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Mains Marathon

Compilation

17th to 22nd October, 2022

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of October, (Third Week) 2022

1. Highlight the cyber risks arising from quantum computing for India. Also, suggest some measures for protection against threats from quantum technologies.
2. Setting up Digital Banking Units (DBU) is a big step in the direction of Ease of Living for the common citizens and strengthening digital infrastructure. Examine.

3. Acquiring the optimum degree of nuclear deterrence is imperative for India, given its distinctive spectrum of security and strategic challenges. Examine and highlight the significance of the Arihant SLBM, in this regard.
4. Analyze the effectiveness of Interpol and cross-national law enforcement agencies to meet evolving challenges.

5. Do you agree that the Draft Telecom Bill enhances unease of doing business? Give reasons for your arguments.
6. How Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme has been beneficial for India in meeting the diverse needs of its population and ensuring balanced, equitable, and inclusive growth?

7. Highlight the achievements of Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis, that saved millions of lives around the world.
8. LIFE, or Lifestyle for Environment brings a fresh and much-needed perspective to tackle climate change. Discuss.

9. Discuss the impact of media on Indian society? How media could play a constructive role in bringing communal harmony?
10. Discuss the nature, methods of operation and limitations of pressure groups in India.

11. Highlight the steps taken by the government against the online circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM). What more needs to be done in this regard?
12. Discuss the factors affecting Coffee cultivation in India. Suggest some policy measures to improve Coffee cultivation.

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Q.1) Highlight the cyber risks arising from quantum computing for India. Also, suggest some measures for protection against threats from quantum technologies.
Indian Express

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Write some cyber risks arising from quantum computing for India. Also write some measures for protection against threats from quantum technologies.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

Quantum computing is an area of study focused on the development of computer based technologies centred around the principles of quantum theory. With traditional encryption models at risk and increasing military applications of quantum technology, the deployment of "quantum-resistant" systems has become the need of the hour.

Cyber risks arising from quantum computing:

- **Data breaches** could threaten the security of business transactions, secure communications, digital signatures and customer information.
- Quantum Computing companies, institutions and research groups may become targets by **cybercriminals and hacktivists**.
- It may be used to launch **masquerade cyber-attacks**. These quantum computing threats have different behaviours and signatures that most of today's software cannot identify.
- The most significant impending security risks are related to **cryptographic encryption**. Public key encryption could be decimated by it. for example, recorded and stored communications could be hacked into through quantum.
- According to theoretical research, with quantum computing, every computer on this planet will become vulnerable. Even nuclear codes can be hacked with quantum computing.

Measures for protection:

- **Strengthen privacy and security: Privacy-enhancing computing (PEC)** techniques can be utilised to build strong encryption methods. It empowers third parties to process encrypted data and deliver results without having knowledge of the source.
- **Quantum resistant mechanism:** India must consider procuring the United States National Security Agency's (NSA) Suite B Cryptography Quantum-Resistant Suite as its official encryption mechanism. This can then facilitate India's official transition to quantum-resistant algorithms.
- **Enhancing cryptographic standards:** The Indian Defence establishment can consider emulating the cryptographic standards set by the US's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) which has developed a series of encryption tools to handle quantum computer attacks.
- **Establishing nationwide communication network:** integrated with quantum cryptographic systems can prevent any cross-border quantum cyber offensive.
- **Diplomatic partnerships:** with other techno-democracies countries with top technology sectors, advanced economies can help India pool resources and mitigate emerging quantum cyber threats.
- **Funding:** The government can fund and **encourage existing open-source projects** related to post-quantum cryptography.

The world is moving towards an era in which the applications of quantum physics in strategic domains will soon become a reality and increasing cyber security risks also. The country should start implementing and developing capabilities in quantum-resistant communications, specifically for critical strategic sectors.

