Mains Marathon

Compilation

22nd to 27th May, 2023

Mains Marathon Compilation for the Month of May, (Fourth Week) 2023

1. The WMO's 2023 report shows that the years 2015-2022 were the eight warmest on record. Discuss the socio-economic implications of this global temperature rise.

2. Discuss the potential benefits and challenges associated with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) initiative by the Indian government.

3. Discuss the impacts of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 on the federal structure of Delhi.

4. Discuss the role of social media in shaping public opinion. How can it be regulated to prevent the spread of hate and misinformation?

5. One of the key criticisms of the Census is the delayed release of the data collected. Discuss the causes and effects of this delay.

6. Discuss the impact of withdrawing the ₹2,000 note from circulation on the Indian economy, particularly on the cash-based informal sector.

7. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of focusing on improving a country's Doing Business scores as a strategy for economic growth.

8. What is the current state of trade between India and Australia? Discuss the potential for further growth in bilateral trade and investment.

9. What are the key takeaways from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the PICs? Discuss the significance of India's engagement with Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

10. Discuss the potential benefits and challenges of bolstering the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

11. Describe the historical context and symbolic meaning of the sceptre, or "sengol", in Indian political history. What does the sceptre's installation in the new Parliament building symbolize.

12. Discuss the feasibility of the Narendra Modi government's goal of achieving "developed country" status for India by 2047. What would be the key challenges in reaching this target?

Q.1) The WMO's 2023 report shows that the years 2015-2022 were the eight warmest on record. Discuss the socio-economic implications of this global temperature rise.

> **Introduction**: Give brief statement about what is climate change and its causes
> **Body**: Address the main issue regarding its effects on society, economic and environment
> **Conclusion**: Give a brief conclusion on the future course of action to deal climate change.

Recently **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** released its latest *The State of the Global Climate 2022* annual report highlighting the effects of climate change on planet Earth. Climate change is the phrase used to describe long-term changes in Earth's temperature and weather patterns that are mostly caused by human activity, especially the release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas causes the atmosphere to be filled with greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide (CO_2), which is the main cause of climate change. Some of the recent events have caused new debates regarding the increase of climate change and its effect on communities.

What are the socio-economic implications of this global temperature rise?

- **Drought and other extreme events**: There has been below-average rainfall in Eastern Africa which has led to crop failures and people facing acute food insecurity. Extreme heatwaves have affected mainland Europe and China leading to excess deaths and extreme dry conditions. On the other hand, Pakistan witnessed heavy rainfall impacting livelihood and agriculture.

- **Food insecurity:** As of 2021, 2.3 billion people faced food insecurity, of which 924 million people faced severe food insecurity with the majority of these living in Asia and Africa. Heatwaves in 2022 have impacted crop yield in both India and Pakistan causing economic distress and reducing crop yield.

- **Health and well-being**: Climate change events have led to the spread of vector-borne diseases, such as malaria and dengue fever impacting the overall well-being of the individual.

- **Displacement and Migration:** Climate change has led to forced migration and displacement of communities who have relied on farming and animal husbandry which are impacted adversely due to continuous drought and extreme rainfall. This has led to social tensions, refugee crises, and conflicts over resources.

- **Environment:** climate change has led to the melting of glaciers in high mountains and has impacted the availability and quality of water resources coming from natural springs from the Himalayas. This leads to adverse impacts on agriculture, industry, and human health. Climate change has also affected events like the migration of birds and the blooming of trees.

Conclusion:

The world must come together to act against climate change, cutting Green House gas emissions to limit global temperature rise to 1° Celsius. There is a need for urgent support from developed nations to increase investment and technology transfer to developing countries to help them adapt and mitigate the impact of climate change.

Q.2) Discuss the potential benefits and challenges associated with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) initiative by the Indian government.

> **Introduction:** Give a brief description about ONDC.
> **Body:** Highlight the challenges and benefits related to ONDC.
> **Conclusion:** Conclude the answer by giving positive opinion on ONDC.

