detect frauds makes the problem more complex. There is an absence of an effective mechanism to monitor the credit flow. Flawed risk-mitigation design, which creates an excessive focus on credit or market risks, but focuses less on operational risks also leading to more breaches.

3. **Technological backwardness:** Excessive dependence on manual supervision, at both external and internal levels makes it impossible to manually control and supervise the sheer volume of transactions.
4. **Immoral behaviour:** The disintegrating moral fibre of Indian businessmen, bankers and other white-collar professionals, nepotism in internal committees of banks, unnecessary political interventions lead to increased frauds.
5. **Political interference:** The political pulls and pressures on investigating agencies, and long-drawn processes of legal system act less as a deterrent.

Impact of such frauds:
1. This unhealthy development of rising fraudulent activities afflicting the banking sector impinges their credibility adversely.
2. Frauds add to Non-performing Assets and lead to loss of banks and economy. The Gross NPAs to Gross Advances Ratio has shown a rising trend over the years
3. Frauds and fraudulent activities wreak severe financial dilemmas on banks and their clients, as well as cause a significant reduction in the quantum of money accessible for economic development.
4. Frauds have a significant impact on profitability of the Indian banking sector. Profitability of banks is on a steady decline which needs to be an eye opener as it poses a threat to the economy.

Need of governance reforms and other measures:
1. Banking governance need an overhaul with proper checks and balance in places. Indian banks need significant improvements in operation and governance standards to work in an effective manner, by constantly working on the loopholes so that the banking sector can contribute more to the growth of the economy.
2. Accountability need to be established among the bank managers and other administrators.
3. While it may not probable for banks to conduct their operations in a zero fraud milieu, proactive measures, such as conduct of risk assessment of policies and procedures can aid banks to circumvent their risk of contingent losses resulting from frauds.
4. The data analysis technology can be leveraged by banks to detect frauds at the incipient stage itself and reduce their loss causing impact significantly.
5. Law enforcement agencies should work in such a way that they don't end up creating an environment of fear, affecting the flow of credit to productive sectors.
6. Apart from improving capabilities in the banking system, accountability of third-party service providers such as auditors and lawyers should also be fixed.
7. Assessment of working capital limit should be done before the flow of credit.
8. Awareness should be created about loopholes, consequences of bypassing procedural aspects and benchmarks should be provided for evaluating genuineness of various essential documents.
9. The investigation should be done to find out the trail of diversion of funds and whether any money has been remitted abroad.
10. The Banks should pay the required attention to the area of internal control system and the fraud prevention measures to ensure compliance of instructions issued by them from time to time.

It is evident that post liberalization era has showered new colours of growth upon the Indian banking sector but simultaneously it has also posed some serious challenges. One of them being rise in frauds and NPAs. Thus proper measures should be taken beforehand to stop such frauds in future and prevent crisis in banks.

Q.3) Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of fast breeder reactor programme in India?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What are various Advantages of Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR)?
Conclusion. Way forward.

It was Dr Bhabha's vision that India should become self-reliant in the field of nuclear energy. Initially, it was the DAE that implemented the nuclear power development programme till the creation of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL). Accordingly, India adopted a three-stage nuclear power development programme based on indigenously made reactors and fuel processed from domestic resources.

Growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India:

1. India's journey in the field of nuclear science and technology began with the formation of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in 1954. The aim was to harness nuclear resources for peaceful purposes. India had to surpass the obstacle of technology denial by capable nations. The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) headed by the prime minister started functioning since then.

2. As a part of an agreement with the USA, India set up its first nuclear power station (410MW) in 1963 at Tarapore in Maharashtra. It was based on Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs) using enriched Uranium fuel supplied by the USA. This project started commercial operation in 1969. Tarapore marked the beginning of India's nuclear power development effort.

3. It was in 1988 that India signed an agreement with the then Soviet Union for setting up a 2x1000MW capacity power project based on Soviet manufactured pressurised water reactors at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu.

4. The three-stage nuclear power programme was formulated by Dr. Homi Bhabha in 1950s to secure country's long term energy independence, through use of uranium and thorium reserves found in the monazite sands of coastal regions of South India.

5. The three stages adopted were
   - Natural uranium fuelled pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PWHR)
   - Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) utilizing plutonium based fuel
   - Advanced nuclear power systems for utilisation of Thorium.

6. The first stage was based on indigenously manufactured Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) that used natural Uranium from domestic sources as fuel and indigenously produced Heavy Water as both the moderator and the coolant.

7. In the second stage, Plutonium-239, separated from the spent fuel in the first stage, was to be used in indigenously developed Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) for generating electricity.

8. In the futuristic third stage, it is envisaged to use the indigenously available Thorium raw material from the sea sands along the coast and produce Uranium 233 which in turn would be the fuel for electricity generation.

9. Currently, all the components and equipments, especially the oversized heavy components have been successfully manufactured by Indian industries and erected in PFBR project. By following the above approach, India has mastered the design and manufacturing of sodium cooled Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR).

Advantages of Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR):

1. FBRs are designed with several safety measures and features which follow redundancy and diversity principles. Fast Breeder Reactors are safe and efficient apart from the benefits from environmental considerations.
2. Economic viability of FBRs depends on successful operation of PFBR and subsequently successful commissioning and operation of FBRs in the country.
3. Electricity generated by FBR would be a source of green energy as the waste from the first stage nuclear programme is reprocessed and used as fuel in FBR. The spent fuel from this reactor can be fed back into the reactor core several times, till the spent fuel contains only short lived fission products.
4. The advantage with a breeder reactor is that it generates more fissile material than it consumes. Also in the second stage, fast breeder reactors (FBRs) would use Plutonium-239, recovered by reprocessing spent fuel from the first stage, and natural uranium.
5. Breeder reactors use a small core, which is important to sustain chain reactions. Besides, they do not even need moderators for slowing down neutrons, as they use fast neutrons.
6. Further there is no need of large quantity of fuel materials for the annual external feed and thus eliminates the need for large capacity waste storage spaces with complex construction features.

India has achieved much in nuclear technology. Entry to NSG group is important for India to achieve further advancement. Nuclear technology are future and can help by providing India as a sustainable energy resource.

Q.4) "Failure of government to control air pollution menace is largely due to wrong policy measures and poor implementation of policies at ground level." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss poor quality of air conditions in India. How wrong policy measures and poor implementation of policies leading to Air Pollution 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.

Wrong policy measures and poor implementation of policies leading to 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. Stopping such truck from entering cities, congested areas and policy failure to check health of vehicles led to menace of air pollution.

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. Inability to put check on this and corrupt governance, lack of timely inspections lead to air pollution issue in India.

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. Inability of government to put a ban on practice of stubble burning and non procurement of any stubble cause air pollution due to burning.

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. Lack of use of scientific methods like artificial raining in policy measures also made air pollutant stay fir a longer time.

5. **Mining Operations:** During the process of mining, dust and chemicals are released in the air causing massive air pollution. Failure of state to prevent unchecked mining and illegal mining has added to the issue.

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. State's failure to quickly switch over to renewable resources has led to rise in air pollution.

7. **Exploitation of resources:** Over exploitation of commons like forests, grazing lands and mindless deforestation reduces the natural capacity to absorb pollutants. Inability to punish and catch forest mafias and to check deforestation led to air pollution.

8. **Haphazard Construction menace:** Unchecked corruption and violation of construction rules, corruption in municipalities added up to air pollution through dust and haze.

9. **Poor governance:** The issue of environment and pollution is still to get the policy priority it deserves. While agencies liked 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.

10. **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.5) Differentiate between 5g and 4g technologies. Discuss various advantages of 5g technology.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. What is 5g technology?
Body. What are main differences between 5g and 4g? Discuss various advantages of 5G technology.
Conclusion. Way forward.

5g is the next generation wireless cellular technology that will provide faster and more reliable communication with ultra-low latency. A government panel report points out that with 5G, the peak network data speeds are expected to be in the range of 2-20 Gigabit per second (Gbps). This can help in good governance and can lead to higher economic growth in India.

5g	4g
5G uses utilises much higher radio frequencies of 28 ghz.	4G uses lower reading frequencies of 700 mhz to 2500 mhz.
5G transfer more data over the air at faster speeds.	4G speed is lesser with less data transfer.
5G has lower latency i.e the delay before a transfer of data begins following an instruction. Latency for 5G is predicted to be below 10 milliseconds, and in best cases around 1 millisecond.	4G has higher latency as compared to 5G. Latency for 4G is around 20-30 milliseconds.
5G uses millimetre wave spectrum which enables more devices to be used within the same geographic area supporting around one million per square kilometre.	4G support lesser number of devices of about 4,000 devices per square kilometre.
5G uses a new digital technology that improve coverage, speed and capacity.	4G has led to more congestion and lesser coverage as compared to 5G.

Various advantages of 5G technology:
1. **High speed:** 5G will revolutionise the mobile experience with speedy wireless network. Compared to conventional mobile transmission technologies, voice and high-speed data can be simultaneously transferred efficiently in 5G. This will enhance and support government's effort to promote digital India.
2. **Better Governance:** Better speed and connectivity would reduce red tapism. It will enhance speedy completion of projects and better implementation of policies. It will enable accountability in the system through a better monitoring system and will reduce corruption.
3. **Low latency:** It is one of the most important features of 5G technology which is significant for autonomous driving and mission critical applications. 5G networks are capable of latency less than a millisecond. This help in logistics improvement and would reduce overall cost of goods and services.
4. **Employment generation:** 5G wireless technology will open greater opportunity for new device manufactures and application developers. New VoIP devices and smart devices will be introduced in the market and thus more job opportunities as well. This will help in inclusive growth reaping demographic dividend.

5. **Enhanced network coverage:** Device-to-device communication techniques will further enhance network performance and support during limited access or absence of mobile networks. This will help in reducing digital gap in India.

6. **Entertainment and multimedia industry:** Analysts found that 55% of mobile Internet traffic has been used for video downloads globally in 2015. This trend will increase in future and high definition video streaming will be common in future. This will help in growth of entertainment industry and thus more jobs will be there. It will also increase government revenue through taxes.

7. **Enhanced Security:** 5G wireless technology is one the best solution for security surveillance due to higher bandwidth and unlicensed spectrum. It will enhance better coordination among various agencies.

8. **Logistics and shipping:** Logistic and shipping industry can make use of smart 5G technology for goods tracking, fleet management, centralized database management, staff scheduling and real-time delivery tracking and reporting.

9. **Smart cities:** It will fuel government's smart city project. Smart city application like traffic management, instant weather update, local area broadcasting, energy management, smart power grid, smart lighting of street, water resource management, crowd management, emergency response etc. can use reliable 5G wireless network for its functioning.

10. **Industrial Growth:** Future industries will depend on smart wireless technologies like 5G and LTE advanced for efficient automation of equipment, maintenance, safety, tracking, smart packing, shipping, logistics and energy management.

11. **Agricultural applications:** 5g technology can be used for agriculture and smart farming in future. Using smart RFID sensors and GPS technology, farmers can track location of livestock and manage them easily. Smart sensors can be used for irrigation control, access control and energy management.

12. **Healthcare and mission critical applications:** 5G technology will support medical practitioners to perform advanced medical procedures with reliable wireless network connected to another side of the globe. Doctors can connect with patients from anywhere anytime and advise them when necessary. Scientists are working on smart medical devices which can perform remote surgery. Smart medical devices like wearable will continuously monitor patient's condition and activate alert during emergency.

India should not miss the opportunity and should proactively work to deploy 5g technology. We should focus on strengthening our cyber infrastructure. Funds should be allocated and local technology and telecom firms should be incentivised to develop their internal capacities which would in turn help 5G technology succeed in the country. 5g start-ups that enable this design and manufacturing capabilities should be promoted.

Q.6) "An effective response to prevent climate change and reduce air pollution is to make investment in urban mobility." Discuss.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the status of transport Emissions in India. What are benefits of investing in greener and sustainable urban mobility? How Low-carbon Transport System Policy is a way to tackle the problem of transport emissions.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Transport system and vehicular emissions are one of the major factor behind climate change and rise in air pollution. *Globally, the transport sector accounts for a quarter of total emissions, out of which three quarters are from road transport. As per the report by UNFCCC, without disruptive action, transport emissions can be expected to grow from 7.7 Gt to around 15Gt by 2050. Thus, initiative like Fame India scheme is critical. Thus investment for low carbon and greener transport would help in reducing climate change and air*

Transport Emissions in India:

1. As per the Global Carbon Project Report, though India's road transport emissions are small in global comparison, it is increasing exponentially, two times as fast as the Global rise in 2018.
2. Patterns of road transport, however, diverge widely between cities and districts. Delhi tops the charts and emissions are more than twice as high as other Indian megacities, such as Mumbai, Bengaluru or Ahmedabad.
3. A study published in Environmental Research Letters, on the basis of Indian Census of 2011, reports that income and urbanization are key determinants of travel distance and travel choice and therefore commuting emissions.
4. Average commuting emissions and average per capita commuting emissions is highest for urban areas in India than suburban areas in contrast to that of the United States.

Benefits of investing in greener and sustainable urban mobility:

1. The low-carbon transport system can reduce emissions while helping to meet the increasing demand for global transportation.
2. It ensures for the production of low carbon transport fuels in a sustainable manner, with a low or negative footprint on the ecosystems.
3. It also provides for economically viable infrastructure and operation that offers safe and secure access for both persons and goods whilst reducing short and long term negative impacts on the local and global environments.
4. The planned cities and designed transport infrastructure, are critical for low-carbon mobility systems.

Low-carbon Transport System Policy to tackle the problem of transport emissions:

1. **Technology Transition:** India is the third largest market for automobiles. India should double down on its strategy to transition to electric two and three wheelers. Creating a more favourable market both for consumers and industry as ultra-low emission vehicles.
2. **Freight and Heavy Transport Industry:** Determination of the best incentives-regulation, support for investment or best practice to achieve significant reductions in emissions is important.
3. **Railways:** Promotion of electrification of the rail network for improved energy efficiency in rail operations.
4. **Providing lower carbon public transport:** Making public transport an accessible, attractive, low carbon and easy-to-use option for individuals and business. Provide substantial financial support to the rail and bus sectors.
5. **Promotion of Alternative and Environment-Friendly Fuels:** Various initiatives like Ethanol Blended Programme (EBP), National Policy on Biofuels, National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP), helps in the promotion of low-carbon vehicles.
6. **Fiscal Measures:** Incentivising fuel-efficient vehicle purchases, encouraging more fuel-efficient behaviour and potentially encouraging lower-carbon transport choices through fiscal measures.

7. **Promotion through trading systems:** Trading systems are particularly relevant to international emissions, such as those from aviation and shipping.
8. **Focus on well-being:** Town planners should organise cities around public transport and cycling, thereby improving mobility for many, while limiting car use. Uptake of non-motorised transport emerges as a sweet spot of sustainable development, resulting in both lower emissions and better public health in cities.

For India to achieve resilient and inclusive cities, it is necessary to continuously plan for a low carbon model of growth in our cities, rather than focussing on physical infrastructure for vehicle mobility alone. The need is to build compact cities with mixed land use and integrating transport planning with land use planning. It will help in emphasizing women participation and lead to inclusive sustainable urban growth. The planners, city authorities and civil society all have to join the mission to make our cities a better place to live in.

Q.7) "In recent years, attack on stubble burning has increased due to its contribution to rising air pollution." In light of this discuss how stubble burning cause air pollution. Suggest some measures to tackle stubble burning menace in India.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss how stubble burning lead to air pollution? Causes behind stubble burning and its persistence. Suggest some alternative solutions to avoid Stubble Burning.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Stubble burning is a post-harvest practice used to clear fields of paddy crop residue by burning them. This practice mostly carried out in Punjab, Haryana and UP contributes solely to the grave winter pollution in the national capital. For farmers, burning the residue becomes the easiest way of disposing it owing to lack of time, equipments and awareness. But this add up to the already poor air quality in India and is one of the cause of air pollution in India.

How stubble burning lead to air pollution?
1. Stubble burning, results in emission of harmful gases such as carbon monoxide, N2O, NO2, SO2, CH4 along with particulate matter and hydrocarbons. Each tonne of crop residue on burning releases around 3kg of particulate matter, 60 kg of CO, 1,460 kg of CO2, 199kg of ash and 2kg of SO2.
2. Also, Crop residue fires in Punjab and Haryana are enhancing concentrations of toxic gases like benzene and toluene, according to research from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER).
3. Further, Stubble burning releases toxic pollutants like Volatile organic compound (VOC) in air. Also, it leads to spike in Particulate Matter levels, contributing between 12 and 60% of PM concentrations.
4. Clouds of ash and smoke containing these harmful pollutants from stubble burning travel more than 1000 kms aided by the Westerly winds coming from the Mediterranean region and create an obstinate and non-clearing clouds.
5. Smog formed of the smoke increase the levels of pollutants by manifolds in the air leading to poor visibility and causing accidents.

Causes behind stubble burning and its persistence:

1. Paucity of time forces farmers to burn residue to clear the farms early for preparing them for sowing of wheat in the Rabi season.
2. Farmers in this region have a traditional belief that burning crop residue will restore nutrients back to the soil.
3. Mechanisation and employment guarantee schemes like MGNREGA have led to shortage of farm labourers to carry on seasonal migration from UP and Bihar to Punjab and Haryana, as was prevalent earlier. It has become more economical for farmers to burn stubble on field than getting it transported for other uses.
4. Availability, affordability and awareness regarding crop residue management machines like 'Happy seeder' and 'Super SMS attachment' is inadequate.

