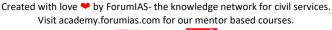# Mains Marathon

Compilation

25th to 30th September, 2023

1. Critically analyze the role of criminal law in maintaining social order. Do you agree that the focus on individual offenders obscures the socially rooted nature of crimes?
2. Assess the impact of environmental issues like the Fukushima wastewater release on regional politics. How can India prepare for similar challenges?

3. Analyze how China is trying to increase its influence in Nepal. What are the challenges and implications for India?
4. Discuss the role of State governments in the implementation of NEP in higher education. Also, evaluate the effectiveness of the New Education Policy, especially in Jammu and Kashmir. What challenges does it face?

5. Elaborate on how habitat loss due to climate change increases the risk of diseases transferring from animals to humans. Provide examples.
6. Explain the concept of angel tax. How does it impact investments in start-ups?

7. "Many scientists also believe that when rocks such as Bennu crashed into the earth, they delivered the compounds required for the formation of life." How might the study of asteroids like Bennu reshape our understanding of the origins of life on Earth?

8. Analyze the reasons behind the recent spike in tiger deaths in the Nilgiris district. How do human-animal conflicts and habitat degradation contribute to this issue?

9. Analyze the recurring nature of inter-state water disputes in India, taking the Cauvery waters dispute as a case study. What are the underlying causes and challenges in resolving such disputes?
10. Discuss the implications of the findings of the Lancet Commission report on gender inequity in cancer care. How do societal perceptions of women's roles contribute to the disparities observed in cancer care for women?

11. Discuss the role of the Centre in ensuring reconciliation between conflicting communities in Manipur. What measures can be taken to prevent further deterioration of the situation?
12. Analyze India's stance on the investor-state-dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism. How can an appellate review mechanism benefit India in international investment law?

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1. **Critically analyze the role of criminal law in maintaining social order. Do you agree that the focus on individual offenders obscures the socially rooted nature of crimes?**

> **Introduction:** What is criminal law?
> **Body:** Highlight the role of criminal law in maintaining social order and focus on the individual obscure socially rooted nature of crimes.
> **Conclusion:** Way forward

The role of criminal law in maintaining social order is a complex and multifaceted issue. Criminal law serves several important functions in society, including deterring criminal behaviour, punishing offenders, protecting the rights of individuals, and maintaining a sense of justice. The three new Bills passed assume that the law can maintain "public order" by reducing crimes.

Role of criminal law in maintaining social order:

- **Deterrence**: Criminal law aims to deter individuals from engaging in criminal behaviour by imposing penalties such as fines, imprisonment, or probation. The idea is that the threat of punishment will discourage people from committing crimes.
- **Punishment and Rehabilitation**: Criminal law also serves the purpose of punishing offenders for their actions. This is seen as a form of retribution and justice for victims and society. Additionally, rehabilitation is often an important component of criminal justice, aiming to help offenders reintegrate into society as law-abiding citizens.
- **Protection of Individual Rights**: Criminal law is designed to ensure that individuals accused of crimes are provided with due process and their rights are protected. This includes the right to a fair trial, legal representation, and protection against self-incrimination. These safeguards are essential to maintain a just and orderly society by preventing miscarriages of justice.

Does focus on individual offenders obscure the socially rooted nature of crimes?

- **Social Roots of Crimes**: One of the critical points of contention is whether the focus on individual offenders obscures the socially rooted nature of crimes. Many crimes have underlying social, and environmental factors like socio-economic status, social upbringing, education, family and friendships, and systemic causes, such as poverty, inequality, and lack of access to education or mental health services. Critics argue that the criminal justice system often fails to address these root causes and instead focuses primarily on punitive measures against individual offenders.
- **Criminalization of Social Issues**: Some argue that criminal law is sometimes used as a blunt tool to address complex social problems, such as drug addiction or homelessness. Rather than addressing the underlying issues, society may rely on criminalization, which can exacerbate the problems and lead to a cycle of incarceration.
- **Institutional challenges**: There is a need to fundamentally reconfigure the role of institutions that play a role in delivering criminal justice. Institutions like police, investigation mechanisms, criminal courts, prosecution and defence services, prisons, and support services in criminal justice administration need an urgent overhaul.

