

SECURE SYNOPSIS MAINS 2019

GS-I

JULY 2019



NOTE: Please remember that following 'answers' are NOT 'model answers'. They are NOT synopsis too if we go by definition of the term. What we are providing is content that both meets demand of the question and at the same time gives you extra points in the form of background information.





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General Studies Paper - I

Topic – Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times

Q) Discuss the Role of handicrafts in Indian Economy. What are the specific challenges that they face and how can they be addressed? (250 words)

Yojana April 2019 - Magic of Gifted Hands: Empowering Handicraft Artisans

Why this question:

The question is about discussing the importance of Indian handicrafts and its contribution to the economy, the challenges it faces and the solutions to it.

Key demand of the question:

One has to bring out the significant place the handicraft industry holds in contributing to the economy and in what way it is facing challenges on various fronts.

Directive:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Highlight some facts on the Indian handicrafts industry with its importance.

Body:

Start by stating how our country is gifted with a rich range of beautiful handicrafts. Almost every state of the country has its unique handicrafts. These products are a part and parcel of the culture of the concerned communities. Passed on from generation to generation, these handicrafts have the potential of sustaining the artisans economically.

Explain in detail role of handicrafts in the Indian economy.

What are the specific challenges?

How can these challenges be addressed?

Conclusion:

Conclude that skill up gradation and development in handicraft sector is an excellent approach for development of artisans, poverty reduction and providing income generation which would also help in achievement of sustainable development goals and thus contribute majorly to the economy.

Introduction:

- Handicrafts are still today a vibrant aspect of Indian culture and society. Handicraft is rightly described as craft
 of the people and in India it is not just an industry as the word is commonly understood but is the
 aesthetic expression of the artisans which not only fulfils the daily needs of the people but also satisfies
 their aesthetic desire.
- Crafts have been interwoven with the culture of the people in India from the beginning of human history.
 Crafts have been an integral part of daily life in villages, towns, courts and religious establishments. There are approximately 70 lakh handicraft artisans in the country, which includes 20 lakh artisans related to the carpet sector, practicing more than 500 types of crafts.

Body:

Role of Handicrafts in Indian Economy:

- The Handicrafts Sector plays a significant & important role in the country's economy.
- Textiles and handicrafts have been a key source of employment.
- As per the latest available Annual Survey of Industries data, number of persons employed in the organized Textile and Wearing Apparel Sector is around 26,48,238 in 2015-16 and 26,91,280 in 2016-17.
- Further the handloom sector provides direct and indirect employment to 43 lakh weavers and allied There are 68.86 lakh handicraft artisans.
- The handloom and handicrafts sector together provide about 111 lakh employment both in the organized and unorganized sector.
- Textile and apparel exports have been reported at around USD 39 -40 bn in the last four years.



• As per trade data, exports have been reported at USD 26.63 bn during April to December 2018 which is an increase of 2.5 per cent over the previous corresponding period.

Challenges faced by Handicrafts industry:

- Low productivity: The sector's informal nature and the low education of most artisans create issues such as:
 - Unorganized production: As a largely unorganized sector, handicrafts faces problems such as a paucity
 of professional infrastructure such as work sheds, storage space, shipping and packing facilities.
 - o **Low education**: Many crafts require the entire household to participate in production in some capacity. In many cases, crafts also serve as a seasonal source of income for agricultural households.
 - Outdated production methods: Artisans may also lack the financial capability to upgrade technology in production, or undergo necessary training on a regular basis, as would be available to them in a formal work setting. This compromises the quality of their products and raises the cost of production.
- Inadequate inputs: There are three main issues:
 - Lack of quality raw materials: Rural artisans often lack access to quality raw materials. Due to the low volumes required, they have low bargaining power and are forced to buy sub-standard materials at a higher price.
 - Lack of funding: Craft producers suffer greatly from lack of working capital and access to credit and loan facilities. Banks cite poor recovery rates, wrong utilization of funds, lack of marketing facilities for finished products and lack of education on part of the borrowers as reasons for the low proportion of loans made to artisans.
 - Design inputs: Due to the breakdown of the historic artisan-consumer relationship, and the increasing urbanization and globalization of markets for crafts, artisans have difficulty understanding how to tailor their products to changing demands.
- **Information asymmetry:** Due to their low education, artisans often cannot identify potential new markets for their products, nor do they understand the requirements for interacting with these markets.
- Fragmented value chain:
 - Lack of market linkages: While consumers of crafts products are increasingly becoming urbanized, crafts continue to be sold through local markets; artisans have few opportunities to reach new consumers through relevant retail platforms such as department stores and shopping malls.
 - o **Dominance of middlemen:** Although middlemen are necessary to enable effective market linkages, they often, if not always, exploit artisans by paying them a fraction of their fair wages.
 - Lack of aggregation: Crafts production typically takes places in scattered clusters in rural areas, while
 markets are usually in urban centers. Currently, there is a lack of organized systems to efficiently
 aggregate goods from small producers, carry out quality checks, store approved goods in warehouses,
 and supply them to wholesalers and retailers in urban areas.

Way forward:

- All industrial policy aimed at promoting particular sectors aren't without risks. But the externality-generating
 attributes —employment, exports, social transformation —of the apparel sector, India's potential
 comparative advantage in it, and the narrow window of opportunity, make the risk worth taking.
- Skill upgradation and development in handicraft sector is an excellent approach for development of artisans, poverty reduction and providing income generation which would also help in achievement of sustainable development goals.
- Access to economic independence through the handicraft sector can address the livelihood issues and would lead to income generation in rural areas.
- In order to meet these challenges, a package for garments and made-ups sectors can be provided.
- GI tags, Handloom India tags etc. can add credibility and protect the artisans from fake product manufacturers.
- Q) Mughal Court paintings provide not only an insight into the life and times of rulers of the period, but also reflect the contemporary social and political life of the people. Discuss how these paintings were not just paintings but an art of storytelling? (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

The question is based on the significance of Mughal paintings even in today's times.

Key demand of the question:



The answer must discuss in detail as to in what way the Mughal paintings manifested themselves as much more than just paintings and narrated the political and social conditions of people in the form of stories.

Directive:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Start with key features of Mughal paintings.

Body:

Body of the answer should discuss in detail the key features of Mughal paintings and explain in what way Story telling through paintings had been established as an art form in India.

Explain that the Mughal paintings mark a unique blend of Persian and Indian ideas. Mughal painting was essentially a court art, developed under the patronage of the ruling Mughal emperors. The subjects treated were generally secular, revolving around themes like battles, court scenes, receptions, legendary stories, hunting scenes, wildlife, portraits, and the likes.

Conclusion:

Conclude that Mughal paintings are great story tellers and are very informative, that provide deep insights not only into the life and times of the Mughals but also in rich Indian heritage and culture.

Introduction:

- The origin of Indian painting goes back to 8000 years and an account of its development is inextrica bly meshed with the development of Indian civilization. The **Mughal School of miniature painting** reached its zenith under Akbar and Jahangir.
- The Ain-i-Akbari shows the importance the art had attained during this period.

Body:

- Story telling through paintings is an established art form in India. We find many examples of Ramayana and Mahabharata depicted in the form of continuous paintings, for example in **Pattachitra of Odisha**.
- Similarly, **Jataka stories of Buddha** are also found in paintings of Ajanta Caves in Maharashtra. Though this art form already existed in India, but Mughals with their rich colours and more realistic paintings took this art to its pinnacle.

Mughal Paintings:

- The credit for the development of Mughal painting goes to Akbar and Jahangir. The former possessed a library of 24000 Manuscripts, many of which were illustrated through paintings.
- In the year 1567, Akbar ordered the preparation of a lavishly illustrated manuscript of the Persian translation of the "Hamzanama", the celebrated Arab epic about a legendary Hamza.
- Sayyid Ali and Abdus Samad were appointed to lead a group of roughly and hundred painters. The projects
 took 15 years to complete, and most of the Indian pointers who founded the Mughal School were trained
 during that period.
- One of the leading painters at Akbar's court was a potter's son Daswanth.
- Similarly, "Tutinama" was also an illustrated version of Persian tales in the form of 250 miniature paintings commissioned by Akbar.

Life and times of Mughal rulers:

- Mughal painting marks a unique blend of Persian and Indian ideas. Mughal painting was essentially a court
 art, developed under the patronage of the ruling Mughal emperors and began to decline when the rulers lost
 interest.
- The subjects treated were generally secular, revolving around themes like battles, court scenes, receptions, legendary stories, hunting scenes, wildlife, portraits, and the likes.
- Imperial Mughal painting represents one of the most celebrated art forms of India. It arose with remarkable rapidity in the mid-sixteenth century as a blending of three distinct traditions:
 - Court painting of Safavid Iran.
 - Indigenous Indian devotional manuscript illumination.
 - o Indo-Persian or Sultanate painting, which is it is a hybrid of provincial Persian and local Indian styles.
- The result of this merging resulted in paintings of unprecedented vitality, brilliant coloration, and impossibly precise detail, is something dramatically more than the sum of its parts.



Contemporary social and political life of the people:

- Mughal Court paintings provide an insight into the life and times of rulers of the period. These paintings also
 reflect the contemporary social and political condition of the people. Social customs and courtly traditions are
 vividly depicted in these paintings.
- Mughal painting forms a dramatic episode in the history of India. Its aims and standpoint are secular and realistic: it is interested in passing events and most typically in the exact delineation of individual character in the portraiture of men and animals.
- It is dramatic rather than static, aristocratic more than surreal and academic rather than vocational.
- After Mughal, there came "company paintings" in India. But they were not as realistic and detailed as Mughal miniature paintings.

Conclusion:

• Thus it can be concluded that Mughal paintings are great story tellers and are very informative, providing us with deep insights into not only the life and times of the Mughals but also in rich Indian heritage and culture.

Q) To what extent it is correct to say that development of Indian music is a story of a transformation from spiritualism to emotive affairs? Discuss the factors which influenced Indian music throughout its history. (250 words)

Art and culture by Nitin Singhania

Why this question:

The question aims to discuss the transition Music as an art has taken from spiritualism to emotional aspects.

Key demand of the question:

Trace the evolution of music as an art in the Indian society.

Directive:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Discuss in brief the importance of music and its genesis in India.

Body:

Discussion should detail upon the genesis of music as an artform, and one must possibly trace its evolution through history, in what way it changed progressively and evolved from spiritualism to emotional affairs of individuals and public life.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of Music as an immortal artform which is in continuous transformation with passage of time.

Introduction:

- India has a great history of music dating from the ancient period up to the present time.
- Many Artists, musicologists, and Scholars enriched Indian Music by their endless efforts.
- Various Yogis and Religious Gurus also made contributions to enrich Indian Musical Tradition. With Changing Times a lot of changes came into Indian Music.

Body:

Evolution of Indian music – from spiritualism to emotive affairs:

- Its origins lie in existing religious, folk and theatrical performance practices. The origins of Hindustani classical music can be found in the Samaveda (wherein Sāman means "melody" and Veda means "knowledge")
- **Samaveda** consists of a collection (Samhita) of hymns and verses or specifically indicated melodies called Samagana that were sung by the priests while offering libations to various deities.
- Classical music has its origin as a form of meditation and is based upon ragas and taals each designed to affect different "chakras" (energy centers, or "moods") in the path of the "Kundalini" of the human system.
- Vedic practice traces specific physical, mental, biological and spiritual results associated with activation of these centres to generate the very sound of "OM".
- Music was restricted to religious and ritualistic purposes and was mainly used in temples only.
- The aesthetic experiences which emerged were called the "theory of rasa", as propounded by Bharata (300 BC) in his extensive treatise "Natyashastra".



- According to Bharata, there are nine emotional states or "navarasas". These are: Shringar, Hasya, Karun, Raudra, Veer, Bhayanaka, Vibhatsya, Adbhut and Shant.
- This then developed in association with folk music and other musical forms of India and gradually derived its own musical characteristics.
- The **Gupta period** is known for the excellence in all fields of Indian art and culture. The reference to Music in Gupta period comes from the works of Kalidasa and Vatsyayana among others.
- Around the 9th century, the Sufis tradition had itself a firm foothold in India. The Sufi mystics are known for their great love for music and acceptance of many indigenous customs.
- The impact of Bhakti Movement on Indian music was through the Ashtachap and Haveli sangeet along with the Bhajan and Kirtans.
- Using the regional language, Braj, Avadhi or whatever, as the vehicle, saint-composers were able to reach to people in social strata otherwise impervious to the influence of art and music.
- During the Mughal period, and especially under Akbar's reign, temple music was largely overshadowed by the Darbar Sangeet, in which music was composed mainly to eulogise patrons.
- Qawwali was reintroduced into the Mughal imperial court and it quickly spread throughout South Asia faster than ever before

The **various factors** which influenced Indian music throughout its history:

Social Organisation

- Initially, Indian music in its earliest form was a part of Hindu religion, and it was recognised and assimilated in the fibre of social and religious life and behaviours of the people.
- The supremacy of vocal music was experienced and held because vocal music could be wedded to words and words to music-integration denied to instrumental music which could only give or repeat or recast melody or the tunes.
- The third stream came in greater flow with the phase of the Hindu professional musicians changing their faith to the Muslim religion under the new economic patronage of the Muslim rulers, particularly during the times of Akbar.
- The styles (Dhrupad-Dhamar), which had received characteristic sophistication and colour in the Vaisnava temples underwent subtle changes. The Dhrupad style gradually lost interest in the literaryreligious import of the pada, and paid greater attention to the musical aspects.

Nature

- The influence of nature on Indian classical music has been immense. The association of music with nature is one of the strongest features of our Vedic culture.
- This is even reflected in the Vedic literature. Indian melodic music based on the simple and natural scale may appear to some to be primitive or ethnic, but it is a phenomenon of organic order.
- One of the strongest links with nature can be seen in the still current belief and practice of treating certain raagas more appropriate for certain seasons, and raagas linked to certain hours or periods (prahams) of day or night.
- When considered in the context of the age-old agricultural economy and festivals connected with the cycle of crops and seasons, the tunes good enough to make the total expression more meaningful and explicit flowered in the form of folk songs or recitals. These served, very suitably, to nourish and celebrate life. The cycle of seasons provided a cycle of events-rituals, resulting in associations and conventions.

Iconography:

- Visualization of music is an aspect of visualization of the non-visual or using symbols for comprehension, concentration, idealization and deification.
- Comprehending the non-visual in the human shape (many a time with modified human shape, with extra arms or faces) could be directly linked to Vedic thought; it is part of Indian theology and an aspect of polytheism.
- The raaga dhyanamurtis and later picturisation of raagas and raginis are the result of iconographical view of music and the paintings require to be understood in terms of the influence of iconography on music as well.