Alternative solutions that can avoid Stubble Burning:

1. The available paddy straw can be effectively used for power generation, which will go a long way towards overcoming the problem of disposal of crop residues and power deficit in the region.
2. Suitable machinery for collection, chopping and in situ incorporation of straw is required.
3. There is great potential for making investments in paddy straw-based power plants which can help avoid stubble burning to a large extent and also create employment opportunities.
4. Incorporation of crop residues in the soil can improve soil moisture and help activate the growth of soil microorganisms for better plant growth.
5. New opportunities for industrial use such as extraction of yeast protein can be explored through scientific research.
6. There is also a need to develop rice varieties that are both rich in grain yield and high in straw quality. Use of such dual-purpose rice varieties will help to maintain food security, farm income and improve environmental sustainability.
7. There needs to be a proactive engagement to both persuade and reassure farmers.
8. The greater availability of machines and the zero-tolerance policy need to be seen as works in progress to derive lessons on how to refine the crop-clearing process in an ecologically sound manner.
9. Promoting indigenous research and science, incentivising pulses production, and rationalising pricing more broadly. Converting crises into opportunities is the hallmark of good public policy.

The 2014 national policy envisages adoption of technical measures, including diversified uses of crop residue, capacity building and training along with formulation of suitable legislation, to deal with the issue of disposing of stubble. Unless Financial assistance is to be provided by the Centre for boosting farm mechanisation, it is difficult to completely stop stubble burning. States needs to make alternative arrangements for consumption of paddy straw into the soil as per the directions of the NGT.

Q.8) "Recent incidents like Pegasus snooping scandal, expose the vulnerability and threat of cyber-crimes to India" Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss rising cyber-crimes in India. Reasons for such a rise and importance of cyber-security in Indian.
Conclusion. Way forward.

The number of people having access to the internet In India is increasing day by day. People are getting dependent on the internet in order to access everything by sitting at just one place. Despite the untapped potential, India already is the 2nd largest online market worldwide. Although the advancement of technology and internet has brought with it all related benefits but has also led to massive increase in the cyber-crime affecting people globally. The crime like Pegasus snooping scandal, Wannacry attack has showed vulnerability of India to cyber-crime threats.

Cyber-attack on the rise in India:
1. As per study of ASSOCHAM-NEC, there has been 457% rise in cybercrime incidents under the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 from the year 2011 to 2016 in India.
2. Attacks on the financial sector rose from 3% in 2015 to 14% in 2016. 19 Indian Banks faced a series of data theft in last 6 months – biggest debit card fraud in Indian history. NPCI on probing found a malware-induced security breach in systems of Hitachi Payment Services, which provides ATMs, point of sale & other services in India.
3. Another aspect is increasing trend of cyber criminals gaining access to corporate email addresses. In the year 2015, an oil and gas company was hacked whereby the cyber criminals duplicated the email ids of the senior officials in order to ploy one of the clients to transfer the amount to the hacker's account leading to losses to the tune of a few hundred crores.
4. E.g. The Cosmos Bank was destructively hit by cyber-attack in the year 2018, where the hackers hacked into the ATM server of the bank and stole details of many visa and rupee debit cards owners.
5. Recent incidents like Pegasus WhatsApp snooping, cyber attack on India's nuclear power plant etc. has shown India's vulnerability.

Issues in India's Cybersecurity:
1. Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is heavily understaffed.
2. Although Gov. has set up National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) but it is yet to identify and implement measures to protect critical information infrastructure
3. The continued perception has been that cyber security is optional. Thus led to increase in threats of cyber-attacks.
4. International threat of a cyber-war from countries like China and Pakistan has increased in recent times.
5. Lots of equipment's in India are imported. It is unknown whether these devices are tampered with or programmed for control processes
6. Cyber-attacks have grown in terms of sophistication and reach in the recent times. The countries are witnessing growing cybercrime ranging from fraud calls to malwares that bring banking systems to a standstill.

7. Attacks are often anonymous and difficult to attribute to specific actors, state or non-state. Advanced Precision Threats (APTs) carried out by anonymous hackers are often silent and go unnoticed for long periods.

Importance of cyber security:

1. Cyber security is an important arena of internet when the country is moving forward towards a cashless society and digitisation. It is of paramount concern to take cyber security seriously in India with most of the transactions going online and cashless.
2. Security becomes a challenge as now privacy is a fundamental right as per SC verdict and the rise in cybercrime can lead to violation of private space and liberty of expression.
3. Cyber security becomes a vital law of cyber law today. There is need of new tools; capacity building must be done in various departments and a mechanism in place to address these challenges.
4. The Indian government has embarked on a programme to turn the country into a digital economy. It has unveiled a series of initiatives—from introducing Aadhaar, MyGov, Government e-Market, DigiLocker, Bharat Net, Startup India, Skill India and Smart Cities to propel India towards technological competence and transformation.

In India, it is imperative that cyber networks, software and cyber-physical systems, and platforms should be cyber-secure. This requires a judicious mix of people, policies and technology, as well as robust public-private partnership. The reliance on imported information and communication technology (ICT) products and our inability to screen them for vulnerabilities is a major cybersecurity risk. The need of the hour for Indian government is to develop core skills in cyber security, data integrity and data security fields while also setting stringent cyber security standards to protect banks and financial institutions.

Q.9) Discuss the potential application and significance of NavIC (Navigation in Indian Constellation).

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the significance and application of NavIC.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland. It is a regional system and will consist of seven satellites.

Significance of NavIC:

1. It give real time information for 2 services i.e standard positioning service open for civilian use and Restricted service which may be encrypted for authorised user like for military. Currently we uses GPS system of USA for navigation.
2. India became one of the 5 countries having their own navigation system like GPS of USA, GLONASS of Russia, Galileo of Europe and BeiDu of China. So India dependence on other countries for navigation purposes reduces.
3. It will help in scientific & technological advancement of India.

4. It will make Indian Armed Forces self-reliant. While advanced nations like US and Russia are having GPS and GLONASS, countries like China, European Union and Japan are trying to have their own full-fledged or partial constellations.
5. Further with an extensive coverage, one of the stated future use of the project includes sharing of the project with the SAARC nations. This will help in integrating the regional navigation system further and a diplomatic goodwill gesture from India towards countries of the region.
6. It is important for the country's sovereignty and strategic requirements.

Application of IRNSS:

1. **Disaster Management:** It will help in sending early warning to people of country particularly coastal areas about cyclones, tsunamis, heavy storms etc. and would help in monitoring & rescue operations during disaster times. It will help to mitigate the disaster effects by providing information of disaster timing, safe location and also help the disaster relief management to make earlier plans and save the lives of people in India as well as up to 1500 km around it.
2. **Security:** It would help in enhancing India's security by better monitoring of any terrorist activity in border areas, surveillance of strategic infrastructure etc.
3. **Defence:** In terms of Military Application, the project will be a force multiplier for the Indian Defence Unit. The wide spectrum of utility it serves from target fixing, missile and weapon delivery, avoiding civilian causalities, unit location and direction, vision clarity in bad weather etc. will enhance the capacity of defence both war and peace time.
4. **Mapping and data capture:** It will help in accurate measurement and understanding of the region.
5. **Tourism:** Short & long distance travellers and mountain hikers can use navigation satellite system which would be more accurate.
6. **Town planing:** It will help in better planning and urban development with use of geographical date.
7. **Forest department:** It will help in tracking endangered animals, better prevention of forest fires etc.
8. **Employment:** It will help the mariners for far navigation and fisherman for get information about the valuable fisheries location and any disturbance in Sea.

Having a global navigation system bolsters the ability of a nation to serve as a net security provider, especially through the guarantee of such assurance policies. It can also play a significant role in relief efforts post disasters such as the tsunami in the Indian Ocean region in 2004 and the Pakistan-India earthquake in 2005.

Q.10) Discuss various challenges and significance of financial inclusion for Indian economy? Also mention steps taken by Indian government towards financial inclusion.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss various challenges and significance of financial inclusion in India. Mention various steps taken by Indian government towards financial inclusion.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Even after 70 years of independence, a large section of Indian population still remain unbanked. This malaise has led generation of financial instability and pauperism among the lower income group who do not have access to financial products and services. However, in the recent years the government and Reserve Bank of India has been pushing the concept and idea of financial inclusion. Financial inclusion is must for overall growth of the nation.

Significance of financial inclusion for India:
1. **Reduce Poverty:** Financial inclusion means greater access to financial services and an increase in savings. This would help in decreasing income inequality & poverty and would lead to increase in employment levels.
2. **Growth:** It encourages the habit to save, thus enhancing capital formation in the country and giving it an economic boost. Also, the availability of sufficient and transparent credit from formal banking institutions will promote the entrepreneurial spirit among the people, leading to an increase in productivity and prosperity in rural areas.
3. **Service delivery:** Direct cash transfers to beneficiary bank accounts rather than physical cash payments against subsidies have become possible. Thus funds actually reach the targeted beneficiaries instead of being siphoned off along the way.
4. **Banks' efficiency:** Banks which are operating in a financial inclusion sector could experience higher operating efficiency in financial intermediation.

What are the challenges to financial inclusion in India?
1. Illiteracy – In India, where nearly 1/4th of the population is illiterate and below the poverty line. Thus ensuring financial inclusion is a challenge.
2. Low income and the inability to provide collateral security.
3. Lack of enough bank branches in rural areas continues to be the roadblock to financial inclusion.
4. More reliance on informal lending.
5. Difficulty in understanding different product offerings, financial terms, and conditions.
6. A lot of hidden bank charges have demotivated poor persons from availing financial services.
7. Low-income groups don't see banks as welcoming and often believe they are not for them.
8. Lack of credible, low-cost and high-quality financial advice.
9. Most women are being excluded from the formal financial system.
10. Disabled people find it difficult to access banks.
11. The rising level of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of banks due to the large corporates makes it difficult to improve financial inclusion situation in India.

What are the initiatives taken by the government to improve financial inclusion?
A. Banking initiatives:
   1. **Regional Rural Banks (RRBs):** On the basis of Narasimham Working Group 1975, RRBs were established to serve banking needs of rural population.
   2. **Priority Sector Lending:** is an important role given by the RBI to the banks for providing a portion of the bank loans to few specific sectors such as agriculture or small scale industries.
   3. **Business correspondents:** RBI permitted banks to engage business correspondents/facilitators for providing door-step delivery of financial and banking services.

4. **No-frills accounts:** No-frills accounts means the bank accounts which does not require a minimum balance (or low sometimes). This means more accessibility to vast sections of the population.

5. **KYC relaxation:** Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements for opening bank accounts were relaxed for small accounts in August 2005. The opening of bank accounts became even easier with Aadhaar introduction.

6. **Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM):** It is a three-part strategy based on using digital technologies- Jan Dhan (banking), Aadhaar (Biometric Identity) and Mobile (transactions).

7. **Other initiatives:** Establishment of payment banks and small finance banks.

   • Establishment of MUDRA bank to refinance micro-finance institutions to lend to non-formal sectors such as MSMEs through PM Mudra Yojana.
   • Financial literacy centres were launched by commercial banks at the request of the RBI.
   • Financial inclusion of women through Aadhaar implementation.
   • Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform built by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
   • National Centre for Financial Education was established in 2017 to implement the National Strategy for Financial Education.
   • Self-Help Group (SHG) – Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP) was launched by NABARD to provide door-step banking to the poor with the help of SHGs.

B. **Social security Initiatives:**
   1. **PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** Accidental death cum disability insurance, renewable 1 year, for 18-70 age group.
   2. **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):** Life insurance, renewable 1 year, for 18-50 age group.
   3. **Atal Pension Yojana:** Focus on unorganised sector.
   4. **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:** PMJDY has ensured universal access to bank account and India now has 180 billion accounts. However, 48% of those accounts haven't seen any transaction in the last one year.

Merely opening an account does not make sure that the account is used. Instead, the following things can be done for the proper utilisation of accounts. Financial literacy programmes should be undertaken and backed by products that address the real needs of consumers, with the support to use the product. People have to be imparted an ability to understand and execute matters of personal finance such as basic numeracy and literacy, financial awareness, knowledge and skills, attitude and behaviours needed to make sound financial decisions, budgeting, investing and risk diversification.

Q.11) "With rising pollution levels in Indian cities, India needs a Clean Air Act and an autonomous new body to enforce it." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss rising air pollution and failure of laws and organisations. Also discuss the need of clean air act and an organisation to implement it.
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. Many organisations and act are there to prevent air pollution in India which unfortunately have proved ineffective to do so.

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.

Failure of Indian laws and organisations:
1. Currently, there are many different organisations trying to combat air pollution with no top organisation to guide them all to achieve defined goals. NCAP, EPCA, CPCB and MoEF and SPCBs and many other organisations failed miserably in preventing air pollution.
2. EPCA, The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority was constituted in 1986. The Supreme Court-mandated EPCA is tasked with monitoring and implementing the court's judgments on air pollution. EPCA has failed in its mandate and Delhi has become one of the world's most polluted cities. EPCA's mandate extends only to Delhi-NCR.
3. Air pollution is a national problem. Central government's National Clean Air Programme or NCAP, focuses only on 10 cities. It is difficult to stop stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana by focusing on 10 cities. As it fails in resolving inter-city and inter-state issues.
4. There is also a Supreme Court-mandated mechanism called Graded Action Response Plan (GRAP). It is similar to China's graded plan which came into force whenever pollution was expected to go and thus was a preventive mechanism. Unfortunately GRAP's measures come into force when air pollution levels are already crossed acceptable thresholds. Further, GRAP is only for Delhi-NCR.

Need for a comprehensive clean air act and organisation:
1. As we saw failure of various initiatives and organisations to act against air pollution in India, it is thus important to have a clean air act on the lines of USA's clean air act and an autonomous body like Environment Protection Agency (EPA) of USA to enforce it. The US once had the sort of air pollution haze that we now see in India. But it's gone in the US, due to the EPA and the Clean Air Act.
2. The Clean Air Act and EPA has its impact had resulted in a cleaner environment for New York City. In addition, the act has become the major force, in revamping New York City's transportation system and a key consideration in any new land-use planning. India need a similar kind of initiative.
3. Recently, China has succeeded in significantly bringing down its air pollution levels. It has done so by overhauling its environmental laws with provisions similar to the US' Clean Air Act.

What should be done?
1. An organisation on the lines of EPA should be established which powerful and its chairman must be given a cabinet-rank status in the government.

2. If a state in the refuses to comply with the EPA's minimum standards, the EPA should be able to take over the environment administration of that state by law. Lesser powers must include stopping funds to the state. For the most part, EPA must work with state governments to make implementation plans.
3. A new organisation should help in removing issues among states and cities by enforcing clean air law pan-India.
4. It should further help in enforcing the laws beforehand before developing of a dangerous situation to live in.

Thus, it is important to replace India's outdated and weak Air Act and to create a powerful autonomous national body. In the absence of a powerful and autonomous central implementing body, India will continue to grope in the smog.

Q.12) How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the effects of these phenomena on the macroeconomic stability of India.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Protectionism refers to government actions and policies that restrict or restrain international trade. Currency manipulation refers to actions taken by governments to change the value of their currencies relative to other currencies. In 2018-19, the global economy witnessed a spurt in both of these phenomenons. Both protectionism as well as currency manipulations are considered as trade distortion practices and are counterproductive to global free trade. These not only have impact on global economy but also affect macroeconomic stability of individual economies.

The effects of these phenomena on the macroeconomic stability of India are:
1. **Inflation:** Currency manipulation results into costlier imports which limits the Consumers' choice and they end up paying more for the limited quantity of goods and products, thus causing inflation. Similarly, protectionism also limits the choices of consumers. Overall, global competition is a key factor in keeping the price of numerous goods and products down and gives consumers the ability to spend.
2. **Economic growth:** Protectionism leads to increased import costs as manufacturers and producers have to pay more for equipment, commodities, and intermediate products from foreign markets. This will lead to decrease in real GDP.
3. **Employment:** Protectionism is not only about restricting the flow of goods and services, but also the skilled human resource. Any restrictions on this will not only promote unemployment but will also hamper the growth.
4. **Impact on Industries:** Protectionism may promote inefficiencies by the infant industry as it will have no incentive to make itself efficient through use of technology and long-term investments.
5. **Impact on Exports:** In the successive monetary policies in 2018-19, RBI has observed that protectionism poses challenge to India's growth rate, because it affects the demand of Indian exports, especially in the textile, pharmaceutical, gems-jewellery and service sector. It has also affected the employment generation capacity of the sectors.

6. **Current Account Deficit:** In the absence of robust export base, the intermediate goods that form part of the global supply chain becomes more expensive because of protectionism, leading to widening CAD. Higher CAD further puts the rupee under pressure and raises the cost of overseas borrowing.

Since, protectionism and currency manipulations do not seem to halt in coming future, it is necessary for India to walk through these murky waters carefully. Indian policy makers need to be innovative and flexible in responding to the current uncertainties of the global world.

Q.13) "Given that South Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change and most of the countries share ecological zones, borders and culture, advance preparation for migration is needed." Comment.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss the rising threat of climate related migration and it's implications on India.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The term 'climate migrants' is used to refer to people displaced due to climate change impacts such as sea level rise, floods and droughts. It is a common notion that climate migrants could lead to an increase in the number of urban poor and add to urban development challenges. In India, evidence about climate migration is less although the number of climate migrants could be high, given the recent events of frequent floods and droughts and the fact that South Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change and most of the countries share ecological zones, borders and culture.

