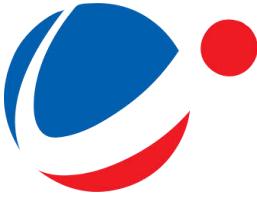


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Essay Topic 1: Healthcare in India

Quotes by famous personalities

- **Mahatma Gandhi** - “It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver”
- **Buddha** - “To keep the body in good health is a duty, Otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear” -
- **Publilius Syrus** “Good health and good sense are two of life's greatest blessings”
- **Winston S. Churchill** - “Healthy citizens are the greatest asset any country can have”
- **French Proverb** - “If Wealth Is Lost, Nothing Is Lost; If Health Is Lost, Something Is Lost”
- **Upanishads** - “Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah” – It means “May All become Happy, May All be Healthy”

INTRODUCTION

- **Health in ancient India was defined as physical, mental, emotional, spiritual and social wellbeing of an individual.** Thus, the system of medicine of medicine was not about illness and standalone treatment.
- It combined many concepts such as diet, climate, beliefs, supernatural, empirical, and culture into treatment of the person.
- The emphasis was on natural and preventive approach to healing. It was aimed at treating the illness from the root cause.
- The most important practitioners in this field included Susruta, Charvaka and Vaghbata. Susruta is also considered as the "father of Indian surgery".
- Thus, the most important contributions of India included Yoga, Meditation and Ayurveda.
- Also, Indian medical practices were gradually dispersed all over Asia, including the southeast, Indonesia, Tibet, and Japan.
- **Health in modern times has been often defined in a negative connotation i.e. absence of illness.**
- However, this definition is restrictive and narrow. As **Amartya Sen** has argued that, “*Health is a social good. A person should be termed healthy, if he is able to actively participate in a society*”.
- Our vedic texts also dwell on the concept of health in totality. It was viewed as the greater form of wealth and a path to happiness.

“आरोग्यं परमं भाग्यं स्वास्थ्यं सर्वर्थसाधनम्॥”

(Arogyam parvam bhagyam, swasthyam sarvarthasadhaanam)

{It means that Good health is the greatest blessing. Health is means of everything.}

- Thus, **health cannot be seen in isolation but needs to be seen in wider perspective of human life, as a part of human life, as an instrument for fruitful human life.**
- Being healthy is a process. It starts right from morning, the way we breathe, the way and what we eat, and all the way to the modalities of our sleep.
- This sense is aptly captured in the new Indian perspective towards health where there has been an increasing shift towards Health assurance as opposed to insurance.

PARADOXES & CONTRADICTIONS RELATED TO HEALTH IN INDIAN SOCIETY

- **June 21st is every year celebrated as 'Yoga Day'**, an acknowledgement for one of the greatest contribution of India to healthcare systems, especially in wake of emerging lifestyle diseases like depression, diabetes etc.
- However, among all this, was another fact - **India was declared as the Diabetes Capital of the world** by International Diabetes Federation (IDF) with the highest number of people suffering from Type-2 diabetes. However, this contradiction is reflective of a wider problem in our health system - The dismal state of our healthcare system.
- It is a huge travesty that the land of Susruta, Charvaka, Vaghbhata, Ram Chandra Sharma (Designer and developer of Jaipur foot) and the Generic pharmacy of the world in modern times has been ranked 145 out of 195 countries on the Healthcare Access and Quality Index (HAQ) of The Lancet.

WHY HEALTH - IMPORTANCE /DIMENSIONS TO HEALTH

- **Health as a Social good**
 - Social good refers to any good which benefits the largest number of people in the largest possible way.
 - Health as a social good enables a society to become more egalitarian, tolerant, sustainable, sensitive and moral-based society.
 - It also helps in better absorption of other social goods like Education, Skills and better relationship with natural resources.
- **Health as a Political good**
 - Political good refers to any good which enable participation of people into the political process.
 - Health as a political good enables the political discourse of a society to become more democratic, more accountable, more decentralized.
 - In addition, it becomes very easy to develop consensus on critical issues especially on critical issues like clean energy, sustainable development etc.
- **Health as a Economic good**
 - Economic good refers to a good which enable economic growth, prosperity etc.
 - Health as an economic good helps in better absorption of skills, better productivity of workforce, better involvement of workforce in industries, better decision making regarding technologies etc.
 - In addition, lower spending on health leads to lesser burden on family, government and society as a whole.
 - According to. According to Centre for Disease control and prevention (CDC), there is a \$10 return on investment for every \$1 spent on childhood vaccinations.
- **Health as an Ecological good**
 - Health as a ecological good can enable in sustainable development, sustainable consumption and environment-friendly policy making.
 - The recent Sterlite protests in Tamil Nadu were owing to the impact on health of the people around. Similar protests have also been in Delhi because of growing pollution and increasing adverse impact on health.

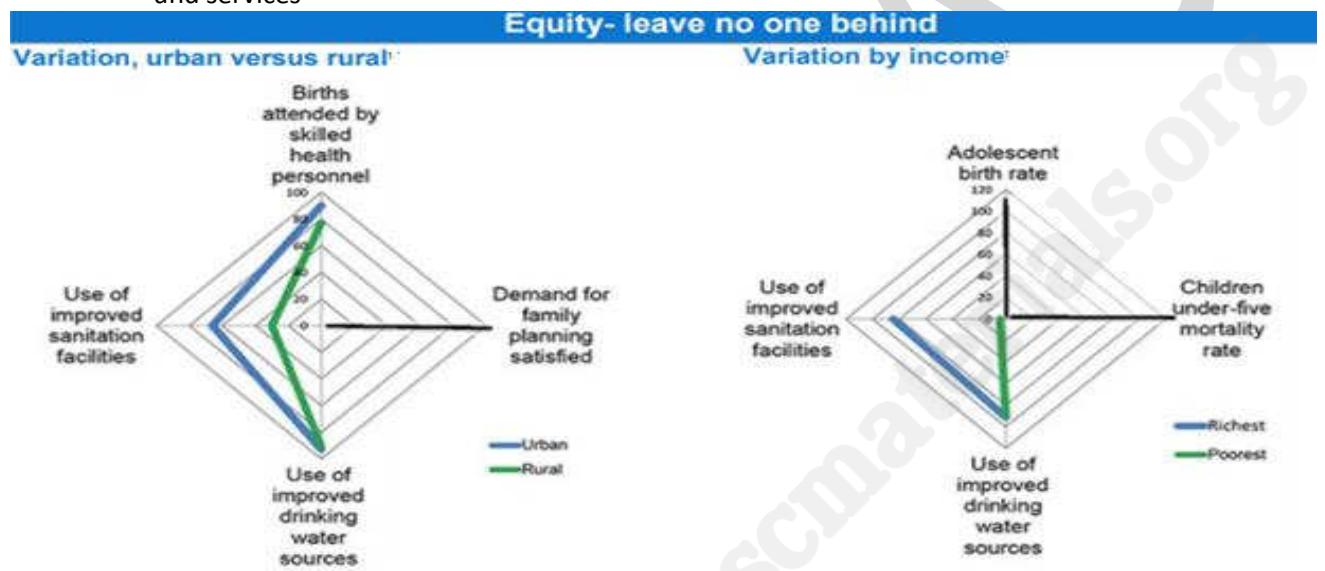
- **Health as a Ethical good**
 - Right to Health is now being increasingly recognized as a basic human right.
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights etc. have recognized health as a basic human right, Sustainable Development Goal # 3 - Good Health and Wellbeing - have recognized health as a basic human right.
 - Also, there has been an increasing consensus in India to declare right to health as a part of fundamental rights under part III of Indian constitution.
 - Thus, it is incumbent on society and societal institutions to fulfill this right.

- **Causes of Child Mortality** - As per WHO 2012 estimates, the causes of Child Mortality in the age group 0-5 years in India are : Neonatal causes (53%); Pneumonia (15%); Diarrhoeal disease (12%); Measles (3%); Injuries (3%) and others (14%)
- **Causes of Infant Mortality** - The prominent causes of death among infants are perinatal conditions (46%); respiratory infections (22%); diarrhoeal disease (10%); other infectious and parasitic diseases (8%); congenital anomalies (3.1%).
- **Causes of Neo-Natal Mortality** - The major causes of neonatal deaths are Infections (33%) such as Pneumonia, Septicemia and Umbilical Cord infection; Prematurity (35%) i.e. birth of newborn before 37 weeks of gestation; Asphyxia (20%) i.e. inability to breathe immediately after birth and leads to lack of oxygen.

CHALLENGES IN HEALTH IN INDIA

- **Weak primary health care sector**
 - Expansion of public services has been inequitably distributed eg. there is one government hospital bed for every 614 people in Goa compared with one government hospital bed for every 8789 people in Bihar.
 - India's **doctor to population ratio remains dismal** at less than 1 doctor per 1,000 population in-spite of being a hub for medical tourism and an exporter of healthcare experts.
- An overwhelming **70% of healthcare expenses in India are met by out of pocket expenditure** in-spite of India being the Global Pharmacy of the World.
 - Around 5 crore Indians are pushed into poverty because of healthcare expenses.
 - **Recently 42 children died over two days at Gorakhpur; A case related to Dengue where the patient died was charged 16 lakh by Fortis, Gurgaon.**
 - These all reflect on the broken system from quality, quantity, footprint, access and affordability issues
- **Inadequate Financing:**
 - Government spending on healthcare in India remains at a dismal 1.28% of GDP which is less than 30% of total health spending. India's per capita expenditure is only Rs 3 per day on each citizen.
 - Apart from this, the funding pattern is skewed i.e. in favour of curative and communicable diseases. This despite the well established fact that expenditure on preventive healthcare is more favourable and non-communicable diseases form 60% of India's health burden.
- **Weak Regulatory Framework and Private Sector**
 - India's regulatory framework for health remains in shambles. The nodal agency i.e. Medical Council of India (MCI) has been marked by corruption, nepotism and favouritism.
 - Apart from this, the recent cases of Fortis charging exuberant etc. only reflect on the dismal regulatory framework.

- **Inadequate Healthcare Personnel and Infrastructure**
 - India has one of the lowest doctor to population ratio which is far less than the recommended 1:1000 by WHO. This problem is even more acute for specialised doctors like cardiologists, psychiatrists etc.
 - In addition, there is a clear rural-urban divide, regional divide, gender-divide etc. regarding healthcare facilities.
 - **For example:**
 - Urban areas command 73% of the public hospital beds, even when 69% of India's population resides in rural areas.
 - There is one government hospital bed for every 614 people in Goa compared with one every 8,789 people in Bihar.
 - **Inequity in Healthcare**
 - The divide between the rich and poor in terms of health is wide in terms of access, distribution and services



2009 – UPSC - “The focus of health care is increasingly getting skewed towards the ‘haves’ of our society”.

- **Fragmented health information systems**
 - The systems of collecting data have many weaknesses like incomplete data gathering and non-inclusion of private sector in it means excluding the major health provider in India.
- **Weak Governance and accountability**
- **Medical Education**
 - While Indian-educated healthcare professionals are world renowned, medical education in India has been dismal.
 - Most of the problems include nepotism, capitation fees, weak regulatory structure etc. Apart from these national exams like NEET have failed to take variation according to state into account.

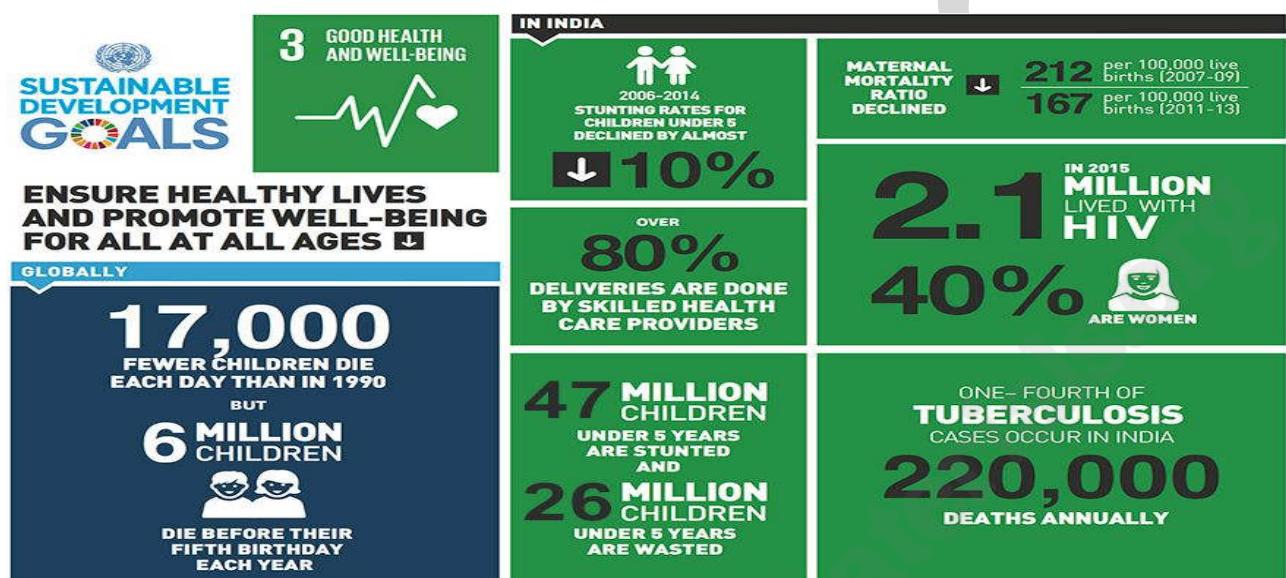
- **Social Reasons**
 - Healthcare can't be seen in isolation but needs to be studied in a social context. The poor state of healthcare in India is also because of wide poverty, lack of gainful employment, ignorance, illiteracy, poor status of women, problem of open defecation and poor sanitation facilities.
 - Discrimination on the basis of diseases is also a huge problem in Indian society esp in case of TB, leprosy, HIV/AIDS, etc
 - For example, Diarrhoeal diseases which are closely linked to open defecation kill 1 lakh children under 11 months old in India each year.
- **Status of Indigenous systems**
 - While, there has been increasing emphasis on indigenous system of Yoga, Ayurveda etc., their supporting system for implementation remains weak.
 - There is an absence of proper regulatory framework, certification benchmarking and research into these system.
- **Emerging Health Issues**
 - Modern way of life, increasing violence, increase individualism, reproductive health facilities, urban lifestyle, exam pressure, work pressure, corporate culture is giving way to new challenges in healthcare discourse and rise of non-communicable diseases.
 - In India, lifestyle diseases like diabetes, anxiety disorder, depression etc. are becoming major challenges especially in urban areas.
 - However, despite the scale of the epidemic, India spends only 0.06 per cent of its healthcare budget on mental healthcare.
 - Ethics in overall health as a sector esp deteriorating values when it comes to doctor-patient relationship like treatment of the patients, trafficking of organs, not abiding to secrecy of diseases or sex of a child, etc
 - Also, India's aged population has reached 100 million and is predicted to grow only more. However, Indian healthcare continues to be abysmally underprepared for geriatric health care which includes cardiovascular diseases, psychological diseases etc.
 - Apart from this, there are emerging challenges of drug resistance and rise in epidemics because of climate change and globalisation. For e.g. recent case of Zika Virus, NIPAH virus, MERS virus etc.
 - Finally, issue like Euthanasia are throwing new challenges to medical ethics.

UPSC – 1997 - The modern doctor and his patients.

INDIA'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN HEALTH SECTOR

- **As a Generic Pharmacy of the World**
 - India's accounts for close to 10% of the global pharmaceutical industry in terms of volume. This number goes to 20% for generic-drug exports by volume.
 - The Indian pharmaceutical sector has many advantages - Low cost of land, labor, utilities and equipment; Favourable domestic laws etc.
- **Medical Tourism**
 - It has been one of the highest source of foreign exchange for India owing to its relatively inexpensive healthcare systems, trained healthcare personnels, indigenous healthcare systems like Yoga, Naturopathy etc.
 - As of 2015, Medical tourism is valued at 3 billion USD and expected to reach 9 billion USD by 2020.
 - India is also one of the Exporter of Healthcare professionals.

- **Cost effective solutions**
 - India has been hub for cost-effective solutions for medical issues.
 - The Jaipur Foot was designed and developed in India by Ram Chandra Sharma in 1968.
 - India has also emerged as a hub for research and development in vaccines. More than 60% of the world's vaccines are being made by India.
 - Recently, for the first time, a vaccine named Rotavac vaccine has been conceived and developed from scratch in India has been “pre-qualified” by the World Health Organisation.
- **Major health indicators have improved** like India's MMR at 167(2011-13) has improved significantly from 212 (2007-09). Our Target is to reduce it to 100; Under 5 mortality rate has declined to 49/1000 live births in 2013, etc.



OTHER STEPS TAKEN TO IMPROVE HEALTH CARE IN INDIA

- **Constitutional Provisions**
 - Supreme Court in its various judgements has declared right to health within the purview of Article 21 of Indian constitution.
 - Apart from, this several article in Part IV (Directive Principles) Article 39(e), 41, 42, 47 and 48 call upon State to strengthen healthcare system in India.
- **Legislations, Schemes and Policies for healthcare**
 - **National Health Policy 2017:** It aims at providing healthcare in an “assured manner” to all by addressing current and emerging challenges arising from the ever changing socio-economic, epidemiological and technological scenarios.
 - It aims to raise public healthcare expenditure to 2.5% of GDP by 2025, from current 1.2%, with more than two-thirds of those resources going towards primary healthcare.
 - The policy also seeks to achieve and maintain elimination of leprosy by 2018, and to achieve ‘90:90:90’ global HIV target by 2020.
- **Intensified Mission Indradhanush**
 - It is aimed at reaching each and every child under two years of age and all those pregnant women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.
 - **Ayushman Bharat**

- It envisages a Rs 5 lakh annual insurance cover at no cost to 10 crore households, with the joint collaboration of both central and union governments.
- **Government of India has set the target of working towards elimination of Tuberculosis by 2025.**
- Apart from this there has been growing impetus on reviving indigenous healthcare system. **Government has launched National AYUSH Mission and Yoga day has been officially declared as a global annual exercise.**
- The **Mental Healthcare Act, 2017** passed by the government takes a rights-based approach to all aspects of mental healthcare.
- **Efforts of Civil Society Organisations**
 - Smile India foundation - It is aimed at bringing quality healthcare services to doorsteps of the needy and to promote healthcare awareness.
 - Rural Health Care Foundation - It is aimed at addressing the gap in the availability of low cost primary health care in rural areas.
 - Seva Nilayam - It is working in partnership with the Government of Tamil Nadu an objective to reduce the maternal mortality rate in its rural area.
- **International Organisations**
 - Some of the international organisation working in health sector include WHO, UNDP, FAO etc.
 - Apart from this, Bill and Melinda Gates foundation is aimed at enhancing healthcare and reducing extreme poverty.
 - Doctor without Borders - It is best known for its projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases.

Best Practices in India

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kerala and Tamil Nadu Model Insurance Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Globally acknowledged healthcare models, these have helped in better healthcare service at cheap and affordable cost. ○ The burden of premium and primary health care is borne by the state, whereas the private participation is mostly restricted to tertiary healthcare services. ○ Apart from these, Ardram Mission in Kerala is aimed at making government hospitals people-friendly by improving their basic infrastructure. ● Mohalla Clinics Model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mohalla Clinics are primary health centres in the state of New Delhi that offer a basic package of essential health services including medicines, diagnostics, and consultation free of cost ○ These clinics serve as the first point of contact for the population, offer timely services, and reduce the load of referrals to secondary and tertiary health facilities in the state. ● Odisha e-Healthcare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Started in 2009, Odisha telemedicine has set up 127 telemedicine centres and trained about 900 telemedicine technicians. ○ It has collaboration agreements with several super-specialty hospitals in the country and has benefitted nearly five lakh patients in the State. ● ASHA Health Workers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) have emerged as a very fruitful model for preventive healthcare. ○ Launched as a part of National Rural Health Mission, it led to reduced cost on healthcare, better health indicators like IMR and MMR. |
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WAY FORWARD - CAN INDIA'S BROKEN HEALTHCARE SYSTEM BE FIXED?

While the conventional reforms like increasing expenditure, strengthening public health systems, strengthening health regulation etc. are indispensable, some areas of reforms which haven't been given adequate attention but are important and can be game-changer:

- **Shift to Preventive healthcare**
 - India's health system continue to be guided by curative healthcare. There is a need to shift to preventive healthcare which is more inclusive, cheaper and offers a better life experience.
- **Change in conception of Health**
 - There is a need to view health not as absence of illness but a state of well being. There is a need to shift from hospital-centred model of health.
 - Thus, the value system needs to be re-oriented to inculcate importance of sports, right surroundings, right food, right sleep etc.
- **Women as agency of health**
 - One of the major ways of reforming healthcare has been through agency of Women. Amartya Sen in his capability approach has highlighted how Women empowerment has led to significant improvements in fertility rates, IMR and MMR.
- **Use of technology**
 - Information Technology can be a huge game changer in healthcare sector. New technologies like Big Data, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning can enable to strengthen and enhance the reach healthcare delivery.
 - States like Odisha, Chhattisgarh etc. are now using telemedicine for strengthening healthcare delivery.
 - India needs to put more emphasis in research and innovation especially in biotechnology which can enable the healthcare to be more affordable, available and accessible.
- **Use of SHGs, PRI and Strengthening of ANMs, ASHAs**
 - There is a need to develop decentralized institutions like SHGs, PRIs for delivering health.
 - Apart from that The ASHA, the Dai with traditional skills and modern hygiene, the re-skilled ANM and the ICDS workers, should be trained together to form a multi-skilled team at the village level.
- **Rejuvenating our indigenous systems**
 - While there has been an increasing focus on Yoga and AYUSH, the supporting and regulatory systems for the policy initiatives continue to remain weak.
 - There is also need for further research into these systems to make them in-line with needs of today.
 - For e.g. Recent studies have shown the use of turmeric in fighting cancer and depression.
- **Learning from other successful models/examples**
 - Countries like Bangladesh, Thailand, Performance-based financing in Rwanda have developed successful healthcare model.
 - Even within India, states like Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh etc. have developed successful healthcare model.
 - These models be replicated and moulded to the needs and requirements of the health sector in India.

- **Bridge Courses**
 - While there has been an attempt to introduce bridge courses for AYUSH doctors for allopathy medicine.
 - There is also a need for bridge course for allopathy doctors for AYUSH.
- **Ethics**
 - There is also need to inculcate ethical values of service, truthfulness, confidentiality, autonomy, informed consent and justice in healthcare professionals.
 - Apart from that even the patients need to be more sensitive about the position of healthcare professionals.

International Practices - Models of Healthcare – From which India can learn

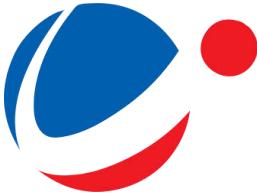
- **The Beveridge Model** - Great Britain, Spain, most of Scandinavia and New Zealand, etc
 - It is named after William Beveridge, a social reformer who was responsible for designing Britain's National Health Service.
 - In this, health care is provided and financed by the government through tax payments, just like the police force or the public library.
 - These systems tend to have low costs per capita but compromise on efficiency and effectiveness.
- **The Bismarck Model** - Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Japan, Switzerland
 - It uses an insurance system where insurers are called "sickness funds" - Usually financed jointly by employers and employees through payroll deduction.
 - The plan covers everybody and doesn't make any profit.
 - Owing to tight regulation, government has significant cost-control clout.
- **The National Health Insurance Model** - Systems in Canada, Taiwan and South Korea.
 - This system has elements of both Beveridge and Bismarck.
 - It uses private-sector providers, but payment comes from a government-run insurance program that every citizen pays into.
 - Since there's no need for marketing, no financial motive to deny claims and no profit, these universal insurance programs tend to be cheaper and much simpler.
- **The Out-of-Pocket Model** - rural regions of Africa, India, China and South America.
 - This is mostly a feature of countries which are too poor and too disorganized to provide any kind of mass medical care.

CONCLUSION

- Indian healthcare currently stands at a critical juncture.
- To borrow Amartya Sen analogy, India's healthcare represents a islands of California (achievements) in a sea of sub-Saharan Africa (Challenges).
- However, there is a need for overhaul of healthcare sector in India. This also includes a complete different perception of healthcare, where it is seen as a process, as a part of life.
- It is important to note that even our ancient texts also subscribed to a similar view.
- In today's world, where people are running after wealth, where wealth has become the ultimate desire, it is important to go back to what father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi said, 'It is only health, that is the real wealth'. The choice is ours!

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Essay Topic 2: Women Empowerment

Quotes of famous personalities

- “No better tool of empowerment than Women themselves” - **Kofi Annan**
- “A woman is like a tea bag; you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water” - **Eleanor Roosevelt**
- “I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved” - **B. R. Ambedkar**
- “You educate a man; you educate a man. You educate a woman; you educate a generation” - **Brigham Young**
- “Man can never be a woman's equal in the spirit of selfless service with which nature has endowed her” - **Mahatma Gandhi**
- “There is considerable evidence that women's education and literacy tend to reduce the mortality rates of children” - **Amartya Sen**

Anecdotes/Short Stories

- **On 1st June, 2018** - The Hindu prominently highlighted the success of all-women crew which circumnavigated the globe on India-built sail boat INSV Tarini. The same paper also carried reports of a girl-rape case in Kathua highlighting the paradoxical situation of women empowerment in India.
- The story goes to the dark days of 1950s when black-colored people in USA were facing worst ever discrimination. It was Rosa Parks, a woman, a black woman, who dared to do the unthinkable - Rode at the front of a Montgomery, Alabama, bus on the day the Supreme Court's ban on segregation of the city's buses took effect.
- The only thing one could hear were shouts, whistles and claps when Agni-IV missile was successfully tested. But, behind all these was the story of grit, of determination - The story of Tessy Thomas, An Indian scientist and Project Director for Agni-IV missile.
- The life of Helen Keller, an American educator who overcame the adversity of being blind and deaf to become one of the 20th century's leading humanitarians and founded American Civil Liberties Union.
- The highest-grossing Indian film ever, the fifth highest grossing non-English film ever is not a romantic or male-protagonist based movie, but Dangal, a story Geeta Phogat and Babita Kumari who go on to become India's first world-class female wrestlers.

DEFINITION

- **According to United Nations** - Women's empowerment has five components:
 - Women's sense of self-worth;
 - Their right to have and to determine choices;
 - Their right to have access to opportunities and resources;
 - Their right to have power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and
 - Their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

- **Economic Survey 2017-18** has defined gender inequality in the following dimensions -
 - AGENCY - Exclusive decision making power over reproduction; financial resources, spending on their own health and mobility.
 - ATTITUDE - Attitudes about violence against women/wives, and the ideal number of daughters preferred relative to the ideal number of sons.
 - OUTCOMES - Son preference (measured by sex ratio of last child), female employment, choice of contraception, education levels, age at marriage, age at first childbirth, and physical or sexual violence experienced by women.
- **According to the World Bank** - Empowerment is the process of increasing the capacity of individuals or groups to make choices and to transform those choices into desired actions and outcomes.

STATUS OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT OVER THE AGES

- The **Rig Veda** says, "The wife and husband, being the equal halves of one substance, are equal in every respect; therefore, both should join and take equal parts in all works, religious and secular." Also, the Upanishads clearly declare that we individual souls are neither male nor female.
- The status of women of Vedic era began to decline with time with **emergence of later vedic age**. Gender inequality started creeping into the society.
- This led to series of **social evils against women** - Child marriage, Sati, Jauhar etc. In-spite of these, there were series of **women achievers - Lopamudra; Maitreyi; Gargi; Ahilya Bai Holkar; etc.**
- The **Indian renaissance began during the time of British rule** with the help of leaders like **Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar** and after exposure to western education which talked about equality. This led to series of legislations - Abolition of Sati, increasing age for marriage, Widow remarriage etc.
- The next phase in women empowerment came with emergence of **Mahatma Gandhi** to national picture. According to Gandhi, Women were best placed to participate in the non-violent struggle for India's Independence. Women like Sarojini Naidu, Aruna Asaf Ali, Kalpana Dutt, Pritilata Waddedar, Sucheta Kriplani, Usha Mehta etc. became an integral part of India's Independence movement.

DIMENSIONS TO WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- **SOCIAL & CULTURAL EMPOWERMENT**
 - **At individual level:** Involvement in decisions about their own health; in decisions about large household purchases; in decisions about their mobility outside domestic sphere like visits to family and relatives, at marketplace, visiting/staying their friend's; decisions about their own earnings; in decisions about contraception, menstrual hygiene, sanitation, health, surrogacy, abortion.
 - **At familial and societal level:** Involvement in decisions related to their career and education, children (esp. son preference), marriage (eg honour killing if one does not abide by family's decision), share in parental/ancestral property, involvement in collective decisions like family planning, management of expenses, decision involving their *lifestyle* - how they should dress, choice of friends, mannerisms/behaviour etc.
 - **At the level of framing and implementation of laws:** Non-recognition of marital rape as a crime at the first place; Implementation deficit and misuse of social laws like Dowry prohibition act - 1961, The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act - 2005 especially Section 498A of IPC; No separate definition or classification of Honour Killing as an offence in India (treated as a murder under Section 300 of the IPC punishable under Section 302).