Conclusion

The criminal justice system must strike a balance between punitive measures and addressing the root causes of criminal behaviour to better serve the goal of maintaining social order and justice.

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2. **Assess the impact of environmental issues like the Fukushima wastewater release on regional politics. How can India prepare for similar challenges?**

> **Introduction:** Give a brief idea about the Fukushima disaster.
> **Body:** What is its impact on regional politics and lessons for India?
> **Conclusion:** Way forward

The impact of environmental issues like the Fukushima wastewater release on regional politics can be significant, as it involves complex considerations related to environmental safety, public health, international relations, and the management of natural resources. In the case of Fukushima, Japan's decision to release treated radioactive water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea generated concerns and reactions both domestically and internationally.

Impact on Regional Politics:

- **Domestic Politics**: In Japan, the decision to release Fukushima wastewater has sparked domestic debates and protests. Local communities, fishermen, and environmental groups expressed concerns about the potential ecological and health impacts.
- **International Relations**: The release of contaminated water has the potential to strain Japan's relations with neighbouring countries, particularly South Korea and China, which have expressed strong reservations about the decision. The issue can lead to diplomatic tensions and discussions on the responsibility of nations in addressing transboundary environmental challenges.
- **Global Environmental Governance**: Fukushima's wastewater release highlights broader issues related to nuclear safety, environmental management, and international agreements. It may lead to discussions on strengthening global environmental governance and cooperation to address similar challenges in the future.

Similar challenges for India:

- **Transparency and Public Engagement:** India can learn from the Fukushima experience by prioritizing transparency and public engagement in decision-making processes related to nuclear energy and environmental issues. Providing accurate information to the public and involving stakeholders can help build trust and reduce concerns.
- **Safety and Monitoring**: Ensuring the safety of nuclear facilities is paramount. India should invest in robust safety measures, regular inspections, and continuous monitoring of nuclear plants. This includes developing and implementing effective waste management strategies.
- **International Cooperation**: India should engage in international cooperation and dialogue with neighbouring countries to address concerns related to nuclear safety and environmental issues. Establishing mechanisms for information sharing and cooperation can help prevent diplomatic tensions.
- **Long-Term Waste Management**: Developing and implementing long-term strategies for the safe disposal and management of nuclear waste is crucial. India should invest in research and infrastructure for the safe handling of nuclear materials and waste.

Conclusion

Environmental issues like the Fukushima wastewater release can have a profound impact on regional politics and international relations. India can prepare for similar challenges by

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prioritizing safety, transparency, international cooperation, and sustainable energy alternatives while addressing concerns related to nuclear energy and environmental protection.

3. **Analyze how China is trying to increase its influence in Nepal. What are the challenges and implications for India?**

> **Introduction:** Give a brief context of the question.
> **Body:** Highlight factors showing China's increasing influence in Nepal & challenges for India.
> **Conclusion:** Way forward.

India and Nepal share deep social, cultural, strategic, political, and economic ties that have been forged over many centuries. India is Nepal's largest trade partner & source of the largest FDI. The bilateral trade between both nations is over US $11 billion. Over the past few years, China's efforts to increase its influence in Nepal have been a subject of concern and interest, both for Nepal and its neighbour, India.

How is China trying to increase its influence in Nepal?

- **Infrastructure**: China has been actively involved in Nepal's infrastructure development, including the construction of all-weather roads, bridges, and hydropower projects. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has played a significant role in fostering economic ties between the two nations. Both countries have agreed to intensify the implementation of projects like the Trans-Himalayan Multidimensional Connectivity Network.
- **Security interests**: Nepal's northern border with China lies entirely with Tibet and China sees security cooperation with Nepal as critical in controlling Tibetan matters. Hence, China is following security diplomacy vis-à-vis Nepal.
- **Economic relations**: China is the second largest trading partner of Nepal. China has been investing in various sectors of Nepal's economy, such as manufacturing, tourism, and telecommunications. This can be viewed from the fact that Chinese exports to Nepal were valued at $1.74 Billion last year.