Rising threat of climate related migration to India:
1. Increased sea level rise in the inhabited islands of the Sundarbans, drought in central India and extreme floods in the Ganges and Brahmaputra basins are already displacing people.
2. And with the lack of adequate infrastructure in cities, migrants are likely to end up living in crowded temporary shelters with low access to drinking water, sanitation and health care facilities.
3. If sea levels rise by one metre due to climate change, storm surges could make island nations such as the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, or Tuvalu largely uninhabitable and force people to take refuge in other countries.
4. A recent report has indicated that the major deltas of the world such as the Ganges, Mekong and Nile may be adversely affected due to climate change and that it is already contributing to migration and displacement.
5. Climate change might lead to increased flow of migrants from neighbouring countries. As many as 120 million people could be rendered homeless by 2100 both in India and Bangladesh due to sea level rise and given the proximity of Bangladesh to India much of the people will end up as migrants in Indian cities which are already facing resource scarcity.

Impact of climate related migration:
1. Climate change may significantly affect human migration in different ways. First, warming of the atmosphere in some regions will reduce the agricultural potential and

undermine the ecosystem services such as fertile soil and water affecting people's livelihoods.

6. Increasing extreme weather events will generate mass displacement. Even a marginal rise in climate migrants to cities could be an urban development challenge. This holds true for two reasons:
   - Cities don't have adequate infrastructure to host migrants.
   - The migrants are unlikely to have the required skills to work in urban areas.
2. Sea level rise will destroy the low-lying coastal areas and millions of people who will have to relocate permanently.
3. Increased migration is likely within India due to the effects of climate change such as drought, desertification, sea level rise, water scarcity and low food productivity, and melting glaciers.
4. Climate change is likely to expose hundreds of millions of people to increasing environmental risks displacing a large number of people and forcing them to migrate. There is an emerging view that these people should be recognised as climate refugees by international laws and proper institutional arrangements should be made to address their problems.

Way forward:

1. The need of the hour is a normative shift on the issue of climate-induced migration to ensure that those victimised by anthropogenic and natural climate change are met with a compassionate, coordinated global regime rather than strict national immigration policies, like those currently employed in India.
2. Policymakers need to make India's agricultural system resilient to climate change like drought resistant crops.
3. Governments need to ensure that mega-cities are less vulnerable to the effects of mass urbanization.
4. Lastly, India need a long-term plan to finance rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the event of climate-induced disasters.

Current knowledge based on the relation between climate change and migration of people is still limited. There is a need for a better understanding of the relation between climate change and migration. The international community should not be distracted by the semantic differences between words to describe the status of people migrating due to climate change. We need to recognise the problem and appropriate strategies and measures to assist the people displaced by climate change should be devised to effectively deal with the problem.

Q.14) "To showcase itself as a legitimate power in cyberspace, India have to shed its piecemeal approach about cybersecurity." Examine critically.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss India's piece-meal approach to cyber-security and importance of cyber-security.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Reports this week have suggested a cyberattack on the Kudankulam nuclear power project in Tamil Nadu. Despite the untapped potential, India already is the 2nd largest online market worldwide. Although the advancement of technology and internet has brought with it all

related benefits but has also led to massive increase in the cyber-crime affecting people globally. The crime like Pegasus snooping scandal, Wannacry attack has showed vulnerability of India to cyber-crime threats and prevent India from being a leader in cyberspace.

Piece-meal approach of India in Cybersecurity:
1. The cyber security scenario in India is one of relative chaos and a sense of insecurity arising out of the periodic reports of cyber espionage, cyberterrorism, cyber warfare and cyber crime.
2. Legal and law enforcement mechanisms have not shifted gears fast enough to grapple with growing cyber crime. The lack of a coherent cyber security policy seriously interfere with India's national security and economic development. Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) is heavily understaffed.
3. Although Government has set up National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) but it is yet to identify and implement measures to protect critical information infrastructure.
4. It is essential that more attention at the highest levels is paid to ensuring that cyber-related vulnerabilities that can impact on critical sectors are identified and removed. India's approach to cyber security has so far been ad hoc and piecemeal. A number of organisations have been created but their precise roles have not been defined nor synergy has been created among them.
5. Further, there appears to be no institutional structure for implementation of policies. Neither the private sector nor government has been able to build information systems that can be described as reasonably robust.
6. The continued perception has been that cyber security is optional. Thus led to increase in threats of cyber-attacks.
7. International threat of a cyber-war from countries like China and Pakistan has increased in recent times. Lots of equipment's in India are imported. It is unknown whether these devices are tampered with or programmed for control processes.
8. The Cybersecurity Policy of 2013 is open and technology neutral. But it needs up-gradation.

Importance of cyber security:
1. Cyber security is an important arena of internet when the country is moving forward towards a cashless society and digitisation. It is of paramount concern to take cyber security seriously in India with most of the transactions going online and cashless.
2. Security becomes a challenge as now privacy is a fundamental right as per SC verdict and the rise in cybercrime can lead to violation of private space and liberty of expression.
3. Cyber security becomes a vital law of cyber law today. There is need of new tools; capacity building must be done in various departments and a mechanism in place to address these challenges.
4. The Indian government has embarked on a programme to turn the country into a digital economy. It has unveiled a series of initiatives—from introducing Aadhaar, MyGov, Government e-Market, DigiLocker, Bharat Net, Startup India, Skill India and Smart Cities to propel India towards technological competence and transformation.

In India, it is imperative that cyber networks, software and cyber-physical systems, and platforms should be cyber-secure. This requires a judicious mix of people, policies and technology, as well as robust public-private partnership. The reliance on imported information and communication technology (ICT) products and our inability to screen them for

vulnerabilities is a major cybersecurity risk. The need of the hour for Indian government is to develop core skills in cyber security, data integrity and data security fields while also setting stringent cyber security standards to protect banks and financial institutions.

Q.15) India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics. Explain critically.

Ans.

Demand of the question **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction. **Body.** Mention progress wrt manned mission in India. Also, discuss technological and logistical issues wrt manned mission for India. **Conclusion.** Way forward.

India has been able to carry out unmanned spaced mission but lacks the full fledged capabilities in manned space missions. With its indigenous technology India successfully launched Chandrayaan – I mission which revealed existence of water on the surface of the moon. Similarly, MOM (Mars Orbiter Mission) was successfully launched in its first attempt with low cost. These two are unmanned missions but India could not launch even a single manned mission. Recent failure of Vikram lander to make soft landing on moon reflects India's inability to still land on moon and also a manned space mission. Although some developments have taken place in terms of technology and logistics, India is still facing some hurdles in launching manned space missions.

Progress made wrt manned mission:

1. ISRO said carried out a major technology demonstration, the first in a series of tests to qualify a crew escape system, a critical technology relevant for human spaceflight.
2. In 2014, experimental flight of GSLV Mk-III was successfully tested. It also had successfully tested experimental crew module, demonstrating reentry capability.
3. In 2017, first developmental flight of GSLV Mk-III was successfully conducted. In 2018, first successful flight of crew escape system was tested.
4. ISRO has developed some critical technologies like re-entry mission capability, crew escape system, crew module configuration which was successfully launched with dummy payloads and brought it back to the Arabian sea etc, thermal protection system, deceleration and floatation system, sub-systems of life support system etc. required for this programme.
5. Some of these technologies have been demonstrated successfully through the Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-2007), Crew module Atmospheric Reentry Experiment (CARE-2014) and Pad Abort Test (2018). These technologies will enable ISRO in accomplishing the programme objectives in a short span of 4 years.
6. Environment Control and Life Support Systems are meant to make the crew capsule liveable and the flight safe for the astronauts.
7. The Crew Escape System is an emergency escape measure designed to quickly pull the crew module along with the astronauts to a safe distance from the launch vehicle in the event of a launch abort. Mention experiment for emergency escape of astronauts called the Pad Abort Test which will be repeated at higher distances etc.
8. India has a new dedicated control centre for HSP would be set up at ISTRAC etc.

Technological issues and challenges:

1. ISRO is still long way away, despite advancements in some critical technologies in past decade. It is stilling building its capabilities and developing critical technologies required to send astronaut being into space.

2. The required key technologies ISRO still has to develop for such mission. It includes ability to launch, recover and ensure earth-like conditions for astronauts. ISRO so far has successfully tested many of the technologies required for such a manned mission, but there are still others to be developed and tested.

3. ISRO is planning to launch manned space programme by 2021-24. Towards this end, it has unveiled a prototype of its first crew capsule (4 metre high module) designed to carry two people into low earth orbit.

4. The third stage of cryogenic technology in GSLV is still not fully developed. GSLV Mark 3 will also be upgraded and tested to carry payloads upto 8 tonnes.

5. India is also working on Space Capsule Recovery Experiment-2 (SRE-2) that will demonstrate critical technologies required for recoverable launch vehicles.

Logistics issues:

1. India is depended mainly on single type of launch vehicle such as that of PSLV which hampers the capacity expansion of the programme.

2. Since time is short, the ISRO won't be able to establish an astronaut training facility for the current mission and instead will have to train its astronauts in a foreign centre.

3. India does not have its own global navigation system.

4. India got membership in MTCR (missile technology control regime) recently, without which other members of group don't share their technology pertaining to space science and space missions. That was one of the reason why India is unable to get any sort of aid in upgrading their technology.

5. Indian research laboratories, space related labs, industries are not in a position to manufacture the sophisticated equipment. Our industry is now starting manufacturing the pace vehicles so India is facing the problem of both technology and logistics for manned space missions.

6. Funding and finance is essential to develop various equipments, technology and new tools required in the coordination of a manned space programme. But ISRO is still waiting for the government approval and funding for a human space flight programme.

Some scientists hold the view that private players have much more flexibility, freedom and risk-taking abilities than the state-owned agencies. Thus, there should be more participation of private players in space programmes. India must realize that China launched its manned space mission to space in 2016 and will establish its permanent space station by 2022. Therefore, India should also increase its footprints in manned space mission capabilities at the earliest.

Q.16) What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics.

Ans.

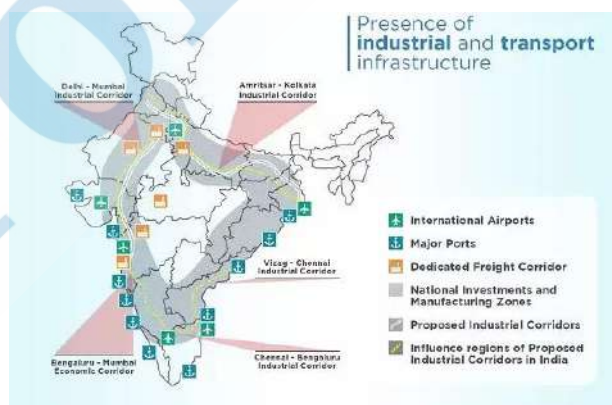| Demand of the question |
| --- |
| **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction. |
| **Body.** Discuss the significance of Industrial Corridors in India. Mention Major industrial corridor in India. |
| **Conclusion.** Way forward. |

Industrial Corridors are stretches across the country allocated to a specific geographical area with the intent to stimulate industrial development. It aims to create an area with a cluster of manufacturing or other industries and gives an impetus to smart and sustainable cities by leveraging on the high speed, high connectivity transportation system.

Significance of Industrial Corridors in India:
1. Industrial Corridors recognise the inter-dependence of various sectors of the economy and offer effective integration between industry and infrastructure leading to overall economic and social development. Industrial corridors constitute world class infrastructure such as high-speed transportation.
2. The establishment of NMIZ in a scattered manner along the industrial corridor across the length of the state would prevent distress migration and provide people with job opportunities close to their dwelling place.
3. It will prevent concentration of industries in one particular location which exploited the environment beyond its carrying capacity and caused environmental degradation.
4. The production of export surplus would generate employment opportunities and raise per capita incomes.
5. Moreover, people would find job opportunities close to their homes and would not have to migrate to far-off places thereby preserving family as an institution. This will also increase social integration in the country.
6. The spread effects of industrial corridors in socio-economic terms are many such as setting up of industrial townships, educational institutions, roads, railways, airports, hospitals that will generate employment and raise standard of living.
7. Production costs would come down due to improved transportation system and agglomeration effect, making Indian goods competitive in domestic as well as foreign markets.
8. Provide necessary logistics infrastructure needed to reap economies of scale, thus enabling firms to focus on their areas of core competence.
9. People would find job opportunities close to their homes which would curb migration towards cities, thus preventing stress on already burdened urban landscape.
10. Prevention of concentration of industries in one particular location would prevent exploitation of environment as well as ensure balanced development in the country.

Major industrial corridor in India:

1. **Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC):** The Delhi–Mumbai Industrial Corridor Project (DMICDC) is a planned industrial development project between India's capital, Delhi and its financial hub, Mumbai. It is one of the world's largest infrastructures spread across six states.

2. **Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial corridor:** It is expected to boost commerce between south India and East Asia by enabling quicker movement of goods from these places to the Chennai and Ennore ports. The project with assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will be developed in collaboration with the governments of three southern states. Both Road and Rail connectivity for Freight movement will be upgraded in this corridor.

3. **The East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC):** The ECEC running along the entire east coast of India from Kolkata to Kanyakumari is a multimodal, regional maritime corridor that can play a vital role in unifying the large domestic market, as well as integrating the Indian economy with the dynamic global value chains of Southeast and East. It would play a crucial role in the Government of India's (GoI) Make in India campaign and also supports the port-led industrialisation strategy under the Sagar Mala initiative and the Act East Policy by linking domestic companies with the vibrant global production networks of East and Southeast Asia.

4. **Amritsar kolkata industrial Corridor (AKIC):** In order to give a boost to industrial development in the densely populated States of Northern and Eastern India. The AKIC will also leverage the Inland Water System being developed along National Waterway-1 which extends from Allahabad to Haldia.

5. **North East Myanmar Industrial Corridor:** It has been initiated from the Tokyo Declaration for India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership for enhanced connectivity and development in Northeast which would catalyse economic development and increase prosperity in the region.

An industrial corridor is a package of infrastructure spending allocated to a specific geographical area, with the intent to stimulate industrial development. The challenges while creating ICs would include correctly assessing the demand and viability, transport options for goods and workers, land values, and economic incentives for companies. The economic and financial feasibility of ICs should be ensured by attracting potential investors to set up manufacturing units at National Investment and Manufacturing Zones (NMIZs). India will also have to rely on foreign players for innovative technologies. The fundamental focus of ICs should be on improving both Industrial and Urban Infrastructure.

Q.17) "Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is considered one of the most significant challenges the world faces today." Discuss.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the rising challenge of antimicrobial resistance. Discuss various causes and preventive measures of antimicrobial resistance.
Conclusion. Way forward.

World health Organisation WHO released top 10 threats to global health in 2019, among which antimicrobial resistance (AR) accounted for a 1.6 million deaths every year due to the drug resistant tuberculosis microbe. The study 'Understanding drivers of antibiotic resistance genes' by Environment International journal shows that a total of 131 Antibiotic-Resistant Genes (ARGs) material were detected, among which the blaNDM-1 gene, first found in surface water in India in 2008, has spread to the Arctic in just 11 years. This reflect that antibiotic resistance is a new epidemic threat of 21st century.

Rising challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance:

1. This is no more a local problem and has to be looked as a global health concern. Annually, 700,000 deaths occur worldwide due to the AR bacteria, says a report titled "anti-microbial resistance benchmark".
2. Bacteria are carried in the gut of animals and people, and were likely spread through the faecal matter of these animals, humans as well as migratory birds.
3. India has witnessed an increase in antibiotic consumption- about 65 per cent in 2015 compared to 2000, while the rate of consumption increased from 3.2 to 6.5 billion daily defined doses (DDDs) in the same period.

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

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

Prevention and control measures:

1. **Individuals:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, individuals should:
   - Only use antibiotics when prescribed by a certified health professional.
   - Never demand antibiotics if your health worker says you don't need them.
   - Always follow your health worker's advice when using antibiotics.
   - Never share or use leftover antibiotics.
   - Prevent infections by regularly washing hands, preparing food hygienically, avoiding close contact with sick people, practising safer sex, and keeping vaccinations up to date.
2. **Policy makers:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, policy makers should:
   - Ensure a robust national action plan to tackle antibiotic resistance is in place.
   - Improve surveillance of antibiotic-resistant infections.
   - Strengthen policies, programmes, and implementation of infection prevention and control measures.
   - Regulate and promote the appropriate use and disposal of quality medicines.
   - Make information available on the impact of antibiotic resistance.

3. **Health professionals:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, health professionals should:
   - Prevent infections by ensuring that their hands, instruments, and environment are clean.
   - Only prescribe antibiotics when they are needed, according to current guidelines.
   - Report antibiotic-resistant infections to surveillance teams.
   - Talk to their patients about how to take antibiotics correctly, antibiotic resistance and the dangers of misuse.
4. **Agriculture sector:** To prevent and control the spread of antibiotic resistance, the agriculture sector should:
   - Only give antibiotics to animals under veterinary supervision.
   - Not use antibiotics for growth promotion or to prevent diseases in healthy animals.
   - Vaccinate animals to reduce the need for antibiotics and use alternatives to antibiotics when available.
   - Promote and apply good practices at all steps of production and processing of foods from animal and plant sources.
   - Improve biosecurity on farms and prevent infections through improved hygiene and animal welfare.

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

Q.18) "Paddy stubble burning in states neighbouring Delhi, is being seen as one of the reasons for the smog in the national capital. Change to a less water-guzzling crop will help address stubble burning." Do you agree?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** How stubble burning lead to air pollution? How change to a less water-guzzling crop is important to stop stubble burning?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Stubble burning is a post-harvest practice used to clear fields of paddy crop residue by burning them. This practice mostly carried out in Punjab, Haryana and UP contributes solely to the grave winter pollution in the national capital. For farmers, burning the residue becomes the easiest way of disposing it owing to lack of time, equipments and awareness. But this add up to the already poor air quality in India and is one of the cause of air pollution in India.