Language

- The influence of the phonic aspects of language on raaga-music has also been quite immense.
- While music demanded vowelization of the words used by the language, language itself produced many such forms of words with phonetic contents suitable for exploitation by the vocal art.



It could be stated that the Braj Bhasha and ntikalina compositions have influenced the formal as well
as the content aspects of the major classical forms and in doing so it has influenced the presentational
aspects of raaga music.

Conclusion:

• Influences on Indian music have been many and varied. The impact of Indian Thought and Philosophy on Indian Classical Music and of the various customs on the external and internal natural aspects of our melodic musical culture has ever been one major expression of our cultural heritage.

Topic – Post independence history

Q) What is Dalit panther movement? How did global events influence them? Do you think the movement realized the objective? (250 words)

Reference

Indianexpress

Introduction:

- Dalit Panther as a social organization was founded by Namdev Dhasal in April 1972 in Mumbai, which saw its
 heyday in the 1970s and through the 80s. The Dalit Panther movement was a radical departure from earlier
 Dalit movements. Its initial thrust on militancy through the use of rustic arms and threats, gave the movement
 a revolutionary colour.
- It is the most romanticised and famous of the Ambedkarite youth movements. It fashioned itself after the Black Panther Party in the US and drew members mostly from the urban, educated working and middle-class, spreading like wildfire into rural areas. Mounting atrocities against Dalits in the 1970s fuelled the Panther movement.

Body:

Influence of Global events:

- Dalit Panther is inspired by Black Panther Party, a revolutionary movement amongst African-Americans, which emerged in the United States and functioned from 1966-1982.
- The name of the organization was borrowed from the 'Black Panther' Movement of the USA.
- They called themselves "Panthers" because they were supposed to fight for their rights like panthers, and not get suppressed by the strength and might of their oppressors.
- The US Black Panther Party always acknowledged and supported the Dalit Panther Party through the US Black Panther Newspaper which circulated weekly throughout the world from 1967-1980.
- Its organization was modelled after the Black Panther. The members were young men belonging to Neo-Buddhists and Scheduled Castes. Most of the leaders were literary figures .
- The controversy over the article "Kala Swatantrata Din" (Black Independence Day) by Dhale which was published in "Sadhana" in 1972 created a great sensation and publicised the Dalit Panthers through Maharashtra
- The Panther's full support to Dhale during this controversy brought Dhale into the movement and made him
 a prominent leader. With the publicity of this issue through the media, Panther branches sprang up
 spontaneously in many parts of Maharashtra

Achievements:

- The Dalit Panther movement was a radical departure from earlier Dalit movements. Its initial thrust on militancy through the use of rustic arms and threats, gave the movement a revolutionary colour
- Radicalism was the premise for the very existence of the Dalit Panther and hence the quarrel over its
 programme basically reflected the clash between the established icon of Ambedkar and his radical version
 proposed in the programme.
- The fact that for the first time the Dalit Panther exposed dalits to a radical Ambedkar and brought a section of dalit youth nearer to accepting it certainly marks its positive contribution to the Dalit movement.
- Going by their manifesto, Dalit panthers had broken many new grounds in terms of radicalising the political space for the Dalit movement. They imparted the proletarian – radical class identity to dalits and linked their struggles to the struggles of all oppressed people over the globe.
- The clear cut leftist stand reflected by this document undoubtedly ran counter to the accepted legacy of Ambedkar as projected by the various icons, although it was sold in his name as an awkward tactic



Shortcomings:

- In spite of the voluminous contribution, Panthers like Dhale and others could not get a chance to personally connect with other revolutionaries like the Black Panthers or the global workers' movement in their lifetime.
- Their political vehicle was getting deeper and deeper into the marsh of Parliamentarism. It ceased to see the real problems of people.
- The air of militant insurgency that had blown all over the world during those days also provided them the source material to articulate their anger.
- Unfortunately, they lacked the suitable ideology to channel this anger for achieving their goal.
- Interestingly, as they reflected the positive aspects of the BPP's contributions in terms of self-defence, mass organising techniques, propaganda techniques and radical orientation, they did so in the case of BPP's negative aspects too.
- Like Black Panthers they also reflected 'TV mentality' (to think of a revolutionary struggle like a quick-paced TV programme), dogmatism, neglect of economic foundation needed for the organisation, lumpen tendencies, rhetoric outstripping capabilities, lack of clarity about the form of struggle and eventually corruptibility of the leadership.
- The Panthers' militancy by and large remained confined to their speeches and writings.
- One of the reasons for its stagnation was certainly its incapability to escape the petit bourgeois ideological trap built up with the icons of Ambedkar. It would not get over the ideological ambivalence represented by them. Eventually, the petitbourgeoise 'icon' of Ambedkar prevailed and extinguished the sparklet of new revolutionary challenge. It went the RPI (founded by Ambedkar) way and what remained of it were the numerous fractions.

Conclusion:

- The Dalit Panther phase represented the clash of two icons: one that of a radical 'Ambedkar', as a committed rationalist, perpetually striving for the deliverance of the most oppressed people in the world. He granted all the freedom to his followers to search out the truth using the rationalist methodology as he did.
- The other is of the 'Ambedkar' who has forbidden the violent methods and advocated the constitutional ways for his followers, who was a staunch anticommunist, ardent Buddhist. As it turned out, the radical icon of Ambedkar was projected without adequate conviction. There was no one committed to propagating such an image of Ambedkar, neither communists nor dalits. Eventually it remained as a veritable hodgepodge.

Topic– Capitalism, socialism etc.- their forms and effect on the society.

Q) "The refugee crisis that the world is currently facing is a long-term effect of colonialism." Critically analyse. (250 words)

Epw

Why this question:

The article discusses in detail the difficulties that refugees from various places face when seeking asylum. It analyses the causes of such a crisis and in what way it is the long-term effect of colonialism.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss the underlying causes of the world refugee crisis and the connection with colonialism.

Directive:

Critically analyze – When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Quote few facts from various reports highlighting the refugee crisis.

For e.g. — The United Nations Human Rights Commission records a total of 68.5 million "forcibly displaced people" worldwide. Syria accounts for 6.3 million refugees alone, closely followed by South Sudan and Afghanistan.



Body:

The answer must explain how the crisis might be a consequence of imperfect decolonization. How new ways of continuing unfair trade practices have led to the enduring exploitation of formerly colonized nations, the populations of which have been subjected to disastrous wars and unstable governments. In addition to economic exploitation, students must examine the oppressive Eurocentric ideologies of the state that are now being used to demonize refugees for political gains.

Suggest what are the major concerns posed by the challenge and what needs to be done to overcome the challenge.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way ahead by suggesting suitable solutions to address the problem.

Introduction:

- A refugee is defined as a person who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.
- In the seven decades since it became an independent country, India has seen and largely welcomed waves of migrants fleeing conflict in neighbouring nations.

Body:

Current state of Refugee crisis across world:

- The United Nations Human Rights Commission records a total of 68.5 million "forcibly displaced people" worldwide.
- Syria accounts for 6.3 million refugees alone, closely followed by South Sudan and Afghanistan.
- The number of internally displaced people rose from 2 million to 34 million
- 1 in every 122 people has been forced to flee their home
- 4,600 people are forced to flee their countries every day

Refugee crisis is an effect of colonialism:

- **a. Colonial hangover:** The divide and rule policy at times of colonialism era created separation of ethnic communities which in itself left the weaker section of the community to find asylum and lastly making them prone to refugee crisis. E.g.: Rohingyas being targeted by the Buddhists.
- **b. Imperfect decolonization:** The poor decolonization strategy leads to authoritarian and despotic governments. Over period of time, the rights of the people were curbed leading to civil wars, Naxalism etc.
- **c. Neo-colonialism and trade exploitation:** The unfair trade practices which lead to holding huge resources by foreign countries resulted in poverty of people. Some of the instances are below.
 - Cotton and gold are primarily responsible for the refugee crisis in West Africa.
 - The subsidies provided by the United States government to its own cotton farmers have destroyed the livelihood of the cotton farmers in West Africa who are now unable to compete in global markets.
 - Meanwhile, countries like Mali that are rich in gold are exploited by Western multinationals.

However, there are many other causes for refugee crisis apart from Colonialism and its effects:

- **Political Instability:** There is great instability in the west Asia. War between the ISIS and Kurdish rebels in Iraq and Syria, attacks by Saudi Arabia on Houthi rebels in Yemen, the civil War in Syria. All of them combined to displace a large number of people from these countries.
- **Dictatorship regimes and Islamic fundamentalism:** Continuous dictatorship type regimes and Islamic fundamentalism made Middle East most volatile n disturbed place on the planet. Western powers in order to make their oil supply smooth and to be part of Gulf Boom started in early 80's always took a partial stand on these issues
- **Economic Reasons**: A large number of refugees from Africa have been forced to leave their countries in search of opportunities abroad, primarily in Europe.
- State Persecution: Rohingyas are a sect of Muslims who claim they are original inhibitors of the Rakhine, a state in Myanmar. However, Myanmar considers them illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and has withdrawn citizenship rights from the Rohingyas. This has forced Rohingyas to flee to other countries.
- **Democracy movements and civil war:** Present refugees crisis didn't started yesterday but it has been seen a huge surge from Libya conflict. If we go again back refugee problem as a crisis started from US, UK joint war to liberate Iraq.
- **Climate Change:** Low lying island nations are threatened by rising sea levels and forced to leave their countries. Such refugees are known as Environmental refugee.



Way forward:

- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) must be empowered with budgetary resources to tackle the problem at a war footing.
- All states should put in place comprehensive refugee policy to avoid ad-hoc measures in line with the UN convention.
- Moral and diplomatic persuasion to stop persecution and promote reconciliation among stakeholder in various countries such as Myanmar, Pakistan and Bangladesh to avoid migration of people.
- Diplomatic pressure from powerful nations and organisation such as UNHCR as seen in recent cases where Indonesia and Malaysia have accommodated refugees on temporary basis.

Conclusion:

- Ultimately, refugee crises end when their root causes are addressed. Ending conflicts and widespread human rights abuses are objectives that states should pursue, but they are difficult to achieve.
- However, individual states and the international community as a whole must recognize that they can
 lessen the devastating consequences of the refugee crisis on people. For this, a global approach to the
 problem is needed

Topic-Salient features of Indian Society

Q) Given the importance of religion in Indian culture, do you think the suggestion given in the Economic Survey on the use of moral suasion drawn from religious beliefs can modify the behaviour of Indians? Critically analyse. (250 words)

Economictimes

Why this question:

The recently released economic survey has proposed the use of culture and tradition on several fronts such as gender equity campaign etc. Survey emphasizes on the religious basis to back the righteousness; moral suasion.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must bring out the significance of moral suasion and the context of it in Indian scenario as to what extent can we use it as a weapon to address various issues.

Directive:

Critically analyze – When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly highlight the findings of economic survey in this regard.

Body:

First explain the religious base present in the country.

How can moral suasion guide one's ethical and moral, economic behaviour?

The answer should explain the various fronts that the survey takes to bring out the importance of moral suasion such as — It elaborates by referencing various religions: In Hinduism, non-payment of debts is a sin and also a crime. The duty or obligation of a child to repay the debts of the deceased parent is rested upon a special doctrine, known as 'The Doctrine of Pious Obligation'. Islam says a person cannot enter paradise until his debt is paid. All of his wealth could be used to pay the debt and if it is insufficient, then one or more heirs could voluntarily pay for him. The survey also quotes the Bible: "Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another" and "The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous shows mercy and gives".

Conclusion:

Conclude by highlighting the importance of such moves.

Introduction:

- The economic survey 2019 emphasised the importance of social, cultural and religious norms in producing "desirable" behavioural changes and therefore "desirable" macro outcomes.
- It has proposed the use of culture and tradition on several fronts such as gender equity campaign etc. Survey emphasizes on the religious basis to back the righteousness; moral suasion.



Body:

- Indian culture is complex mixture of several religions (Hindus-79%, Muslims-14.2%, Christians-2.3%, Sikhs-1.7%). Every religion has its own set of teachings and values which guide the beliefs and attitude and influence their behavior of the followers.
- The survey points to a number of mythological and traditional motifs, discusses in detail Mahatma Gandhi's concept of "seven social sins", and gives examples of "moral" behaviour from Hindu, Islamic and Christian traditions.

Behavioural Economics: The Economic Survey 2019 has drawn on Nobel Laureate Richard Thaler's Behavioural Economics Theory to lay out what it describes as an "ambitious agenda" for behaviour change that will bring in social change, which in turn, will help India transit to a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25. **Given our rich cultural and spiritual heritage**, social norms play a very important role in shaping the behaviour of each one of us.

Moral suasion is the act of persuading a person or group to act in a certain way through rhetorical appeals, persuasion or implicit threats, as opposed to the use of outright coercion or force.

Use of Moral Suasion in Economic Survey:

- In the Hindu tradition, the Survey says, the non-payment of debts is a sin. If a person dies indebted, his soul may have to face adverse consequences. In such an event, it is the duty of the errant debtor's children to save his or her soul.
- This duty or obligation of a child to repay the debts of the deceased parent is rested upon a special doctrine, known as **The Doctrine of Pious Obligation.**
- The Survey also cites an Islamic injunction on paradise being barred to those who haven't cleared their debts, with the addendum that heirs could pay on their behalf if the money left behind by the deceased proves insufficient.
- Christian tenets have also been quoted. The Bible, the Survey notes, says, "Let no debt remain outstanding except the continuing debt to love one another," and "the wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous shows mercy and gives." Even if it's part of a broader thrust aimed at framing policies that seek to modify the behaviour of people, such a discourse in an official document is rather unusual, to say the least.
- The survey talks of using religious custom, social norms and cultural traditions to make people pay taxes, keep young people away from alcohol and drugs and engineer gender equality.
- The concept of Ardhanareshwar half male, half female representation of Lord Shiva examples of superachieving women such as the prophetess Gargi, who questioned the origin of all existence in her Vedic hymns, and Maitreyi, who rejected half her husband's wealth for spiritual knowledge, could be used to reinforce the message of gender equality.