What are the challenges & implications for India?

- **Strategic interest:** China may use its "security diplomacy" with Nepal to interfere in the internal affairs of Nepal which may result in Nepal slipping into China's sphere of influence, which will not be in India's strategic interest.
- **Terrorism:** Close cooperation of China with Nepal may pose security risks to India's northeast as there will resurgence of Terrorist organizations and insurgent groups operating in India's northeast aided by Chinese weapons, counterfeit Indian currency & Mao's ideology.
- **Environmental concern**: Some infrastructure projects backed by China have faced criticism for their environmental impact and concerns about Nepal's sovereignty and debt sustainability which will impact the fragile Himalayan ecosystem.
- **Distrust towards India**: Post the 2015 standoff incident there has been a change of perception in Nepal towards India because of India's big brother attitude, India's indifferent attitude towards revisiting the 1950 India-Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship & approach to deal with boundary issues & water treaties. Some Nepalese ethnic groups dislike India because they think that India meddles too much in Nepal's politics and interferes with their political sovereignty.

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Conclusion:

India should cooperate with Nepal on multiple dimensions, abide by its Neighbourhood First Policy & focus on completing infrastructure projects on time while staying out of Nepal's domestic affairs so that A friendly and favourable Nepal can act as a vital buffer between India and an increasingly aggressive China.

4. **Discuss the role of State governments in the implementation of NEP in higher education. Also, evaluate the effectiveness of the New Education Policy, especially in Jammu and Kashmir. What challenges does it face?**

Introduction: Give brief context of NEP
Body: Highlight role of states in implementation of NEP & its progress in J&K.
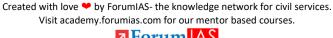**Conclusion:** Way forward.

NEP(National Education Policy) was approved by the cabinet in 2020 & is based on recommendations of the Kasturirangan and T.S.R Subramanian committees. NEP, 2020 emphasizes reforms in education at all levels from pre-primary to higher education. It aims to bring transformation in the education system of India in line with contemporary needs.

Role of State governments in the implementation of NEP in higher education:

- **States have a bigger pool of students**: A recent Parliament report on NEP highlighted that of the 1,043 universities functioning in the country, 70% are under the State Act and that 94% of students are in State or private institutions with just 6% of students in Central higher educational institutions, stressing the importance of States in providing higher education.
- **Resource Allocation**: State governments play a crucial role in allocating resources for higher education institutions within their respective states. This includes funding for infrastructure, faculty development, and research initiatives.
- **Curriculum & Pedagogy**: State Governments have a vital role in making admission processes and curricula more inclusive, increasing the employability potential of higher education programs, and developing more degree courses taught in regional languages and bilingually.
- **Student welfare:** State Governments can frame policies regarding financial assistance for the education of Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups (SEDGs), setting clear targets for higher Gross Enrolment Ratio for SEDGs, enhancing gender balance in admissions to HEIs, and strict enforcement of all no-discrimination and anti-harassment rules.

Effectiveness of the New Education Policy, especially in Jammu and Kashmir:

- **Diversification of Education**: The NEP emphasizes a multidisciplinary approach, allowing students to choose from a wide range of subjects. Under this policy, no one will be forced to learn a particular language & students can choose the language according to their interests which can help students access diverse educational opportunities aligned with their interests.
- **National pattern of curriculum**: With the adoption of NEP there will be a shift in academic sessions from November to March for school education & to July for the Higher Education Department (HED) session. Examinations in the educational institutions will also be held simultaneously and the results will also be declared simultaneously so that the students can appear in the competitive examinations without any difficulty.