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Q.2) Setting up Digital Banking Units (DBU) is a big step in the direction of Ease of Living for the common citizens and strengthening digital infrastructure. Examine.
Indian Express

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain how setting up Digital Banking Units (DBU) is a big step in the direction of Ease of Living for the common citizens and strengthening digital infrastructure. Also write its issues.
> **Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

DBU is a specialized business unit of a bank that houses certain minimum digital banking products and services. Each DBU must offer certain minimum digital banking products and services. The services include savings bank accounts under various schemes, current accounts, fixed deposits and Internet banking, debit and credit cards, UPI etc. Other services include making applications for identified retail, MSME or schematic loans.

Ease of Living:

- They will help banks themselves which are now looking to **reduce physical footprint** with fewer brick and mortar branches, with a 'light' banking approach.
- They will **open up the rural market** for service providers besides providing a **boost to credit flow**.
- DBUs will also provide services related to certain identified **government sponsored schemes**.
- It is also cheaper to establish than a new branch, and can provide **better customer experience aided by technology**.
- These units can help in providing **personalised finance management** tools to new consumers, require lesser staff, with cheaper maintenance due to technological tools and hence can be high-yield units for the parent bank.
- It will encourage more **financial literacy** and a favourable outlook towards digital banking.
- DBUs will provide end-to-end digital processing of small ticket **retail and MSME loans**, starting from online applications to disbursals.

Challenges:

- There is **low public awareness** regarding these banks.
- **Internet penetration** in lower-tier cities and rural areas is low.
- Digital banking units are prone to **vulnerabilities and hacks** such as phishing, pharming, identity theft, and keylogging.
- Banking institutions will need **huge investment** in their security systems.

While the immediate benefit of DBU's might be limited to underbanked and unbanked in rural areas, it will substantially lead to technological innovation opportunities in banking sector and further boost the digitalization of Indian Banking System.

Q.3) Acquiring the optimum degree of nuclear deterrence is imperative for India, given its distinctive spectrum of security and strategic challenges. Examine and highlight the significance of the Arihant SLBM, in this regard.
Indian Express

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain why acquiring the optimum degree of nuclear deterrence is imperative for India. Also write some significance of the Arihant SLBM, in this regard.
> **Conclusion:** Write a way forward.

Nuclear Deterrence is a military doctrine according to which the possibility that a country will use the nuclear weapons it possesses in retaliation, which deter an enemy from attacking.

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

Why nuclear deterrence is imperative for India?

- **Rogue nations or states** like North Korea have developed nuclear weapons after cold war.
- **Pakistan** continues to expand the size of its nuclear arsenal, including with the Nasr platform.
- As the world has entered into the phase of a **new Cold War** between US and **China**, the chances of nuclear conflict has again resurfaced.
- Threat of "second-strike capability" keeps countries from engaging in nuclear warfare.
- Further, as nuclear capabilities grow and inter-state trust diminishes, chances of stumbling into nuclear war are high.
- **Industrial revolution 4.0** has blurred the lines between conventional and nuclear delivery. For example, advancing capabilities of cyberattacks on nuclear command and control, incorporation of artificial intelligence in nuclear decision making are new developments that threaten to create unknown risks.

Recently, Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced that the indigenous Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine INS Arihant had successfully launched a nuclear capable Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) in the Bay of Bengal. It is India's **first indigenous nuclear powered ballistic missile capable submarine**. The significance of the Arihant SLBM is as follows:

- These submarines can survive a first strike by the adversary. Then, it can also launch a strike in retaliation, thus achieving '**Credible Nuclear Deterrence'.**
- A robust, survivable and assured retaliatory capability will strengthen **India's 'no first use' commitment.**
- The development of these capabilities is important in the light of **India's relations with China and Pakistan.** As PLA Navy currently operates 6 nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs).
- China has deployed many nuclear powered and nuclear capable submarines.

Way forward:

- In states possessing nuclear weapons, civil society actors can challenge the most expansive and dangerous ideas that extend nuclear deterrence objectives to absurd ends.
- India should maintain its NFU (no-first-use) doctrine, as it has helped India in gaining many benefits at international level.

