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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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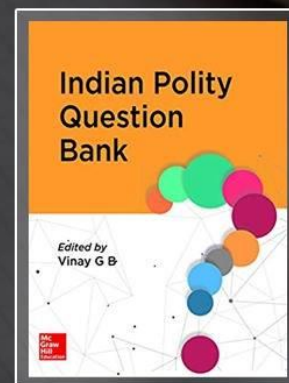
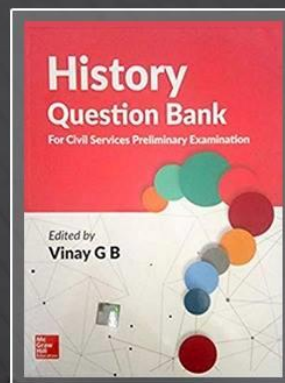
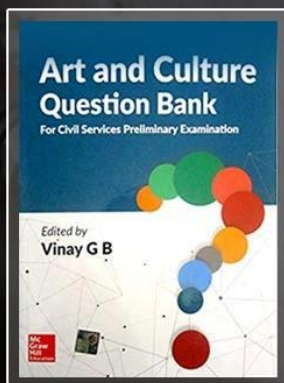


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General Studies Paper - II

Topic – Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary; Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/informal associations and their role in the Polity.

Q) Discuss the purpose of a cabinet committee while explaining the types and their composition. Why are cabinet committees important in dealing with the big issues of the day and the government's overall strategy ? (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The Government recently reconstituted eight key cabinet committees under the Transaction of Business Rules.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail purpose of a cabinet committee while explaining the types and their composition.

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:

In a few lines explain what are cabinet committees, The Cabinet Committee are organizations which are instrumental in reducing the workload of the Cabinet. These committees are extra-constitutional in nature and are nowhere mentioned in the Constitution.

Body:

The answer must discuss the following:

- Types and Composition of Cabinet Committees:
- Standing Cabinet Committee: These are permanent in nature with a specific job. The Cabinet Ministers are called its 'members' while the people without the rank of Cabinet Committee are called 'special invitees'.
- Ad-hoc Cabinet Committee: These are temporary in nature and are formed time to time to deal with specific tasks.
- Composition: The composition of a Cabinet Committee varies from 3 to 8 people. Even Ministers who are not the part of the Cabinet can be added to a Cabinet Committee. Usually, each cabinet committee has at least one Cabinet Minister. The members of the Cabinet Committee can be from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
- Suggest significance of the committees.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting significance of these committees.

Introduction:

- The Cabinet Committee are organizations which are instrumental in reducing the workload of the Cabinet. These committees are extra-constitutional in nature and are nowhere mentioned in the Constitution.
- However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment. The executive in India works under the Government of India Transaction of Business Rules, 1961.
- Recently, the Union government has released the composition of eight Cabinet Committees, including two new ones — one on **Investment**, the other on **Employment and Skill Development**.

Body:

Types and Composition of Cabinet Committees:

- **Standing Cabinet Committee:** These are permanent in nature with a specific job. The Cabinet Ministers are called its 'members' while the people without the rank of Cabinet Committee are called 'special invitees'. Standing committees include the following:
- Appointments committee of the Cabinet; Cabinet committee on accommodation; Cabinet committee on economic affairs; Cabinet committee on parliamentary affairs; Cabinet committee on political affairs; Cabinet



committee on security; Cabinet committee on investment and growth; Cabinet committee on employment & skill development.

- **Ad-hoc Cabinet Committee:** These are temporary in nature and are formed time to time to deal with specific tasks.
- **Composition:** The composition of a Cabinet Committee varies from 3 to 8 people. Even Ministers who are not the part of the Cabinet can be added to a Cabinet Committee. Usually, each cabinet committee has at least one Cabinet Minister. The members of the Cabinet Committee can be from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

Importance of Cabinet Committees:

- Article 77(3) of the Constitution states: "The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business."
- The Prime Minister constitutes Standing Committees of the Cabinet and sets out the specific functions assigned to them. He can add or reduce the number of committees.
- They solve issues and formulate proposals for the consideration of the cabinet and take decisions on matters assigned to them. However, the cabinet is empowered to review such decisions.
- This device enables ministers to bargain and compromise with each other and this reduces pressure of work upon the cabinet.
- Consequently, the cabinet is left free to devote itself to more important matters.
- The committee system safeguards the principle of collective responsibility, which is an essential feature of the cabinet system.
- These committees facilitate deep examination of the policy issue and effective coordination.
- Many a times, when an activity/agenda of the Government acquires prominence or requires special thrust, a Cabinet Committee may be set up for focussed attention.
- In all areas delegated to the Cabinet Committees, normally the decision of the Cabinet Committee in question is the decision of the Government of the day.
- Ministers of state and deputy ministers who are not members of the cabinet are members of one or more committees. This is a way in which they can and are brought into a closer association with the work of the cabinet.
- Thus, all ministers continue to be partly responsible for the government's action. Cabinet committees increase the effectiveness of political control over public services.
- The public servants are called upon by the committees to justify their proposals and comment on problems under review. This procedure establishes a close interface between a politicians and public servants and ensures that those who formulate policy are reasonably well informed.
- It also eliminates the possibility of any one department carrying a disproportionate weight of opinion. The committees also act as a **collective check on individual ministers and on the Prime Minister**
- In view of the growth in the volume and complexity of the government business, a **proper division of labour and effective delegation within cabinet** requires committees to perform functions devolved on them by the cabinet.
- They focus supra-ministry attention on particular sectors of administration. Effective coordination is their major contribution.

Conclusion:

- The cabinet committees wield real power of decision on less important general policy matters. Other matters, which must be dealt with in the cabinet, are also whittled in committees.
- Only the delicate and complex points, or those on which ministers differ, remain for discussion by the cabinet. What has saved the cabinet, as the central decision-making body, is the elaborate network of cabinet committees, which have acted as a clearing house.

Q) "The high pendency rates in India's judicial system have dragged down growth and hindered ease of doing business in an investment-starved economy", Analyse the statement with suitable examples. (250 words)

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Why this question:

The article highlights how the high pendency rates in India's judicial system have dragged down growth and investments in an investment-starved economy. Across India's subordinate courts – the first port-of-call for most cases is more than a third of the 31 million cases have been pending for more than



three years. In the High Courts, the pendency is even higher: half of all the 8 million cases in the High Courts have been pending for more than three years.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must bring out the alarming scenario of pendency marring around the Judiciary which is leading to down growth of Indian economy in multiple facets.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin with brief introduction of the background of the question with some facts.

Body:

Discussion should include the following:

First quote why is too many cases pending in Indian courts? – list the causes; Increase in the awareness of rights by common man, New mechanisms (Eg: PIL) and new rights etc.

Then discuss what are the lacunae in disposing cases in time?

Analyse how this pendency leads to staggering of economic growth of the country – discuss its impact on ease of doing business, effect on financial markets etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting way forward as to what needs to be done to overcome the challenge.

Introduction:

- The justice system in any democracy is set up, under the Constitution to serve the public without “fear or favour, affection or ill-will” as far as judges are concerned. The Indian Judiciary plays an increasingly important role in the life and the governance of this country. Pendency of cases across courts in India has increased in the last decade.

Body:

Present Status of pendency in Indian Judiciary:

- As per the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**, in 2018, **93 crore cases are pending in the subordinate courts, 49 lakhs in High Courts and 57,987 cases in Supreme Court.**
- In the Supreme Court, more than 30% of pending cases are more than five years old while in the Allahabad High Court, 15% of the appeals have been pending since 1980s.
- A Law Commission report in 2009 had quoted that it would require 464 years to clear the arrears with the present strength of judges
- Eighteen months after the crime, a special court in Pathankot delivered its verdict on the Kathua case.
- Most cases in India, because of delays at both the police and judiciary level take far longer.
- Across India’s subordinate courts — the first port-of-call for most cases — more than a third of the 31 million cases have been pending for more than three years.
- In the High Courts, the pendency is even higher: half of all the 8 million cases in the High Courts have been pending for more than three years.
- The lower courts in West Bengal, Odisha and Bihar, in particular, struggle to dispose their cases. In all three states, nearly 50% of cases in the lower courts have been pending for more than three years.
- On many occasions, the pendency at lower courts translates to pendency at the state’s higher courts. In both Calcutta High Court and Odisha High Court, nearly 70% of cases have been waiting for a resolution for more than three years.
- However, some state courts, though, dispose of cases more quickly.
- In Punjab and Haryana for instance, less than 6% of all cases have been pending for more than three years.
- Overall, eastern states have much higher pendency rates compared to the western states of the country.
- The eastern half of the country is also much poorer than the western half

Reasons for pendency of Cases:

- **Shortage of judges:** around 5,580 or 25% of posts are lying empty in the subordinate courts. It leads to poor Judges to Population Ratio, as India has only 20 judges per million population. Earlier, Law Commission had recommended 50 judges per million.
- **Frequent adjournments:** The laid down procedure of allowing a maximum of three adjournments per case is not followed in over 50 per cent of the matters being heard by courts, leading to rising pendency of cases.
- **Low budgetary allocation leading to poor infrastructure:** India spends only about 0.09% of its GDP to maintain the judicial infrastructure. Infrastructure status of lower courts of the country is miserably grim due to which they fail to deliver quality judgements. A 2016 report published by the Supreme Court showed that existing



infrastructure could accommodate only 15,540 judicial officers against the all-India sanctioned strength of 20,558.

- **Burden of government cases:** Statistics provided by LIMBS shows that the Centre and the States were responsible for over 46% of the pending cases in Indian courts.
- **Special leave petition:** cases in the Supreme Court, currently comprises to 40% of the court's pendency. Which eventually leads to reduced time for the cases related to constitutional issues.
- **Judges Vacation:** Supreme Court's works on average for 188 days a year, while apex court rules specify minimum of 225 days of work.
- **Lack of court management systems:** Courts have created dedicated posts for court managers to help improve court operations, optimise case movement and judicial time. However only few courts have filled up such posts so far.
- **Inefficient investigation:** Police are quite often handicapped in undertaking effective investigation for want of modern and scientific tools to collect evidences.
- **Increasing Literacy:** With people becoming more aware of their rights and the obligations of the State towards them, they approach the courts more frequently in case of any violation

Impacts of Judicial Pendency

- **Denial of 'timely justice' amounts to denial of 'justice' itself:** Timely disposal of cases is essential to maintain rule of law and provide access to justice. Speedy trial is a part of right to life and liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- **Erodes social infrastructure:** a weak judiciary has a negative effect on social development, which leads to: lower per capita income; higher poverty rates; poorer public infrastructure; and, higher crime rates.
- **Affects human rights:** Overcrowding of the prisons, already infrastructure deficient, in some cases beyond 150% of the capacity, results in "violation of human rights".
- **Affects the economy of the country** as it was estimated that judicial delays cost India around 1.5% of its Gross Domestic Product annually.
- As per the Economic Survey 2017-18 pendency hampers dispute resolution, contract enforcement, discourage investments, stall projects, hamper tax collection and escalate legal costs which leads to Increasing cost of doing business.

Measures needed:

- **Improving infrastructure for quality justice:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee which presented its report on Infrastructure Development and Strengthening of Subordinate Courts, suggested:
- States should provide suitable land for construction of court buildings etc. It should undertake vertical construction in light of shortage of land.
- Timeline set out for computerisation of all the courts, as a necessary step towards setting up of e- courts.
- **Addressing the Issue of Vacancies:** Ensure the appointments of the judges be done in an efficient way by arriving at an optimal judge strength to handle the cases pending in the system. The 120th Law Commission of India report for the first time, suggested a judge strength fixation formula.
- Supreme Court and High Courts should appoint efficient and experienced judges as Ad-hoc judges in accordance with the Constitution.
- **All India Judicial Service**, which would benefit the subordinate judiciary by increasing quality of judges and help reduce the pendency.
- Having a definite time frame to dispose the cases by setting annual targets and action plans for the subordinate judiciary and the High Courts. The judicial officers could be issued a strict code of conduct, to ensure that the duties are adequately performed by the officials.
- Strict regulation of adjournments and imposition of exemplary costs for seeking it on flimsy grounds especially at the trial stage and not permitting dilution of time frames specified in Civil Procedure Code.
- **Better Court Management System & Reliable Data Collection:** For this categorization of cases on the basis of urgency and priority along with bunching of cases should be done.
- **Use of Information technology (IT) solutions:** The use of technology for tracking and monitoring cases and in providing relevant information to make justice litigant friendly. A greater impetus should be given to
- **Process reengineering:** Involves redesigning of core business processes to achieve dramatic improvements in productivity and quality by incorporating the use of technology in court rules. It will include:
- **Electronic filing of cases:** e-Courts are a welcome step in this direction, as they give case status and case history of all the pending cases across High courts and Subordinate courts bringing ease of access to information.



- **Revamping of National Judicial Data Grid** by introducing a new type of search known as elastic search, which is closer to the artificial intelligence.
- **Alternate dispute resolution (ADR):** As stated in the Conference on National Initiative to Reduce Pendency and Delay in Judicial System- Legal Services Authorities should undertake pre-litigation mediation so that the inflow of cases into courts can be regulated.
 - **The Lok Adalat** should be organized regularly for settling civil and family matters.
 - **Gram Nyayalayas**, as an effective way to manage small claim disputes from rural areas which will help in decreasing the workload of the judicial institution.
 - **Village Legal Care & Support Centre** can also be established by the High Courts to work at grass root level to make the State litigation friendly.

Conclusion:

- The fundamental requirement of a good judicial administration is accessibility, affordability and speedy justice, which will not be realized until and unless the justice delivery system is made within the reach of the individual in a time bound manner and within a reasonable cost.
- Therefore, continuous formative assessment is the key to strengthen and reinforce the justice delivery system in India.

Q) It is often said that ‘Justice delayed is justice denied’, why do Indian courts take so long time to deliver justice? Do you agree that Indian justice system is too slow, too complex and too costly? Critically Analyze. (250 words)

[The hindubusinessline](http://www.insightsias.com)

[Reference](#)

Introduction:

- The justice system in any democracy is set up, under the Constitution to serve the public without “fear or favour, affection or ill-will” as far as judges are concerned. The Indian Judiciary plays an increasingly important role in the life and the governance of this country. Pendency of cases across courts in India has increased in the last decade.

Body:

Present Status of pendency in Indian Judiciary:

- As per the **National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**, in 2018, **93 crore cases are pending in the subordinate courts, 49 lakhs in High Courts and 57,987 cases in Supreme Court.**
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- On many occasions, the pendency at lower courts translates to pendency at the state’s higher courts. In both Calcutta High Court and Odisha High Court, nearly 70% of cases have been waiting for a resolution for more than three years.
- However, some state courts, though, dispose of cases more quickly.
- In Punjab and Haryana for instance, less than 6% of all cases have been pending for more than three years.
- Overall, eastern states have much higher pendency rates compared to the western states of the country.
- The eastern half of the country is also much poorer than the western half

Reasons for delay in solving the Cases:

- **Shortage of judges:** around 5,580 or 25% of posts are lying empty in the subordinate courts. It leads to poor Judges to Population Ratio, as India has only 20 judges per million population. Earlier, Law Commission had recommended 50 judges per million.



- **Frequent adjournments:** The laid down procedure of allowing a maximum of three adjournments per case is not followed in over 50 per cent of the matters being heard by courts, leading to rising pendency of cases.
- **Low budgetary allocation leading to poor infrastructure:** India spends only about 0.09% of its GDP to maintain the judicial infrastructure. Infrastructure status of lower courts of the country is miserably grim due to which they fail to deliver quality judgements. A 2016 report published by the Supreme Court showed that existing infrastructure could accommodate only 15,540 judicial officers against the all-India sanctioned strength of 20,558.
- **Burden of government cases:** Statistics provided by LIMBS shows that the Centre and the States were responsible for over 46% of the pending cases in Indian courts.
- **Special leave petition:** cases in the Supreme Court, currently comprises to 40% of the court's pendency. Which eventually leads to reduced time for the cases related to constitutional issues.
- **Judges Vacation:** Supreme Court's works on average for 188 days a year, while apex court rules specify minimum of 225 days of work.
- **Lack of court management systems:** Courts have created dedicated posts for court managers to help improve court operations, optimise case movement and judicial time. However only few courts have filled up such posts so far.
- **Inefficient investigation:** Police are quite often handicapped in undertaking effective investigation for want of modern and scientific tools to collect evidences.
- **Increasing Literacy:** With people becoming more aware of their rights and the obligations of the State towards them, they approach the courts more frequently in case of any violation

Impacts of Judicial Delay:

- **Denial of 'timely justice' amounts to denial of 'justice' itself:** Timely disposal of cases is essential to maintain rule of law and provide access to justice. Speedy trial is a part of right to life and liberty guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- **Erodes social infrastructure:** a weak judiciary has a negative effect on social development, which leads to: lower per capita income; higher poverty rates; poorer public infrastructure; and, higher crime rates.
- **Affects human rights:** Overcrowding of the prisons, already infrastructure deficient, in some cases beyond 150% of the capacity, results in "violation of human rights".
- **Affects the economy of the country** as it was estimated that judicial delays cost India around 1.5% of its Gross Domestic Product annually.
- As per the Economic Survey 2017-18 pendency hampers dispute resolution, contract enforcement, discourage investments, stall projects, hamper tax collection and escalate legal costs which leads to Increasing cost of doing business.

Measures needed:

- **Improving infrastructure for quality justice:** The Parliamentary Standing Committee which presented its report on Infrastructure Development and Strengthening of Subordinate Courts, suggested:
 - States should provide suitable land for construction of court buildings etc. It should undertake vertical construction in light of shortage of land.
 - Timeline set out for computerisation of all the courts, as a necessary step towards setting up of e- courts.
- **Addressing the Issue of Vacancies:** Ensure the appointments of the judges be done in an efficient way by arriving at an optimal judge strength to handle the cases pending in the system. The 120th Law Commission of India report for the first time, suggested a judge strength fixation formula.
- Supreme Court and High Courts should appoint efficient and experienced judges as Ad-hoc judges in accordance with the Constitution.
- **All India Judicial Service,** which would benefit the subordinate judiciary by increasing quality of judges and help reduce the pendency.
- Having a definite time frame to dispose the cases by setting annual targets and action plans for the subordinate judiciary and the High Courts. The judicial officers could be issued a strict code of conduct, to ensure that the duties are adequately performed by the officials.
- Strict regulation of adjournments and imposition of exemplary costs for seeking it on flimsy grounds especially at the trial stage and not permitting dilution of time frames specified in Civil Procedure Code.
- **Better Court Management System & Reliable Data Collection:** For this categorization of cases on the basis of urgency and priority along with bunching of cases should be done.
- **Use of Information technology (IT) solutions:** The use of technology for tracking and monitoring cases and in providing relevant information to make justice litigant friendly. A greater impetus should be given to



- **Process reengineering:** Involves redesigning of core business processes to achieve dramatic improvements in productivity and quality by incorporating the use of technology in court rules. It will include:
- **Electronic filing of cases:** e-Courts are a welcome step in this direction, as they give case status and case history of all the pending cases across High courts and Subordinate courts bringing ease of access to information.
- **Revamping of National Judicial Data Grid** by introducing a new type of search known as elastic search, which is closer to the artificial intelligence.
- **Alternate dispute resolution (ADR):** As stated in the Conference on National Initiative to Reduce Pendency and Delay in Judicial System- Legal Services Authorities should undertake pre-litigation mediation so that the inflow of cases into courts can be regulated.
 - **The Lok Adalat** should be organized regularly for settling civil and family matters.
 - **Gram Nyayalayas**, as an effective way to manage small claim disputes from rural areas which will help in decreasing the workload of the judicial institution.
 - **Village Legal Care & Support Centre** can also be established by the High Courts to work at grass root level to make the State litigation friendly.