Yes, Moral Suasion works:

- Religion is deeply ingrained in Indian society, be it in people's personal lives or the nation's polity.
- Images of deities are often put up on walls and other objects in public places to deter vandals.
- They can have a powerful impact on our biggest societal challenges.
- Across all religions, positive mythological insights about gender and caste equality as well as universal brotherhood have been available and deeply understood in Indian society since the ages.
- So, repeatedly reinforcing examples of people following these positive sentiments as truly spiritual people can help establish the correct social norm that serving man is serving God.
- The Good Samaritan guidelines of the Central Government and the policy adopted by several State governments, where people who help road accident victims receive a monetary incentive and an appreciation certificate, leverage behavioural insights to reinforce the correct social norm of selfless service of mankind.

No, Moral Suasion could fail because:

- In a country of India's diversity, debt itself has varied views. Usury, for instance, is a sin in the Christian and Islamic traditions, and this is sometimes interpreted as a ban on interest charges per se. The diversity of the country means that what works in one state may not work in another
- Modern liability limitations have been found to help encourage the risks that businesses must take to generate returns.
- Stirring up thoughts of divine retribution on matters of money could have unforeseen results.
- It relies on individual choice instead of overt state intervention.
- Discoveries about the past from behavioural experiments do not easily generalise to the future -the social context for one generation is often different from another.
- Behavioural economics is, however, not a panacea to policymaking; its potential needs to be understood and put in perspective.



- Nudge policies cannot and should not supplant every incentive-based and mandate-based policy. For example,
 a policy that merely nudges people to refrain from assaulting others will fail as such situations warrant strict
 decree or, at least, a stronger push than a mere nudge.
- nudge units may fall prey to a paternalistic view that planners know better than citizens despite the fact that public policy designers have the same behavioural quirks that other human beings have.

Way forward:

- Behavioural economists should take on economic problems that have begged solutions for long. Any success on this front will establish the applicability of behavioural economics to tough challenges.
- Behavioural economics should be taught in many more educational institutions.
- Behavioural economists have shown that people prefer avoiding losses compared with making gains.

Q) "Despite years of reservation, the conditions of Dalits in India still remain miserable". In the light of some recent incidence, bring out the major reasons behind miserable condition of Dalits. Give suggestions for improvement. (250 words)

Indianexpress

Why this question:

The question is in the backdrop of the recently released Article 15, which is a welcome addition to films that portray Dalit subjectivity in a nuanced manner.

Key demand of the question:

The answer needs to evaluate the conditions of Dalit and how they have remained unaddressed despite the affirmative action of State through reservation.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief quote facts and represent conditions of Dalit in India.

Body:

The answer must evaluate the conditions of Dalits in our society and examine their conditions with respect to the provisions of reservation and in what way reservation has mostly failed to serve the real purpose of fixing the root problems.one must suggest solutions to the problem like apart from reservation mainstreaming the community, awareness, rooting out inequalities etc. need action.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Dalits or untouchables are officially known as Scheduled Castes since the Government of India Act, 1935. Caste
 system, which according Dr BR Ambedkar is ordained by the Hindu religious scriptures, has placed
 untouchables outside the Chaturvarna system of social division and imposed oppressive and in human rules
 of treatment against them.
- According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), crime against Dalits ranging from rape, murder, beatings, and violence related to land matters increased by 29 percent from 2012 to 2014.

Body:

- Despite strong laws including SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989, Untouchability Act 1955 and various constitutional provisions like Art 15(2) (no discrimination at public place), Art 17(untouchability), Art. 23(prevention of bonded labour) have been framed but have failed to this discrimination.
- These laws have politically and legally emboldened the dalits but socially have failed to be realised due to lack of awareness, poor reporting, police apathy etc. It is important to address the following concerns rather than making stronger legislation which are strong enough on paper

Kind of discrimination meted out to Dalits:

- Even top officials who are Dalits are insulted and humiliated with caste slurs.
- They are often prevented from entering any place of worship which is open to the public and other persons from the same religion, they are not allowed to be a part of social or cultural processions, including jatras.
- Dalit children are discriminated against when it comes to mid-day meals and getting access to clean toilets.
- The UGC guideline of prevention of discrimination in higher educational institutions came into light after University of Hyderabad student Rohit Vemula's suicide.
- Meanwhile, Dalit women are framed as witches; thereby ensuring that the family is socially ostracized in the village.



• Even public servants who are supposed to protect Dalits sometimes fall prey to caste prejudice and work against their rights.

Major reasons behind miserable conditions of Dalits:

Untouchability:

- While modern Indian law has officially abolished the caste hierarchy, untouchability is in many ways still a practice.
- In most villages in Rajasthan Dalits are not allowed to take water from the public well or to enter the temple.

Political:

- Dalit movement, like identity movements across the world, has really narrowed its focus to forms of oppressions.
- Most visible Dalit movements have been around issues like reservations and discrimination in colleges, and these are issues that affect only a small proportion of the Dalit population.
- Today Dalits are perceived as a threat to the established social, economic and political position of the upper caste. Crimes are a way to assert the upper caste superiority.
- Stasis in farm income over the past few years caused disquiet among predominantly agrarian middle caste groups, who perceive their dominance in the countryside to be weakening.
- The growing scramble for Dalit votes by different political actors has only added a fresh twist to a conflict that has been simmering for some time.

Economic:

- Rising living standards of Dalits appears to have led to a backlash from historically privileged communities.
- In a study by Delhi School of Economics, an increase in the consumption expenditure ratio of SCs/STs to that of upper castes is associated with an increase in crimes committed by the latter against the former
- Rising income and growing educational achievements may have led many Dalits to challenge caste barriers, causing resentment among upper caste groups, leading to a backlash.
- o There is also a possibility of the rise due to high registration and recognition of such crimes.
- Half of all atrocities committed against Dalits are related to land disputes.

Educational Institutions:

- o In public schools, Dalits are not allowed to serve meals to superior castes; they often have to sit outside the classroom; and are made to clean the toilets.
- Even in universities most of the faculty vacancies reserved for them are lying vacant and students are often discriminated.
- The recent incidents of suicides of Rohith Vemula and Payal Tadvi substantiate the above claims of discrimination against Dalit students.

Dalit women:

- o Girls face violence at a younger age and at a higher rate than women of other castes. According to the National Family Health Survey by the age of 15, 33.2% scheduled caste women experience physical violence. The figure is 19.7% for "other" category women.
- The violence continues, largely due to a sense of impunity among dominant castes.
- Dalit women and girls are often the targets of hate crimes. Access to justice has been abysmal, with conviction rates at a measly 16.8 percent. Crimes against Dalits usually see half the conviction rate of the overall rate of conviction of crimes. Experts and activists say that low conviction rates and lack of prosecution of such cases of atrocities are the reasons why crimes against Dalits continue to rise.

Political power does not help:

- Even when Dalit women acquire political power, as when they are elected as sarpanches, there is often no protection against the social power that sanctions violence and discrimination against them.
- o In a village with a Dalit woman sarpanch, a Dalit woman was burned, but no action was taken.

Workplace violence:

- The risky workplaces compounded with a lack of labour rights protection measures render migrants Dalit women more vulnerable to occupational injury.
- Further, the emerging problem of sub-contracting short-termed labour makes it more difficult for them to claim compensation when they are injured at work places.



- Dalit women are most vulnerable to abuse and exploitation by employers, migration agents, corrupt bureaucrats and criminal gangs.
- The enslavement trafficking also contributes to migration of large proportion of Dalit women.

Measures needed:

- Attitudinal change need to brought about among the upper caste through the use of local Panchayat level
 officials who need to disseminate information regarding the rights, legal provisions and ensure community
 places are open to all.
- Police need to sensitised to take due notice of violation of dalits rights and act stringently rather than turning a blind eye.
- Dalits fear reporting such crimes fearing backlash in the community they live. Such barriers need to be dispelled by strengthening and reaching out to them through institution already in place namely Nation commission for SCs etc.
- Schools ,college administration, the staff and students need to be sensitized as attitudinal change can effectively be brought about through education and textbooks
- Sensible labour laws reforms to give exit options to Dalits trapped in a system.
- Integrating social and cultural transformation with an economic alternative is critical.
- **Huge investments will be needed in upskilling and educating dalits** and government needs to create an abundance of new jobs within the formal sector and lowering barriers to job creation
- Increased availability of stable-wage jobs for women is critical to preventing their socio-economic exploitation
- **Bridging the deep-rooted biases through sustained reconditioning:** It is only possible by promoting the idea of gender equality and uprooting social ideology of male child preferability.
- They should be given decision-making powers and due position in governance. Thus, the Women Reservation
 Bill should be passed as soon as possible to increase the effective participation of women in the politics of
 India.
- **Bridging implementation gaps:** Government or community-based bodies must be set up to monitor the programs devised for the welfare of the society.
- Dalit women need group and gender specific policies and programmes to address the issue of multiple deprivations.
- Dalit women require comprehensive policies on health, especially on the maternal and child health
- Make credit available by pooling the women to form self help groups. The example of Kudumbashree model of Kerala can be emulated.

Conclusion:

Stringent laws only have never helped its cause and attitudinal change in perception toward the dalits and for
Dalit toward themselves need to changed through active interventions which is well possible within the
existing framework.

Q) What do you understand from Brahmanism? How it defeats the idea of casteless society in 21st century? (250 words)

The hindu

Introduction:

Brahmanism is a socio-political ideology that encodes a memory of an ideal past and a vision of society in the
future, one in which Brahmins occupy the highest place not only as exclusive guardians of a higher, spiritual
realm but also as sole providers of wisdom on virtually every practical issue of this world.

Body:

How it defeats the idea of casteless society:

• Casteism:

- o Brahmanism was a hierarchical society, a society of privileges and of discrimination, a society of group ethics where there was strong allegiance to caste.
- One own duty (svadharma): The distribution of the members of society into closed castes and the assignation to each of these castes of well fixed activities and virtues .Each caste has its own ethics.

Atrocities against Dalits:

- A few months ago, a chilling report appeared in Deccan Herald stating that in 2017, 210 cases of atrocities against Dalits occurred in the urban districts of Bengaluru and 106 in its rural districts.
- Likewise, Kerala reported 883 cases of such crimes between June 2016 and April 2017.



• Other reports said that there has been a 66% growth in crimes against Dalits in the 10-year period of 2007-2017.

Equality:

- In Brahmanism absolute equality is a myth as lower castes were discriminated based on ascriptive criteria.
- Thus, it negates of the spirit of liberty, equality and fraternity.
- Promotes division of Indian society
- Especially in rural & economically backward areas Brahmanists openly & trivially attack the constitutionally guaranteed rights

Occupation:

- It hinders the social mobility and the evolution of ideas, especially those of scientific nature.
- Because of Brahmanism people were restricted for the same job being passed down to their children based on caste.
- Untouchability is practiced even today in the form of menial jobs like Manual scavenging.

Way forward:

- As B.R. Ambedkar said, "Without a robust movement against Brahmanism, Dalit emancipation is impossible".
- Strict enforcement of Prevention of Atrocities act against perpetrators.
- Sensitizing the communities against Inhumane practices.
- Promoting Gandhian values of equality and treating all individuals equally.
- Struggle against Brahmanism should be grassroots level (bottom-up) & not only statutory (top-bottom)
- The onus of behavioural reform also lies on the heads of Brahmin clan of ritual Pandits & Scholars

Conclusion:

- The social discrimination of dalits, fights over inter caste and inter religious marriages in India show that age old wisdom of Buddha is dominated by brahmanic ideals imposed in the society. Opposing 'Brahmanism' does not entail being 'anti-Brahmin'.
- Blaming the whole community is a crude notion of collective responsibility and further deteriorates the communal cohesion. Thus, a path of education and awareness will bode better.

Topic: Role of women and women's organization

Q) Criminalising Marital Rape may destabilise the institution of marriage apart from being an easy tool for harassing the husbands. Critically analyse the statement with a special focus on status of women in the Indian society. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

Recently the Delhi High Court declined a plea seeking direction to the Centre to frame guidelines for registration of FIR for marital rape and laws to make it a ground for divorce.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the effect of criminalization of marital rape on the institution of marriage.

Directive:

Critically analyze – When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

State few facts related to the criminalization of marital rape.

Body:

Explain the following aspects –

First discuss what you understand by marital rape – Marital rape is the act of sexual intercourse with one's spouse without the spouse's consent. The lack of consent is the essential element and need not involve physical violence.

Then move on to explain the concerns associated with it, explain how it is often being misused against men by the women.

Ensure the answer also reflects on the status of women in the society.



Conclusion:

Conclude by emphasizing on the need for proper policies and legislations in place to deal with marital rape.

Introduction:

- Marital rape is the act of sexual intercourse with one's spouse without the consent of the other spouse.
 Although it was once widely unrecognized by law and society as wrong or as a crime, it is now recognized as rape by many societies around the world.
- The Delhi High Court recently declined a plea seeking direction to the Centre to frame guidelines for registration of FIR for marital rape and laws to make it a ground for divorce. It said the issue of marital rape has to be dealt by the legislature and not the judiciary.

Body:

Legal provisions:

- Currently marital rape is not a ground for a divorce in Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, Muslim Personal Law [Shariat]
 Application Act, 1937 and Special Marriage Act, 1954, it cannot be used as a ground for divorce and cruelty against husband.
- Section 375 of the IPC holds that "sexual intercourse by a man with his own wife, the wife not being under 15 years of age, is not rape"
- No other statute or law recognises marital rape
- Victims only have recourse to civil remedies provided under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005

Criminalisation of Marital Rape is necessary because:

- There are several studies to show the prevalence of non-consensual sex with their wives, and physically forcing their wives to have sex.
- Marriage is an equal-relationship contract and not a one-time consent to everything.
- The legal exception to the rape laws gives men unequal privilege.
- Marital rape victims suffer from long-lasting psychological scars.
- Exception under Section 375, violates Articles 14, 15, 19 and 21 of a woman.
- The patriarchal nature of Indian society, ingrains it in the minds of men that women are expected to comply when their husbands demand sex.
- The victim suffers physical abuse, and she also has to undergo mental trauma of her dignity being violated
- In the last 70 years, the exemption in Section 375 has remained untouched.
- The prevalence of Child marriages and in many cases women are forcefully married off
- The Justice Verma committee had recommended removing the exception made for marital rape in the law.
- The report 'Status of Women in India', by the high-level Pam Rajput committee of the Ministry of Woman and Child Development, criticised the legislature for its failure to criminalise marital rape
- Till date, 51 countries have criminalised marital rape, beginning with Poland in 1932.
- United Kingdom, whose common law was followed by India, made marital rape a criminal offence in 1991.