How stubble burning lead to air pollution?

1. Stubble burning, results in emission of harmful gases such as carbon monoxide, N2O, NO2, SO2, CH4 along with particulate matter and hydrocarbons. Each tonne of crop residue on burning releases around 3kg of particulate matter, 60 kg of CO, 1,460 kg of CO2, 199kg of ash and 2kg of SO2.

2. Also, Crop residue fires in Punjab and Haryana are enhancing concentrations of toxic gases like benzene and toluene, according to research from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER).
3. Further, Stubble burning releases toxic pollutants like Volatile organic compound (VOC) in air. Also, it leads to spike in Particulate Matter levels, contributing between 12 and 60% of PM concentrations.
4. Clouds of ash and smoke containing these harmful pollutants from stubble burning travel more than 1000 kms aided by the Westerly winds coming from the Mediterranean region and create an obstinate and non-clearing clouds.
5. Smog formed of the smoke increase the levels of pollutants by manifolds in the air leading to poor visibility and causing accidents.

How change to a less water-guzzling crop is important to stop stubble burning?
1. First, paddy consumes a lot of water- 5,000 litres to produce just a kilogram in north India. Crops like rice and sugarcane are water-guzzlers. Since India produces more rice than it consumes, it exports a lot of rice. Thus, it also exports a lot of groundwater.
2. The rice stubble is one of the cause of today's air pollution. The states of Punjab and Haryana decreed a few years ago that farmers cannot sow rice until just before the rains. It has meant that farmers have very little time to harvest rice and sow the next crop, wheat, in time for the brief winter rains. The stubble they leave behind, though, is rooted in the ground. It takes a lot less time and money to simply burn it than have it removed manually, or even using a machine.
3. This happens at a time when the monsoon is receding from northern India, leaving behind depressed air that traps the pollutants. This result in smog overwhelming the region, including cities like Delhi, Meerut, Mathura, and Agra.
4. Subsidising the machines that can remove the stubble or creating a demand for the stubble in the form of biogas plants are solutions that haven't yet scaled up.
5. The long-term plan has to be to make fewer farmers grow rice and wheat. Millets, maize, pulses, some fruits, and some indigenous varieties of rice consume less water, and can help space out the sowing and harvesting season for many farmers. The policy needed for this is crop diversification. Delhi can prevent its annual health catastrophe by creating markets for these nutritious millets.
6. Another reason is the farming economy. Farmers complain their input costs are too high. Farmers are ready to shift to different crops provided their incomes, and their stability, don't change. If the government buys more of other crops at fixed prices and in large quantities, working with farmers to make sure they continue to earn profits, crop diversification would have better chances.
7. At present, the window for paddy harvesting is around 20-25 days, putting pressure on farmers to get rid of the crop residue and prepare the land for sowing wheat. Since Punjab has low groundwater levels and paddy being a water-guzzling crop, it is better to shift from paddy cultivation and grow more water-efficient crops like oilseeds and maize.

The 2014 national policy envisages adoption of technical measures, including diversified uses of crop residue, capacity building and training along with formulation of suitable legislation, to deal with the issue of disposing of stubble. Unless Financial assistance is to be provided by the Centre for boosting farm mechanisation, it is difficult to completely stop stubble burning. States needs to make alternative arrangements for consumption of paddy straw into the soil as per the directions of the NGT.

Q.19) "The feeling of being overwhelmed by the challenges of climate change and the fear about the state of the environment has led to eco-anxiety." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. What is eco-anxiety?   **Body.** Discuss the issue of eco-anxiety and solutions for the same.   **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Eco-anxiety is anxiety about ecological disasters and threats to the natural environment such as pollution and climate change. As the reality of climate change becomes clearer than ever, thought of incidents like the wildfires, droughts or record-breaking storms are, making people anxious over climate change. Eco-anxiety is not an illness but an actual fear response to a threat. It is the helplessness that makes one see himself as an insignificant entity on the planet, unable to reverse the crisis. It is also the sense that no matter how hard we work, nothing will ever be enough.

Issue of developing eco-anxiety:
1. Adults are panicking because they are unable to now comprehend the right measure of response to the scale of the challenge.
2. People are getting affected by the feeling of frustration and loss and are immensely worried about their children and future generations.
3. Everyone want to give a healthy and protective environment to their next generation. Since we have failed to do it, people are filled with guilt and anxiety.
4. Such an onset of fear lead to people complaining of depression, restlessness, palpitation and insomnia.
5. It causes a situation of helplessness impact of which on ecology are irreversible and hazardous.it is not an illness but a healthy and reactive reaction towards the climate change.
6. Although eco-anxiety to some extent is beneficial because people may finally shake out of their passivity and help make a change. But one needs to watch out against persisting distress as it could turn into a disease.

Solutions for developing anxiety over climate change:
1. Relaxation exercises through yoga and meditation are the best sustainable options for a life with low stress.
2. Also it is important to make climate change an integral and crucial factor in our lifestyle habits and consumption patterns.
3. Environmental impact should be given equal priority with economic concerns that leads to sustainable development.
4. Although the situation cannot be avoided but it is preventive and controlled through measures and counselling.

Global warming and climate change are real that poses a question on the sustainability to the coming future. These concerns are natural and is in response to the environmental conditions. Melting glaciers, rising sea level near the coastal regions of India is leading to fear caused by threat of environmental consequences. Eco-anxiety is natural and must be take care of before it turn into a disease.

Q.20) Elaborate the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss scope of food industries in India and various government initiatives for the same.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The food processing industry (FPI) is considered a sunrise sector that has gained prominence in recent years. The industry is of enormous significance because of the vital linkages and synergies that it promotes between the two pillars of our economy i.e. industry and agriculture. It has a lot of scope which can help in boosting economic growth and this has led Government to initiate many policy measures to boost food processing industries.

Scope of food processing industry in India:

1. As per an estimate, India's current food processing industry is estimated at USD 130 Billion and expected to attract huge domestic and foreign investment. Some of the key factors which are likely to increase the demand for processed food and consequently the food processing industry in the coming years are -

2. India is a country of over 1.25 billion population. With rising middle class having a considerable disposable income, the domestic market offers 1.25 billion opportunities for the sector.

3. India ranks no 1 in the world in the production of milk, ghee, ginger, bananas, guavas, papayas and mangoes. Further, India ranks no 2 in the world in the production of rice, wheat and several other vegetables & fruits. If the surplus production of cereals, fruits, vegetables, milk, fish, meat and poultry, etc are processed and marketed both inside and outside the country, there will be greater opportunities for the growth of the sector.

4. Due to rapid urbanization, food habits are changing rapidly towards value-added foods. The change is accentuated by the fact that over 65% of India's population is 35 or under, who are inclined to have processed food.

5. Next to China, India is among the fastest growing economies in the world. The recent quantum jump in the ease of doing business ranking of the World Bank (from 130 to 100) indicates the conducive business climate in the country and expected to attract foreign investment into this sector.

6. As per an estimate, around 40 percent of total food production is wasted due to the inadequate facilities for transportation, storage, processing and marketing. If these deficiencies are addressed, there is a huge scope for the development of the sector.

Government has initiated the following measures for the development of the food processing sector:

1. **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY):** It is an umbrella scheme that incorporates various ongoing schemes like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain, Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters, Creation of Backward and Forward Linkages and Creation and Expansion of Food Processing and Preservation Capacities.

2. **Mega Food Parks Scheme:** It aims at providing a mechanism to link agricultural production to the market by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers to maximise value addition, minimising wastage, increasing farmers' income and creating employment opportunities particularly in the rural sector. A Mega Food Park entails an

area of a minimum of 50 acres and works in a cluster based approach based on a hub and spokes model.

3. **Scheme of Cold Chain, Value Addition and Preservation Infrastructure:** The objective of the scheme is to provide integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure facilities, without any break, from the farm gate to the consumer. It covers pre-cooling facilities at production sites, reefer vans, mobile cooling units as well as value addition centres.

4. **Modernisation of Abattoirs scheme:** The main objective of the Scheme is a creation of processing and preservation capacities and modernisation and expansion of existing food processing units with a view to increasing the level of processing, value addition leading to reduction of wastage.

5. **Make In India:** As part of the Make In India campaign, food processing sector was identified as one of the 25 focus areas. Accordingly, the policy ecosystem has been revamped to attract financial, technological and human resources into the sector. Allowing 100% FDI through automatic route into this sector is also a significant step in this direction.

6. **Food Processing Fund:** A special fund in the NABARD worth Rs. 2,000 crore, designated as the Food Processing Fund, was set up in the FY 2014-15 for providing affordable credit to food processing units in Mega & Designated Food Parks.

As per an estimate, India's food consumption is currently valued at USD 370 Billion and is expected to reach USD 1 trillion by 2025. The development of food processing industry is necessary due to the rise in the disposable income in the hands of middle class, changing food habits and rapid urbanization, the changing dietary preferences towards the processed and packaged food. Besides, a well-developed food processing sector with higher level of processing helps in the reduction of wastage, improves value addition, promotes crop diversification, ensures a better return to the farmers, promotes employment as well as increase export earnings. This sector is also capable of addressing critical issues of food security, food inflation and providing wholesome, nutritious food to the masses.

Q.21) What do you understand by Integrated Farming System (IFS)? How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. What is Integrated Farming System (IFS)?   **Body.** How Integrated Farming System (IFS) is helpful in sustaining agricultural production?   **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The Integrated Farming System (IFS) is a combined approach aimed at efficient sustainable resource management for increased productivity in the cropping system. The IFS approach has multiple objectives of sustainability, food security, farmer's security and poverty reduction by involving livestock, vermicomposting, organic farming etc.

Integrated Farming System ensures sustainable agricultural production through:
1. IFS provides an opportunity to increase economic yield per unit area by virtue of intensification of crop and allied enterprises especially for small and marginal farmers.
2. It has the capability to make the sector profitable by reducing the use of chemical fertiliser and recycling nutrients.

3. In IFS, subsystem of one byproduct works as an input for the other subsystem, making it environmentally sustainable. Moreover, IFS components are known to control the weed and regarded as an important element of integrated pest management and thus minimise the use of weed killers as well as pesticides and thereby protect the environment.

4. Effective recycling of products, by-products and waste material in IFS is the cornerstone behind the sustainability of farming system under resource poor condition in rural areas.

5. Due to interaction of enterprises with crops, eggs, meat and milk, IFS provides flow of money round the year amongst the farming community.

6. Indian farmers in many regions such as in north-eastern part, practice subsistence agriculture. They also have a rich traditional base in water harvesting, soil management etc. which could be efficiently utilised under IFS.

7. Combining crop with livestock enterprises would increase the labour requirement significantly and would help in reducing the problems of underemployment and unemployment to a great extent. IFS provide enough scope to employ family labour round the year.

8. IFS promote the efficient management of resources. This enhances the productivity of the farming.

9. The IFS promote for rejuvenation of systems productivity and to achieve agroecological equilibrium.

IFS provide multiple benefits that are sustainable and can pave the way for climate-smart agriculture. India needs to adopt a "well designed" Integrated Farming System (IFS) to realise the vision of doubling farmers' income by 2022 and having sustainable agricultural practices.

Q.22) Assess the need and significance of strengthening intra-BRICS trade for Indian economy. What should be done to boost Indian trade with other BRICS countries?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Need and significance for boosting intra-BRICS trade for India and how to boost it?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

With rising trade disputes, trading arrangements in disarray and questions over the relevance of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the relevance and significance of intra-BRICS trade has increased more than ever. Even at a time when the five countries are heading in different directions politically, they found ways to build a common vision for the world's economic future with an emphasis on multilateralism and mechanism against unilateral and protectionist actions.

Need and significance for boosting intra-BRICS trade for India:
1. BRICS countries together accounts for 42% of the world's population, a third of the global GDP and around 17% share of world trade. BRICS countries' can contribute to Indian growth, trade and investment towards making it a $5 trillion economy.
2. Structural imbalances caused by the global financial crisis of 2008 and new threats to the global economy posed by trade war and unilateral economic sanctions are yet to be resolved. In such situation it is important for India to increase its trade with BRICS partners to safeguard its interests.

3. For India, in particular, given the fact that it faces its own economic crisis, and troubled trading ties with several nations, trade with BRICS nation is important.

4. Further BRICS have abundance of resources like energy resources in Far East Asia, mineral resources in South Africa's, it is important to increase intra-BRICS trade especially for India to fulfill its energy demands and growth.

5. The failure of officials to resolve issues in time to join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) need to be balanced through increasing trade with other BRICS countries.

6. The growing contribution of the BRICS to the world economy and the rising importance of the economic relations between the BRICS and other Emerging Market and Developing Countries (EMDCs) create an opportunity for new initiatives that would better help to support sustainable and inclusive growth and development in India.

7. The BRICS can contribute to poverty reduction in India. Continued BRICS growth remains important for poverty reduction as well as for reducing inequalities.

8. India is actively pursuing its membership for United Nation Security Council (UNSC) and Nuclear Supplier Group (NSG). China forms the major roadblock in pursuing such goals. Therefore, BRICS provides an opportunity to actively engage with China and resolve the mutual disputes. It also helps in garnering support of other partner countries.

What should be done to boost trade with other BRICS countries:

In order to expand cooperation in trade among BRICS countries, the following goals should be pursued:

1. Enhancing consultations and exchanging information on macroeconomic and trade policies.

2. Encouraging trade and investment links between BRICS countries with an emphasis on promoting market access on goods and services amongst BRICS countries and supporting industrial complementarities, sustainable development and inclusive growth;

3. Simplifying and increasing the efficiency of administrative procedures to facilitate and accelerate mutual trade and investment.

4. Improving the transparency of trade and investment climate in the framework of international obligations and national legislation.

5. Creating favourable conditions for development of mutual trade and foreign direct investment in the BRICS countries in order to diversify production and exports.

In the recent years, developing countries have increasingly emerged as regional and global growth engines, reflecting higher growth in economic activity and trade, as compared to the developed economies. BRICS– the five emerging global powers are incrementally increasing their global engagements. India should reap benefit of this association.

Q.23) Despite Consistent experience of High growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Mention various issues making development elusive. Suggest some measures.
Conclusion. Way forward.

India today is among the largest economies of the world. However, according to the United Nations Human Development Index report 2018, India ranks 130 out of 189 countries. India has grown rapidly since 1991. While India is surging ahead in terms of GDP growth, it is faring poorly on the human development front which means that millions of Indians have poor access to healthcare and education than in more advanced countries or even in emerging Economies like the BRICS.

Issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive:
1. **Jobless growth:** Since India's growth is led by services (which is not a labor-intensive sector), it has been considered as jobless growth as the employment growth has declined for the same level of economic growth. Thus growth has only affected a very small section of India.
2. **Uneven growth:** The growth has been uneven across sectors and locations. For instance, agriculture has been lagging behind and in countries such as India and China, some regions have advanced faster than others. Policies are also relatively ignored the agriculture sector.
3. **Casteism:** A major weakness is that the growth is not perceived as being adequately inclusive for many groups, especially Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and weaker section. Development will not be inclusive if some groups are discriminated against, overtly or covertly.
4. **Gender Inequality:** In a hugely patriarchal country like India, one cannot expect India to score high on gender equality. As much as 50 percent of malnutrition is caused, not by a lack of food or poor diets, but due to poor water, poor sanitation facilities, and unhygienic practices.
5. **Unequal Distribution of Wealth:** In the last five years, only 1% of the wealthiest in India increased their share in wealth of around 60% and the richest 10% in India own more than four times more wealth than the remaining 90%. This results in an uneven distribution of wealth across the various sections of the society and it marks the prevalence of high inequality in the Indian socio-economic paradigm which led Non-inclusive growth and low human development.
6. **Jobless growth:** With increasing economic growth, the rate of growth of employment has declined. According to NSSO, unemployment is India is highest in 45 years. With rising population and, consequently, the labour force, India will soon experience demographic disaster rather than a demographic dividend.
7. **Poor Education and Health:** On comparison with similarly placed emerging economies, India spends way too low in the education and health sector. India spends 3% of GDP on education and 1.5% of GDP on health. Independent India retained the largely colonial superstructure of primary, secondary, and tertiary education, which emphasis on rote learning and obsession with marks in the exams. Consequently access, quality, and outcomes all are far lower than what anyone would have desired.
8. **Malnutrition:** Even after many government schemes, both the infant mortality rate and the maternal mortality rate remains high. There is a high prevalence of malnutrition in Indian children, reflected in a high percentage of Child stunting, wasting and underweight. The neglect of women's health, in particular, is a big issue. Apart from it, India features the highest deaths in the world due to air pollution.

Some measures:
1. India needs to ensure access and quality through effective implementation of schemes such as Digital India and Skill India.
2. For a higher standard of living, it should ensure that work is quantitatively and qualitatively enhanced in the country. The country's efforts in terms of employment

guarantee schemes have been lauded for its role in reducing unemployment. But it is by no means a long-term remedy. .

3. Indian government must also focus on improving quality and access in education. Education has a major role in promoting inclusive economic development. It can particularly help reduce the share of informal employment going forward and promote social inclusion.

4. India needs to reform its rigid labour market governed by obsolete laws, address problems of child labour and forced labour, and bring about wage equality.

5. Policy makers and government officials need to work on agriculture productivity, in order to be more inclusive.

6. Efforts are needed to increase energy and resource efficiency, notably through lower fossil fuel subsidies, and accelerate the adoption of clean technologies.