Conclusion:

- The fundamental requirement of a good judicial administration is accessibility, affordability and speedy justice, which will not be realized until and unless the justice delivery system is made within the reach of the individual in a time bound manner and within a reasonable cost. Therefore, continuous formative assessment is the key to strengthen and reinforce the justice delivery system in India

Topic: Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.

Q) Do you think EVMs fail on the tests of a free and fair election? Discuss with respect to the aspects of transparency, verifiability, and secrecy. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The question is intended to evaluate the issues associated with EVMs.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail the problems associated with EVMs and solutions to overcome them.

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:

Briefly explain what are EVMs ,how they function.

Body:

Body of the answer should discuss the following aspects:

Problems with EVMs:

- EVMs are neither transparent nor verifiable – Neither can the voter see her vote being recorded, nor can it be verified later whether the vote was recorded correctly; What is verifiable is the total number of votes cast, not the choice expressed in each vote.
- VVPATs solve only one-half of the EVMs' transparency problem: the voting part.
- counting part remains an opaque operation – If anyone suspects a counting error, there is no recourse; VVPATs can solve this problem too, through statistics; At present, the EC's VVPAT auditing is restricted to one randomly chosen polling booth per constituency; K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty, a former IAS officer, demonstrates that this sample size will fail to detect faulty EVMs 98-99% of the time; He also shows that VVPATs can be an effective deterrent to fraud only on the condition that the detection of even one faulty EVM in a constituency must entail the VVPAT hand-counting of all the EVMs in that constituency.
- Secrecy – With the paper ballot, the EC could mix ballot papers from different booths before counting, so that voting preferences could not be connected to a given locality; booth-wise counting allows one to discern voting patterns and renders marginalized communities vulnerable to pressure; need Totalizer machines.
- neither the EC nor the voter knows for sure what software is running in a particular EVM.



Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Electronic Voting Machines (“EVM”) are being used in **Indian General and State Elections to implement electronic voting in part from 1999 elections**. EVMs have **replaced paper ballots in local, state and general (parliamentary) elections in India**.
- Political parties have time and again raised voice against the credibility of the ECI-EVMs, alleging tampering of EVMs during the said elections. However, the Election Commission has rejected these allegations.

Body:

Concerns about EVMs:

- Transparency:**
 - EVMs are neither transparent nor verifiable.
 - Neither can the voter see her vote being recorded, nor can it be verified later whether the vote was recorded correctly.
 - What is verifiable is the total number of votes cast and not the choice expressed in each vote.
- Verifiability:**
 - An electronic display of the voter’s selection may not be the same as the vote stored electronically in the machine’s memory.
 - To rectify this, the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) was introduced.
 - But VVPATs solve only the problems at the voting part and the counting part still remains an opaque operation.
 - Also, at present, the EC’s VVPAT auditing is restricted to one randomly chosen polling booth per constituency.
 - However, this sample size will fail to detect faulty EVMs 98-99% of the time.
 - VVPATs can be an effective deterrent to fraud only, when the detection of even one faulty EVM in a constituency is followed by the VVPAT auditing of all the EVMs (at all booths) in that constituency.
 - This poses a serious logistical challenge and hence VVPATs are not the answer to counting level failures.
- Secrecy:**
 - With the paper ballot, the EC could mix ballot papers from different booths before counting, so that voting preferences could not be connected to a given locality.
 - However, the votes cast via EVMs are counted on individual booth basis, which allows one to discern voting patterns and renders marginalised communities vulnerable to pressure.
 - A totaliser machine was proposed as a remedy to this alternative.
 - Totaliser machine allows votes from 14 booths to be counted together so that voters are saved from pre-poll intimidation and post-poll harassment.
 - But the EC has shown no intent yet to adopt them at the national level.

So, on all three counts such as transparency, verifiability and secrecy — EVMs are flawed. Also, the recent track record of EVMs indicates that the number of malfunctions in a national election will be high.

ECI’s views on reliability of EVMs:

- EVMs are standalone systems and not connected to internet unlike EVM used in other countries like USA.
- Program which controls the functioning of the control unit is burnt into a micro chip on a “one time programmable basis”. Once burnt it cannot be read, copied out or altered
- EVM’s use dynamic coding to enhance security of data transmitted from ballot unit to control unit
- As an additional precautionary measure, the machines prepared for a poll are physically sealed in the presence of candidates or their agents and guarded by CRPF
- Allegation regarding modification of votes using an external chip (not much base found by SC and EC)
- Two-stage randomization is done, to make sure nobody is able to determine constituency-EVM mapping

Measures taken by ECI:

- The ECI has said that if the proportion of EVMs whose vote count will be verified with the help of a VVPAT is increased substantially, the declaration of results will be delayed by up to six days.
- In 2009, ECI invited sceptics to demonstrate the alleged fallibility of EVMs, using 100 randomly sourced machines from 10 states. The outcome was that none of the persons who were given opportunity could demonstrate that ECI-EVM could be tampered in any of the 100 machines put on display.



- ECI said that EVMs can **neither be reprogrammed nor controlled** by the external device. The source code is so designed that it allows the voter to cast the vote only once. The next vote can be recorded only after the Presiding Officer enables the ballot on the Control Unit. In between, the machine becomes dead to any signal from outside.
- ECI has also offered opportunities more than once to those alleging the tamperability of EVM, no one has been able to demonstrate to the Commission that the EVM with ECI and used in the country's election process, can be manipulated or tampered with.
- Following a PIL by Subramanian Swamy, Supreme Court asked EC to introduce VVPAT.

Conclusion:

- ECI has put in place an elaborate technical and administrative system of safeguards to ensure error-free functioning of EVMs in elections. ECI says it is thus fully satisfied with the tamper proof functioning of the ECI-EVMs.
- The Commission does not find any merit in such allegations and reject all such allegations and suspicions raised by some political parties. Therefore, ECI has assured all citizens that EVM of ECI are tamper proof and fully satisfied with the integrity of electoral process using EVM.

Q) Discuss How Representation of People's Act, 1951 is different from the provisions related to elections in Constitution of India ? (250 words)

Indian Polity by Lakshmikanth

Why this question:

Question is straightforward and is about comparing the constitutional provisions and Representation of People's Act, 1951.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must provide for a detailed comparison of Representation of People's Act, 1951 and the available constitutional provisions.

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:

write a few introductory lines elections in India.

Body:

Answers must discuss the – Part XV of Indian Constitution which is Elections. Along with it explain constitutional provisions.

- The Representation of People Act 1950, which provides for allocation of seats and delimitation of constituencies of the Parliament and state legislature, officers related to conduct of elections, preparation of electoral rolls and manner of filling seats in the Council of States allotted to Union Territories.
- The Representation of People Act, 1951, which provides for the conduct of elections of the Houses of Parliament and to the House or Houses of the Legislature of each State, the qualifications and disqualifications for membership of those Houses, the corrupt practices and other offences at or in connection with such elections and the decision of doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with such elections.
- Delimitation Commission Act of 1952, which provides for the readjustment of seats, delimitation and reservation of territorial constituencies and other related matters.
- The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election Act 1952, which provides for the conduct of Presidential and Vice- Presidential election and mechanism for the settlement of any dispute arising out of such elections.

Conclusion –

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- India being the largest democracy of the world, elections in India have been the largest electoral exercise in the world since the 1st general elections of 1952. The cultural, linguistic, religious and ethnic diversity of the



country make this event more complex. Every individual who is a citizen of India and has attained the voting age shall be entitled to be registered as a voter.

Body:

Part XV of the Constitution of India consists of Articles on Elections.

- Article 324 of the Constitution provides that the power of superintendence, direction and control of elections to parliament, state legislatures, the office of president of India and the office of vice-president of India shall be vested in the election commission.
- Article 325: No person to be ineligible for inclusion in, or to claim to be included in a special, electoral roll on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex
- Article 326: Elections to the House of the People and to the Legislative Assemblies of States to be on the basis of adult suffrage
- Article 327: Power of Parliament to make provision with respect to elections to Legislatures
- Article 328: Power of Legislature of a State to make provision with respect to elections to such Legislature
- Article 329: Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters
- Article 329A: [Repealed.]
- Article 82: In India, delimitation is carried out by the Delimitation Commission, set up after every census by an act of the Parliament.

Constitution allows Parliament to make provisions in all matters relating to elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures. In exercise of this power, the Parliament has enacted laws like Representation of the People Act 1950 (RPA Act 1950), Representation of the People Act 1951 (RPA Act 1951).

Representation of Peoples Act 1950 (RPA Act 1950) provides for the following:

- Qualification of voters.
- Preparation of electoral rolls.
- Delimitation of constituencies.
- Allocation of seats in the Parliament and state legislatures.

Representation of Peoples Act 1951 (RPA Act 1951) provides for:

- Actual conduct of elections.
- Administrative machinery for conducting elections.
- Poll.
- Election offences.
- Election disputes.
- By-elections.
- Registration of political parties.

Delimitation Commission Act of 1952, which provides for the readjustment of seats, delimitation and reservation of territorial constituencies and other related matters.

The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Election Act 1952, which provides for the conduct of Presidential and Vice-Presidential election and mechanism for the settlement of any dispute arising out of such elections.

Conclusion:

- Elections are the life blood of any democracy. The robustness of electoral processes determines the fate of the nation. The timely reforms to the electoral process by ECI, according to the changing needs of the society and the strong review of the judiciary have helped in conduction of free and fair elections till date.

Q) Representation of the People Act, 1951 serves as backbone of the Indian electoral system. Elucidate. (250 words)

Indian Polity by Lakshmikanth

Why this question:

The question is about discussing the importance of Representation of the People Act, 1951 in the Indian electoral system.

Demand of the question:

Answer is straightforward and one must discuss details of how it has proved to be the backbone of the entire electoral process.



Directive word:

Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction

Start with highlighting the importance of election in a democracy.

Body

There is not much to deliberate as the question is straightforward, one must discuss the salient features of Representation of the People Act, 1951, in what way it is the backbone of the Indian electoral system.

Conclusion

Conclude by reasserting its importance.

Introduction:

- The Representation of People Act 1951 or the RPA 1951 deals with the electoral system in India. This act was passed by the Indian Parliament before the very first General Elections under the provisions of Constitution (Article 327). It provides for the elections in our country.
- The act also talks about the terms and qualification/disqualification of the members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and also the state legislatures.

Body:

Salient Features of the Representation of People Act 1951

- Conduct of elections of the Houses of Parliament and to the House or Houses of the Legislature of each State.
- Details about the structure of administrative machinery for the conduct of elections
- Qualifications and disqualifications for membership of those Houses
- Corrupt practices and other offences at or in connection with such elections
- The decision of doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with such elections.
- By-elections to the vacant seats.
- Registration of political parties

Qualification for membership of the Lok Sabha: According to the act, a person shall not be qualified to be chosen to fill a seat in the Lok Sabha unless:

- He is a member of any Scheduled Caste of any state and is an elector for any Parliamentary constituency; in the case of a seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes in any State.
- He is a member of any Scheduled Tribe of any state and is an elector for any Parliamentary constituency in the case of a seat reserved for the Scheduled Tribes.
- He is an elector for any Parliamentary constituency; in case of any other seat.

Qualification for membership of the Rajya Sabha: A person shall not be qualified to be chosen as a representative of any State or Union territory in the Rajya Sabha unless he is an elector for a Parliamentary constituency.

Disqualification: Also, a person can be disqualified on various grounds. E.g.: corrupt practices, office of profit, person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years etc.

Election expenses: According to the section 77 of RPA, 1951, every candidate contesting in election to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of a State, shall, either by himself or by his election agent, keep a separate and correct account of all expenditure in connection with the election incurred or authorized by him or by his election agent.

Corrupt practices: Section 123 defines the corrupt practices like bribery, undue influence, inciting religious sentiments, booth capturing etc.

Election disputes: The Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1966 abolished the election tribunals. It transferred the election petitions to the High Courts whose orders can be appealed to Supreme Court. However, election disputes regarding the election of President and Vice-President are directly heard by the Supreme Court.

Apart from the above, RPA act is pivotal in preventing criminals being elected as representatives, is always quoted by **Supreme Court and High Court in various judgments.**

- The recent judgement in the **Abhiram Singh v/s E.D. Commachen case**, section 123(3) of the act was repealed. The promotion of feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of the citizens of India on grounds of religion, race, caste, community was considered unconstitutional.



- In **Lily Thomas v/s Union of India**, the Supreme Court declared Section 8 (4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, (RPA) which allowed legislators a three-month window to appeal against their conviction — effectively delaying their disqualification until such appeals were exhausted — as unconstitutional.
- The 2004 judgment of the Patna High Court in **Jan Chaukidari v Union of India** — upheld by the Supreme Court on 10 July, 2013— all those in lawful police or judicial custody, other than those held in preventive detention, will forfeit their right to stand for election.

Conclusion:

- The RPA 1951 has been amended to the emerging needs of the society to help ECI in conducting free and fair elections. The Supreme Court and High Courts have also bolstered the electoral process by ruling time and again in to uphold the rule of law to conduct elections.

Q) Do you think Misquoting judicial orders for electoral gain deserves to be made a corrupt practice ? Discuss the need to frame guidelines against religious, casteist and “fake” statements uttered for electoral capital. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The question is intended to evaluate the corrupt practices in the electoral processes that drive themselves a force through judicial orders.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail the problems associated with the electoral practices; in what way the judicial orders are misused to benefit the electoral gains.

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:

Briefly narrate the issues concerning corrupt practices in elections.

Body:

Body of the answer should discuss the following aspects:

- We need to explain what corrupt electoral practices are prevalent in India and the impact of it.
- Explain that – that not only in the Parliament and State Assembly Elections, even in by-elections; religious, casteist and fake statements are made to support particular party and candidate, which is against the basic dictum of democracy and free and fair election in spirit of Article 324 of the Constitution. It offends right to know guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution
- Discuss the need for framing guidelines to overcome the issue.
- Suggest solutions.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward

Introduction:

- A PIL has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a declaration that misquoting a judicial order for electoral gains by a candidate during elections should be declared as a corrupt practice under the Representation of People Act recently.
- It has also sought a direction that the Election Commission of India (ECI) should have power to refer complaints against them for seeking vote on the basis of religion, race, caste, community or language to appropriate investigation agencies.

Body:

- Misquoting judicial orders must be a corrupt practice as religious, casteist and “fake” statements uttered for electoral capital goes against the dictum of democracy and free and fair elections.

Need to frame guidelines:

- It has been observed, particularly, since 1990, that not only in the Parliament and State Assembly Elections, even in by-elections; religious, casteist and fake statements are made to support particular party and candidate, which is against the basic dictum of democracy and free and fair election in spirit of Article 324 of the Constitution.
- It offends right to know guaranteed under Article 19 of the Constitution.



- the recommendations made by the **Goswami Committee** in its 1990 report to teeth the ECI with powers to “refer any matter for investigation to any agency”; to “prosecute any person who has committed an electoral offence”; and to “appoint a Special Court for the trial of any offence or offences” under the Representation of the People Act (RPA).
- The EC cannot order the investigation even when the model code of conduct was in force.

These provisions will have application only during the period of the election. Moreover, there is no provision to challenge the corrupt practice of candidate, who has lost the election,

- Under Section 123(3) of the RPA, appeal on the grounds of religion, race, caste, community or language etc. and promotions of feelings of enmity between different classes constitute corrupt practice but same can be questioned only by way of election petition and the ECI cannot order the investigation even when Model Code of Conduct is in force.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) was not able to curb hate and communally divisive electoral speeches over the years like the recent appeal of BSP leader to Muslim votes.
- The ECI doesn't have the power to reject the nomination of contesting candidates and de-register the political parties for seeking vote on the basis of religion, race, caste, community or language.
- In January 2010, the ECI had proposed that the Act should be amended to curtail misuse of caste and religion for electoral gain but the government has done nothing in this regard till date
- The government has not taken steps to implement recommendations of the Law Commission's 267th report on hate speech.

Conclusion:

- The lacunae present in the electoral process have been misused by candidates and parties for their electoral gains, thus defeating the free and fair elections. There is a need to curb such illegal and unfair practices and ensure the democracy and rule of law is upheld.

Q) Discuss the merits and demerits of the concept of “One nation, One election” for Indian polity. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

Since the past few years it is observed that election take place frequently in some states of India. So, the state machinery and Election Commission of India engages its resources, man power to conduct assembly elections in those states. Now the NDA government is thinking to go for practice of “one nation one election”.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must analyse in detail what are the issues and concerns associated with one Nation, one election system and what are the advantages it would provide us.

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:

Begin with what is the concept of “One Nation, One election”

Body:

Discussion should include the following:

History of simultaneous elections, if any held in the past.

What are the issues with the concept of single elections for the country?

Then move on to discuss the merits and demerits of the simultaneous elections.

Merits – Money Saving, Speedy Development Work, Check on Black Money, Smooth functioning of the Government Machinery, better governance etc.

Demerits include – Local issues will fade out, Regional Parties: to have tough time and suffer, delay in election results, Constitutional Problems etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting solutions.



Introduction:

- Simultaneous elections refer to holding elections to Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, Panchayats and Urban local bodies simultaneously, once in five year. The idea of holding elections simultaneously is in news after it got a push from Prime Minister and ex-President of India. However, political parties are divided on the issue of holding simultaneous elections
- The political parties of Kashmir recently impressed upon the **Election Commission of India (ECI)** to hold the assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir simultaneously with the upcoming Lok Sabha elections

Body:

- The Law Commission of India has also proposed holding simultaneous state and general elections and has sought public opinion on its recommendations regarding the same. Simultaneous elections were held in India during the first two decades of independence.