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is a government-backed, not-for-profit entity, whose funders include the *Quality Council of India, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), several financial institutions*

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including State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, and Kotak Bank. It aims to promote open networks for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services over digital or electronic networks. It is being developed in response to the existing duopoly of both Amazon and Flipkart in e-commerce to provide an open network to buyers and sellers which can be independent of any medium. ONDC is being implemented on a pilot basis in cities like Delhi-NCR, Shillong, Bhopal & Coimbatore.

What are the intended benefits of ONDC?

- **Democratize e-commerce:** It provides alternatives to the existing platform-based e-commerce model and brings a new "open network model" to the Indian market. The purpose of the project is to ensure that buyers and sellers in the e-commerce market can transact regardless of their registration on any platform.

- **Technology and Investment**: Microsoft recently joined ONDC which will help small merchants to access new processes and technologies to enhance their market share. Other companies like Paytm, Phone-pe, Reliance, and Snapdeal will also join ONDC which will lead to large investments and help small merchants.

- **Level playing field:** Companies like Flipkart and Amazon have been accused of promoting sellers in which these companies have held stocks. With open-source networks like ONDC, such policies could be made redundant and make a level playing field for small merchants.

- **Increase in income**: ONDC will lead to an increase in income of people as goods and services will be offered at discount rates, and sellers will be able to save commissions which **"platform model"** companies take for their service.

What are the challenges associated with ONDC?

- **Large investment**: There is a need for considerable investment to break the monopoly of big companies as they possess huge amounts of data which offers them an advantageous position.

- **Expertise and innovation**: Government needs professional technocrats who could develop efficient alternatives to e-commerce platforms as was seen in UPI.

- **Cold start problem**: Major companies like Amazon and Flipkart are hesitant to join the platform which is a key requirement for a platform to succeed.

- **Need for seamless experience**: ONDC will have to focus on the seamless delivery of goods, prompt customer service, and interactive user-based experience.

Conclusion:

ONDC-like platform may enable many sellers to be digitally visible and can help consumers to get products at reasonable prices and maintain healthy competition in the e-commerce market.
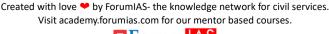
Q.3) Discuss the impacts of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 on the federal structure of Delhi. (15 marks)

> **Introduction:** Give a brief background of the ordinance
> **Body:** Highlight the main features and their impact on federalism.
> **Conclusion:** Conclude the answer on a positive note.

Recently, a constitution bench led by CJI upheld the claim of the elected government of Delhi to make laws and administer civil services in Delhi barring three specific areas- public order, police, and land. In response to this judgement, the President of India promulgated the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023 which restores the previous position where the Lieutenant Governor (LG) was given power over the appointment of bureaucrats.

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What are the features of this ordinance?

- National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA) is formed with **the Chief Minister as chairperson,** and the Chief Secretary and Principal Home Secretary as Member and Member Secretary.
- NCCSA exercises authority over bureaucrats working with the Government of Delhi except for those officers who are in **public order, police, and land departments** where ultimate control lies with the Centre.
- NCCSA would decide transfers, postings, prosecution sanctions, disciplinary proceedings, vigilance issues, etc, of civil service officers, deputed to Delhi government departments.
- All the decisions of the authority are decided by a majority of votes of the members present and voting.
- In case of a difference of opinion, Lieutenant Governor's decision would be final.