PARADOXES & CONTRADICTIONS

- India belongs to a land where women are revered as goddess. They are given a sacred status whereas on the other hand, they are debarred entry to temples (Sabarimala Issue).
- Women in society are seen as home-makers, caretakers even in the health front the job of a nurse is given mostly to women, on the other hand, when it comes to women's health or nutrition they are the most neglected ones.
- In the education front over the years, it is seen in India that girls have more passing percentage over boys in CBSE exams. But, still discrimination is seen in terms of expenditure done on girl's education over a boy in a family.

- **ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT**

- **Definition and restrictions in career for women:** Women's household work (Care economy) is unpaid and undervalued; Pink-collared jobs; Feminization of agriculture and informal sector; Entrepreneurship as a career option is not promoted
- **Inequity at workplace:** Salary differential; Creche facilities; Maternity leave; Sexual harassment at workplace; Glass-ceiling effect
- **At the level of framing and implementation of laws:** Continuous discrimination regarding women's share in parental/ancestral property; Poor implementation of Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace, 2013 Examples - Lijjat Papad Model; Amul owes much of its success to women participation; Kudumbshree

PROBLEMS FACED BY WORKING WOMEN IN SOCIETY

- Working women suffer from the phenomena of Glass ceiling where there is an unacknowledged barrier to advancement in a professional life. In addition, certain jobs are reserved only for women like jobs in care industry, often referred to as Pink Collared Issues.
- Apart from this issues there are other issues at workplace - Perception of potential of women who are often viewed as inferior; Issues of sexual harassment; Discrimination w.r.t. Salary, promotions, giving credit.
- Working women face the problem of dual burden where apart from working outside, they are also supposed to take care of household work. This has also been referred to as 'The Second Shift'.
- Challenges to their work owing to advancement in technologies - Owing to advancement in technologies in agriculture, women labour is becoming dispensable, thus reducing their working opportunities.
- Working women are denied ownership of their labour. Their participation regarding how and where to spend their own salary is either negligible or completely absent.
- Other problems include - Problems of security, travel, facilities at workplace - Creche, Toilets etc.

PARADOXES & CONTRADICTIONS

- Women in household are viewed as care managers (rearing, education, etc.), relationship managers (husbands and extended family at the relationship level) and financial managers (savings, bargaining abilities), whereas women continue to face glass-ceiling at workplace.
- On one hand properties are registered/brought in the name of women for financial benefits, on the other hand the benefit isn't passed on to these women.
- The road to economic recovery in India's post global financial crisis of 2008 was led by women headed banks - Shikha Sharma of Axis Bank, Arundhati Bhattacharya of SBI. However, women continue to be denied leadership positions constituting just 7% of seats on boards of publicly traded companies (as per World Economic Forum's 2015 Gender Gap report).
- While Women in Indian film industry have huge fan following, stardom and are used for attracting viewership, they continue to be underpaid as compared to their male counterparts.

UPSC - 2017 - If development is not engendered, it is endangered

UPSC - 2012 - Managing work and home – is the Indian working woman getting a fair deal?

- **POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT**

- **Political Parties and Legislature:** Discrimination at party level regarding number of tickets (Sexual favours or compromises in lieu of party tickets/promotions) -> Less number of women legislators -> Poor representation at legislatures;
- **Executive:** Bureaucracy (), Police, Armed Forces
- **Judiciary:** Representation; Discrimination against women, Sexual harassment against women.

PARADOXES & CONTRADICTIONS

- While actresses a major attraction and an active part for promotional campaigns for different political parties, yet when it comes to ticket distribution or positions of power, they continue to be discriminated.
- Women have spearheaded path-breaking initiatives and shown exemplary courage like Durga Shakti Nagpal (IAS), Kiran Bedi (IPS) etc. However, their number/percentage in executive positions in government especially higher level continue to be dismal.
- Despite having a constitutional mandate of 33.3% reservation of seats for women at the level of Panchayati Raj; these positions still continue to be effectively manned by their husbands as 'Sarpanch Patis'.

UPSC - 2016 - Women's Reservation Bill Would Usher in Empowerment for Women in India.

UPSC - 2015 - Whither Women's Emancipation?

ISSUES OF WOMEN RESERVATION

- **Merits of Women's Reservation**

- It will increase the number of women members in Parliament and state assemblies which is currently skewed with women constituting only 11.8% of Lok Sabha and 11% of Rajya Sabha.
- Issue related to the women's will get much more priority in the Parliament and can be resolved easily.
- It can also help in making the atmosphere of the Parliament and state assemblies more conducive for debates and discussions.
- Reservation in PRIs for Women offers a successful example of how reservation can be used as a tool for women empowerment.

- **Demerits of Women's Reservation**

- It takes away the democratic right of the electorate to elect their representatives as after the implementation of bill it became compulsory to fill the reserved seats for women.
- It is not guaranteed that benefits are received by the socially backward and underprivileged women, who really need them.
- Many MLAs and MPs who are already having seats in Parliament and state assemblies will try to bring their own wife's and other relatives to fulfill the seats.

RESERVATION: PROGRESS AT THE LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT

- **Women Reservation Bill, 2008**
 - It provides for reservation of one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies.
- **Women reservation in Panchayati Raj**
 - Article 243 D of the Constitution provides for 1/3rd of the Seats of Panchayati Raj Institutions and offices of the Chairperson at all level of Panchayati Raj Institutions to be reserved for women.
 - States like Bihar, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh provide for 50% reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
 - Government is considering to increase reservation for women in panchayats from the current 33% to 50%.
- **Women reservation in Police**
 - Government has approved 33% reservation for women in police forces of all UTs through direct recruitment in non-gazetted posts.
 - States of Gujarat and Bihar have implemented 33% reservation for women in police force.
- **Women in Armed/Paramilitary Forces**
 - Indian Air Force has opened new combat role for women as fighter pilots.
 - Government has allowed direct-entry women officers in all 5 Central Armed Police Forces. It has also allowed direct entry to women in junior rank via direct recruitment and also to women officer via Union Public Service Commission in supervisory combat roles.
 - Government also plans to induct women in 33% constable-rank personnel in CRPF and CISF and 15% in the border guarding forces BSF, SSB and ITBP.

Political Empowerment of Women in India

- Women make up 11.8% of the Lok Sabha and 11% of the 245-member Rajya Sabha.
- Women constitute only 9% of the State Assembly members and 5% of the State Council members. States like Mizoram, Nagaland and Puducherry have zero women MLAs.
- Women constitute only 7.28% of the police force in India according to the government data.
- India has been ranked 148 globally in terms of representation of women in executive government and parliament as per the report titled Women in Politics, 2017 published by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women.

● ECOLOGICAL EMPOWERMENT

- Nature or Earth is ascribed with the status of ‘Mother’.
- **Eco-feminism** - “Ecofeminism” was a term first used by Francoise D’Eaubonne in 1980 and gained popularity in protests and actions against continued ecological disaster. It is a joining of environmental, feminist, and women’s spirituality concerns. As the environmental movement along with environmental crises raised the consciousness of women to the decay of the earth, they began to see a parallel between the devaluation of the earth and the devaluation of women. Thus, the concept of Ecofeminism has been introduced to highlight the convergence between nature and women.
- **Women & Climate Change** - A changing climate affects everyone – but it’s the world’s poorest and those in vulnerable situations, especially women and girls, who bear the brunt of environmental, economic and social shocks. In many developing countries, women and girls often carry the burden of water and fuel collection and food provision. Thus, climate change has direct and indirect impact on women - drought, floods, etc.

Sustainable solutions - The response at Global Level

- **UN Women** and **UN Environment** have joined forces under a global programme to promote women's entrepreneurship for sustainable energy. The programme will initially roll out in Senegal, Morocco, Myanmar, India, Indonesia and Bolivia.
- **100,000 Women in India** estimated to gain access to clean, renewable energy as part of current programme efforts.

Prominent Examples where women have been at the forefront of movements against ecological destruction

- **Bishnoi movement** in 1700s was led by Amrita Devi
- **Chipko movement** was primarily women-led movement where the women of Chamoli village hugged trees to protect them from being cut. Vandana Shiva an ecofeminist was involved in it.
- **Narmada Bachao Andolan** was led by Medha Patkar
- The **First World Commission on Environment and Development** (WCED) to take into account ecological degradation was headed by a woman, Gro Harlem Brundtland.

Feminization of Agriculture

- Women have broadened and deepened their involvement in agricultural production over the last few decades as they increasingly shoulder the responsibility for household survival and respond to economic opportunities in commercial agriculture. This trend has been called the **feminization of agriculture**.
- In rural India, the percentage of women who depend on agriculture for their livelihood is as high as 84%. They make up about 33% of cultivators and about 47% of agricultural labourers.

Issues

- While women have increased their work time in agricultural production, there has been little change in the gender division of labor within the household with regard to reproductive work.
- Men are not assuming reproductive and domestic tasks, even as women are increasing their participation in on-farm and off-farm productive activities
- Differentiated access to productive resources and markets

• IMPACT OF DISTRESS, CONFLICT AND WAR ON WOMEN

- Women's play a negligible role in decision regarding conflict and war. However, the impact of distress, conflict and war isn't gender neutral.
- Rape and sexual violence against women during conflict are used as tools in order to humiliate enemies, to demonstrate victory, terrorise the population, break up families, and, in some instances, change the ethnic makeup of the next generation.
- Sexual Slavery against women is used as an incentive for recruits into terror groups.
- **Post-Conflict**
 - Sexual violence tends to continue post-conflict as it has been demonstrated increased gender violence and detrimental effects on family relations.
 - Also problems of rejection by families and communities, unwanted pregnancies and children as a result of rape, rejection of these children, the stigmatisation and ostracisation of traumatised women, the spread of sexually transmitted infections and HIV, suicide and coerced suicide (under pressure from husbands or community members).
 - Rape of women displaced by war and without male protection in refugee camps.

- **EMPOWERMENT IN MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY**

- **Media**
 - The representation of women in media has always suffered from a perception bias. For example, in movies, women are assigned insignificant or stereotypical roles such as mothers or wives, instead of the main protagonists. Even in advertisements, women are seen more in household or child or food/nutrition related items whereas men are seen shown in the outside world. Songs are alleged to justify or glamorize eve-teasing/sexual harassment.
 - Though the recent trends have shown an improvement. For e.g. Many women centric movies have been made representing the changing roles and shift of the society towards equality (movies like Raazi, Queen, Hichki, etc.)
- **Technology**
 - Enabled access and affordability of education, health, skills.
 - Provision for employment opportunities especially in service sector eg. IT, ITES.
 - Upcoming challenges to women labour owing to Artificial intelligence and Machine labour.
 - Women centric technologies or inventions are not given priority or importance. For example, the movie Padman was based on Arunachalam Muruganantham, a social entrepreneur who invented a low cost sanitary pad making machine as poor women used unsanitary rags due to high cost of commercial pads.

PARADOXES & CONTRADICTIONS

- Where on one hand, media has given a voice to more women, it has become a place where women have suffered harassment in various forms such as trolling, cyber-stalking, cyber-harassment, image-morphing,
- Technology has led to dispensability of women labour in agriculture, manufacturing, leading to female foeticide, sex selective abortions.

- **WOMEN IN SPORTS**

- Sports is mostly characterized by aggression, physical strength etc. and viewed as a male-bastion; Women keen in sports as a future not only face wrath of their family but also sports administrators, coaches etc.
- Issues of pay parity; Discrimination regarding resources; Issues of sexual harassment; Poor representation of women in sports governing bodies; Post-retirement from sports, the status of women has continued to be same.

PARADOXES & CONTRADICTIONS

- While women have continued to face discrimination in sports starting right from family, sports personnels and to society as a whole, it were two women sportspersons - P. V. Sindhu and Sakshi Malik who brought glory to India in 2016 Olympics.

UPSC-2001 - Empowerment alone cannot help our women

UPSC - 2000- Women empowerment: Challenges and prospects.

UPSC - 1999- Woman is God's best creation

UPSC - 1998 - Greater political power alone will not improve women's plight.

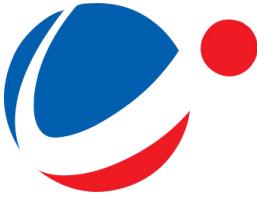
UPSC - 1993 - Men have failed: let women take over

CONCLUSION

- While we may have walked few miles towards women empowerment, the road is a long one. **Empowering women is key to our tomorrow, our future.**
- Women's empowerment is not and cannot be separated from the empowerment of nature, empowerment of all the marginalised people and countries.
- Women's struggles and movements are closely linked to peace movements, ecology movements, workers' and peasants' movements, human rights movements and movements for democratisation and decentralisation of society.
- The **need of the hour is to enable women to realize their potential.** While government must take measures like for health, education, employment, awareness for women etc. it is incumbent on society to create awareness and create public values which will promote women empowerment.
- Even women have internalized norms of Patriarchy that they themselves dominate other women. Like domination of daughter-in-laws by their mother-in-law. It is the culture which needs an overhaul. As **famous Sociologist Andre Beteille has said-** "*Law only decides the direction which a society should take, the actual direction of the society is decided by its culture*".
- Finally, women must be at the forefront for demanding their own empowerment. As **Kofi Annan say that there is no better tool of empowerment than Women themselves.**
- "*Yatra naryastu puhyante ramante tatra devta*" – As per Manusmriti- "Where Women are honoured, divinity blossoms there, and where ever women are dishonoured, all action no matter how noble it may be, remains unfruitful."

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Essay Topic 3: Socio-Cultural Diversity of India

Quotes of famous personalities

- “Diversity may be the hardest thing for a society to live with, and perhaps the most dangerous thing for a society to be without” - **W. S. Coffin Jr.**
- “When we lose the right to be different, we lose the privilege to be free” - **C. E. Hughes**
- “The highest result of education is tolerance” - **Helen Keller**
- “We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race” - **Kofi Annan**
- “Civilization will reach maturity only when it learns to value diversity of character and of ideas” - **Arthur C. Clarke**

Anecdotes/Short Stories

“Like sugar in milk” - Meeting between Jadi Rana and the Parsi emigrants

- When the Parsis requested asylum, Jadi Rana motioned to a vessel of milk filled to the very brim to signify that his kingdom was already full and could not accept refugees.
- However, one of the Parsi priest added a pinch of sugar to the milk, thus indicating that they would not bring the vessel to overflowing and indeed make the lives of the citizens sweeter. Jadi Rana gave shelter to the emigrants and permitted them to practice their religion and traditions freely. In India society, diversity permeates all aspect of socio-cultural life, both temporally and spatially.

CEPA with Japan

- While concluding CEPA with Japan, Japanese officials argued that it was impossible to grant concessions to Indian pharmaceuticals companies as they didn't test their medicines on population from Mongoloid race.
- However, Indian officials were quick to point out that the companies have already tested their products for north-east people who were from Mongoloid race. Eventually, the Indian officials were able to convince their Japanese counterparts leading to concessions for Indian companies as part of CEPA.

INTRODUCTION

- It is often said that the concept of diversity is in itself so diverse that it is tough to arrive at a uniform and standard definition. However, it is always possible to define diversity in terms of salient and necessary features.
- Thus, ‘diversity’ may be defined on following parameters :-

- *Understanding* that each individual is unique and different. These differences can be along the dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status and, political beliefs.
- Recognition of these differences.
- *Mutual tolerance and acceptance* of these differences, and to embrace and celebrate the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual.
- Indian society provides the most potent illustration of socio-cultural diverse society as manifested in form of different religions, languages food habits, customs, dresses, festivals, beliefs etc. It has also been referred to as the oldest surviving civilisation (approximately 5000 years old) in-spite of being a target for invasions from Mughals, Britishers etc.
- The values of tolerance, mutual respect, dissent and debates have been a permanent feature of Indian society. It has enabled people coming from other parts of the world to adapt and integrate with rest of the society while giving them sufficient space to preserve their culture.
- As Shashi Tharoor has said, “*If America is a melting-pot, then to me India is a thali, a selection of sumptuous dishes in different bowls. Each tastes different, and does not necessarily mix with the next, but they belong together on the same plate, and they complement each other in making the meal a satisfying repast.*”

MANIFESTATION OF INDIA'S SOCIO-CULTURAL DIVERSITY



- **Racial Diversity:**
 - Race refers to a group of people with a set of distinctive physical features such as skin, colour, type of nose, form of hair etc.

- Indian sub-continent has been a major hub for a large number of migratory races from both direction - east and west.
- India has often been described as an ethnological museum consisting of six main ethnic groups –

Ethnic Group	Strain in India
Negrito	In some of the tribes in South India; Andaman Islands in Bay of Bengal etc.
Proto-Australoids	In the tribes of Middle India etc.
Mongoloids	In North Eastern regions etc.
Mediterranean	In Tamil-Nadu and Andhra Pradesh etc.
Western Brachycephals	In Odisha, Parsis of Bombay etc.
Nordic	In Bania castes of Gujarat; the Kayasthas of Bengal, etc.

Paradoxes and Challenges

While migration and diversity of race has been a continued phenomena since time immemorial, instance of racism and xenophobia have also been part of Indian discourse. For e.g Problems faced by people from North-East and also from countries like Africa as seen in the case of recent attacks on African nationals.

- **Geographical Diversity**

- India has been endowed with a very diverse geographic features like dry deserts, evergreen forests, Himalayan mountains, long coastlines and fertile plains.
- Climate -Blazing heat of the plains, as hot in places as hottest Africa to freezing points of the Himalayas
- Fertility - Indo-Gangetic plains are counted among amongst the most fertile regions of the world, while other regions like Thar desert are very unproductive
- Rainfall - India is heavily dependent on Monsoons, the rainfall is not uniform across the country. While places in Western Ghats and North-East like Mawsynram and Cherrapunji receive heavy rainfall, places like Sindh and Rajasthan gets hardly any rainfall in a year.
- This variation in the climate has also contributed to a variety of flora and fauna in India. In fact, India is of the 17 megadiverse countries globally. In addition, India is also home to 3 biodiversity hotspots.

Paradoxes and Challenges

While geographical diversity has enabled existence of a diversity of climatic conditions, soils, biodiversity etc. in India, it has also bred problems of geographical neglect, inadequate infrastructure linking, alienation among people and governance challenges.

For e.g. North East continues to be neglected and there is a growing problem of alienation among people from North-East; A similar case is also seen in case of Tribal areas; Public service delivery continues to be challenge in hilly areas, forest areas etc.

- **Religious Diversity - Land of Spirituality and Philosophy**

- India is home to 4 of the major religions of the world namely Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism and Jainism.
- Apart from these, due to migration and receptive nature of India society followers of Islam, Christianity, Zoroastrianism etc. continue to form a major component of our population.
- Right from the beginning of our civilisation, since the times of the vedic and later vedic age, there existed both vedic (Nyaya, Vedanta etc) as well as non-vedic school of thoughts (Charvaka, Buddhism etc.).

- Thus religious diversities and their beliefs vary from :-
 - One God to multiple to no concept of God
 - Prescribing only Veg food to Non-Veg food to Satvik food.
 - From following course of meditation to pursuing penance to pursuing knowledge for attaining liberation.

Paradoxes and Challenges

While religious diversity has been the hallmark of Indian Civilisation, it has also lead to series of dysfunctions. Some of the prominent among them include - Religious Conflicts, Religious Polarization; Appeasement politics; Communalism; Also acts as fault-lines for foreign countries to exploit and de-stabilize Indian society as is being frequently used by Pakistan.

- **Caste Diversity**

- While Caste groups have been mostly a feature of Hindu Society, they have now slowly become a major component of other societies also - Islam, Christianity.
- Caste system owes its origin to chaturvarna theory which later on became hereditary and rigid.
- Conventionally, there are four varnas - Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras. However, at the ground level, there are numerous major castes and subcastes.
- These castes have distinct occupations, rituals, rules for marriage and dining etc.

Paradoxes and Challenges

- While caste has continued to be a core entity of Indian Society since time immemorial and had a genesis in occupational basis, it became rigid and exploitative in due course of time.
- Consequently, it has led to series of problems in form of caste conflict especially against lower-castes; caste based violence; protests for and against caste based reservation and phenomena of vote-bank politics. For e.g. the recent protest by Marathas, Patels for reservation; Recent cases of violence against Dalits in Maharashtra.

- **Language Diversity**

- Indian constitution recognizes 22 languages under Schedule Eight.
- However, according to People's Linguistic Survey of India, there are 780 languages and 86 scripts in India.
- It is often said in India, that the language changes for every 4 miles.

Paradoxes and Challenges

While India has been marked by unity and functional governance in-spite of many languages, linguistic diversity has also led to series of problems and challenges:

- ***Division of States*** - It has continued to be an unresolved issue even after 70 years of Independence and often found resurgence in some form or the other as can be seen in case of Harit Pradesh (UP), Bodoland (Assam), Saurashtra (Gujarat) etc.
- ***Constitutional Recognition***- While, there are very high number of languages in India, only 22 languages have been recognized under Schedule Eight of the Constitution.
- ***Language Chauvinism*** - There has been growing attempt to impose Hindi throughout India and make it as a national language thus inviting resentment from non-Hindi speaking population. For e.g. Protests in Tamil Nadu against imposition of Hindi.

- **Family Diversity**

- Family system has been one of the most important institution of Indian society. However, there is a huge variation in form and structure of family :-
 - While north India mostly have a patriarchal form of family, matriarchal form is also found in Tribes and Nairs of Kerala.
 - India has had a distinct joint family system, rarely seen in any society. In modern day, there has been a shift towards nuclear family system, live-in relationships, single parent family etc, families with working women.
 - One of shift has been in emergence of LGBT community who have a distinct sexual orientation as compared to heterogeneous families.

Paradoxes and Challenges

While India boasts of a wide variety of family structures, there have issues w.r.t recognition of new family forms like Single Parent family, LGBT apart from the continuing poor status of women.

- **Food Habits, Dress Code, Music, Festivals**

- Food habits vary from non-vegetarian to vegetarian; wheat-centric to rice-centric; spicy to sweet and non-spicy food. Even something as universal as Pani-puri has different regional names and varieties.
- Dress Code - Salwar-suit; Saree; Dhoti etc.
- Music - Hindustani, Carnatic, Western, Folk music etc.
- Festivals - Diwali; Holi; Ganesh Chaturthi; Eid; Durga Pooja; Folk festivals etc.

Paradoxes and Challenges

While diversity in food habits, dress Code, festivals have led to development of a composite culture, there have also been certain issues like :- Problem of moral policing regarding dresses; Issues of banning certain food like Beef ban etc.; Prohibition of celebration of certain festivals in certain areas.

- **Political diversity**

- Different ideologies - Centrist like Congress; Right-Wing like BJP; Left-wing like CPI; Anti-corruption based parties like AAP etc.; Regional parties like BSP, SP, DMK, TDP etc.
- Various pressure groups, NGOs, Civil Society organisation etc - FICCI; MKS; ADR etc.

Paradoxes and Challenges

While political diversity has enabled success of democracy and democratic institutions in India, it has also led to problems of: Accommodation of diverse interests; Proliferation of Parties, Pressure groups etc.

Also, NGO groups which were meant for the welfare of the people, have now became an avenue for profit making. They have became opaque in their functioning and frequent violations of Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act - 2010 have been reported.

DEBATE ON SOCIO-CULTURE DIVERSITY

- There has been a sustained debate about whether socio-culture diversity is a boon or bane for the society. As a boon:
 - **Innate to human nature**
 - Diversity comes naturally to humans. It forms the very basis of our existence.
 - Example - Our physical features; thought process; natural talent etc.

- **Opening and broadening of mental horizon; Intellectual growth**
 - Culture of debate and diversity in ideas, values has been an integral component of Indian society.
 - Amartya Sen - Book 'Argumentative Indian' - Ancient Indian society during the vedic times promoted debates and discussion through the institution of sabha and samiti.
 - This tradition continued during times of Ashoka and Akbar in the form of Ibadat Khana. In modern India, this is manifested in form of temple of democracy - Parliament and State legislature.
- **Recourse to debates and discussion for solving disputes**
 - Diversity enables a society to resolve disputes through debates rather than recourse to violence or crime.
 - For e.g. Case study by Jean Dreze and Reetika Khera concludes that society with higher sex ratio has lower crime rate; India approach to problem of national integration; Problem of North-East insurgency etc.
 - India has become a test case for conflict-ridden countries and facing problems of terrorism, extremism, separatism etc.
- **Economic growth**
 - Case of modern cities :- Cities like Mumbai and Hyderabad have become centres of development owing to their cosmopolitan culture and receptivity to diversity.
 - Case of organisations - Companies which have embraced diversity w.r.t gender, region etc. have made huge strides in their respective field. For e.g. ISRO, Amul, Biocon etc.
 - According to IMF chief Christine Lagarde, India can increase its GDP by 27% on account of greater participation of women in labour force.
- **Prudent and effective solution to modern day problems**
 - Modern society is embracing properties of Tulsi, Neem etc. which were earlier restricted to usage by local people.
 - Potential of Yoga has now been acknowledged globally for enhancing concentration, fitness etc.; Celebration of International Yoga day.
- **Impetus to foreign policy**
 - Representation at International Fora;
 - Recognition of Yoga Day
 - Role of Indian Diaspora who are recognized for their diverse views and ability to integrate with other cultures. For e.g. Sundar Pichai as CEO of Google or Satya Nadella as CEO of Microsoft.
- **Development of Syncretic culture**
 - Rise of Buddhism, Jainism, Bhakti movement, Parsis, Sufi movement etc.
 - Influence on visual arts, performing arts, architecture etc. - Impact of Islam, Christianity, Greco-Roman etc.
 - For e.g Gujarat girls from Muslim community practise Yoga for coping with fasts during the month of Ramzan; Recent chanting of Navkar Mantra by 5000 Jains chants for 36 lakh times for global peace under the aegis of Shri Vardhaman Sthanakvasi.

Organizational Diversity – Diversity @ Workplace

- With a lot of human movement taking place around the world, **issues of migration, assimilation, adaptation and the politics associated with organizational diversity** is being discussed vociferously in world forums. Diversity thus, in organizations or work place then becomes all the more important subject now.
- **Organisations in different nations have different diversity challenges to moot.** For e.g. in several countries of Europe where **increased migration in recent years** has shifted the long-held monochrome cultures, there is serious debate about assimilating diversity. In the US, which has long been more **open to multi-cultural traditions, race relations have been at the centre of the diversity debate**, in the Philippines capital of Manila, where Sun Life Financial has one of its Asia Service Centres, the **presence of a strong and open LGBT community mandates diversity handlers to make the workplace open and discrimination free**.

- **Workplaces are in many ways a microcosm of a nation, representing multiple kinds of people based on race, gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, sexual orientation** -- all under one banner, working towards the same goal.
- India is touted as one of the most diverse nations in the world. Yet, our behaviour as a society often reflects problems with assimilation and shows a lack of acceptance of differences. **The problems faced by people from the north India is touted as one of the most diverse nations in the world. Yet, our behaviour as a society often reflects problems with assimilation and shows a lack of acceptance of differences.**
- Bias may be a part of social settings, but as an ethical institution, an organisation has to ensure that individual employees do not carry such biased attitudes to the workplace when interacting with their colleagues.
- Diversity and inclusiveness have to be built into the very culture of various organisations despite challenges like – language barrier, bias during hiring, low interest on coming up of policies on working or pregnant mothers, etc.

UNITY IN DIVERSITY

The term '**Unity in Diversity**' refers to a state of togetherness or oneness in-spite of presence of immense diversity. As a concept, Unity in Diversity can be referred to as :-

- Diverse groups of people cooperating and working together as a single force,
- Different areas or states being united as a single country,
- Different people set aside their differences and look forward towards a common goal.

Indian society is synonymous with diversity. It presents endless varieties of physical features, religious beliefs and cultural patterns. It is the land of many languages and is often referred to as "The epitome of the world".

However, this diversity is suitably accompanied with elements of unity since ancient times :-

- **Geographical Unity** - Since the ancient times India was called by the name 'Bharata Varsha' which stood for fundamental unity. In addition, theologians, political philosophers and poets have always referred to India as one.
- **Political Unity** - Rulers of India established their sway over the whole country and contemplated over it as a unit. Some of the prominent rulers include Ashoka, Samudragupta and Akbar. In modern times, political unity is ensured by Indian constitution, Parliament and Bureaucracy especially All India Services.
- **Religious Unity** - While India is the birth place of 4 of the major religions, there is an under-current of unity throughout India. The worship of Vishnu and Shiva under different names is as widespread in the North as in the South. The Ramayana and the Mahabharata are read throughout India.
- **Cultural Unity** - The festivals like Diwali, Dussehra, Eid etc. are celebrated in almost every part of the country. In addition, the values of tolerance, mutual respect, respect for family etc. are present throughout India. Apart from this, Cricket, Bollywood Movies etc. reflect on the Indian unity.