Merits of Simultaneous elections:

- **Governance and consistency:**
 - The ruling parties will be able to focus on legislation and governance rather than having to be in campaign mode forever.
 - Parties and workers spending too much time and money in electioneering can make use of the time for social work and to take people-oriented programmes to the grassroots.
 - To overcome the “**policy paralysis and governance deficit**” associated with imposition of the Model Code of Conduct at election time which leads to putting on hold all developmental activities on that area and also affects the bureaucracy’s functioning.
- **Reduced Expenditure of Money and Administration:**
 - The entire State and District level administrative and security machinery will be busy with the conduct of elections twice in a period of five years as per the current practice.
 - Expenditure can be reduced by conducting simultaneous elections.
 - It is felt that crucial manpower is often deployed on election duties for a prolonged period of time. If simultaneous elections are held, then this manpower would be made available for other important tasks.
 - For instance for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls, which was held along with 4 state assemblies saw the deployment of **1077 in situ companies and 1349 mobile companies of Central Armed Police Force(CAPF)**.
- **Continuity in policies and programmes:**
 - Will limit the disruption to normal public life associated with elections, such as increased traffic and noise pollution.
 - Large numbers of teachers are involved in the electoral process which causes maximum harm to the education sector.
- **Efficiency of Governance:**
 - Simultaneous elections can bring the **much-needed operational efficiency** in this exercise.
 - Populist measures by governments will reduce.
- **Curbs Vices:**
 - During frequent elections there is increase in “vices” such as communalism, casteism, corruption and crony capitalism.
 - Simultaneous elections can also be a means to **curb corruption** and build a more conducive socio-economic ecosystem.
 - The impact of black money on the voters will be reduced as all elections are held at a time.

Challenges to simultaneous elections:

- **Illiteracy:**
 - Not all voters are highly educated to know who to vote for. They may get confused and may not know whether they are voting for candidates contesting assembly or parliament elections.
 - **IDFC study** says that there is 77% chance that the Indian voter will vote for the same party for both the state and centre, when elections are held simultaneously.
 - Evidence from Brazil, Argentina, Canada, Germany, the US and Europe supports the idea that elections that are held simultaneously produce greater alignment between national and regional election outcomes.



- **Functional issues:**
 - Frequent elections bring the politicians back to the voters, create jobs and prevent the mixing of local and national issues in the minds of the voters.
 - There is a dearth of enough security and administrative officials to conduct simultaneous free and fair elections throughout the country in one go.
- **Changes in Constitution and Legislations:**
 - The following constitutional changes need to be made:-
 - Amendments needed in the following articles:-
 - Article 83 which deals with the duration of Houses of Parliament need an amendment
 - Article 85 (on dissolution of Lok Sabha by the president)
 - Article 172 (relating to the duration of state legislatures)
 - Article 174 (relating to dissolution of state assemblies)
 - Article 356 (on President's Rule).
 - The Representation of People Act, 1951 Act would have to be amended to build in provisions for stability of tenure for both parliament and assemblies. This should include the following crucial elements:
 - Restructuring the powers and functions of the ECI to facilitate procedures required for simultaneous elections
 - A definition of simultaneous election can be added to section 2 of the 1951 act
 - Articles 83 and 172 along with articles with articles 14 and 15 of the 1951 act be appropriately amended to incorporate the provision regarding remainder of the term i.e., post mid elections, the new loksabha/assembly so constituted shall be only for the remainder of the term of the previous loksabha or assembly and not for a fresh term of five years.
- **Constructive vote of no confidence:**
 - The 170th law commission report suggested a new rule i.e., rule 198-A has to be added to rules of procedure and conduct of business in Lok Sabha and similar amendment to such rules in the state legislatures.
 - The report suggested introduction of motion of no confidence in the incumbent government along with a motion of confidence in the alternative government.
 - To avoid premature dissolution of the house/state assembly in case of Hung parliament /assembly and to advance simultaneous elections the rigour of anti defection law laid under in tenth schedule be removed as an exception.
- Local and national issues will get mixed up distorting priorities.
- The terms of different state governments are ending on separate dates and years.
- **Spirit of Constitution:**
 - One nation, one election" would make sense if India were a unitary state. So "one nation, one election" is anti-democratic.
 - Simultaneous elections threaten the federal character of our democracy.
 - Frequent elections act as checks and balances on the functioning of elected representatives.

Way forward:

- Any changes must require **both a constitutional amendment and judicial approval** that they do not violate the "basic structure" of the Constitution.
- A **focused group of constitutional experts, think tanks, government officials and representatives of political parties** should be formed to work out appropriate implementation related details.
- Other alternatives should be explored to reduce election related expenses like
 - **State funding of elections**
 - **Decriminalisation of politics**
 - **Bringing in transparency in political funding**
 - Setting up **National Electoral Fund** to which all donors can contribute.
- **One year one election** as suggested by Election Commission can be executed by amending Section 15 of the RP Act 1951. If the six-month stipulation is extended to nine or 10 months, elections to all states, whose term is expiring in one year, can be held together.
- The **Law Commission of India** in its report of **1999** has dealt with the problem of premature and frequent elections. It had recommended an amendment of this rule on the lines of the German Constitution, which provides that the leader of the party who wants to replace the chancellor has to move the no-confidence



motion along with the confidence motion. If the motions succeed, the president appoints him as the chancellor.

- If such an amendment to Rule 198 is made, the Lok Sabha would avoid premature dissolution without diluting the cardinal principle of democracy that is a government with the consent of the peoples' representatives with periodical elections.
- It will also be consistent with the notion of collective responsibility of the government to the House as mentioned in Article 75 (3) of the Constitution.

Conclusion:

- **Election Commission's** idea of **"one year one election"** will better suited as it will require fewer amendments to the constitution, it will respect the essence of the exercise of popular will, unlike **one nation one election** which **prioritizes economic costs of elections over the exercise itself**, it will avoid clubbing of national and state issues, it will not disturb federalism much, not much issues generated by emergencies like need to hold by-election etc will be addressed by this option.

Topic: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Q) Critically analyse the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018 and vis-à-vis evaluate the sex work debate in India. (250 words)

[epw](#)

Why this question:

The question is intended to critically analyse the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018 and assess the sex workers debate looming the Indian scenario.

Key demands of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail the salient features of the proposed Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018 and then evaluate in detail the entire debate involving sex workers.

Directive:

Critically 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. 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 a few introductory lines discuss the issue of sex workers and associated concerns in India.

Body

The body of the answer has to capture the following aspects:

- Explain first how the politics of sex work has been shaped by the ascendance of the global anti-trafficking legal order – Trafficking as a problem of organized crime whereby bad actors coerce and dupe innocent young women into highly exploitative labour, particularly sex work.
- Discuss the salient features of Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018, its flaws, hurdles etc. and why it has not been brought onto action yet.
- Then move onto explain the status of sex workers in India, forms of violence faced by sex workers.
- Discuss the govt. initiatives taken to improve their conditions other than this and suggest way forward.

Conclusion

Conclude with importance and urgency of bringing such a bill into action.

Introduction:

- Trafficking in human beings is the third largest organized crime violating basic human rights. There is no specific law so far to deal with this crime. Accordingly, the Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2018 was prepared. The Bill addresses one of the most pervasive yet invisible crimes affecting the most vulnerable persons especially women and children.
- The new law will make India a leader among South Asian countries to combat trafficking. The bill eventually lapsed, however it provides an occasion for evaluating the sex work debate in India.

**Body:****Sex work debate in India:**

- The resilient pathways of global governmentality anchoring the sexual politics of anti-trafficking discourse internationally are mirrored in India.
- Feminist abolitionist NGOs (for example, Apne Aap) follow radical feminists to see all “prostitution” as sexual violence while non-feminist abolitionist NGOs (Shakti Vahini, Bachpan Bachao Andolan [BBA]) as socially conservative cultural nationalists want to protect the “dignity” of Indian women and children.
- They are heavily invested in raids, rescue, and rehabilitation.
- Since the 1990s, they have resorted to public interest litigation (PIL), assisted the executive in setting up specialist state agencies and drafted operating protocols.
- The governmentalised postcolonial state became an open site for these NGOs who were in turn appointed to key expert committees.
- They used the 2012 Delhi rape case to successfully lobby the Verma Committee for a stand-alone trafficking offence and to criminalise those engaging trafficked persons or minors for sexual exploitation.
- Indian sex workers’ groups draw on materialist feminist thought and have long countered anti-sex work laws.
- Sex workers litigated against the Suppression of Immoral Traffic in Women and Girls Act, 1956 for violating their constitutionally protected right to occupation. In the 1990s, they used HIV prevention funding to mobilise sex workers

Significance of the bill:

- The Bill addresses one of the most pervasive yet invisible crimes affecting the most vulnerable persons especially women and children. The new law will make India a leader among South Asian countries to combat trafficking.
- The bill addresses the issue of trafficking from the point of view of prevention, rescue and rehabilitation (first to address the issue of victim rehabilitation).
- Setting up of one or more special homes in each district for the purpose of providing long-term institutional support for the rehabilitation of victims is another feature of the Bill.
- Unlike the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITPA), 1956, Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, and Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code, the new Bill takes a holistic view and aims to prevent trafficking for forced labour, beggary and organ transplant, among many others.
- The Bill also provides for designated courts in each district for time-bound trial and repatriation of victims within a period of one year from taking into cognizance. This is welcome move.
- The Bill also provides for seizing of property located in foreign lands which is a good effort to deal with such crimes.
- It is gender-neutral and covers transgender persons.
- It doesn’t criminalise the victims, but instead provides them with shelter, compensation, and counselling.
- The Bill also relies on Article 21 of the Constitution, guaranteeing that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law.
- The Bill takes note of the fact that India has ratified the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its three Optional Protocols, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

Limitations of the bill:

- The 2018 bill was a draconian legislation reliant on a classic raid-rescue-rehabilitation model for victims. It exemplified abolitionist thinking; every influential Indian abolitionist had the minister’s ear. The bill presumed the victim’s lack of agency.
- Importantly, it did not repeal the Immoral Trafficking Prevention Act but channelled its letter and spirit by extending the ITPA model to all forms of labour exploitation. Thus, it was redundant given existing laws on trafficking.
- A close read of the bill’s passage however also reveals pragmatic concessions to sex workers in the interests of diffusing their objections to the bill.
- The bill offered the right to rehabilitation which sex workers have repeatedly denounced as useless at best and abusive at worst.
- National investigation agency is an understaffed organisation, that is already tackling the gigantic footprint of terrorism across the subcontinent and there are doubts whether it might be in a position to take on and investigate cases of human trafficking.



- Will be a setback for already marginalised groups, including bonded labourers, child labourers, migrant workers, sex workers etc.
- Sex trafficking is one such issue. Even as the number of victims of sex trafficking was as high as 16 million, the Bill does not mention the word 'sexual exploitation' or 'prostitution' anywhere.
- Bill neither has any punishment for customers or clients nor does it have a provision to prevent the trafficking of marginalised girls and women.
- The Bill also speaks of repatriation but fails to mention the psycho-socio and economic rehabilitation of the victim.
- National investigation agency is an understaffed organisation, that is already tackling the gigantic footprint of terrorism across the subcontinent and there are doubts whether it might be in a position to take on and investigate cases of human trafficking.
- According to experts most of the trafficking is taking place in small towns so focus should be on policing and not NIA.
- Assertion that the bill covers 'new' forms of trafficking that are not addressed under existing laws is not completely true.
- The Anti-Trafficking Bill has not been preceded by any substantial research or analysis.

Amendments needed:

- Improving Section 370 of the Indian Penal Code's definition of trafficking of persons. The definition should be based on the UN Protocol that addresses the issue of vulnerability.
- Prohibiting the purchase of sex and servitude. If the buyers of sex are not punished then the supply will never stop. This industry is a highly demand-driven industry; thus, to solve the problem, even buyers of sex workers should be punished.
- Section 8 of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, 1956 criminalises women who are made to stand in public spaces by the traffickers. These women should be treated as victims and not offenders
- The government must refer the Bill to a standing committee for comprehensive consultations with Indian trade unions and workers groups.

Conclusion:

- Trafficking bill was a step ahead in the measures which were bold and holistic response to a socioeconomic problem of labour exploitation. This can help India realise SDG 8.7.

Q) Evaluate the role played by Swachh Bharat initiative in reducing ground water contamination. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

A recent study by the UNICEF has found that 'Swachh Bharat (Grameen)' initiative of the government has helped reduce ground water contamination.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the key findings of the report and explain how the mission has led to reduction in ground water contamination.

Directive word:

Evaluate – When you are asked to evaluate, you have to pass a sound judgement about the truth of the given statement in the question or the topic based on evidences. You have to appraise the worth of the statement in question. There is scope for forming a personal opinion here.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In a few introductory lines discuss the Swachh Bharat mission.

Body:

In brief discuss –

- Discuss the key findings of the report.
- The Swachh Bharat initiative has led to reduced ground water contamination.
- The substantial reductions may potentially be attributed to the improvement in sanitation and hygiene practices.
- Supportive systems such as regular monitoring and behaviour change messaging, which have all been critical aspects of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen), also helped reduce ground water contamination.



- Discuss the present status of the mission.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what more needs to be done, suggest way forward.

Introduction:

- The Swachh Bharat initiative of the government has led to reduced ground water contamination. A study by the UNICEF said the substantial reductions may potentially be attributed to the improvement in sanitation and hygiene practices.
- The report revealed that groundwater is 12.7 times less likely to be contaminated in Open Defecation Free (ODF) villages than non ODF village.

Body:

Key highlights of the report:

- The study found that, in terms of faecal contamination, non-ODF villages were, on average:
 - 25 times more likely to have their groundwater sources contaminated (12.7 times more from contaminants traceable to humans alone)
 - 13 times more likely to have their soil contaminated
 - 48 times more likely to have food contaminated and 2.68 times more likely to have household drinking water contaminated.
- Study indicated that these substantial reductions can be attributed to the Improvement in sanitation and hygiene practices, regular monitoring and Behaviour change messaging.

Key role played by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) of SBM:

- The “Assessment of the reach and value of IEC activities under SBM (Grameen)” was conducted by Dalberg, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- It estimated the scale of IEC activities within the Mission and assessed associated monetary and in-kind costs, and outputs such as reach.
- SBM mobilized a spend equivalent worth INR 22,000 to 26,000 crores in monetary and non-monetary IEC activities.
- Of this spend equivalent, cash expenditure on IEC activities spent by the Government, private sector, and the development community was estimated to be between INR 3,500 – 4,000 crores.
- An average person living in rural India was exposed to between 2,500 – 3,300 SBM related messages over the last five years.

Evaluation of Swachh Bharat Mission:

- **Five hundred and eighty four districts**, 5,840 blocks, 244,687 gram panchayats and 541,433 villages are open defecation free (ODF).
- As of September 2018, the sanitation coverage of India is **upwards of 93 per cent and over 465,000 villages** have been declared ODF.
- Towards the end of 2017, an independent verification agency (IVA) conducted the **National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS)**, and found that **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.
- Since October 2014, 91.5 million toilets have been constructed and 154.3 million rural households have toilets now.
- **IHHL (individual household latrine application)** coverage in all states is in excess of 95 per cent, except Goa and Odisha.
- 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. This would go a long way in.
- The SBM has transformed into a **massive ‘Jan Andolan’** created on the ground using information, education, and communication, aiming to bring behaviour change.
- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6.1 and 6.2** deals with water and sanitation respectively in which SBM is playing a massive role.

**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 Swachh 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.

Q) Is the reservation policy earmarking a 10% quota for the economically weaker sections of the “general category” empirically founded and justifiable ? Critically analyse. (250 words)

Epw

Why this question:

An analysis of 445 premier higher education institutions finds that this section of students already had about 28% of representation—that is, close to three times the proposed 10% quota—in these institutions in 2016–17. This finding raises questions as to the relevance and possible impact of the proposed policy.

Key demands of the question:

Answer is to analyse the reservation policy earmarking 10% quota for the economically weaker sections (EWS), as to whether it is justified or not.

Directive word

Critically 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. 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 a few introductory lines define the policy that came into effect recently.

Body

- The recent reservation policy brought about by introducing an amendment to the Constitution intends to reserve 10% of the total seats in higher education institutions, both private and public, and in government jobs exclusively for the EWS belonging to the general category.
- Discuss what are the pros and cons of the policy.
- Discuss the rationale behind it.
- Suggest your opinion and conclude with fair and balanced conclusion.

Conclusion

Conclude with significance of such policies, yet suggest what more can be done.

Introduction:

- The **Constitution (103 Amendment) Act, 2019** was enacted which provides **10% reservation in jobs and educational institutions to the economically weaker sections in the general category.**

Body:**Reservation leads to casteless and classless society:**

- The 10% quota law is a step towards a classless and casteless society, the Union government has indicated in the Supreme Court.



- The Centre referred to the court's past decisions that called for the "attainment of economic equality as the final and only solution to the besetting problems" of the country. The Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act, 2019, was meant to benefit the economically weaker sections of society who were not covered by the existing schemes of reservation.
- It said the law was meant to benefit a large section of the population of 135 crore people, who are mostly lower middle class and below the poverty line.
- The government quoted **the 2010 report of the Commission for Economically Backward Classes**, chaired by Major General S.R. Sinho (retired), which said 18.2% of the general category came under the below poverty line (BPL).
- The Government took support of the **13-page affidavit quoted from a 1985 Constitution Bench judgment in K.C. Vasanth Kumar vs Karnataka**, which quotes Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi to drive home the point that the economy of a family, and not its caste, should be the determining factor of social and educational backwardness.
- Article 15(6) and Article 16(6) are enabling provisions for advancement of the economically weaker sections and are, in fact, in conformity with the principle of reservation and affirmative action, It argued that a "mere amendment" to an Article would not violate the basic structure of the Constitution.
- Furthermore, the 50% ceiling applied to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The new provision dealt with the economically weaker sections. "The limit of 50% is only applicable to reservation under Articles 15(4), 15(5) and 16(4) and does not apply to Article 15(6)."

The **pros** of the reservation Act are:

- **Alleviation of Poverty:** It is expected to help the needy among the higher castes.
- **Reduces ghost beneficiaries:** In some cases, it is expected to eliminate the desperation of those who, in the past, would resort to obtaining **fake Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST)** certificates that were used to seek entry into professional courses.
- **Removes Prejudice:** The reservation will prevent these higher castes from holding reservations responsible for national disintegration and perpetuation of casteism, as they widely believe.
- **Reduces Unwanted Adoptions:** The legislation is also expected to keep savarna-caste aspirants from seeking adoption into SC/ST families in order to procure SC/ST certificates.
- **No deceptive self-characterisation:** Ironically, the 10% quota can help these savarnas retain their authentic caste identity. In this way, they can now avoid facing humiliation in courts of law on account of being exposed as fake caste certificate holders.