Impact of the Ordinance on the federal structure of Delhi

- **Constitutional Provision**: The ordinance impacts Article 239AA which provides the elected government a clear say in the institutional governance of Delhi and gives bureaucrats a prominent role in the governance of Delhi.
- **Accountability:** Officers appointed would be accountable to Union Government and not to the Chief Minister of Delhi who represents the **"will of the people".**
- **Cooperative Federalism**: The ordinance would impact the principle of cooperative federalism and state government would become wary of the extensive power given to LG/Governors by the Union Government.
- **Challenges authority of courts**: The ordinance challenges the authority of the Supreme Court and impacts the federal structure of the Constitution where the Supreme Court has the final say in interpreting the Constitution.
- **Asymmetric model of federalism**: The ordinance challenges the asymmetric model where under Article 239AA, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi represents the will of people at the regional level and the union government at the national level.
- **Parliamentary democracy:** The power to veto a decision of the Chief Minister in the National Capital Civil Service Authority (NCCSA) goes against the principle of parliamentary democracy.

Conclusion:

There should be active cooperation between the Union and Delhi Government to resolve the issue of deadlock to provide accountable, democratic governance under the Constitution of India. It should also be kept in mind that the power to promulgate ordinance should be used in emergencies and not to achieve political ends as highlighted in ***DC Wadhwa versus the State* of Bihar**.

Q.4) Discuss the role of social media in shaping public opinion. How can it be regulated to prevent the spread of hate and misinformation?

> **Introduction:** Briefly describe social media.
> **Body**: Describe role of social media in public opinion and how it can be regulated.
> **Conclusion:** Conclude the answer by giving a balanced point of view.

Social media in recent times has become a powerful tool to influence public opinion and influence the prevailing discourse going on in society. Social media has emerged so powerful due to its low cost, wide reach, easy accessibility, and availability of smartphones. Social media has acted as a double-edged sword where it has broadened the avenues for democratic participation on one hand but has led to concerns regarding the spread of hate and violence in society.

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Role of social media in shaping public opinion:

- **Democratization of public opinion**: Social media has democratized the public space by giving voice to oppressed, marginalized people and sharing their perspectives with a wider audience.
- **Dissemination of new information**: Social media has enabled rapid dissemination of information in new fields like investigative journalism, environment, freedom of the press, and citizen-centric journalism.
- **Influence on public policy**: social media has been used by politicians, and governments to gather support for their initiatives and broaden their support by use of debates, advertisements, and social campaigns.
- **Polarization of public opinion**: Social media algorithm collect user preferences and use them to personalize the content where individuals are exposed to the same type of content which lead to reinforcing existing beliefs and contribute to polarization of opinion.

How can social media be regulated to prevent the spread of hate and misinformation:

- **Regulate hate speech and violence**: There is an urgent need to define what constitutes "hate speech" clearly with, effective enforcement mechanisms and active collaboration between government, civil society & social media companies.
- **Data Protection**: As social media collects a huge amount of personal data there is a need for strong data protection law which ensures informed consent, transparency in usage, and the right to privacy.
- **Spread of misinformation and disinformation**: Misinformation and disinformation inhibit the decision-making process and leads to confirmation bias. There is a need of promoting media literacy, fact-check platforms like Alt News and ensure accountability of platform providers.
- **Stringent law mechanism**: New IT rules laid down by the government put a greater obligation on companies regarding hate speech, and misinformation being posted on their platforms.
- **International cooperation**: Since most of these social media platforms are foreign-based with their data control centres outside India, there is a need for cooperation with foreign governments and big tech companies to fight fake news, hate speech, and disinformation.
- **Grievance redressal**: Courts should take cognizance of the rising cases of hate speech, fake news, and violence very stringently. There is a need to establish Fast track courts with a quick disposal of cases to address this issue.

Conclusion:

There is a need to maintain a balance between freedom of speech and public interests in the use of social media. There is urgent need to revive social interactions between communities and individuals to rebuild the social fabric of our society.
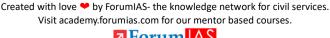
Q.5) One of the key criticisms of the Census is the delayed release of the data collected. Discuss the causes and effects of this delay.

> **Introduction**: Briefly explain about Census.
> **Body:** Explain criticism and effects of delay in census data
> **Conclusion**: Conclude by highlighting its importance.