Though the government has initiated many schemes for enhancing human capital i.e. Skill India, Digital India, Startup India, Ayushman Bharat. However, the results are not yet promising. India needs to address the various parameters of human development separately and simultaneously. We also need to handle the challenges such as urbanisation, the housing deficit, access to power, water, education and health care. A central focus on social indicators is necessary for India to break free from its position as an underachiever and bring inclusive development.

Q.24) "There is need to move away from the present 'staple grain fundamentalism,' of Public Distribution System (PDS), to a more diversified food basket, with an emphasis on coarse grains." Comment.

Ans.

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Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the issue of malnutrition and under-nutrition. Mention need of solutions to hunger issue and to include a more diversified food basket.
Conclusion. Way forward.

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The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) report, by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is important due to rising concerns for malnutrition. The report reveals that India has made progress in reducing the number of stunted and underweight children in the last decade. Despite sustained decline, the present stunting level is very high. Hence, there is need to move away from the present focus from staple grain fundamentalism i.e. present focus on rice and wheat of Public Distribution System (PDS), to a more diversified food basket, that would help in removing nutritional hunger issues.

Issue of malnutrition and under-nutrition:

1. A new report, 'Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, India, 2019', published by the Government of India and the United Nations World Food Programme, states that even after 70 years of independence, still hundreds of millions of India's poorest and vulnerable citizens are living in hunger.

2. Despite rapid economic growth, declining levels of poverty, enough food to export, and a multiplicity of government programmes, malnutrition amongst the poorest remains high. The report shows the poorest sections of society are caught in a trap of poverty and malnutrition, which is being passed on from generation to generation.

3. According to FAO estimates in 'The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, 2018" report-
   - 195.9 million people are undernourished in India. By this measure 14.8% of the population is undernourished in India.
   - Also, 51.4% of women in reproductive age between 15 to 49 years are anaemic.
   - Further according to the report 38.4% of the children aged under five in India are stunted (too short for their age), while 21% suffer from wasting, meaning their weight is too low for their height.
   - Malnourished children have a higher risk of death from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea, pneumonia, and malaria.
4. The Global Hunger Index 2019 ranks India at 102 out of 119 countries on the basis of three leading indicators - prevalence of wasting and stunting in children under 5 years, under 5 child mortality rate, and the proportion of undernourished in the population.

Why coarse grains are a viable nutritional alternative over the staple food grains?
1. It is important to move away from the present focus on rice and wheat, to a more diversified food basket, with an emphasis on coarse grains that are more nutritious with more proteins.
2. A diet that moves away from white, polished rice to include coarse grains could help Indians tackle micronutrient deficiencies affordably.
3. 90% of the staple diets are iron deficient, nearly 85% are Vitamin A deficient and more than 50% are protein-deficient. The eating of coarse cereals and pulses instead of rice, and including dark leafy vegetables and coconut would alleviate deficiencies cost effectively.
4. These diet changes would also reduce greenhouse gas emissions, predominantly due to rice production's high methane emissions.
5. It would be worth including millets in the PDS on a pilot basis, in States where stunting levels are high. Evidence suggests that dietary diversity is indeed good for reducing iron deficiency anaemia, levels of which also remain high in India.
6. The food distribution system needs to be strengthened. Food storage facilities must be restored and steps should be taken to protect stored grains from rodents. Although there are many leakages issue in public distribution system, still it provides food for many. Efforts must be made to stop leakages.

Some other measures:
1. Mothers who are hungry and malnourished produce children who are stunted, underweight and unlikely to develop to achieve their full human potential. Increasing the educational attainment of women significantly is certainly feasible. Women's education, is of instrumental significance in reducing hunger and nutrition issue of the family.
2. The main cause of poverty and hunger is the fast growth of population. The control of population growth, therefore, should get the top priority, particularly in the developing countries. Population control measures like awareness campaigns, sterilisation etc. must be adopted. The population control will require rapid economic growth, research and the implementation of strict population policies.
3. At present, only 10 per cent of the total area of the land surface is under cultivation. Some experts opine that the present cultivated area could be tripled. The possibility should be explored to increase more food production.

Malnutrition is a big issue in India. Green Revolution has failed to eradicate hunger from the developing world. There is a need to inculcate highly nutritious coarse grains in PDS which

would help to uplift nutritional status of many poor. New areas and cultivable wastelands should be brought under cultivation to increase agricultural production. This will ensure increased productivity at lower costs and increase accessibility to food.

Q.25) "India's female labour force participation rate ranks much low and is declining." What are various reasons for low labour force participation of women in India? Suggest some measures to correct the labour market's gender skew.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss the issues of low labour force participation of women in India and reasons for the same.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

India is trying hard to become a superpower and to realise its dreams every stakeholder needs to be held accountable and every resource needs to be used. Gender equality in every field is a given requisite for this which therefore warrants a closer look at the labor force participation in India. Issue like low female labour force participation need to be resolved if India dream to become a superpower.

Low labour force participation of women in India:

1. According to the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Report, 2019, 1.3 billion women were in work in 2018 as compared to 2 billion men– a less than 2% improvement in last 27 years. The report highlighted that women are paid 20% lower than men, as a global average.
2. Women remain underrepresented at the top, a situation that has changed very little in the last 30 years. Less than one-third of managers are women.
3. The female labor force participation rate (FLFPR) in India has been one of the lowest among the emerging economies and has been falling over time. This has resulted in a decrease in the ratio of working females to the population of females in the working age group. The FLFPR in India fell from 31.2% in 2012 to 23.3% in 2018. Further, the FLFPR for rural areas has declined by more than 11% in 2018.
4. In rural areas, not only are women withdrawing from the labor force, they are also being outcompeted by men in the existing jobs. This situation necessitates a deeper understanding of issues that hinder female labor force participation.

Reasons for low labour force participation of women in India:

1. **Lack of opportunities:** In recent times, rural distress has affected women the most as income-generating opportunities have disappeared. The problem of 'labour demand constraints' or the lack of suitable job opportunities is acute for women in rural India, with a fall in the availability of farm jobs and the lack of economic opportunities in non-farm employment. Mechanisation of farm and non-farm activities has also reduced opportunities for work.
2. **Women education:** Data from the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) show that education and employment have a U-shaped relationship (a rise and subsequent decline in employment with the rise in education levels). Work participation drops sharply for women with primary and secondary education and rises only with college-level education. Further, the non-availability of white collar jobs, disproportionate long hours

and lesser job security narrow downs the job opportunities for educated women in India.

3. **Unpaid work:** A 2018 study has found that the time spent on unpaid economic activities performed at the household and community levels by women is one of the important determinants of the FLFPR. So, the time spent on unpaid work, especially on unpaid care and domestic chores has hindered women's participation in the labour force.

4. **Gender bias:** Constraints in form of casteist and patriarchal notions of purity and pollution where women are prohibited from certain jobs, especially in the food processing, sericulture, and garment industries has added to the low participation. Factors like income of other members of the household, social background and place of residence also add to the lack of women's participation in the workforce. Moreover, rural societies are segregated rigidly on gender basis dictated by patriarchal norms that are further perpetuated by religious taboos and cultural biases.

5. **Changing family nature:** Of late, with a reduction in family sizes and distress migration of rural males, the burden of unpaid work on women has been increasing disproportionately. The burden of domestic work and unpaid care inhibits women's ability to acquire skills for better jobs, leading to a vicious cycle of women being kept out of the labor force.

6. **Under-reporting:** Finally, though most women in India work and contribute to the economy in one form or another, much of their work is not documented or accounted for in official statistics, and thus women's work tends to be under-reported. Therefore, mis-measurement may not only affect the level but also the trend in the participation rate.

7. **Other factors:** Like lack of sanitation, sexual harassment at workplace, unsafe travelling, poor childcare facilities and care homes for the elderly etc. has prevented women from working in the industries.

Way Forward:

1. Child-care subsidies should be provided to free up mothers' time to enter the labour force which would have significant implications in increasing female employment.

2. Additionally, child-care subsidies can also have positive spillover effects on the education of young girls for they no longer have to be left behind to take care of their younger siblings.

3. Policy makers in India and throughout the region should take a comprehensive approach to improve labour market outcomes for women through improving access to and relevance of education and training programs, skills development, access to child care, maternity protection, and provision of safe and accessible transport, along with the promotion of a pattern of growth that creates job opportunities.

4. The state governments should also make policies for the participation of rural women in permanent salaried jobs.

5. There is a need to generate education-based jobs in rural areas in the industrial and services sectors

6. The governments should also generate awareness to espouse a positive attitude towards women among the public since it is one of the most important impediments in women's participation in economic activities.

7. Local bodies, with aid from state governments, should open more crèches in towns and cities so that women with children can step out and work. The crèches will open employment opportunities for women.

8. Higher social spending, including in education, can lead to higher female labour force participation by boosting female stocks of human capital.

9. Initiatives such as Skill India, Make in India, and new gender-based quotas from corporate boards to the police force can spur a positive change. But we need to invest in skill training and job support.

10. The principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value that is protected by Indian law must be put to actual practice. Improved wage-transparency and gender-neutral job evaluation is required to achieve this end.

11. It is important to improve existing transport and communication networks and provide safe accommodation for women who travel to or has migrated for work.

12. For political empowerment of women, their representation in Parliament and in decision making roles in public sphere is one of the key indicators of empowerment.

Women continue to face many barriers to enter labour market and to access decent work and disproportionately face a range of multiple challenges relating to access to employment, choice of work, working conditions, employment security, wage parity, discrimination, and balancing the competing burdens of work and family responsibilities. In addition, women are heavily represented in the informal economy where their exposure to risk of exploitation is usually greatest and they have the least formal protection. The goal is not merely to increase female labour force participation, but to provide opportunities for decent work that will, in turn, contribute to the economic empowerment of women.

Q.26) Discuss the need and significance of NATGRID project? What are various concerns related to NATGRID?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** What is NATGRID?
> **Body.** Discuss the need, significance and concerns related to NATGRID.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) is an ambitious counter-terrorism programme, which will utilise technologies like Big Data and analytics to study and analyse the huge amounts of data from various intelligence and enforcement agencies to help track suspected terrorists and prevent terrorist attacks. It will connect, in different phases, data providing organisations and users besides developing a legal structure through which information can be accessed by the law enforcement agencies.

Why do we need NATGRID?

1. The danger from not having a sophisticated tool like the NATGRID is that it forces the police to rely on harsh and coercive means to extract information in a crude and degrading fashion. After every terrorist incident, it goes about rounding up suspects—many of who are innocent. If, instead, a pattern search and recognition system were in place, these violations of human rights would be much fewer.

2. NATGRID would also help the police and the Intelligence Bureau keep a tab on persons with suspicious backgrounds. The police would have access to all his data and any movement by this person would also be tracked with the help of this data base.

Significance of NATGRID:

1. NATGRID is a post Mumbai 26/11 attack measure. It aims to mitigate a vital deficiency-lack of real time information, which was considered to be one of the major hurdles in detecting terror activities.

2. NATGRID will become a secure centralised database to stream sensitive information from 21 sets of data sources such as banks, credit cards, visa, immigration and train and air travel details, as well as from various intelligence agencies.

3. It will utilise technologies like Big Data and analytics to study and analyse the huge amounts of data from various intelligence and enforcement agencies to help track suspected terrorists and prevent terrorist attacks.

4. It will connect, in different phases, data providing organisations and users besides developing a legal structure through which information can be accessed by the law enforcement agencies.

5. The database would be accessible to authorised persons from 11 agencies on a case-to-case basis, and only for professional investigations into suspected cases of terrorism.

6. Unlike the NCTC and the NIA which are central organisations, the NATGRID is essentially a tool that enables security agencies to locate and obtain relevant information on terror suspects from pooled data of various organisations and services in the country. It will help identify, capture and prosecute terrorists and help preempt terrorist plots.

Concerns related to NATGRID:

1. NATGRID is facing opposition on charges of possible violations of privacy and leakage of confidential personal information.

2. Its efficacy in preventing terror has also been questioned given that no state agency or police force has access to its database thus reducing chances of immediate, effective action.

3. According to few experts, digital databases such as NATGRID can be misused. Over the last two decades, the very digital tools that terrorists use have also become great weapons to fight the ideologies of violence.

4. The ambitious National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) project wants to link social media accounts to the huge database of records related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details among others.

5. The Snowden files have already revealed the widespread misuse in recent years of surveillance capabilities to compromise individual privacy and even violate national sovereignty.

A robust and secure NATGRID is of the vital interest to the nation. Issues related to privacy and access can be addressed by strict regulatory and authentication norms or by introducing a privacy law regarding that. But considering the present situation it is important that the data with various agencies must be integrated to check terror, corruption, black money and other crimes.

Q.27) Examine the role of biotechnology in achieving food security in India. What are various challenges faced by biotechnology sector in India?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the role of biotechnology in food security and various challenges faced by the sector.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Food insecurity is one of the most pressing problems today, creating directly or indirectly several other challenges. The challenge of nutritiously feeding the skyrocketing population will be even more severe in coming times. For instance, the National Nutrition Atlas released by the National Institute of Nutrition highlights that majority (two-thirds) of the states have a high percentage of malnourished children and high level of wasting. This is mainly because of the non-availability/non-accessibility of/to enough amounts of proteins and micronutrients for pregnant women and children under the age of five. The recently released Global Hunger Index also highlights that the situation is serious for India.

Food security has three dimensions:

1. Availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or imports.
2. Access by households and individuals to appropriate foods for a nutritious diet.
3. Optimal uptake of nourishment thanks to a sustaining diet, clean water and adequate sanitation, together with health care.

Securing food security with biotechnology:

1. There are a range of biotechnological approaches, including both traditional ones like selective breeding and fermentation techniques, and modern ones such as genomics, molecular breeding and genetic engineering, that can contribute towards achieving food and nutrition security.
2. In the current era, advances in genomics sciences have equipped scientists to decode genomes for any crop species (the recent example being that of pearl millet) and we can get information on genes responsible for important agronomic traits. Gene information can be used to accelerate breeding programmes and develop high-yielding and better varieties faster.
3. For example the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), have developed improved lines of chickpea (tolerant to drought), groundnut (resistant to foliar disease), pearl millet (having high iron and zinc contents) and sorghum (tolerant to drought).
4. We have already seen the success of Bt cotton in our country, as India from being an importer a few years ago has now become a major exporter. The other potential GM crop to help the farming community is GM mustard.
5. Biotech crops can play a significant role in food security, giving farmers satisfaction about their benefits and high adoption rates. Biotech crops helped alleviate poverty by helping 18 million small farmers and their families, totalling 65 million people.
6. The spectrum of potential benefits from the application of genetic engineering and biotechnology to food crops in developing countries ranges from diagnostic aids, for example in plant diseases, through to gene mapping.
7. The main objective of research and development for food security is to find improved seed varieties, that enable reliable high yields at the same or lower tillage costs through qualities such as resistance to or tolerance of plant diseases (fungi, bacteria, viruses) and animal pests (insects, mites, nematodes) as well as to stress factors such as climatic variation or aridity, poor soil quality.
8. Equally important objectives are the transfer of genes with nitrogen-fixing capacity onto grains, and the improvement of food quality by overcoming vitamin or mineral deficiencies. All these crucial and basic needed expectations can be satisfied with the use of biotechnology.

Challenges faced by Biotechnology sector:

1. Biotechnology research often requires access to laboratories with high-end scientific infrastructure, the supply of expensive chemicals and reagents with minimum shipping time between the supplier and the user, and a disciplined work culture and documentation practice due to regulatory and intellectual property filing requirement.

2. Compared to the developed economies (the United States), biotechnology research in India is mainly funded by the public exchequer. Unless the private sector starts supporting applied research and engages with academic institutions, the innovation in applied and translational biotechnology will be minimal.

3. Companies have not been able to launch new products at a significant pace because of bureaucratic red-tape and multiple regulatory bodies.

4. Innovative companies face funding constraints since the investors have shied away from early-stage ventures.

5. Another issue is the lack of trained manpower. While India has a considerable number of graduates and postgraduates in biotechnology and related fields, they are not employable. Thus, companies have to invest heavily in their training before incorporating them into the business.

6. India also suffers from brain drain. Top global biotech companies are able to poach the brightest Indian minds with attractive job profiles and good remuneration.

7. Lack of manufacturing capacity. Several biotech parks (established through PPPs) are solely focused on providing biotech services and diagnostics rather than pure biotech manufacturing.

8. Low wages of scientists (compared to the developed economies) and a few institutional research base have not helped create more jobs in biotechnology.

The developing countries are faced with the formidable task of doubling their food output over the next 25 years, and this in contrast to how it has so often been done in the industrial countries– in ways sparing of the environment and resources. Population pressure has already begun to affect the environment in large parts of the developing world. Because of intensive land use and widespread biomass shortage, cultivated soils are being depleted of essential nutrients and organic matter. Fisheries, livestock and forestry resources are also under increasing strain. Biotechnology is the one of the important way out for this.

Q.28) "Free Trade Agreements with other countries do not guarantee economic growth or boost exports to other countries." Critically examine.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Show FTAs doesn't guarantee economic growth. Reasons behind failure of FTAs in boosting Indian economic growth.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

FTAs are arrangements between two or more countries or trading blocs that primarily agree to reduce or eliminate customs tariff and non-tariff barriers on substantial trade between them. The last two decades have witnessed a spurt in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) around the world. India has been no exception to this trend. As of 2019, India had 16 such agreements in force. Various studies have convincingly illustrated that from a market access perspective, India has not gained from its FTAs. Although India's overall trade in goods has grown with

FTA partner countries, the increase in imports has outweighed that in exports, causing the bilateral trade balance to deteriorate with FTA partners.