The **cons** of the reservation are:

- **Discredits the moral foundation of the principle of social justice:**
- The **principle of social justice** calls for 'equal treatment of equals' and 'affirmative action for less advantage sections'.
- Constitution outlines special provisions for **only four classes** – SCs, STs, Backward Classes and Anglo Indians in the Articles 330-342 under Part 16.
- The provision is clearly mentioned as reservation is explicitly for 'social exclusion and discrimination'. Notably, the "**socially and educationally backward classes**" was the target group in quotas for OBCs.
- **Unfairness or an element of injustice** is rooted in the practice of **untouchability**, whereas pure economic backwardness is rooted in the systemic inability to provide jobs to the higher castes.
- The **lack of opportunities is not due to untouchability**, but due to the **inability of the state and the market to provide enough jobs for the qualified and the needy**.
- The new reservation policy has transformed from a policy meant to provide a level playing field for those **suffering from historical discrimination and those who are weaker sections of the society to a policy meant as a dole for those sections of society who are poor and lack jobs**.
- The **Indira Sawhney case** had further held that **social backwardness cannot be determined only with reference to an economic criterion**.
- **Violation of DPSP:**
- The **Article 46**, which is a non-justiciable Directive Principle, says that the state shall promote educational and economic interests of "weaker sections", in particular SCs and STs, and protect them from "social injustices" and "all forms of exploitation".
- While the **103rd Amendment mentions Article 46 in its statement and objects**, it seems the government overlooked the fact that upper castes neither face social injustice nor are subjected to any form of exploitation.



- Moreover, the Constitution makes provisions for commissions to look into matters relating to **implementation of constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Castes (Article 338), Scheduled Tribes (338A) and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (339)**, but has not created any commission for the economically backward classes.

Violation of Basic Structure Doctrine:

- The 10% reservation will be in addition to the existing cap of 50% reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, taking the **total reservation to 60%**.
- This would leave other candidates with just 40% government jobs or seats, amounting to **violation of Article 14 (Right to Equality)**, which is a part of **Basic Structure**.
- The 60% reservation will also lead to **“sacrifice of merit”**.
- Sincerity of the Government:** Centre did not give enough time for discussion on it before it was tabled in Parliament for its final approval.
- Lack of objectivity:** an objection is raised about the procedure that the government adopted in order to fix the criteria for educational and economic backwardness. The government arrived at the figure of 10%, without any proper and thorough documentation by a duly constituted commission.

Conclusion:

Thus, the quota for the economically poor among the upper castes has been seen essentially as a **poverty alleviation move dressed up as reservation**. Reservation to the weaker sections is an positive affirmative action needed for their welfare. The 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act though is a beneficial move for the **“forward poor”**. Similar moves by previous governments have been judicially reviewed and struck down. It is prudent to look at other alternatives to alleviate the conditions of EWS.

Q) Discuss in detail the concerns associated with Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019, what are the issues specifically with respect to privacy issues associated with it ? (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

In a major move aimed at making Aadhaar people friendly, the Union Cabinet has approved “The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019” to replace the earlier ordinance.

Demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the salient features of the amendments, Need and concerns associated with the use of Aadhaar, issues of privacy.

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 introduction of the act.

Body

One can have the following points in the answer:

- Discuss the background of the question.
- Explain the salient features of the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2019.
- Explain what are the possible issues associated with it
- Discuss specifically issues related to privacy concerns.

Conclusion

Conclude with solutions to the problem and suggest way forward.

Introduction:

- The Union Cabinet has approved “The Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019” for introduction in Parliament.
- The bill envisages strengthening of the Aadhaar Act as per the directions of the Supreme Court and recommendations of Justice B.N.Srikrishna.
- This will enable UIDAI to have a more robust mechanism to serve the public interest and restrain the misuse of Aadhar.

**Body:****The salient features of the amendments:**

- No individual will be compelled to provide proof of possession of Aadhaar number or undergo authentication for the purpose of establishing his identity unless it is so provided by a law made by Parliament.
- For the convenience of the general public in the opening of bank accounts, it will allow the use of Aadhaar number for authentication on a voluntary basis as an acceptable KYC document under the **Telegraph Act, 1885** and the **Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002**.
- It gives an option to children who are Aadhaar number holders to cancel their Aadhaar number on attaining the age of eighteen years.
- It proposes **deletion of section 57** of the Aadhaar Act relating to use of Aadhaar by private entities;
- It **prevents denial of services** for refusing to, or being unable to, undergo authentication.
- It provides for establishment of **Unique Identification Authority of India Fund**.
- It provides for **civil penalties**, its adjudication, appeal thereof in regard to violations of Aadhaar Act and provisions by entities in the Aadhaar ecosystem.

Implications of the amendment:

- The amendments would enable UIDAI to have a more robust mechanism to serve the public interest and restrain the misuse of Aadhaar.
- Subsequent to this amendment, no individual shall be compelled to provide proof of possession of Aadhaar number for the purpose of establishing his identity unless it is so provided by a law made by Parliament.

Concerns associated with Amendment Bill:

- The amendments proposed are the same as those contained in the Ordinance promulgated by President on March 2, 2019.
- **Making Aadhaar voluntary:** Critics argue that the bill doesn't commit itself to making sure Aadhaar is purely voluntary as it still enables the government to make Aadhaar mandatory for "provision of any service" if it is "required by a law made by parliament".
- **Amendment to Telegraph and PMLA Act:** The bill seeks to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, to provide for the voluntary use of Aadhaar authentication. Critics argue that this is a violation of SC order to strike down Section 57 and completely prohibit private players to use Aadhaar numbers and poses risk of Aadhaar related frauds and thefts.
- **Disclosure of Information:**
 - The SC had declared Section 33(2) of Aadhaar Act which allowed disclosure of information in the interest of national security, as unconstitutional.
 - However, the bill has put forward a refurbished form of the section thus violating SC order.
 - Further, the SC had ordered for a judicial officer to be associated with the process of disclosure.
 - However, the Bill only substitutes the words "Joint Secretary" with "Secretary" in Section 33(2), completely disregarding the Supreme Court's order demanding inquiry by a judge.
- **Privacy and Security concerns inadequately addressed:** Though the bill has taken steps to ensure privacy by regulating entities in Aadhaar ecosystem, the critics argue that it's not adequate to tackle the problem of Aadhaar-related fraud.
- **Allowing children to delete their Aadhaar number:** Though the bill has made provisions to allow children to opt out of Aadhaar once they are adults, it overlooks the fact that Aadhaar is de facto mandatory for all adults as it still required to be linked to one's PAN card.

Conclusion:

- The Aadhaar has been acknowledged as an inclusive tool that effectively delivers social welfare programmes to the poor. However, it is also riddled with highly problematic privacy issues and other challenges.
- The privacy concerns and data security around the Aadhaar identity number are a high priority to address and necessitates a robust data protection regime and privacy protection legislation in India. The Aadhaar project should also have a transparent mandate and no ensure no citizen is left behind while delivering social benefits.



Q) Do you think the draft emigration Bill is more about managing the export of human resources than being a humanitarian framework ? Critically analyse. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The article provides for a critical analysis of draft emigration policy of India, it brings out the associated concerns and suggests what should be the way forward.

Demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the emigration bill draft in detail and bring out the pros and cons.

Directive word:

Critically 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. 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

Start with brief narration of the features of the Draft emigration bill.

Body

One can have the following points in the answer:

Discuss about what are the features it currently is providing?

- Comprehensive emigration management,
- To institute regulatory mechanisms governing overseas employment of Indian nationals.
- To establish a framework for protection and promotion of welfare of emigrants.
- Discuss the key features of the bill in detail.
- Explain what are the key concerns that still remain unaddressed?

Conclusion

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- The draft Emigration Bill 2019 was released by the ministry of external affairs (MEA), and currently pending parliamentary approval. It proposes a new legislative framework for matters related to emigration of Indian nationals. It is set to replace the extant one under the Emigration Act of 1983.
- The objective of the new legislation is to **draw up appropriate regulations that would conform the contemporary global agenda on migrant matters.**

Body:

Key features of the bill:

- The draft bill proposes a **three-tier institutional framework**, with the MEA as the nodal ministry.
- At the top, a **central Emigration Management Authority (EMA)** has been proposed for policy guidance and supervision.
- In the middle, a **Bureau of Emigration Policy and Planning**, and a **Bureau of Emigration Administration** shall handle day-to-day operational matters and oversee the welfare of emigrants.
- At the bottom, **nodal authorities in states and union territories** shall coordinate aspects of management related to both emigrants and returnees.
- This could allow **vertical policy coherence on emigration matters**—particularly in promoting and managing safe, orderly and regular emigration.

Importance of the bill:

- Since 1983, there has been a structural shift in the quantum, nature, pattern and direction of emigration from India.
- As per the latest World Migration Report published by the International Organization for Migration, India features as the largest country of origin for international migrants (about 30 million in 2017);
- The largest recipient of remittances (about \$80 billion or 5.6 trillion rupees in 2018).
- Figures in five of the top 20 migration corridors from Asian countries.
- The government’s attitude towards international migrants has changed over the time.
- Inclusion of all students and migrant workers within its purview and the abolishment of the two passports (emigration clearance required and emigration clearance not required, or ECR and ECNR) regime based on a person’s educational qualifications.



- Indians reuniting with family members abroad (who can be Indian emigrants, non-resident Indians and/or foreign nationals) constitute a major chunk of out-migration from India.
- Studies show that each member of emigrant families often contributes towards remittances sent back home. Many family migrants often convert their immigration status and become workers

Shortcomings of the bill:

Continuation of ad-hoc approach:

- They continue the post-1983 ad hoc approach towards emigration, relying on the regulation of recruiting agents/employers and the discretion of the government.
- In fact, the bulk of it focuses on establishing new statutory bodies and giving them broad and vaguely defined duties.

Less focus on White-collared emigrants:

- The contours of the new bill still appear to focus on managing blue-collar emigration, à la the 1983 Act.
- While the need for this is clear, since blue-collared workers are more vulnerable to exploitation and migration shocks, the bill must also offer management structures and policies that better reflect the current nature and pattern of emigration—specifically, concerning the aspirations of and challenges for white-collared emigrants.

Family migrants and irregular migrants abroad are as vulnerable, if not more, as workers and students and warrant at least equivalent protection and promotion of their welfare.

Undocumented migrants are excluded:

- The perception is that undocumented migrants are those persons who leave India through informal channels, but most migrants become irregular on account of expired visas/permits.
- In West Asia, when migrant workers flee their employers to escape exploitation, a single police complaint can make them 'undocumented' for no fault of theirs.

Return Migrants:

- To effectively ensure their welfare, any emigration policy framework needs to be considerate of the complete migration cycle: the pre-departure, journey, destination and return.
- The 2019 draft Bill addresses only the first three parts of the cycle while completely ignoring return migration.

The draft Bill personifies the government's primary view of emigration policy as a means for managing the export of human resources rather than a humanitarian framework to safeguard Indian migrants overseas.

Conclusion:

- Migration is a complex and highly dynamic process with constantly evolving profiles of migrants and their destinations. Only an ex ante-migrant rights-based approach that is inclusive of all Indian migrants abroad can be considerate of this and provide them adequate security and welfare.
- There are a whole host of multilateral migration-related treaties and conventions which can provide the necessary guidance for a truly visionary and future-proof Indian emigration policy framework. The draft Bill's approach should align to the hard-fought shared objectives of the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**.

Q) Do you agree sanitation will remain a mirage even after India stops defecating in the open? Discuss the challenges with respect to sanitation aspects in India and what needs to be done to overcome the same? (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

The article takes a hard look at the challenges that need to be addressed with respect to sanitation as although we will meet the target of an open defecation free India much before deadline, it is still the easiest milestone that India has crossed.

Key demand of the question:

One has to explain the challenges and hurdles that the sanitation aspect is facing in India despite efforts in the right direction.

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:

Begin with brief on the SBM and other sanitation programmes of the country.

**Body:**

Explain the following aspects:

State facts and data from the article.

Discuss why the sanitation drives though have taken civilizational leap forward are still not success stories in reality.

Explain the areas of lacunae, the challenges/hurdles in detail that the sanitation drives /policies have been facing.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what needs to be done? Suggest way forward.

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:**Achievements of SBM so far:**

- Five hundred and eighty four districts, 5,840 blocks, 244,687 gram panchayats and 541,433 villages are open defecation free (ODF).
- As of September 2018, the sanitation coverage of India is upwards of 93 per cent and over 465,000 villages have been declared 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.
- Since October 2014, 91.5 million toilets have been constructed and 154.3 million rural households have toilets now.
- IHHL (individual household latrine application) coverage in all states is in excess of 95 per cent, except Goa and Odisha.
- 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 Swachata mission that was launched to inculcate cleanliness values and personal hygiene amongst children. This would go a long way.

However, some lacunae are still present.

- The key reason for this is that basic latrines that need to be emptied out manually or pumped by simple machines are unacceptable to higher caste Hindus.
- It is considered polluting to the individual and the home, and historically associated with untouchability. So people rather defecate in open than having a toilet at home.
- There are serious problems, like disposal of faecal matter, quality and maintenance of toilets, and inappropriate technology
- Adoption of twin-pit toilets in rural areas is still inadequate.
- Centre has literally forgotten to spend the money earmarked to promote the use of toilets, a concern raised in the State of India's Environment in Figure: 2018.
- Centre has also failed to exhaust its budget for Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin. This, despite the fact, that the budget for the scheme has seen a dip over the past year
- States like Odisha, Goa, Tripura, Telangana are still lacking in IHHL (individual household latrine application) coverage.
- Simple on-ground verification of numbers uploaded on the MDWS website in a few areas found that many of the toilets claimed may not actually exist on the ground. This was revealed when organizations working in those areas went to provide the communities where such toilets were built information on post-construction usage and instead found the toilets missing. This raises questions on the efficacy of the SBM's monitoring systems.
- Standing committee has also raised questions over the construction quality of toilets and said that the government is counting non-functional toilets, leading to inflated data.



- City drains are still cleaned by manual scavengers leading to violation of rule of law and death of many scavengers..
- Sanitation coverage figures seemed to be more on paper but the actual progress at the ground level is very lethargic. Behavioural change is still a distant reality.

Way Forward:

- Parliamentary Committee recommends the government to review its data time to time and delete the number of defunct toilets from the list to have a real picture of constructed and functional toilets in the country.
- Deeply entrenched cultural contexts must be taken into account for successful policy outcomes. India needs to change perceptions of ritual purity through education and awareness in rural areas. This can be done by investing in sewage systems.
- Enabling local governments to construct sewage systems will solve the purity issue.
- A toilet that flushes away human waste into the sewage and waste management system solves the problem. If there is a functional sewage system, it is relatively low cost for households to build a toilet in every home that is connected to the sewage system.
- Developing proper sewage system in village would also have wider impact with water not stagnating any more, lesser vector borne diseases etc so the wider objective of sanitation will be achieved.
- **Modernising the sewer lines and septic tanks and investing money and energy on smart techniques of sanitation**
- Also it would not put stress on manual scavenging and this occupation can slowly fade away giving sense of dignity and equality to the most vulnerable sections.
- **Mohalla toilets:** Villages have very small houses and much clustered places where there is no place to construct toilets. The ideal solution is to have mohalla toilets designated to each house where people will keep their toilet clean by seeing others. One advantage is that when the toilets are outside the home, there will be a peer pressure to keep it clean.
- There should be a **proper database** about what are the requirements in a particular area because we cannot force a toilet in a house where there is no place.
- For India constructing toilets is like a social work and not a development work. Once it is seen as a development work with country's image, then the thrust will come and the people will realise how important it is and we should not lag behind other countries.
- 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.



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Topic: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

Q) Discuss the significance of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) ? What are the bottlenecks in the scheme ? Do you think it can serve as a path-breaking support incentive for farmers ? (250 words)

Pib

Why this question:

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved that the ambit of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) would be comprehensively extended. With this decision, all land holding eligible farmer families (subject to the prevalent exclusion criteria) would avail of the benefits under this scheme.

Key demand of the question:

The answer is direct and is about discussing the salient features of the scheme, its challenges and the benefits it would get for farmers.

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:

Begin with brief write up on the scheme.

Body:

The answer must discuss the following:

- Around 12 crore small and marginal farmer families are expected to benefit from this. It would not only provide assured supplemental income to the most vulnerable farmer families, but would also meet their emergent needs especially before the harvest season. It would pave the way for the farmers to earn and live a respectable living.
- Under this programme, vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land up to 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year.
- This income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal installments of Rs. 2,000 each.
- The complete expenditure of Rs 75000 crore for the scheme will borne by the Union Government in 2019-20.
- Discuss the benefits.
- Challenges in detail.
- Conclude with way forward.

Conclusion:

Conclude with its importance.

Introduction:

- The general budget of 2019 announced a scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, under which vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land up to 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support of ₹6,000 a year.

Body:

The significance of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN):

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi will provide assured income to small and marginal farmers.
- The amount will be transferred directly into their account in 3 equal instalments.
- The complete expenditure of Rs 75000 crore for the scheme will borne by the Union Government in 2019-20.
- The revised Scheme is expected to cover around 2 crore more farmers, increasing the coverage of PM-KISAN to around 14.5 crore beneficiaries.
- With this decision, all land holding eligible farmer families (subject to the prevalent exclusion criteria) would avail of the benefits under this scheme.
- It would not only provide assured supplemental income to the most vulnerable farmer families, but would also meet their emergent needs especially before the harvest season.



- It would pave the way for the farmers to earn and live a respectable living.

Bottlenecks in the scheme:

- Landless labourers are not being covered under PM-KISAN.
- Cash transfers are not greatly superior in terms of leakages compared to other schemes of in-kind transfer such as the public distribution system (PDS).
- A targeted cash transfer scheme envisions the role of the state to only providing cash income to the poor. This kind of approach seeks to absolve the state of its responsibility in providing basic services such as health, education, nutrition and livelihood.
- Cash transfer scheme such as PM-KISAN cannot be substituted for subsidies and other institutional support systems such as the National Food Security Act-powered public distribution system. In fact, such cash transfer schemes could be counterproductive and may lead to more distress.
- Cash transfers do not solve the following problems which are the reasons for the current agrarian crisis. The Agrarian crisis is not just of low incomes in agriculture. The genesis of the current crisis lies in the faulty and ad hoc export-import policy, lack of infrastructure and cartelisation and collusion in agricultural markets, which have prevented farmers from realizing the market prices for agricultural produce.
- Cash transfer is neither a substitute for the structural reforms needed in agriculture, nor does it adequately compensate the farmer for the risks and uncertainty of crop cultivation.
- In the absence of proper tenancy records, it will also benefit the absentee landlords.
- It is no substitute for the lack of investment in agriculture, which has declined at 2.3% per annum in real terms.
- According to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development's (NABARD) All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (Nafis) small and marginal farmers earned Rs 79,802-1,19,878 in 2015-16. This means that the Rs 6,000 annual direct income transfer under PM-KISAN would be only about 5-8% of their existing income levels.
- By taking away precious fiscal resources, it makes the farmer more vulnerable to both market as well as non-market induced risks.