A population Census is a process of collecting, compiling, and analysing the socio-economic, religious, linguistic, and economic data of all people in the country. Census 2021 has been in the news because it has been postponed until further notice on account of the Covid pandemic. Census in India has been a regular exercise that is carried out every 10 years by the

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Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Census of India Act of 1948 provides a legal framework for carrying out the census but does not mention the timing or periodicity.

What criticism is associated with Census

- **Exclusion of caste data:** While the census usually contains details of a person's occupation, language & religion it still not uses caste details which have become major criticism of this exercise.

- **Cumbersome Process**: The process involves a huge support staff, the involvement of teachers, and months-long data collection. A large amount of paperwork is collected which becomes difficult to analyse. The process also becomes long due to the large size of India, and immense diversity in geography and culture.

- **Huge cost**: Heavy cost is incurred by the Union Government for conducting the census.

- **Incorrect information**: Due to illiteracy, or people fearing loss of benefits of schemes tend to furnish false information which leads to a wrongful analysis of data collected.

- **Inadequate training for enumerators**: There is a lack of professionalism in collecting information as there is inadequate training, and workshops to train them.

- **Delayed release of data:** There is a delay in the release of data due to political reasons, resource crunch, or pandemic-like events which hampers policy making.

What are the effects of the delay in the release of data?

- **Policy Paralysis:** Underutilisation and Non-utilisation of data leads to delays in policymaking and inefficient use of resources.

- **Alternative Surveys**: The government both at the centre and in states conducts alternate surveys to analyse the socio-economic situation of the nation. It helps them in policy making but it makes census data redundant.

- **Lack of nuanced approach**: There is a lack of interest in the exploration of census data beyond demographic information. There should be a focus on examining the data on various attributes like education, health, profession, consumer durables, and ownership of land.
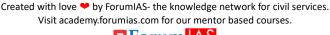
Conclusion:

The census is the backbone of every statistical intervention which caters to planning, execution, and policy making. Step like making Census 2021 digital is a good step that will reduce delay in the final report and will help to enrich our understanding of demography with the census holding its relevance in the changing world.

Q.6) Discuss the impact of withdrawing the ₹2,000 note from circulation on the Indian economy, particularly on the cash-based informal sector.

> **Introduction:** Briefly describe the decision to withdraw currency.
> **Body:** Give careful analysis on impact of decision and steps that could be taken to execute this decision.
> **Conclusion:** Conclude the answer taking into account informal sector.

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Recently, RBI announced that Rs. 2000 currency note would be withdrawn from the market and asked banks to stop issuing the same with immediate effect. It was in the wake of demonetisation in 2016 that the note was introduced as it was felt to infuse liquidity in the economy till other currency notes became available. Rbi has allowed citizens to exchange or deposit the Rs 2000 note till September 30, 2023.

Impact of Withdrawal of Currency Notes on India's Economy
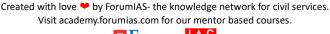
- **Minimal impact**: Economists predict that the impact of such a decision would be minimal as the Rs.2000 note accounts for only 1.6% of the overall money supply.

- **Impact on digital transactions**: According to the BCG report, digital transactions are expected to increase 3 times from 2023 to 2026, thereby minimising the need for higher denomination currency.

- **Increase demand for high-end items**: There could be an increase in the purchase of high-end consumer items like electronic gadgets, phones, and home appliances.

- **Reduce fake currency notes**: Since high denomination currency is easier to be targeted by counterfeiters the government can tackle this problem after the withdrawal of currency.

- **Impact on the informal economy**: The informal economy which largely operates on cash-based transactions is bound to be hit by the decision. Day-to-day transactions of MSMEs, the transport sector, construction, agriculture, and small traders would be negatively impacted reducing in hand cash for them and impacting their daily budget. There would be less disposable income for housewives, and old age persons as they are genuine hoarders of currency notes.

What steps can RBI take to ensure formalization of the economy post withdrawal ?