However, there are cons of criminalizing marital rape:

- It "may destabilise the institution of marriage apart from being an easy tool for harassing the husbands".
- "Rising misuse of Section 498A of IPC", known as the dowry law, "for harassing the husbands".
- Other countries, mostly western, have criminalised marital rape does not necessarily mean India should also follow them blindly.
- Law Commission on Review of Rape Laws has examined the issue but not recommended the criminalisation of marital rape.
- What may appear to be marital rape to an individual wife, it may not appear so to others.
- There can be no lasting evidence in case of sexual acts between a man and his own wife
- Data from the National Crime Records Bureau and the National Family Health Surveys show that only about 0.6%, or one in 167 incidents of sexual violence by husbands, are reported.

Way forward:

- What constitutes marital rape and marital non-rape needs to be defined precisely before a view on its criminalisation is taken.
- Defining marital rape would call for a broad based consensus of the society.
- States should intervene in the matter, since criminal law is on the concurrent list and implemented by states —and given the vast diversity in cultures across states.



- Factors like literacy, lack of financial empowerment of the majority of females, mindset of the society, vast diversity, poverty, etc., should be considered carefully before taking any decision.
- The need for "moral and social awareness" to stop such an act.
- The recent privacy judgment by the Supreme Court is also set to play an important role. The right to bodily integrity is a crucial facet of Article 21.
- Timely medical care and rehabilitation, skill development and employment for facilitating economic independence of victims.
- Need for undertaking both legal and social reforms to deal with the menace of marital rape

Conclusion:

• A woman has a right to bodily integrity, sexual autonomy and reproductive choice. Only when individual rights are not sacrificed and two partners are treated equally shall marriage as an institution continue to survive.

Extra information: The 172nd Law Commission report had made the following recommendations for substantial change in the law with regard to rape:

- 'Rape' should be replaced by the term 'sexual assault'.
- In the light of Sakshi v. Union of India and Others [2004 (5) SCC 518], 'sexual assault on any part of the body should be construed as rape.
- Rape laws should be made gender neutral as custodial rape of young boys has been neglected by law.
- Marital rape: explanation (2) of section 375 of IPC should be deleted. Forced sexual intercourse by a husband with his wife should be treated equally as an offence just as any physical violence by a husband against the wife is treated as an offence. On the same reasoning, section 376 A was to be deleted.

Q) "Gender based segregation in the job market may be limiting women's economic empowerment in India". Critically analyse. (250 words)

Economic times

Why this question:

The question aims to examine the correlation between Job prospects available for women and vis-à-vis economic empowerment.

Key demand of the question:

The answer should examine in what way segregated jobs in the market based on gender factor can hinder the economic development of women in India.

Directive:

Critically analyze – When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief explain what you understand by gender-based segregation of jobs.

Body:

One can start by quoting facts showing decline in the proportion of working women that has witnessed a sharp decline.

Explain that the key factors that have limited the role of women in the Indian economy: the role of entrenched gender norms in our society, the rising incomes of men (which raises family income and makes it easier for women to quit working), and the lack of quality jobs for women.

Quote more such factors that directly or indirectly impact the empowerment factor of women in India.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Gender based segregation is the distribution of workers across and within occupations, based upon demographic characteristics like gender.
- Social mores, rising incomes of men, and gender-based segregation in the job market are limiting women's economic empowerment in India



Body:

Current situation:

- The latest round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) conducted in 2015-16 shows that the **proportion** of working women has witnessed a sharp decline compared to a decade ago.
- In 2005-06, when the last NFHS survey was conducted, **43% of married women in the age group of 15-49** years had reported working in the past **12 months**.
- This proportion has **declined to 31%** in the latest survey. 98% of married men in the same age bracket reported having worked in the last 12 months, the data shows.
- Despite an increase in the last 10 years, the proportion of married women earning more than their husbands remains low at 19%

Gender based segregation limits women's empowerment:

- The under-representation of women in the workforce is both a social and economic loss.
- A McKinsey Global study in 2015 found that India could increase its GDP by 16-60% by 2025 by simply enabling
 women to participate in the economy at par with men.
- Three key factors that have limited the role of women in the Indian economy: the role of entrenched gender norms in our society, the rising incomes of men (which raises family income and makes it easier for women to quit working), and the lack of quality jobs for women.
- The latest evidence on **regressive attitudes towards women** comes from the Social Attitudes Research India survey covering Delhi, Mumbai, UP and Rajasthan in 2016.
- A new study based on the survey shows that a significant share of men and women feel that married women whose husbands earn a good living should not work outside the home.

Way forward:

- Many enterprises still need to recognize and seek out the benefits of a gender-balanced workforce at all levels, including decision-making and board membership.
- There is no "one size fits all". Employer plays a key role in guiding their member companies to the right tools and advocating the message that gender diversity. It is good for business development and sustainability.
- This is all the more urgent, in view of the anticipated disruption, change and complexity of labour markets associated with the future of work.
- To a large extent, the gender pay gap is related to the segmentation of the labour market along gender lines and how women's and men's jobs are perceived and valued.
- Governments and private institutions can work together to remove traditional barriers for women.
- Introducing a set of strategic gender initiatives and practices in an enterprise can go a long way in effecting positive change.
- Reviewing procedures for merit-based recruitment and promotion and controlling for gender bias is one of the most effective ways of ensuring that men and women are placed on an equal footing in their career paths.
- The goal of working towards a gender diverse and inclusive business needs to be a strategic one for the entire company and not limited to human resources management alone.

Conclusion:

- Gender balance at all levels of an organization, especially at the top decision-making level, leads to improved business outcomes.
- More women in the workplace can directly boost profitability, but increasing the representation of women
 can also contribute to the bottom line indirectly by enhancing the image and reputation of the enterprise. It
 also boosts other aspects of business such as employee loyalty and commitment.
- Q) Do you agree that Abolition of Triple Talaq by the parliament has corrected a historical wrong done to Muslim women and that it is a victory of gender justice and will further equality in society? Discuss. (250 words)

Indianexpress

Why this question:

The question is in the backdrop of the victory of the Triple talaq bill which got a nod in the upper house of the parliament.

Demand of the question:

The question expects one to analyse and weigh the pros and cons of the passage of the triple Talaq bill.



Directive word:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction

Briefly describe what is meant by the process of Triple Talaq.

Body

Discuss a brief history of the case, rulings of the apex court and key provisions of the bill.

About it – It defines talaq as talaq-e-biddat or any other similar form of talaq pronounced by a Muslim man resulting in instant and irrevocable divorce. Talaq-e-biddat refers to the practice under Muslim personal laws where pronouncement of the word 'talaq' thrice in one sitting by a Muslim man to his wife results in an instant and irrevocable divorce.

Discuss the significance of it for Indian Muslim women and in what way the bill empowers them.

Conclusion

Conclude that time has come to put an end to the suffering of Muslim women who have been at the receiving end of instant talaq for several years. More than 20 Islamic countries have already banned the practice.

Introduction:

- The President of India recently gave assent to The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2019, better known as the Triple Talaq Bill, thereby criminalizing the practice of instant Triple Talaq. The law makes all declaration of talaq, including in written or electronic form, to be void (i.e. not enforceable in law) and illegal.
- The Supreme Court in Shayara Bano case (2017) had declared the practise of Triple Talaq (talaq-e-biddat) as unconstitutional. However, the penal provision of the bill i.e. a Muslim husband declaring instant Triple Talaq can be imprisoned for up to three years is alleged to be disproportionate for a civil offence.

Body:

The **Abolition of Triple Talaq is a great step** towards gender equality due to:

- Triple Talaq goes against the constitutional principles of gender equality, secularism, right to life of dignity, etc. It goes against Article 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 15(1) which states that there shall be no discrimination against any citizen on the basis of gender, race, etc. and this kind of talaq is biased against the interests of women.
- According to a study, 92% of Muslim women in India wanted the triple talag to be banned.
- It gave men the right to arbitrarily divorce their wives without any valid reason.
- The law provides the rights of subsistence allowance, custody of minor children to victims of triple talaq i.e. talaq-e-biddat.
- The Government held that 473 cases of Triple Talaq have taken place even after two years of judgement pronounced by the Supreme Court.
- The law has been placed as a deterrent to eradicate social evils. For example:
- Untouchability was abolished by the Constitution, but the continued practise of untouchability forced Parliament to enact the Untouchability (Offences) Act in 1955 and later renaming it as Protection of Civil Rights Act in 1976.
- To eliminate atrocities faced by women in domestic space, parliament enacted:
 - The Dowry Prohibition Act in 1961
 - Prevention of domestic violence Act 2005
- Triple Talag is banned in more than 20 Islamic countries including Pakistan.
- The constitution of the country says that it shall strive to bring a uniform civil code for the entire country.
 Doing away with triple talaq will definitely be a step closer to the constitution-makers' dream of having a uniform civil code for all citizens.
- Experts also opine that only the essential or integral features and aspects of a religion (article 25) are protected by the Constitution. Triple talaq was not an integral feature of Islam.

Issues with the law:

- Divorce is a civil matter and making Triple Talaq a criminal offence is disproportionate to criminal jurisprudence.
- The Supreme Court declared Triple Talaq as invalid and did not ask the government to make it a penal offence.



- Thereby criminalizing the Triple Talaq goes against the spirit of the Supreme Court judgement.
- Religious groups infer the banning of a traditional practice sanctified by Sharia as interfering in the religious aspects of minorities.
- The bill introduced in Parliament proposes a three-year jail term for a man divorcing his wife through triple talaq. Although most Muslim women feel it is time to end the practice, they are wary of the slipshod manner in which the government has passed the bill in the Lok Sabha.
- If the aim of the law is to protect the rights of women, how is that possible with their husbands in prison? If they have children under the age of 18, who will take care of their education, health, financial and other needs? The woman will not be protected but instead be vulnerable to more abuse.
- The Bill does not provide the victimised woman any additional benefits in terms of her rights in marriage and divorce.
- Since the Bill says that triple talaq is cognizable and non-bailable, married Muslim man become vulnerable
 target as policemen can arrest and investigate the accused with or without the complaint from wife or any
 other person.

Way forward:

- The legislation brings India at par with other Muslim majority states including Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- This was long overdue for a country that has taken pride in its adherence to the principles of secularism, democracy, and equality.
- Personal laws of other religious communities, Hindus and Christians, have gone through renditions to address some concerns relating to gender equality in matters of inheritance and polygamy.
- Despite the gains, gender equality does not permeate all aspects of civil law.
- This legislation presents an opportunity to put in place a civil code that steeped in equality—across faiths and gender.

Conclusion:

- Terming Triple Talaq as unconstitutional as a step towards establishing uniform civil code (Enshrined in Article 44 of directive principle of state policy), but criminalising it goes against the ethos of Fundamental rights i.e. article 25 and 26 the freedom of religion.
- Triple Talaq has led to the subjugation of Muslim women even after 72 years of independence but its solution must come through coexistence rather than coercion.

Topic– Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Q) Why are Mumbai rains so disastrous despite the thousand crores spent? Discuss the problems plaguing Mumbai's urban drainage system. (250 words)

<u>Timesofindia</u>

Why this question:

Flooding seems to recur almost every year in Mumbai, with this year being particularly severe. The city witnessed extremely heavy rains all through Monday. In 44 years, Mumbai has received second highest rainfall in 24 hours.

demand of the question:

The answer must evaluate the underlying reasons for recurrent flood conditions faced by the financial capital Mumbai.

Directive:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Discuss in brief first the recurrence of the floods in Mumbai.

Body:

The discussions should have the following points:

What is the issue?

How does Mumbai's drainage network look? – what and why are the key challenges. what is so specific about the Mumbai floods.



How to deal with tides, what are the specific problems plaguing the drainage system of the city – insufficient drains, crowded town planning.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting way forward, what needs to be done, how should the disaster response be dealt with.

Introduction:

- The return of the deluge to Mumbai and the paralysis suffered by the city bring up the question of why Indian cities are unable to improve their resilience to extreme weather events. It is the second highest rains recorded in a 24 hour period in the last 44 years.
- This event comparable to the 2005 floods in Mumbai resulted in water-logging, halting of all three modes of transport, power-cuts and some casualties as well. Big cities like Delhi, Chennai and Bengaluru also have slowed down during heavy rains.

Body:

Flood is defined as "an overflow of a large body of water over areas not usually inundated". Thus, flooding in
urban areas is caused by intense and/or prolonged rainfall, which overwhelms the capacity of the drainage
system.

Reasons for inundation in Mumbai, post rains:

- Meteorological Factors: Heavy rainfall, cyclonic storms and thunderstorms
- **Hydrological Factors:** Overbank flow channel networks, occurrence of high tides impeding the drainage in Mumbai and other coastal cities.
- Anthropogenic Factors:
 - Unplanned Urbanization: Unplanned Urbanization is the key cause of urban flooding. A major concern
 is blocking of natural drainage pathways through construction activity and encroachment on
 catchment areas, riverbeds and lakebeds.
 - Destruction of lakes is a major issue in India cities. Lakes can store the excess water and regulate the flow of water. However, pollution of natural urban water bodies and converting them for development purposes has increased risk of floods
 - Reduced infiltration due to concretization of surfaces which decreases ground absorption and increases the speed and amount of surface flow
 - o Reduced groundwater recharge, increased use of groundwater, and diminishing base flow of streams
- Climate Change: Climate change due to various anthropogenic events has led to extreme weather events
- **Poor Solid Waste Management System:** Improper waste management system leads to clogging of stormwater drains because of silting, accumulation of non-biodegradable wastes and construction debris.
- **Disaster management:** As far as NDRF is concerned, there is technology, equipment and training about it. Whenever the information is given, they are ready to take action. But the cooperation from the state government, metrological departments, equipment available at the place and help of NGOs, there is lack of communication and coordination.
- Almost negligible power to local government: Issue of urban governance has two aspects- local government empowerment and motivation to local government to take decisions

Problems plaguing Mumbai's urban drainage system:

- The drainage capacity of the entire city isn't impressive as such, experts have explicitly conceded that at least major roads and traffic junctions fall far short of the required.
- Although contour maps for drains were prepared it remains incomplete for the rest of the city. This means, although the prediction of the drainage flow is possible, there is no data point to predict how a river's flood waters will rush out
- Massive underground sewers built during the colonial era dating back to 1860-1900 are impressive with some
 of it still in use, but is limited to South Mumbai.
- The suburbs of Mumbai are served mostly by open drains, into which tonnes of garbage are dumped each year by citizens.
- Pre-monsoon 'desilting' exercises are carried out every year, which has proved to be ever-inadequate.
- Much of these sewer networks flow several kilometres through congested localities before discharging into the sea, often through outfalls located below mean sea level.
- This means if it's raining heavily when the tide is sufficiently high, drainage is impossible.