Way forward:

- For a long-term solution, the government should first implement existing schemes, like it should give assured procurement and marketing of all commodities having MSP.
- The Swaminathan Committee in 2004 had recommended farmers be allowed to fix the price for their produce on their own (cost of production plus 50% as profit), keeping local factors in mind.
- Greater focus is required on enhancing farmer loan repayment capacity via smooth supply and value chains, and better price realisations.
- The government must focus on three things: crop insurance, better irrigation and subsidised seed and fertilisers.

Conclusion:

- It is in some of these contexts that strengthening an existing universal programme such as the MGNREGA would have been a prudent move instead of introducing a hasty targeted cash transfer programme.
- At a time of such acute distress, there is a need to the Central government to improve the existing universal infrastructure of the MGNREGA before plunging into a programme pretending to augment farmers' income.

Q) Discuss in detail the efforts taken by India in fighting the social ill of child labour. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

On World Day Against Child Labour (June 12) in 2017, India ratified two core conventions of the International Labour Organization on child labour. It now has to double its efforts to ensure that the benefit of those conventions reach the most vulnerable children.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail efforts taken by India in eliminating child labour which is a prevalent social evil even today.

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:

In a few lines discuss the state of child labour in the country.

Body:

The answer must discuss the following:

- Provide for data/facts to highlight the conditions of child labour in India.
- as per the 2011 Census, in the age group 5-14 years, 10.1 million of 259.6 million constituted working children.
- Move on to discuss the significance of the ratification of the core conventions.
- Explain what needs to be done?
- What should be the approach?

Conclusion:

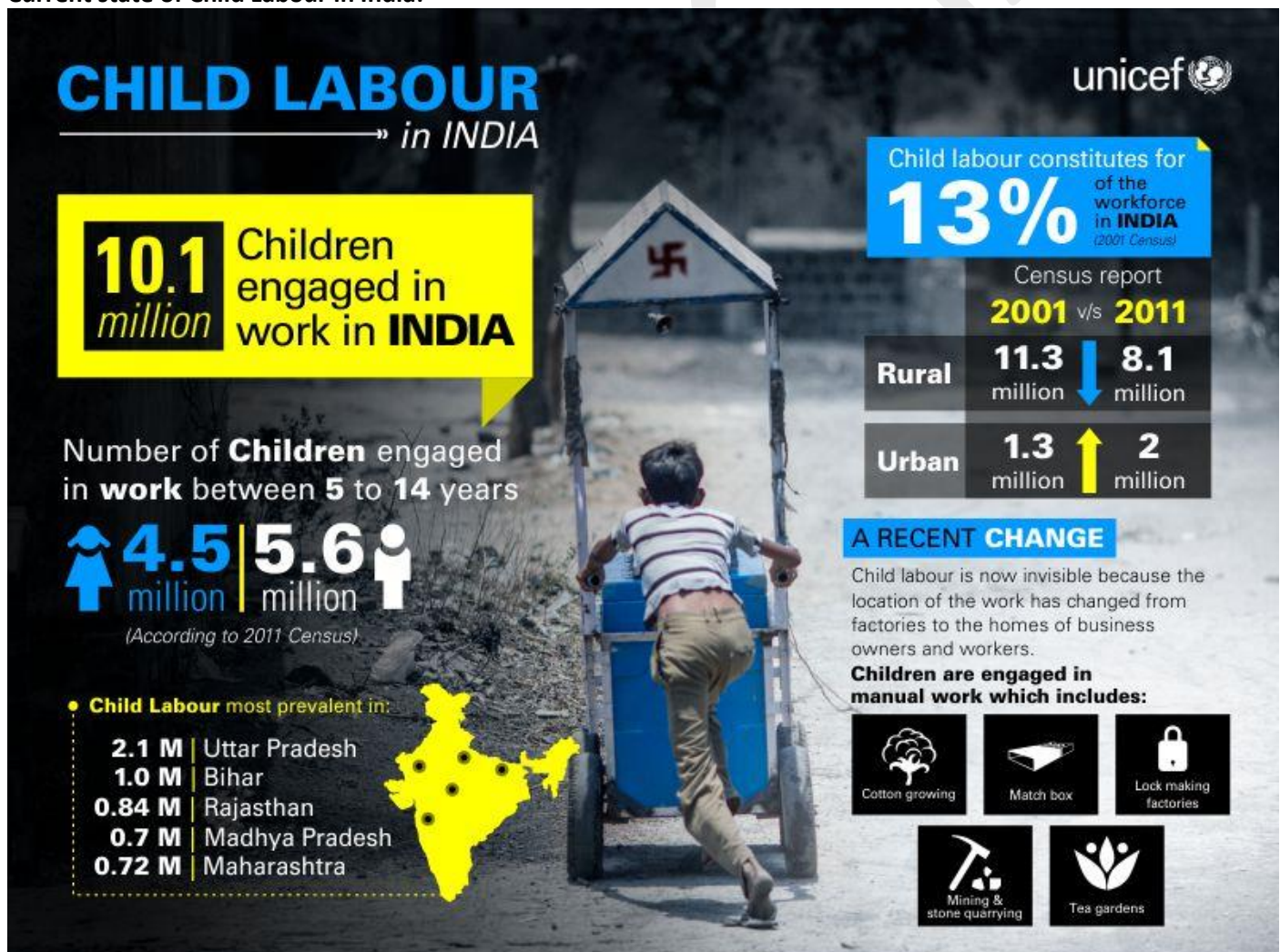
Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Child labour typically means the employment of children in any manual work with or without payment. It is a deep rooted social ill in India. As per the 2011 Census, in the age group 5-14 years, 10.1 million of 259.6 million constituted working children.
- Even though there was a decline in the number of working children to 3.9% in 2011 from 5% in 2001, the decline rate is grossly insufficient to meet **target 8.7 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which is to end child labour in all forms by 2025.

Body:

Current state of Child Labour in India:



Efforts taken to eradicate child labour in India:

- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act(1986)** to prohibit the engagement of children in certain employments and to regulate the conditions of work of children in certain other employments
- **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016** : The Amendment Act completely prohibits the employment of children below 14 years.



- The amendment also prohibits the employment of adolescents in the age group of 14 to 18 years in hazardous occupations and processes and regulates their working conditions where they are not prohibited.
- On **World Day Against Child Labour (June 12) in 2017**, India ratified **two core conventions** of the **International Labour Organization on child labour**.
- **National Policy on Child Labour (1987)**, with a focus more on rehabilitation of children working in hazardous occupations and processes, rather than on prevention.
- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000** and **amendment of the JJ Act in 2006**: includes the working child in the category of children in need of care and protection, without any limitation of age or type of occupation.
- **Section 23 (cruelty to Juvenile) and Section 26 (exploitation of juvenile employee)** specifically deal with child labour under children in need of care and protection.
- **Pencil**: The government has launched a dedicated platform viz. pencil.gov.in to ensure effective enforcement of child labour laws and end child labour.
- **The Right to Education Act 2009** has made it mandatory for the state to ensure that all children aged six to 14 years are in school and receive free education. Along with Article 21A of the Constitution of India recognizing education as a fundamental right, this constitutes a timely opportunity to use education to combat child labour in India.
- Amendments made to the **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act** prescribes severe punishment for people found guilty of retaining bonded labour.
- The amendment stipulates rigorous imprisonment for those who force children to beg, handle or carry human waste and animal carcasses.
- The **draft National Policy for Domestic Workers**, when goes into force, will ensure minimum Rs.9,000 salary for household helpers.
- Every police station in the country has a separate cell for juvenile, women and child protection.
- Many **NGOs like Bachpan Bachao Andolan, CARE India, Child Rights and You, Global march against child labour, RIDE India, Child line etc.** have been working to eradicate child labour in India.

Gaps still persist:

- Multiple forms exist: Child labour is not uniform. It takes many forms depending upon the type of work that children are made to do, the age and sex of the child and whether they work independently or with families.
- Due to this complex nature of child labour, there is no one strategy that can be used to eliminate it.
- The absence of national legislation to give effect to global conventions on the employment of children in hazardous industries, as well as on the minimum age of work.
- The lack of harmony between global commitments and domestic priorities.
- Incoherency between laws that prescribe a minimum age for employment and those for completion of compulsory school education. It also means that the expansion of quality universal basic education has to extend beyond the fulfilment of statutory provisions.
- Lack of effective labour inspections in the informal economy. Around 71% of working children are concentrated in the agriculture sector, with 69% of them undertaking unpaid work in family units.

Way forward:

- Abolition of child trafficking, elimination of poverty, free and compulsory education, and basic standards of living can reduce the problem to a great extent.
- Strict implementation of labour laws is also essential in order to prevent exploitation by parties or multinational companies
- Strengthening policy and legislative enforcement, and building the capacities of government, workers' and employers' organisations as well as other partners at national, State and community levels should be prioritized.
- **Education:**
 - Spreading literacy and education is a potent weapon against the practice of child labour, because illiterate persons do not understand the implications of child labour
 - The single most effective way to stem the flow of school-aged children into child labour is to improve access to and quality of schooling.
- **Eradicate Unemployment:**
 - Another way to stop child labour is to eliminate or rein in unemployment. Because of inadequate employment, many families cannot afford to meet all their expenses. If employment opportunities are increased, they will be able to let their children read and write and become worthy citizens



- Continued progress against child labour requires policies that help mitigate the economic vulnerability of households. Accelerating progress towards universal social protection is key, as social protection helps prevent poor households from having to rely on child labour as a coping mechanism.
- Attitude change:**
 - It is important that the attitudes and mindsets of people are changed to instead employ adults and allow all children to go to school and have the chance to learn, play and socialize as they should.
 - A sector-wide culture of child labour-free businesses has to be nurtured.

Conclusion:

- Eliminating child labour is firmly placed within Goal 8 of the SDGs. A stronger nexus between the discourse on SDGs and the discourse on eliminating child labour can take the advantage of complementarities and synergies of a wide range of actors engaged in both areas of work. The fight against child labour is not just the responsibility of one, it is the responsibility of all.

Q) Who are PVTGs ? Discuss the issues related to their protection and statutory rights given to them. (250 words)

[Vikaspedia](#)

Why this question:

The question intends to discuss the PVTGs and issues related to their protection of rights.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the concept of PVTGs, issues concerning them, challenges involved and suggest solutions to the same.

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:

In a few introductory lines appreciate the need for classifying tribals into PVTGs.

Body:

- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. Due to this factor, more developed and assertive tribal groups take a major chunk of the tribal development funds, because of which PVTGs need more funds directed for their development.
- Discuss the significance of classifying them.
- What are the challenges posed by them?
- Explain the issues related to their protection and statutory rights given to them.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting significance of protecting them.

Introduction:

- Tribal communities are often identified by some specific signs such as **primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation, shyness to contact with the community at large and backwardness**.
- Along with these, some tribal groups have some specific features such as **dependency on hunting, gathering for food, having pre-agriculture level of technology, zero or negative growth of population and extremely low level of literacy**.
- These groups are called Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). 75 tribal groups have been categorized categorized by **Ministry of Home Affairs** as PVTGs. PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands.

Body:

Issues related to their protection:

- Incoherency in identification:** The process of identification of PVTG adopted by the states differs in its methods. The spirit of the direction made by MoTA was loosely considered as a result there has been no uniform principle adopted in identifying the PVTGs.
- Outdated List:** The Anthropological Survey of India observes that the list of PVTG is overlapping and repetitive. For example, the list contains synonyms of the same group such as the Mankidia and the Birhor in Odisha, both of which refer to the same group.



- **Lack of baseline surveys:** The Anthropological Survey of India observed 75 PVTGs, base line surveys exists for about 40 groups, even after declaring them as PVTGs. Lack of baseline surveys hinder effective implementation of welfare schemes
- **Unequal Benefits from welfare schemes:** In some cases, a PVTG receives benefits only in a few blocks in a district, while the same group is deprived in adjacent blocks. For example, the LanjiaSaora are recognized as a PVTG across Odisha but the micro-projects are established only in two blocks. The rest of the Lanjia Saora are treated among the Scheduled Tribes (STs) and do not receive benefit from these projects.
- **Impact of developmental projects:** In 2002, a Standing Committee formed by the MoTA to review the 'Development of Primitive Tribal Groups,' shared that the tribal people, especially PVTGs, are worst affected by developmental projects like dams, industries and mines.
- **Denial of land rights:** PVTGs have faced systematic alienation from their resources due to conservation purposes-declaration of Reserved Forests and Protected Forests. For example: In 2009, 245 Baiga families were forced out from the Achanakmar Tiger Reserve, when it was notified so under the Project Tiger
- **Livelihood issues:** Due to shrinking forests, environmental changes and forest conservation policies, their Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP) collection is affected. They lack awareness about market value of NTFP and are exploited by middle men.
- **Health Issues:** PVTGs suffer from many health problems like anaemia, malaria; gastro-intestinal disorders; micro nutrient deficiency and skin diseases due to poverty, lack of safe drinking water, bad sanitation, lack of health services, superstition and deforestation. Uncontacted tribal group such as the Sentinelese tribe of Andaman are also at the very high risk of contracting diseases in case of contact with outsiders
- **Illiteracy:** Though literacy rate among many PVTGs have increased over the past years, it still remains low at 30-40%. Further, poor female literacy is a major concern
- **Vulnerabilities of tribes in Andaman and Nicobar:** The fragile tribal communities have been facing expropriation of their ecosystem by outsiders. The outside influences are impacting their land use patterns, use of the sea, overall biodiversity leading to material and non-material changes.

Protection and Statutory rights given to them are:

- **The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006(FRA)** has a special section regarding the 75 PVTGs and the Act recognises forest and habitat rights of PVTGs.
- **Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA):** It extends Scheduled Areas of India under the purview of national framework of Panchayat. However, this act is not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Mizoram and certain other areas including scheduled and tribal areas.
- The Sentinelese and other aboriginal tribes of the Andaman& Nicobar Islands are protected under **The Andaman and Nicobar (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956**
- Under the **Foreigners (Restricted Areas) Order, 1963**, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands are a "Restricted Area" in which foreigners with a restricted area permit (RAP) can stay.
- The habitats of the PVTGs of Andaman and Nicobar Island is protected **Tribal Reserve** under the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation, 1956

Way forward:

- Along with the Census, a proper survey should be conducted to comprehensively capture the data on PVTGs- population enumeration, health status, nutritional level, education, vulnerabilities etc. This would help implement welfare measures better
- Of the 75 PVTGs, those groups whose population is declining should be clearly identified and survival strategy should be devised
- PVTGs threatened with relocation of wildlife areas or development projects should be identified and actionable strategies should be devised to prevent the same
- It is important to recognise the innate connection between PVTGs and their lands and habitats. Therefore, a rights-based approach for development of PVTGs should be adopted
- Effective, preventive and curative health systems should be developed to address the health issues plaguing PVTGs
- A massive exercise in creating awareness about PVTG Rights, amongst communities, officials and civil society groups, is needed. It is important to respect their culture, traditions, beliefs and sustainable livelihoods.
- The government needs to revamp its priorities towards protecting the indigenous tribes of A&N islands from outside influence. India needs to sign the 1989 convention of the ILO, and implement its various policies to protect the rights of the indigenous population.



- The Government must make efforts to sensitise settlers and outsiders about PVTGs of Andaman and Nicobar Islands



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Q) Provide for a detailed critical assessment of poverty alleviation programmes of the country so far.(250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

The question is straightforward and is about discussing the poverty alleviation programs of the country.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss the successes and failures of the poverty alleviation programmes till date.

Directive:

Critically 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:

Begin with brief introduction on the timeline of various poverty alleviation programmes.

Body:

Explain that despite various strategies to alleviate poverty, hunger, malnourishment, illiteracy and lack of basic amenities continue to be a common feature in many parts of India. Though the policy towards poverty alleviation has evolved in a progressive manner, over the last five and a half decades, it has not undergone any radical transformation.

List down few successful programmes, discuss their relevance etc.

Discuss what needs to be done.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting that policies to alleviate poverty need to be multipronged in approach.

Introduction:

- Poverty is one of the evils that impedes development of the country. Recognising this, India had pursued various poverty alleviation programmes to pull people out of the vicious cycle of poverty. India used multi pronged approach in dealing with this.
- Efforts at poverty alleviation have borne fruit in that for the first time since independence, the percentage of absolute poor in some states is now well below the national average. Despite various strategies to alleviate poverty, hunger, malnourishment, illiteracy and lack of basic amenities continue to be a common feature in many parts of India.

Body:

Various poverty alleviation programs in India since Independence:

- **Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP):** It was introduced in 1978-79 and universalized from 2nd October, 1980, aimed at providing assistance to the rural poor in the form of subsidy and bank credit for productive employment opportunities through successive plan periods.
- **Jawahar Rozgar Yojana/Jawahar Gram Samriddhi Yojana:** The JRY was meant to generate meaningful employment opportunities for the unemployed and underemployed in rural areas through the creation of economic infrastructure and community and social assets.
- **Rural Housing – Indira Awaas Yojana:** The Indira Awaas Yojana (LAY) programme aims at providing free housing to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families in rural areas and main targets would be the households of SC/STs.
- **Food for Work Programme:** It aims at enhancing food security through wage employment. Food grains are supplied to states free of cost, however, the supply of food grains from the Food Corporation of India (FCI) godowns has been slow.
- **National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS):** This pension is given by the central government. The job of implementation of this scheme in states and union territories is given to panchayats and municipalities. The states contribution may vary depending on the state. The amount of old age pension is ₹200 per month for applicants aged 60–79. For applicants aged above 80 years, the amount has been revised to ₹500 a month according to the 2011–2012 Budget. It is a successful venture.
- **Annapurna:** This scheme was started by the government in 1999–2000 to provide food to senior citizens who cannot take care of themselves and are not under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS), and who have no one to take care of them in their village. This scheme would provide 10 kg of free food grains a month for the eligible senior citizens. They mostly target groups of ‘poorest of the poor’ and ‘indigent senior citizens’.