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Challenges in the implementation of NEP in J&K

- **Socio-Political Issues**: The region's unique socio-political situation can impact the implementation of educational reforms. Ensuring a conducive environment for education is crucial.
- **Faculty Development**: Ensuring that faculty members are trained and equipped to implement the NEP's recommendations can be a challenge, especially in valley areas.

Conclusion:

Jammu and Kashmir became the first state to implement NEP 2020 & is witnessing a paradigm shift in the methods of teaching, leading to lifelong learning opportunities for students. State governments, in collaboration with central agencies, have to play a vital role in the successful implementation of the policy.

5. **Elaborate on how habitat loss due to climate change increases the risk of diseases transferring from animals to humans. Provide examples.**

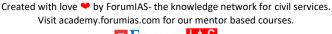> **Introduction:** Give a brief context of the question.
> **Body:** How does habitat loss & climate change increase the risk of diseases transferring from animals to humans?
> **Conclusion:** Way forward

Recently, IPCC in its latest report cautioned against the rise of infectious diseases due to the worsening effect of climate change. It gave the example of the periodicity of mosquito-borne disease outbreaks which no longer follows the traditional pattern of outbreak. This cycle is disrupted due to changes in temperature, precipitation, and humidity.

How does habitat loss & climate change increase the risk of diseases?

- **Increase human-wildlife contact**: Habitat loss forces disease-carrying animals to encroach upon human territory, increasing the risk of human-animal interaction and the transfer of pathogens from wildlife to humans. Eg Nipah outbreak in Kerala, HIV is believed to have originated from the transmission of the simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) from chimpanzees to humans.
- **Disturbed Migration pattern**: Rising temperatures can affect the migration patterns of animals & force them to come into contact with new animal populations and potentially transmit diseases. E.g., spread of avian influenza (bird flu).
- **Vector-borne diseases**: Altered climatic conditions can affect the distribution and behaviour of disease vectors (e.g., mosquitoes and ticks) increasing the transmission risk of malaria in regions previously unaffected, and exposing more human populations to the disease.
- **Disrupt Agriculture**: Climate-induced changes in precipitation and temperature can disrupt agriculture and force people to encroach upon wildlife habitats for sustenance, increasing human-wildlife contact. Eg, In parts of Africa, reduced crop yields due to climate change have led to an increased reliance on bushmeat hunting, increasing the risk of zoonotic diseases like Ebola being transmitted from wildlife to humans.
- **Weakened Healthcare Systems**: Extreme weather events can damage infrastructure, disrupt healthcare systems, and hinder responses to disease outbreaks. Example: Hurricane Katrina in 2005 compromised healthcare services in New Orleans, making it more difficult to respond to health emergencies, including infectious disease outbreaks.

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Conclusion

To combat climate change-induced diseases effectively, India should adopt a "One Health" approach that integrates human, animal, plant, and environmental health. This strategy requires enhanced collaboration between the central and state governments and their specialized agencies. Key sectors, including animal husbandry, forestry, municipal corporations, and public health departments, must work together to establish strong surveillance systems to prevent outbreaks.

6. **Explain the concept of angel tax. How does it impact investments in start-ups?**

> **Introduction:** Describe Angel tax
> **Body:** How does it impact investments in start ups
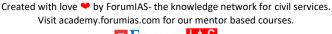> **Conclusion:** Way forward

Angel Tax is a 30% tax that is levied on the funding received by startups from an Angel investor. However, this tax is levied when startups receive angel funding at a valuation higher than its 'fair market value'. It is counted as income to the company and is taxed. Section 56(2) VII B of the Income Tax Act colloquially known as the angel tax was first introduced in 2012. The aim was to discourage the laundering of unaccounted money via unlisted firms disguised as capital investments.
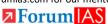
Here's how angel tax can impact investments in startups:

- **Reduce cash flow**: Angel Tax creates cash flow constraints as startups depend on funds to fuel their growth and operations. The tax reduces the capital raised, hindering their expansion plans.
- **Increased Compliance Burden**: Determining the fair market value of a startup, especially in its early stage, is challenging due to limited financial data, leading to disputes with tax authorities, resulting in prolonged assessments and unnecessary burdens. This often involves providing extensive documentation and evidence to tax authorities, which can be time-consuming and costly.
- **Delayed Funding:** Angel tax generates uncertainty and apprehension among angel investors and HNIs, discouraging them from investing in startups, and thus affecting the availability of funds for budding entrepreneurs. These delays can affect a startup's ability to secure timely capital and execute its business plans.
- **Reduced Attractiveness**: Indian startups face a competitive disadvantage compared to their global counterparts as foreign startups do not have a similar tax burden, affecting India's startup ecosystem. Investors may be hesitant to invest in startups if they believe that the valuation could trigger angel tax, leading to taxation on their investments.
- **Tax Liability for Startups**: The high tax liabilities divert the focus of startup founders from innovation and business growth to tax compliance, paperwork, and legal complexities, potentially stifling innovation and hindering the overall development of the startup ecosystem.

Conclusion:

Angel tax has remained a source of controversy within the Indian startup landscape, affecting not only the growth prospects of startups but also investor sentiment and overall confidence in the ecosystem. Nevertheless, India has an opportunity to foster its entrepreneurial community and position itself as a global centre for innovation and startup excellence by finding a harmonious equilibrium between taxation and support.

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7. **"Many scientists also believe that when rocks such as Bennu crashed into the earth, they delivered the compounds required for the formation of life." How might the study of asteroids like Bennu reshape our understanding of the origins of life on Earth?**

Introduction: What is Bennu asteroid?
Body: How this asteroid helps in understanding origin of life on Earth?
Conclusion: Way forward

Bennu is a near-Earth asteroid that has gained significant attention due to its potential impact hazard and its scientific importance. Bennu is believed to be a fragment of a larger asteroid that broke apart in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. It then migrated toward Earth's vicinity, becoming a near-Earth asteroid. Bennu gained prominence when NASA launched the OSIRIS-REx mission in 2016 to study this asteroid up close.

How can this asteroid reshape our understanding of the origins of life on Earth?

- **Composition made of organic compounds:** Asteroids like Bennu, may have brought organic chemicals to Earth. The fundamental components of life as we know it are these organic substances, such as amino acids and nucleotides. It would be strongly supported by evidence if it can be proven that these substances were truly transported by asteroids, increasing the likelihood that life might have originated in space.
- **Solar system timeline:** Bennu is thought to be about 4.5 billion years old and has an interior that is between 20 and 40 percent space. Bennu is thought to have formed within the first 10 million years of the solar system's creation. This can help scientists refine our understanding of when key ingredients for life arrived on our planet, potentially narrowing down the timeline for the emergence of life.
- **Unique features:** Asteroid is a B-type asteroid, which indicates that it has a high carbon and mineral content. When compared to a planet like Venus, which reflects around 65% of the light, and Earth 30%, the asteroid only reflects about four percent of the light that strikes it due to its high carbon content.
- Trace of Water: NASA's OSIRIS-REx probe found hydrogen and oxygen molecules embedded on Bennu's rocky surface offering some clues to the origins of life on the earth

Conclusion:

Bennu's study not only informs us about the early solar system's composition but also provides essential data for assessing and mitigating potential asteroid impact threats to our planet. The OSIRIS-REx mission marks a significant step in our exploration of these celestial objects and their role in the evolution of our solar system.

8. **Analyze the reasons behind the recent spike in tiger deaths in the Nilgiris district. How do human-animal conflicts and habitat degradation contribute to this issue?**
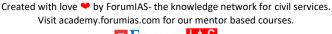
Introduction: Give context of the question.
Body: What are reasons behind tiger deaths and suggestion to deal with issue.
Conclusion: Way forward

The recent death of tigers in Nilgiris has raised concerns among the state forest department and conservationists about the welfare of these animals.