CONCLUSION

- In-spite of the challenges posed by diversity, there can be no doubt on the role played by socio-cultural diversity in sustaining and developing Indian society.
- **Problem is not of diversity per se, but the handling of diversity in India society. The problems of regionalism, communalism, ethnic conflicts etc. have arisen because the fruits of development haven't been distributed equally or the cultures of some groups haven't been accorded due recognition.**
- Examples - **Problem in Punjab accelerated because the youths remain unemployed** owing to negligible industrialisation; **Problem of North-East insurgency** is because of unemployment and non-recognition of their culture.
- It is in this context that Constitution and its values must form guiding principles of our society. Indian constitution while respecting diversity (Secular state; Fundamental Rights; DPSPs; Assertive action; Schedule 5,6,8;) also favours development of national identity.
- Any society which has tried to homogenise itself, has witnessed stagnation in due-course and ultimately decline. The most important example is this case is of Pakistan which tried to impose culture on East-Pakistan ultimately leading to creation of Bangladesh.

- India is often held as a case of ‘Unity in Diversity’ and must continue to promote and preserve it. The idea should be to promote constitution and its values as our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has often said that - ***“Constitution is our holy book”***.
- Our ancient texts also teach us to accept and respect diversity of thought and ideas. The very famous quote from Rigveda “Let noble thoughts come to us from every side”, advocates us to embrace diversity of ideas.
- Respect for diversity and nurturing national identity must be the goal of Indian society. At a time when the world is looking at India for guidance - A Vishwa Guru, any attempt to dent our socio-cultural diversity would be tragedy of highest order.
- As Gandhiji said - ***“Our ability to reach unity in diversity will be the perfect present for the test of our civilisation.”***
- The essence of diversity is beautifully captured in the following quote from **Rigveda**:
“Ekam Sat Vipra Bahudha Vadanti”

(There are many paths that lead to God and people use different names and forms while explaining it.
Irrespective of the apparent deviations, the core is same.)

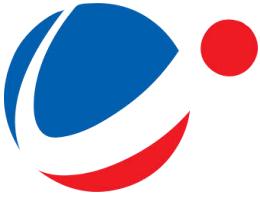
UPSC - 1994 - The Indian society at the crossroads.

UPSC - 1998 - The composite culture of India.

UPSC - 2000 - Indian culture today: A myth or a reality?

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Essay Topic 4: Social Media & Its Evils

Quotes by famous personalities

- “Social media has played a key role in democratising our discourse” - Narendra Modi
- “Technology and social media have brought power back to the people” - Mark McKinnon
- “The great thing about social media was how it gave a voice to voiceless people” - Jon Ronson
- “Whoever controls the media, controls the mind” - Jim Morrison
- “Connectivity is a human right” - Mark Zuckerberg

Anecdotes/Short Stories

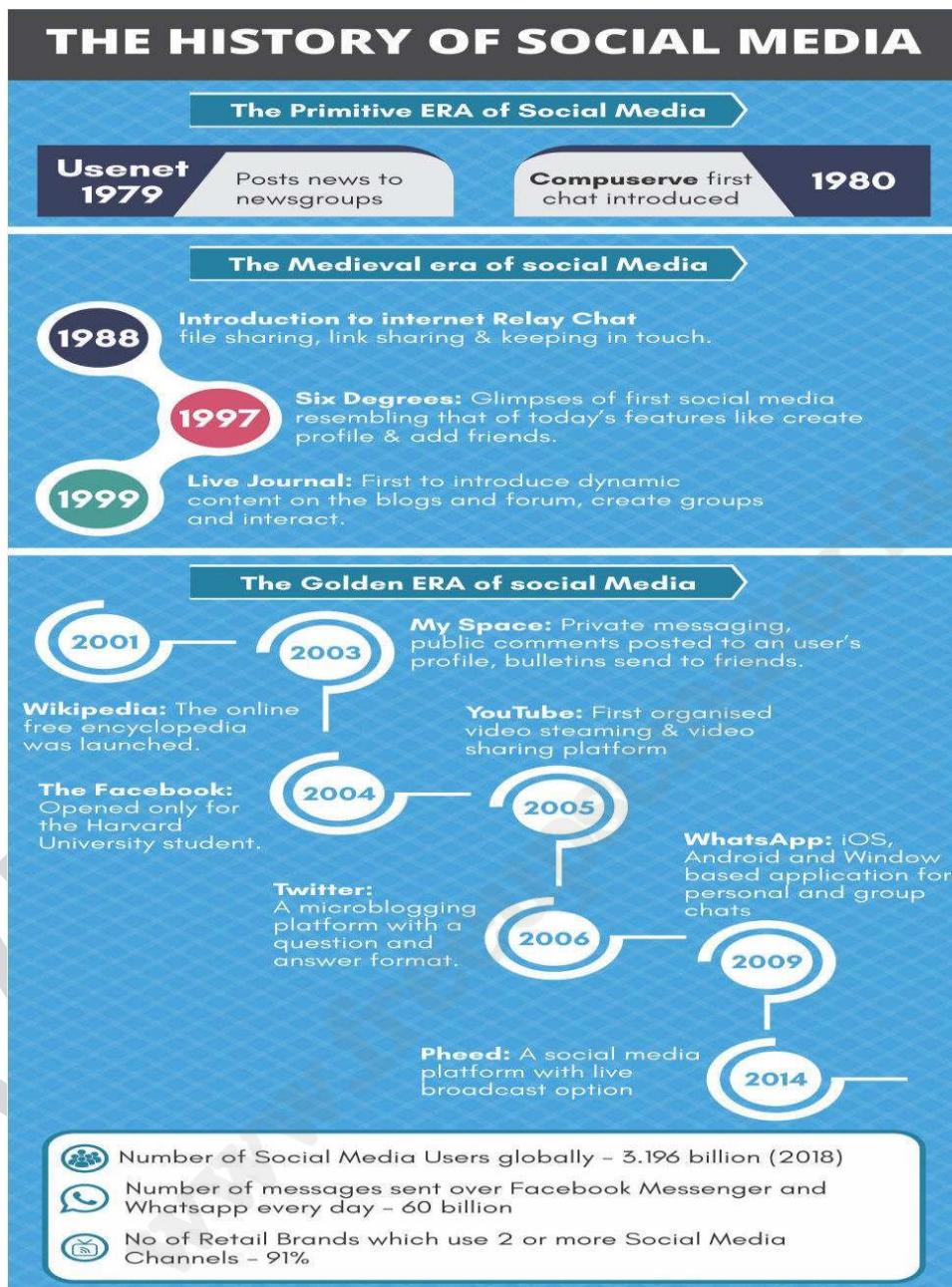
- Year-2008 saw the election of Barack Obama as the first black President of USA. However, his rise was accompanied by the silent rise of social media - Twitter, Facebook - which played a major role in influencing people. A similar story, but in another year - 2014, for another leader - Narendra Modi and for another country - India.
- During 2010, there was widespread discontent against autocratic regimes across Middle-East often referred to as Arab Spring. While discontent wasn't new, what was new was the Social media and its power. Social media played a huge role in mobilising people who were demanding democracy and voice in decision making.
- #MeToo campaign on Social media against sexual harassment and assault, became a global movement and helped in demonstrating the widespread prevalence of sexual assault and harassment, especially in the workplace.
- The war for Net Neutrality in India wasn't fought on any ground, water or space but on Social Media. The support on social media finally led to government confirming the principle of net neutrality.

INTRODUCTION

- Connectivity and communicating form the basis for sharing, learning, debating and discussing.
- Beginning from the **ancient times**, they have been an integral component of our lives, our society. They not involve direct modes like talking, sending letters etc., but also indirect modes like - performing arts and non-performing arts.
- Hence, it is of no surprise that human beings are often referred to as social animal.
- However, the content and means of communication have not remained static. They started with **Pigeon post**, moved on to **postal letters**, then to **telephones** and now to **smart phones and social media**.
- Interestingly, **Social Media is not only changing how people communicate but also what people communicate**.
- As of today, **social media is becoming an integral part of our life**. Our days starts with checking and updating our social media accounts and ends on a similar note.
- However amidst all these, there has been growing reception and debate on the problems and the challenges of social media.

DEFINITION

- In common parlance, Social media is seen synonymous with Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, LinkedIn etc.
- However, social media goes beyond this and has a much more broader scope. It is an umbrella term and, refers to websites and applications that enables users to create, share content, interact and to participate in social networking.
- This interaction can take many forms, but some common types include:
 - Sharing opinions, links of third parties, photos, videos and posts
 - Public updates to a profile, including information on current activities and even location data
 - Commenting and rating on the photos, posts, updates, videos and links shared by others.



RISE OF SOCIAL MEDIA - WHY?

- Social media has often been described as the silent revolution of the 21st century. Recently the total number of social media users crossed 3 billion with no sign of slowing down.
- But why is the Social media so popular ? Why is it becoming indispensable ? Why is it becoming the first choice for almost everything from news to governance; from buying and selling goods to mobilising support for social movements?
- Some of the factors:
 - **USPs of Social Media**
 - Speed; Ease of use; Flexibility; No User fees (Most of the social media applications don't charge any fees for registration or usage); All it takes is a click to send, post, share and receive information.
 - **Digital Penetration and applications**
 - Number of Indian internet users have already reached 500 million with their number increasing day-by-day. In addition there has been a proliferation of social media sites and applications.
 - **As a marker of Social status**
 - Social media has emerged as a marker of social status with people increasingly sharing their pictures, videos and personal information. Increasing number of comments, likes, followers have become a status symbol; Rise of social media celebrities.
 - **Rising urbanisation, individualism and breakdown of traditional social structures**
 - Owing to rising urbanisation, individualism and breakdown of traditional social structures like family etc. people are becoming lonely, isolated and emotionally insecure.
 - In addition, owing to rising expectations, growing ambitions without adequate resources leads to people being branded as 'losers' leading to anxiety and frustration.
 - In such a scenario, social media along with the option of being anonymous becomes a safety valve for people to vent out their frustration without the fear of being judged. For e.g. Increasing popularity of Blue Whale Challenge game was more among children who were isolated, branded as 'loser'.

WHAT HAS SOCIAL MEDIA DONE?

- The introduction of social media has changed the world in many ways. Today, Social media has penetrated every aspect of human life and society. It has connected people like never before.
- Accessibility through smart phones, tablets, computers, and other mobile devices has made accessing information and connecting with people just a touch away. It has made the world stronger and a better place to live in. Some of the prominent benefits :-
- **Politics and Media**
 - As a tool for political campaigning and advertising; as a tool for eliciting opinion of people on schemes, initiatives, legislations; as a tool for policy implementation and monitoring; as a tool for enforcing transparency and accountability; as a tool for mobilising support for political movements
 - Examples - Role of Social media in winning elections for Barack Obama, Narendra Modi etc; MyGov.in, a portal by government for taking feedback from people; Arab Spring - Social media had a huge role in mobilising support for the Arab Spring.
 - Social media has made massive, unprecedented changes across all forms of media. Twitter and Facebook have emerged as major forums for news. Social media has given rise to Citizen journalism. Social media is now being touted as the 5th pillar of democracy.
- **Social Issues & Media**
 - Have helped in making people more tolerant, aware about other's beliefs, culture etc.; Broadening of mental horizon;
 - Have enabled people to maintain contact with families, friends, relatives etc.

- Aided in giving voice to voiceless like Women, Black people in USA, Tribals etc.
- Have helped in enhancing the reach of delivery of education, health.
- Examples - #Metoo Campaign; #BlackLivesMatter; Khan academy; SWAYAM
- **Economy & Media**
 - New source of employment - Every organisation now has a separate social media department; As a tool for feedback for companies - Concept of PROSUMER; e-Commerce; Boost to start-up; Digital Marketing; Enabled even remote handicrafts
 - Examples - e-Commerce; Startups; Patanjali Ayurved Limited has made huge impact through social media; Dettol's Global Handwashing Day social media campaign.
- **Ecology & Media**
 - Social media has also enabled people to become more consciously aware about environment and environment protection.
 - It has propelled the rise of the independent activism. For e.g. During Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Gulf Coast residents used Facebook and Twitter as platforms to share and provide independent or alternative new sources and media that was captured by their communities.
 - It is also being used as a influence and encourage support during specific campaigns. For e.g. Greenpeace targeted Shell Oil operations in the Arctic Circle using social media; Rise of European Green Party (EGP) to a large part is attributed to social media activism.
 - #WorldEnvironmentDay and #EarthDay became global trendsetters and helped in raising awareness about environment; Mobilisation for protests against Sterlite Plant in Tamil Nadu were led by Social media.
- **Ethics & Media**
 - Social media has become a means for free speech and expression guaranteed under Article 19 of Indian constitution; Social media given voice to the voiceless; Right to Internet is now being gradually recognized.
 - For e.g. UN had made Internet access a human right; Recently Supreme Court has declared Right To Internet Access as a fundamental Right Of Every Indian;

SOCIAL MEDIA – ITS CHALLENGES

- **Access**
 - Digital penetration in India still continues to skewed against rural areas, women, lower class etc.
 - In addition, there is serious lack of digital literacy and social media application in Vernacular languages.
- **Privacy**
 - Social media has put a huge question mark of privacy of people. E.g. Case of Facebook and Cambridge Analytica where personal information of users was being traded for monetary gains.
- **Challenges to internal Security**
 - Social media has also enabled radical and terrorist groups to promote radicalisation, recruit people and distribute their literature; Issue of Lone-wolf attacks who have been radicalised by these literatures
 - For e.g. ISIS has successfully used social media
 - **Fake news** has emerged as a major problem for law enforcement agencies. For e.g. Cases in Kashmir; Exodus of people from North-eastern region from Bangalore because of fake news.
- **Psychological and Health Problems**
 - **Problem of social media addiction** - Facebook addiction disorder; Studies have found that it social media usage triggers more sadness and less well-being.
 - **Problem of FOMO (Fear of Missing Out)**; Continuous comparing our lives with others has been found to be mentally unhealthy; Has led to problems of Jealousy; Also social media is making it tough for people to engage in prolonged concentration.

- **Live-streaming of suicides** - New phenomena of live streaming of suicides by teens has emerged on social media. A series of reasons have emerged for such a phenomenon - To get their name in the media; To get attention; As a response to growing isolation where suicide is considered as a statement.
- **Physical problems**
 - Carpal Tunnel Syndrome affecting hands or wrists because of too much typing; Eye problems;
 - Fatigue - Because of too much use of social media and lack of requisite sleep
 - Lack of exercise - Social media is making people especially children, lazy and immobile by cutting duration people would otherwise be spending outdoors or exercising.
 - Distraction - One of the most dangerous potential consequences of social media addiction is driving while being distracted. For e.g. A number of road accidents are happening owing to usage of mobiles.
- **Commodification of public life**
 - Social media has led to commodification of life where every aspect of life is being open for public consumption. The line between private and public life is no more clear. For e.g.- craze for selfies, location updates on Facebook, etc.
- **Problem of Cyber crimes**, cyber bullying, cyber abuse, trolls and law enforcement

REGULATION ISSUE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Regulation of Social media** presents a very common **dilemma of attempting to balance between right to freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under article 19 and restrictions to it as enumerated under article 19(2).**
- There is no explicit provision in India regulating Social Media. However, there are series of laws which do regulate content on Social media :-
 - **Information Technology Act, 2000** - Social networking media is an "intermediary" within the meaning of the act and is liable for various acts or omissions that are punishable under the laws of India; Section 79 of the act mandates that if there is some objectionable material on a site then there is ought to be action within 36 hours of the offence being pointed out.
 - **Indian Penal Code (IPC)** - Promoting Enmity Between Groups On Grounds Of Religion, Race etc. (S. 153A), Defamation (S. 499), Insulting The Modesty Of A Woman (S 509), Criminal Intimidation (S 506), Sedition (S124-A), Defamation (S 499 and S 500) etc. can be invoked against content on social media.
- Recently, the Supreme Court observation on regulating social media has triggered a fresh debate on pros-cons of regulation of social media.

Pros-

- Will help in censorship of posts related to religious fundamentalism or radicalism and help in averting any danger to peace and societal cohesion.
- Will also aid in preventing terrorists from spreading their agenda or giving shape to national security threats
- Will help in censorship of certain content which is vulgar or misleading may be essential for keeping it away from the reach of Children.

Cons-

- It can be used as an excuse to mute the voices of dissent and constructive criticism.
- It can subvert creativity in the name of morality, sedition or blasphemy.
- It can restrict a person to fully express his views (Peaceful) and violate his Fundamental right to speech.
- It risks into creating a repressive and intolerant society without democratic ideals.

Recent initiatives

- Government is finalising a policy which is aimed at keeping a hawk's eye vigil on the social media to check if it is being "misused" to conspire against India and spread anti-national propaganda.
- Government is also planning to put in place a regulatory framework for social media and online content.

Way forward

- The way forward must be to strengthen privacy laws, better law enforcement and secure active cooperation of social media sites and application.
- In addition, there is a need to spread awareness about the possible misuses of social media.

- Social media has emerged as an avenue for cyber crimes like **cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking**. **Cyber-bullying, Identity theft, piracy etc.**
- In addition there has **problem of trolls** where people have been subjected to incessant abuse. For e.g. *Recent case of Foreign Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj being subjected to abuse.*
- Law enforcement is another challenge in Social media because of the speed at which information spreads, problems of identifying perpetrators of crimes and lack of cooperation from social media websites like Facebook, Youtube, Whatsapp etc.
- **Problem of Fake News and Propaganda**
 - Fake news such as rumours of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's death, during US elections, closure of messaging app Snapchat etc. have caused emotional setbacks, reputational damage, monetary losses and brand image crisis.
 - Social media has also become a tool for propaganda; Emergence of websites, social media accounts etc. which are funded by an organisation with an agenda like, damaging the reputation of a brand or person, spreading hatred or violence, influencing voters during an election, creating noise around a subject, and so.

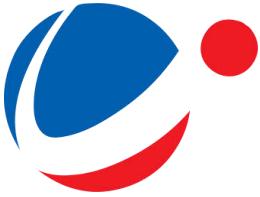
UPSC 2017 – “Social media is inherently a selfish medium”

CONCLUSION

- Social media today has emerged as a double-edged sword. While it has transformed the way what we think, believe and act, it has led to violation of privacy, problem of trolls, fake news etc.
- These volley of problems has called for regulations and restrictions regarding social media. However, regulating social media is not only desirable but also not possible. It is the uniqueness of social media that is self regulating:
 - **Issues of privacy are being tackled with technology and better laws.** For e.g. Privacy with Technology; EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has become a model law for protecting privacy.
 - Fake news is increasingly being tackled by **Social media activism and citizen journalism.**
 - Social media is itself becoming the means for educating and making people aware of the issues and challenges of social media.
 - While social media is making law enforcement tough, it is also helping in preventing and resolving crimes at the same time.
- The way forward must be to ensure :-
 - Formulation and enforcement of Strict Privacy Law
 - Strict cyber security system and Law enforcement
 - Making children aware of the problems of social media right from the beginning by Parents, Teachers and Society at large.
- The potential of social media is revolutionary. With increasing digital penetration and increasing development of application, social media rise is indispensable. Also, the values of social media like freedom, transparency, openness etc. are innate to human being, part of their social being.
- As **Victor Hugo** said, "**No power on earth can stop an idea whose time has come". Today, this power is "Social Media".**

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Essay Topic 5: Tourism in India

Quotes by famous personalities

- “*The one land that all men desire to see and having seen once, by even a glimpse, would not give the glimpse for all the shows of all the rest of the globe combined*”- **Mark Twain**
- *Travel makes one modest. You see what a tiny place you occupy in the world.*” — **Gustave Flaubert**
- “*The journey is the destination.*” — **Dan Eldon**
- “*Travelling unveils new dimensions of this world not known to the naked eye.*” — **Wayne Chirisa**

DEFINITION

- "The sum of the phenomena and relationships arising from the interaction of tourists, business suppliers, host governments and host communities in the process of attracting and hosting these tourists and other visitors" - **Macintosh and Goeldner**
- The first definition of tourism was made by Guyer Feuler in 1905.
- **UN World Tourism Organization** - "*Tourism comprises the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes.*"
- **How Tourism is different from Travel?**
 - In order for tourism to happen, there must be a displacement: an individual has to travel, using any type of means of transportation (foot pilgrims, hikers, etc). But all travel is not tourism.
 - *Three criteria* are used simultaneously in order to characterize a trip as belonging to tourism. The displacement must be such that;
 - It involves a displacement outside the usual environment.
 - Type of purpose: the travel must occur for any purpose different from being remunerated from within the place visited: the previous limits, where tourism was restricted to recreation and visiting family and friends are now expanded to include a vast array of purposes
 - It must be of maximum duration not minimal. Tourism displacement can be with or without an overnight stay.

INTRODUCTION

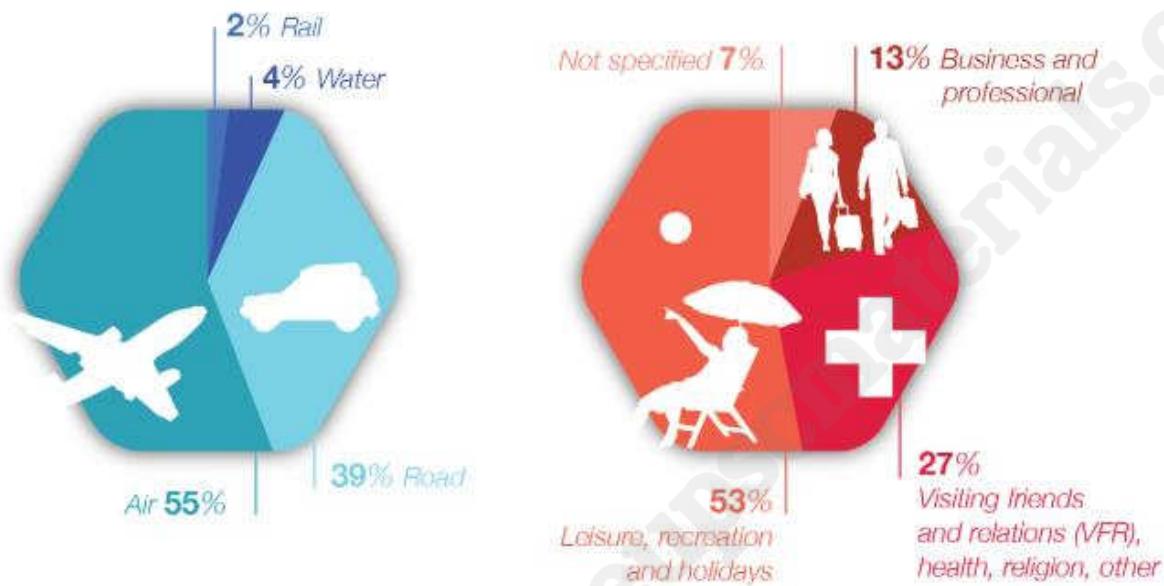
- “***The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page***”. This saying by **St. Augustine** truly captures the spirit of travel, and India as a vibrant country, provides scores of reasons for travelers from across the world to choose India as their destination.
- **The Indian tourism industry did not have it so good since the early 1990s.** Though the Indian economy has slowed, it is still growing faster than the rest of the world.
- With Indian economy growing at around 5 per cent per annum and rise in disposable incomes of Indians, an increasing number of people going on holiday trips within the country and abroad is resulting in the tourism industry growing wings.
- The growth pattern suggests that Indian tourism growth is not solely based on foreign tourist arrivals alone as due to global reasons and disturbances, this phenomenon is always affected adversely.

- Domestic tourism has been growing in a settled way. Fairs and festivals of India are continuous phenomena. Events like Kumbha in north and Onam and Mahamastakabhisheka in the south are events that fetch a lot of tourists almost every year.
- While tourism is often resource-intensive, it is a major driver of poverty reduction in developing countries. **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** for the first time brought to notice the importance of tourism in the country. According to him, ***it was not only an instrument of earning foreign exchange but also a means of seeking international cooperation, understanding and peace between the nations.***

FACTS/STATISTICS RELATED WITH TOURISM

- The international tourism industry --- \$1.4 trillion
- Worldwide revenues have nearly doubled between 2000 and 2018.
- **The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce in India (FICCI) and investment bank Yes Bank** found in a **study** that the average trip travel spent by a tourist in India is almost 2.8 times the travel time spent in Singapore, 4.5 times that in Malaysia and 6.5 times in China. Yet, the contribution of the tourism industry to the gross domestic product, or GDP, is less than that of China, Malaysia and Singapore.

Mode of Transports / Purpose of Visit



TYPES OF TOURISM

- **Recreational tourism:** Tourism is an often activity for recreational purpose. Most tourism took for a change and rest; this is the reason why package tours have become so popular.
- **Environmental tourism:** Rich and affluent tourist are preferred to spend more visits to remote places where they get pollution free airs to breath.
- **Historical tourism:** Tourist is interested to know how our forefather lived and administered in a particular area. They visit heritage locations, temples, churches, museums, forts etc.
- **Ethnic tourism:** This refers to people traveling to distance places looking to their routes and attending to family obligations. Marriage and death bring people together to their native places. Persons who are settled overseas during later part of life visit place of their birth for giving boost to ethnic tourism.
- **Cultural tourism:** Some people are interested to know how other people or communities stay, survive and prosper. The kind of culture they practice their art and music is different from ours. So in order to acquire knowledge, understand culture well, to become familiar with the culture, they undertake journey.

- **Adventure tourism:** There is a trend among the youth to take adventure tour. They go for trekking, rock climbing, river rafting etc. They organized camp fire and stay under the blue sky. This tourism is meant for people with strong nerves who can tolerate stress.
- **Health tourism:** In recent years, health tourism has become highly popular. People visit nature cure centers and hospitals providing specialist treatment. Many foreigners visit India for treatment because similar services in their country are costly.
- **Religious tourism:** India represents multi-religious composition of population. Various package tours are organized to enable people to attend the religious duties and visit places of religious importance. E.g. Char Dham yatra.
- **Music tourism:** It can be part of pleasure tourism as it includes moment of people to sing and listen music and enjoy it.
- **Village tourism:** It involves traveling and arranging tours in order to popularize various village destinations.
- **Wild life tourism:** It can be an Eco and animal friendly tourism. Wild life tourism means watching wild animals in their natural habitat.

DIMENSIONS OF TOURISM

- **Historical:**
 - Travel for leisure purposes has evolved from an experience reserved for very few people into something enjoyed by many.
 - Historically, the ability to travel was reserved for royalty and the upper classes. From **ancient Roman times** through to the 17th century, young men of high standing were encouraged to travel through Europe on a “**grand tour**”. Through the middle Ages, many societies encouraged the **practice of religious pilgrimage** (the most popular form since history evident in India).
 - The continued popularity of **rail travel** and the **emergence of the automobile** presented additional milestones in the development of tourism.
 - Fast forward to **1952** with the **first commercial air flights** from London, England, to Johannesburg, South Africa, and Colombo, Sri Lanka and the dawn of the **jet age**, which many herald as the start of the modern tourism industry.
 - The **Industry growth** however had also been **interrupted** at several key points in history, including World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II. At the start of this century, global events thrust international travel into decline including the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center in New York City (known as 9/11), the war in Iraq, perceived threat of future terrorist attacks, and health scares including SARS, BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy), and West Nile virus.
 - At the same time, the industry began a **massive technological shift** as increased internet use revolutionized travel services. Through the 2000s, online travel bookings grew exponentially, and by 2014 global leader Expedia had expanded to include brands such as Hotels.com, the Hotwire Group, Trivago, and Expedia Cruise Ship Centers, earning revenues of over \$4.7 million.
- **Social and Cultural**
 - Social and cultural impact signifies the impact which it creates in terms of social changes in the lives of local people how popular cultures influence on one another, improvements in infrastructure, Resurgence of traditional crafts and ceremonies, lifestyle changes, increased intercultural communication and understanding etc.
 - The negative effects may vary from increased crime rates, dilution in traditional cultures, exploitation of primitive societies and their culture by outsiders, their resources etc.
- **International Dimensions: Tourism and Peace**
 - Tourism can play a key role in building peace and supporting reconciliation processes, Community engagement and empowerment, capacity building and training, and public/private sector partnerships are key factors in advancing a culture of peace through tourism in post-conflict societies.

- It is a vehicle for trust and goodwill. Cultural understanding can change attitudes and build peace. Tourism's role in peace building is also enacted through its contribution to poverty alleviation, cultural preservation and environmental conservation.

- **Economic**

- The tourism industry generates substantial economic benefits to both host countries and tourist's home countries. Especially in developing countries, one of the primary motivations for a region to promote itself as a tourism destination is the expected economic gain.