Measures needed:

- Lot of unauthorized activities are done in drainage areas. Natural nalas are covered with habitation, jhuggis. If these are allowed and water is able to take natural course, there will be prevention of flooding.
- Municipalities have to be empowered. For e.g.: There is Delhi municipality and also there is Delhi Jal Board
 which handles the sewerage system and water supply system. So these are interlinked issues where sewagedrainage-water supply is intertwined.
- In every state there is multiplicity of agencies and therefore municipality has become one of the agency and not the agency. It is time that all the agencies dealing with developmental activities and governance framework are integrated with municipalities concerned. But this will take a while as for 70 years there have gone bypassing the local government. It was because of programmes like BRGF and JNNURM and now AMRUT that municipalities are coming back to some position.
- The long term and medium term resolution lies in putting integrated coordinated governance framework for cities.
- Mumbai has problem of high tides. When there are high tides and rain water comes into it, it results in problem
 of back flow. A simple solution suggested so many times is that there should be gates which take water back
 to the sea. Only two places have such gates and 100 places don't have it to prevent the back flow. By saying
 that such infrastructure is expensive shows the inability to truly analyse the cost-benefit ratio when high
 damage is done to infrastructure and lives post the flood.
- Along with drainage, the rivers are not kept clean. People should be taught not to put garbage in rivers, plastics shouldn't be thrown in rivers. Strong actions should be taken against those who do it. Other countries don't see this problem of plastics being put in the drainage system and choking it. So there is a need to take action before the flood occurs.
- There is little participation by the communities. Only state and central government cannot deal with such a big problem. If communities are involved, given the task, responsibilities and resources including finance beforehand, then there will be prompt action.
- There is a need for a water centric approach which has been missing completely. To develop cities, water is not taken into account as a factor for development. There are courses in architecture, special universities about urban planning but drainage channel is not taken into consideration while building infrastructure. So until unless urban development becomes water centric, this problem is bound to come.
- There is no linkage between the forecast of rain and forecast of flood. There is no system of flood forecasting
 or flood warning for cities. The elaborate system of flood forecasting in central water commission is for rivers.
 What is required is the model of linking flooding with rainfall. This model is developed internationally in
 academic institutions but not in India.

Conclusion:

- Rains in the city are not in control of single agency. The cities handle last part of drains, i.e. tertiary drains.
 Before it there is state highway and national highway within the city and because the roads and drains are intertwined, the drains are not independent of the roads.
- So when national highways are made, there is least botheration about the drainage system. So there is a need to revisit the planning on one hand and governance as far as cities are concerned.

Q) What do you understand by Integrated urban infrastructure? Do you think Integrated cities can provide for an answer to India's urban planning woes? Analyse. (250 words)

<u>Reference</u>

Why this question:

The question intends to examine the Integrated urban infrastructure concept applied to the Indian urban scenario.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the concept of Integrated urban infrastructure and in what way the concept is a solution to the urban planning woes of India.

Directive:

Analyze – When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary.



Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief write about Indian infrastructure sector scenario. One can quote relevant facts here.

Bodv:

Explain what you understand by integrated approach. Provide example of city which has adopted such an approach.

Then move on to discuss how and why india needs to adopt such an approach in planning.

Explain the high potential India bears in the development of new cities and in what way such approach in city planning will make Indian cities more sustainable.

Conclusion:

In conclusion provide for a way forward suggesting other such approaches to make Indian cities sustainable and resilient.

Introduction:

- In India urban areas are considered as "engines of inclusive economic growth". The pressure of population growth on urbanisation is increasing day by day.
- About 17.4% of India's urban population lives in slums where housing conditions are inhuman, 5.49 million urban households in India do not have access to safe drinking water,13% of the households have no bathing facilities within the home, and 2.9% of urban houses are in a dilapidated condition according to Census 2011.

Body:

- Urban infrastructure consists of drinking water, sanitation, sewage systems, electricity and gas distribution, urban transport, primary health services, and environmental regulation. Many of these services are in the nature of 'local' public goods with the benefits from improved urban infrastructure in a given city limited to the citizens living in that city.
- An integrated urban infrastructure replaces technocratic planning approaches, focuses on "learning systems", including numerous feedback loops between "top-down" requirements and "bottom-up" responses. A sectoral and inter-departmental approach within administrations involves a broad spectrum of actors from government, civil society and the private sector in the development and implementation of strategies. This urban development concept is designed along the goals, strategies and measures of actual local problems.

Infrastructural challenges in Urban India:

- **Housing:** with increasing cost of houses lower income groups are forced to reside in congested places which are devoid of proper ventilation, lighting, water, sewage, etc.
- Safe Drinking Water: The sources of drinking water are getting contaminated and future generation will face huge water crises without a drastic improvement in the water availability.
- Sanitation: Many urban areas like slums and unauthorized colonies have bad sanitation and drainage facilities.
 This unhygienic condition leads to many diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria. Unsafe garbage disposal and management facilities.
- **Health conditions**: condition of health in some urban poor areas is worst compared to rural areas. There is huge loss of life due to basic amenities like drinking water, clean air etc.
- **Urban public transport:** due to less penetration of public transport high income individual are buying more private vehicle causing more traffic jam and air pollution.

Major Infrastructure Bottlenecks in India

- **Financing**: Infrastructure projects are highly capital intensive and funding is considered as a major impediment in achieving the infrastructure goals.
- Land Acquisition: Another significant challenge in achieving the infrastructure goal is the way land acquisition is done for infrastructure projects.
- Clearances from numerous agencies: Most of the infrastructure projects in India suffer from delays in completion. This is mainly due to an inadequate regulatory framework and inefficiency in the approval process.
- **Poor pre-construction planning:** Due to the already adverse effect of various impediments like land acquisition, statutory approvals, delayed financial closure etc.
- **Centralization of power:** The lack of devolution of powers to the local level of governments who are well aware of the issues is another major impediment.



Reforms needed:

State level:

- Repeal of Urban Land Ceiling and Regulation Act
- Reform of Rent Control Laws so as to stimulate private investment in rental housing schemes.
- Introduction of independent regulators for urban services.

ULBs level:

- Double entry system of accounting for Urban Local Bodies
- Adoption of public disclosure law –disclosure of medium-term fiscal plan and quarterly performance reports.
- Passage of community participation law
- All special agencies currently involved in delivering urban civic services to be brought under the supervision of ULBs, thus creating a uniform accountability platform.
- A Bangalore Action Task Force (BATF) kind of citizens technical advisory group should be constituted for each city to guide the process of urban reforms
- Introduction of e-governance, Global Information System (GIS) and Monitoring Information System (MIS)
- Reform of Property Tax laws
- Levy of reasonable user charges

Measures:

- Cities need favourable conditions and governmental financial support, accompanied by the according applicable regulations of task distribution and financing models in a multi-level governmental system.
- Expanding the respective scope of action and/or decision-making powers as well as the financial and human resources to initiate moderate and implement the necessary processes in organizational networks and decision-making structures.
- It is necessary to reinvent urban areas and adapt existing infrastructure to the changed needs. This can be achieved if urban land-use planning by informal instruments and cooperation is complemented by involving citizens to generate lead concepts and visions, serving as a model to individual suburbs and whole cities.
- A participatory approach to an integrated development strategy helps to enhance the quality of living in neighbourhoods and gives young people a perspective.
- Especially in cities and metropolitan areas mobility is equivalent to the opportunity to participate in social life. With advanced integrated mobility concepts, the use of new technologies, but also through modern management, this sector has great potential for innovation.
- The use of renewable energies and energy efficient construction methods reduces emissions and prevents serious consequences of climate change.
- The city is required to take protective measures and adapt in many areas of urban development to cope with climate change.

Conclusion:

- Targeting low-hanging fruits, such as Metro projects, inland waterways, natural gas grids and airport
 privatisation, to give a fillip to private sector investment should be prioritized. A significant requirement of
 integrated urban development is to shape a city, socially and inclusively.
- This means to counteract segregation of neighbourhoods and enable people regardless of social background, age, gender, religion, skin colour to participation in civic life.
- Q) India's urban water crisis calls for an integrated approach. Discuss the importance of wetland conservation in urban areas? Write a note on importance of involvement of local communities in water conservation efforts. (250 words)

<u>Deccanherald</u> Reference

Introduction:

- The NITI Aayog report on Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) said that India is facing its 'worst' water crisis in history. Taps in Shimla went dry in summer of 2018, posing an unprecedented water crisis in the hill town.
- According to a forecast by the Asian Development Bank, India will have a water deficit of 50% by 2030. Recent studies also ranked Chennai and Delhi at the top of the 27 most vulnerable Asian cities in terms of low perday water availability Mumbai and Kolkata follow close.



Body:

• Through the ages, urban wetlands have been the lifeline of most cities in India. They were preserved and looked after by the people as their main source of water supply for drinking and irrigation. These wetlands are found all over the country and are either natural or built by people.

Importance of wetland conservation in Urban Areas:

- Wetlands are indispensable for the countless benefits or "ecosystem services" that they provide humanity, ranging from freshwater supply, food and building materials, and biodiversity, to flood control, groundwater recharge, and climate change mitigation.
- Wetlands are habitat to aquatic flora and fauna, numerous species of native and migratory birds.
- Wetlands are an important resource for sustainable tourism.
- They carry out water purification, filtration of sediments and nutrients from surface water.
- They help in nutrients recycling, groundwater recharging and stabilisation of local climate.
- Play an important role in flood mitigation by controlling the rate of runoff.
- **Buffer** (act as a riparian buffer) shorelines against erosion and pollutants.
- They act as a genetic reservoir for various species of plants (especially rice).

Importance of involvement of local communities in water conservation efforts:

- Local communities are important stakeholders in using resources. Wetlands have many stakeholders at community level with diverse interests, the major ethnic groups dependent on wetlands in the kingdom are small fractions of the population and are scattered over regions and these are the major wetland users.
- Many of them have their own language, culture, physical features and way of life they may live along the river basins and wetland
- People depended on wetlands resources own very little and they are shy and provincial in They have remained unchanged in their traditional culture despite the changes taking place around them
- Local people provide information required for making wetland inventory, necessary data and socioeconomic condition of resources.
- They can utilize their knowledge, skill to produce wetlands products and take benefits from them.
- They can disseminate the information regarding threats and dangers to different
- They help in maintaining ecological balances by wise utilization of wetland
- Active participation of local people in plan development process is essential for efficient planning phase.
- They are more attached to wetlands hence should provide any conservation issues to handle them.
- They should prohibit the dumping of chemical pollutants, domestic garbage, industrial waste, toxic substances, and the use of electric current and explosives in the wetland sites.
- They must not allowed any project to take over community land or any unwanted service they are not willing to do or any illegal use of resources such as wetland
- They must have the sense of distinguishing problem and prioritizing the conservation activities.
- They should not overexploit the wetlands and work under safe standards set for regeneration capacity of wetland resources.
- They must cooperate in environment management program that secures their right and gains.
- Rural communities must cooperate with project to prioritize the problem that seeks the immediate solution.

Conclusion:

- Local community dependence on wetland resources with low involvement in their management, weak, un-diversified, and insecure livelihoods based on the direct exploitation of natural resources causes hindrance in conservation.
- Community can play pioneering role in many functions that are necessary for sustainability and equitability; merely the conservation programs should represent local communities for the consultation in plan development phase.

Case study:

The rejuvenation of Argan Lake (Belagavi district in Karnataka) is a story of collective efforts by hundreds of soldiers of the Maratha Light Infantry. Once decided, it took around three to four months to study and plan the restoration work. Interestingly, they utilised the money collected in the Military Vinayak temple's donation boxes, which is generally used for public welfare works.

Another successful initiative in this region is the rejuvenation the Bailwad lake in Bailhongal, a hot and arid zone which is prone to drought. The lake bed is made up of hard rocks and rubbles. Around two months ago, Pyaas foundation began desilting and added a layer of compressed black soil to prevent the loss of water. For two months, the volunteers worked hard to remove the rocks and bring the water body to shape.



TOPIC: Changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Q) Why Assam is prone to floods? How the situation can be rectified? (250 words) Indianexpress

Introduction:

- Assam is in the grip of yet another flood, with 57 lakh people affected across all 33 districts, and 36 people killed besides hundreds of animals. This is the first wave of floods this monsoon, and flood control experts expect at least two more.
- While floods are a regular annual feature in Assam, some years witness more destruction than others. In terms of impact on human lives, the floods of 1988, 1998 and 2004 were the worst; the 2004 floods alone affected 12.4 million people and claimed 251 lives.

Body:

Reasons for flood proneness in Assam:

- It is a mix of natural and man-made factors.
- The Brahmaputra, a trans-boundary river and among the mightiest rivers in Asia, is braided and unstable in its entire reach in Assam except for a few places.
- **Topography of Assam and meteorological factor (high rainfall)** are the obvious reason behind Assam floods every year.
- The vast amount of sediment comes from Tibet, where the river originates. That region is cold, arid and lacks plantation. Glaciers melt, soil erodes and all of it results in a highly sedimented river
- As the river comes from a high slope to a flat plain, its velocity decreases suddenly and this results in the river unloading the sediment
- The silt causes the level of riverbed to rise. As a result, the natural longitudinal (straight) course of the river is disturbed. Therefore the river searches for a lateral path (left or right).
- As a result it changes its course and breaches the embankments on the new path it has created. The breach of embankments causes floods.
- More than 80% of these embankments have not been reinforced in several decades because there is a huge contractor-administration nexus that benefits monetarily from a flood situation.
- The earthquake-prone nature of the region, the river has not been able to acquire a stable character. Following the devastating earthquake of 1950, the level of the Brahmaputra rose by two metres in Dibrugarh area in eastern Assam.
- The man-made factors habitation, deforestation, population growth in catchment areas (including in China), encroachment of river banks and wetlands, lack of drainage, unplanned urban growth, hill cutting — which lead to higher sedimentation. For example, the sediment deposition itself creates temporary sandbars or river islands.
- The dams that are being built are further creating disasters.
- The wetlands forests and local water bodies are being systematically destroyed which in turn is adding to the disaster vulnerability of the area

Measures needed:

Realising the severity of the problem, flood control measures in Assam started in 1954 with the announcement of the National Policy for Flood by the Government of India.