- **Strict enforcement**: RBI should ensure that high currency notes are not exchanged in banks which rely on physical records and not digital records particularly regional rural banks and urban cooperative banks. These banks are prone to corruption and influence of local politicians.

- **Vigilance on banks**: RBI must ensure that banks maintain vigilance on on amount of notes exchanged daily.

- **Strict legal action**: RBI should take strict legal action against bank officials who are found suspected of corruption. Random inspections and sensitising bank official on how to deal with the public during this phase is very crucial.

- **Cooperation among agencies**: RBI should actively cooperate with the Government of India, the Central Board of Direct Taxes, and the National Financial Reporting Authority to nab shell companies and corrupt officials.

Conclusion:

Government should ensure that adequate steps are taken to cushion the informal sector from this decision and ensure that daily workers, farmers, and MSMEs are properly compensated for any loss of income.

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Q.7) Critically evaluate the effectiveness of focusing on improving a country's Doing Business scores as a strategy for economic growth.

Introduction: Briefly describe EODB.
Body: Summarise the flaws associated with EODB
Conclusion: Suggest alternatives briefly.

The Ease of doing business Index was an index published by World Bank. It was introduced in 2003 and includes different parameters that define the ease of doing business in a country. The latest report, published in **October 2019, placed India at 63rd in Doing Business, compared with 77th in 2018 and 100 in 2017**. Following an inquiry that revealed **"data irregularities"** in its 2018 and 2020 editions, as well as potential "ethical matters" involving bank staff, the World Bank, decided to stop publishing this report.

What were the inherent flaws in the EODB report?

- **Actual Implementation**: World Bank was complacent in overseeing the timely implementation of projects and took the word of the government as final. This could be seen in the implementation of the GST and Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code.

- **Small sample size**: India's ranking was based on parameters collected from only 2 cities Mumbai and Delhi. No 2 cities can be representative of such a diverse country as India.

- **Data Irregularities:** World Bank found data irregularities made in the case of four countries — China, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. This severely impacted the credibility of the report.

- **Neglect of agriculture and manufacturing:** Since there are fewer regulations in the service sector, it made doing business in metro cities is easier as compared to other cities. This did not give the full picture of the economy as India has a large population dependent on agriculture.

- **Unrealistic Assumptions:** World Bank used standard metrics to assume that all businesses are subject to similar tax treatment. This does not take into account surcharges, cess, and additional levies on "sin goods" or tax exemptions for doing business in North East and SEZs.

- **Labour Laws:** EODB does not include labour regulations as a parameter. If these were included India would have a low ranking because of highly restrictive labour laws.

Way Forward:

A revised framework should consider both costs to the business of regulatory policies alongside socio-environmental benefits. Hence, it would be appropriate to develop Sustainable Business Policy Index which would be consistent with SDG. Another option is using the Index of Economic Freedom published by the Heritage Foundation as a metric to get a more accurate picture of the economy.
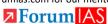
Q.8) What is the current state of trade between India and Australia? Discuss the potential for further growth in bilateral trade and investment.

Introduction: Brief outline of the visit.
Body: Explain the significance and challenges in relations
Conclusion: Suggestions to improve the relationship.

Recently PM Modi went on a 3-day visit to Australia which led to the deepening of ties between the two nations. Both leaders felt the need to sign Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement to deepen trade relations. India is Australia's sixth largest trading partner with two-way trade in goods and services valued at $46.5 billion in 2022.

Significance of the relationship:

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- Both nations agree on the principle of a " free, open, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific".
- Australia's geo-strategic location in the Indian Ocean acts as a gateway for Pacific Islands and other small islands.
- There is a significant population of Indians in Australia at about 3% which is crucial for maintaining people-to-people ties and enhancing trade relations.
- Australia is key to India's energy security needs as both have signed nuclear cooperation agreements and India can secure LNG supply from Australia reducing dependence on the Middle East.
- Both nations can cooperate in multilateral forums like QUAD, Commonwealth, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) & ASEAN Regional Forum on issues like the environment, China's Belligerent policy in Indo-Pacific, and ensuring rules-based International order.