Economic Impacts of Tourism	
POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foreign exchange earnings 2. Contribution to government revenues 3. Generation of employment 4. Balance of payment / trade account balance 5. Stimulation of infrastructure investment 6. Contribution to local economies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inflation 2. Opportunity costs 3. Dependency 4. Seasonality 5. Leakage 6. Enclave tourism 7. Seasonal character of jobs 8. Prostitution and the underground economy

- **Environmental Dimensions**

- Environment as an Attraction - Tourism has the potential to increase public appreciation of the environment and to spread awareness of environmental problems when it brings people into closer contact with nature and the environment. This confrontation may heighten awareness of the value of nature and lead to environmentally conscious behavior and activities to preserve the environment.
- The Tourism-Environment Connection –
 - Tourism can significantly contribute to environmental protection, conservation and restoration of biological diversity and sustainable use of natural resources. Because of their attractiveness, pristine sites and natural areas are identified as valuable and the need to keep the attraction alive can lead to creation of national parks and wildlife parks.
 - Even though many areas of the world are conserved in the form of parks and protected areas, tourism development can have severe negative impacts. According to UNEP, these can include:
 - ✓ Depletion of natural resources (water, forests, etc.)
 - ✓ Pollution (air pollution, noise, sewage, waste and littering)
 - ✓ Physical impacts (construction activities, marina development, trampling, loss of biodiversity)

"Responsible Tourism – The Gandhian Way "

- 'Live Gandhi For A While' a tourist programme, conceived and developed by travel agent Nischal Barot and launched on October 2016, at Kochrab ashram (Ahmedabad).
- It was named as *Responsible Tourism* as it is **against the destination based tourism based on commercial interests**.
- The participants are expected to live in the ashram in an austere way, for a minimum of five days, like a true Gandhi ashram inmate: wearing the hand-spun cloth, doing physical labour, practising truth, chastity, non-violence, etc.
- *Mahatma Gandhi was probably the first responsible traveller who travelled across the country, connected with communities, walked down villages, stayed in their homes, tried helping them, solving their problems with minimal impact on the environment*. The objective is to allow people find various ways of sustainable lifestyle, enjoy simplicity of Gandhi, experience the virtues of the Mahatma

CHALLENGES FACING TOURISM IN INDIA

- **Infrastructure roadblocks**

- Tourism infrastructure is the supply chain of transport, social and environmental infrastructure collaborating at a regional level to create a destination which includes the visitor access from international and domestic source markets through airports, major roads and rail to the stock of rooms to accommodate visitors and physical structures for exhibitions, events and services that attracts visitors

and also the environmental infrastructure of national parks, marine parks and reserves, including visitor facilities.

- **Environmental concerns**

- The quality of the environment, both natural and man-made, is essential to tourism.
- Tourism's relationship with the environment is complex. It involves many activities that can have adverse environmental effects. The negative impact of tourism development can gradually destroy the environmental resources on which it depends.
- Tourism not only contributes to climate change, but is affected by it as well. Climate change is likely to increase the severity and frequency of storms and severe weather events, which can have disastrous effects on tourism in the affected regions. Some of the other impacts due to tourism are drought, diseases, heat waves, flash floods(ex: Uttarakhand floods), landslides, plastic debris choking rivers and oceans etc.

- **Resources concern**

- Lack of professionals who can cater to the needs of the tourists.
- India has thousands of incredible archaeological sites that need restoration and maintenance.

- **Fragmented Policy and Programs**

- Failure to have a comprehensive Tourism policy on board ,programs are run by several ministries also, there is tussle between state and centre over subject of tourism.

- **Socio-economic concerns**

- **Violence:** Tourist is often attacked and this has become a repellent. Recent inhumane violence on Africans in India is a grisly reminder. This especially is true for women safety (German girl killed in Goa and subsequent litigation)
- **Health Standards:** Poor sanitation standards serve as a big deterrent for tourist. Recently an US female citizen died of a superbug she infected when in India.
- As **identified** by the **United Nations Environment Programme** the negative social impacts of tourism include:

- Change or loss of indigenous identity and values
- Culture clashes
- Physical causes of social stress (increased demand for resources)
- Ethical issues (increase in sex tourism or the exploitation of child workers)

- **Regulation:**

- Stringent visa norms and movement viz a viz other countries (e.g. Schengen region in Europe) are also a roadblock in promoting tourism.

Gender & Tourism

- **Why Gender and Tourism?**

- Tourism has the potential to contribute to greater gender equality and the empowerment of women.
 - However, women are concentrated in the lowest paid, lowest skilled sectors of the industry and carry out a large amount of unpaid work in family tourism businesses.
- The **Global Report on Women in Tourism 2010** is the first concrete output of the UNWTO-UN Women collaboration. This represents a first attempt to map the participation of women in tourism worldwide, with a particular focus on developing countries.

Its Key Findings

- **Employment-** women are well represented but tend to be working at a service or clerical rather than professional or decision-making level.
- **Entrepreneurship-** women are almost twice as likely to be employers in the tourism industry than in other sectors, and often employ more women than men.
- **Education** - there are proportionally fewer women graduates in services than in other fields.
- **Leadership** - women still only represent one fifth of all tourism ministers and tourism board chairs.
- **Community development-** women are contributing a large amount of unpaid work in tourism family businesses, especially when compared to other sectors.
- **Women in tourism are typically earning 10% to 15% less than their male counterparts.**

EMERGING TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY SEGMENTS



RURAL TOURISM

- The aim is to develop interest in heritage and culture; & promote visits to village settings to experience & live a relaxed & health lifestyle.



ADVENTURE TOURISM

- A wide range of adventure sports are covered under this category with specialised packages.
- The activities include mountaineering, trekking, bungee jumping, mountain biking, river rafting & rock climbing.



MEDICAL TOURISM

- Tourists seek specialised medical treatments, mainly ayurvedic, spa & other therapies.
- The primary purpose is achieving, promoting or maintaining good health & a sense of well-being.



HERITAGE TOURISM

- Tourists visit India for its cultural heritage in various cities
- The country's rich heritage is amply reflected in the various temples, majestic forts, pleasure gardens, religious monuments, museums, art galleries, urban & rural sites.



LUXURY TOURISM

- The luxury travel market in India registered a growth of 12.8 % in 2016, the highest in comparison with any other BRIC country.



ECO-TOURISM

- Vast variety of flora & fauna in various states is a major factor behind their growing popularity as tourist destinations.
- Then mala in Kerala is the 1st planned ecotourism destination in India.



PILGRIMAGE TOURISM

- One of the biggest contributor to tourism industry. India being a religious hub for different cultures attracts a large number of tourists every year.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

- Sustainable tourism is any form of tourism that can be consumed in a more responsible way. It is the one which minimizes negative social, economic and environmental impacts. Generates greater economic benefits for local people and enhances the well-being of host communities.
- The international community declared 2017 as "International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development". In this context, it may already become visible how seriously the international community and the nation states are taking the 2030 Agenda.

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM



LOCAL PROSPERITY

To maximize the contribution of tourism to the economic prosperity of the host destination



EMPLOYMENT QUALITY

To increase the number and quality of local jobs created and supported by tourism



SOCIAL EQUITY

To seek a widespread and fair distribution of economic and social benefits from tourism throughout the community

VISITOR FULFILMENT

To provide a safe, satisfying and fulfilling experience for all visitors, without discrimination



LOCAL CONTROL

To engage and empower local communities in planning and decision making about the development of tourism in their area



COMMUNITY WELLBEING

To maintain and strengthen the quality of life in local communities



CULTURAL RICHNESS

To respect and enhance historic heritage, authentic, culture, traditions and distinctiveness of host communities



PHYSICAL INTEGRITY

To maintain and strengthen the quality of urban and rural landscapes



ENVIRONMENTAL PURITY

To minimize the pollution of air, water and land and the generation of waste by tourism enterprises and visitors



ECONOMIC VIABILITY

To ensure the viability and competitiveness of tourism destinations and enterprises



BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

To support the conservation of natural areas, habitats and wildlife



RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

To minimize the use of scarce and non-renewable resources in the development and operation of tourism facilities and services

SOLUTIONS AND WAY FORWARD

- Tourism requires a **strong coordination at inter-ministerial** levels as the customer experience is dependent on visas, air passage, and health regulations, import restrictions, which come under the jurisdiction of home, civil aviation, health, finance, environment and commerce ministries.
- Need to have **Tourism Councils** in all districts of India.
- **Eco-tourism needs to be promoted** so that tourism in India helps in preserving and sustaining the diversity of India's natural and cultural environments.
- Build roads and access points, **promote accessible infrastructure**.
- Allow corporate sponsorship for heritage buildings like **Adopt A Heritage Scheme**.

- **Boost Niche areas** in tourism like – Temple, Festivals, rich village heritage.
- Aspire for **creating world class museums**; consider the beautiful city of Geneva, Switzerland, which has a population of less than 2 lakh people. It has more than 40 museums and 50 art galleries, all exquisitely maintained.

INDIA'S RECENT STEPS IN PROMOTION OF TOURISM

- A growing recognition of tourism's contribution to employment and economic growth, the availability of better infrastructure, focused marketing and promotion efforts, liberalization of air transport, the growth of online travel portals, growing intra-regional cooperation and more effective public private partnerships are seen as key drivers for tourism in the next decade.
- India was recently ranked among the top 50 tourist countries (Rank 40/166) by **World Economic Forum on Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index**. The fact that it showed the greatest improvement in top 50 countries is a testimony to the potential tourism holds for India.
- **100% FDI is allowed under the automatic route in tourism and hospitality, subject to applicable regulations and laws.**
- More than half of the Ministry of Tourism's Plan budget is channelized for funding the development of destinations, circuits, mega projects as well as rural tourism infrastructure projects eg. 10% and 2.5% of its total annual plan outlay for 2013–14 went to tourism projects in the Northeastern region and tribal areas, respectively.
- The availability of the Visa On Arrival facility significantly influences tourists' travel plans to any country. During 2013, a total number of 20,294 Visas on Arrival were issued as compared to 16,084 Visas on Arrival during the corresponding period in 2012, which amounts to a growth of 26%.
- The launch of several branding and marketing initiatives by the Government of India such as **Incredible India!** And **Athiti Devo Bhava** provides a focused impetus to growth.
- Recently, the Indian government has also released a **fresh category of visa – the medical visa or M visa, to encourage medical tourism in India**.
- **ADOPT A HERITAGE scheme** - The project plans to entrust heritage sites/monuments and other tourist sites to private sector companies, public sector companies and individuals for the development of tourist amenities. They would become '**Monument Mitras**' and adopt the sites. The basic and advanced amenities of the tourist destinations would be provided by them. They would also look after the operations and the maintenance of the amenities.

Schemes to boost Tourism in India

- **Swadesh Darshan:** include development of 15 thematic circuits like North East Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, etc. having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner, integrated development of infrastructure in identified circuits, promote cultural heritage of country, developing world-class infrastructure in circuit destination, pro-poor tourism approach, promote local arts, handicrafts, cuisine, generate employment.
- **National Mission on Pilgrimage rejuvenation and Augmentation Drive, PRASAD:** Aims to promote sustainable pilgrimage tourism in the country, to strengthen measures for safety, security and proving the quality tourism services in pilgrim cities, etc.
- **Hunar Se Rozgar Tak:** for creation of employable skills amongst youth. The initiative is fully funded by the Ministry of Tourism.
- **Swachh Bharat Swachh Pakwan (Hunar Zaika):** The street food vendors constitute a significant percentage of the hospitality service providers, are part of the Indian milieu through the ages and have a pan India presence.
- **Incredible India Helpline:** On a pilot basis, the Ministry of Tourism has set up the 'Incredible India Help Line' to be operated in-house to address and guide the tourists natural calamities or on being stranded.

Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

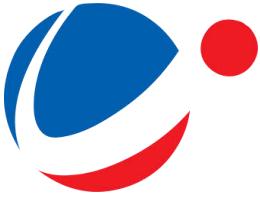
- The **Global Code of Ethics for Tourism (GCET) adopted in 1999 by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization** is a comprehensive set of principles designed to guide key-players in tourism development i.e. governments, the travel industry, communities and tourists alike.
- It aims to help maximize the sector's benefits while minimizing its potentially negative impact on the environment, cultural heritage and societies across the globe.
- It deals with various dimensions such as Child Protection in Tourism, Accessible Tourism, Gender and Tourism, Cultural Heritage and Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH), Community Empowerment through Creative Industries and Tourism with Special focus on Women, Youth, Indigenous Communities and People with Disabilities etc.
- *The Code's 10 principles amply cover the economic, social, cultural and environmental components of travel and tourism:*
 - Article 1: Tourism's contribution to mutual understanding and respect between peoples and societies
 - Article 2: Tourism as a vehicle for individual and collective fulfillment
 - Article 3: Tourism, a factor of sustainable development
 - Article 4: Tourism, a user of the cultural heritage of mankind and contributor to its enhancement
 - Article 5: Tourism, a beneficial activity for host countries and communities
 - Article 6: Obligations of stakeholders in tourism development
 - Article 7: Right to tourism
 - Article 8: Liberty of tourist movements
 - Article 9: Rights of the workers and entrepreneurs in the tourism industry
 - Article 10: Implementation of the principles of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism

CONCLUSION

- Tourism can also be seen as a way forward to **promote pluralism and multiculturalism**, which can further help to build and spread the feeling of secularism and communal harmony among diverse communities of India.
- Tourism has enormous **potential in terms of job creation through tourist guide, tour packages, hospitality services** and India should leave no stone unturned to tap the potential to improve India's "**SOFT POWER**" through Tourism.
- India's tourism industry is experiencing a strong period of growth, driven by the burgeoning Indian middle class, growth in high spending foreign tourists, and coordinated government campaigns to promote tourism in India
- Tourism is a complex set of industries including **accommodation, recreation and entertainment, food and beverage services, transportation, and travel services**. It encompasses domestic, inbound, and outbound travel for business, leisure, or other purposes. And because of this large scope, tourism development requires participation from all walks of life, including private business, governmental agencies, educational institutions, communities, and citizens.
- Hence, we can say India is trying to grow its peripheral vision apart from various Industry to tourism Industry which also income generating and also being a part of those league of nation who have better tourism infrastructure.
- The future of tourism in India is certainly bright but we do have a long road ahead. **Philosopher Lao Tzu said "a journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step"**, and with recent developments in the sector, that step has already been taken.

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Essay Topic 6: Education in India

Quotes by famous personalities

- "Learning is not the product of teaching. Learning is the product of the activity of learners" - **John Holt**
- "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" - **Nelson Mandela**
- "There is no school equal to a decent home and no teacher equal to a virtuous parent" - **Mahatma Gandhi**
- "Don't limit a child to your own learning, for he was born in another time" - **Rabindranath Tagore**
- "The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don't tell you what to see" -**Alexandra K. Trenfor**
- "Intelligence plus character that is the goal of true education" - **Martin Luther King**
- "Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge and knowledge makes you great" - **Dr. Abdul Kalam**

DEFINITION

- Education is derived from two Latin words "educare," which means to train or to mold, and "educere," meaning to lead out.
- **How does Education differ from Literacy?**
 - Literacy is more of a quantitative measures where education is more qualitative in nature.
 - Literacy is mostly confined to formal schooling whereas education not only includes formal schooling but also parents, family and society at large.
 - Literacy is mostly linked to skills where education is linked with all-round development of man. It not includes skills but also values, morals etc.
 - Great philosopher Rabindranath Tagore has also dwelled on education. According to him, the aim of education is creative self-expression through physical, mental, aesthetic and moral development.

HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN INDIA

- The earliest education system to develop in India was known as '**Vedic system**' with the ultimate aim being complete realization of self. This system was based on '**Gurukul**' which fostered a bond between the Guru & the Shishya and established a teacher centric system in which the pupil was subjected to a rigid discipline and was under certain obligations towards his teacher.
- The **world's first university was established in Takshila in 700 BC and the University of Nalanda was built in the 4th century BC** dominated by **Indian scholars** like Charaka and Sushruta, Aryabhatta, Chanakya, Patanjali etc. made seminal contribution to world knowledge in diverse fields as mathematics, astronomy, physics, chemistry, medical science and surgery, etc.
- During the **freedom struggle**, several leaders like **Gokhale, Ram Mohan Roy and Mahatma Gandhi** worked for better education for our people, particularly women. **Indigenous model of education was a major component of Gandhi's conception of Swaraj and Swadeshi.**
- **Post-Independence**, the importance of **education as a precondition for development** was very well recognized by the leadership.

- In the last 20 years, education discourse in India has undergone a major transformation and new concepts such as rights-based approach to elementary education; shift in emphasis from literacy and basic education to secondary, higher, technical and professional education; the endeavour to extend universalization to secondary education; reshape the higher education scenario.

Commissions and Committees related with Education over the years

- **University Education Commission (1948)** under chairmanship of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan – recommended to make higher education accessible to all sections of society, irrespective of region, caste, gender and region.
- **Secondary Education Commission (1952) chairmanship of Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar** proposed to increase efficiency of production, diversification of high school courses, establishment of multipurpose high schools, introducing a uniform pattern throughout India and recommended the setting up of technical schools.
- **Indian Education Commission (1964-66) under the chairmanship of D. S. Kothari**- recommended a comprehensive reconstruction based on three main aspects -a) Internal transformation b) Qualitative improvement and c) Expansion of educational facilities.
- **National Educational Policy of 1968** was formulated in accordance with the recommendations of the Kothari Commission. It recommended for - provision of compulsory education to children in the 6-14 years age group as proposed in the Indian Constitution; emphasis on regional languages in secondary schools; English had to be the medium of instruction in schools, considered Hindi as the national language and promoted the development of Sanskrit; 6 percent of the national income be spent on education.
- **National Policy on Education (1986)** - provide education to all sections of society esp. SCs, STs, OBCs & women; provision of fellowships for the poor, imparting adult education, recruiting teachers from oppressed groups and also developing new schools and colleges; Providing primary education to students; education be given to rural people in consonance with the Gandhian philosophy; establishment of Open Universities; promotion of IT in education ; besides opening up the technical education sector in a rather big way to private enterprise.
- **National Policy on Education (1992)** - The Government of India had set up a commission under the chairmanship of Acharaya Ramamurti in 1990 to reassess the impact of the provisions National Policy on Education, 1986. It recommended for - The setting up of **Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)** as the highest advisory body to advise the Central and State Governments; focus on quality enhancement in education; stressed on developing moral values among students and bringing education closer to life.
- **T.S.R. Subramanian committee** major recommendations – an Indian Education Service (IES) should be established as an all India service; outlay on education should be raised to at least 6% of GDP; There should be minimum eligibility condition with 50% marks at graduate level for entry to existing B.Ed courses; Teacher Entrance Tests (TET) should be made compulsory for recruitment of all teachers; Compulsory licensing or certification for teachers in government and private schools should be made mandatory; Pre-school education for children in the age group of 4 to 5 years should be declared as a right; mid-day meal (MDM) program to be extended to secondary schools; Top 200 foreign universities should be allowed to open campuses in India.
- **The central government has constituted Kasturirangan Commission (2017) to draft a new education policy for India. Points to be focused on in the new education policy** – Address key areas of concern – access and participation, quality, equity, research and development and financial commitment to education development. Inclusion of culture education having ‘ethics education’ These will be addressed through policy interventions broadly into preschool and adolescent education, curriculum development and examination reform, teacher and faculty training, lifelong literacy, higher education and long distance learning.

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF EDUCATION IN INDIA – THEIR ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

- **Pre-Schooling level**
 - **Issues and Challenges**
 - *Early childhood is a very important period of life* when the foundations are laid for cumulative lifelong learning and human development.
 - *Rapid urbanisation , rise in nuclear family and breaking of Joint Family* forcing many parents to send their children to preschool.
 - *Role of State* - Early childhood Care and Education up to the age of 6 doesn't form part of the formal education under Central or State governments. In addition, this vacuum has been partly filled by schools and pre-schools which have mushroomed in the private sector without adequate regulation.
 - Pre-schooling has mostly tended to emphasize on a universal or *one-size-fits-all approach* -approach to schooling without taking into consideration different demands of children. Also, *pre-schooling has become a platform for admission into prestigious school rather than a platform for learning.*
 - *Lack of resources and absence of a universal curriculum*
 - **Solutions**
 - Early childhood care and education for children from 4-5 years of age should be declared as a right within the purview of Right to Education Act, 2008.
 - There is a need to introduce a new education component in Anganwadi practices, to ensure that the pre-school children are exposed to elementary education.
 - NCERT and SCERTs should formulate curricular framework for pre-primary education apart from conducting intensive training programs for teachers to orient them with handling of pre-school children.
- **Primary level**
 - **Issues and Challenges**
 - Out of School Children - As per official record, over 92 lakh children still remain out of schools.
 - High Dropout and Low Attendance
 - Poor Learning Outcomes - Corroborated by Annual Status of Education Survey
 - Absence of basic facilities
 - Absence of support outside Schooling
 - Inadequate support for vulnerable sections like women, tribals etc.
 - Rising cost of education because of mushrooming of private schools
 - **Solutions**
 - There is a need to amend RTE Act, to provide for norms for learning outcomes which directly affect quality of education.
 - There is a need to restore detention policy under RTE especially at the upper primary stage along with provisions for remedial coaching and offering of at least two extra chances to move to a higher class.
 - There is a need to use technology to help slow learners to make up for lost ground.
- **Secondary level**
 - **Issues and Challenges**
 - *Access to schooling* - States are mainly responsible for provision of education at secondary level and ensuring quality of education with the Central government playing only a marginal role.
 - *High dropout rates* - Secondary education reflects a very high level of dropouts especially for vulnerable groups because of poverty, social restrictions or lack of belief in usefulness of education
 - *Curriculum* - It has negligible or no emphasis on IT and vocational areas.
 - *Poor linkage with higher education* - Secondary level education has failed to prepare students for higher education w.r.t skills or values. As a result there is mushrooming of coaching institutions and skewed selection of courses for higher education.

- **Solutions**
 - There is a need to gradually extend provision of RTE to cover secondary education.
 - There is a need to scale up the existing National Skills Qualification Framework to include more students. There is also a need to in-line choice of vocational courses in accordance with local opportunities and resources.
- **Higher level**
 - **Issues, Challenges**
 - *Enrolment and Equity* - GER continues to hover around 25% which is low in comparison to other countries at similar level. In addition, there is no equity in GER among different sects of the society.
 - *Regulation* - Regulators like MCI, UGC, AICTE continue to be marked by inadequate financial and human resources, nepotism, corruption and favouritism.
 - *Political interference* - Higher education is fast emerging as a lucrative business and a number of education institutions have cropped up which are owned by political leaders. In addition, there is a growing political interference in running educational institution as seen in the case of Delhi University.
 - *Resources - Both financial as well as human*
 - *Employability* - According to a survey done by Aspiring Minds (Employment solutions company), only 7% of engineering graduates employable.
 - *Inadequate emphasis on R&D and collaboration with Industries*
 - **Solutions**
 - There is a need for regulatory overhaul in apart from streamlining the financing of higher education sector.
 - Also, there is a need to reform the process of recruitment, opportunities etc. for teachers. There is a need to introduce performance-based incentives on a objective criteria to rate and promote teachers.
 - Finally, there is a need to also reform the accreditation institutions, their methodology and accountability.

STAKEHOLDERS IN EDUCATION – ISSUES, CHALLENGES & SOLUTIONS

- **Parents: "Home is the first school, parents are the first teachers."**
 - **Issues & Challenges**
 - **Urban Families-**
 - ✓ Lack of time spent with children leads to communication-gap/generation-gap.
 - ✓ Forced decisions on career-choices/selection of stream after 10th Boards, etc.
 - ✓ Passing of the pressure to children for high grades.
 - ✓ High income families resort to too much donations to get their child admitted in elite schools rather than emphasizing upon them the real value and essence of education e.g. parents supporting fake degrees, cheating, etc.
 - **Rural Families-**
 - ✓ Education is seen merely as a means to get the label of a degree.
 - ✓ High dropout rates because of unaffordable fees and lack of awareness about welfare schemes.
 - ✓ Transportation or commutation for girls a major hurdle to give them access to education.
 - ✓ Medium of instruction also becomes a hurdle.
 - ✓ Caste based discrimination
 - ✓ Huge and wide gap between parent's education and the environment they get in schools.
 - ✓ There is a need to convince parents of first generation students about the value and importance of education.

According to a **World Economic Forum Report**, Indian parents spend an average of 12 hours a week helping with homework compared to 6.2 hours in the US and 3.6 in the UK. Also, 62 per cent Indian parents help homework, which is significantly higher than many other countries.

- Students: “The Ideal Student Would Be One Who Was Not Working For Grades, But Was Working because he was interested in the work and not try to compete with his fellow students”.

- **Issues & Challenges**

- Heightened expectations and pressure from family to become part of rat race - competition, admission in colleges, good grades in board exams, etc.
- Mass copying and use of unfair means to pass exams.
- Lack of critical enquiry abilities, capacity to think clearly, rationally and engage in reflective, independent and deep thinking.
- Influence of media - films, internet, and computer games, etc.
- Mental disorders - depression, attention deficit disorder, anxiety, addiction, etc.
- Crimes like stealing, sexual assault, intolerance towards teachers, etc.
- Disconnect with family because of too much time spent on internet, with friends, etc.

- Teachers: “The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.”

- **Issues & Challenges**

- Education is no longer seen as a service to transform students' future but as a profession.
- In many cases, entry into the teaching profession is out of compulsion rather than choice esp for women as its seen as a 'pink collared job', chances of good marriage proposals increase, etc.
- Usage of mechanical/outmoded techniques and lack of innovative methods to teach.
- Overburdening and involvement of teachers in other non-teaching tasks.
- Low pay scale, especially in private institutions, compared to workload leading to disinterestedness. Also, lack of incentive to work harder and improve. Hence, little zeal or enthusiasm for teaching.
- No teachers' accountability and system of feedback from the students.

- **Solutions**

- *Need for sensitivity/emotional intelligence:* Teachers need to factor in the socio- economic backgrounds of children, for instance a hungry or an abused child will not be able to learn effectively. Programmes must guide teachers on how to nurture and develop this set of children. The more a teacher knows about a student, the better they will be able to support their learning and progress.
- *Teachers need to be made more accountable* through enhanced involvement of the school management committees.
- Recognising the *need for supportive supervision and incentives* to ensure teacher performance and accountability, as well as use of technology to monitor teacher attendance and curb absenteeism.

Children with Special Needs

- India has huge population of children with special needs (Differently abled) who inspite of provisions in RTE for statutory right to education continue to be denied this right.
- A **recent report of CAG** has highlighted that transport, aid and appliances were not provided as envisaged in the act to all the eligible children with special needs.
- It is no surprise that the number of illiterates in this category of children continue to very high in proportion in comparison with rest of the children.
- The **way forward** must include - Availability of proper study material; Adequate sensitivity among teachers and their proper training; Availability of aid devices for education.

Expenditure on Education

- According to the Economic Survey 2017-18, India's average expenditure on education is 2.8% of GDP.
- Developing countries like South Africa and Brazil spend about 5.8% whereas neighboring Bhutan spends more than 7% of its GDP on education.
- According to World Bank
 - countries like Norway, Sweden and Finland spend an average 7.5% of GDP on education.
 - US, UK, France, Germany and Australia spend between 5 to 6 percent.

- Need for acquaintance with best practices practiced across India and world and adaptation of newer techniques for better absorption and assimilation of knowledge by students.
- **Institutions:** “*School is a building which has four walls with tomorrow inside*” Educational Institutions are seen as temples of learning but today they are working as industries.
 - **Issues & Challenges**
 - **Access and Equity**
 - ✓ *Commercialisation of Education* – Schools and Colleges have become money making institutions rather than providing quality education. E.g. capitation fees, excessive fee hikes, additional costs for uniform, books, etc.
 - ✓ The poor, despite the subsidies, still find education unaffordable and are often forced to drop out. Schools regularly flout rules such as 25% reservation for the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) / Disadvantaged Groups (DG) in private non-aided schools.
 - ✓ Distortion of welfare schemes such as Mid-Day Meal by asking parents to pay for meals.
 - ✓ Issue of fake income and caste certificates leaves out the intended beneficiaries of government initiatives.
 - ✓ Child labour, migration, child marriage are others barriers to education
 - ✓ Lack of transparency and fairness in admission process and absence of grievance redress mechanisms are obstacles to proper implementation of the Right to Education Act.
 - **Quality**
 - ✓ *Lack of Infrastructure* – lack of facilities such as drinking water, toilets, etc; overcrowded classrooms and improper construction of classrooms/schools (inadequate ventilation and lighting); lack of open spaces, greenery and playgrounds for students.
 - ✓ Poorly trained faculty, large vacancies and absenteeism especially in public institutions.
 - ✓ Overburdening of students with homework.
 - ✓ *Lack of secure environment* provided to the children – security breaches leading to rapes, murder of children etc.

Solutions to improve quality issue in education

- **Leveraging technology:** There is a need to increasingly employ latest technologies in the field of education for enhancing the learning outcomes as well as making the teaching process easier and more enjoyable for the students.
- Several initiatives by NGOs, like Azim Premji Foundation and Digital Studyhall, and corporations like ILFS, Educom, Intel, Medialabs, have taken lead in content creation, teacher training and classroom learning.
- Tie-ups between foreign and Indian institutes can be explored to provide expertise and faculty for teaching, curriculum building, and organizing student and teacher exchange programs.

Language and Culture in Education

- The importance of early education in mother tongue and knowledge about indigenous culture has been conclusively proved to be very beneficial for better development of a human being.
- However, Indian record in this case has been very discouraging.
- In-spite of provisions in constitution and corroboration by several committees on education, India has done very little to implement the issues.
- **Issues** - Poor training of teachers; Lack of resources like books and study material; Inadequate funds etc.
- Some of the **steps** in this regard must include - Provision for education upto Class V in mother tongue, local or regional language; Indian culture, local and traditional knowledge should be given adequate space in the school education.