- Construction of Embankments and Flood walls
- River training and bank protection works
- Anti erosion and town protection works
- River channelization with pro siltation device
- Drainage improvement/ Sluices
- Raised Platform
- Flood forecasting and warning
- Flood zoning
- Interlinking of rivers may be one option, whereby the excess water from the flood-prone eastern India can be
 diverted to the water-scarce regions. However, for that a thorough environmental impact assessment is
 needed.
- Government of Assam is planning to dredge the Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri to increase its storage capacity and mitigate flood-induced damages.
- An "integrated basin management" system that should ideally bring in all the basin-sharing countries on board.



- It is important to monitor the run-off and hydrological data in the upper catchment areas, particularly in Tibet before the onset of the monsoon for which cooperation at the regional, national and international levels is required.
- On the basis of these data, warning can be issued well in advance so that people and livestock can be moved to safer places.

Conclusion:

- Flood in Assam is unavoidable. The people must be enabled to enhance their adaptability so that the flood-induced damages can be minimised. As against the ad hoc, piecemeal, short-term structural measures adopted now, an integrated basin management approach for the rivers needs to be adopted (Goswami 2008).
- A comprehensive plan involving all the stakeholders (dam owners, upstream and downstream people) is needed. It should focus on ex ante and ex post measures. Moreover, timely relief to the victims of the basic necessities like food, medicine and drinking water needs to be ensured.

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TOPIC: Economic, Human geography

Q) India's megacities have continued to remain engines of growth; however, a faster pace of spatial development is the need of the hour to enable the country to take full advantage of its demographic dividend afforded by its young population. Discuss. (250 words)

livemint

Why this question:

The question is to analyse the urging need for spatial development to ensure faster growth and development of the country.

Demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the effect of spatial development on various aspects of growth – ranging from job opportunities, employment, access to physical infrastructure etc. and how it in turn will lead to overall growth and realization of demographic dividend of the country.

Directive word:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction

Start with brief on the context of the question, explain what you understand by spatial development.

Body

First explain how and why India's growth has remained concentrated in megacities of the country, then analyse why there has been no shift of it to secondary cities and small towns. Then explain why and how for India, a faster pace of spatial development is vital to enable the country to take full advantage of its demographic dividend afforded by its young population. Take hints from the answer and discuss all the aspects with suitable justifications.

Conclusion

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Uneven spatial development refers to the concentration of industries and services in high density economically
 developed areas. In other words, the clusters of economic activity are concentrated in a few highly dense
 megacities and engines of growth have failed to spread to less dense secondary cities.
- India's unprecedented economic growth during the last two decades has been spearheaded by lopsided spatial development.

Body:

Trends of Uneven Spatial Development in India:

- Uneven spatial development is common in many countries, but it is much more pronounced in India.
- A majority of the population in India still lives outside megacities, this has created huge spatial disparities.
- Unlike in China, Europe and the US, where the engines of growth and job creation have spread to the secondary cities, in India medium-sized cities remain mired in joblessness and poverty.
- India's manufacturing sector is spatially spreading at a much faster pace than the services sector.
- The low-density manufacturing districts are growing at a much faster pace than high-density districts in India.
- High-density service clusters (Example: Bangalore, Mumbai) have continued to grow at a much faster pace than less dense areas (Example: Pune, Chandigarh) and more dense locations have become more concentrated over time.

The reasons for such uneven spatial development are

Infrastructure:

• The manufacturing sector has not spread to all districts. Only those districts that have **improved their physical and human infrastructure** have attracted manufacturing enterprises.

Employment Density prioritised:

- Spatial development in any location is determined by the trade-offs between the forces of agglomeration economies and congestion costs.
- Usually, Agglomeration economies are concentrated in locations with employment density below 150 employees per sq. km. Example: USA



o In India, the concentration is in regions having density around 1000 employees per sq. km, giving higher priority to availability of labour.

• Knowledge Spillover Benefits:

- o India's megacities suffer from severe congestion costs, they also benefit from huge agglomeration economies and knowledge spillovers.
- This leads to growth of many ancillary industries, start-ups especially in the services industry. With the IR4.0 on the rise, the congestion costs are overlooked for knowledge spillovers.

• Spatial development policies and frictions:

- Poor developmental policies in secondary cities.
- Poor access to telecommunication and post-secondary education in secondary cities.
- Some states offer Tax-Holidays for companies which attract them over others.
- o Failure of models like SEZ in India vis-à-vis China.

• Economic Opportunities:

- Push and Pull Migration factors are still largely at play.
- o This leads to migration of a lot of people to Megacities, in search of job opportunities.

The impacts of uneven spatial development are

Congestion Costs:

- Locations with employment density above 150 employees per sq. km have experienced reduced employment growth, indicating important congestion costs.
- UN Population Fund predicts that by Urbanization in India will rise to 40% by 2030.

Environmental Costs:

- Unsustainable development of cities has huge ramifications on the environment.
- o **Example:** India already hosts 14 out of 15 most polluted cities in the world.
- Other impacts like depletion of groundwater, reduced green lung spaces.

Economic Costs:

- Concentration of high demand in few megacities leads to high cost of rents and in turn high cost of living.
- Real Estate Bubble leading to increased Black Money circulation.

Social Costs:

- Lack of economic activity in smaller cities leads to inequality, poverty and conflicts.
- The poor socio-economic development can lead to extremism, secessionism and other dangerous trends.

Way Forward:

- Quick need to increase connectivity and Infrastructure of the secondary cities. Initiatives like AMRUT, Smart cities, Digital India, BharatMala, PMGSY etc. can play a big role in spreading the manufacturing sector evenly.
- Proper planning of peri-urban areas, increased connectivity to spread out the population evenly. Example:
 RURBAN scheme
- Policymakers should improve access to telecommunication and post-secondary education in secondary cities. This will help in the spread of service sector to these cities.
- Incentivization for setting up manufacturing industries in underdeveloped areas. Example: **National Industrial Manufacturing Zones** can be set up.
- Strengthening the allied activities like **Food Processing through Food Parks**. This will **reduce the Push and Pull migration.**
- MSME's are responsible for more than 14 crore jobs in India. Their growth must be boosted in smaller cities.

Conclusion:

• The flawed perception of Engines of Growth are tied to big cities must be shed. Secondary cities and the rural areas should be developed to reduce the lopsided spatial development currently happening in India.

Q) "The government's flagship program of Swachh Bharat Mission has provided for a testimony to the potential for behavioural change in India", analyse the statement in the light of Richard Thaler's Behavioural Economics Theory. (250 words) Livemint

Why this question:

The article talks about relevance of behavioural change in the success of Swachh Bharat Mission.



Demand of the question:

The answer must talk about the Richard Thaler's Behavioural Economics Theory and how and in what way one can correlate the success of SBM to it.

Directive word:

Analyze – When asked to analyze, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction

One can start by stating few facts to justify the success of SBM.

Body

The economic Survey said the Swachh Bharat Mission had resulted in the improvement of key primary health indicators.

It has drawn on Nobel Laureate Richard Thaler's Behavioral Economics Theory to lay out what it describes as an "ambitious agenda" for behaviour change that will bring in social change, which in turn, will help India transit to a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25.

The Survey, therefore, lays out an ambitious agenda for behavioral change by applying the principles of behavioral economics to several issues, including gender equality, a healthy and beautiful India, savings, tax compliance and credit quality.

Discuss the success of SBM with a case study to substantiate better.

Conclusion

Conclude with significance of behavioral change in driving the policies to success.

Introduction:

- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is perhaps the largest behaviour change campaign ever, aims to make India a clean nation. The mission will cover all rural and urban areas.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) believes that SBM could prevent about 300,000 deaths due to water borne diseases assuming we achieve 100 per cent coverage by October 2019.

Body:

Behavioural Economics and Swachh Bharat Mission:

- The Economic Survey 2019 has drawn on Nobel Laureate Richard Thaler's Behavioural Economics Theory to lay out what it describes as an "ambitious agenda" for behaviour change that will bring in social change, which in turn, will help India transit to a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25.
- Given our rich cultural and spiritual heritage, social norms play a very important role in shaping the behaviour of each one of us.
- Behavioural economics provides the necessary tools and principles to not only understand how norms affect behaviour, but also to utilize these norms to effect behavioural change.
- Behavioural economics tells us that even if people are truly interested in SBM; their actions may differ from their intent as they need to be moved to action with a gentle nudge.
- Nudge policies gently steer people towards desirable behaviour while preserving their liberty to choose" and the government was planning to go ahead with the programmes to usher social change.
- It does not talk about penalizing people if they do not behave in a particular manner, rather it encourages them to make desirable decisions.
- It believes that Humans are not-so-rational and often need encouragement or intervention a nudge to get going and do what's best for the country or society at large.

Success of SBM so far:

- The major finding of this analysis was that all these health indicators improved significantly in both groups after the implementation of SBM. **(ES-2019)**
- Five hundred and eighty four districts, 5,840 blocks, 244,687 gram panchayats and 541,433 villages are open defecation free (ODF).
- Towards the end of 2017, an independent verification agency (IVA) conducted the National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS), and found that 93.4 per cent people who had toilets, used them regularly. NARSS also re- confirmed the ODF status of 95.6 per cent of the villages that had been verified ODF by the state governments.
- SBM had resulted in the improvement of key primary health indicators—diarrhoea deaths among children less than five years had reduced significantly in the past four years. **(ES-2019)**



- Around 2% of rural India has got individual household latrines (IHHL) coverage in the last four years under SBM, which has had significant impact on health. For example, an estimated 140,000 deaths were reported due to diarrhoeal diseases in 2014. This has declined to about 50,000 deaths in 2017-2018. While diarrhoea accounted for 11% deaths of children under five in 2013, an independent survey claims it is around 8.6% now. (ES-2019)
- Districts with low IHHL coverage suffered more from diarrhoea, malaria, still births and low birth weight, when compared to districts with high IHHL coverage—indicating that lack of sanitation and hygiene are the primary reasons for these health problems. (ES-2019)
- Over the last four years, a cadre of 500,000 Swachhagrahis has been created who have triggered lakhs of villages to become ODF.
- The foot-soldiers have helped in **geo-tagging toilets**, **verifying household behaviour**, **converting old toilets** and retro-fitting them, engaging in other forms of cleanliness.
- **Bal Swachhata mission** that was launched to inculcate cleanliness values and personal hygiene amongst children.

Other instances of Behavioural Economics at play:

- Among the successful programmes to introduce behavioural change was the Ujjwala scheme, which sought to
 move from incandescent to LED bulbs to promote energy efficiency, among other benefits.
- Another example was the subsidy "Give it Up" campaign, under which the government encouraged "above poverty line" households to voluntarily surrender their LPG subsidies. For every household that contributed, a below poverty level household was promised a gas connection.

Way Forward

- Governmental Initiatives of Swachhata Pakwada Campaigns should be promoted to raise awareness of sanitation and hygiene. Adequate Budgetary Allocation should be given to construct twin-pit toilets at villages, public toilets etc.
- **Teach them young:** Children must be taught the importance of Sanitation and hygiene. Initiatives like Bal Swachhata Mission, Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan are pushing forward the objective.
- Competition raising initiatives like **Swachha Survekshan Abhiyan** will help in boosting the spirit of cities and towns to improve the ODF status.
- In places of water scarcity, trains etc. use of bio-toilets can be promoted.
- Technology like mini-jetting machines, robots to clean the clogged pits as done in Hyderabad and Trivandrum should be emulated in other places to curb manual scavenging.
- Swachhata Doots, NGOs and CSOs must be involved at the grassroots level to achieve 100% ODF by October 2nd, 2019.

Conclusion:

- The success of the Swachh Bharat Mission is linked to the participation of the people. It depends on people changing their attitudes towards cleanliness, building and using toilets, and maintaining personal hygiene among other things.
- This means creating a 'behavioural change' in an individual is critical to help break old habits and norms. Going
 forward, the Behavioural economics theory can be applied to bring about other social changes too like
 reducing tax evasion, reducing corruption etc.

Case Study of Behavioural Changes:

- Patakpur village in Unnao, UttarPradesh:
- A technique of behavioural change called **community led total sanitation (CLTS)** came in handy. World Vision India, a non-profit organisation, began working in the district to raise awareness.
- The technique helps shift the focus just acquiring the sanitation hardware to creation of open-defecation free villages. The onus of ensuring that all families have household toilets rests with the community. It integrates hygiene and health, keeping the community's ownership sustained.
- They used rangoli (colored powder) to draw a map of our village to explain how the faeces gets into our water sources, contaminating it. It took a while, but they were eventually convinced that their homes wouldn't become impure with toilets. Rather, not having one would make the village dirty and impure.
- Indore's 'Roko And Toko' Push To Stop Open Defecation:
- Under this unique initiative take up by Indore's civic body, 'dibba gangs' have been created to 'roko aur toko' those who defecate in the open. These 'gangs', mostly made up of schoolchildren, have taken to spreading the message by beating metal boxes loudly whenever they come across anyone defecating in the open.



- The 'gang members' can also impose a fine of ₹100 on anyone found defecating or urinating in the open. This
 initiative is successful since it involves members of the very community it is seeking to change.
- Q) According to the Economic Survey 2018-19, India's population growth rate will decline faster than assumed as the fertility rate in many states has reached the replacement rate, while India is already struggling with high unemployment, don't you think the changing demography will add to the challenge of fulfilling aspirations of New India? Critically analyse. (250 words)

Hindustantimes

Why this question:

Economic Survey 2018-19 has noted that "India is set to witness a sharp slowdown in population growth in the next two decades".

Key demand of the question:

Th answer needs to analyse the effect of such a finding on fulfilling aspirations of New India. One has to critically analyse in what way the changing trends in demography can lead to challenges in jobs, employment and overall increased dependent ratio.

Directive:

Critically analyze – When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Highlight the findings of the economic survey.

Body:

The survey had a close look at the impact of population arrest on India's working-age population. It said as this population would rise by 96.5 million between 2021-31 and by 41.5 million between 2031-41, it would have implications for the required rate of job creation in the economy. It said "additional jobs will need to be created to keep pace with the projected annual increase in working-age population."