Q.4) Analyze the effectiveness of Interpol and cross-national law enforcement agencies to meet evolving challenges.
Business Standard

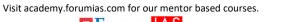> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Write some evolving challenges and how Interpol and cross-national law enforcement agencies are effective to meet these challenges. . Also write some challenges.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

Interpol is a secure information-sharing platform that **facilitates criminal investigation** of police forces across the globe through the collection and dissemination of information received from various police forces.

Evolving challenges:

- Sporadic instances of massacres, gruesome killings of young children due to the proliferation of **gun culture.**
- Exploitation and abuse of children and women, targeting of the elderly for identity theft and swindling of their income are becoming commonplace.

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- The areas of concern are growing from **human trafficking** to disturbing instances of financial **crimes** by the high and mighty.
- **Safe havens** are provided to fugitives accused of **terrorism and money laundering** and the proliferation of illicit trade based on counterfeiting and smuggling.
- **Transnational organised crime** continues to thrive due to illicit networks that operate on the strength of money laundering.
- Lawbreakers enjoy the **ease of mobility and access to the internet**.

The Interpol and cross-national law enforcement agencies are effective to meet these challenges in following manner:

- Interpol uses 19 **databases and tools for issuing alerts**, sharing information about criminals and their modus operandi.
- It has a **huge repository** of fingerprints, DNA profiles, facial recognition kits, cyber-enabled financial crimes, and property crimes, among others.
- It has undertaken **various operations in different countries** relating to the trafficking of women and children, cyber crimes, online piracy, narcotics smuggling, illegal gun trade etc.
- A large number of **red corner notices** have been issued for the detention of several accused and convicted fugitives.
- Providing information about crime and criminals **in the digital space**, preventing abuse of cyberspace and stalling hackers on the **dark web.**

Challenges:

- Interpol action against notorious fugitives is based upon appropriate action from member nations where the fugitives might be seeking shelter. Interpol cannot act on its own.
- Equitable significance should be accorded to the legitimate interests of growing economies pursuing democratic charters.

Interpol and law enforcement agencies of member nations must endeavour to build, maintain and operate a people-centric ecosystem to meet the evolving challenges.

Q.5) Do you agree that the Draft Telecom Bill enhances unease of doing business? Give reasons for your arguments.
Business Standard

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain how the Draft Telecom Bill enhances unease of doing business. Also write its significance in ease of doing business.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

The Draft Telecommunication Bill, 2022 seeks to replace the colonial era legislation that regulated the sector, the **Indian Telegraph Act, 1885**. Through the bill, the Centre aims to consolidate and amend the existing laws governing the provision, development, expansion and operation of telecom services, networks and infrastructure.

Enhances unease of doing business:

- **Licence regime for OTT services**: This is a deep concern from a **surveillance** and freedom of speech aspect as well. Given that OTTs have also been defined as telecom services, industry stakeholders have raised the concern of end-to-end encryptions being weakened or possibly broken in order to intercept the communications.
- **Internet shutdowns:** On the occurrence of any public emergency, the Union or State Governments can **order the suspension of communication services** on any telecommunication network which is a **threat to an open and free internet** and also cause economic losses.
- **Bankruptcy provisions**: The Bill also **overrides** provisions of the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code **(IBC)**, which might complicate resolution proceedings.

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- The draft Bill plans to **confine TRAI's powers** to making recommendations only if requested by the DoT. At present, TRAI has no powers of enforcement of its directives and can't levy penalties on telecom companies.

However some provisions enhance the ease of doing business in following manner:

- **Expansion:** 'Over-The-Top' (OTT) communication services have been included in the telecommunication services. This expands the definition to include all instant messaging, video, call applications like, Zoom, Telegram etc.
- **Licensing and Registration:** It grants the Union Government the 'exclusive privilege' to 'provide telecommunication services', operate networks and issue licences to telecom service providers.
- **Spectrum allocation:** The Bill states that the Union Government shall assign spectrum to best serve the common good and **ensure widespread access** to telecommunication services.
- **Reduces the burden on telecom companies**: The Draft Telecommunication Bill has provided a framework governing payment defaults by licensees, registered entities, or assignees, and allows the government to write-off of such amounts or part thereof.
- **Right of Way (ROW):** It would be enforceable at the State and at the Municipal Corporation level. It lays down a framework in which a public entity that owns the land has to grant 'right of way' permission expeditiously unless it gives a substantive ground for refusal.