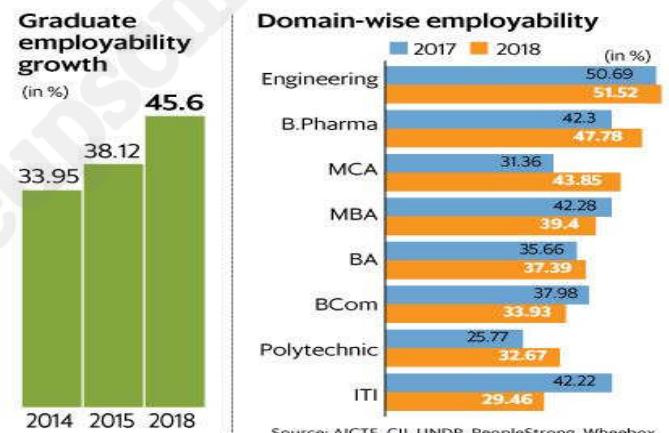
- ✓ Inadequate internships, quality of teaching and insufficient exposure to technologies such as Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence and Industry 4.0
 - ✓ Lack of diversity in streams chosen - Only 10 Programmes out of approximately 180 cover 83% of the total students enrolled in higher education. (AISHE).
 - ✓ Despite high enrolment, learning outcomes are low as seen in the Annual Status of Education Report – (ASER). For example, about 25% of 14-18 age group cannot read basic text fluently in their own language.
- Curriculum
- ✓ Emphasis on memorizing factual information instead of applied knowledge.
 - ✓ *Need for multidisciplinarity* – There is need for a shift from traditional single subject focussed education towards combining multiple disciplines to address real world problems and solve complex societal and business challenges.
 - ✓ *Restructuring of examination system*- Bringing an end to similar assignments and exams each term which leads to plagiarism/cheating specially in this age of free access to information. Students need to taught ethics and academic integrity as well.
 - ✓ Significant changes in India's academic culture are required to ensure that meritocracy operates at all levels.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION: A NEED TO TAP THE 'NEET' (NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING)

- The *Not in Employment, Education or Training or NEET* was a little-known measure in the early 2000s to highlight the vulnerabilities faced by adolescents who had dropped out of education. It assumes even more significance now as we look at youth productivity as a whole—especially of young adults from disadvantaged and high-risk backgrounds.
- According to the OECD, *youth inactivity presents the share of young people (age 15-29) not in employment, education or training (NEET) as a percentage of the total number of young people in the corresponding age group*.
- Thus, NEETs include all youth left outside paid employment and formal education and training systems. They are NEET because there are not enough quality jobs being created in the system and because they have little incentives or face too high constraints to be in the education and training systems.
- According to World Bank , ILO, (2017) , in India, share of NEET youth is 32.6 (%age of youth population)
- According to OECD & Eco. Survey 2017, over 30%(30.83) of youth aged 15-29 in India are not in employment, education or training (NEETs). This is more than double the OECD(14.56%) average and almost three times that of China(11.22%).
- Challenges in vocational/skills education and training
 - *Containing migration and decreasing the demand supply gap* with a large rural/semi-urban workforce seeking to exit farming along with impact on job creation by

EMPLOYABILITY OF FRESH GRADUATES ON THE RISE: STUDY

Fresh graduates are becoming more employable and job-readiness among engineering graduates is improving, finds a joint survey by the All India Council for Technical Education, the Confederation of Indian Industry, the UN Development Programme and HR consulting firms PeopleStrong and Wheebox. The results challenge the perception that poor employability is affecting the hiring market in India. The survey shows that most of the core higher education domains are showing improvements in graduate employability—except for management and industrial training institute graduates.



Steps taken recently by the government in Skill training

- Skill India Development Mission
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Kaushal Yojana (DDU-GKY)
- Udaan for Jammu and Kashmir
- National Urban Livelihoods Mission

- automation, analytics, artificial intelligence, etc.
- *Failure of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in producing a skilled labour force in the country.*
 - *Skills training continues to be departmentally-scattered* and fragmented in the country
 - *Higher education system has been aloof from the skills ecosystem*. Department of Higher Education's contribution in offering skills education and training is only about 4%, whereas the MSDE's is 58%.
 - The **Sharda Prasad Committee Report, released in 2017**, explains how private training partners have made a "mockery" of skills training by doling out short-term courses.
 - **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme** of the Government of India needs to expand its purview to the institutes of higher education as well, which are currently under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).
 - India needs to learn from examples of countries like UK whose model of vocational education called Technical & Vocational Education & Training (TVET) which integrates skills and higher education at the level of policy, funding and implementation, regulatory powers to examine and assess skills is also given to a single non-ministerial department.
 - Need for an interactive platform between educational institutions and corporate industry so as to have visibility on the expectations from students.

FINANCING IN EDUCATION

- **HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING AGENCY (HEFA)** created in 2016 is aimed at giving a major push for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions.
- It is being jointly promoted by the identified Promoter and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) with an authorised capital of Rs.2,000 crore.
- It would leverage the equity to raise up to Rs. 20,000 crore for funding projects for infrastructure and development of world class Labs in IITs/IIMs/NITs and such other institutions.
- Apart from these, HEFA is also engaging in mobilisation of CSR funds from PSUs/Corporates to promote research and innovation.
- Recently, the government has approved the proposal for expanding the scope of HEFA by tasking it to mobilise Rs 1,00,000 crore for Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022 along with enhancing the its capital based to Rs. 10,000 crore.
- **Concerns -**
 - Institutions need to be revenue surplus in order to borrow from HEFA and return the money, thus throwing concerns over possible fee hike.
 - Some critics have also pointed out that education is a public good and a primary responsibility of State. Hence, setting up of HEFA dilutes the responsibility of State towards education.

SECURITY ISSUES & CHALLENGES

- While schools are regarded as "Temples of Learning", in recent times they have become breeding grounds of crime against children!
- In 2017, a seven-year-old boy was found murdered inside a school in Gurugram and the next day a five-year-old girl was raped in a school in Delhi.

Cracking the whip A look at the new CBSE guidelines for schools

CLOSE WATCH

- CCTV cameras should be installed on the school premises
- Security audit of school premises should be conducted
- Access should be limited to outsiders



FOR ILLUSTRATIVE USE

SELECTION AND TRAINING

- Police verification is a must for all staff members
- Supporting staff should be hired via authorized agencies
- Staff should be trained to protect children from any form of abuse

PANELS TO BE SET UP

- Parent-teacher-students committee, grievance redressal committees and committees under the POCSO Act, 2012, among others

• Areas of Security of children in schools

○ Physical Safety

- The buildings should be built to ensure "life safety", and be more resilient to hazards
- School administration, staff, teachers as well as students need to be better aware and prepared to respond to any catastrophe, natural or man-made
- The schools must leverage low cost and environment-friendly technologies without compromising on structural soundness and safety of the buildings

○ Psychosocial Safety

- Children who are victims of violence show continuous symptoms of depression, dissociative reactions, feelings of helplessness, lack of emotional intelligence, and aggression
- Installing CCTV cameras at strategic locations across school premises would ensure that a child's day-to-day life in school is constantly being monitored and recorded.
- The security cameras can be effective in school safety investigations, or even act as deterrents to such behaviour.
- The schools must be vigilant and constantly be on the lookout for any forms of child abuse, whether physical, emotional, or sexual. The staff should be trained to understand key indicators of child abuse, and be prepared to respond instantly to inappropriate or harmful behaviour.
- The policy framing process of schools must follow the prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery (PPRR) model of risk management. In matters pertaining to child safety, this model would help the school administration to be vigilant.

○ School transportation and safety

- In 2014, CBSE made it mandatory for all school buses to install GPS systems to ensure safe transportation of children to and from schools
- However, the actual need of the hour is to provide the school administration with an easy-to-use system to ensure safety of children and fleet management in real-time, and provide parents with constant updates of their children's whereabouts
- With GPS integration, the performance of the driver can be gauged, while the live vehicle tracking app assures the parents of their child's safety at all times.

○ Background verification of staff

- When it comes to hiring teachers, administrators and other school staff, there are many good reasons to conduct pre-employment background checks for student safety.
- Verification should include place of residence, past employment, and checking for any past criminal records as well as ongoing criminal cases.
- This will help schools in screening people who come in contact with students within the school premises, including teachers, administrators, sports coaches, cleaning staff and volunteers.

- **Visitor Management System**
 - Generic tags for visitors and handwritten late slips and permission slips for students will not really serve the purpose of recording and analysing information
 - A digital visitor management system with visitor sign-in information and photo ID badges will instantly increase the level of security in schools.
 - Biometric security systems in schools automatically track student's attendance records based on their swipe time
 - The devices available can range from RFID (radio frequency identification) cards to fingerprint and facial recognition devices, eliminating any chances of unauthorised entry into school premises.
- **Other Steps that can be taken for security of children**
 - Ensure that every part of the school is **supervised by a teacher especially during break and sports**. Corridor, Break and Sports grounds duties to be assigned separate from teaching duties
 - Create a **buddy system** where children are paired up, or are in groups of three. They are responsible for knowing where their buddies are at any point of time, and preferably staying with them. It will also reduce in bullying incidents or atleast help in quick reporting.
 - **Awareness** - educate children and make them aware of their own rights over their bodies, **sex education in children-friendly and age-friendly manner**.
 - **Include parents in the safety community**. Share their tools of keeping children safe.
 - Create an **atmosphere of open communication within the school**. Let children chatter freely with teachers, with head teachers and each other, sharing their fears and hopes.

PRIVATISATION IN EDUCATION

- **Need**
 - The status of higher education continues to be dismal as can be seen in the recently published Times Higher Education (THE) Emerging Economies University Rankings – 2018.
 - Issues in education in India - Lack of funding, poor quality of teachers, poor learning outcomes and problem of brain drain.
 - **Amartya Sen says "India is trying to be the first country to become an industrial giant with an illiterate and unhealthy labour force".**
- **Benefits**
 - Better access to infrastructure, faculty, global exposure and wider interaction with global educational institutions along with higher level research and innovation.
 - It will act as platform for faculty exchange between different institutions resulting better training of teachers and opening more opportunities for them.
 - It will lead to more competition in education sector thus leading to better quality for students.
- **Challenges**
 - More inequity as it will deepen the already prevalent class divide in the Indian higher education system.
 - The privatisation of education has benefited mainly the **parallel system of coaching classes**. The middle and even
- **According to the HRD Ministry's All India Survey on Higher Education**, 34.2 million students were enrolled in institutions of higher education in 2014-15, with 22 million students (65%) in private institutions. Out of which around 53% college students are enrolled in private institutions because there are not enough public higher educational institutions.
- In 1950, the number of universities in India was just 20. And by June 2017, the number rose to 819 — 47 central, 367 state, and 123 deemed and 282 private universities.
- **According to AISHE**, 1,26,451 students are enrolled in Ph.D. in India, that is less than 0.4% of the total student enrolment.
- **According to the International Property Rights Index (IPRI) Report 2017**, India ranks fifth globally in terms of research publications but its patent profile needs a major boost as it is ranked 45th in the indicator of intellectual property rights (IPR).

the lower class people are spending a fortune on their wards' education by enrolling them in coaching classes.

- **Kota in Rajasthan is a classic example** of how coaching classes have turned themselves into factories. The students are under tremendous pressure to perform with no time to rest and relax. Some **24 students, taking tuitions at these coaching factories, have committed suicide in 2017, unable to cope up with the rigorous schedule of the coaching classes. And last year, nearly 450 teenagers in AP and Telangana have committed suicide, due to the pressure of academic performance.**
- Privatisation will lead to commodification of education as most of the private player in education view it as a business - Issues of capitation fees, poor accountability, fake degrees, fly-by-night operators etc.
- The privatisation should not be an alibi for the corrupt and inefficient functioning of public educational institutions.
- The indiscriminate privatisation of education has deprived the children of weaker section and under privileged the opportunity to receive quality

UPSC 2002 -Privatization of higher education in India.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Since **2010**, the **Central School Board for Secondary Education** instituted a policy requiring schools to provide opportunities for at least 40 to 45 minutes of physical activity during school hours for grades 1 to 10, and at least 90–120 minutes/week of Physical activity/ training/yoga for grades 10 to 12.
- According to **India's 2016 Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth by Active Healthy Kids Global Alliance**, most Indian children do not achieve recommended levels of PA and spend most of their day in sedentary pursuits.
- A recent government research showed that children are spending 7.2 hours studying (no physical activity) against only 39 minutes playing any sports in a day.
- **Issues & Challenges**
 - **Inappropriate allocation and use of budget**- The budgetary allocation for sports, which comes under the Union Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs, is not as much as compared to the countries that excel in the Olympics and other International sports events.
 - **Lack of qualified coaches**- Coach training programmes are not encouraged in India, as a result schools lack trained coaches.
 - **Inadequate provision of facilities and equipment** and teaching materials, large class sizes.
 - **Lack of Investment by schools** as well as by parents for excellence in sports
- **Solutions**
 - Development of a national strategy for physical activity of children and youth
 - Investments at national, state, local jurisdictional, and school and community levels
 - Culturally and geographically appropriate policy interventions
 - Facilitating active living through urban planning policy
 - Physical activity education and promotion directed towards families and educators
 - **The Khelo India Programme** launched in 2016 is a good initiative to promote sports among the youth.

Importance of Physical Education

- Sports forms a major part of a child's education. It helps in building qualities of leadership, sharing, team spirit, obedience, discipline, willpower, and tolerance.
- It enhances their academic performance by increasing their physical and mental fitness.
- It teaches respect for teammates, opponents and rules of the conduct.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

- Currently research in India is suffering from **low standard, quality as well as lack of interest towards research as a career due to paltry and unsustainable stipend amounts**
- **Issue of 'predatory journals'** with allegations of plagiarism, fabrication of fraudulent papers and fake peer reviews for monetary benefits. Researchers focus only on publishing research findings rather than filing patents and reaping financial benefits.
- More students prefer to go abroad for research due to better facilities, laboratories, more favourable culture of research, accessible top faculty, ease of affiliation with a laboratory or institute and higher perception of a foreign degree in the Indian job market compared to a local degree.
- **Steps that can be taken in this regard -**
 - Need for making researchers and faculties aware about patent filing and the advantages of collaboration with the industrial sector for commercialising innovations.
 - Resolving of issues like - Lack of financial support from the government for filing and maintenance of a patent, the long time taken to process a patent in India and absence of incentives or recognition for patent filing.
 - Very few top-quality programmes in advanced degrees - There is a need to build up high-quality capacity in key disciplines at national institutions.
 - **Steps taken by Government**
 - **Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) Scheme** of Rs 70,000 monthly fellowship and Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) announced in the Union Budget 2018-19 by 2022 with a total investment of ₹1,00,000-crore in the next four years are good steps to promote research.
 - **Atal Innovation Mission** – Atal Tinkering Labs and Atal Incubators for supporting an innovative ecosystem in schools, universities, small and medium industries, corporate, NGOs and research institutions.

REGULATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- Higher education in India is currently regulated by a number of agencies like UGC, MCI, AICTE etc.
- Issues and Challenges
 - *Poor global rankings*
 - Currently, India continues to perform abysmally in global ranking of higher educational institutions.
 - *Archaic Law*
 - University Grants Commission Act was enacted in 1956. However, it is unsuitable for regulation today and needs to be changed in-line with the growing complexity and number of higher educational institutions.
 - *Inadequate financial resources and problems of corruption, nepotism, favouritism*
 - Higher educational sector in India has been characterized by inadequate financial resources and problems of nepotism, corruption and favouritism.
 - *Accreditation*
 - Indian accreditation discourse has been marked by politicisation, conflict of interest, corruption and unscientific methodology.
 - *Other Challenges*
 - Other challenges include Deemed Universities, fake universities, fake degrees, Politicization of UGC (Four year undergraduate programme etc.)
- **Recent initiatives by government**
 - Recently government prepared a draft act for repeal of UGC and setting up of HECl (Higher Education Commission of India).
 - Government has come up with National Medical Commission Bill which is aimed at overhauling medical education in India and will replace the Medical Council of India.

- **Way forward**

- An independent mechanism for administering the national higher education fellowship programme should be put in place.
- A Central Educational Statistics Agency (CESA) should be established as the central data collection, compilation and consolidation agency with high quality statistical expertise and management information system should be used for predictive analysis, manpower planning and future course corrections.
- An expert committee should be constituted to study the systems of accreditation in place internationally.

VALUE BASED EDUCATION

- Since ancient times, it is said "Sa Vidya Ya Vimuktaye," which means that with education we finally attain salvation. This small Sanskrit phrase essentially contains the thought and essence of Value Education that is relevant in all perspectives.
- In simple terms Value-based Education is one which imparts certain essential moral, ethical, cultural, social, spiritual value in child necessary for their all-round development and prepares them as a complete man.

Importance of Value-based Education -WHY?

- *Need of the Nuclear and Working parents' family - because* most of them are busy in work, they spend only a few hours with their children.
- *There is too much violence and dishonesty in society* - every day students are exposed to violence, dishonesty, and other social problems in the media and the real world. They tend to see and replicate these crimes - sexual violence, shooting bullying in school and fights between gangs. If moral values were taught in schools. We would have fewer of these problems.
- *To Counter Bad Influences in Society* - Unfortunately, many of the role models of young people are setting bad examples. These bad examples range from sexual promiscuity, degrading of women, advocacy of violence, and the condoning of dishonesty in order to succeed.

What Value-Based Education can instill in students?

- *It will prepare children for Future Roles in Society:* The primary goals of education should be enabling students to gain knowledge and moral values. Children need both in preparing themselves to be good parents and citizens in society.
- *It builds the character and is necessary for development of personality of an individual:* It includes physical health, mental health, etiquettes and social behavior, civic rights and duties etc.
- *Moral values teach us what is right or wrong.* Thus, we can conduct our life in a right direction.
- *Children will develop a secure sense of self.* They become more empowered to take responsibility for their own learning.

Some Important Moral Values in School Curriculum

1. **Swami Vivekananda:** "if we want to make our students as a moral human being, school curriculum is one of the best ways to serve this purpose" He suggested some important moral values which should be included in our school curriculum.
 - *Unconditional Love and Kindness:* With more love in the world kindness will follow and replace cruelty
 - *Honesty & Hard work:* No cheating in schools, telling truth
 - *Respect for Others* i.e. respecting different religions, races, sexes, ideas, and lifestyles, etc.
 - *Co-operation:* His motto, "united we stand and divided we fall,"
 - *Compassion:* If there were more compassion in the world. There would be less homeless, hunger, wars, and unhappiness
 - *Forgiveness:* Anger in most cases is caused by unwillingness to forgive. There would be less violence and fighting in school if students could learn this moral virtue.
2. **Mahatma Gandhi:** "Education means all-round drawing out of the best in child and man—body, mind, and spirit." He conducted Educational experiment at phoenix Ashram and Tolstoy wadi (Garden) in South-Africa. These include:
 - Education for character building
 - Educational of soul should be imparted thought teacher's (model) life rather than through books

- Health education for physical fitness and health and insistence for simple life.
 - Importance for self-help and self-reliance, education for thoroughness (strength)
 - Education for equality of all the religions, education based (founded) on truth, non-violence and justice.
 - He presented “**Wardha educational Scheme (also known as Nai Talim)**” before the nation(1937) based upon: free and compulsory education for all boys and girls between the ages of seven to fourteen; Education Through Craft or productive work; Education through the mother tongue; Ideal of citizenship
- 3. Rabindranath Tagore:** “The highest education is that which does not merely give us information, but makes our life in harmony with all existence”.
- There are four fundamental principles in Tagore’s educational philosophy; naturalism, humanism, internationalism and idealism. They are incorporated through -
 - Tagore's education marked a novel blending of the ideas of the East and West.
 - He envisaged that nature is the best teacher to the pupil.
 - He rejected a book-centered education for students.
 - With these objectives he opened Shantiniketan, Sri Niketan and Brahmachari Ashram.
 - He gave **importance to fine arts (dance, drama, music, poetry, paintings etc.)** as he believed that these finer aspects of human life are very essential to enrich soul.
 - He wanted to **eradicate poverty through education** especially through skill training on rural areas thereby helping out in the process of rural reconstruction.
- 4. J. Krishnamurthy** - “To understand life is to understand ourselves and that is both the beginning and the end of education”.
- The **aim of education** should be to encourage every pupil **to find out for himself his peculiar individual talent and develop it as fully as possible.**
 - He condemns the present system of mass education and **advocates individual teacher-pupil relationship.**
 - **School must have to be temple of learning and not factories of knowledge.** He advocated the absence of comparison and competition.
 - He believes in an **all-round development of child of today**, going to be a father of tomorrow, is the prime responsibility of the teacher instead of merely imparting information and knowledge.
 - He believes that the **education in the modern world has been concerned with the cultivation not of intelligence, but intellect, of memory and its skill.** In this process little occurs beyond passing on information from the teacher to the taught in which there is little human relationship. If one has no intelligence, one is doomed to be slave to environment.

UPSC Essay Previous Year Topics

- Value-based science and education. (1999)
- Modern technological education and human values. (2002)
- What is real education?(2005)
- Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make a man more clever devil. (2015)

CREDIT – BASED HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM – STATUS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES – UPSC 2011

- A flexible system of grading which allows students to opt for subjects from other disciplines.

Positives of CBCS

- Greater *flexibility* to choose subjects
- Wide options as per students’ interest
- Development of cognitive, emotional, spiritual, innovative, social, moral, environmental aptitude.
- Enable the concept of 'Rainbow' Intelligence.
- Reduces the need for training of graduates
- Encourages a healthy cooperation and competition between institutions.
- Restricting the flight of Indian students abroad for higher studies.

- Will lead to better learning outcomes.
- Lead to improvements in ranking of Indian Universities.
- Aims to become an inter-university model giving the students the choice between subjects across universities.
- **Challenges**
 - Huge shortage of faculty and infrastructure in higher education as close to 40% of vacancies for faculty members in central universities and IITs are vacant.
 - Lack of uniformity in mandate, role, profile, etc. across universities.
 - Mainly aimed at vocational needs and neglecting research and innovation needs.

EVALUATION SYSTEMS – ISSUES & INITIATIVES

- **Students**
 - Student evaluation has been one of the most debatable topics in education sector.
 - While there has been consensus on quantitative parameters for evaluation like Gross enrolment ratio (GER), mean years of schooling, dropout ratio etc., qualitative parameters for evaluation continue to remain debatable.
 - One of the initiatives for measuring learning outcomes has been the Annual Status of Education Report published by NGO Pratham. Some of the parameters used :-
 - Foundational reading skills through letter identification, word decoding and reading passages
 - Basic math abilities like number recognition, subtraction and division.
 - In addition, in-spite of having provisions for Comprehensive and Continuous evaluation (CCE), the emphasis on rote learning continues to predominate.
- **Government Initiatives**
 - Recently government has proposed to introduce a system of measuring annual learning outcomes in schools.
 - NITI Aayog has also been conducting workshops on School Education Quality Index (SEQI) to improve the learning outcomes among school children.
 - **National Testing Agency (NTA)**
 - Government has recently announced that JEE Main and NEET will be held twice a year from 2019 by NTA.
 - Apart from these, NTA will also conduct National Eligibility Test (NET), Common Management Admission Test (CMAT) and Graduate Pharmacy Aptitude Test (GPAT) exams.
- **Way forward**
 - Norms for learning outcomes should be developed and applied uniformly to both private and government schools.
 - Within the parameters prescribed by the RTE act, States should have the flexibility to design and plan for the infrastructure keeping in view the local conditions.
 - There is an urgent need for examination reforms emphasize on understanding and knowledge as opposed to rote learning and only facts.
- **Teachers**
 - Currently there is absence of any uniform methodology for evaluating teachers' performance.
 - Some of the possible steps towards a uniform methodology for evaluation can be :-
 - A transparent and merit based norms of evaluating teacher performance periodically should be formulated.
 - At the national level, a Teacher Education University must be set up with the responsibility of various aspects of teacher education as well as evolving such norms.

- **Institutions**
 - **Rankings**
 - While global rankings like **Times Higher Education World University Rankings, QS Rankings** etc. have developed a stable methodology for globally comparing higher educational institutions, they fail to take local conditions into account.
 - In India, a series of private organisation including media like **India Today, Dataquest** etc. have come out with ranking of educational institutions at the national level.
 - Recently, the government in 2015 has launched the **National Institutional Ranking Framework** to ranks institutions within five broad generic parameters - Teaching; Learning and resources; Research and professional practice; Graduation outcomes; Outreach and inclusivity; Perception.
 - **Accreditation**
 - **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)** is the nodal agency under UGC responsible for accreditation. Apart from, the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) under AICTE is responsible for undertaking periodic evaluation of technical institutions.
 - **Issues and Challenges**
 - ✓ Huge backlog of cases related to accreditation.
 - ✓ The same template for evaluation is applied to all units irrespective of their specialized characteristics, which renders the approach largely imprecise.
 - ✓ There is no scope for participation in assessment and accreditation sector for external players.
- **Way Forward**
 - Need for an overarching management board, the National Accreditation Board, which will :-:
 - Oversee the entire process
 - Set standards and define guidelines
 - License private (not for profit) agencies in adequate number
 - Need to develop a scientific methodology for grading educational institutions as per their specialities.

PROVISIONS RELATED TO EDUCATION

- **Sustainable Development Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning
- **DPSPs: Article 41** (Right to work, to education and to public assistance in certain cases), **Article 45** (Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years), **Article 46**(Promotion of education and economic interests of SC, ST, and other weaker sections).
- **Fundamental Right: Article 21-A** provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine.
- **Fundamental Duty: Art. 51-A(k)** to provide opportunities for education by the parent the guardian, to his child, or a ward between the age of 6-14 years as the case may be.

Highlights of RTE ACT, 2009

- It is compulsory and free education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right.
- Minimum standards are set
- Quantity and Quality of Teachers
- No discrimination and No harassment
- School Management Committees- By the people, for the children
- No denial in Admission of children without any certification (birth proof)

RTE Innovations

Globally validated concepts –AAAC i.e. Admission to Age Appropriate Class - Admission for all in age appropriate class:

- CCE i.e. Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation
- NDP i.e. No Detention Policy

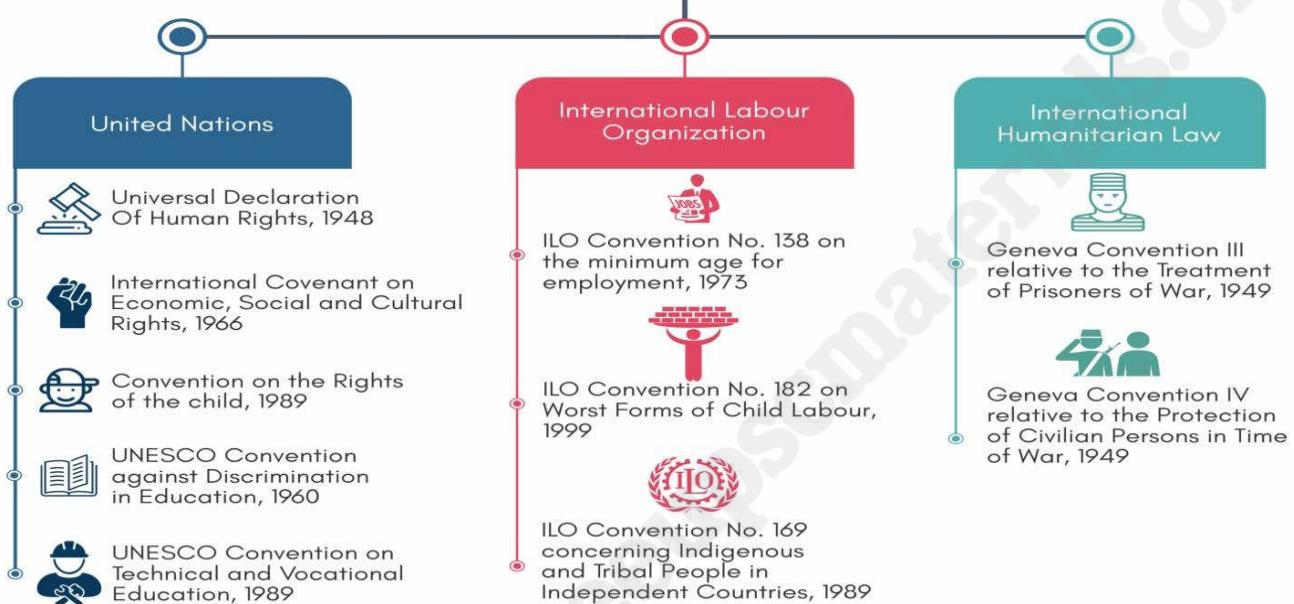
Hitches and Glitches in the RTE Act

- 25% seats reserved of EWS in private schools (aided or unaided)
- No Detention Policy vs Old pass-fail system.

INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

- **Australia**- Incentives to teachers taking rural hardship postings, 20-plus years of schooling
- **Japan**- Intense focus on academics starting at age 6 (low primary level drop-out rate of 0.2 percent)
- **Finland**- Mandatory 15-minute break for every hour of five-hour school day, No grades until fourth grade
- **Netherlands**- Teaching in languages other than Dutch for students to foster learning in all subjects, extra funding to poorer and ethnic minority students, primary schools with the highest proportion of disadvantaged students have about 58 percent more teachers and support staff.

INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS RELATED TO EDUCATION



ONLINE EDUCATION – ADVANTAGES & DISADVANTAGES

- **Advantages-**
 - **Cheaper medium:** one can learn using any device connected to the Internet. There's no need to spend a lot of money renting a building, paying an expensive electricity bill, internet, etc.
 - **Consumes less time:** there's no need to spend time commuting to and from the classroom, for both the teacher and the students. Also, the teacher/trainer doesn't need to give the same class over and over again to a different group of students.
 - **Allows for self-paced learning:** students or trainees can take their courses anytime, anywhere. Using their own devices. Students who don't have time for regular classes can learn online whenever they do have time.
 - **Modern:** Most people today prefer to consume content using the Internet rather than in any other way.
- **Disadvantages –**
 - **Ensures self-discipline:** although experience has shown that online students become more self-disciplined.

- **Plagiarism:** students may plagiarize essays and other assignments
- **Cheating:** it can be easier to cheat if you are taking an online exam.
- **Isolation:** since one doesn't have to be physically present in a classroom in order to learn, it might be more difficult (or impossible) to get in touch with other learners.

UPSC Essay Previous Year Topics

- “Education for All” Campaign in India: Myth or Reality. (2006)
- Literacy is growing very fast, but there is no corresponding growth in education. (1996)
- Restructuring of Indian education system. (1995)
- Irrelevance of the classroom. (2001)
- Destiny of a nation is shaped in its classrooms. (2017)

SCHEMES



- **Scheme - Institutions of Eminence (IoE)**

- The continued dismal state of higher education in India as reflected in various global ranking and the growing demand for quality higher education owing to rising middle class and demographic dividend has led to the launch of IoE scheme which is aimed at establishing 20 world-class educational institutions.
- However, in-spite of the best intentions IoE continue to suffer from a number of issues and challenges :-:
 - Regulating such institution hasn't been defined in clear and precise terms.
 - To sustain such institutions quality teachers would be required which continue to be a major issue in Indian higher education sector.
 - The issue of brain drain also needs to be tackled post completion of education from such institutions.

Ready With Strategy

WHAT WILL MAKE INSTITUTIONS 'EMINENT'

RESERVATION POLICIES will apply only to govt institutions conferred the status

THE INSTITUTIONS WILL BE multi-disciplinary but unitary, meaning they will not affiliate with colleges or use the word 'university' for description

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

For existing pvt institutions, initial corpus fund of ₹60 cr to be hiked to ₹150 cr in 10 years

For greenfield institutions, an initial corpus of ₹60 crore to be hiked to ₹150 crore in a decade

Institution to be accredited by NAAC or its international equivalent

SELECTION NORMS

NO UGC INSPECTION FOR these institutions, which will follow a disclosure-cum-review mechanism with the review by the EEC, which may rope in foreign experts. EEC will review the institutions once in three years for adherence to their implementation plan until they achieve the top 100 global ranking slot for two consecutive years

FAILURE TO MEET GOALS could mean withdrawal of any or all additional incentives given to an institution or replacing the status to ordinary deemed to be university status affiliated to a state university



CONCLUSION

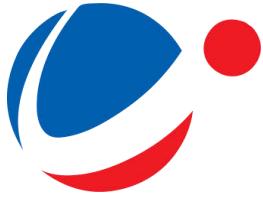
- India has one of the youngest populations in an aging world. By 2020, the median age in India will be just 28, compared to 37 in China and the US, 45 in Western Europe, and 49 in Japan.
- Education with a holistic perspective is concerned with the development of every person's intellectual, emotional, social, physical, artistic, creative and spiritual potentials.
- To leverage the advantage of demographic dividend India needs to invest into its abundant human capital through quality education, reforming the curriculum and pedagogical processes, improving delivering by utilizing public-private partnerships, evolving an efficient audit and accountability mechanism and resolving the existing lacunae in the current institutional system which will help unleash the true potential of Indian citizens and lead to economic and social prosperity.
- A shloka from Chanakyaniti -

“माता शत्रु पिता वैरी येन बालो न पाठितः न शोभते सभा मध्ये हंस मध्ये वाको यथा”

(The parent who does not facilitate and guide their child for studies is like the greatest enemy of the child. The presence of an uneducated person in the company of educated people is like a goose in the company of swans.)

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Essay Topic: Agriculture

Quotes on Agriculture

- “Agriculture is the most Healthful, most useful and most Noble Employment of Man.” - George Washington
- “Everything can wait, but not Agriculture.” - Jawaharlal Nehru
- “The discovery of agriculture was the first big step toward a civilized life.” - Arthur Keith
- “Agriculture is civilization.” - E. Emmons
- “Agriculture is the foundation of civilization and any stable economy.” - Allan Savory
- “Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy.” - M. K. Gandhi
- “Jai Jawan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Vigyan!” - Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- “If agriculture fails, everything else will fail.” - M. S. Swaminathan
- “Our farmers are pride of our Nation.” - Narendra Modi
- What we need is an “Evergreen revolution” in Agriculture - A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

INTRODUCTION

Pt. Nehru, the first PM of India advocated that “Everything, except agriculture can wait”. It is of no surprise that farmers and farming activity were given sacred status in Indian civilisation where **Goddess Annapurna** is the goddess of food and nourishment in Hinduism. In modern times, Agriculture in India boasts of a series of achievements - Largest producer of milk; Second largest producer of rice, wheat, fruits, and vegetables, Fifth largest producer of poultry. However, it also continues to suffer from problems of malnutrition, farmer distress, farmer suicides, post-harvest losses, challenges of climate change etc. Thus, while agriculture in India may have come a long way, it continues to face series of challenges.

DEFINITION

Agriculture is defined as a primary economic activity. In other words, it is the science or practice of farming, including cultivation of the soil for the growing of crops and the rearing of animals to provide food, wool, and other products.

However, implications of agriculture are huge for human life and human society - social, political, cultural, ecological, security, strategic etc. Hence, it is of no surprise agriculture possibly the only economic activity which has ‘culture’ as a suffix corroborating its multiple and multi-dimensional implications.

TYPES OF AGRICULTURE

Agriculture isn’t a uniform activity but dependent on physical and human factors giving rise to different types of farming. Some of which are:

- **Subsistence agriculture**
 - It is the cultivation of small and scattered holdings with the help of draught animals and family

members with primitive techniques. It is practiced by majority of farmers across the world.

- **Nomadic Herding**
 - It is based upon the rearing of animals on natural pastures. This practice is performed by the people of semi-arid and arid regions. Northern Africa, parts of Arabia and parts of northern Eurasia are the typical regions of this type of farming. This is a subsistence type of activity.
- **Plantation agriculture**
 - It was introduced in India by Britishers and involves growing and processing of a single crop purely meant for sale. Examples include plantations of Tea, Rubber, Coffee, Cocoa etc. Practiced mainly in Assam, sub-Himalayan, West Bengal, Nilgiri, Annamalai and Cardamom Hills.
- **Shifting agriculture**
 - It involves clearing of forest land by felling and burning and then growing crops. The land is abandoned in 2-3 years after the fertility of the soil is lost. It is practiced by nearly 250 million people, especially in the tropical rain forests of South America, Central and West Africa, and Southeast Asia.
- **Livestock Ranching**
 - Under this system of farming, the major emphasis is laid on rearing animals. Unlike nomadic herding, the farmers live a settled life. This type of farming has developed on a commercial basis in areas of the world where large plots of land are available for animal grazing, such as the low rainfall areas of North America, South America and Australia.
- **Commercial Grain Farming**
 - This type of farming is a response to farm mechanization and is the major type of farming in the areas with low rainfall and population. These crops are prone to the vagaries of weather and droughts, and monoculture of wheat is the general practice. Prairies, steppes, and temperate grasslands of South America and Australia are the main areas for this type of farming.

AGRICULTURE IN INDIA - A TIMELINE

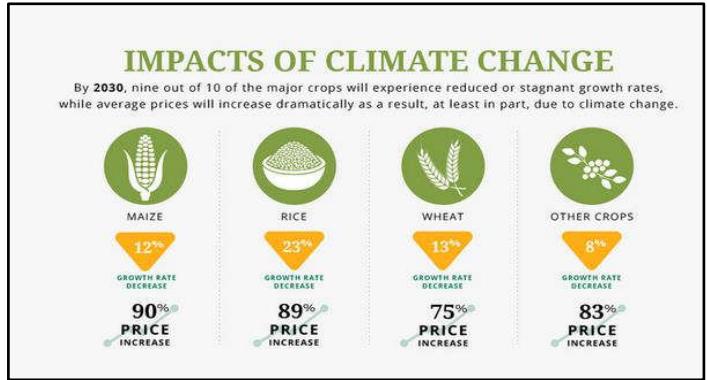
- **Early History**
 - By 9000 BCE, Wheat, Barley, Jujube were domesticated in the Indian subcontinent. This was soon followed by domestication of sheep and goat.
 - During the Indus Valley Civilization, cotton industry was well developed. Rice was cultivated in the Indus Valley Civilization.
 - Mixed farming formed the basis of the Indus valley economy. Also, irrigation developed around 4500 BCE.
- **Vedic period – Post Maha Janapadas period (1500 BCE – 200 CE)**
 - In the later Vedic texts (c. 1000–500 BC), there are **repeated references to iron. Cultivation of a wide range of cereals, vegetables, and fruits** is described. Meat and milk products were part of the diet as animal husbandry was important. The **soil was plowed several times**. Seeds were broadcast. Fallowing and a certain sequence of cropping were recommended. Cow dung provided the manure. **Irrigation was practiced**.
- **The Mauryan Empire (322–185 BCE)**
 - **Soils were categorized** and meteorological observations for agricultural use were prepared.
 - In addition, the administration facilitated **construction and maintenance of dams**, and provision of **horse-drawn chariots**.
- **Early Common Era – High Middle Ages (200–1200 CE)**
 - The Tamil people cultivated a wide range of crops such as **rice, sugarcane, millets, black pepper**,

- various grains, coconuts, beans, cotton etc.
 - Systematic ploughing, manuring, weeding, irrigation and crop protection was practiced for sustained agriculture.
 - Spice trade involving gained momentum as India started shipping spices to the Mediterranean.
- Late Middle Ages – Early Modern Era (1200–1757 CE)
 - There were advancements in Irrigation technologies along with division of agricultural 'Zones' into producing rice, wheat or millets.
 - Cultivation of tobacco (introduced by the Portuguese) spread rapidly. Malabar Coast became the home of spices, especially black pepper.
 - New species of fruit, such as the pineapple, papaya, and cashew nut, also were introduced by the Portuguese.
 - Land management was particularly strong especially during the regime of Akbar, under whom Todarmal formulated and implemented elaborated methods for agricultural management.
 - Colonial Era (1757–1947 CE)
 - Agriculture in India during this time was marked by a downward spiral. The new methods of Land revenue system led to massive agrarian distress and poverty.
 - In addition, deliberate de-industrialisation led to massive pressure of land leading to further poverty.
 - The emphasis on Commercial Crops over food crops led to series of famines and increases risks for agriculture.
 - The state of agriculture during the interwar period was even more tragic and marked by high population growth but almost stagnant food output. The crisis was most acute in Bengal leading to infamous Bengal famine of
 - Republic of India (1947 CE onwards)
 - Post-Independence, India was faced problems of food shortage, war with Pakistan and refugee crisis. Hence, tackling food shortage became utmost priority and formed the basis of first five year plan.
 - Gradually, there was a more coherent and balanced approach to agricultural development.
 - "Agenda of Land reforms" led the strategy of agricultural development followed by development of Dams which were touted as "Temples of Modern India".
 - Grow More Food Campaign (1940s) and the Integrated Production Programme (1950s) focused on food and cash crops supply respectively. In addition Land reclamation, land development, mechanization, electrification, use of chemicals—fertilizers in particular, and development of agriculture oriented 'package approach' of taking a set of actions instead of promoting single aspect soon followed under government supervision.
 - Introduction of a series of production revolutions from 1960s :- Green Revolution; Yellow Revolution (Oilseed - 1986-1990), Operation Flood (Dairy - 1970-1996), and Blue Revolution (Fishing - 1973-2002) etc.
 - Institutional support -Indian Council of Agricultural Research; Dairy Development Board; National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
 - Post 1991 - Growth in agricultural sector benefiting from the earlier reforms and the newer innovations of Agro-processing and Biotechnology.
 - As of today - Food security as well as export house for the world; Contract farming along with e-commerce in agriculture is propelling agricultural sector; Organic farming has become a major potential for export.
 - Challenges - Declining public expenditure, small landholdings, exposure to global glut in agri-commodities, inadequate governance capacity continue to create problems for India's farmers.

IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE

- **Political**
 - It forms the **largest vote-bank** as more than 50% of the Indian workforce is engaged in agriculture and allied activities.
 - Agricultural priorities and others became **major part of manifesto of every party**. In 2014, BJP proposed to set up a Price Stabilisation Fund and evolve a single '**National Agriculture Market**' and promote area specific crops and vegetables linked to food habits of the people. The Congress party promised to focus on increasing agriculture productivity and farmer incomes by increasing investments in irrigation, agricultural value chains, cold storage and warehousing, etc.
 - **Food Inflation** especially of **Onion** led became a moot point in **2004 Lok Sabha elections**.
 - Peasant and farmer movements have been a continued feature of Indian society. Some of the most prominent ones include **Champaran Satyagrah**, **Kheda Peasant Struggle**, **Bardoli Movement** in Gujarat, **Moplah rebellion** in Malabar, Peasant revolt in Telangana etc.
 - It is often said that whosoever ignores agriculture is bound to lose the election.
- **Social**
 - Form the very basis of rural life; penetrating into every aspect of social and cultural life. The rising **agricultural surplus** caused by increasing agricultural production and productivity tends to **improve social welfare**, particularly in rural areas.
 - Agriculture influences every aspect of culture - beliefs, food, festivals, dress etc – For e.g. **Makar Sankranti**, **Baisakhi**, **Onam**, **Pongal** etc. are examples of harvest festivals
 - A number of trees like Peepal and animals like Cow are revered in India culture.
 - Status of agriculture has a huge impact on **health and status of women and children**. It is considered as the best tool for tackling malnourishment.
- **Economic**
 - One of the most employment-intensive sectors. In fact, agriculture in India has been characterized by a high degree of **disguised unemployment**.
 - Forms the basis for other manufacturing (as raw material) and service sector (for supporting services). Many **raw materials** and inputs used in industrial production, e.g., cotton, jute, sugarcane, tobacco, etc., is supplied by the agricultural sector. Such production linkages demonstrate that a **10% increase in agricultural output** results in an **increase in industrial output by as much as 5%**.
 - Is becoming a hub for **Entrepreneurship** in Agri-based start-ups e.g. **Kamal Kisan** which develops customized low-cost farm equipment, **Ninjacart** which is a technology based supply chain management system.
- **Security and Strategic**
 - Food is an important source of **security for a nation**.
 - During **world wars**, attacking food carrying ships/submarines became **a potent tool** for winning wars.
 - **Food-price spike** formed the final nail in the coffin for regimes in Middle-east during Arab Spring.
 - Recently, countries are **buying land in foreign countries for Agriculture**. For example more than 80 Indian companies have invested about £1.5 billion (about Rs. 11,300 crore) in buying huge plantations in countries in eastern Africa, such as **Ethiopia**, **Kenya**, **Madagascar**, **Senegal** and **Mozambique** that will be used to grow food grain for the domestic market.
- **Ecological**
 - Agriculture combined with forestry and other land use is the **second biggest contributor** to **Green House Gas emissions** after the energy sector.

- The prospects of future intensification of agriculture will have major detrimental impacts on the non-agricultural terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of the world.
- The doubling of agricultural food production during the past 35 years was associated with a 6.87-fold increase in nitrogen fertilization, a 3.48-fold increase in phosphorus fertilization, a 1.68-fold increase in the amount of irrigated cropland.
- Agriculture impacts the ability of non-agricultural ecosystems to provide services which are vital to humanity.



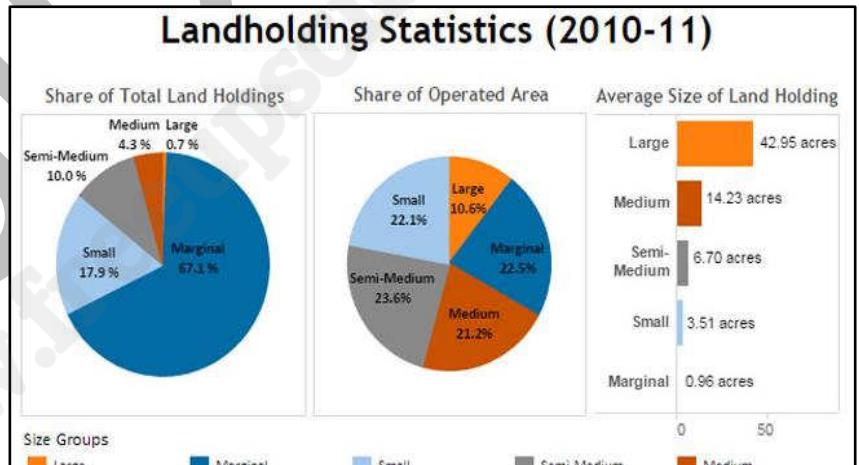
STATUS OF AGRICULTURE IN INDIA

- Agriculture in India represents a very paradoxical situation - A situation of hope vs. a situation of crisis:
 - Food security Vs Nutrition** - Ranked 100 out of 119 on Global Hunger Index, 2017 India's continues to retain its tag of world's fastest growing large economy Farmers continue to dump vegetables, fruits, milk to protest against government's apathy; Farmer suicides
 - Rising Agricultural exports Vs Agricultural sector not generating enough revenues to keep farmers profitable for nearly two decades now (As per study by OECD)
 - The very people who made India self-sufficient in food themselves at times go hungry.

REASONS FOR SUCH A SITUATION

Land and Soil

- As per World Bank, India has close to 60% of its land as agricultural land and is the second largest agricultural land globally.
- However, the Land reforms agenda still continues to be an unfinished agenda.
- As per latest Agriculture census, close to 67% of India's farmland is held by the marginal farmers (< 1 hectare).
- In addition, only 5% of India's farmers control a massive 32% of land.
- Though often neglected, close of one third of India's soil has turned problematic. The organic matter content has been reduced to a critical level of 0.3% to 0.5%.
- Subsequently, the conventional problems of soil salinity, soil degradation, desertification and soil erosion have continued to persist.



Suggested Reforms

- There is a need to conclude the agenda land reforms by modernising and digitising of land records, distribution of ceiling-surplus and waste lands.
- In addition, there is a need to prevent diversion of prime agricultural land and forest land for non-agricultural usage.
- As per Swaminathan Committee, there is a need to establish a National Land Advisory Service.

Case Studies/Best Practices

- West Bengal and Kerala are often cited as model states for land reforms implementation.
- China's 'Great Green Wall' programme has been highly successful in fighting desertification in Gobi desert.

Seeds

- Seeds play a major input in agriculture with close to 20-25% productivity dependent on seed quality.
- However, India suffers from a dismal seed replacement ratio due to huge demand supply gap.
- There has been a failure of extension service and gradual withdrawal of state agencies from seed sector especially post 1991 leading to introduction of unreliable technologies in seed production.
- Recently, the emergence of hybrid seeds without due awareness and absence of a prudent regulatory framework has adversely impacted the self-sufficiency of farmers.
- For e.g. Controversy over GM Mustard DMH-11 is a case in point.

Suggested Reforms

- There is a need for reforming the regulatory framework in seeds sector along with encouraging private sector participation in seed production and distribution
- In addition, there is a need for encouraging robust third party quality certification system for seeds.
- There is a need for encouraging community seed and germplasm banks for both conservation and breeding purposes along with a Seed information system

Case Studies/Best Practices

- Village level Seed banks in Tumkur (Karnataka), Datia (Madhya Pradesh) etc. have helped in making these villages self-sufficient in Seeds.

Irrigation

- Only 46% of India's net sown area is irrigated and rest continues to depend on monsoons.
- This problem is aggravated by the huge regional imbalance w.r.t rainfall and water availability.
- In addition, there is a sub-optimal utilization of irrigation infrastructure. For e.g. India uses 2-4 times water to produce one unit of major food crops as compared to other major agricultural countries like China, Brazil and USA.
- Also, Indian agriculture largely depends on groundwater with more than 60% dependence.

Suggested Reforms

- There is a need for promoting rainwater harvesting and water level recharging by mandatory aquifers.
- A mission mode project - Million Wells Recharge programme - needs to be initiated targeted at private

wells.

- In addition, there is need for reforming the method of irrigation with use of techniques like Drip irrigation, Micro-irrigation, System of Rice Intensification (SRI) etc.
- Finally, there is a need to increase funds for Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) along with establishment of a dedicated agency at national level to push PMKSY.
- Also, the programme of inter linking of river projects needs to be given serious consideration.

Case Studies/Best Practices

- Israel has been cited as a model example in irrigation owing to its expertise in micro-irrigation, desalination and recycling techniques. It has emerged as a template for reusing wastewater for irrigation.

Fertilizer

- Indian fertilizer sector suffers from a series of problem. While 80% of Urea requirement is met domestically, production of Potassium and Phosphorus is heavily dependent on imports.
- In addition, India's per hectare consumption (around 146 Kg) is far lower than developed countries;
- The impact of keeping Urea out of Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme (NBS) has led to series of adverse consequence :-
 - Worsening of N:P:K ratio to 8.2:3.2:1 (2013-14) as opposed to the desired 4:2:1.
 - Worsening of Soil nutrient quality along with problem of algal bloom.
 - Smuggling of cheap Urea to Nepal, Bangladesh etc.

Suggested Reforms

- There is a need to include Urea within purview of NBS system. Also, there is a need to deregulate fertilizer sector along with establishment of a healthy regulatory ecosystem.
- Farmers need to be made aware of the optimal nutrient mix and optimal level of fertiliser in accordance with the quality of soil and choice of crops.
- Finally, there is also a need for focussing on micronutrients needs apart from NPK.

Case Studies/Best Practices

- Farmers in Tamil Nadu are successfully using the technique of fertigation leading better fertilizer efficiency and crop productivity.

Scientific Know-How

- Scientific know-how in agriculture forms an important part in agriculture productivity.
- However, India has only 1 extension worker per 800-1000 farmers. Also, around 60% farmers don't receive technical know-how.
- India farming scenario is also characterised by lack of crop rotation, predominance of cereal-centric and water-intensive crops.

Agriculture Labor & Mechanization

- Agriculture in India is mostly dominated by manual labor. However, the composition of labour is skewed towards women, lower castes and tribals who have migrated to mainland.
- In addition, agriculture also suffers from problem of disguised unemployment and labour shortage owing to competition with MNREGA.
- In addition, mechanization in agriculture is restricted due to low and fragmented size of land-holdings and inadequate access to credit for buying equipments.

Suggested Reforms

- There is a need to impart agricultural scientific know-how to farmers by reforming Kisan Call Centres.
- Also, imparting agricultural skills to farmers along with participation of self-help groups and Primary Agricultural Cooperative societies (PACS).
- In addition there is a need to promote :-
 - Genetically modified (GM) seeds with adequate safeguards
 - Precision farming and related new technologies like the system of rice intensification, poly house cultivation of fruits and vegetables, laser land levellers, self-propelled sprayers and multi-crop threshers and harvesters
- Finally, there is a need to promote a vibrant, responsive, market oriented and globally competitive agricultural research ecosystem.

Case Studies/Best Practices

- The participation of private sector under the supervision of public sector in Agricultural Extension participation in Nigeria has been a successful model in agri-extension services.
- 'eSagu' in Andhra Pradesh has been a successful case-study for providing web-based personalized agro-advisory system which uses Information Technology to solve the unscientific agricultural practices.
- Madhya Pradesh has emerged as a role model in agri-mechanization by providing for Custom Hiring centres which rents out machinery to small farmers.

Credit

- In-spite of series of financial inclusion programs, close to 44% of rural houses borrow from informal credit sources.
- Also, credit taken has been found to be mostly cornered by rich farmers and used for consumption as opposed to productive purposes.

Suggested Reforms

- There is a need to expand financial inclusion.
- Also, there is a need to provide moratorium on debt recovery especially during disasters like floods or droughts.
- There is a need to constitute an Agricultural risk fund.
- In addition, Women farmers must be issued Kisan Credit Cards and an integrated Credit-cum-Crop-Livestock Human Health insurance package must be launched for farmers.

Case Studies/Best Practices

- M-Pesa in Kenya has emerged as a successful model for enhancing financial services to farmers and field workers.

Post-harvest losses

- India suffers from huge post-harvest losses which stand at 40% because of poor infrastructure- Transportation and Cold-storage facilities and use of unscientific practices.

Suggested Reforms

- There is a need of enhancing investment in transportation, cold storage infrastructure and dissemination of best post-Harvest practices
- There is a need for promotion of Food Processing Industries especially through SHGs and MSMEs.
- Finally, Food Corporation of India (FCI) must be reformed on the lines of Shanta Kumar Committee recommendations

Remunerative prices for farmers

- Marketing Issues
 - Indian agriculture suffers from policy distortions and also problem of proliferation of intermediaries.
 - In addition, poor infrastructure, lack of vertical integration and stranglehold of official mandis sanctioned by the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMC) acts of the states have acted as a major hindrance to agricultural marketing.
- MSP Issues
 - It has led to distorted cropping patterns with excessive focus on the cultivation of wheat, rice and sugarcane.
 - It has also resulted in depletion of water resources, soil degradation and deterioration in water quality in some states, especially in the north-western region.
 - Finally, procurement under MSP remains abysmally low, especially in Eastern states. For e.g. only 28-30% of Wheat and 30 to 35% of paddy is procured while for coarse grains the procurement is less than 1%.
- International Issues
 - There has been emerging concerns regarding WTO subsidies and Agreement on Agriculture.
 - For e.g. Recent issue of public stockholding for food security at WTO.
 - Countries especially developed countries have also erected tariff and non-tariff barriers for trade in agricultural goods.
- Value addition
 - In-spite of record production, value addition remains dismal at only 2%.

Suggested Reforms

Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a need for state-wide adoption of reformed APMC laws and exemption of perishables from the from the APMC act.• Policies must be formulated to encourage investments in supply chains.• In addition, Contract farming and group farming through Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) must be encouraged.• Finally, revamping e-NAM with third party assaying and quality certification mechanisms, dispute settlement mechanisms, digital infrastructure must be included within the ambit of NAM.
MSP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government must introduce Price Deficiency Payment in place of MSP.

Case Studies/Best Practices

- Maharashtra has recently removed trade in fruits and vegetables from the purview of APMC act.
- Price deficiency payment schemes in Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Telangana have been hailed as a model scheme for country wide emulation.

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Government Initiatives	
Sector	Scheme
Land and Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil Health Card • National Project on Soil Health and Fertility • National Action Programme to Combat Desertification
Seeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Seed Policy 2002 • Sub-mission on Seeds and Planting material under National Mission on Agricultural Technology • Seed Village Scheme • Establishment and maintenance of Seed Bank • Assistance for Boosting Seed Production in the Private Sector
Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)
Fertilizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revamping Urea Production • Neem Coating of Urea • DBT for Fertilizers
Scientific Know-how	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology (NMAET) • Use of ICT
Mechanization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Macro-Management of Agriculture
Credit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reforming Priority Sector Lending • Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana • Increased allocation in Budget • Interest Subvention Scheme • Kisan Credit Cards • Promoting of Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) by Banks
Post-Harvest losses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
Marketing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) • Formulation of Model Contract Farming (Promotion & Facilitation) Act, 2017 • 22,000 Rural hats to be upgraded and turned into Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs) - Budget 2018-19 • Encouragement to Organic farming by Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Village Producers Organizations (VPOs) in large Clusters - Budget 2018-19
Minimum Support Price	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum support price for all the unannounced Kharif crops to be kept at least 150 per cent of their production cost - Budget 2018-19

REFORMS - THE UNCONVENTIONAL AGENDA

- While a series of reforms have been suggested in the earlier sections and recommended by a series of committees and experts, some of the other areas worth considering but lesser prioritised are :-
 - Change of attitude

- ✓ Must be viewed as a sector of infinite opportunities;
- ✓ Shift of attitude from viewing farmers as poor, vulnerable etc. to one of hope, hardworking, risk-taking etc.
- Integrative approach
 - ✓ Need to formulate, implement and monitor policies which adopt a integrative approach to agriculture as a part of rural development - Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Water resources etc.
- Agri-tourism
 - ✓ India has huge potential for agri-tourism which must become a core element of our Tourism policy.
- Urban farming
 - ✓ Agriculture is mostly viewed as a rural practice; Need to change the perception by promoting Urban farming - Truck farming in Semi-Urban areas, Rooftop farming
- Agriculture as Entrepreneurship - Next Start-up sector
 - ✓ Like IT, Agriculture must be promoted as the new start-up sector in India.
- Governance Initiatives
 - ✓ A series of steps by government like :-
 - Agri-Budgeting
 - Setting up of Agri Innovation Hubs
 - Constituting an Indian Agriculture Service or Indian rural service
- Export potential and Value addition
 - ✓ Agriculture needs to be viewed as a 'Sunrise sector'; Huge potential owing to Organic farming, Huge domestic market, Food Processing Industry, 'Vegan' movement
- Cooperative and competitive federalism
 - ✓ Agri-Federalism on the lines of fiscal federalism
 - ✓ Constitute an empowered committee of State rural development/Agriculture ministers on Agriculture.