One must explain in detail the possible challenges that the conditions can pose on the growth and development aspects of the country.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- India's booming population is set to coming to a grinding halt over the next two decades, as the country witnesses a sharp slowdown in population growth, the Economic Survey 2018-2019 revealed.
- Demographic projections show that India's population growth will continue to slow rapidly over the next two
 decades, growing less than 1% during 2021-31 and under 0.5% during 2031-41

Body:

Highlights of Population growth:

- Population experts have said that while India's large population presents challenges in providing food, housing, jobs and other essentials, the country has entered a demographic stage when a plateauing of population and a subsequent decline in numbers is just decades away.
- 13 of the 22 major states TFR is below 2.1, meaning that these states, including those in the south, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal and Maharashtra are already quite advanced in their demographic transition, mirroring trends in countries with much higher levels of income.
- The TFR is expected to reach 1.8 in 2021 similar to the current rate in France and stabilise at 1.7, the stage where China, which is heading for a population decline, is now.
- States already below replacement level fertility will see a further decline to decline to 1.5-1.6. The survey estimates that the large poorer states of central India, like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh are likely to reach TFR levels below 1.8 between 2021 and 2031.
- Some states like Tamil Nadu could witness population declines after 2031 unless there is migration from other states.



• India currently adds around 10 million people annually to the working age population; this increase is likely to decline to 4.2 million in 2031-41.

Positives of declining population growth:

- An increase in the share of a country's working-age (15–64 years) can generate faster economic growth. The working-age population is generally more productive and saves more increasing domestic resources for
- Increased fiscal space created by the demographic dividend to divert resources from spending on children to investing in physical and human infrastructure
- Rise in women's workforce that naturally accompanies a decline in fertility, and which can be a new source of growth
- Additional boost to savings that occurs as the incentive to save for longer periods of retirement increases with greater longevity

Higher savings:

- The younger population will have both more savings and higher spending due to the raising higher disposable income.
- Higher savings along with better and more investment opportunities nowadays leads to higher household savings which increases the overall capital formation in the economy. This provides for future industrial investments and propels the economy into higher growth path in the long run.
- Higher income increases the effective demand in the market there by increasing the overall consumption and the market growth of business in the current period of time

Outsourcing of jobs:

- With the declining working age population in the other countries particularly developed countries, more jobs emanating from the developed countries will be outsourced and India can gain from it due to demographic dividend.
- Massive shift towards a middle-class society that is already in the making

Decreasing fertility rate and its challenges:

• The decrease in fertility and the associated decrease in the dependency ratio, in turn lead to an increase in the share of the population concentrated in the working ages and hence in the ratio of the working age to the non-working age population.

Dependency ratio:

- The proportion of workers rises sharply, even as the proportion of dependants falls. In many countries, the ratio of workers to dependents goes up, giving a huge boost to per capita income.
- India will see a significant rise in working age adults India's dependency ratio that is the number of dependents to working people is low at 0.6, compared with the developed countries. That ratio is going to decline further with fertility rates continuing to fall.
- For the next few decades India will have a youthful, dynamic and productive workforce than the rest of the
- A demographic trend where the proportion of persons aged 15-24 in the population increases significantly
 compared to other age groups which paired with limited employment opportunities may contribute
 to increased poverty, hunger, malnutrition, poorer health, lower educational outcomes, child labour,
 unsupervised and abandoned children, and rising rates of domestic violence.

• Education constraints:

- There are serious problems with Indian higher education. These include a shortage of high quality faculty, poor incentive structures, lack of good regulation
- India is home to the world's largest concentration of illiterate people in the world

Health:

- At the primary level, there are also serious problems with health and nutrition that impact the effectiveness of education and the capacity for learning.
- o In future large proportion of older working aged people who face longer periods of retirement, accumulate assets to support themselves.

Way forward:

- Health and education parameters need to be improved substantially to make the Indian workforce efficient and skilled.
- Enhance, support and coordinate private sector initiatives for skill development through appropriate Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models; strive for significant operational and financial involvement from the private sector



- Focus on underprivileged sections of society and backward regions of the country thereby enabling a move out of poverty; similarly, focus significantly on the unorganized or informal sector workforce.
- Measures should have pan Indian presence and not just concentrated in metropolitan cities as most of the workforce is likely to come from the rural hinterland.
- Investing in people through healthcare, quality education, jobs and skills helps build human capital, which is key to supporting economic growth, ending extreme poverty, and creating more inclusive societies
- New technology could be exploited to accelerate the pace of building human capital, including massive open online courses and virtual classrooms
- Policymakers should have a greater incentive to redouble their efforts to promote human capital so that it can contribute to economic growth and job creation

Q) How can the challenges of poverty and climate change be balanced together? Discuss. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

The question hints at How climate change affects people living in poverty and in what way the interlinked two can be addressed together.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must analyse that the impacts of climate change affect every country on every continent. The increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like hurricanes, wildfires and droughts threaten food supplies, drive people from their homes, separate families and jeopardize livelihoods. And all of these effects increase the risk of conflict, hunger and poverty. Thus, one has to address in what way the two can be addressed together.

Directive:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Describe the context of the question.

Body:

The answer must first analyse how poverty and climate change are interlinked to each other. In what way the challenges of the two can be addressed together.

Students must discuss in detail the possible challenges and then suggest solutions to the issue.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Around the world, people are experiencing both the delicate and harsh effects of climate change. Gradually
 rising sea levels and more extreme weather events are all clear and devastating evidence of a rapidly changing
 climate. The impacts of climate change can be seen in every country on every continent.
- The increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like hurricanes, wildfires, and droughts threaten food supplies, drive people from their homes, separate families and jeopardize livelihoods. And all of these effects increase the risk of conflict, hunger, and poverty.

Body:

Climate change and poverty:

- 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change of the United Nations estimates that "even a 1.5-degree increase in global temperature could push tens of millions of people into poverty."
- According to the World Food Programme's 2018 Global Report on Food Crises, "climate disasters triggered food crises across 23 countries, mostly in Africa, with shocks such as drought leaving more than 39 million people in need of urgent assistance."
- According to the 2018 Global Report on Internal Displacement, "30.6 million new internal displacements
 associated with conflict and natural disasters were recorded in 2017 across 143 countries and territories."
- Climate change hits the poorest people the hardest, those living in vulnerable areas with the fewest resources to help them adapt or recover quickly from shocks.



• Up to 122 million more people worldwide could be living in extreme poverty by 2030 as a result of climate change and its impacts on small-scale farmers' incomes, a major UN report warned.

Measures needed:

- Climate-proofing' sustainable development efforts are important. Current efforts should remain relevant in the face of future climate impacts.
- Adaptation programmes ought to be designed so that challenges faced by people living in poverty are recognised and reduced.
- Ex: A district with severe nutritional deficiency along with drought from climate change, then the focus ought to be on improving local food access and managing water efficiently to prepare for future water shortages.
- Similarly, sanitation and housing ought to be improved in future flooding areas and use appropriate design strategies that are resilient to water-logging.
- Improved governance, including an active civil society and open, transparent, and accountable policy and decision making processes.
- Mainstreaming climate issues into all national, sub-national, and sectoral planning processes.
- Empowerment of communities so that they can participate in assessments and feed in their knowledge to provide useful climate-poverty information.
- Vulnerability assessments that fully address the different shades and causes of poverty.
- Access to good quality information about the impacts of climate change. This is key for effective poverty reduction strategies.
- Increasing the resilience of livelihoods and infrastructure as a key component of an effective poverty reduction strategy.
- State of Food and Agriculture report states that without "widespread adoption of sustainable land, water, fisheries and forestry practices, global poverty cannot be eradicated".
- Carbon pricing, for example, help lower emissions and can create a revenue stream from that can be used to help the poor offset any rise in fuel or energy prices.
- Phasing out fossil fuel subsidies can also help lower emissions and free up government spending for more targeted support for the poor.
- Redistribution of wealth from Richer to poorer nations:
 - o Richer countries in the world have responsibility in changing the current approach to disaster aid.
 - o In major donor countries such as the US and UK, the guiding modus operandi of disaster relief has been reactive as opposed to proactive measures.
 - Earmarking more resources for disaster prevention and preparedness than on emergency responses such as humanitarian interventions in post disaster situations.
 - Donor countries need to prioritise identifying the most vulnerable people both before and after a disaster, and ensure they receive the required support and are granted the agency to be actively involved in the process.

Conclusion:

- Climate change and the resultant disasters are a reality. Nations should prepare to mitigate and deflect the
 destruction caused by disasters.
- We need to employ technology, strict following of command structure and most importantly the participation and cooperation of local communities in the affected area.

Q) In 2050, India's population is projected to be 1.69 billion, which will be higher than that of China. Do you think with Population Control Bill, India be able to handle its overpopulation crisis? Critically analyse. (250 words)

Indianexpress

Why this question:

Recently the Population Regulation Bill, 2019, was introduced by Rakesh Sinha in the Upper House, suggests that people with more than two living children should be "disqualified" from being chosen as an MP, MLA or a member of any body of the local self-government after the commencement of the Act.

Key demand of the question:

The answer has to analyse the desirability and feasibility of Two-child policy propounded through the Population Control Bill.



Directive:

Critically analyze – When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In short discuss the reason behind the Population Control Bill.

Body:

One is expected to deal with the following aspects in the answer body:

Key features of the Population Control Bill.

What are the merits and demerits associated?

What is a two-child policy?

Compare and contrast Indian population scenario with that of China and suggest if there are any learnings from China for India.

Conclusion:

Conclude with a fair and balanced opinion.

Introduction:

- In 2050, India's population is projected to be 1.69 billion, which will be higher than that of China. The population of China is estimated to be 1.31 billion in the same year.
- A nominated MP has introduced a private member's Bill- Population Regulation Bill, 2019- in the Rajya Sabha, seeking to enforce a two-child norm by giving incentives for those adopting the small family practice and penalties for those contravening it.

Body:

Highlights of the Bill:

- It suggests that people with more than two living children should be "disqualified" from being chosen as an MP, MLA or a member of any body of the local self government after the commencement of the Act.
- Similarly, it suggests that government employees should give an undertaking that she or he will not procreate more than two children.
- It says those government employees who have more than two children on or before the commencement of the Act should be exempted.
- Other penalties include reduction in subsidies on loans and interest rates on savings instruments, reduction in benefits under the public distribution system, and higher than normal interest rates for availing loans from banks and financial institutions.
- The provisions of the Bill also list out several benefits for Central and public sector enterprise employees who adopt the two-child norm "by undergoing sterilization operation himself or of the spouse".

Need for the bill:

- It is indeed a fact that population of India is growing and will continue to grow for the next couple of decades. This is because, as compared to the past, there are a higher proportion of people in the marriageable age group who will produce children, and people are now living longer.
- In India, the global demand for water in 2050 is projected to be more than 50 per cent of what it was in 2000.
- The demand for food will double in the year 2050 and even if India manages to feed its expanding population, its growth may not be ecologically sustainable.
- Women empowerment as people will not favour for sons because of cap of 2 child policy
- Though China's one-child policy has been criticized as against human dignity and rights, it has improved and controlled the nation's population by a possible 400 million people as per the report of East India Forum.
- If Population control won't happen, there will be no resources left, and the growing population's demand will increase to the next level, resulting in increasing death rates increasing in the country.

The shortcomings or limitations of the bill:

- India is a country with a booming technology industry, one that relies on young people. There is fear that, by
 restricting the number of children that can be born, there will not be enough educated young people in the
 next generation to carry on India's technological revolution.
- Critics also argue that the population growth of India will slow down naturally as the country grows richer and becomes more educated.



- There are already well-documented problems with China's one-child policy, namely the gender imbalance
 resulting from a strong preference for boys and millions of undocumented children who were born to parents
 that already had their one child. These problems risk being replicated in India with the implementation of their
 two-child policy.
- By interfering with the birth rate, India faces a future with severe negative population growth, a serious problem that most developed countries are trying to reverse. With negative population growth, the number of old people receiving social services is larger than the young tax base that is paying for the social services. In this case, taxes must be increased and young people risk contributing way more than they will receive in the future.
- The law related may also be anti-women. Human rights activists argue that, not only does the law discriminate against women right from birth (through abortion or infanticide of female foetuses and babies), but divorce and familial abandonment are at risk of increasing if a man with a large family wants to run for political office. In addition, women in India are, by and large, uneducated and illiterate and, as such, are often unaware of the two-child policy.
- A legal restriction to two children could force couples to go for sex-selective abortions as there are only two
 'attempts'. A significant proportion of such women, especially those from lower socio-economic strata, would
 be forced to go for unsafe abortions because of issues of access and affordability. Besides being inhumane,
 this is bound to create gender imbalances.

Conclusion:

- As per National Family Health Survey data, the country-level TFR in India is 2.23, which is not hugely above the
 desired level of 2.1. Twenty states/UTs have achieved the replacement-level TFR, another five have got it
 below 2.2, with the remaining 11 states (including Bihar, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh)
 having a higher rate.
- Thus, the need of the hour is better education and awareness rather than an iron hand policy to control the
 population. Government should improve the implementation of poverty alleviation measures which can also
 help control population.

Q) Discuss the role of fertility as a component of population dynamics. Highlight the characteristics and limitations of various measures of fertility in India. (250 words)

Geography by Majid Hussain

Reference

Why this question:

The question is about discussing the significance of fertility as a component of population dynamics.

Demand of the question:

The question is about discussing the relevance of fertility as part of population dynamics and one must discuss the limitations of different measures of fertility.

Directive word:

Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction

Define fertility. And quote the recent trends in fertility aspects in India.

Body

The discussion is straightforward and there is not much to deliberate, Fertility rate, average number of children born to women during their reproductive years. For the population in a given area to remain stable, an overall total fertility rate of 2.1 is needed, assuming no immigration or emigration occurs.

Discuss the significance of it.

Explain the possible limitations.

Conclusion

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

 Fertility, one of the three components of population dynamics (the others being mortality and migration), holds a very important place in any population study. A positive force in population dynamics, fertility is responsible for biological replacement and continuation of human society.



• Fertility levels determine the age structure of a population, which in turn governs the social, economic and demographic characteristics of the population.

Body:

Role of fertility in population dynamics:

- The term "total fertility rate" describes the total number of children the average women in a population is likely to have based on current birth rates throughout her life.
- A TFR of 2.1 is known as the replacement rate. Generally speaking, when the TFR is greater than 2.1, the population in a given area will increase, and when it is less than 2.1, the population in a given area will eventually decrease, though it may take some time because factors such as age structure, emigration, or immigration must be considered.
- if there are numerous women of childbearing age and a relatively small number of older individuals within a given society, the death rate will be low, so even though the TFR is below the replacement rate, the population may remain stable or even increase slightly. This trend cannot last indefinitely but could persist for decades.
- Tracking fertility rates allows for more efficient and beneficial planning and resource allocation within a
 particular region. If a country experiences unusually high sustained fertility rates, it may need to build
 additional schools or expand access to affordable child care.
- Conversely, sustained low fertility rates may signify a rapidly aging population, which may place an undue burden on the economy through increasing health care and social security costs.