As India embarks on its *Amritkaal* phase, there have been calls for liberation from the colonial mindset. Hence, the Government must remove the provisions which are similar to the colonial-era legislations.

Q.6) How Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme has been beneficial for India in meeting the diverse needs of its population and ensuring balanced, equitable, and inclusive growth?

Indian Express

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body: Explain** how Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme has been beneficial for India in meeting the diverse needs of its population and ensuring balanced, equitable, and inclusive growth.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

The primary aim of the Direct Benefit Transfer program is to bring transparency and terminate theft from the distribution of funds. Recently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) lauded India's Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme as a **"logistical marvel"** that has reached hundreds of millions of people and specifically benefitted women, the elderly, and farmers.

Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Scheme has been beneficial for India in meeting the diverse needs and ensuring balanced, equitable, and inclusive growth in following manner:

- **Financial inclusion**: Government endeavoured to open bank accounts for all households, expanded Aadhaar to all, and scaled up the coverage of banking and telecom services. Also, **Last mile banking** through Bank Mitras.
- **Assistance programmes:** Various **scholarship** schemes and the National Social Assistance Programme use the DBT architecture to provide **social security.**
- **Rehabilitation schemes:** DBT under rehabilitation programs such as the Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of **Manual Scavengers** opens new frontiers that enable social mobility of all sections of society.

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- **Aadhaar Payment Bridge:** It evolved the Public Finance Management System and created the Aadhaar Payment Bridge to enable instant money transfers from the government to people's bank accounts.
- **Participation of various stakeholders:** The Aadhaar-enabled Payment System and Unified Payment Interface further expanded interoperability and **private-sector participation**.
- **Directly receiving of subsidies:** This approach not only allowed all rural and urban households to be uniquely linked under varied government schemes for receiving subsidies directly into their bank accounts but also transferred money with ease.
- **DBT applicable to government schemes:** Becoming the major plank of the government's agenda of inclusive growth, it has 318 schemes of 53 central ministries spanning across sectors, welfare goals and the vast geography of the country.
- **Rural areas:** DBT has allowed the government to provide financial assistance effectively and transparently to farmers with lower transaction costs be it for fertilisers or any of the other schemes including the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, and PM Krishi Sinchayi Yojana.
- **Urban areas: PM Awas Yojana and LPG Pahal** scheme successfully use DBT to transfer funds to eligible beneficiaries.
- **During Pandemic:** From free rations to nearly 80 crore people under the Prad**han Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana,** fund transfers to all women **Jan Dhan account** holders and support to small vendors under PM-SVANidhi.

Direct Benefit Transfer has transformed the welfare aspect of the governance. Digital and financial literacy, robust grievance redressal and an empowering innovation system should also improve.

Q.7) Highlight the achievements of Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis, that saved millions of lives around the world.
Indian Express

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Write some achievements of Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis that saved millions of lives around the world.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

Dr. Dilip Mahalanabis, was the epoch-making doctor, who pioneered the **use of oral rehydration theory** for the treatment of diarrhoeal diseases and the **development of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS).** He was an Indian paediatrician and conducted cholera and other diarrheal illness research at the Johns Hopkins International Center for Medical Research and Training in Calcutta, India, in the middle of the 1960s.

Achievements:
- His contribution to the application of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) at the population level revolutionised the **treatment of cholera and acute diarrhoeal diseases**, saving thousands of lives, particularly that of children.
- Mahalanabis proved the effectiveness of ORS in cholera patients at a refugee camp in Bongaon, West Bengal, **during the 1971 War.**
- From 1975 to 1979, Dr Mahalanabis worked in cholera control for WHO in Afghanistan, Egypt and Yemen.
- In the mid-1980s and early 1990s, he was a medical officer in the **Diarrheal Disease Control Programme of the WHO.**
- In 1990, he established the **Society for Applied Studies (SAS)** in West Bengal with a vision of "Improved Health and Quality of Life" in India and other developing countries, especially for children and women.