CONCLUSION

- The agriculture sector in India is experiencing structural changes which are opening up new challenges and opportunities. The Government has initiated reforms in the field of agricultural marketing, given a big push to the use of technology in agriculture, and also adopted Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode for timely delivery of extension services, credit and other inputs to small and marginal farmers. However, the challenges in agricultural sector can't be handled by government alone. There is a need to involve corporates, civil society organisations, academia and society as a whole for reforming agriculture. While infrastructure support like land, irrigation, seed etc. are necessary, there is also a need for cultural shift, need for viewing agriculture in a positive light, need for perception change. In this context, our past provides us with the guiding light where land was used as a gift to people with intellectual prowess, had a sacred status. Or as famous agricultural scientist M. S. Swaminathan has said - "If agriculture fails, everything else will fail". The choice is ours!

FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facts ○ Share of Food Processing Sector in GVA of manufacturing sector was 8.71% and in that of agriculture, forestry and fishing stands at 10.04% in 2015-16 ○ Major employment intensive industry, constituting 12.77% of employment generated in all manufacturing factories ○ Makes up for 13% of India's exports and 6% of total industrial investment. ○ Considered as a Sunrise sector and the 13th largest recipient of FDI in India. |
|--|

- **Challenges**

- Low level - Currently only 2% as compared to USA and China where it is 90% and 40% respectively; About 75% is Unorganized; Low adherence to quality standards - For e.g. EU bans pest-ridden Indian mangoes;
- Supply side and Infrastructure bottlenecks - Small and fragmented holding; Archaic APMC laws; >30% post-Harvest losses; Weak Regulatory Structure; Restrictions on Contract farming

- **Government Schemes**

- SAMPADA or Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development Of Agro-Processing Clusters
- 100% FDI for trading through e-commerce and manufacturing of food products through automatic route.
- Establishment of 60 fully equipped Agri-Export Zones (AEZs), in addition to 42 mega food parks and 128 cold chains;

- Success stories - Amul; Mother Dairy; Lijjat Papad; Pepsico etc.

FARMER SUICIDES

- Suggested ways to deal with preventing farmer suicides

- Providing affordable health insurance at primary healthcare centres in villages;
- Mapping suicide hotspots on priority basis;
- State level farmers' commissions with representatives of farmers,
- Covering all crops by crop insurance;
- Providing Psychological Counselling through mass media like Radio and Television;

TAXING AGRICULTURAL INCOME

- **Background**

- Was in vogue during Mughals and British period; Discontinued post-Independence.
- Post-independence committees like K.N. Raj Committee and Vijay Kelkar Committee recommended for taxing agricultural income
- For assessment year 2014-15, nine of the top 10 claimants for tax exemption of agricultural income were corporations;

- **Rationale**

- Brings equity to tax structure; Increase Tax to GDP Ratio (Currently 16.5%) ; More resources at the disposal of government for development ; Enable better data collection about rural economy;
- International examples - Japan, Soviet Union and China extracted a large part of resource for industrialisation from agriculture; Prevent misuse of exemption as agricultural income of non-agriculturists is being increasingly used as a conduit to avoid tax and for laundering funds;

- **Challenges**

- Problem of reliable and credible data regarding Land titles, Crop etc.; Difficulty in assessing productivity of Crop; Issue of Crop failures; Lack of political consensus on the issue especially in wake of farm distress and suicides;

AGROFORESTRY

- Practice of cultivating trees on farm;

- **Benefits**

- Food, Fodder, Wood, Fuel and Fertilizers.
- India's 65% timber needs met through farm grown trees; st Half of its fuel wood is sourced from farm forestry.

- Helps in fighting Climate Change - Carbon sequestration
- Prevents Deforestation, Promotes Soil and Water Conservation;
- **Government Initiatives**
 - India has become the first country to have separate policy on agroforestry - National Agroforestry Policy, 2014
 - **Salient Features:**
 - ✓ Impetus to simplification of rules and land tenancy reforms
 - ✓ Provision for Loans and Insurance for trees
 - ✓ Provision for R & D, Quality Seeds
 - ✓ Provision for PPP model for non-farm land
 - ✓ Emphasis on awareness and education

LIVESTOCK

- **Livestock Sector** - Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries Sector
- **Facts**
 - World's Highest Livestock Owner at 512 million;
 - Contributes 16% to the income of Small farm households; Provides employment to 8.8 % of the population in India; Contributes 4.11% to GDP and 25.6% of total Agriculture GDP.
- **Contribution of Livestock** - Food -> Milk, Meat and Eggs; Fibre and Skins; As Drafts; Provides Dung and other Animal Waste materials;
As Biological method for controlling Weed; For Sports / recreation; As Companion animals; For Income and Employment
- **Government Initiatives** - National Livestock Mission; Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)
- **Dairy Sector**

WHITE REVOLUTION

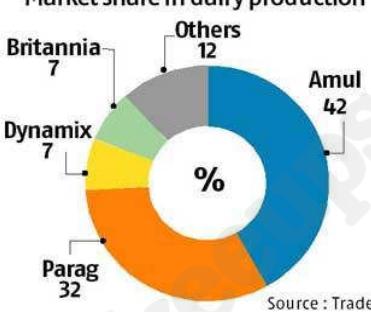
Milk output in India

	Quantity (million tonnes)
2010-11	121.8
2011-12	127.9
2012-13	132.4
2013-14	137.7
2014-15	140*

*Estimate
Source : Department of Animal Husbandry, Govt of India

TRADE GAME

Market share in dairy production

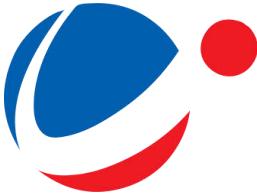


- **Facts**
 - ✓ Largest Milk producer; Expected to grow at a compounded 15% annually till 2020;
- **Challenges**
 - ✓ Continues to be a subsistence activity; Only 20% of the milk produce is channelled for Organised marketing; Quality and Standards Issue - FSSAI survey in 2012 pointed out that 70% of the Urban and 31% of rural supplies don't meet standards; Shortage of feed/fodder; Lack of value addition and marketing facilities; Lack of Veterinary Services
- **Government Schemes**
 - ✓ National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development
 - ✓ National Dairy Plan (Phase-I)
 - ✓ Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme
- **Fisheries**
 - **Facts** - Globally 3rd in Fisheries 2nd in Aquaculture;
Engage about 14 million people in different activities; About 6.3% of the global fish production;

- Contributes to 1.1% of the GDP and 5.15% of the agricultural GDP; Nearly 65% contribution from the inland sector
- **Challenges**
 - ✓ **Lack of Infrastructure** - Usage of Old wood boats, Low quality Trawlers and Fishing nets; Potential of Deep-Sea fishing is yet to be realized; Poor quality of Fish Feeds; Security of Fishermen especially along the maritime boundaries with Sri Lanka and Pakistan; Structural issues with National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)
 - **Government Schemes**
 - ✓ **Blue Revolution:** Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries
 - ✓ National Fisheries Action Plan-2020
 - **Buzz Words**
 - ✓ Coastal aquaculture; Inland fisheries; Freshwater aquaculture; Coldwater fisheries; Ornamental Fishing

HORTICULTURE

- Horticulture comprises of fruits, vegetables, plantation crops, flowers, spices and aromatics.
- **Trends**
 - Second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world;
 - Leader in several horticultural crops including mango, banana, papaya, cashew nut, potato and lady's finger etc.
 - Horticulture production - 305.4 mt (2017-18)
- **Reasons**
 - **Access to irrigation**
 - ✓ Around 70% of area under horticulture has access to irrigation
 - **Rising incomes, urbanization**
 - ✓ Better incomes, urbanization and higher consumption of fruits and vegetable -> Driving demand for protein rich diets
 - **Infrastructure**
 - ✓ Infrastructure facility like Cold Storage; Transportation etc. have helped in marketing of produce.
 - **Forward Linkages**
 - ✓ Forward linkages such as contract farming (where allowed) have helped reduce wastage, increase yield and ensure greater income realization for farmers.
 - **Government Support**
 - ✓ National Horticulture Mission launched in 2005 focused on nutritional security and increasing farm income in horticulture
- **Challenges**
 - High Post-Harvest Losses; Low Productivity; Inadequate Finance; Marketing Challenges; Lack of Cold Storage; Low Value addition
 - For e.g. Vegetables and Fruits continue to come under the purview of APMC laws; Only 10-11% of the fruits and vegetables in India uses Cold Storage;
- **Government Schemes**
 - Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)
 - National Horticulture Mission (NHM)
 - Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH)
 - Operation Green - Budget 2018-19



Climate Change

Previously asked Questions

- Ecological considerations need not hamper development. -1993
- Urbanization is a blessing in disguise. -1997
- Protection of ecology and environment is essential for sustained economic development. -2006
- Urbanization and its hazards -2008
- Should a moratorium be imposed on all fresh mining in tribal areas of the country? -2010

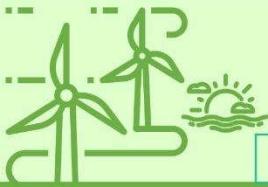
QUOTES BY FAMOUS PERSONALITIES

- "One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken." ~Leo Tolstoy
- "The Earth will not continue to offer its harvest except with faithful stewardship. We cannot say we love the land and then take steps to destroy it for use by future generations." ~ Pope John Paul II
- "We won't have a society if we destroy the environment." Margaret Mead
- "A nation that destroys its soils destroys itself. Forests are the lungs of our land, purifying the air and giving fresh strength to our people." ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt
- "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."
- "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is today." – Chinese proverb.

EVIDENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

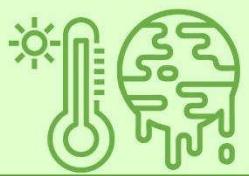
- According to IPCC "on average **the temperatures in Northern Hemisphere** during the **second half of the twentieth century** were very likely **higher than in the past 500 years**".
- The IPCC has pointed out that **"atmospheric concentrations of CO₂** exceed by far the natural range over the last 650,000 years."
- **Cryosphere continues to shrink:** The rate of Antarctica ice mass loss has tripled in the last decade. **Global sea level rose about 8 inches** in the last century.
- **Ocean acidification** - The amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by the upper layer of the oceans is increasing by about 2 billion tons per year.
- According to the **State of Global Climate Report 2017**, **atmospheric methane** reached a new high and is now **257% of the pre-industrial level**.
- Global Warming is affecting nearly all terrestrial and marine ecosystems: Recently scientists discovered that the **Bramble Cay Melomys** – an Australian rat-like rodent – went extinct (it was last seen in 2007) due to rising seas inundating its tiny coral island. It's the **first mammal confirmed to be pushed to extinction entirely due to climate change**.





CLIMATE DRIVERS

The current global average temperature is 0.85° C higher than it was in the late 19th century.



NATURAL CAUSES



VARIATIONS IN SOLAR RADIATION: Every 11 years, the number of sunspots changes from a maximum number to a minimum number. The sun emits slightly more radiation during active periods of sunspots.



MOVEMENT OF CRUSTAL PLATES: It causes changes in global circulation patterns of air and ocean water and the climate of the continents.



EL NIÑO-SOUTHERN OSCILLATION: An El Niño warm-water phase changes global weather patterns.



ORBITAL CHANGES: The Milankovitch Theory explains the cyclical changes in Earth's orbit and tilt that cause the climate fluctuations that occur over thousands of years.



VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS: They discharge carbon dioxide, emit aerosols, volcanic ash and sulfur dioxide. Volcanic aerosols can block a percentage of sunlight and cause a cooling that may last for 1-2 years.

ANTHROPOGENIC CAUSES



GHG EMISSIONS: heat-trapping emissions from burning coal, gas and oil in power plants and cars; cutting down and burning forests; tiny pollution particles (aerosols); black carbon pollution more commonly referred to as soot



CHANGES IN LAND USE PATTERN: It brings about changes in surface albedo.



DEFORESTATION: It leads to changes in evapotranspiration rates and soil moisture characteristics. Desertification also increases surface albedo.



INCREASING LIVESTOCK FARMING: Cows and sheep produce large amounts of methane when they digest their food.



FERTILISERS CONTAINING NITROGEN: They produce nitrous oxide emissions.



FLUORINATED GASES: They produce a very strong warming effect, up to 23,000 times greater than CO₂.

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

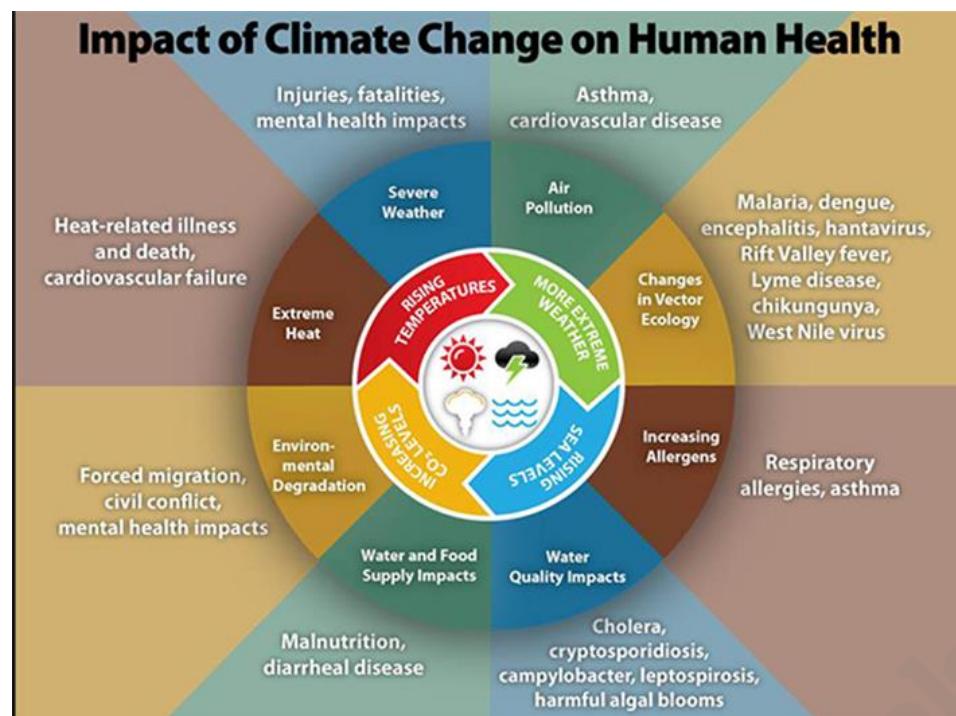
Environment

- **Rise in extreme weather events-** Rising global temperature is accompanied by the changes in weather and climate, like changes in rainfall, resulting in more floods, droughts, or intense rain, as well as more frequent and severe heat waves. Changes in precipitation patterns will also be more pronounced.
- **Accelerated Sea Level Rise:** Global sea level has risen by about 8 inches since 1880. As a result of added water from melting ice and expansion of seawater as it warms, sea level is projected to rise another 1 to 4 feet by 2100.
- **Ocean Acidification-** The planet's oceans and glaciers have also experienced some big changes - oceans are warming and becoming more acidic, ice caps are melting, and sea levels are rising.
- **Changing Landscapes** - The Arctic Ocean is expected to become essentially ice free in summer before mid-century.
- **Ecosystems at Risk** - Increased temperatures are changing weather and vegetation patterns across the globe, forcing animal species to migrate to new, cooler areas in order to survive. Plant and animal ranges have shifted and trees are flowering sooner.
- **Threat to species survival-** The rapid change of climate change is likely to exceed the ability of many species to migrate or adjust. Experts predict that one-fourth of Earth's species will be headed for extinction by 2050 if the warming trend continues at its current rate.

Human Health

- **Illnesses** - In 2018, for example, extreme heat waves caused more than 1,500 deaths in India.
- **Spread of infectious diseases**, mainly because warmer temperatures allow disease-carrying insects, animals and microbes to survive in areas where they were once blocked by cold weather.
- **Spread of diseases to new regions**: Diseases and pests that were once limited to the tropics — such as mosquitoes that carry malaria may find hospitable conditions in new areas that were once too cold to support them.

- The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that climate change may have caused more than 150,000 deaths in the year 2000 alone, with an increase in deaths likely in the future.



Economic Losses

- If no action is taken to curtail the global carbon emissions, **climate change could cost around 5 to 20 percent of the annual global gross domestic product**, in comparison, it would take 1 percent of GDP to lessen the most damaging effects of climate change.
- A recent report of the World Bank found that climate change could effectively negate economic progress, pushing **45 million Indians into extreme poverty** over the next 15 years.
- Climate change may significantly alter shoreline habitats and cost millions for the **relocation of ports and shore infrastructure**.
- Globally, more intense hurricanes and downpours could **cause billions of dollars in damage to property and infrastructure**.
- High sea temperatures also threaten the **survival of coral reefs**, which generate an **estimated \$375 billion per year in goods and services**.

Agriculture Productivity/Food Security

- Agricultural productivity** is sensitive to two broad classes of climate-induced effects. The first one is its direct effect due to changes in temperature, precipitation and carbon dioxide concentrations; and the other is the indirect effect through changes in soil moisture and the distribution and frequency of infestation by pests and diseases.
- Nutritional Security:** Rising levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide reduce the concentrations of protein and essential minerals in most plant species, including wheat, soybeans, and rice.
- Impacts on fisheries:** Changes in temperature and seasons can affect the timing of reproduction and migration. Some marine disease outbreaks have also been linked with changing climate.
- Impact on Livestock:** Heat waves, which are projected to increase under climate change, could directly threaten livestock by increasing their vulnerability to disease, reducing fertility, and declining milk production.

IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON INDIA

Given below are the implications of climate change, specifically for India, with observations from the Fifth Assessment Report by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change.

Effects of Climate Change on Weather

- **Extreme temperatures** are expected to increase by 1-4°C, with maximum increase in coastal regions.
- The **number of monsoon break days has increased** while the number of monsoon depressions has declined.
- The Himalayan region will see maximum increase in precipitation, while the north-eastern region will experience the minimum increase.
- An increase in extreme rainfall events occurred at the expense of weaker rainfall events over the central Indian region and in many other areas.
- People living in districts along the **eastern coast of India** are expected to be **especially vulnerable** to the impact of extreme weather events because of poor infrastructure and demographic development.
- For example, the **Mahanadi river basin** in India will see an **increased possibility of floods in September** while an increased possibility of water scarcity in April.
- **Delhi** is one of the **world's five most populated** cities that are located in areas with **high risk of floods**.

Agriculture, Forests and Trade

- The estimated countrywide **agricultural loss in India in 2030 is over \$7 billion**. It will severely affect the income of 10 per cent of the population.
- **Wheat yields** in the Indo-Gangetic plains are expected to experience a **51 per cent reduction** in the most **high-yielding areas** due to heat stress.
- With current temperatures approaching critical levels in North India in October, South India in April and August and in East India from March to June, **rice development will accelerate** and reduce the time required for growth.
- A third of forest areas in India are projected to change by 2100, with **deciduous forests changing into evergreen ones due to increased precipitation**.

According to Economic Survey of 2018, India incurs losses of about **\$9-10 billion annually (Rs 62,000 crore)** due to **extreme weather events**. It also noted **farmers' income losses** from climate change would be between **15 % and 18 %** on an average.

Health

- High temperatures are associated with mortality rates in India and heat waves will especially affect outdoor workers. Air pollution in combination with increased temperatures will also affect the health of people.
- Mental disorders and post -traumatic stress syndrome have also been seen in extreme weather events and disaster-prone areas.
- In addition to flood deaths, contamination of urban flood waters will increase the risk of water-borne diseases.
- Studies have found correlation between the prevalence of vector-borne diseases like malaria and rainfall in India.
- A study conducted at the University of California – Berkeley estimated that climate change could have contributed the deaths of 59,300 farmers or farm workers over the last 30 years.

AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change will have a severe impact on Agriculture and its allied activities. Certain regions of the world like Siberia or Northern Canada will benefit from a small rise in temperature since this will help to prolong the duration of the crop. However, agriculture in tropical countries like India will come under serious threat because of climate change. The areas of special concern in India are **unfavorable changes in mean temperature, excess or deficit in rainfall, extreme weather events, sea level rise, and more frequent and severe coastal storms and tsunamis**. The need of the hour is to formulate and implement a locally suitable comprehensive approach based on the idea of a **Climate Smart Agriculture**.

Climate Smart Agriculture: As per FAO, Climate Smart Agriculture is that form of agriculture which sustainably:

- (i) increases productivity
- (ii) enhances resilience (adaptation)
- (iii) reduces/removes GHG (mitigation) where possible, and
- (iv) Enhances achievement of **national food security** and development goals.

Some of the following Climate Smart Agricultural measures can be undertaken in India:

- Establish at the Panchayat level, **Climate Risk Management Centres** and train a cadre of **Community Climate Risk Managers**.
- Conservation of **Climate Smart Millets** and their reintroduction in the diet as millets and other underutilized crops are more tolerant to drought and heat and are also nutritious.
- **Farming systems for adaptation to climate change** will have to be designed by ICAR, Agricultural Universities and **Krishi Vigyan Kendras** and popularized through local men and women trained to become Climate Risk Managers.
- Methane, which is another greenhouse gas can be used to promote biogas plants.(example - **GobarDhan yojana**). Nitrous oxide emissions as a result of fertilizer application can be reduced through the use of **neem coated urea**.
- There will be a need for anticipatory research in several areas of farming which will need change. For example, in crops like **wheat and rice**, the breeder should shift attention to **per day productivity** from per crop productivity, since the duration of the crop is likely to get reduced.
- Preparation for more frequent floods and hailstorms - Scope of **Biosaline farming** involving both halophytes (salt tolerant plants) and marine aquaculture must be explored like that of the **farmer of Kuttanad in Kerala** perfected the method of **cultivating rice below sea level** (salinity management and tolerant varieties).

The M S Swaminathan Research Foundation has established in Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu, a **Genetic Garden of Halophytes** in order to conserve halophytes and make them available to breeders for designing climate smart coastal agricultural methods.

EFFORTS TO COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE

The need of the hour is to think of sustainable solutions which are not just temporary but also take into account the needs of future generations.

It must be recognized that natural resources are not unlimited and hence their consumption must be rationed and planned so as to ensure sustainable development. Nature friendly alternatives like wind farms, hydro-electricity, solar power, geo-thermal and bio-mass for the generation of power need to be explored and adequately implemented into the system.

Individual level – At an individual level, several actions could result in a substantial decrease in an individual's carbon footprint.

- Eating a plant-based diet, avoiding air travel, living car free or using public transport, and having smaller families can have a high impact on reduction in carbon footprint.
- Simple steps like replacing regular cars with electric and hybrid models, recycling waste and upgrading light bulbs can also have a moderate effect on reduction of one's carbon footprint.
- For example, living car-free saves about 2.4 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year, while eating a plant-based diet saves 0.8 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent a year.

Community/ Regional Level

While several initiatives are being taken at the community level, some of the following case studies can be seen as examples to reinforce the power of community actions at the regional level.

- Integrated Solid waste management project in Kanpur has emerged as a model Solid waste management city. Kanpur has been home to textiles, leather, fertilizers and arms manufacturing, each with its capacity to pollute. However, Kanpur Nagar Nigam along with the state government of Uttar Pradesh worked together to experiment with public-private partnership has have transformed the system of solid waste management in the city.
- Climate friendly construction techniques in Gorakhpur which include bricks from local areas and use of indigenous knowledge has helped in reducing cost of building, reducing carbon footprint associated with transporting bricks long distances and enabling climate resilient housing.
- In Senegal with financial aid from UNDP, communities of 203 villages are establishing about 26 Community Natural Reserves (RNC) as well as nine credits and saving mutuals to improve the living conditions of households, specifically women groups and enhance climate change resilience.
- According to UNEP, if current pollution rates continue, there will be more plastic in the sea than fish by 2050, as globally, only 14% of plastics is recycled. Recently, Maharashtra Government has enforced plastic ban in State. Also, recently Uttar Pradesh Government has reintroduced plastic ban in state from July 15, 2018, third time since 2015, reflecting poor implementation of previous bans.
- Village Edatheruvu in Palakkad, Kerala has devised a unique citizen initiative aimed at collection, segregation and scientific disposal of the waste from as many as 160 households. Started 5 years ago, the village has a waste collection center which works under the supervision of representatives of families in the village.

Global level

Various initiatives have been taken at the global scale to expedite the efforts to counter climate change and rise of global temperatures. Some of the recent ones include:

- Paris Climate Deal: It aims to limit the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial level and on driving efforts to limit it even further to 1.5°C. Developed countries are urged to scale up their level of financial support with a complete road map towards achieving the goal of jointly providing US\$ 100 billion by 2020 and subsequently US\$ 100 billion per year till 2025. Other Parties may also contribute, but on a purely voluntary basis. Ratchet mechanism requires countries to return to the table in 2020 and spell out their plans for 2025 to 2030. This creates the opportunity for the world to potentially put itself on a course to stay below 20°C.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: (COP-23) of the UNFCCC was recently concluded at Bonn, Germany. It adopted the Fiji Momentum for Implementation. The first ever Gender Action Plan to the UNFCCC was adopted at COP 23. Other initiatives include Powering Past Coal Alliance and Below 50 initiative.

India's INDC

- Reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35% by 2030 from 2005 level.
- Achieve about 40% electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel based energy resources by 2030 with help of transfer of technology and low cost international finance.
- Create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

- **Suva Expert Dialogue:** It aims for facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancement of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

INDIA'S GREEN ACTIONS - EFFORTS TO COUNTER CLIMATE CHANGE

India aims to achieve a target of 175 GW of renewable energy capacity to be reached by 2022.

Steps taken by Government of India

- **The Eight Missions of NAPCC –**

• National Solar Mission	• National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem
• National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency	• National Mission for a Green India
• National Mission on Sustainable Habitats	• National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
• National Water Mission	• National Mission on Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change

- **Use of Renewable Energy**-The Electricity Act 2003 together with the National Electricity Policy 2005 (NEP) and the Tariff Policy (TP) mandate promotion of electricity generation from renewable sources. The Electricity Act and these policies envisage regulatory interventions for promotion of renewable energy sources.
- **PAT scheme** is now India's main effort-defining policy. It is overseen by the BEE and was introduced by the National Mission on Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE).
- **Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)** - Process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts.
- **National Afforestation Program** - It is being implemented for afforestation of degraded forest lands
- **Nagar Vana Udyan Yojana** - A minimum of 25 hectares of forests will be created in the city.
- **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India** - By Department of Space and will provide detailed information on the present land use, and the severity of land degradation in different states.
- **Green Skill Development Programme** - Green Skill contribute to preserving or restoring environmental quality for sustainable future and include jobs that protect ecosystems and biodiversity, reduce energy and minimize waste and pollution. Recently, it is being expanded to an all-India level.
- **Climate Friendly Transport Sector**- One of the major initiatives has been upgradation of vehicular emission norms such as Bharat Stage III and Bharat Stage IV. The commercial manufacture of battery-operated vehicles has begun in India with a view to promoting low/ no carbon emitting vehicles. National Mission on Hybrid and electric Motors.
- **Conservation of Agriculture, Forest and Water Resources**- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture. There are also programmes for crop improvement and drought proofing. India has launched an ambitious **Green India Mission** to increase the quality and quantity of forest cover in 10 million ha of land. Also an incentive-based additional special grant of US\$ 1.2 billion had been announced by the central government to all states for sustainable forestry management.
- **Forestry Sector**- The **National Forest Policy** (1988), Participatory Forest Management/Joint Forest Management Programme, National Afforestation Programme, National Forestry Action Programme and National Watershed Development Project for Rain fed Areas.
- **Enhancing Adaptive Capacity**- the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is India's National Implementing Entity (NIE) for the Adaptation Fund created under the UNFCCC.

India has attained 4th position in global wind power installed capacity after China, USA and Germany. As of today, India has achieved 46.3 GW grid-interactive power capacity; 7.5 GW of grid-connected power generation capacity in renewable energy; and small hydro power capacity of 4.3 GW.

Climate finance

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) runs a program called the **Global Environmental Facility**, which provides some funding for adaptation to least developed countries and Small Island states.
- Under the GEF umbrella, the GEF Trust Fund, **the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)** operate to carry out the climate change adaptation financing goals of the GEF.
- Another UNFCCC mechanism is The **Adaptation Fund** which provides funds for projects that prove to have additional benefits for adaptation to climate change. The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) set up as part of the Kyoto Protocol is the main source of income for the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund.
- The Copenhagen Accord commits developed countries to goal of sending \$100 billion per year to developing countries in assistance for climate change mitigation and adaptation through 2020. This climate change fund is called the **Green Climate Fund**.
- **Green Finance Ecosystem** - A broad term which refers to financial investments flowing into sustainable development projects and initiatives, environmental products, and policies that encourage the development of a more sustainable economy. Some of the major initiatives include :-
 - National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) under NABARD
 - Issuing of India's first green bonds in 2015
 - India INX of GIFT City has recently listed Indian Railways Finance Corporation's (IRFC's) first green bond on its global securities market (GSM)
 - BSE's has launched a green index called BSE Greenex
 - The Reserve Bank of India has included renewable energy project financing as a part of priority sector lending category
 - International Solar Alliance led by India has targeted to mobilise \$1 trillion in financing and deploy solar capacities of 1,000 GW by 2030
- **CAMPA Fund:** It will be used for afforestation to compensate for loss of forest cover, regeneration of forest ecosystem, wildlife protection and infrastructure development.