- **Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY):** The main objective of the scheme continues to be the generation of wage employment, creation of durable economic infrastructure in rural areas and provision of food and nutrition security for the poor.
- **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005:** The Act provides 100 days assured employment every year to every rural household. One-third of the proposed jobs would be reserved for women. The central government will also establish National Employment Guarantee Funds. Similarly, state governments will establish State Employment Guarantee Funds for implementation of the scheme. Under the programme, if an applicant is not provided employment within 15 days s/he will be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.
- **National Rural Livelihood Mission: Ajeevika (2011):** It evolves out the need to diversify the needs of the rural poor and provide them jobs with regular income on monthly basis. Self Help groups are formed at the village level to help the needy.
- **National Urban Livelihood Mission:** The NULM focuses on organizing urban poor in Self Help Groups, creating opportunities for skill development leading to market-based employment and helping them to set up self-employment ventures by ensuring easy access to credit.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana:** It will focus on fresh entrant to the labour market, especially labour market and class X and XII dropouts.
- **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana:** It aimed at direct benefit transfer of subsidy, pension, insurance etc. and attained the target of opening 1.5 crore bank accounts. The scheme particularly targets the unbanked poor.

Assessment:

- However, none resulted in any radical change in the ownership of assets, process of production and improvement of basic amenities to the needy.
- Scholars, while assessing these programmes, state three major areas of concern which prevent their successful implementation. Due to unequal distribution of land and other assets, the benefits from direct poverty alleviation programmes have been appropriated by the non-poor.
- Compared to the magnitude of poverty, the amount of resources allocated for these programmes is not sufficient. Moreover, these programmes depend mainly on government and bank officials for their implementation.
- Since such officials are ill motivated, inadequately trained, corruption prone and vulnerable to pressure from a variety of local elites, the resources are inefficiently used and wasted. There is also non-participation of local level institutions in programme implementation.
- Government policies have also failed to address the vast majority of vulnerable people who are living on or just above the poverty line. It also reveals that high growth alone is not sufficient to reduce poverty.
- Without the active participation of the poor, successful implementation of any programme is not possible

Conclusion:

- Poverty can effectively be eradicated only when the poor start contributing to growth by their active involvement in the growth process. This is possible through a process of social mobilisation, encouraging poor people to participate and get them empowered.
- This will also help create employment opportunities which may lead to increase in levels of income, skill development, health and literacy. Moreover, it is necessary to identify poverty stricken areas and provide infrastructure such as schools, roads, power, telecom, IT services, training institutions etc.

Q) Discuss the salient features of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission and also elaborate upon its significance. (250 words)

[pib](#)

Why this question:

National Workshop on Experience Sharing under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission was held recently.

Key demand of the question:

The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) is a unique programme, designed to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth. Thus, one has to analyse the key features of the programme and discuss its significance.

**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:**

Begin with the mandate of the programme.

Body:

Explain the objective of the programme, what is it meant for – National Rurban Mission (NRuM) is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well planned Rurban clusters.

Discuss the significance of the programme.

Conclude with way forward.

Conclusion:

Conclude with reassertion that such schemes are key drivers of growth and development.

Introduction:

- Large parts of rural areas in the country are not stand-alone settlements but part of a cluster of settlements, which are relatively proximate to each other. These clusters typically illustrate potential for growth, have economic drivers and derive locational and competitive advantages. These clusters once developed can then be classified as 'Rurban'.
- Hence taking cognizance of this, Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) was launched by Government of India in 2016 to deliver integrated project based infrastructure in the rural areas, which will also include development of economic activities and skill development. The preferred mode of delivery is through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) while using various scheme funds for financing.

Body:**Salient features of Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission:**

- With an outlay of Rs. 5142.08 crore, the Rurban Mission will develop clusters of smart villages which have a potential for holistic growth. These clusters will be developed by encouraging economic activities, local entrepreneurship and creation of infrastructure.
- By 2019-20, the government will set up 300 such clusters across the nation. The funding will be through different schemes of the Government converged into the cluster.
- Fourteen components have been suggested as desirable for a cluster to ensure optimum development: skill development training linked to economic activities, Agro Processing or Agri Services/Storage and Warehousing, Digital Literacy, Sanitation, etc.
- To select the clusters, the Ministry of Rural Development is using a scientific method, which involves an objective analysis of demography, economy, tourism and pilgrimage significance and transportation corridor impact. This will be done at the District, Sub-District and Village levels.
- Integrated Cluster Action Plans will be prepared by the States for Rurban Clusters. These will be detailed plan documents that will lay out the strategy for the cluster, desired results for the cluster under the mission, along with the converged resources under Central sector, schemes sponsored by Centre and State Sector, and the Critical Gap Funding (CGF) needed for the cluster.
- Along with CGF, major steps have been taken to ensure the success of the programme with proper budget provisions to support the State Government towards project development, capacity building and other institutional arrangements at the state level.
- The programme will provide an additional funding support of up to 30 per cent of the project cost per cluster as CGF as Central Share so as to enable development of Rurban clusters.
- For smooth implementation of the Mission, both State and Centre will make institutional arrangements. An Innovation budget towards facilitating research, development and capacity building has also been allotted.
- The clusters will have geographically proximity to Gram Panchayats with a population of about 25,000 to 50,000 in plain and coastal areas, and a population of 5,000 to 15,000 in desert, hilly or tribal areas.
- A separate approach of selection will be at work to select clusters in Tribal and Non-Tribal Districts.

Challenges towards Rurban mission:

- Though welcome in its conception, its implementation is wrought with contradictions.
- Though role has been given to state governments to delineate the clusters, role of PRIs has not been demarcated.



- Further poor implementation of the 73rd amendment act to achieve meaningful devolution of funds, functions and functionaries risks jeopardising any significant socio-economic growth of rural areas.
- Multiplicity of schemes in this regard in the form of SAGY, BRGF etc. can lead to delayed decision making and confusion.
- Poor agricultural performance in dwindling monsoon times need to be safeguarded and drought mitigation, smart cropping patterns and institutional support in the form of insurance are key for any scheme for rural development and this hasn't been integrated with the SPMRM.

Conclusion:

- The Rurban mission in order to be successful has to look to supplement and augment capabilities of PRIs, improve congruencies with AMRUT for deciding on administering an ever growing rural-urban fringe and promote a low carbon growth pattern for villages through use of renewables to achieve a model sustainable growth paradigm for our villages.

Q) Do you think reservations are now a policy device for employment creation and power-sharing rather than for the originally devised mandate of social justice ? Critically analyse. (250 words)

[Hindustantimes](https://www.hindustantimes.com)

Why this question:

The article is in the backdrop of the recent judgement of Bombay High Court that upheld the reservation given to the Maratha community.

Demand of the question:

The answer must analyse how the mandate of reservation has changed overtime and whether the aspects of the mandates are justified or not.

Directive word:

Critically analyse – 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. 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

Start with brief background of the context of the question.

Body

Students must weigh the pros and cons of reservation policies, first explain how reservation process and intent in terms of the target community to aim for social justice has changed /transformed over time.

One must explain both pros and cons and provide for a balanced opinion.

Conclusion

Conclude with what needs to be done and what should be the way forward.

Introduction:

- Reservation in India is the process of facilitating a person in education, scholarship, jobs, and in promotions who has category certificates. Reservation is a form of quota-based affirmative action.
- In a significant judgment, the Bombay High Court has upheld the reservation given to the Maratha community. It has brought down the quantum of reservation from 16%, as determined by the state assembly, to 12-13%.

Body:

Original need for reservations:

- Reservation in India is the process of facilitating people in education, scholarship, jobs etc that were faced historical injustice.
- Reservation is governed by constitutional laws, statutory laws, and local rules and regulations.
- The system of reservation in India comprises a series of measures, such as reserving access to seats in the various legislatures, to government jobs, and to enrolment in higher educational institutions.
- The reservation is undertaken to address the historic oppression, inequality and discrimination faced by those communities and to give these communities a place. It is intended to realise the promise of equality enshrined in the Constitution.



- Reservation helps in level playing field because we cannot expect groups who are historically deprived of education, skills, and economic mobility to suddenly start competing with those who had access to these means for centuries
- Though Meritocracy is an important aspect, it has no meaning without equality
- The primary objective of the reservation system in India is to enhance the social and educational status of underprivileged communities and thus improve their lives.

Need to re-examine reservation policy:

- Unlike in the late Sixties and again in the late Eighties, when the reservation discourse originated in a deep sense of unfairness of the social system, today's reservation discourse draws its strength from unfair development policies.
- Reservation is increasingly seen as a remedy for the adverse effects of ill-thought out development policies.
- Reservation is also called 'Discrimination in Reverse' or Reverse Discrimination. This terminology connotes that reservation, which works as a protection to the reserved categories i.e. scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes, acts as a reverse discrimination against the upper castes.
- For political parties reservation discourse is convenient because it allows them to keep subscribing to the consensus over economic policies, avoiding a critical approach to the root causes of the problem.
- The reservation system has just become a tool for politicians to gain vote banks.
- Many in the above communities are politically and economically strong enough and placing the whole community under the reservation system will be unethical.
- The Supreme Court has ruled multiple times against exceeding its **1992 formula of a maximum of 50% reservation** (Indira Sawhney v. Union of India).
- It also defined that a backward class cannot be determined only and exclusively with reference to economic criterion.
- It will lead to neglect of merit and it may cause social unrest as it was at the time of Mandal commission
- Thus, the quota for the economically poor among the upper castes has been seen essentially as poverty alleviation move dressed up as reservation.
- The policy has transformed from a policy meant to provide a level playing field for those suffering from historical discrimination and those who are weaker sections of the society to a policy meant as a dole for those sections of society who are poor and lack jobs.

Way forward:

- The government will have to expand the economic aspect and create fresh opportunities so that people, especially young people, who leave agriculture are absorbed in non-farm sectors.
- It is time that India made a critical assessment of its affirmative action programmes.
- The government should consider the economic, political and social wellbeing of the community and make a balanced decision.
- Problems of these castes should be addressed through government schemes and programmes.
- Progressive steps should be taken to ensure that poorer section among the backward communities get the benefit of reservation system.
- The policy of reservation should be gradually phased out after it serves its purpose.

Topic: Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

Q) "An educational tilt in favor of Hindi has been gridlocked historically by our champions of linguistic diversity, if a language-based class barrier needs to be taken down, 'English for all' is probably the best possible fix to the problem in Indian scenario". Critically analyse. (250 words)

Livemint

Why this question:

The question is intended to critically analyse the factor of making Hindi as a compulsory language in the Indian education system.

Key demands of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail the language factor and the challenge of linguistic diversity that makes the question of compulsory language difficult in the education policy of India.

**Directive:**

Critically 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. 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 a few introductory lines discuss the issue, context of current draft education policy.

Body

The body of the answer has to capture the following aspects:

- Explain first the historical debate of making Hindi a compulsory language.
- Why Hindi though is only the official language is given such importance despite the fact there is substantial opposition from the non-Hindi states.
- Discuss pros and cons of making Hindi a compulsory language in the education system.
- Explain the possible issues and challenges and suggest your opinion if English can provide to be a one stop solution for all issues.

Conclusion

Conclude with way forward and importance of preserving linguistic diversity.

Introduction:

- The Draft National Education Policy, 2019 prepared by a committee chaired by Dr K. Kasturirangan has been shared by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development for public comments. The policy aims at making India a knowledge superpower by equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge.
- It also focuses on eliminating the shortage of manpower in Science and Technology, academics and industry. The Draft Policy is built on foundational pillars of **Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability**.

Body:

- Following the submission of the draft National Education Policy 2019, there were protests against the three language formula.
- The three-language formula has its roots back in the year 1961 and it was implemented as a result of a consensus during the meeting of various CMs of the Indian states. The Three-Language Formula was supposed to be not a goal or a limiting factor in language acquisition, but rather a convenient launching pad for the exploration of the expanding horizon of knowledge and the emotional integration of the country.

**Three language policy:**

- According to the National Education Policy of 1968, the three-language formula means that a third language (apart from Hindi and English), which should belong to Modern India, should be used for education in Hindi-speaking states. In the states where Hindi is not the primary language, regional languages and English, along with Hindi shall be used.

This formula was altered and amended by **Kothari Commission** (1964–66) so as to accommodate regional languages and mother tongues of the group identities. Also Hindi and English remained at the two ends of the line.

- The First Language that students should study- Mother tongue or the regional language
- The Second Language: In Hindi-speaking states, this would be English or some other language belonging to Modern India. In Non-Hindi states, this will be English or Hindi



- The Third Language: In Hindi-speaking states, this would be English or some other language belonging to Modern India, but the one that is not chosen as the second language. In Non-Hindi states, this will be English or some other language belonging to Modern India, but the one that is not chosen as the second language.

However, the three language policy has the following cons:

- Though TLF provides scope for mother tongue language education, the emphasis is lost due to varied implementation.
- Amidst asserting political rights of dominant ethnic groups, this policy fails to protect various mother tongues from becoming extinct.
- Students have to face increased burden of subjects because of the three language formula.
- In some areas, students are forced to learn Sanskrit.
- The draft policy's push for Hindi seems to be based on the premise that 54% of Indians speak Hindi.
- But according to the 2001 Census, 52 crore out of 121 crore people identified Hindi as their language.
- About 32 crore people declared Hindi as their mother tongue.
- This means that Hindi is the language of less than 44% Indians and mother tongue of only little over 25% people in India.
- But there has been greater push for making Hindi a pan-India language, which is seen as imposition of Hindi by many states, especially that of the South.

Language conundrum in India can be resolved only by making English the link language:

- It is the common language through which non Hindi speaking and Hindi speaking people converse so removing this link would lead to imposition of Hindi over the other states.
- English is a global language and Indians have been very efficient in using it be it call centers, IT sector. Pushing English away would only complicate the employment status of these people in India.
- As the world is integrated the role of English has increased manifold.
- Some of the languages spoken in India are much older than Hindi and are seen as symbol of its rich culture and heritage. Hence imposition of Hindi on such people would be met with resistance.
- English can act as a link language without endangering the sentiments of any state.

However English also has its own constraints because:

- Parents prefer English medium schools over vernacular language schools.
- In the modern Indian society speaking English is equated with higher status which means people who speak English are superior than one speaking mother tongue
- Quality of English education in rural areas is not very good and so it becomes difficult for the children there to compete with urban area students.

Way forward:

- Language is primarily a utilitarian tool.
- While acquisition of additional tools can indeed be beneficial, compulsory learning should be limited to one's mother tongue.
- Besides, English, as the language that provides access to global knowledge and as a link language within India, could be a supportive language.
- Given this, not everyone is satisfied by the changes, and the three-language formula itself is seen as an unnecessary imposition.

Q) Discuss the unique features of draft National Education Policy, 2019. What are the challenges and roadblocks in front of it and how should the government in power overcome the same ? (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The article throws light upon the draft National Education Policy, 2019. It highlights how inputs from the T.S.R. Subramanian Committee report and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), the K. Kasturirangan Committee has produced a document that is comprehensive, far-sighted and grounded in realities.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must provide for a detailed analysis of the draft education policy 2019, its key features, pros and cons. Challenges in implementing the same.

**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:**

write a few introductory lines on the current education policy of India.

Body:

Have the following points in the answer:

- Explain the key features of the policy – how it seeks to revamp all aspects of the sector and does not shy away from suggesting brave new ideas.
- Discuss in detail – universal foundational literacy and numeracy, idea to cover children of 3-18 years [instead of the present 6-14 years under the Right to Education (RTE) Act], aim is to double the Gross Enrolment Ratio from 25% to 50% by 2035 and make universities the hubs of research (with Tier I universities/institutions devoted primarily to research and some teaching, Tier 2 universities devoted to teaching and some research, and Tier 3 institutions comprising mainly colleges that are to be converted gradually into degree-giving autonomous institutions).
- Then move on to discuss the challenges that are being faced in implementing the same.
- Discuss what needs to be done?

Conclusion –

Conclude with significance and need of a robust national education policy.

Introduction:

- The Draft National Education Policy, 2019 prepared by a committee chaired by Dr K. Kasturirangan has been shared by the Ministry of Human Resource and Development for public comments. The policy aims at making India a knowledge superpower by equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge.
- It also focuses on eliminating the shortage of manpower in Science and Technology, academics and industry. The Draft Policy is built on foundational pillars of **Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability**.

Body:**Key Features of the Draft Policy:**

- The policy covers school education, higher education and professional education which in turn include agricultural education, legal education, medical education and technical education.
- It also looks at the verticals of vocational education by including teacher education and the research and innovation.
- The early child care and education have been sought to be integrated within the Ministry of Education (a changed name has been suggested for the Ministry of Human Resource and Development – MHRD).



- The policy also tries to focus on certain foundational skills that children should have in the **proposed new structure of 5+3+3+4**.
 - The first stage of five years (for children of 3-8 years of age) i.e. foundational stage looks at discovery learning and learning by play. The foundational literacy and numeracy skills are a mission mode approach under it that includes **National Tutors' Program, remedial instructional aid programmes** It considers **nutrition as very critical for strengthening the levels of 3-8 years of children**.
 - The next stage is Preparatory Stage for the children in the age group of 8 to 11 years (grades 3 to 5) followed by the Middle Stage (grades 6 to 8) for the students in the age group of 11-14 years.



- The Secondary Stage (Grades 9-12) for students in the age group of 14-18 years.
- For school education, governance level changes have also been suggested. A State regulatory authority has been suggested for regulating education in the country. The body will decide the accreditation of different schools. The government will continue to fund and operate education in the country.
- **Main takeaways for higher education:**
 - Restructuring of the higher education system into Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3.
 - Tier 1 includes research universities focusing equally on research and teaching.
 - Tier 2 includes teaching universities focusing primarily on teaching.
 - Tier 3 includes colleges focusing only on teaching at undergraduate levels.
 - All such institutions will gradually move towards full autonomy – academic, administrative, and financial. The idea is to spread ‘research culture’ at the undergraduate level.
 - The policy also talks about **National Scholarship Fund** to financially support students for higher education.
- **The National Research Foundation**, an apex body, is proposed for creating a strong research culture. It will help build research capacity across higher education.
- The four functions of **Standard Setting, Funding, Accreditation and Regulation** will be separated and conducted by independent bodies.
- **National Higher Education Regulatory Authority** will be the only regulator for all higher education including professional education.
- The policy proposes to create an accreditation eco-system led by a revamped NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council).
- Professional Standard Setting Bodies for each area of professional education was proposed.
- UGC is to be transformed to **Higher Education Grants Commission (HEGC)**.
- **Language:**
 - Promotion of Indian and classical languages and setting up three new National Institutes for Pali, Persian and Prakrit were proposed.
 - Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI) has been recommended.
- The policy also proposes to increase the class of compulsory education up to grade 12 (age-18).
- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act – RTE, 2009 (represents Article 21-A of the Indian Constitution) made education, a fundamental right of every child between the ages of 6 and 14.
- The policy aims to achieve a fully literate society where all adults are literates by 2030 or so.
- Besides the above, the committee also recommended several new policy initiatives for –
 - promoting internationalization of higher education
 - strengthening quality open and distance learning
 - technology integration at all levels of education
 - facilitating adult and lifelong learning
 - enhancing participation of under-represented groups
 - eliminating gender, social category and regional gaps in education outcomes

Challenges:

- There are fewer consensuses on the integration of foundational learning with schooling. In Europe, compulsory education begins at the age of 6. In certain countries like Denmark, Germany and Finland, compulsory education begins at the age of 7.
- There needs to be a discussion on whether literacy and numeracy skills should be developed during the time of foundational learning.
- In the draft policy, there is no mention of how the State regulatory body will regulate the government institutions.
- A constitutional amendment is required to change the limits for compulsory schooling in the country. Also, increasing the limit on higher side i.e. up to the age of 18 is not consistent with the limits across the world. Also, it is a very expensive proposition.
- There is not enough capacity in the country to provide for teachers’ education. Also, M.Ed has been given less importance under the policy. The focus has been more on B.Ed.