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- He also served as the **Director of Clinical Research at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research (ICDDR), Bangladesh** in the late 1990s.
- In 1994, Mahalanabis was elected a foreign member of the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.**
- In 2002, Dr. Mahalanabis was awarded the first **Pollin Prize in Pediatric Research** for their contributions to the discovery and implementation of oral rehydration therapy.
- In 2006, he was awarded the **Prince Mahidol Prize**, for his role in the development and application of oral rehydration therapy.

Mahalanabis was a fine doctor, a scientist, and a humble and kind human being who believed in giving back. Oral rehydration is still the mainstay of treatment for diarrhoeal diseases in children. His contributions will forever be remembered.

Q.8) LIFE, or Lifestyle for Environment brings a fresh and much-needed perspective to tackle climate change. Discuss.
The Hindu

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Explain how LIFE or Lifestyle for Environment brings a fresh and much-needed perspective to tackle climate change.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (**UNEP**), if one billion people out of the global population of eight billion adopt environment-friendly behaviours in their daily lives, global carbon emissions could drop by approximately 20 percent. In this context, at UN Climate Change Conference (**UNFCCC COP26**), India announced Mission **LIFE, or Lifestyle for Environment** to bring individual behaviours at the forefront of the global climate action narrative.

LIFE brings a fresh and much-needed perspective to tackle climate change in following manners:

- **Focus on Individual Behaviours:** Make life a mass movement (**Jan Andolan**) by focusing on behaviours and attitudes of individuals and communities.
- **Co-create Globally:** Crowdsource empirical and scalable ideas from the best minds of the world, through top universities, think tanks and international organisations.
- **Leverage Local Cultures:** Leverage climate-friendly social norms, beliefs and daily household practices of different cultures worldwide to drive the campaign.
- **Individual Action is the core of Climate Responsibility:** The average carbon footprint of a person in India is 0.56 tonnes per year, compared to the global average of 4 tonnes. India's traditional knowledge, social norms and daily household practices address climate change through individual behaviours.
- **Mindful choices** such as cycling and using public transport, eating more plant-based foods and wasting less; and demanding climate-friendly choices etc. animate a global movement.
- **Nudging techniques** such as discouraging food waste by offering smaller plates in cafeterias; encouraging recycling by making bin lids eye-catching; and encouraging cycling by creating cycle paths etc. to encourage positive behaviour.
- **Accountability is relative to contribution**: Emissions across the poorest half of the world's population combined still fall short of even 1% of the wealthiest. Those who consume the least, often the most vulnerable and marginalised members of society should be supported to participate in the green economy.
- **Replaces the 'use-and-dispose' economy** with a circular economy, which would be defined by mindful and deliberate utilization of resources.

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- **Global network of individuals:** The Mission plans to create a global network of individuals, namely **'Pro-Planet People' (P3),** who will have a shared commitment to adopt and promote environmentally friendly lifestyles.

Translating our intention to do good for the environment is not always easy to translate into action. However, it is not impossible. By taking one action at a time and making one change daily, we can significantly reduce the impacts of climate change.

Q.9) Discuss the impact of media on Indian society? How media could play a constructive role in bringing communal harmony?

Introduction: Contextual introduction.
Body: Write some impacts of media on Indian society. Also write how media could play a constructive role in bringing communal harmony.
Conclusion: Write a way forward.

Any communication channel through which any kind of information, news, entertainment, education, data, promotional messages etc. can be disseminated is called Media. Media includes every broadcasting and narrowcasting medium such as television, radio, newspapers, telephone, internet etc.

Impact of media on Indian society:

- **Democratisation of Information:** Social media platforms provided Indians with a platform to raise their voice against injustice and inequality.
- **Bringing Behavioural Change:** Use of media for policy crowdsourcing and publicity is evident in the success of pan-India campaigns such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Fit India Movement.
- **Citizen-led governance:** Highlight the trouble spots in the society and **press the government** and public to devise suitable mechanisms to eliminate them.
- **Menace of Fake News:** The rise of polarizing and divisive content has been a defining moment of modern politics, which is fed by fake news propagation through social media channels.
- **Cyberbullying or Trolling:** Another dangerous element is the labelling and trolling of more rational voices or those who disagreed with the government's actions or dominant public discourse as "anti-national."
- Indian TV debates on national security issues tend to cut out development of contrary views and perspectives by imposing commercial breaks, or go hectoring themselves.