Reasons behind the recent spike in tiger deaths in the Nilgiris district:

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- **High density of tigers**: The high density of tigers in the Mudumalai-Bandipur-Nagarhole complex of the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve is pushing populations into the surrounding habitats in the Mukurthi National Park, Nilgiris and Gudalur forest divisions. This leads to increased competition between animals and more fighting, resulting in more deaths.
- **Poaching**: Tigers are frequently targeted by poachers for their body parts because they are in high demand on the black market for wildlife. Some of the recent deaths may be traced to unlawful hunting, and poaching still poses a serious threat to tiger populations.
- **Man-animal conflict**: The encroachment of human activities into tiger habitats often results in conflicts. These conflicts emerge when tigers enter human settlements in search of prey or when they are viewed as threats to livestock and human well-being. In such situations, villagers may react by resorting to retaliatory killings or capturing and relocating tigers, thereby contributing to an increase in tiger mortality.
- **Lack of prey base**: Habitat degradation can lead to a decline in prey species, such as deer and wild boar, which are essential for tigers' survival. Tigers may turn to domestic livestock as alternative prey, escalating conflicts with humans.

What conservation strategies are required to address the issue?

- **Anti-Poaching Efforts**: Strengthening anti-poaching measures and law enforcement is essential to combat illegal wildlife trade. Eg of such camps in forest ranges surrounding the Mukurthi National Park
- **Monitoring of areas**: There is a need to begin annual monitoring of tiger populations in the Nilgiris Forest Division, with the population size, range of each animal and other parameters to be recorded for better management.
- **Habitat Protection**: Protecting and restoring tiger habitats is crucial for reducing human-wildlife conflicts and providing tigers with sufficient prey.
- **Community Engagement**: Involving local communities in conservation efforts, providing education on coexistence, and offering compensation for livestock losses can help reduce conflicts.

Conclusion:

Addressing the recent spike in tiger deaths in the Nilgiris district requires a multi-pronged approach that considers both the ecological and social aspects of tiger conservation while addressing the root causes of habitat degradation and conflicts between humans and tigers.

9. **Analyze the recurring nature of inter-state water disputes in India, taking the Cauvery waters dispute as a case study. What are the underlying causes and challenges in resolving such disputes?**

> **Introduction:** Give context to the question.
> **Body:** What are the underlying causes and challenges in resolving such disputes?
> **Conclusion:** Way forward

The recurring nature of inter-state water disputes in India, exemplified by the Cauvery waters dispute, can be attributed to a combination of historical, geographical, political, and legal factors.

What are the underlying causes of such disputes?

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- **Geographical factors**: India's diverse geography, with multiple states sharing river basins, often leads to conflicts over water allocation. The Cauvery River, for instance, flows through Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry, creating competition for its waters. Other factors like erratic & variable rainfall, rapidly depleting groundwater, land use modification & water-intensive cropping patterns are intensifying the disputes.
- **Historical Agreements**: Historical agreements and agreements signed during the pre-independence era have laid the foundation for water-sharing arrangements. These agreements, often outdated, can become contentious when interpreted differently by the states. Eg, The Sutlej-Yamuna Link dispute started in 1966, when the Punjab Reorganisation Act divided erstwhile Punjab into the states of Punjab and Haryana.
- **Political Factors**: Political interests and regional rivalries can influence state governments' stance on water-sharing disputes. The pursuit of electoral gains and local political considerations can impede negotiations. The sharing of Krishna River water between Karnataka and Maharashtra has witnessed political considerations and protests from various stakeholders.
- **Legal factors**: A big limiting factor is the lack of effective authority for enforcing the orders of tribunals. The Tribunal can only make an award and cannot make it binding.

What are the challenges in resolving such disputes?

- **Lack of Adjudicative Bodies**: India has set up various tribunals, like the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, to address such disputes. However, these bodies often face delays in adjudication due to legal complexities and resource constraints.
- **Federal Structure:** India's federal structure gives significant autonomy to states, making it challenging for the central government to intervene effectively in state-level water disputes. this approach of imprecise distribution of power between the Union and the States has created a Federal-Jurisdictional ambiguity.
- **Public sentiments**: Public sentiment in riparian states can be inflamed during water disputes, making it politically risky for governments to compromise.
- **Jurisdictional overlap**: The institutional ambiguity regarding the jurisdiction of Supreme courts and tribunals has further complicated the issue where appeals are filed against the order of the tribunal leading to a lack of effective implementation.