Free Trade Agreements- not a guarantee of economic growth:
1. India's exports to FTA countries has not outperformed overall export growth or exports to rest of the world.
2. FTAs have led to increased imports and exports, although the former has been greater.
3. FTAs have had a bigger impact on metals on the importing side and textiles on the exporting side. Utilisation rate of FTAs by exporters in India is very low (between 5 and 25%).
4. Diversification of India's export basket is more responsible for India's export surge than RTAs.
5. Bilateral trade increased post signing of all the above FTAs
6. As imports from Korea, Japan and ASEAN have shot up after the respective agreements came into force, India's trade deficit with these countries has increased since then. Only exports to Sri Lanka have increased much more than imports into India from Sri Lanka.
7. Overall trade deficit with ASEAN, Korea and Japan doubled. Quality of trade has also deteriorated under India ASEAN FTA.

Reasons for FTA not leading to economic growth in India:
1. India's market share has remained relatively low and stagnant and has even declined in some cases, suggesting that these FTAs have been of limited use. These FTAs are not sufficient in themselves to deliver market access gains.
2. The one factor is the design and implementation of the agreements. Utilisation rates for India's FTAs are low, due to a failure to disseminate information especially to MSMEs, low preference margins for high export potential goods, placement of export potential items under the sensitive list, and high compliance costs, all of which undermine the value of the FTAs.
3. The more important reason is India's own supply side constraints and bottlenecks, i.e., its difficult regulatory environment, poor logistics quality, inadequate and inefficient trade infrastructure, and high transactions costs, among others, all of which hurt export competitiveness.

What should be done?
1. If benefits are to be realised, India need to negotiate new FTAs and renegotiate existing FTAs with a focus on extending preference margins and securing market access in tariff lines with high export potential, on opening up markets for high value-added manufacturing, lowering compliance burden, and increasing regulatory cooperation with its partners.
2. Alongside, it must complement its FTAs with trade policy reforms and measures which help diversify its export basket, reduce transactions costs, improve logistics and develop its export capacity and quality.
3. It is important to reduce compliance cost and administrative delays is extremely critical to increase utilisation rate of FTAs.
4. Proper safety and quality standards should be set to avoid dumping of lower quality hazardous goods into the Indian market. Circumvention of rules of origin should be strictly dealt with by the authorities.
5. RCEP negotiations especially with China need to be properly pondered upon and planned.

FTAs can impact a signatory country in many ways, depending on the scope of the agreements, the depth and breadth of the commitments undertaken and domestic preparedness and capacity. An FTA's possible impact on the economy or exports is subject to many caveats. The FTAs can ensure market access to only the right quality products made at competitive prices. Improvement in firm-level competitiveness is a must. The government can help by ensuring lower duties on raw materials and intermediates than on the concerned finished products. It can set up an elaborate quality and standards infrastructure for essential products. Most countries regulate imports through such requirements and not through tariffs.

Q.29) Discuss various factors that has led to rise in india's ease of doing business ranking. Do you think this would help drive Indian economic growth?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss recent improvements in Ease of doing business and reason for it. Discuss whether India's jump in ease of doing business rankings will foster economic growth?
> **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. 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.

Will India's jump in ease of doing business rankings foster economic growth?
While the rise in India's ease of doing rank is welcome, there are three key reasons why it may not necessarily mean a turnaround in investment and economic growth.
1. Firstly, the improvement in the ranking often is not sustained over the long term. For example, consider the period between 2007 and 2009. Out of the 10 countries that improved their ranking the most in those three years, seven now rank worse than what they did in the 2009 report.
2. Secondly, even if the improvement sustains, it does not necessarily lead to higher economic growth or greater foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows, an analysis of 10 major economies which saw large improvements in their ease of doing business rankings shows. Many of the above economies, despite climbing several places in their ease of doing business rankings, have not seen much improvement in growth or FDI inflows.
3. Further, external factors, beyond the control of policymakers, also play a role in dampening the outlook on many economies. Ease of doing business rankings seldom determine a country's economic fortunes. Even in the absence of such external misfortunes, it remains debatable whether a pro-business reform stance necessarily leads to higher growth.
4. The World Bank's Doing Business report assessment might be at variance with what enterprises actually experience on ground. To illustrate, the time taken to start a business in India—in both Mumbai and Delhi—is around 30 days, according to World Bank's ease of doing business reports for the last three years. But, the enterprise-level survey conducted by NITI Aayog and IDFC Institute in 2016 showed that the average time taken to start a business in India was more than 100 days.

Thus, the evidence suggests that the recent improvement in ease of doing business rankings may not mean much for India. 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. The country lags in many key metrics. The Centre must convince the States to reform their systems.

Q.30) "Environmental migration is real and will increase multifold in the near future." **In light of this discuss the impact of increasing environmental migration in India. How India should prepare itself to face it?**

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss the rising threat of climate related migration to India. Mention impact of climate related migration. How India should prepare for it?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

The term 'climate migrants' or 'environmental migrants' is used to refer to people displaced due to climate change impacts such as sea level rise, floods and droughts. It is a common notion that climate migrants could lead to an increase in the number of urban poor and add to urban development challenges. In India, evidence about climate migration is less although the number of climate migrants could be high, given the recent events of frequent floods and droughts and the fact that South Asia is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change and most of the countries share ecological zones, borders and culture.

Rising threat of climate related migration to India:
1. Increased sea level rise in the inhabited islands of the Sundarbans, drought in central India and extreme floods in the Ganges and Brahmaputra basins are already displacing people.
2. And with the lack of adequate infrastructure in cities, migrants are likely to end up living in crowded temporary shelters with low access to drinking water, sanitation and health care facilities.
3. If sea levels rise by one metre due to climate change, storm surges could make island nations such as the Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, or Tuvalu largely uninhabitable and force people to take refuge in other countries.
4. A recent report has indicated that the major deltas of the world such as the Ganges, Mekong and Nile may be adversely affected due to climate change and that it is already contributing to migration and displacement.
5. Climate change might lead to increased flow of migrants from neighbouring countries. As many as 120 million people could be rendered homeless by 2100 both in India and Bangladesh due to sea level rise and given the proximity of Bangladesh to India much of the people will end up as migrants in Indian cities which are already facing resource scarcity.

Impact of climate related migration:
1. Climate change may significantly affect human migration in different ways. First, warming of the atmosphere in some regions will reduce the agricultural potential and undermine the ecosystem services such as fertile soil and water affecting people's livelihoods.
2. Increasing extreme weather events will generate mass displacement. Even a marginal rise in climate migrants to cities could be an urban development challenge. This holds true for two reasons:
3. Cities don't have adequate infrastructure to host migrants.
4. The migrants are unlikely to have the required skills to work in urban areas.
5. Sea level rise will destroy the low-lying coastal areas and millions of people who will have to relocate permanently.

6. Increased migration is likely within India due to the effects of climate change such as drought, desertification, sea level rise, water scarcity and low food productivity, and melting glaciers.
7. Climate change is likely to expose hundreds of millions of people to increasing environmental risks displacing a large number of people and forcing them to migrate. There is an emerging view that these people should be recognised as climate refugees by international laws and proper institutional arrangements should be made to address their problems.

What India should do?

1. The need of the hour is a normative shift on the issue of climate-induced migration to ensure that those victimised by anthropogenic and natural climate change are met with a compassionate, coordinated global regime rather than strict national immigration policies, like those currently employed in India.
2. Policymakers need to make India's agricultural system resilient to climate change like drought resistant crops.
3. Governments need to ensure that mega-cities are less vulnerable to the effects of mass urbanization.
4. India need a long-term plan to finance rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the event of climate-induced disasters.
5. Migration impact urban services and change demography of place of origin and destination. It often put burden on urbanisation and hinder health of an urban centre. A proper management and plan is needed.

Current knowledge based on the relation between climate change and migration of people is still limited. There is a need for a better understanding of the relation between climate change and migration. The international community should not be distracted by the semantic differences between words to describe the status of people migrating due to climate change. We need to recognise the problem and appropriate strategies and measures to assist the people displaced by climate change should be devised to effectively deal with the problem.

Q.31) Discuss the issue related to stubble burning. How co-operative federalism can help in solving this issue?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** How stubble burning lead to air pollution? Various reasons for it. How cooperative federalism can avoid Stubble Burning?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Stubble burning is a post-harvest practice used to clear fields of paddy crop residue by burning them. This practice mostly carried out in Punjab, Haryana and UP contributes solely to the grave winter pollution in the national capital. For farmers, burning the residue becomes the easiest way of disposing it owing to lack of time, equipments and awareness. But this add up to the already poor air quality in India and is one of the cause of air pollution in India.

How stubble burning lead to air pollution?

1. Stubble burning, results in emission of harmful gases such as carbon monoxide, N_2O, NO_2, SO_2, CH_4 along with particulate matter and hydrocarbons. Each tonne of crop

residue on burning releases around 3kg of particulate matter, 60 kg of CO, 1,460 kg of CO2, 199kg of ash and 2kg of SO2.
2. Also, Crop residue fires in Punjab and Haryana are enhancing concentrations of toxic gases like benzene and toluene, according to research from Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER).
3. Further, Stubble burning releases toxic pollutants like Volatile organic compound (VOC) in air. Also, it leads to spike in Particulate Matter levels, contributing between 12 and 60% of PM concentrations.
4. Clouds of ash and smoke containing these harmful pollutants from stubble burning travel more than 1000 kms aided by the Westerly winds coming from the Mediterranean region and create an obstinate and non-clearing clouds.
5. Smog formed of the smoke increase the levels of pollutants by manifolds in the air leading to poor visibility and causing accidents.

Causes behind stubble burning and its persistence:
1. Paucity of time forces farmers to burn residue to clear the farms early for preparing them for sowing of wheat in the Rabi season.
2. Farmers in this region have a traditional belief that burning crop residue will restore nutrients back to the soil.
3. Mechanisation and employment guarantee schemes like MGNREGA have led to shortage of farm labourers to carry on seasonal migration from UP and Bihar to Punjab and Haryana, as was prevalent earlier. It has become more economical for farmers to burn stubble on field than getting it transported for other uses.
4. Availability, affordability and awareness regarding crop residue management machines like 'Happy seeder' and 'Super SMS attachment' is inadequate.

How cooperative federalism can avoid Stubble Burning?
1. Co-operation between states especially neighbours states is must to tackle the stubble burning issue. E.g. Punjab, Haryana and Delhi government must co-operate and act together against air pollution issue.
2. Co-operative federalism is must to formulate a holistic and local integrated policy framed by state governments. E.g. Delhi and Punjab can work together to buy stubble from farmers.
3. Centre-state co-operation is must in order to make funds, regulations and implementation of policies at ground level.
4. Centre must work with states to frame a policy to tackle the issue of stubble burning and air pollution.
5. The available paddy straw can be effectively used in market for power generation. States can provide markets for buying of stubble from other states.

The 2014 national policy envisages adoption of technical measures, including diversified uses of crop residue, capacity building and training along with formulation of suitable legislation, to deal with the issue of disposing of stubble. Unless Financial assistance is to be provided by the Centre for boosting farm mechanisation, it is difficult to completely stop stubble burning. States needs to make alternative arrangements for consumption of paddy straw into the soil as per the directions of the NGT.

Q.32) Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss arguments in favour of newer states as boon for economic development. Mention various issues and concerns.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Reorganisation of states has been one of the most contentious issues since the Independence of India. Besides political bargains, creation of new states has attracted the attention of policy makers and intellectuals who hold divergent views regarding the formation of smaller states. The best way to analyse whether the new states have ushered in economic growth and development of the country would be through underscoring the performance of recently created states of Jharkhand, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh carved out of Bihar, UP and Madhya Pradesh respectively on the basis of economic development and good governance.

Arguments in favour of newer states as boon for economic development:

1. The Economic Survey 2016-17 stated that smaller states in India trade more than the rest. New states offered better and efficient administration which leads to creation of infrastructure strengthening the connectivity in the area, expand its access to market and boost trade for the overall economy of the country.
2. People of the region gain control over its resources and an organic model of growth can emerge to address their economic aspirations.
3. Political stability that arises from better representation of people creates conducive environment for investment in the region. Thereby encouraging regional economic development.
4. After the creation of new states- there is marked increase in economic activity immediately across the border in the new states as per their findings. School enrolment also increased suggesting greater investment in human capital.
5. Durable goods remained comparable across the two sides of the state border, suggesting that free movement of labour and capital can mitigate differences in economic opportunities across proximate geographies. The results provide new evidence that institutions matter for development, and local control of institutions can have large economic impacts.
6. The findings underlined that the new states are growing faster than the old states; by 2008 the difference between economic activity in old and new states is no longer statistically significant, and the gap continues to close until the end of the data in 2013. The findings suggest that new state borders have 25% more economic activity than the parent state.
7. Given the greater social heterogeneity of India, there should be higher number of states. When there are too many diverse groups in a large state, conflict emerge. And instead of public-good provisioning, redistribution of resources among regions becomes the central political issue. In other words when the diversity effects becomes greater than the scale effect, there is an economic case for a new state.
8. In the case of the three new states mentioned above culture or ethnic factors were added as instrumental factors for mobilisation but arguably, decades of underdevelopment was the driving force behind the movement.

Some issues and concerns:
1. While analysing the socio-economic development of the new states of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand, there is a contrary opinion as well. Uttarakhand continues to be at the end in the Human Development Index. The recent floods showed the inability of the state to deal with rehabilitation of the displaced residents.
2. Chhattisgarh has witnessed largest tribal displacement in the recent times. The inclusive economic development is far from the reach of the state giving the increased miserable conditions of the tribal and their forceful displacement.
3. Jharkhand has failed from the governance and administrative perspective and became state of coal scams and corrupt practices.
4. Telangana recently carved out from the state of Andhra Pradesh is heavily relying on the central grants to pay for its newly created administrative and institutional machineries.
5. To catch up with the growth trajectory of the other states, the above mentioned states started unmindful exploitation of resources such as mining of the minerals, converting agricultural land into real-estate which is not sustainable as far the economy of the country is concerned in the long run.
6. Small states do not generate enough revenue for the state, thus are heavily dependent on the central assistance. Creation of new states means establishing new administrative machineries and new institutions which leads to increased revenue expenditure in turn puts pressure on fiscal pressures for the government.

Evidence shows that both large and small states have fared well and that poor performance is not necessarily linked to size. In fact, today, technology can help make governing larger territories easier and bring even far- flung areas closer. Recently formed state Telangana has continuously been among the top ranks in the list of ease of doing business in the country, since its formation. Creation of new states offer possibilities of having better governance structure, greater participation for people, administrative convenience for the State and equitable distribution of resources. Regional development strengthens the equitable and symmetric growth of India.

Q.33) What are Farmer Producer Organisations? Discuss why streamlining the agri-credit system is a much-needed reform to facilitate higher crop loans to farmer-producer organisations?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. What are Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO)?
Body. Discuss why streamlining the agri-credit system is a much needed reform to facilitate higher crop loans to farmer-producer organisations. Mention importance of FPOs.
Conclusion. Way forward.

A Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) is a legal entity formed by producers that are all farmers. An FPO can be a producer company, a cooperative society or any other legal form which provides for sharing of profits/benefits among the members. Collectivisation of producers, especially small and marginal farmers, into producer organisations has emerged as one of the most effective pathways to address the many challenges of agriculture but most importantly, improved access to investments, technology and inputs and markets.

Streamlining the agri-credit system- a much needed reform to facilitate higher crop loans to farmer-producer organisations:

1. Mere formation of FPOs doesn't serve the purpose of helping farmers, as there are many dysfunctional ones due to lack of funding support.
2. As the number of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPO's) grows across the country, the issue of access to credit, linking FPOs to reliable and affordable sources of financing for working capital, infrastructure investment and other needs has assumed centre stage.
3. Formal financial institutions (FIs) are wary of lending to these bodies, largely due to the latter's inability to provide adequate collateral to cover the lender's risk. Some NBFCs and new generation FIs have experimented with innovative financial products targeted at FPOs, but these are isolated examples which have not been mainstreamed.
4. NABARD has created a dedicated corpus to provide loans to producer organizations but it seeks proposals from mature FPOs with a credit history of at least 3 years.
5. SFAC's own venture capital fund in-principle remains open to financing FPOs but has resulted in zero disbursals to producer organizations in the last five years.
6. New FPOs in particular face insurmountable hurdles in accessing start-up capital and suffer rapid member attrition within a year of registration, as no tangible benefits materialise to justify and sustain the effort of aggregation.
7. At the same time it is becoming increasingly apparent that many of the risks in agriculture can be significantly mitigated when producers (especially small and marginal producers) aggregate production and marketing efforts.

Importance of FPOs:

1. Well-organized FPOs engage in providing a range of assistance to farmers like imparting better farm practices, collectivisation of input purchases, transportation, linkage with markets, and better price realisation as they do away with the intermediaries.
2. A direct selling arrangement provided by FPOs can reduce the cost of marketing by linking farmers more closely to the supply chain and consumers.
3. A few FPOs like SFPCL, Savitribai Phule Goat Farming Producer Company and Vasundhara Agri-Horti Producer Company have made notable achievements in crop production and allied farm activities; improving quality of production through best farm practices; tapping the unexplored markets; cutting down the intermediaries in the agri value chain, and enhancing farmers income.
4. Some of the best practices followed by the FPOs include maintaining crop maturity indices, documenting plant protection chemicals used, geo-tagging the land under cultivation, and maintaining the traceability of the crop output from the farm until it reaches the final market for sale.