Way Forward:

- Education is a concurrent list subject. Apart from a consensus between the centre and the states, all the other stakeholders including institutions, public and academicians should also be consulted.



- Natal and prenatal studies should also be included in the country's education system to ensure awareness about the issues related to mother and infants, considering the high MMR and IMR in the country.
- There should be a course of Masters of Teacher Education. Also, there is a need to build good teacher training institutions.
- The education policy should maintain a symbiotic relationship between the different regions of the country through the study of different languages.
- The quality of education provided in the country shall be such that it not only delivers basic literacy and numeracy but also creates an analytical environment in the country.

Q) Discuss the objectives of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS), In what way do you think it can successfully re-energize and reinvigorate vocational training and skill development aspects in the country ? (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has decided to waive off fee for SC/ST candidates who join vocational training under Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS).

Key demand of the question:

The answer must provide for an assessment of the program – Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) and its contributions to vocational training and skill development.

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:

In a few lines explain the vocational training and skill development scenario of the country.

Body:

The answer must have a detailed discussion upon the salient features of the program;

- Formerly under the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Jan Shikshan Sansthan was transferred to the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in 2018.
- Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) were established to provide vocational training to non-literate, neo-literate, as well as school dropouts by identifying skills as would have a market in the region of their establishment.
- They were formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth.
- The JSSs are unique, they link literacy with vocational skills and provide large doses of Life Enrichment Education (LEE) to the people.
- They aim for convergence with other stakeholders in society. It is their endeavor to shape their beneficiaries into self-reliant and self-assured employees and entrepreneurs.
- Then discuss in what way the approach in this program is different from others.
- What can be the way forward.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting significance of vocational training and skill development in the country.

Introduction:

- Jan Shikshan Sansthan (formerly known as **Shramik Vidyapeeth**) have a challenging mandate of **providing vocational skills to non-literate, neo-literates as well as school drop-outs** by identifying skills that have a market in the region of their establishment.
- The JSSs are unique, they **link literacy with vocational skills** and provide large doses of Life Enrichment Education (LEE) to the people.
- They aim for convergence with other stakeholders in society. It is their endeavour to shape their beneficiaries into self-reliant and self-assured employees and entrepreneurs.

Body:

The objectives/scope of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSSs) includes the following:

- Develop/Source appropriate curriculum and training modules covering vocational elements, general awareness and life enrichment components.



- JSS's are encouraged to undertake training equivalent to courses designed by the Directorate of Adult Education, National Institute of Open Schooling and Director General, Employment & Training.
- Provide training to a pool of resource persons and master trainers for conducting training.
- Administer simple tests and award certificates.
- Network with employers and industries for trainees to get suitable placement

Recently, comprehensive reforms for Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) were released, to further strengthen the skills ecosystem benefiting those in the underprivileged sections of society. The new norms are expected to **help identify and promote traditional skills in the district** through skilling / upskilling; **create livelihood linkages** and **boost training of trainers** to develop the capacity through **National Skills Training Institutes**.

Potential of JSS:

- They have been reformed keeping in mind the **diverse stake-holders engaged in running these institutions**.
- The JSS can play an important role in bridging information asymmetry between skill training and market opportunities thereby giving an impetus to the creation of a workforce equipped in technology-driven skills, including in areas like health & wellness, tourism, e-commerce, retail and trade.
- By aligning JSSs to the National Skill Framework, the government aims to provide **standardised training across sectors**.
- This is an important step towards the convergence of all skilling activities under the aegis of one ministry, bringing in transparency and accountability to the entire skilling ecosystem.
- Out of the 247 active JSSs, we already have 43 JSSs established **across 42 Aspirational Districts** identified by NITI Aayog.
- A few more in the **LWE (left-wing extremism affected) regions** will be soon introduced to promote skill development of the youth in the region and help them connect back into mainstream economy.

Conclusion:

JSS has the potential to **boost skill training and entrepreneurship in the remotest corners of the country**. It can further strengthen the skills ecosystem benefiting those in the **underprivileged sections of society**.

Q) “Food-borne diseases is an increasing threat to human health which impede socio-economic development by straining health care systems and harming national economies, tourism and trade”. Critically analyse the statement. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

According to World Health Organization (WHO), an estimated 600 million cases of food-borne diseases occur annually around the world.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must evaluate in detail the current scenario of food borne diseases, analyse the impact of the same human health.

Directive word:

Critically 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. 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 a few introductory lines bring out the significant points of the WHO findings.

Body:

Answers must discuss the following aspects:

Key findings in the report –

- An estimated 600 million cases of food-borne diseases occur annually around the world. This translates into one in 10 people falling ill after eating contaminated food.
- Children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the food-borne disease burden with 1,25,000 deaths every year.
- Discuss in detail the impact of the above.
- What needs to be done? What are the recommendations?

**Conclusion –**

Conclude with way forward that complying with global food standards, establishing effective regulatory food control systems, applying good agriculture practices and building capacities of consumers to make healthy food choices are some ways to ensure food safety.

Introduction:

- The first-ever World Food Safety Day was celebrated on June 7. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2018 in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization.
- The theme for 2019 is 'Food safety, everyone's business'. An estimated 600 million cases of food-borne diseases occur annually around the world. This translates into one in 10 people falling ill after eating contaminated food.

Body:

Food borne intoxications or food poisoning is caused by ingestion

- Of toxicants found as toxins of certain plants or animals.
- Toxin formed by microbes while they multiply in the foods or after entering the intestines.
- Poisonous substances that may be intentionally or incidentally added to foods during production, processing, transportation or storage.

E.g.: Botulism, Shellfish poisoning, Staphylococcal poisoning, Salmonellosis, diarrhoea, Hepatitis-A etc.

State of food safety around the world:

- Food safety is an increasing threat to human health.
- According to WHO, Children under 5 years of age carry 40% of the food-borne disease burden with 1,25,000 deaths every year.
- Unsafe food also hampers development in many low- and middle-income economies, which lose around US\$ 95 billion in productivity associated with disability, illness, and premature death of the workers.

Challenges to food safety:

- Adulteration: It remains the primary problem. It is widely prevalent in spices, grains, pulses, cereals, processed foods, readymade foods etc
- Storage of food grains at public and private warehouses is kept improperly. These warehouses are breeding grounds of rodents which infect the foods.
- Due to excessive use of Pesticides and Fertilizers in agriculture, inorganic compounds enter food chains through bio-magnification. It poses direct and immediate threats to health.
- Unhygienic storage and processing of bird flesh at poultry farms
- Unawareness of people regarding expired edible food items like mustard oil, beverages
- Lack of sanitation and water security

Impacts:

- Food borne diseases are the most wide spread health problem in our country. In addition to health consequences, economic cost of food borne diseases such as lost of man days, cost of treatment, loss of affected food articles, etc can be huge.

Measures needed:

- Complying with global food standards.
- Establishing effective regulatory food control systems, including emergency preparedness and response.
- Providing access to clean water.
- Applying good agriculture practices (terrestrial, aquatic, livestock, horticulture).
- Strengthening the use of food safety management systems by food business operators
- Building capacities of consumers to make healthy food choices are some ways in which governments, international organisations, scientists, the private sector and civil society
- Food safety should be adequately incorporated in national disaster-management programmes and emergencies.
- Awareness for checking expiry date of processed and edible food items
- Social audit at public warehouses

Way forward:

Adopting the UN Guide to food safety:

- Governments must ensure safe and nutritious food for all.
- Agriculture and food producers need to adopt good practices.
- Business operators must make sure food is safe.
- All consumers have a right to safe, healthy and nutritious food.



- Food safety is a shared responsibility.

Conclusion:

- Safe, nutritious and sufficient food is a key to promoting health and ending hunger, which are two of the main aims of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Q) What do you understand by Fixed dose Drug Combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits. (250 words)

[Indianexpress](#)

Why this question:

The article talks about FDCs, the question is to evaluate what are FDC's, their advantages and disadvantages.

Key demands of the question:

Answer is straightforward and must explain in detail what are FDCs, their merits and demerits.

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

In a few introductory lines define FDCs. – A Fixed Drug Combination is a formulation consisting of two or more

active pharmaceutical products combined in a single dosage form. It consists of a pre-determined combination and dosages of respective drugs.

FDCs may be used to target a single disease or multiple conditions/disease.

Body

Discuss the following aspects in the answer:

Advantages of FDCs are:

- They reduce the pill burden by reducing the number of pills to be taken by the patients.
- They reduce the risk of adverse reaction compared to higher dose of monotherapy. They are believed to have higher efficacy compared to higher dose of monotherapy.
- They lead to reduction in overall cost and have least side effect.

Disadvantages of FDCs are:

- There may not be an FDC available with the exact required combination of drugs for the patient. This can lead to patients getting too much of a particular drug.
- If there is an adverse reaction from an FDC, it may be difficult to identify the ingredient responsible for causing the reaction.
- Pharmaceutical companies may also try to evergreen their patents by obtaining exclusive rights to sell an FDC, even though the patent for individual components have expired.

Conclusion

Conclude with their significance.

Introduction:

- A **fixed dose drug combination** is a medicine containing two or more active components (Active pharmaceutical ingredients) in fixed proportions in a single dosage form. Several cough syrups, painkillers and dermatological drugs in India are FDCs.
- A good example of FDC is the combination of Paracetamol with Ibuprofen. Paracetamol is an analgesic (painkiller) and antipyretic (preventing fever), while Ibuprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. This combination cures the acute pain of many types like toothache, body ache etc. Some are marketed with licenses approved only by state regulatory agencies instead of the Drug Controller General of India.

Body:

- According to US healthcare provider IMS Health, almost half the drugs sold in India in 2014 were FDC, making it a world leader in combination drugs. The **Chandrakant Kokate**-led expert panel, which was probing the



efficacy of about 500 fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs, suggested quite a number of FDCs are irrational and hence recommended them to be banned.

Merits of FDCs:

- The basic rationale of making “fixed-dose combination” medicinal products is either to improve patient compliance or to benefit from the synergistic effects of the two medicinal products given together.
- **Cost to customer:** Instead of buying two, or more, separate medicines, a patient can buy just one FDC medicine to treat multiple illness symptoms, which typically works out easier on the wallet.
- **Cheaper Manufacturing cost:** Pharma companies, meanwhile, love them because it is far cheaper and quicker to combine existing active ingredients to make new products than to discover new medicines and manufacture them separately.
- **Ease of Availability:** Mostly sold as the Over the Counter drugs and needs no prescription.
- FDCs are known to offer specific advantages over the single entity preparations, such as increased efficacy, and/or a reduced incidence of adverse effects.
- FDCs have shown to be particularly useful in the treatment of infectious diseases like HIV, malaria and tuberculosis, where giving multiple antimicrobial agents is the norm.
- FDCs are also useful for chronic conditions especially, when **multiple disorders co-exist**.

Demerits of FDCs:

- **Evades Price Control:** pharma companies preferred them to circumvent price control rather than single-ingredient drugs which fall under price control.
- **Market capture:** Companies vie with one another for a share of the market for the same class of drugs. In order to provide something 'new' to prescribers, they develop and market FDCs (often irrational, but promoted as a unique and innovative product by each company) purely for commercial reasons, and support its sales through sophisticated (and often unethical) marketing strategies.
- Therapeutic benefits of many combination drugs could be doubtful and some may even pose health risks. Side effects like dizziness, nausea, hallucinations. It is also addictive.
- FDC drugs are the highest self medication drugs in India. Consumed without prescriptions (especially cough syrups) – Not safe for patients.
- FDC drugs especially Cough syrups with Codeine are suppressants rather than Curative. Hence, it distorts the perception of patients (that is the better medicine).
- With FDC drugs, side effects cannot be traced out to a single API. Hence, it may lead to lot of adverse effects on patients. It can leads to complications resulting from adverse interactions of the drugs
- Antibiotic resistance can be reduced – Since, multiple combinations of same therapeutic value are clubbed together, it provide chance for microbes to develop resistance. Ban may bring some relief in this respect
- Elimination of irrational drug combinations and control the irrational prescriptions
- Encourages the use of home remedies having same result without side effects like use of Honey, pepper, turmeric to remedy against Cough and cold.

Way forward:

- It is not advisable to ban each and every FDC drug considering the huge market size. However, the rationality of FDCs in the future should be determined based on certain key aspects as follows
- The ingredients in the combination should work by different mechanisms.
- The pharmacokinetics (effect of the drug in the body) of ingredients must not be widely different.
- FDC should not have toxins created due to a combination of ingredients.
- Only those FDCs approved by WHO can be made available

Q) Though India has made significant developments in malaria prevention and control, challenges remain in eradicating the disease. Critically analyse the statement while suggesting way forward. (250 words)

Hindustantimes

Why this question:

India has sustained significant decline in malaria cases, halving numbers to 5.1 million in 2018 from 9.6 million the year before. This followed a 24% decline in 2017, according to the World Malaria Report 2018. This year, the cases have fallen across all states except Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Lakshadweep. Despite the success, it is early days yet to declare that the country is on track to reach its goal of zero indigenous cases by 2027.

Thus, it's necessary for us to evaluate the conditions around it.



Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail the current conditions around eradicating Malaria in India and the challenges being faced around it, one must explain what needs to be done.

Directive:

Critically 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. 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 a few lines state some facts related to Malaria in India highlighting the current scenario.

Body:

The answer must discuss the following:

- Challenges in Malaria Control in India. – Porous borders and migrant movement – The North-eastern states share their border with neighboring countries such as Myanmar and Bangladesh where malaria is still prevalent and there is a persistent threat of influx of malaria cases from these countries. Anti-Malarial drug resistance, lack of physical resources /availability of resources, rural and urban conditions of malaria eradication, High endemic malaria pockets in remote areas and in tribal population etc.
- Suggest what are the policies and plans in this direction.
- What changes are required in the approach to eradicate malaria from India.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Malaria is a disease caused by the infectious single-celled microorganisms of the Plasmodium group, which is spread by female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- Malaria is a leading cause of human morbidity and mortality. Despite huge progress in tackling the disease, there are still 212 million new cases of malaria and 430,000 malaria-related deaths worldwide each year according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Most cases (80%) and deaths (90%) were in sub-Saharan African.

Body:

India's efforts to fight Malaria:

- India's progress in fighting malaria is an outcome of concerted efforts to ensure that its malaria programme is country-owned and country-led, even as it is in alignment with globally accepted strategies.
- Indian government has released a **National Strategic Plan (NSP) for malaria elimination for years 2017-2022, targeting eradication by 2030.**
- This marked a **shift in focus from malaria “control” to “elimination”**. The plan provides a roadmap to achieve the target of ending malaria in 571 districts out of India's 678 districts by 2022.
- India has sustained significant decline in malaria cases, halving numbers to 5.1 million in 2018 from 9.6 million the year before. This followed a 24% decline in 2017, according to the World Malaria Report 2018.
- Since 2000, India has reduced malaria deaths by two-thirds and halved the number of malaria cases.
- Scaling up a diagnostic testing, treatment and surveillance
- Ensuring an uninterrupted drug and diagnostics supply chain
- Training community workers to test all fever cases and provide medicines, and distributing medicated bed-nets for prevention, under its ‘test-treat-track’ in the endemic north-eastern states and Odisha.

Challenges remain:

- Large number of cases treated in the private sector, are not reported to the government
- 80% of malaria cases occurring among 20% of India's population in 200 high-risk districts
- The Indian record stands in sharp contrast to some of its neighbours — the Maldives was certified malaria-free in 2015, and Sri Lanka followed last year.
- In India, malaria is caused by the parasites Plasmodium falciparum (Pf) and Plasmodium Vivax (Pv). Pf is found more in the forest areas, whereas Pv is more common in the plains.
- Majority of malaria cases in the country occur in its bordering districts, forests and tribal areas.



- The majority of reporting districts are in the country's eastern and central parts — the largest number of cases are found in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and the North-eastern states of Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya.
- **Drug Resistance:**
 - Artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACTs) has been integral to the recent success of global malaria control, and protecting their efficacy for the treatment of malaria is a global health priority.
- **Insecticide Resistance:**
 - Of the 80 malaria endemic countries that provided data for 2010–2017, resistance to at least one of the four insecticide classes in one malaria vector from collection site was detected in 68 countries.
 - In view of the current situation, resistance monitoring and management plans are essential, in line with the WHO Global plan for insecticide resistance management in malaria vectors.

Way forward:

- **Parasite control:**
 - Malaria can be eliminated only by stopping indigenous transmission of the infection.
 - In the early 1990s, the AMC changed from vector-control (mosquito control) to parasite control strategy to contain infection. From 1999 onwards, cases have steadily declined and by 2008, less than 1,000 cases were being reported per year.
- **Health access:**
 - A strong public health system, sanitation and roads lowered mosquito breeding and took treatment to people in the remotest of places.
 - Rapid diagnostic tests make it possible for trained health workers to test all cases of fever in makeshift camps and treat everyone with malaria.
 - Prompt treatment by trained health workers with focus on high-risk areas lowered disease and deaths.
- **Web-based surveillance:**
 - Strong surveillance system requires high levels of access to care and case detection, and complete reporting of health information by all sectors, whether public or private.
 - All fever cases were tested for malaria and each case notified with the Anti 'Malaria Campaign at the ministry of health.
 - People with a travel history to countries with malaria transmission were closely tracked for symptoms, as were people in the armed forces on peacekeeping missions, immigrants, emigrants, tourists and pilgrims.
- **Rationing medicines:**
 - Anti-malarial medicines were only available with the AMC, which compelled the private health sector to notify all cases. With malaria cases sharply falling, it soon became unprofitable for the private sector to stock anti-malarial medicines.
- **Lessons from Srilanka:**
 - Most of these people live in forest-rich districts also affected by the Naxalite problem. By reaching out to marginalised communities living in inaccessible areas and also to Naxal cadres with the help of civil society India can expect to eradicate malaria.
 - Improving public health system and rolling out malaria control interventions in these areas is critical if India wants to eliminate malaria by 2030.
 - Malaria control in border districts in the north and the north-east.
- **24x7 hotline:**
 - AMC ran a 24-hour hotline to notify, track and treat the patient in isolation to stop further spread of infection.
- **Stakeholder partnerships:**
 - Intensive disease surveillance, integrated vector (mosquito) management, rigorous community engagement and research increased social, technical and financial support for eradication.
 - Among states, **Odisha's Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran (DAMaN) initiative** is significant. The initiative aims to deliver services to the most inaccessible and hardest hit people of the State. The initiative has in-built innovative strategies to combat asymptomatic malaria.