Conclusion

Resolving inter-state water disputes in India requires a multifaceted approach that combines legal, political, technical, and environmental considerations to ensure sustainable and equitable water management.

10. **Discuss the implications of the findings of the Lancet Commission report on gender inequity in cancer care. How do societal perceptions of women's roles contribute to the disparities observed in cancer care for women?**

> **Introduction:** Give brief account of the report
> **Body:** What are implications of Lancet report?
> **Conclusion:** Way forward

A global, multidisciplinary commission titled **_"Women, Power and Cancer" was established by The Lancet_** to look into the glaring gender gap in cancer care across the globe. The commission was composed of experts in "gender studies, human rights, law,

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economics, social sciences, cancer epidemiology, prevention, and treatment, as well as patient advocates."

Implications of the Lancet Commission Report:

- **Different outcomes**: The report likely reveals that women face disparities in cancer outcomes compared to men. This can include differences in cancer diagnosis, treatment access, survival rates, and overall quality of life during and after cancer treatment. Eg, In India, 63% of cancer-related deaths among women were preventable if risk factors were reduced by ramping up screening and diagnosis; simultaneously, timely and appropriate treatment could've saved the lives of 37%.
- **Access to Screening and Early Detection**: The report shows that women, especially in lower-income or conservative societies, have limited access to cancer screening programs. This can result in late-stage diagnoses and reduced chances of successful treatment. These structural asymmetries can be seen in the under-representation of women in the oncology workforce as leaders and decision-makers.
- **Inequity in STEM**: The perception of women primarily as child-bearers and caregivers not only hinders research into cancers affecting areas beyond their breasts and cervix but also discourages women's active participation in STEM fields. This gender bias in STEM leads to a shortage of women in cancer research, medical practice, and policymaking, consequently resulting in a lack of cancer prevention and care tailored to women's specific needs.

Societal Perceptions of Women's Roles and Their Contribution to Disparities:

- **Economic Disparities**: Women's economic disparities, including wage gaps and limited employment opportunities, can result in financial barriers to accessing cancer care. Women are also more likely to experience "financial catastrophe" due to cancer
- **Lack of Decision-Making Power**: In many societies, women have limited decision-making power regarding their healthcare. Their access to cancer care, including treatment decisions, may be influenced by family members or community expectations.
- **Limited Advocacy and Representation**: Women's underrepresentation in healthcare leadership and policy-making roles can result in a lack of focus on gender-specific health issues, including cancer. The asymmetries of power also play out in terms of decision-making, knowledge, and economics in 185 countries.

Conclusion:

More studies on risks that affect women and the gathering and updating of socio-demographic data in cancer health are two ways to address the measures to reduce inequity in cancer care. All stakeholders, from institutions and policymakers at the top to those who raise awareness and are involved in the treatment and care of the affected women, need to be more sensitive to and responsive to the challenges that arise at the intersections of power, status, and identity.

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11. **Discuss the role of the Centre in ensuring reconciliation between conflicting communities in Manipur. What measures can be taken to prevent further deterioration of the situation?**

> **Introduction:** Give a brief context to the question.
> **Body:** What is role of Centre in ensuring reconciliation & measures taken to resolve the situation?
> **Conclusion:** Way forward

Manipur, a northeastern state in India, has a history of ethnic and communal tensions, which have often resulted in violence and instability. The role of the Centre in ensuring reconciliation between conflicting communities in Manipur hence becomes pivotal, given the complex and sensitive nature of the issues in the region.