What are the challenges in India-Australia Relations?

- **Ukraine crisis:** Both nations differ in their strategy regarding Ukraine Russia conflict. Australia has taken a position against Russia while India has refrained from open criticism.
- **China's Pressure:** China has dubbed QUAD as **"Asian NATO"** and has threatened Australia with an impact on trade relations. China is Australia's largest trading partner.
- **Sentiments against India:** Recently, there has been witnessed a rise in anti-Indian slogans, and graffiti across Australia with attacks on Indians, their property, and temples vandalized.
- **Miscellaneous issues:** issues like the Adani coal energy project, and visa restrictions for Indian professionals and students have caused strain in relationships.

Way forward:

- **Enhance diplomatic cooperation:** The decision has been taken to open an Australian consulate in Bengaluru and an Indian consulate in Brisbane.
- **People to People ties:** An agreement has been finalized on Migration and Mobility to increase opportunities for students and businesspeople to enhance cooperation between two nations. PM Modi has spelled out the "three D's" - Democracy, Diaspora, and Dosti to strengthen relationships.
- **Energy Cooperation:** Both nations should pursue active cooperation in nuclear energy fulfilling the terms of the Nuclear agreement. The establishment of the India-Australia Hydrogen Task Force will advise on opportunities to accelerate the manufacture and deployment of clean hydrogen.
- **India-Australia Economic Cooperation Trade Agreement (ECTA):** This has resulted in an immediate reduction of duty to zero on 96% of Indian exports to Australia and zero duty on 85% of Australia's exports to India.

Q.9) What are the key takeaways from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the PICs? Discuss the significance of India's engagement with Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

> **Introduction:** Outline PM visit to island states
> **Body:** Explain the positives and significance of this visit.
> **Conclusion:** conclude how these island countries are crucial for India.

Recently PM Modi visited Port Moresby capital of Papua New Guinea which is seen as a very significant visit in engaging Pacific Island Countries (PIC) and the **Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC).** PIC is a group of 14 nations of the Southwestern Pacific that is located at the crossroads of strategically important maritime trade corridors.

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What are the key takeaways from the PM visit?

- **Cooperation in technology**: India has played a significant role in providing technology and capacity building in areas like solar energy solutions, desalination, modern health facilities, and information systems.
- **Humanitarian Assistance**: India has acted as a reliable partner for PIC countries in dealing with the pandemic by supplying vaccines, sugar, and wheat.
- **Climate Change:** India can become a key player alongside Australia and New Zealand to help tackle climate change in island countries through the **Blue Pacific 2050 strategy** and South-South cooperation.
- **South-South cooperation**: India along with ASEAN through its Act East Policy is providing development assistance to island nations in the form of training, scholarships, grants-in-aid, and loans for the completion of community development projects.
- **FIPIC summit**: The PM took part in FIPIC summits which discussed challenges faced by people and improved their well-being and development.

What is the significance of India's engagement with PIC nations?

- **Contain Chinese influence**: India alongside ANZUS and PIC nations can help contain Chinese influence in the Pacific Region. India can be a key development partner for PIC nations.
- **Diaspora Connect:** India's connection with PIC has traditionally been because of the sizeable presence of Indians living in these countries. This has led to an increase in people-to-people ties, shared culture, and values. **About 37% of Fiji's population is of Indian origin, and about 3,000 Indians live in Papua New Guinea.**
- **Sustainable Development**: India and PIC nations are partners in tackling climate change. Projects like International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) & Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) can help in mitigating the effects of climate change like rising sea levels which is a major concern for PIC nations.
- **Economic cooperation**: India's trade with PIC nation is only $ 300 million which pales in comparison to China's trade with PIC. India needs to cooperate with the region and ensure sustainable economic development in response to China's checkbook diplomacy.