Communal harmony is of paramount component for the social, economic and cultural development of any country. Media could play a constructive role in bringing communal harmony in following manner:

- **Organise exhibitions** highlighting unity in diversity in the country.
- **Organise film festivals and screen films** that depict our country's rich diverse culture, and appreciation of this diversity.
- Encourage people to celebrate festivals of different religion together.
- Maximize the availability of relevant and credible **information** to all citizens and their communities.
- Strengthen the **capacity** of individuals to engage with information.
- Promote individual **engagement** with information and the public life of the community.

Way forward

- There is need to give more powers to 'Press Council of India' (PCI) as despite being quasi-judicial it can only warn and not punish.
- We need more self-regulation with less government control to avoid conflict of interests.

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Q.10) Discuss the nature, methods of operation and limitations of pressure groups in India.

> **Introduction: Contextual** introduction.
> **Body:** Write nature, methods of operation and limitations of pressure groups in India.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

A pressure group is a group of people who have organized together to **promote and defend a common cause.** Pressure Groups can be political, non-political groups, formally or informally organized groups e.g. FICCI, AITUC, ABVP, IMA etc. It attempts to change public policy by generating pressure on the government. It is a bridge **between the government and its members**. They are also called **interest groups/vested groups.**

Nature of pressure groups:

- The pressure groups protect the **most common interest.**
- They do not take any governance responsibilities like the political parties.
- They get the **fund from donations and the members** of the interest group.
- The pressure groups are **well organised**, and their cause and functioning are inevitable.
- In pressure groups, the membership is limited only to the profession, religion, and areas with common interests. They are people who are **well versed in the political environment**.
- They often finance political parties, sponsor candidates during elections and maintain relations with bureaucracy. They also use traditional social realities as a means to gain influence, like playing caste cards, engaging in creed and religious politics to promote their interests.
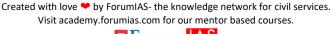
Methods of operation:

- **Lobbying with policymakers:** They try to convince policymakers, usually politicians and civil servants regarding their interests by approaching them in various ways.
- **Electioneering the proxy:** The interest groups use the election time the most for fulfilling their interests. They do not contest the election but influence the candidate. They place their man in the right place, who can serve their purpose.
- **Running Propaganda:** The pressure groups seek to influence public opinion, as the democratic governments have to work according to the public opinion. The favourable public opinion helps them to indirectly influence the government.

Limitations:

- Largely **influence the administrative process rather than the formulation of policy**. This is dangerous as a gap is created between policy formulation and implementation.
- Many a time **factors of caste and religion** eclipse the socioeconomic interests.
- Moreover, many of the groups have a **very short life** because of the **lack of resources**.
- Many times, they resort to **unconstitutional means** like violence. The Naxalite movement started in 1967 in West Bengal is one such example.

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.

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Q.11) Highlight the steps taken by the government against the online circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM). What more needs to be done in this regard?
<u>**The Hindu**</u>

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Write some the steps taken by the government against the online circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM). Also write more measures to be done in this regard.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

In a global compilation of reports of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) found online, **India** stands on **top** of the list, with 11.7% of the total reports followed by Pakistan, which contributes 6.8% of all reports. Seeking, browsing, downloading or exchanging child pornography is an offence punishable under the IT Act.
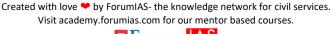
The following steps are taken by the government against the online circulation of Child Sexual Abusive Material (CSAM):

- **Megh Chakra:** It is being carried out following the inputs received from **Interpol's** Singapore special unit. It is a **pan-India drive** against the circulation and sharing of Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) conducted by the CBI. **Operation Carbon**
- **Aarambh India**: a non-governmental organisation partnered with the Internet Watch Foundation, United Kingdom launched India's first online **reporting portal** to report images and videos of child abuse.
- **National cybercrime reporting portal:** by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for filing online complaints pertaining to child pornography and rape-gang rape.
- **CyberTipline:** the National Crime Records Bureau signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC), USA to receive CyberTipline reports to facilitate action against those who upload or share CSAM in India.
- The **ad hoc Committee of the Rajya Sabha** made wide-ranging recommendations on the alarming issue of pornography on social media and its effect on children and society as whole.