Highlight role of Centre in ensuring reconciliation in Manipur:

- **Political dialogue**: The Centre should actively engage in political dialogues with various communities, insurgent groups, and stakeholders in Manipur. These dialogues should be inclusive and aim to address the grievances and aspirations of different ethnic and social groups.
- **Economic Development**: Socio-economic disparities often fuel communal conflicts. The Centre should invest in infrastructure development, job creation, and poverty alleviation programs in Manipur. This can help in reducing economic disparities and fostering a sense of inclusivity.
- **Conflict Resolution**: Mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms should be put in place to resolve disputes and conflicts peacefully. Third-party mediators like civil society organisations or human rights groups, can help in facilitating these discussions. The Centre can play a crucial role in encouraging and supporting these processes.

Measures that can be taken to prevent further deterioration of situation:

- **Security Measures**: While long-term reconciliation efforts are crucial, immediate security measures are also necessary to prevent violence. The Centre should work with state and local law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order.
- **Dialogue with communities**: Encouraging civil society organizations, NGOs, and community leaders to play an active role in reconciliation efforts can be highly effective. These groups often have a deep understanding of local dynamics and can bridge gaps between conflicting communities. The major task before the government is to build confidence between the Meitei and Kuki communities.
- **Reform in AFSPA:** To enhance the human rights situation in the region, it is imperative to revoke the contentious Armed Forces Special Powers Act of 1958 (AFSPA). The government must guarantee a just and transparent legal framework to curb the potential abuse of authority by security forces.
- **Various constitutional reforms**: Government could start with need to evaluate the criteria for ST status to Meiteis in line by considering recommendations given by several Committees, like Lokur Commission, Bhuria Commission & XaXa committee.

Conclusion:

Reconciliation in Manipur requires a multi-pronged approach that combines political dialogue, economic development, security measures, and cultural sensitivity. The Centre must play a central role in facilitating these efforts, working closely with the state government and local stakeholders. Finally, government should foster the participation of the people of the region in the decision-making process to instill a sense of ownership and belonging.

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12. **Analyze India's stance on the investor-state-dispute settlement (ISDS) mechanism. How can an appellate review mechanism benefit India in international investment law?**

Investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) is a system through which investors can sue countries for discriminatory practices concerning foreign direct investment. The protection provided by ISDS acts as a lever to boost foreign investment. ISDS is an instrument of public international law and is included in a number of bilateral investment treaties (BITs). India has supported idea of an appellate review in the ISDS because Article 29 of the Indian model BIT mentions it.

What is India's stance on ISDS mechanism?

- **Historical Perspective**: India has had a history of mixed experiences with ISDS cases. The country has faced several investment arbitration cases, some of which have resulted in unfavourable outcomes, leading to concerns about sovereignty and regulatory autonomy.
- **Balancing Investor Rights and Public Interest**: India has expressed a desire to strike a balance between protecting foreign investors' rights and safeguarding its ability to regulate in the public interest. The government is cautious about ISDS provisions that could potentially undermine its policy space in areas like public health, environmental protection, and social welfare.
- **Policy Reforms**: India has undertaken policy reforms to attract foreign investment and create a more conducive investment climate. While doing so, it has also sought to negotiate investment treaties that incorporate safeguards to mitigate the risks associated with ISDS, such as allowing claims only for expropriation without adequate compensation

How can review mechanism benefit India?

- **Legal Certainty**: An appellate review mechanism can enhance legal certainty for India. It provides a structured process for reviewing arbitral decisions, reducing the unpredictability associated with ISDS outcomes.
- **Deterrent Against Frivolous Claims**: Knowing that there is an appellate review process can serve as a deterrent against frivolous or unjustified claims by investors, reducing the burden on India's legal system and resources.
- **Enhanced Credibility**: Embracing an appellate review mechanism demonstrates India's commitment to a fair and transparent international investment regime. This can enhance its credibility as an investment destination and promote investor confidence.

Conclusion:

India's quest to establish a rule-based global order should support an appellate review which will usher in greater confidence for states and investors in international investment law. This reform could also help India push for the restoration of the WTO appellate body towards achieving the goal of a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system at the WTO.

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