Way forward:

1. The financial institutions can collaborate and create consortium for funding risky businesses. This would distribute risk and create an environment for growth of FPOs
2. FIs must give collateral free loans focusing on their Business model and not on the traditional parameters for lending.
3. FPOs should look at raising loans from SHG federations where these exist. This would also increase ownership and accountability of FPO towards its members as membership would overlap.
4. Government should create an Incubation centre that funds to support the nascent stage of FPOs especially in business planning and forecasting
5. Government must give tax holidays for FPOs in initial years to build surplus & reserves.
6. Agriculture subsidies can be given as grant for equity and a sectorial approach is required for growth of FPOs.

7. FPOs can be extended loan at lower interest rates, much like industry, that has overtime received subsidised credit especially for development of backward areas.

The rapidly growing organised retail sector seeks direct buying and selling opportunities with primary producers. Contract farming models are emerging across a wide range of commodities, ranging from fresh produce, spices to staples. Dealing with FPOs reduces both costs and transaction time for these market players. Thus there is need of reforming and streamlining the agri-credit system for FPO financing beyond the traditional FIs.

Q.34) What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss India's plan of having its own space station and how it will benefit India's space program?
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 and benefit of the space program:
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 astrobiology, 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.
6. It would help to sustain Human Space Mission in the future for a longer period of time.
7. It will help in Deep space exploration like the study of other galaxies.
8. The indigenous Space station would enhance India's image in the international sphere. It would increase India's position as a space power.
9. India can earn revenue from the commercial engagements with other countries from its space prowess.

Space station would not only enhance India's capabilities but would motivate Indian youth to further pursue career in space. Building a space station is not easy and carry various challenges. Once built the it would pave a way for India to become a space super-power.

Q.35) "ISRO has been one of the best performing Public Sector Undertakings in India. However, an involvement with the private sector can aid high-technology manufacturing in the space sector." Comment.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Discuss ISRO's success as PSU. How private sector can aid high-technology manufacturing in the space sector? Efforts to attract private sector.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has come a long way since its formation in 1969. It is one of the very few Public sector undertakings that are best performing in India. Whether its launching of 104 satellites from a single rocket, reaching mars in maiden attempt or launching India's own navigational system, ISRO has successfully achieved various records and achievements time to time.

ISRO's success as Public sector Undertaking:
1. ISRO built India's first satellite, Aryabhata, which was successful launched in 1975.
2. ISRO sent an unmanned lunar orbiter, Chandrayaan-1, into orbit. The spacecraft was orbiting around the Moon at a height of 100 km from the lunar surface for chemical, mineralogical and photo-geologic mapping of the Moon.
3. ISRO's 100th space mission was successfully launched using PSLV-C21 rocket. It also placed two foreign satellites into the earth's orbit
4. India launched Mars Orbiter Mission that entered Mars' orbit making India the first nation to succeed on its maiden attempt to Mars. ISRO became the fourth space agency in the world, as well as the first space agency in Asia, to reach the Mars orbit.
5. In 2017, ISRO launched 104 satellites in a single rocket (PSLV-C37), a world record.
6. ISRO launched its heaviest rocket, Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-Mark III (GSLV-Mk III), and placed a communications satellite GSAT-19 into the orbit.
7. ISRO successfully launched GSAT-29 satellite from Sriharikota, the heaviest satellite weighing at 3,423 kg aims at providing better communication for remote areas of country.

A case for more involvement with the private sector to aid high-technology manufacturing in the space:

Although ISRO is best the performing PSU's, there are some failures like failure of second moon mission Chandrayaan-2 to do a soft landing on the moon's south polar region and of IRNSS-1H. These failures are normal and negligible as space is not easy to conquer, but private sector involvement could not only reduce such failures but would also help in high-technology manufacturing in the space sector as follow:

1. **Greater pool of resources:** Public resources- land, labour, capital are limited. Private sector participation will open new pool of resources and talent. It will bring more funding, and experience into space exploration activities.
2. **Human Capital:** Restricting space activities to ISRO, limits proper utilisation of talent all over the country. With demographic dividend, private sector participation can exploit the talent across the nation contributing a lot to space explorations in India.
3. **More time for ISRO:** Today every space mission is done by ISRO, whether its communication satellite or any weather monitoring satellite. With increased role of private player, ISRO can concentrate more on its pathbreaking innovations like Reusable PSLVs, Cryogenic rockets, mars inhabitation.
4. **Technological advancement:** Commercialisation will also develop better technologies which is important. It will allow integration of many other technologies like artificial intelligence into space exploration activities. With experience from space activities, private sector can increase role of technology in other areas.
5. **Risk Sharing:** Every launch consists Risk. Privatising helps in sharing the risk of cost factor. Failure costs will be distributed. Also with increased private participation, failures will reduce due to increased available human capital and mind. Joint venture brings the knowledge from various stakeholders minimises failures and increases productivity.
6. **Commercial demand:** There is need to enhance internet connectivity for the masses, which is another demand pull factor for increased commercial interest in space. Asteroid mining is also another potential area that looks promising, with scope for monetisation and disrupting commodity markets.
7. **Employment:** This would lead to creation of new jobs in the high-skilled-labour market in the private space industry and reversal of brain-drain from the country.

Various Efforts to attract private investment in space sector:
1. Antrix Corporation Limited (ACL), was incorporated as a private limited company owned by the Government of India in September 1992 as a Marketing arm of ISRO for promotion and commercial exploitation of space products, technical consultancy services and transfer of technologies developed by ISRO.
2. In 2019, Cabinet cleared the establishment of a private institution, the Newspace India Limited (NSIL), under the Department of Space. The move is in line with New Delhi's ongoing efforts to build out the commercial aspect of its space program.
3. The ISRO had decided to transfer the PSLV rocket to the private sector more than a decade ago, though this had not yet been accomplished.
4. India have private stakes in space exploration. As per the Make in India initiative, FDI of up to 74% is allowed in the 'establishment and operation of satellites, subject to the sectoral guidelines of the Department of Space/ISRO, under the government route.

Developing a space industry ecosystem involving private sector will support the rise of Space 2.0 in the country has the potential to make space the next big technological leap in the country after information technology and bio-technology. There is immense scope to

create further synergy in the Indian space sector by rejuvenating government policies, technological capability building, workforce skill development and regulatory framework.

Q.36) Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyse the impact of sand mining along the Indian coasts, citing specific examples.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction. **Body.** Discuss Coastal Sand Mining and impact on environment. Mention Coastal sand mining example around Indian Coasts. **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Sand Mining is an activity referring to the process of the actual removal of sand from the foreshore including rivers, streams and lakes. Sand is mined from beaches and dredged from ocean beds and river beds. Sand consumption globally has been increasing and according to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), India is in the list of critical hotspots for coastal sand mining.

Coastal Sand Mining and impact on environment:
1. Coastal sand mining affects the coastal terrain and leads to coastal erosion.
2. Depletion of sand from coastal areas results in deepening of rivers and estuaries, and the enlargement of river mouths and coastal inlets.
3. Coastal sand Mining may also lead to saline-water intrusion from the nearby sea and the effect of mining is compounded by the effect of sea-level rise.
4. Coastal Mining disturbs the wildlife living in the beach ecosystem.
5. Coastal Sand mining may create turbidity in the water. The turbidity can create a barrier that prevents sunlight from entering the water, which is harmful to corals that need sunlight. Fish may also die-off due to a lack of food and oxygen in the turbid waters. Thus, the entire aquatic system may fail due to sand mining.
6. Beaches, dunes, and sandbanks act as barriers to flooding. The sand mining removes such barriers. As a result, areas near the sea or river become more prone to flooding.
7. Resulting in coastal erosion, it frequently causes environmental damage to other coastal ecosystems associated with the beach such as wetlands.
8. Another major impact of beach sand mining is the loss of protection from storm surges associated with tropical cyclones and tsunamis.
9. Coastal sand mining also has many negative impacts on the society. It affects the livelihood of the people, health, science beauty, climate and damage infrastructure.

Coastal sand mining and Indian Coasts:
1. In Periyasamypuram in Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu, fish catch has come down, the palm trees have dried up, ground water has turned brackish and the sea has entered the village due to coastal sand mining.
2. Seawater intrusion, inundation of coastal land and salinisation of groundwater have been observed along the coast of Kollam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Ernakulam due to sand mining.
3. Turtles such as the Olive Ridley sea turtle arrive at beaches to dig nests in the sand and lay their eggs. After laying their eggs, the turtles cover them with sand to protect the nests from predators. When the hatchlings emerge, they move across the beach and

enter the sea. However, when sand mining occurs in turtle nesting habitats, it leads to the loss of nesting sites.
4. In Karnataka, rampant sand mining is leading to coastal erosion. The government is now forced to spend crores of rupees to form a barrier against coastal erosion.
5. Sand mining whether legal or illegal is causing serious repercussions on the coastal ecosystem. In a case, the National Green Tribunal imposed a fine of Rs 100 crore on the government of Andhra Pradesh for inaction to prevent illegal sand mining in the state.

Way forward:
1. Better spatial planning and reducing unnecessary construction is need of the hour.
2. Using green infrastructure, adopting recycled and alternative substitute materials such as oil palm shell, bottom ash, strictly adhering to Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), etc. can help in reducing coastal sand mining.
3. Also strengthening standards and best practices to curb irresponsible extraction.
4. Investing in sand production and consumption measurement should be adopted at policy level.

It is necessary that the state governments must ensure mining volumes does not exceed the predetermined sustainable mining quantity proposed. Strict measures must be put in place to ensure that the mining volumes don't exceed that.

Q.37) "India could use green technologies to galvanise its faltering economy, create new jobs and become a climate leader." Comment.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss how Green technologies can provide an economic push?
Conclusion. Way forward.

Green technologies encompass various aspects of technology which help reduce the human impact on the environment and create ways of sustainable development. Social equitability, economic feasibility and sustainability are the key parameters for green technologies. India's recent push for renewable energies and green technologies by pushing for solar, wind and nuclear energy can go a long way and can help in Indian growth story.

How Green technologies can provide an economic push?
Since Green technology requires more involvement it also empowers people. It helps people as it can be diffused much more easily in remote areas due to its discretised nature.
1. **Reduce input cost:** One of the basic aims of any corporation is to reduce the cost incurred at the input side. Green technologies like green buildings, energy efficiency measures, green manufacturing etc have qualified as energy and resource savers. This not only helps the corporations to slash their input costs but also serves as an avenue for them to fulfil their social responsibilities.
2. **Manufacturing:** Manufacturing firms can achieve significant benefits by green manufacturing. In manufacturing, green technologies can help in reducing waste and pollution by changing patterns of production and consumption. This not only reduces the environmental footprint of a product but it also makes production an environmentally sustainable and economically cheaper activity as inputs from source are reduced by design.

3. **Energy:** Power generation is another sector where green technology might create wonders. Green energy i.e. solar PV, biogas production, wind power etc. can provide more employment opportunities to people and can be applied to provide energy solutions to communities in remote areas successfully.

4. **Trickle effect:** The fact is that all the green technologies take into account the needs of the people and environment, thus it is no wonder that an achievement in one area trickles down to other areas also. E.g. In India people have used alternative green power generation technologies and have not only fulfilled their own energy needs but have also sold their energy to the grid thereby making significant income.

5. **Rural benefits:** Green technologies can have great impact on communities of the areas. Provision of bio-gas plants to rural households can empower communities and to increase their productivity. It was seen during distribution of solar lanterns through certain programs e.g. TERI's Lighting a Billion Lives Campaign. It is clear that people have benefited from it by not only using the outputs personally but also by trading it.

6. **Creation of avenues:** Green technologies have the potential to give birth to sectors which were previously not thought of, particularly at the time of economic slowdown. For example, earlier waste management was only limited to waste dumping. Today waste management is a $25 billion industry in south Asia alone. Thus, resulting in cleaning up of environment, employment generation, reduction in toxic and greenhouse gas emission and thus has multiple benefits.

7. **Green Farming:** Green approaches to farming have been proven to be not only healthier for humans but also productive for the soil. It leads to higher productivity over sustained periods of time contrary to the inorganic farming practices which lead to decrease in yield after a certain period of time.

Thus, we can see that there are many benefits of using green technologies. Employment generation, human empowerment, rural development, environmental improvement, energy security, health improvement, decrease in resource depletion are only a few benefits of green technologies, many more will manifest themselves as time passes. Green technologies have been applied in many sectors however they have not been still put into full-fledged use e.g. in the energy sector they are still "alternate sources of energy". More push is needed to make it priority of the present.

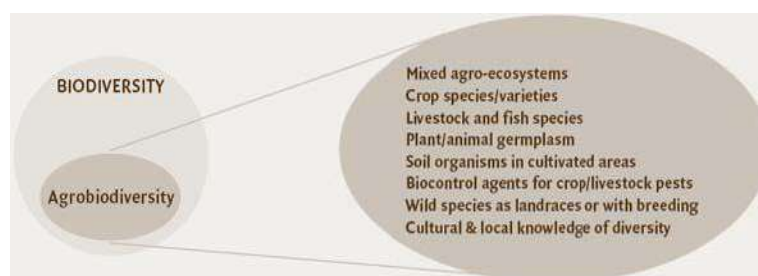**Q.38) What do you understand by Agro-biodiversity? How Agro-biodiversity can help in reducing country's hunger problem?**

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. What is agrobiodiversity?
Body. Discuss the issue of hunger in India. How biodiversity can help reducing hunger? How to increase India's agrobiodiversity?
Conclusion. Way forward.

Agrobiodiversity can be defined as the variety and variability of plant, animals and micro-organism that are used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture. It includes all species that are closely inter-woven in an agricultural ecosystem. Agrobiodiversity, relating to diversity of crops and varieties is crucial in food security, nutrition, health and essential in agricultural landscapes. India is ranked 102 in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) out of 117 countries which reflects India's hunger problem which can be tackled through agrobiodiversity.

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. Nearly 47 million or four out of 10 children in India do not meet their potential because of chronic undernutrition or stunting. This leads to diminished learning capacity, increased chronic diseases.
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.

Agrobiodiversity can help in resolving hunger issue:
1. Genetic diversity of crops, livestock and their wild relatives, are fundamental to improve crop varieties and livestock breeds. We need crop varieties and animal breeds with the rich genetic pool that would help to provide nutrition.
2. Agrobiodiversity helps nutrition-sensitive farming and bio-fortified foods. For instance, moringa (drumstick) has micro nutrients and sweet potato is rich in Vitamin A. There are varieties of pearl millet and sorghum rich in iron and zinc.
3. Hunger is affecting million of peoples and a staggering 2 million people are not consuming adequate amounts of micronutrients like iron and vitamin A. Agrobiodiversity can enrich food basket and provide more nutrition to all.
4. An increased variety of crop species can also transform the farm into a healthier ecosystem. For example, planting a mixture of species can increase soil nitrogen, reducing the need for inorganic fertilisers. Not having to use strong chemicals on farms will have a positive impact on the vegetation and will prevent toxicity in vegetation.
5. Agrobiodiversity would help in providing tastier and healthier alternatives that can help resolving hunger issue in India.
6. Agrobiodiversity is important mainly to make food more cheaper, more affordable and more accessible by providing a lot of nutritional alternatives.

Recommendations to increase India's agrobiodiversity:
1. A comprehensive policy on 'ecological agriculture' to enhance native pest and pollinator population providing ecosystem services for the agricultural landscape must be formulated.
2. Bio-villages for ecologically sensitive farming must be promoted.
3. Focus must be on conserving crop wild relatives of cereals, millets, oilseeds, fibres, forages, fruits and nuts, vegetables, spices etc. for crop genetic diversity healthier food.
4. It is must to provide incentives for farmers cultivating native landrace varieties and those conserving indigenous breeds of livestock and poultry varieties.

5. The community seed banks in each agro-climatic zone should be encouraged so that regional biotic properties are saved and used by new generation farmers.

6. An agrobiodiversity index should be prepared, documenting traditional practices through People's Biodiversity Registers, identifying Biodiversity Heritage Sites under provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

7. Developing a national level invasive alien species policy is required to identify pathways, mapping, monitoring, managing, controlling and eradicating the invasive species and prioritising problematic species based on risk assessment studies.

The UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 advocates for Zero Hunger and the Aichi Biodiversity Target focuses on countries conserving genetic diversity of plants, farm livestock and wild relatives. Agrobiodiversity is a viable and powerful tool that can help us produce food that is both nutritious and sustainable.

General Studies 4

Q.1) "Economics concerned solely with wealth and profits has led to un-ethical practices and climate change." In light of this statement discuss the need of adopting ethical considerations into business behaviour.

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** Contextual Introduction.
> **Body.** Impact of unethical business. Importance of ethics in business.
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Importance of ethics in the business world is superlative and global. New trends and Issues arise on a daily basis which may create an important burden to organisations and end consumers. Nowadays, the need for proper ethical behaviour within organisations has become crucial. The public scandals of corporate and misleading practices, have affected the public perception of many organizations. The recent expansion of global business and fall of trade barriers worldwide have further underlined the interest in the topics of ethical behaviour and social responsibility in business and economics. Unethical business practices are detrimental to both human rights and environmental conservation.