Conclusion:

India's cooperation with PIC will help build trust among countries of the global south for India's candidature on world platforms like G20, and UNSC. India can also be a credible alternative for those countries who don't want to align themselves with either China or USA.

Q.10) Discuss the potential benefits and challenges of bolstering the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

> **Introduction:** Explain what is Andaman and theatre command
> **Body:** Briefly outline the challenges and benefits of ANC.
> **Conclusion: the** future role of ANC.

A theatre command is a type of military organisation where a three-star general has operational command over all army, air force, and naval assets in a specific area of operations. India's strategic interests in Southeast Asia and the Strait of Malacca are covered by Andaman &Nicobar Command (ANC), the first and only tri-service theatre command of the Indian Armed Forces, which is situated in Port Blair. ANC is also in charge of protecting India's interests in the Eastern Indian Ocean by establishing an air defense identification zone (ADIZ) over the islands.

What are the challenges before ANC?

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- **Relation with China**: strengthening the ANC can lead to China seeing it as a sign of belligerence which can lead to militarization of the Indian Ocean by the Chinese Navy.
- **Slow implementation of reform:** ANC model of theatre commands still has not been replicated successfully. Some committees have even suggested the abolition of ANC and the command be subsumed by Eastern Naval Command.
- **Chinese influence in the region:** Even if India manages to maintain dominance in the region the islands are located near Great Coco Island and Little Coco Island of Myanmar which is heavily influenced by China.
- **Bureaucratic mindset:** Concern in Delhi about armed forces becoming too powerful leads to neglect of military reforms and a lethargic attitude and restraining policymakers to take a proactive approach.
- **Build Capabilities**: Need to build capacities for defending against military intrusions, tracking hostile ships, submarines, and drones, and launching response attacks when needed.

    What are the benefits of ANC?

- **Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA):** India has conceptualized its MDA which extends India's defense capabilities beyond its homeland and prepares India for expanding its role.
- **Net security provider:** India is seen by many nations like Australia, Small Island States, and the ASEAN group as being a net security provider as opposed to China's hegemony in the region.
- **Model for reform**: ANC model has tested the feasibility of joint commands, logistics, and operational procedures as proposed by defence committees which could lead to increased efficiency, rationalization of command structure and army organised on modern lines as in developed nations.
- **Cooperation with like-minded nations:** India can enhance military preparedness by doing military exercises like Malabar, and cooperating in QUAD, AUKUS.
- **Developing ANC:** ANC can be developed into headquarters for QUAD navies, with a focus on operations like disaster relief, humanitarian assistance, medical aid, submarine and aircraft rescue, and maritime security operations.

Conclusion:

ANC has a crucial role in India's maritime strategy to act as a power balancer in the Indian Ocean and keep sea lines of communication open in the Malacca Strait. ANC must be replicated in other parts of India and be maintained as independent theatre command.
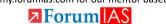
Q.11) Describe the historical context and symbolic meaning of the sceptre, or "sengol", in Indian political history. What does the sceptre's installation in the new Parliament building symbolize.

Introduction: Give historical context of sengol
Body: what is its symbolic meaning in today's context
Conclusion: Conclude by highlighting its importance

PM Modi will install "**sengol" historical sceptre from Tamil Nadu** in the new Parliament building. The "sengol" is believed to be received by PM Nehru on eve of independence from Viceroy Louis Mountbatten symbolising the transfer of power from British to Independent India.
Describe the historical context and symbolic meaning.

Tamil's **sengol** is derived from the term **semmai,** which means **righteousness.** The sengol is intended to convey a directive to the recipient to rule justly and honestly. The Right Sceptre, a chapter in the

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Thirukkural that contains 10 couplets, is an everlasting treasure mine of knowledge. The sengol will be presented to the PM after a religious ceremony accompanied by priests "**Adheenams, and Oduvars,**" or Tamil temple singers. placed in a glass case next to the Speaker's seat in the House. It was a customary practice **during Chola rule for Samayacharyas (spiritual authorities**) to preside over kings' coronations and sanctify the transfer of authority, which is also regarded as a form of acknowledgment for the ruler.