What more needs to be done?

- There is need of **widening of the definition** of 'child pornography' but also proactive monitoring, mandatory reporting and taking down or blocking CSAM by Internet Service Providers (ISPs).
- **Permit the breaking of end-to-end encryption**, build partnership with industry to develop tools using artificial intelligence for dark-web investigations, tracing identity of users, and prevent online payments for purchasing child pornography.
- Encourage state parties to **establish liability of legal persons.**
- **Mandatory reporting** of CSAM by ISPs.
- Develop system of **automatic electronic monitoring** to reduce dependence on foreign agencies for the requisite information.
- India should **join INHOPE** (International Association of Internet Hotlines) and establish its hotline to utilise Interpol's secure IT infrastructure or collaborate with ISPs and financial companies by establishing an independent facility such as the IWF or NCMEC.

CBI along with agencies across the world are sharing information to combat child pornography by adopting new technologies and methods. India needs to explore all options and adopt an appropriate strategy to fight the production and the spread of online CSAM. Children need to be saved.

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Q.12) Discuss the factors affecting Coffee cultivation in India. Suggest some policy measures to improve Coffee cultivation.
The Hindu

> **Introduction:** Contextual introduction.
> **Body:** Write some factors affecting Coffee cultivation in India. Also write some policy measures to improve Coffee cultivation.
> **Conclusion**: Write a way forward.

India is the third-largest producer and exporter of coffee in Asia, and the sixth-largest producer and fifth-largest exporter of coffee in the world. Coffee in India is traditionally grown in the rainforests of the **Western Ghats in** South India. **Karnataka (54%), Kerala (19%) and Tamil Nadu (8%)** are largest coffee producing states.

Factors affecting Coffee cultivation in India:

- **Climate patterns:** There were **dry spells** between 2015 and 2017 and **unseasonal heavy rains**, **floods** and landslides between 2018 and 2022. Frequently occurring pattern of droughts and floods could wipe out plantations.
- **Pests and diseases:** Erratic weather conditions are helping pests to breed and new diseases to emerge.
- **Financing:** Most private banks demand collateral for financing. Since small and medium-size growers are invariably not in a position to provide collateral, the interest rates are high, at around 12%. International interest rates, on the other hand, are negligible, mostly in single digits.
- **Cost of production:** high due to tough terrains where mechanisation is restricted. In Brazil, labour charges account for 25% of the entire production cost, but in India, planters say they account for about 65%.
- There is increasingly a **shortage of labour** while the cost of labour is on the rise in the coffee sector. The children of workers in all the three coffee-growing States prefer to move to urban areas. This means plantations are forced to depend heavily on migrant labours who are unskilled.

Measures to improve Coffee cultivation:

- There is a need to take measures to **increase domestic consumption**.
- Branding and promoting Indian coffee better in the global market by working on a **separate India brand and certification system** for coffee growers.
- Growers should **create additional revenue streams** through **inter-cropping** or through innovative measures. In addition to traditional inter-cropping of pepper and cardamom, coffee growers could try planting exotic fruit-bearing trees, or fish farming, dairy farming, or **green tourism** to increase incomes from their coffee gardens.
- Considering the change in land use, the government could permit growers to **plant alternate crops i**n a land not suitable for coffee cultivation. Timely conversion will prevent growers from going financially sick.

Coffee has high value and high imagery potential at home and overseas markets. India's share in the global coffee market may be less than 5%, but the Coffee Act and the new Coffee (Promotion and Development Bill), 2022, will do away the 80-year-old coffee regulation and usher in change.

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