Impact of sole focus on wealth and profits in business:
1. **Unethical practices leading to human rights issues:** Mostly corporate undertaking work under the rules of corporate governance to enhance its profits totally sidelines the business ethics which are must for the society in which an organisation prevails. This lead to unethical practices like forced land acquisition, corruption in administration leading to poor human rights.
2. **Climate Change:** Clear violation of environmental rules, norms and laws has led to climate change issue. E.g. The ignorance of Volkswagen regarding the environmental factors while launching the engines emitting enhanced level of NOx just for their profit goals sets an example of poor business ethics.
3. **Decrease in public trust and confidence:** Due to unethical business practices, public confidence in a corporation's ability to self-govern is low. A number of scandals had shaken the landscape and rattled investor confidence. Recent Ponzi schemes and company scandals in the business industry has developed a reputation for its lack of ethics.
4. **Inequalities:** Focus on profit of oneself not only snatch others from incomes but also widens gap between rich and poor. Often labour laws are ignored, employees are under-paid, chairmen are paid extravagantly, leading to overall inequality as was shown in Oxfam report, indicating 50% income is in hands of rich 2-3% people.

Importance of Business Ethics:
1. **Corresponds to Basic Human Needs:** The basic need of every human being is that they want to be a part of the organisation which they can respect and be proud of, because they perceive it to be ethical. The basic needs of the employees as well as the managers compel the organizations to be ethically oriented.
2. **Credibility in the Public:** Ethical values of an organisation create credibility in the public eye. People will like to buy the product of a company if they believe that the company is honest and is offering value for money.
3. **Credibility with the Employees:** When employees are convinced of the ethical values of the organisation they are working for, they hold the organisation in high esteem. It

creates common goals, values and language. Perceived social uprightness and moral values can win the employees more than any other incentive plans.

4. **Better Decision Making:** Respect for ethics will force a management to take various economic, social and ethical aspects into consideration while taking the decisions. Decision making will be better if the decisions are in the interest of the public, employees and company's own long term good.

5. **Profitability:** Being ethical does not mean not making any profits. Every organisation has a responsibility towards itself also i.e., to earn profits. Ethical companies are bound to be successful and more profitable in the long run though in the short run they can lose money.

6. **Protection of Society:** Ethics can protect the society in a better way than even the legal system of the country. Where law fails, ethics always succeed. The government cannot regulate all the activities that are harmful to the society.

Business ethics should take into consideration the following factors:
1. A business should aim to have fair dealing with everyone dealing with it.
2. Ethics should be fixed for everyone working in the organisation at any level and their implementation should be linked with reward- punishment system.
3. Any violation of ethics should be detected at the earliest and remedial measures taken immediately.
4. Business ethics should be based on broad guidelines of what should be done and what should be avoided.
5. The ethics should be based on the perception of what is right.

Thus each and every corporate organisation should work not just for the profit sake but for the sake of society too through various kind of initiatives under corporate social responsibility. Primary objective of corporations is to expand the profits of their shareholders But they should maintain minimum values and norms of the society in which they operate. Sometimes desire for more profit, compel them to take decision which may prove harmful to society in which they are operating.

Q.2) With regard to the morality of actions, one view is that means is of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. What is more appropriate- End or Means?
Conclusion. Way forward.

The means-ends debate is a paramount ethical dilemma of modern world. Ends justify the means (Machiavelli) refers to a situation in which the final aim is considered so important that any way of achieving it is acceptable. Whereas, people like Gandhi firmly rejected the rigid dichotomy between ends and means to the extent that they believed that means and not the ends provide the standard of reference.

What is more appropriate- End or Means?

1. The answer to the question depends on what the ends or goals are and what means are being used to achieve them. If the goals are good and noble, and the means we use to achieve them are also good and noble, then yes, the ends do justify the means.

2. The 'ends justifying the means' usually involves doing something wrong to achieve a positive end and justifying the wrong doing by pointing to a good outcome. There are certain things to consider in such a situation: the morality of the action, the morality of the outcome, and the morality of the person performing the action.

3. The reason the means are important, maybe more important than the ends, is how we get to our goal is just as important as getting there. In other words, destiny tells us what we are to the world, but journey tells who we are; it's the journey that unlocks our potential and establishes who we are as a person and what motivates us towards action.

4. Thus, it can be said that both the views are appropriate depending on the situation and therefore there is no one size fits all approach. For example, when police carries out fake encounters of criminals; the means is not ethical. Although they were criminals and a threat to society, the police does not have right to kill them. So, here ends achieved is unethical because means is not justifiable.

5. But during certain situations means may not be ethical, but ends matter more, like physical torture of a terrorist to know where he has planted bomb in the city. Here, although means (use of torture) is not ethical, but it is essential to know the whereabouts of bomb to prevent death of innocent people. Thus, the situation influences ends as well as means.

6. A civil servant has to maintain the delicate balance between what they're trying to accomplish and the means that they use to get there, such that in certain circumstances a particular means is ethical but the same means in other circumstances would be unethical. He cannot compromise the one for the other because his actions are watched by the society-he being a role model for them; he has to be upright in both in every possible circumstance, which can be analysed as follows:

   - If a civil servant goes out of the rules and regulations (legality) and helps a needy out of compassion, it may bring a huge burden on the exchequer and also encourage others to approach him, but this was not as per the law (right things in a wrong way).

   - If a civil servant uses his power and authority to take revenge from someone he had biases against, like through repeated raids on his premises or holding him accountable for any wrong in his area etc (wrong things in a right way).

Saul Alinsky said "One's concern with the ethics of means and ends varies inversely with one's personal interest in the issue". But for a civil servant it is not his personal interests which matters, but the public interest and the authority he is reposed with because he is a public servant and implements policies for the larger welfare of the society, and in doing so he cannot compromise on either- the means or the ends.

Q.3) Effective utilisation of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilisation and mis-utilisation of public funds and their implications.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Explain in detail about misutilisation, underutilisation and misappropriation
Conclusion. Way forward.

There's a deep rot in our system that's something that pretty much every single Indian is aware. Public funds allocated for everything ranging from food grain to cancer research inexplicably ends up being under-utilised or misappropriated. This can be observed in many policies and schemes. All this lead to a stage of public funds and failure of social cause for which public fund was issued. Misutilisation, underutilisation and misappropriation are major problems that lead to public fund wastage.

Misutilisation:

1. Misuse of public funds includes expenditures that are made without proper authorization or that are unlawful or contrary to applicable legislation, regulations, policies and procedures.
2. Purchases that are wastefully unnecessary and that are not in keeping with the business or operational needs of the organization may also constitute a misuse of public funds.
3. Misuse of public assets includes making inappropriate or unauthorised use of government property, and also includes a failure to safeguard such assets.

Under-utilisation:

1. Under-Utilisation of Plan expenditures by the States can be attributed to the institutional and procedural blockages in the process of implementation of Plan schemes and insufficiencies in the planning process being followed at the district level.
2. The deficiencies in decentralized planning being carried out in the schemes, resulting due to insufficient staff for undertaking planning activities, inadequate attention to their capacity building and minimal role for community participation in the planning process.
3. Blockages in budgetary processes in the schemes, such as delay in the flow of funds, in releasing sanction orders for spending, decision-making in the States being centralized, insufficient delegation of financial powers to the district/sub-district level authorities and uniform norms of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for all States.
4. Further, lack of need based budgeting in the schemes, which is often carried out without proper analysis of unit costs on the ground, implied allocations for some of the schemes being decided in a top-down and unrealistic manner.

Misappropriation:

1. Misappropriation of public funds includes MPs investing MPLAD funds in private trusts and societies created by them.
2. Recommending projects that are prohibited, insisting on choosing the implementing agencies and handing over the cheques to them, wanting to control payments to contractors and constantly resisting transparency and accountability, all add up to misappropriation.

In 2012, the CAG revealed that the then governing body had allocated 216 coal blocks to public and private enterprises illegally between 1993 to 2006. The amount of public money misused led to massive public and media outrage. Similarly in various advertisements by government, schemes and policies public funds are wasted and utilised in an improper way.

Q.4) One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real-life example.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. How integrity is an uncompromising virtue? Real life examples to show the same.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Integrity means adopting similar standards or moral principles in similar situations across different time and different situations. In other words it means to be honest and consistent in thoughts, speech and action. A man of integrity is never influenced by temptations and pressures from outside and would only respond to his conscience.

Integrity- a compete refusal to be compromised:
1. Integrity is the practice of synchronisation of thought, words and actions. It can be correlated to honesty but unlike honesty it's more a professional value. It's related to institution. It advocates sacrifice of personal gains in favour of organisational objectives.
2. Integrity help individual to keep in mind the aim/ purpose of one's action or inaction and acting consistently with that choice—even when it is inconvenient or unprofitable to do so; choosing the right course of conduct in conformity with moral principles; openly declaring one's intentions or where one stands; and results of one's actions.
3. Integrity means adherence to principles. Integrity requires a person to follow his conscience in all matters all the time. If integrity get compromised our conscience get filled with guilt and disturb our internal peace.
4. Sometimes, we may have some vested or selfish interests. Taking wrong path may seems easier and convenient. But no matter how difficult it is, Integrity requires us to never compromise.
5. It is a three-step process:
   - Choosing the right course of conduct.
   - Acting consistently with the choice even when it is inconvenient or unprofitable to do so.
   - Openly declaring where one stands. Accordingly, integrity is equated with moral reflection, steadfastness to commitments, trustworthiness.

Real life example of not being compromised:
1. Integrity is a term used to describe a person's level of honesty, moral commitments, and willingness to do what's right. For example, we expect our doctors to be honest with us about diagnoses. We expect this because, in most societies, doctors are perceived to be people of great integrity with strong moral compasses.
2. Mahatma Gandhi worshipped truth and non-violence throughout his life. To maintain integrity with his principle he cancelled the Non-Cooperation movement. The refusal to continue movement was good in his perception rather than compromising with integrity even if many were against his decision to drawback the movement. He maintained the truth and integrity with his principles even in crucial times.
3. Integrity helps a person to be loyal with his/her organisation, to have love, empathy, compassion for the vulnerable, not to abide to any illegal offer etc. One of the best real life example is Mr. Ashok Khemka (a 1991 batch IAS officer of the Haryana Cadre) who has been transferred 51st times in his 24 years of Civil Service career. He is being awarded the S R Jindal Prize in 2011 for 'crusade against corruption' for his effort in exposing corruption in high places.

Integrity requires a self-discipline and will power capable of resisting the temptation. Its priceless reward is peace of mind and true dignity. A person with strong integrity is less likely to be influenced by those of a lesser moral value.

Q.5) On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification.

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Discuss the criteria for disqualification under RPA, 1951. Also mention the remedies available against these disqualifications.
Conclusion. Way forward.

The Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for the conduct of elections to the Houses of Parliament and to the Houses of the State Legislature, the provisions regarding qualification and disqualification for the membership, and remedies of disputes in connection with such elections.

Criteria for disqualifications under RPA, 1951:
1. Is found guilty of certain election offences or corrupt practices in the elections.
2. Is convicted for any offence resulting in imprisonment for two or more years (except for the detention under a preventive detention law).
3. Has failed to lodge an account of his/her election expenses within the time.
4. Has any interest in government contracts, works or services.
5. Is a director or managing agent or holds an office of profit in a corporation in which the government has at least 25% share.
6. Has been dismissed from government service for corruption or disloyalty to the State.
7. Has been convicted for promoting enmity between different groups or for the offence of bribery.
8. Has been punished for preaching and practising social crimes such as untouchability, dowry and sati.

Remedies against disqualification under RPA, 1951:
1. An election can be called in question only by an election petition. Election petitions are to be heard in the High Court with its appeal lying at the Supreme Court. They act as a mechanism of grievance redressal for the affected parties.
2. Furthermore, on the question of whether a legislator is subject to any of the disqualifications the final authority to decide rests with the President (in case of members of Parliament) and the Governor (in case of members of State legislature).
3. However, the President or Governor shall act according to the advice of the Election Commission of India.
4. In case of any enquiry, the Election Commission is conferred the powers of a civil court for summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person or any evidence.
5. Besides, after a legislator is disqualified, the Election Commission may, on certain grounds, remove any disqualification or reduce the period of any disqualification.

Elections are the life blood of any democracy. The robustness of electoral processes determines the fate of the nation. The timely reforms to the electoral process by ECI, according to the changing needs of the society and the strong review of the judiciary have helped in conduction of free and fair elections till date.

Q.6) What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality?

Ans.

> **Demand of the question**
> **Introduction.** What is constitutional morality?
> **Body.** Discuss how does one uphold constitutional morality?
> **Conclusion.** Way forward.

Constitutional morality means adherence to the core principles of the constitutional democracy. Constitutional morality mean an effective coordination between conflicting interests of different people and the administrative cooperation to resolve the issues without any confrontation amongst the various groups. It is a sentiment to be cultivated in the minds of a responsible citizen but to be promoted by an independent judiciary embodied with values and ethics.

How does one uphold constitutional morality?

1. By criticising and raising voice against the non-constitutional practices.It is necessary to speak up against any actions, which you feel as illegal or unethical under the constitution. By going against the convention and taking a moral high ground, you act as a preserver of constitutional values.
2. Only our beliefs and actions for upholding constitutional values is not enough. It is our moral obligation to educate public regarding the importance to uphold these ideals. This will be fruitful for our democracy on the long run. Ex: Conducting programmes in schools where children are trained to inculcate constitutional values and practice them in their day to day life.
3. By letting constitutional morality guide the Court's decision instead of popular morality, while interpreting the constitution, constitutional morality is being upheld.
4. By locating the content and contours of constitutional morality so that it is not being ignorantly and dangerously used in courts.
5. By making a commitment to the values like constitutional supremacy, rule of law, liberty, equality, parliamentary form of government, self restraint and intolerance for corruption etc.
6. By using it as an aid in making choices because it can give another set of clues while searching for constitutional meaning in cases wherein the words of the constitutional clause can be read in different ways.
7. By having paramount reverence for the forms of the constitution, enforcing obedience to authority and acting under and within these forms.
8. Even the constitution itself mentions this concept only four times (twice in Article 19 and twice in Right to religious Freedom under Article 25 and 26), and it has been understudied and ignored for a long while by people in general as well. It needs to be changed in order to understand the constitution with a new perspective exploring further possibilities of this concept.
9. Constitutional morality involve adherence to constitutional principles like:
    - Commitment to liberty.

- Constitutional supremacy.
- Parliamentary form of government and self-restraint.
- Rule of law.
- Equality
- Intolerance for corruption, to name a few.

Constitutional morality is important for constitutional laws to be effective. Without constitutional morality, the operation of a constitution tends to become arbitrary, erratic, and capricious. It has been observed that young officers are resigning from service and aim to uphold 'constitutional morality', which they say is being violated. But the fact is that 'constitutional molarity' can be better preserved by being part of the system and initiating reforms rather than working out of the system. Thus, we can conclude that upholding' constitutional morality' is indeed very important part of our official as well as moral duty and it needs combined efforts of all the sections of the society to make it possible.

Q.7) Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bond by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies?

Ans.

Demand of the question
Introduction. Contextual Introduction.
Body. Mention risks of dam project. Discuss a rational policy for the same.
Conclusion. Way forward.

Constructing a dam in a mountain valley entails many challenges. A comprehensive rehabilitation policy is must to ensure that unforeseen contingencies which can hinder development projects are avoided. The issue involves Environmental security and inclusive, balanced economic development at its core.

Inherent risks in a dam project:
1. Since dams are land intensive it often involves deforestation, displacement of tribal people and submergence of villages among other challenges.
2. Tribals had been living in the area for generations and it would be difficult for them to find an alternative place and means of livelihood.
3. Unforeseen challenges include landslide, earthquake, flash floods, unscientific land-use etc.

Rational policy: A Rational Policy should address the above-mentioned issue through application of environmental ethics, use of Joint Forest Management committees, mobilisation of CSR funds, training/ awareness among stakeholders. It should include the following:

1. **Transparent Rehabilitation, Resettlement:** Government must implement resettlement packages making the ethnic communities/tribals materially better off to counter the narrative that development and modernisation is disastrous for tribals, who cannot cope with the change. Land distribution, compensation for loss of houses, forest produce and grazing land and other such resettlement measures should be implemented thoroughly without prejudice.

2. **Maintain transparency, ensure economic welfare:** The oustees must be provided complete information regarding the dam, submergence and subsequent displacement due to them. Project authorities and state government must rehabilitate the oustees with sustainable non-land-based livelihoods where needed. The various problems associated with displacement are compounded several times over for oustees who are also otherwise especially vulnerable, variously by class, caste, gender or age. Such vulnerabilities should factor in rehabilitation packages.

3. **Public Hearing:** From the inception of planning of dam, through various stages of displacement and resettlement, it is to be expected that those likely to be negatively affected by the projects would be consulted and kept informed in such a way (public hearing, social audit) as to enable them to best rebuild their lives. Bureaucratic lassitude and insensitivity should not be tolerated.

4. **Ensure Tribal welfare:** The Forest department must proactively involve the people in the forest villages about possible submergence and displacement. Tribal people share the problems of other rural people but they are even more dependent on forests and common property resources, their documented legal rights on cultivable lands are even more tenuous, their skills for diversified livelihood not based on forests or land are even more rudimentary, and their ability to negotiate with state officials and courts even more weaker.

5. **Environmental Impact Assessment:** This should not be a one-off document but have to be carried out periodically along with social impact assessment. Members should be drawn preferably from environmentalist groups, academia and Civil Society. State has to ensure that peripheral activities like tourism, agriculture practices like Jhum cultivation, hunting, deforestation, land-use pattern has be undertaken with strict vigilance and accountability.

6. **Disaster preparedness:** A Disaster Prediction Mechanism/vulnerability assessment should be developed which can provide early warning based on scientific inputs. Use of radio communication to broadcast such critical information should be undertaken.

Unforeseen circumstances pose most environmentally damaging situation in India. Given that environmental issues are complex, inter-related phenomena addressing it is always a great challenge. Inputs from recent examples like Kerala, Karnataka floods should be a lesson to us.