GENDER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- Women commonly face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty, and the majority of the world's poor are women.
- Women's unequal participation in decision-making processes and labour markets compound inequalities and often prevent women from fully contributing to climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation.
- Yet, women can (and do) play a critical role in response to climate change due to their local knowledge of resources and leadership in e.g. sustainable resource management and/or leading sustainable practices at the household and community level.
- Parties to the UNFCCC have recognized the importance of involving women and men equally in UNFCCC processes and in the development and implementation of national climate policies that are gender-responsive by establishing a dedicated agenda item under the Convention addressing issues of gender and climate change and by including overarching text in the Paris Agreement.
- **Gender Action Plans** have become particularly

Lima Work Programme on Gender (COP-2014): It aims to advance implementation of gender responsive climate policies and mandates across all areas of the negotiations.

useful to governments seeking to ensure their national climate change strategies and programmes are gender-responsive and harmonious across sectors. GGO has supported many governments through processes to create Climate Change Gender Action Plans (ccGAPs).

CLIMATE REFUGEES

According to International Organization for Migration, Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, predominantly for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad.

According to an UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) report, **India has been ranked as the world's most disaster-prone country for displacement of residents.**

The loss of traditional territories land threatens the existence of **traditional and cultural heritage** of minority and indigenous groups. Displaced people are often **more susceptible to recruitment by terrorist organizations.**

Nansen Initiative (2012)

It's a state-led consultative process to build consensus on a protection agenda addressing the needs of people displaced across borders in the context of disasters and the effects of climate change.

Nations must adopt the principle of **common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR)** along with **polluter pays principle**, and **climate justice approach**, so that most responsible for climate change should bear the primary responsibility for addressing its impacts.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND TECHNOLOGY

Case Studies on How Technology can solve Climate Change related Issues

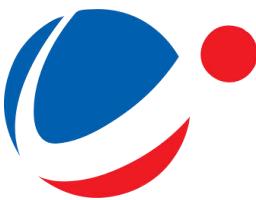
- Shell has demonstrated that even people playing on a **football field can be the source of power** generation, developing a technology that transforms footsteps into energy in a Brazilian favela.
- The **greenhouse gas emissions of buildings** are also significant. We need lighting, power, heating and cooling whether at home or in the office, at school or in a hospital. The combined emissions from these sources **contribute almost 20% of global emissions**. **Green Building Technology:** It refers to both a structure and the application of processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle: from planning to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation, and demolition.
- **Biological or chemical feed supplements** that inhibit methane production, or even new low-emission livestock breeds, are some potential examples of reducing GHG emissions in Agriculture.
- Transport represents 23% of global energy-related CO₂ emissions. Some scientists have discovered **new materials offering an alternative to battery power** and proven to be between 1,000-10,000 times more powerful than the existing battery alternative. The new technology is believed to have the **potential for electric cars to travel to similar distances as petrol cars** without the need to stop for lengthy recharging.
- About a quarter of all global emissions come from feeding the world's 7 billion people, and part of that comes from the consumption of meat. One of the alternatives is to **start producing lab-grown meat**, and to produce meat substitutes that look, taste and feel like the real thing. The company **Beyond Meat**, already supported by Bill Gates, has created the world's first meat burger that is entirely plant based. It's made mostly from vegetable protein found in peas.
- Farmers in Kenya can now take better care of their crops through an early warning system that alerts communities of potential floods or other risks, thanks to **UNEP's Climwarn project**.
- **Sidewalk Labs** is harnessing digital technologies to solve today's pressing urban problems. One of their current projects involves looking at **how traffic flows through a city and how hotspots of congestion might be solved**. This could dramatically reduce air pollution in our cities.

CONCLUSION

- Gandhiji had said, "**The Earth has enough for everyone's needs, but not everyone's greed.**" With the entire world coming together to secure the future and pass on the legacy of the earth to our forthcoming generations we can hope to create resources to satisfy everyone's needs.
- Integrated look at **industrial growth, good agriculture management** and **agro-forestry practices** are the need of the hour.
- As India gears to achieve a global presence in energy industry, through such initiatives, investment in R&D would increase and knowledge sharing among the various stakeholders can be organized on the national scene.
- The use of plastic bags must be substituted with eco-friendly plastics. In areas of water scarcity, drought-proofing measures through water storage and rainwater harvesting can be applied. Unless we develop indigenous green technology, we cannot attain a sustainable development.
- Finally, it needs to be reiterated that at this juncture a civilization that is ecologically balanced has to be the strategy of all countries, including India.
- **Humans have to learn to care about what happens to other species and ecosystems** that are; to treat nature as if it mattered. What is more important at this juncture is that humans can no longer treat the Environment and other species as mere objects but take care of them for their own well-being.

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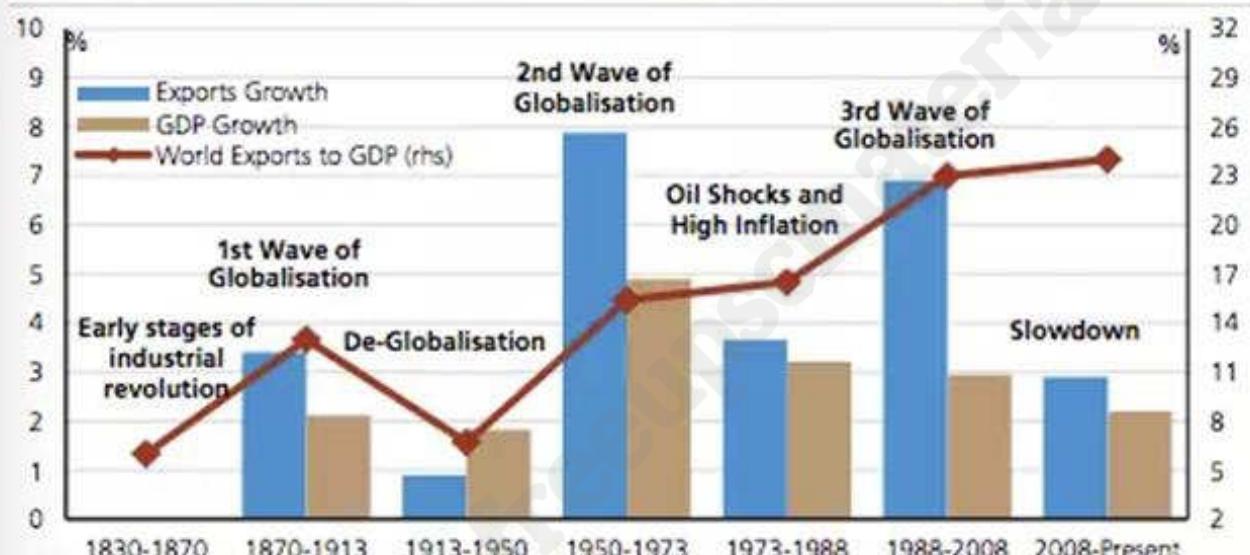
Essay Topic: Is the World Witnessing Reverse Globalization?

WHAT IS GLOBALIZATION?

The past two decades have seen the rise of a global economy that is almost seamlessly linked across thousands of miles. National barriers have been broken and the ideal of a borderless globe is aimed to achieve. Absence of excessive government control over trades allowed companies to scour the world in their relentless search for low costs. Nation states across the world are further integrated by common economic, commercial, and political interests.

Global supply chains were born. A long list of factors that helped this process — reforms in emerging markets, global trade deals, new business models that shattered integrated companies, low transport costs etc.

Figure 1: Global trade volumes and real GDP growth: The very long term view²



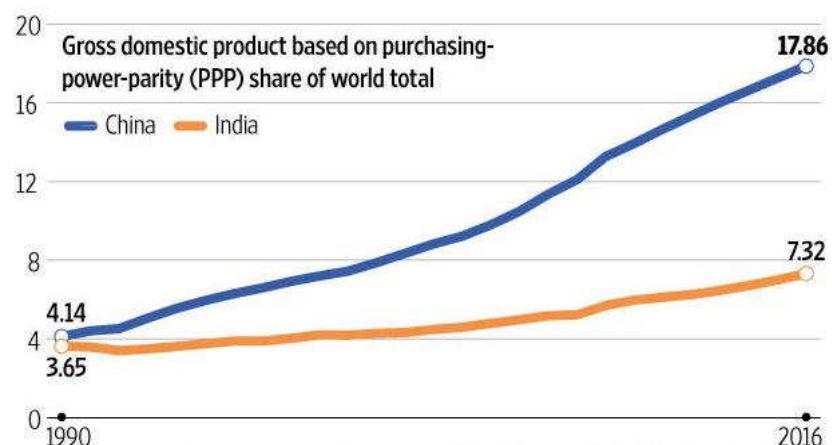
Source: Maddison, IMF, WTO, World Bank, Haver, UBS estimates

In the first wave of globalisation much of the trade growth was driven by colonial empires taking advantage of cheap commodity resources abroad in a bid to add value to them domestically. When these supply chains unravelled, that left Europe short of commodities but long industrial capacity — a destabilising imbalance which coincided with two world wars.

INDIAN ECONOMY'S RESPONSE TO GLOBALIZATION

While it is understood that increased cross-border trade and investment benefits all countries, there are nevertheless some nations that have done better than the rest. That's reflected, like China and India, in their increased share of global GDP.

Owing to Globalization, India has benefited with its slice of global GDP moving up from **3.6% in 1990 to an estimated 7.3% by 2016**.



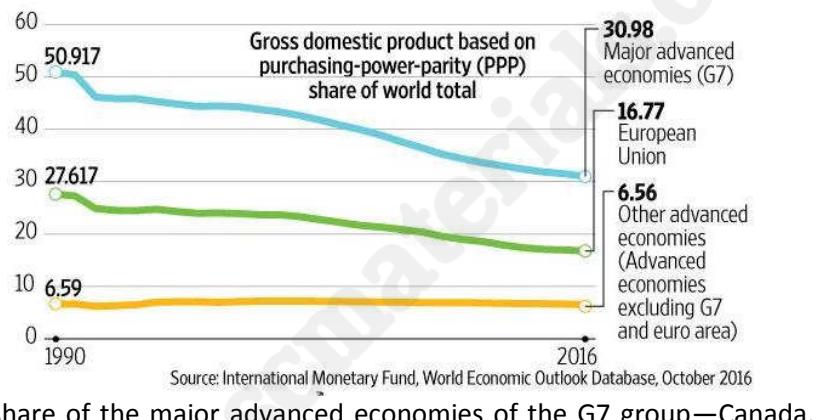
IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION AROUND THE WORLD

Globalization has emerged as a major force in modern discourse. It has impacted all aspects of human life including economic, social, cultural etc.

Economic

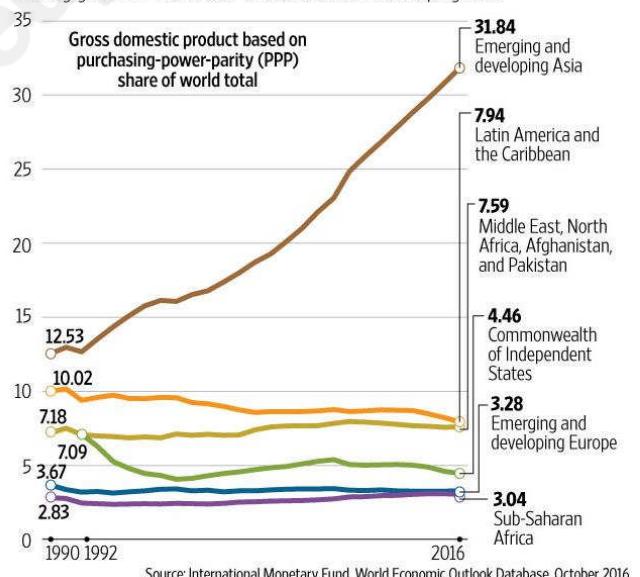
- Emerging markets now constitute a much larger chunk of the global economy than they did in 1990. Taken together, they now account for 58% of the world economy, compared to 36% in 1990.
- However, share of some countries in world GDP has come down. The share of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and US—fell from more than half the world's GDP in 1990 to 30.9% in 2016. Over the same period, the share of the 28 countries that comprise the European Union was whittled down from 27.6% to 16.8%.
- The lowering share of major advanced economies, however, has not directly translated into benefits for all emerging markets. The share of 'Emerging and developing Asia', which includes the heavyweights China and India and the **Southeast Asian tiger economies**, saw their share going up from 12.5% to 31.8%.
- But **sub-Saharan Africa**'s improvement in share of GDP between 1990 and 2016 was minuscule—from 2.8% to 3%. The increase in share of the '**Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan**' region too was marginal. The share of **Latin America and the Caribbean** region fell, from 10% to 7.9%.

The major advanced economies and the European Union have seen their share of world GDP shrink



MIXED PICTURE

The big gainer in world GDP share has been developing Asia



- There have been rising calls for protectionism in various parts of the developed world, including the US, which can threaten global trade and growth.
- Statistically, globalization has lifted all boats. Absolute levels of poverty, in aggregate terms, are in decline everywhere. Globalization has also created winners and losers. Some people have become very wealthy. The top 1% have accumulated large portions of their countries' economic wealth, and they are also avoiding paying taxes, while incomes at the median have stagnated and unemployment of youth is increasing.
- They also resent loss of domestic jobs to foreign countries. In addition, populist movements on the right are also demanding tougher action against terror and violence. Thus inequality and insecurity have created conditions for populist and authoritarian governments.

Socio-cultural

- Globalisation is not only about economy but also has significant socio-cultural impact. There has been an emergence of nuclear families globally along with a trend towards gender equality especially w.r.t education, health and nutrition.
- Also, globalisation has enabled access to education because of explosion of information on the web that has led to skill development and awareness among people.
- In addition, globalisation has also increased the pace of urbanisation because of boom in service sector and city centric job creation has led to increasing rural to urban migration. For e.g. It has been estimated that by 2050 more than 50% of India's population will live in cities.
- Globalisation has also impacted the local cuisine, clothing and performing arts tradition of a country. For e.g. Pizzas, burgers, Chinese foods and other Western foods have become globally popular. Festivals like Diwali, Holi or Christmas are celebrated throughout the world. Yoga and Indian handicrafts have gained global popularity.
- Indian Classical music has gained worldwide recognition Fusing Indian music along with western music is encouraged among musicians. Western dance forms such as Jazz, Hip hop, Salsa, Ballet have become common among Indian youngsters.
- However, globalisation has also had its fair share of criticism. It has negatively impacted on the status of aged. In addition, unbridled individualism, trends towards homogenisation of culture and excessive consumerism also has impacted society adversely.

Political

- Globalisation has also impacted the global political discourse. It has enabled the spread of values of democracy, freedom of speech, rights based welfare approach and rule of law. Globalisation has emerged as a major factor for movements for democracy throughout the world. For e.g. Arab Spring demanding democratic governments in Middle East countries.
- Global and regional institutions and associations like G20, World Trade Organisation and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have emerged to deal with issues of global importance like world trade, climate change, terrorism and dispute resolution.
- However, global institutions have often been criticised for being biased in favor of developed nations and not taking into account of concerns of developing and vulnerable countries. For e.g. there has been reluctance on the part of developed countries to reform United Nations, IMF, World Bank.

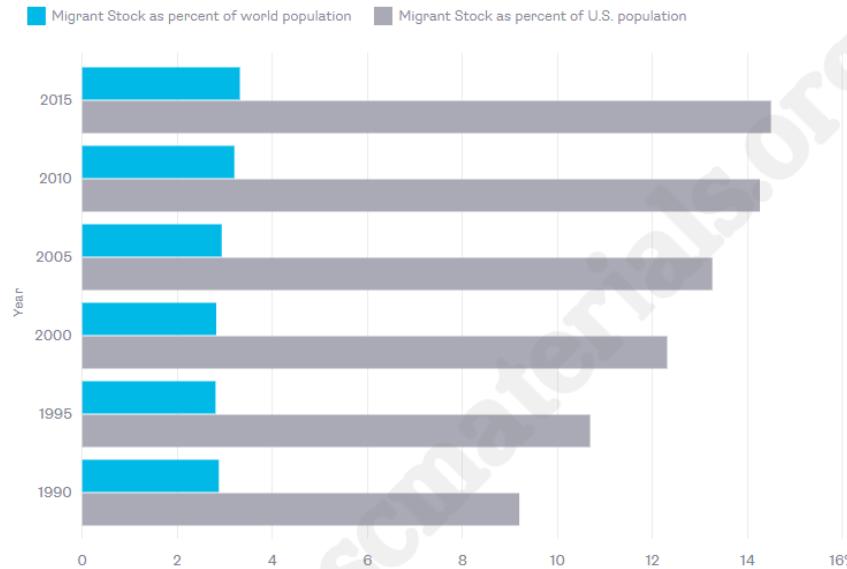
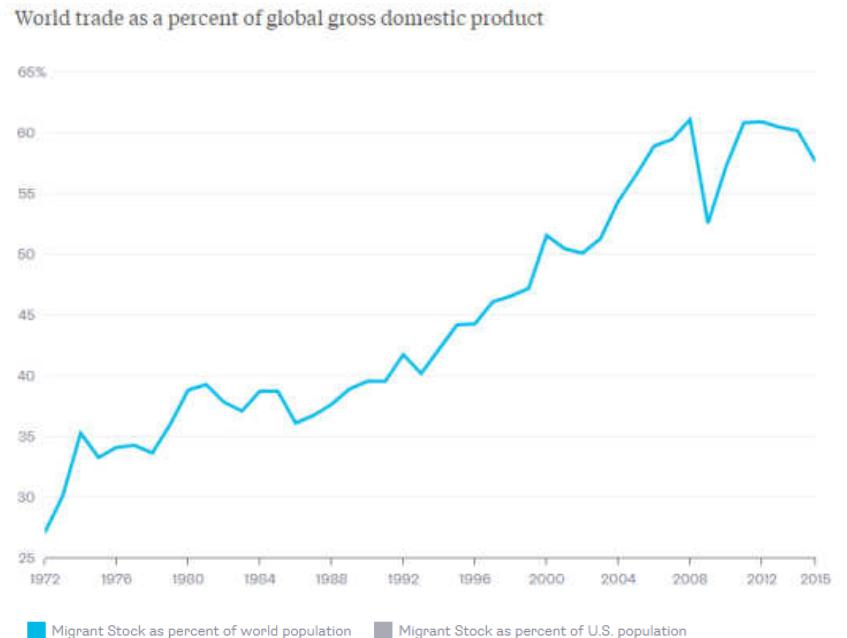
IS THE WORLD WITNESSING REVERSE GLOBALIZATION?

Worldwide, there has been an increasing backlash against globalization and its ill effects. To protect national industries and to prop up employment and incomes, countries are increasingly rolling back globalization since the global financial crisis.

Governments have grown frustrated with the way globalization undercuts the effectiveness of national policies. For instance, fiscal expansion to support domestic demand, may be dissipated through financial leakage, boosting imports rather than promoting domestic activity.

Many companies enjoyed strong profit margins by outsourcing low-end jobs. As borders close, the clout of multinationals goes down, the bargaining power of local workers goes up. Since 2012, the corporate share of U.S. national income has started to decline, and the worker's share has been moving higher. The rise of leaders like Trump, whose policies are designed to bring companies and jobs back to America, will accelerate this trend.

By many measures, globalization has been in full retreat since the crisis of 2008.



1. **Trade:** For many decades up until 2008, global trade volumes had been increasing at a healthy clip. But the crisis and recession stopped trade growth in its tracks, and it hasn't recovered; 2008 was the all-time peak of world trade as a percent of total output. As per, IMF World Economic Outlook report, reduction of pace of trade liberalism and rising protectionism has emerged as a major cause reduction in world trade.

2. **Immigration Boom has fizzled:**

Globally, the number of migrants living in other countries has continued to increase, however, very slowly. Anti-immigrant Fences are being constructed in countries like Greece, Macedonia, Hungary and Romania. In addition, they are being planned in countries like Guatemala, Argentina, Estonia, Norway. Another case in this point includes the travel ban by US for people from Iran, Libya, North Korea etc. and recent tightening of Visa regimes and work permits by countries like Australia, Britain and US.

In the U.S., the big immigration boom is over. From 2008 through 2014, the population of Mexicans living in the U.S. declined by more than 1 million as undocumented immigrants have been going back to Mexico in large numbers.

3. **Finance:** The regulatory curtailing of the financial industry is another factor. The big global banks, mostly based in the U.S. and Europe, suffered huge losses in the crisis, but that was only the beginning. Since then, higher capital requirements, tighter regulatory oversight, and new rules like the U.S.'s Dodd-Frank Act have weakened banks' business models and reduced their profitability leading to less cross-border financing.

4. **Increasing Discriminatory Trade Measures:** Between 2009 and 2015, three times as many discriminatory trade measures have been introduced as liberalizing ones. In 2015 alone, the latest Global Trade Alert database recorded 539 such initiatives adopted by governments worldwide that harmed foreign traders, investors, workers or owners of intellectual property.

Governments no longer impose tariffs or other crude roadblocks that would violate World Trade Organization rules. Efforts to control trade flows have grown increasingly sophisticated:

- **Channelling funds to domestic industries:** Countries ranging from the US—with the auto bailouts—to the UK, China, Brazil, Canada and several European Union members have funnelled aid to domestic industries.
 - **State procurement rules**—such as in China, forbid the purchase of strategic and defence technology from abroad—favour domestic suppliers.
 - **“Buy local” campaigns** like the ones launched since 2009 in the US, UK and Australia.
 - **Re-shoring, or going “local-to-local”** is now becoming common in sector like computers and electronics, appliances and electrical equipment, primary metals, machinery, furniture, plastics and rubber, paper, and fabricated metals. For example, General Electric (GE) is manufacturing high efficiency light bulbs in its plants in Ohio and Illinois as a part of Made in USA initiative.
 - **New safety and environmental standards** have served as well to block foreign products.
 - The **restrictions** many countries place **on various food imports** are another.
 - Financial policy as a trade weapon: In the US, Europe, the UK and Japan, a combination of **artificially low interest rates, quantitative easing and direct intervention in money and foreign-exchange markets** has implicitly targeted currency levels to gain a competitive advantage. **Devaluation** has reduced the purchasing power of foreign investors holding the devaluing nation's debt.
 - **Special Taxes:** Several places, including Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia, have introduced special taxes or other restrictions on overseas property buyers.
 - **Volatile and potentially destabilizing inflows** have prompted countries as varied as Switzerland, China, Brazil, South Korea and India to **restrict capital** in one form or another.
 - Nations such as Spain and Portugal, with high levels of debt, have sought to **channel funds domestically** to support financial institutions and economic activity.
 - The US, UK, the Eurozone countries and others have used **regulations and political pressure to encourage banks and investors to adopt “patriotic” balance sheets, purchasing national government bonds or prioritizing lending to domestic borrowers**. According to global rating agency Standard and Poor's, **banks have doubled their holdings of their own states' debt since 2008**.
 - Nations, including the US, are pursuing **narrower bilateral and regional deals** where they don't have to satisfy so many different negotiating partners and can continue to protect key sectors. Trade deals like **the Trans-Pacific Partnership** are suddenly in danger.
5. **Population decline:** Low fertility throughout most of the world is undoubtedly a drag on growth. China's working-age population is now falling by millions every year, and the rate is only set to accelerate. Europe and East Asia are graying rapidly, and fertility has fallen to replacement levels throughout much of the world. Only sub-Saharan Africa, the world's poorest region, continues to see high fertility.
 6. **Wages:** Wages have begun to equalize around the world, with an especially steep rise in China. Some estimates even suggest that making things in China is no longer significantly cheaper than making them in the U.S. Considering quality, intellectual property theft and the sheer hassle of managing supply chains across borders, the case for offshoring looks weaker than it has in decades.
 7. **Politics:** An increase in protectionism after the Great Recession has been observed. China, may now be trying to reduce its economy's dependence on overseas companies. Authoritarianism, with popular support, rose on many continents. Nor is the West being threatened only from outside, with China (and Vladimir Putin too) flexing muscles against Western hegemony. Within the West itself, various anti-establishment, populist movements from both the left and the right are shaking the system: the victory of Donald Trump's (and Bernie Sanders') anti-establishment politics in the US, and a rising tide of nativist, authoritarian, political leaders in Europe.
 8. **Global Slowdown:** Slower growth, especially in developed economies, means less trade, which leads to less international finance. It also reduces the incentive for immigrants to move for economic reasons. China, the big engine of global growth and international investment, has also slowed down.
 9. **Decline of global institutions:** There has been an increasing contempt for global institutions and international agreements. The recent withdrawal of US from Paris Climate Agreement on climate change is a case in point. Even the United Nations has come under severe criticism for its failure to resolve West Asian crisis especially in Syria. Other instances echoing the decline of global institutions include quitting of US from UNESCO, China's refusal to implement ruling of UNCLOS on China and opening of US embassy in Jerusalem despite overwhelming opposition to it.

10. **Weakening of regional associations** : Regional associations which have been the hallmark of globalisation, have come under threat in the era of reverse globalisation. Britain's divorce from the European Union is commonly interpreted as a rejection of globalization. In addition, recently G7 failed to release a communique owing to disagreements between US and other countries.
11. **Call for Boycott of foreign goods** : Another manifestation of reverse globalization has been the growing calls for boycott of foreign goods. Two examples which standout in this case are of Turkey (where Turkish President has called for a boycott of US electronics) and Ghana (where there has been a demand for boycott Foreign goods in order to grow Ghana's Economy).
12. **Assertion of local culture** <Food for thought!>
13. **Global movements** : Today, demand for reverse globalisation has manifested itself in the form of a social movement with formal structure and leadership. It was the "Battle of Seattle" in 1999 which marked the unofficial start of the anti-globalization movement. Organizing under the radar, this new protest movement burst onto the scene with tens of thousands taking to the streets. Today, anti-globalization movement has gained serious credence among people. They have been severely critical of neo-liberal policies and its impact on ecology, labour and least developed countries. A number of protests have been held by anti-globalisation movement during meetings of WTO, G20, WEF etc. Some of these movements include Occupy Wall Street movement in USA, Homeless Workers' Movement in Brazil, The Landless Peoples Movement in South Africa etc.

Policies such as negative interest rates will require progressively tighter controls to prevent capital flight.

WAY FORWARD

The great globalization boom that marked the end of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st is over, and may even be starting to unwind. The depth and scope of **tomorrow's globalisation dynamics** will be determined entirely by the power imbalances which emerge between those industrial economies which still need access to cheap labour or commodities, and those states which have the resources but not necessarily the industrial capacity or the will to create the industrial capacity they need.

Unless the Governments quickly recover the cooperative spirit they demonstrated in response to the financial crisis and convince voters of their ability to ensure equitable sharing of the benefits and costs of globalization—a difficult ask at the best of times —tomorrow's economies are certain to be even less open than today's.

There is a need to usher in greater **corporate governance**. An innovation in the management of capitalist corporations is required to restore trust in corporations. Multinational companies may adopt broad scorecards that **transparently report the impact of the corporations' business operations and products on the condition of communities**—health, local jobs created, skills developed, affirmative action, etc., and on the environment. This will allow them to focus on the diverse stakeholders who may have been left out in the development process and not just concentrate on profits and financial value created for investors.

Societal conditions—jobs created, affirmative action, empowerment of local communities, etc., as well as impacts of growth on the environment—water scarcity, air pollution, green cover, renewable energy must be reported by the businesses.

The **funding of political parties and election campaigns** must also be reformed to restore faith in the quality of democracies. Money is required to fund campaigns for votes. But it is essential, to maintain the quality of a democracy. Those who have more money should not be able to influence the outcomes of elections and contents of public policies more than those who have no money.

The **World Economic Forum** has suggested that reforming the very nature of capitalism will be needed to combat the growing appeal of populist political movements around the world. **It has identified “rising income and wealth disparity” as potentially the biggest driver in global affairs over the next 10 years.**

As an example of this growing inequality, the WEF highlighted **the massive increases in CEO pay** at a time when many people in advanced economies have struggled to make ends meet following the global financial crisis.

The major criticism towards globalisation is *per se* of globalisation but its adverse impact. The way forward must be reforming globalisation. As the famous **late Kofi Annan had said, arguing against globalisation is like arguing**

against the laws of gravity. It is of no surprise that even the anti-globalisation movement is the most globalised movement.

INDIA'S STANCE

Despite much skepticism, it is believed that Globalization is here to stay and India must not lose the competitive advantage it holds in a good demographic dividend. Despite the resurgence in protectionism in global trade, Indian industry also needs to become far more competitive to ensure our exports increase in the foreign markets.

The NITI Aayog has favoured India aggressively pursuing globalization, doing away with all the remaining approval requirements for foreign direct investment and carrying forward job creation efforts in labour-intensive sectors.

India has emphasized on the need to change the model of globalisation. It needs to be marked by more balance, more fairness and more equity. For e.g. Climate Justice; Doha Development Round; Reforming Subsidies at WTO; Reforming UN, IMF and World Bank

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