What is sengol symbolic meaning in the modern context?

- **Continuity with tradition:** Such kind of symbolic transfers show that Indian culture had forms of ceremonies that were deeply influenced by the country's values and culture. It shows how India's timeless traditions and civilizational heritage are honoured.
- **Respect for new symbols**: The sceptre is part of **India's Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav** where unsung heroes and symbols will get the recognition they deserve.
- **Disowning colonial symbols**: New Parliament building is seen as part of **Panch Pran** of **Amrit Kaal** to remove any colonial legacy. This is seen in the new parliament building and the renaming of **Rajpath (Kingsway) as Kartavya Path.**
- **Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat:** The new building and sceptre is witnessing deep civilizational unity between north and south India.
- **Technology and Culture:** The new parliament alongside "sengol" shows technology alongside culture and spiritual heritage. This represents the vision of the PM for inclusive India.
- **Speaker position**: "Sengol" in Tamil means "righteousness" and will be placed alongside the speaker symbolising his position to preside over Lok Sabha in a just and fair manner.

Conclusion:

Sengol will always represent dharma, the fundamental civilising principle that underlies the governance of India. It will also help the youth of the nation to be proud of our rich and diverse culture.

Q.12) Discuss the feasibility of the Narendra Modi government's goal of achieving "developed country" status for India by 2047. What would be the key challenges in reaching this target?

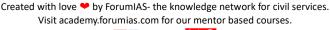> **Introduction:** Highlight PM vision and define developed nation.
> **Body:** Challenges before India
> **Conclusion:** How is it feasible to make India developed by 2047

PM Modi has ambitiously set the target of India being a **"developed country" by 2047**. There is no international standard to classify the developed or developing country but it is widely assumed that developed countries are high per capita income counties while developing nations have low or medium per capita income. India at present is described as a low-income country by the World Bank with an average income of Indian **as $1935 in 2020.**

What are the challenges before India?

- **Population:** India is set to overtake China as the world's most populous country in 2023 according to 'The UN State of World Population Report 2022'. A country with such a high population requires immense resources and efficient management for a decent standard of living.
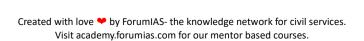
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- **Hunger**: India suffers from the worst form of hunger according to Global Hunger Index 2022 in which India is ranked 107th among 121 countries. India fares worse than its South Asian neighbors and is behind even Rwanda, Burkina Faso, and Sudan on GHI.

- **Inequality**: As per Oxfam and World Inequality Report, India is among the most inequitable country in the world with 5 percent of Indians having more than 60 percent of the country's wealth, while the bottom 50 percent of the population possess only 3 percent of the wealth.

- **Human Development**: India fares poorly in UN Human Development Report 2022 ranking 132 out of 191 nations. The majority of Indians still are deprived of a healthy life, access to education, and a decent standard of living.

- **Illiteracy**: India still has the world's largest illiterate population despite immense growth in providing access to education. Millions of unemployed educated people are straddled across the county which can lead to a danger of demographic dividend turning into an unmitigated demographic disaster.

- **Agriculture:** India needs to make agriculture profit making and increase agri exports. There is an urgent need for investment in agriculture to increase productivity and production to make Indian exports competitive in the world market.

- **Exports:** India aims to raise the share of its exports in global trade to 3% by 2027 and 10% by 2047 from the current 2.1%, promoting hundred Indian brands as global brands.

Conclusion:

India could achieve the target of developed country status by 2047 but it is a herculean task given our set of problems. India has to focus on various development parameters like income level, health and education standards, quality of life (e.g. access to electricity and safe drinking water), availability of work, levels of poverty and inequality, technological attainments, and gender equality.

India will need structural reforms in the manufacturing, service, and agriculture sector, reforming the tax structure, making MSME competitive, and reducing corruption to make India a $5 trillion economy.

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