Various measures of fertility in India:

- Fertility measures are devices to quantify the fertility performance of a population over a period of time. These measures are used to compare fertility behaviour of different populations, and to examine the trends in fertility of a population over a period of time.
- These measures can be grouped into two categories, viz., the direct measures and the indirect measures.

Direct Measures:

- 1. **Crude Birth Rate (CBR)** is one of the most commonly used measures of fertility because of its simplicity in concept and measurement. It is the ratio between the total registered live births in a population during a calendar year and the mid-year population.
- 2. CBR is only a crude measure and suffers from various limitations. Since both the numerator and denominator in the equation stated above get affected through births, CBR tends to underplay changes in fertility. Further, in the computation of CBR, total population of an area is taken in the denominator. It is, however, important to note that every individual in the population (of all ages and sexes) is not exposed to the risk of reproduction.
- 3. **General Fertility Rate (GFR)**, an improvement over CBR, therefore, takes into account only female population in the childbearing age groups or reproductive span (i.e., 15 to 44 or 49 years). GFR is, thus, defined as the ratio between the total live births and number of women in the reproductive age span.
- 4. Though a refinement over CBR, GFR also suffers from certain limitations. The measure considers entire female population in the reproductive ages as a homogeneous group, whereas the fecundity of women is not uniform over the period. Thus, GFR is also a crude rate.
- 5. **Age-Specific Fertility Rate (ASFR):** ASFR can be worked out for single year age data as well as for broad age groups. Usually, the reproductive age span is divided into five-year age groups, numbering six or seven depending upon the upper limit of the reproductive age span.
- 6. **Total Fertility Rate (TFR),** refers to the total number of children a woman will produce during her childbearing age span, if she is subjected to a fertility schedule as prescribed by the age-specific fertility rates. The TFR together with the ASFR can be further used to construct several measures that are useful in the study of fertility changes

Indirect Measures:

- In addition to the direct measures discussed above, there are several indirect measures of fertility, which are
 useful particularly when data on live births are not readily available, or are not reliable. These measures arrive
 at estimates of fertility indirectly using data on age-sex structure, and marital status cross-classified by age
 and sex.
- Child Women Ratio and Female Mean Age at Marriage are most commonly used indirect measures. Child Women Ratio (CWR) is defined as the number of children under five years of age, per 100 women in the reproductive ages.

Conclusion:

• The **Economic survey 2016-17 highlighted** lack of population dynamics currently taken into consideration by policymakers when it showed that Welfare spending in India suffers from misallocation – the districts with the



most poor are the ones that suffer from the greatest shortfall of funds in social programs. We need to account for demographic dynamics in our policy.

Topic – Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian subcontinent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India)

Q) Biofuels hold huge potential for India's future and current energy needs, critically analyse whether the national policy on biofuels is the step in the right direction to help India unlock its biofuel potential? (250 words)

Why this question:

The Government has allowed the direct sale of biodiesel (B100) for blending with high speed diesel to all consumers, in accordance with the specified blending limits and the standards specified by the Bureau of Indian Standards, with effect from 29th June, 2017.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the salient features of NBP-2018 and discuss the potential biofuels hold for India.

Directive:

Critically analyze – When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin with brief on what are biofuels.

Body:

Discussion should include the following:

The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 approved by the Government envisages an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of bio-diesel in diesel by 2030.

Discuss the National Policy on biofuels; its salient features.

Discuss the prospects of Biofuels across the country, its potential based on facts and figures.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Any hydrocarbon fuel that is produced from an organic matter (living or once living material) in a short period of time (days, weeks, or even months) is considered a biofuel.
- Biofuels may be solid, liquid or gaseous in nature. The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 approved by the Government envisages an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of bio-diesel in diesel by 2030.

Body:

National Policy on Biofuels, 2018:

Prospects:

- **Import dependency:** The policy aims at reducing import dependency.
- **Cleaner environment:** By reducing crop burning & conversion of agricultural residues/wastes to biofuels there will be further reduction in Green House Gas emissions.
- **Health benefits:** Prolonged reuse of Cooking Oil for preparing food, particularly in deep-frying is a potential health hazard and can lead to many diseases. Used Cooking Oil is a potential feedstock for biodiesel and its use for making biodiesel will prevent diversion of used cooking oil in the food industry.
- **Employment Generation:** One 100klpd 2G bio refinery can contribute 1200 jobs in Plant Operations, Village Level Entrepreneurs and Supply Chain Management.
- Additional Income to Farmers: By adopting 2G technologies, agricultural residues/waste which otherwise are burnt by the farmers can be converted to ethanol and can fetch a price for these waste if a market is developed for the same.



National Policy on Biofuels 2018

Salient features



An indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of biodiesel in diesel is proposed by 2030.



Develop National
Biomass repository by
conducting
appraisal of biomass
across the Country.



With a thrust on Advanced Biofuels, the Policy indicates a viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of Rs.5000 crore in 6 years in addition to additional tax incentives, higher purchase price as compared to 1G biofuels.



Bio diesel production to be encouraged from non edible oilseeds, used cooking oil, short gestation crops and development of supply chain mechanisms.



Categorization of Biofuels into Basic Biofuels - First generation(1G) Bioethanol & biodiesel and "Advanced Biofuels" - Second Generation(2G) ethanol, drop-in fuels, algae based Third Generation(3G) Biofuels.



Thrust on research, development and demonstration in the field of Biofuel feedstock production, advanced conversion technologies from identified feedstock.



Increase scope of raw material for ethanol procurement by encouraging Intermediate (B-Molasses), Sugarcane Juice, other Sugar containing materials and damaged as well as surplus food grains.



Setting up of National
Biofuel coordination
committee (NBCC)
under Ministry of
Petroleum &
Natural Gas and Working
Group on Biofuels.













Shortcomings:

- Efforts taken to achieve Biofuel production could lead to food security and strain water resources.
- According to critics, the policy is overly ambitious. Given the constraints in technology and current abysmally low status of blending (2%), the targets of the 2018 policy are too ambitious to be fulfilled
- The policy is totally silent on octane (which is blended with petrol) which has direct consequences of air quality and pollution.
- The policy advocates the use of untested technologies like the production of 2G ethanol. Relying technology which is commercially untested is not a viable option.
- According to critics, the ways in which companies are selected to develop and boost Biofuel in India is not transparent.
- Other biofuels, such as jatropha, have often proven to be commercially unviable.
- Achieving 20% blend rate would require India to divert an extra one-tenth of its net sown area towards sugarcane.
- Any such land requirement is likely to put a stress on other crops and has the potential to increase food prices.

Way forward:

- The government must examine the feasibility of importing ethanol in the interim, thereby creating consistency of supply, and providing relief from the pollution created by fossil fuel burning.
- Facilitating import of ethanol will make up for the inconsistency in the availability of domestic ethanol
- There should be focus on 1G mechanism of ethanol blending instead of 2G ethanol blending.
- Bio-fuel policy must be strongly backed by sufficient technology and production scale in order to be financially feasible and implementable.



- It is important to boost the supply chain infrastructure. Private investments in building supply chain should be encouraged
- Biofuels programme in India has been largely impacted due to the sustained and quantum non-availability of domestic feedstock for biofuel production which needs to be addressed.

Conclusion:

- Globally, biofuels have caught the attention in last decade and it is imperative to keep up with the pace of developments in the field of biofuels.
- Biofuels in India are of strategic importance as it augers well with the ongoing initiatives of the Government such as Make in India, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill Development and offers great opportunity to integrate with the ambitious targets of doubling of Farmers Income, Import Reduction, Employment Generation, Waste to Wealth Creation.

Q) Agriculture is one of the main contributors of groundwater crisis in India, critically analyse the causes and in what way India's reliance on water for farming is partly self-inflicted? Suggest solutions. (250 words)

Livemint

Why this question:

The article explains in what way Erratic monsoon rains and skewed farm incentives have led to the growing groundwater crisis, impacting farm incomes and availability of drinking water.

Key demand of the question:

Explain and analyse the main contributions for the ongoing ground water crisis and agriculture as a major contributor to it.

Directive:

Critically analyze – When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Quote facts from the article to bring out the current crisis.

Body:

The answer must first explain the reasons contributing to the ground water crisis and major emphasis should be upon how agriculture has become a major contributor to the crisis. Explain that growing demand for water is almost entirely driven by farmers. Nowhere in the world does agriculture consume as much water as in South Asia. This reliance on water has made the region one of the most water-scarce places in the world. In India itself, more than 80% of water demand is used for farming, and agricultural water consumption is expected to stay at these levels even in 2050.

Conclusion:

Conclude with solutions to the above challenges, suggest policy reforms and their urgent need.

Introduction:

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Water Development Report states that India is the largest extractor of groundwater in the world.
- **Fifty-four percent of India's groundwater wells have declined over the past seven years**, and 21 major cities are expected to run out of groundwater by 2020.
- Erratic monsoon rains and skewed farm incentives have led to the growing groundwater crisis, impacting farm incomes and availability of drinking water

Body:

Reasons for ground water exploitation in India:

- Groundwater is one of the most important water sources in India accounting for 63% of all irrigation water and over 80% of the rural and urban domestic water supplies.
- Subsidies:
 - Subsidies on electricity are thought to play a central role in the Indian groundwater crisis.
 - The vast majority of groundwater pumps are unmetered, and if charged, are billed at a flat, non-volumetric, and highly subsidized tariff.

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Water intensive crops:

- Government encourages farmers to produce water-intensive crops like rice and sugarcane through increased minimum support prices (MSP). This has also led to groundwater depletion, income inequality and unsustainable agriculture.
- Farmers are digging more and more borewells, but the sources of the problem are many, including transition to water-intensive crops and spate of construction activity along catchment areas.

• Unpredictable monsoon:

Successive droughts and erratic rainfall have led to excess extraction of groundwater. That explains
 61 per cent decline in groundwater level in wells in India between 2007 and 2017.

Land use changes:

- India's huge groundwater-dependent population, uncertain climate-reliant recharge processes and indiscriminate land use changes with urbanization are among the many factors that have rendered the Indian groundwater scenario to become a global paradigm for water scarcity, for both quantity and quality.
- o Trans-boundary upstream water sources and archaic irrigation methods for the water shortage.

Government failure:

- The government finance for well digging and pump installation with capital subsidies, massive rural electrification and pervasive energy subsidies all have enabled this process to aggravate.
- In the north western parts of India and southern peninsula, the early and rapid rural electrification, free or subsidised power to the farm sector, large productive farmers and attractive procurement prices for major cereals led to intensive use of groundwater.
- Zero marginal cost of pumping and lack of restriction on volume of water resulted in inefficient and unsustainable use of the resource.
- Lack of adequate planning, crumbling infrastructure, indiscriminate drilling of borewells, large-scale consumption of water, and a false sense of entitlement in using water carelessly are causing water shortages.

Measures needed:

• Reducing electricity subsidies:

- o An analysis of panel data across 370 districts in India found that a reduction in electricity subsidy was correlated with a decrease in groundwater extraction .
- Most empirical studies are in favour of pricing electricity on the basis of actual consumption. They
 show that the energy prices at which the farmers start responding to tariff changes in terms of
 reducing the demand for water and electricity would be socio-economically viable.

Micro-irrigation:

- o Encouraging farmers to adopt micro-irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation and micro-sprinklers.
- According to the CWMI report, adopting micro-irrigation techniques can save roughly 20% of the groundwater used annually on irrigation in India.

Creating awareness:

 Creating sustainable change would require a bottom-up approach by empowering the local community to become active participants in managing groundwater.

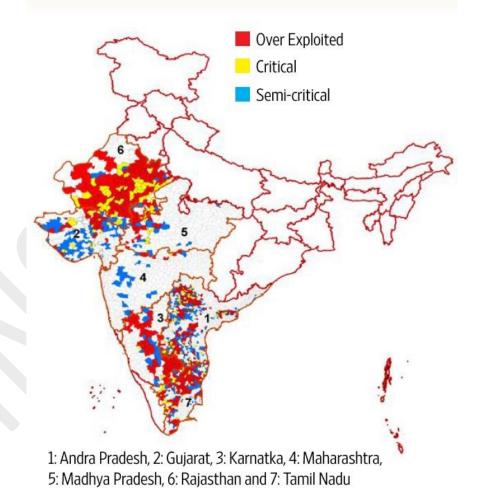
Proper implementation of initiatives:

- 12th five-year plan proposed a policy of participatory groundwater management (PGM), which
 involves a collaborative approach among government departments, researchers, NGOs and
 community members.
- The plan involves training community workers to carry out aquifer mapping and implement innovative ways to use groundwater conservatively with the local community.
- Government has come up with a 6,000-crore World Bank-aided Atal Bhujal Yojana with community participation to ensure sustained groundwater management in overexploited and ground waterstressed areas in seven States.
- World Bank's Water Scarce Cities Initiative seeks to promote an integrated approach to managing water resources and service delivery in water-scarce cities as the basis for building resilience against climate change.
- India needs better policies that directly help small-holders and labourers to adapt and adjust to risks associated with groundwater depletion and a more variable future climate.



- Crisis can be tackled by restoring and enhancing groundwater recharge areas, stopping polluted water from recharging groundwater, rainwater and roof top harvesting and the restoration of ponds, lakes and other river systems.
- Growing less water-intensive crops in the dry season and transitioning away from irrigation-intensive systems where there is little water.
- Water-deficient states should promptly move towards micro-irrigation systems. These techniques have significantly higher efficiency vis-à-vis flood irrigation techniques.
- States should continue to focus on **command area development (CAD).** This is now part of **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** which focuses on "more crop per drop".
- The cropping patterns in the states should be changed as per the agro-climatic zones. Improper cropping patterns affect both crop productivity and irrigation efficiency.
- Farmer producer organizations (FPO) provide a sense of ownership to farmers and encourage community-level involvement with lower transaction costs.
- India needs to establish data networks to track not only crop transpiration but also total inflows and recoverable outflows of irrigation water but also the losses to unrecoverable sinks such as evaporation.

GROUND WATER STRESSED BLOCKS OF INDIA



Source: IWMI

Conclusion:

There is a need to modernise the regulatory framework for accessing groundwater soon after massive
expansion in mechanical pumping led to the realisation that recharge could not keep pace with use.