Q) Discuss the significance of early childhood care and education. To what extent has the draft National Education Policy 2019 addressed the concerns of early childhood care and education ? (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The question is about early childhood care and education in India. The draft National Education Policy 2019 wants early childhood education to be overseen and regulated by the HRD Ministry as part of the school system, rather than the private preschools and anganwadis. Thus it is important from exam point of view to analyse the ECCE conditions in India.

Key demand of the question:

The question expects us to evaluate the current conditions of ECCE scenario in India, what needs to be done with a special focus on the draft national education policy.

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:

Begin with brief introduction on what you understand by ECCE.

Body:

One can start by appreciating the key highlights of the draft education policy with focus on aspects of ECCE –

- Right to Education Act to cover the three years of preschool before Class 1. Thus, all Indian children could soon enter the formal education system at the age of three.
- Early childhood education should be overseen and regulated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) as part of the school system, rather than the private pre-schools and anganwadis that currently cater to the 3-to-6 years age group.
- It suggests a new integrated curricular framework for 3 to 8-year olds with a flexible system based on play, activity and discovery, and beginning exposure to three languages from age 3 onwards.
- A joint task force from Health, HRD and Women and Child Development (WCD) ministry will draft “a detailed plan outlining the operational and financial implications of the integration of early childhood education with the school education system”.

Suggest the importance of having a robust policy for ECCE.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- According to UNICEF, **early childhood is defined as the period from conception through eight years of age.**
- Early childhood care and education (ECCE) is more than preparation for primary school.
- It aims at the holistic development of a child’s social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing.
- **Target 4.2 of SDG 4** aims that by 2030, to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education.

Body:

Significance of ECCE:

- Early childhood is a time of remarkable growth with brain development at its peak.
- During this stage, children are highly influenced by the environment and the people that surround them.
- These years lay the foundations for her/ his learning and holistic development.
- Children will be better prepared for primary school and will reach better education outcomes.
- Quality ECCE also helps reduce repetition and drop-out rates.
- Positive outcomes are even more pronounced among children from vulnerable groups.
- It helps promote human resource development, gender equality and social cohesion, and to reduce the costs for later remedial programmes.
- An overview of 56 studies across 23 countries found impacts on health, education, cognitive ability, and emotional development



Fresh focus

Key differences between the existing system and the NEP recommendations

Current system

- RTE covers Class 1 to Class 8
- Anganwadis, preschools cover 3 to 6 age group
- Focus on health and nutrition in anganwadis
- Rote learning, formal teaching in preschools
- WCD Ministry oversees anganwadi system

Draft policy recommendations

- RTE from preschool (age 3 onwards) till Class 12
- Integrated primary school framework from age 3 to 8
- Anganwadis, preschools to be linked to local primary schools
- Focus on play and discovery-based learning
- MHRD to oversee educational aspects



Draft NEP and ECCE:

- The draft National Education Policy (NEP) developed by a committee chaired by K. Kasturirangan was shared for public comment.
- The Policy projecting an **expansion of the Right to Education Act** to cover the three years of preschool before Class 1.
- It suggests a new integrated curricular framework for 3 to 8-year olds with a flexible system based on play, activity and discovery, and beginning exposure to three languages from age 3 onwards.
- The policy aims to provide High-quality early childhood care and education for all children between the ages of three and six by 2025.
- This will be done within schools and anganwadis, which will take care of the overall well-being of the child.
- These institutions will also provide similar support to families for children younger than three years of age—within their homes.
- This policy will result in a massive positive multiplier effect on society.

Challenges:

- One of the major issues of ECCE is the **unavailability of trained teachers**.
- Anganwadis are currently quite deficient in supplies and infrastructure for education.
- As a result, they tend to contain more children in the 2-4 year age range and fewer in the educationally critical 4-6 year age range.
- Anganwadis also have few teachers trained in or specially dedicated to early childhood education.
- Private pre-schools often consist of formal teaching and rote memorisation with limited play-based learning.
- A 2017 study by the Ambedkar University showed that “a significant proportion of children in India who completed pre-primary education, public or private, did not have the needed school readiness competencies when they joined primary school.

Way forward:

- **ECCE teacher training** should be added as a skill gap in the list of National Skill Development Corporation to ensure that easy investment is available to produce efficient ECCE teachers.
- **Universal access to quality early childhood education** is perhaps the best investment that India can make for our children's and our nation's future.



Q) Discuss what you understand by the three-language formula. What are the concerns associated over imposition of Hindi ? Suggest reforms required in this direction. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

A 50-year-old controversy got a new lease of life recently when a paragraph in the Draft New Education Policy 2019 referred to the mandatory teaching of Hindi in States where Hindi is not spoken. This was a reiteration of the Central government's three-language formula, but it set off a storm in Tamil Nadu, which stoutly opposes any attempt to impose Hindi and adheres to a two-language formula. The Union government sought to neutralise the hostile reaction by dropping the controversial reference to Hindi.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail the three-language formula, need, concerns associated over imposition of Hindi and the need for reforms.

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:

In a few introductory lines define the idea of three language formula

Body:

Answers must discuss the following aspects –

- Start by discussing the issue and its backdrop.
- Discuss the origin of the concept of the three-language formula.
- What is the entire controversy around Hindi language?
- What are the challenges involved?
- What needs to be done?

Conclusion –

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- The three-language formula has its roots back in the year 1961 and it was implemented as a result of a consensus during the meeting of various CMs of the Indian states.
- The Three-Language Formula was supposed to be not a goal or a limiting factor in language acquisition, but rather a convenient launching pad for the exploration of the expanding horizon of knowledge and the emotional integration of the country.
- Following the submission of the **draft National Education Policy 2019**, there were protests against the three language formula.

Body:

Three language policy:

- According to the **National Education Policy of 1968**, the three-language formula means that a third language (apart from Hindi and English), which should belong to Modern India, should be used for education in Hindi-speaking states. In the states where Hindi is not the primary language, regional languages and English, along with Hindi shall be used.
- This formula was altered and amended by Kothari Commission (1964–66) so as to accommodate regional languages and mother tongues of the group identities. Also Hindi and English remained at the two ends of the line.
- **The First Language** that students should study- Mother tongue or the regional language
- **The Second Language:**
 - In Hindi-speaking states, this would be English or some other language belonging to Modern India.
 - In Non-Hindi states, this will be English or Hindi
- **The Third Language:**
 - In Hindi-speaking states, this would be English or some other language belonging to Modern India, but the one that is not chosen as the second language.
 - In Non-Hindi states, this will be English or some other language belonging to Modern India, but the one that is not chosen as the second language.



Concerns associated over imposition of Hindi:

- Though TLF provides scope for mother tongue language education, the emphasis is lost due to varied implementation.
- Amidst asserting political rights of dominant ethnic groups, this policy fails to protect various mother tongues from becoming extinct.
- Students have to face increased burden of subjects because of the three language formula.
- In some areas, students are forced to learn Sanskrit.
- The draft policy's push for Hindi seems to be based on the premise that 54% of Indians speak Hindi.
- But according to the 2001 Census, 52 crore out of 121 crore people identified Hindi as their language.
- About 32 crore people declared Hindi as their mother tongue.
- This means that Hindi is the language of less than 44% Indians and mother tongue of only little over 25% people in India.
- But there has been greater push for making Hindi a pan-India language, which is seen as imposition of Hindi by many states, especially that of the South.
- The states like Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Tripura were not ready to teach Hindi and Hindi-speaking states did not include any south Indian language in their school curriculum.
- State governments often do not have adequate resources to implement the three –language formula.
- The inadequacy of resources is perhaps the most important aspect of the challenge. For resource strapped state governments, it will be an extraordinarily difficult task to invest in so many language teachers in a short span of time.

Way forward:

- Language is primarily a utilitarian tool.
- While acquisition of additional tools can indeed be beneficial, compulsory learning should be limited to one's mother tongue.
- Besides, English, as the language that provides access to global knowledge and as a link language within India, could be a supportive language.
- Given this, not everyone is satisfied by the changes, and the three-language formula itself is seen as an unnecessary imposition.
- Even if there is intent all around, implementing the three-language formula is not really doable in the current situation. Moreover, the two-language formula, or a shoddy version of the three-language formula has not undermined national harmony.

Q) Extending the Right to Education (RTE) to younger children through early childhood education would be a welcome step. Elucidate. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The article discusses how Extending the right to education to younger children would be a welcome step. The recent draft National education policy has envisaged this step.

Demand of the question:

This question is to analyse the significance of such a step and discuss the importance of having right to education for younger children.

Directive word:

Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction

Start with brief introduction on what is early childhood care and education.

Body

Have the following points discussed in the answer:

Discuss what is meant by ECCE, its importance. What are the present provisions for ECCE? Role of RTE – present conditions, what will be the consequences of extending it to ECCE? Explain the provisions given in draft national policy.

Conclusion

Conclude by appreciating the steps being taken by the government in this direction.



Introduction:

- According to UNICEF, **early childhood is defined as the period from conception through eight years of age.** Early childhood care and education (ECCE) is more than preparation for primary school.
- It aims at the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing.
- **Target 4.2 of SDG 4 aims that by 2030,** to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education.

Body:

Significance of ECCE:

- Early childhood is a time of remarkable growth with brain development at its peak.
- During this stage, children are highly influenced by the environment and the people that surround them.
- These years **lay the foundations for her/ his learning and holistic development.**
- The pedagogical view is that the pre-school phase is crucial to **stimulate a child's curiosity and help her prepare for schooling at age six.**
- This will help reach better education outcomes.
- Quality ECCE also helps reduce repetition and drop-out rates.
- Positive outcomes are even more pronounced among children from vulnerable groups.
- It helps promote human resource development, gender equality and social cohesion, and to reduce the costs for later remedial programmes.
- An overview of 56 studies across 23 countries found impacts on health, education, cognitive ability, and emotional development

Draft NEP and ECCE:

- The draft National Education Policy (NEP) developed by a committee chaired by K. Kasturirangan was shared for public comment.
- The NEP proposal to infuse the existing child development schemes, which are primarily nutrition-oriented, with a learning component is in line with this thinking on holistic development.
- The Policy projecting an expansion of the Right to Education Act to cover the three years of preschool before Class 1.
- It suggests a new integrated curricular framework for 3 to 8-year olds with a flexible system based on play, activity and discovery, and beginning exposure to three languages from age 3 onwards.
- The policy aims to provide High-quality early childhood care and education for all children between the ages of three and six by 2025.
- This will be done within schools and anganwadis, which will take care of the overall well-being of the child.
- These institutions will also provide similar support to families for children younger than three years of age—within their homes.
- This policy will result in a massive positive multiplier effect on society.

Challenges:

- One of the major issues of ECCE is the **unavailability of trained teachers.**
- Only 12.7% schools comply with the law's requirements, and at the pace seen since RTE became law in 2010, it will take decades to achieve full coverage.
- Anganwadis are currently quite deficient in supplies and infrastructure for education.
- As a result, they tend to contain more children in the 2-4 year age range and fewer in the educationally critical 4-6 year age range.
- Anganwadis also have few teachers trained in or specially dedicated to early childhood education.
- Private pre-schools often consist of formal teaching and rote memorisation with limited play-based learning.
- **Poor financial support to education** has thwarted the progress, for instance, only 2.7% of GDP was allotted in 2017-18.
- A 2017 study by the Ambedkar University showed that "a significant proportion of children in India who completed pre-primary education, public or private, did not have the needed school readiness competencies when they joined primary school.

Way forward:

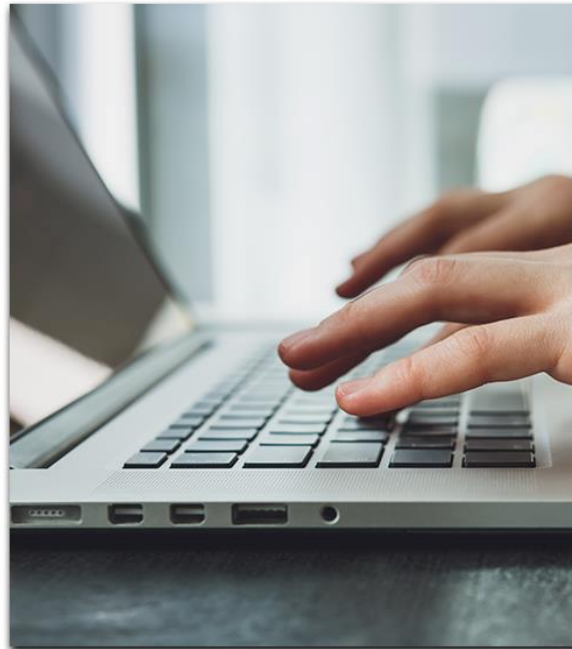
- The Centre has to guarantee that in its totality, the Right to Education will encompass all schools bar those catering to minorities.
- An expenditure of 6% of GDP on education will help transform the education sector.



- The Centre has to play a leadership role to ensure that States, some of which have done a poor job of implementing the RTE Act, are persuaded to implement urgent reform.
- State governments will have to fill teacher vacancies and ensure that the training of recruits is aligned to scientific, child-oriented teaching methods.
- ECCE teacher training should be added as a skill gap in the list of National Skill Development Corporation to ensure that easy investment is available to produce efficient ECCE teachers.
- Universal access to quality early childhood education is perhaps the best investment that India can make for our children's and our nation's future.

Conclusion:

- The proposal to extend RTE's scope to younger children through early childhood education is, however, wholly positive. The move suggested in the draft National Education Policy to put children three years and older in a stimulating nursery environment is a welcome logical measure.
- Education reform is vital to prepare for a future in which cutting-edge skills will be necessary for continued economic progress. Changes to the RTE Act that will prepare all children for a more productive schooling phase can help make India's educational system morally fair and more egalitarian.



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Q) Discuss the key features and objectives of National Programme for prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and strokes (NPCDCS). (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

A meeting to review the status of National Programme for prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and strokes (NPCDCS) was held recently. Thus, it is important for us to analyse the program from the examination point of view.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail the objectives and features of the NPCDCS.

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:

In a few introductory lines discuss the context of the question.

Body:

In brief discuss the following points:

- About the programme – National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) was launched in 2010 in 100 districts across 21 States, in order to prevent and control the major NCDs.
- The main focus of the programme is on health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral of cases, besides strengthening the infrastructure and capacity building.
- Discuss in detail the key features.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what more needs to be done.

Introduction:

- India is experiencing a rapid health transition with a rising burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) surpassing the burden of Communicable diseases like water-borne or vector-borne diseases, TB, HIV, etc.
- Consequently, National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) was launched in 2010 in 100 districts across 21 States, in order to prevent and control the major NCDs.
- The main focus of the programme is on health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral of cases, besides strengthening the infrastructure and capacity building. A meeting to review the status of NPCDCS was held recently.

Body:

Objectives of NPCDCS:

- **Health promotion through behavior change** with involvement of community, civil society, community based organizations, media etc.
- Opportunistic screening at all levels in the health care delivery system from sub- centre and above for early detection of diabetes, hypertension and common cancers. Outreach camps are also envisaged.
- To **prevent and control chronic Non-Communicable diseases**, especially Cancer, Diabetes, CVDs and Stroke.
- To **build capacity at various levels of health care for prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, IEC/BCC, operational research and rehabilitation.**
- To **support for diagnosis and cost effective treatment at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of health care.**
- To **support for development of database of NCDs through Surveillance System and to monitor NCD morbidity and mortality and risk factors.**

Key features of NPCDCS:

Health promotion, awareness generation and promotion of healthy lifestyle:

- Given that the major determinants to hypertension, obesity, high blood glucose and high blood lipid levels are unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, stress and consumption of tobacco and alcohol, awareness will be generated in the community to promote healthy life style habits.



- For such awareness generation and community education, various strategies will be devised /formulated for behavior change and communication by inter personal communication (IPC), involvement of various categories of mass media, civil society, community based organization, panchayats/local bodies, other government departments and private sector.
- The focus of health promotion activities will be on:
 - Increased intake of healthy foods
 - Salt reduction
 - Increased physical activity/regular exercise
 - Avoidance of tobacco and alcohol
 - Reduction of obesity
 - Stress management
 - Awareness about warning signs of cancer etc.
 - Regular health check-up
- **Screening and early detection:**
 - Screening and early detection of non-communicable diseases especially diabetes, high blood pressure and common cancers would be an important component.
 - The suspected cases will be referred to higher health facilities for further diagnosis and treatment.
 - Common cancers (breast, cervical and oral), diabetes and high blood pressure screening of target population (age 30 years and above,) will be conducted either through opportunistic and/or camp approach at different levels of health facilities and also in urban slums of large cities.
 - The screening of the urban slum population would be carried out by the local government/municipalities in cities with population of more than 1 million.
 - The ANMs will be trained for conducting screening so that the same can be also conducted at sub centre level. Each district will be linked to nearby tertiary cancer care (TCC) facilities to provide referral and outreach services. The suspected cases will be referred to District Hospital and tertiary cancer care (TCC) facilities.
- **Timely, affordable and accurate diagnosis.**
- **Access to affordable treatment.**
- **Establishment/Strengthening of Health infrastructure**
 - Community health centers and district hospitals would be supported for prevention, early detection and management of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke.
 - Support would be provided for establishing NCD clinics and strengthening laboratory at Community health centers and district hospitals.
 - Financial support for the essential contractual staff such as doctors and nurses at these units would also be provided under the programme.
- **Human Resource development:**
 - Under NPCDCS, health professionals and health care providers at various levels of health care would be trained for health promotion, NCD prevention, early detection and management of Cancer, Diabetes, CVDs and Stroke.
- **Miscellaneous services:**
 - Financial support would be provided to district and CHC/FRU/PHC for procurement of screening devices, essential drugs, consumables, transport of referral cases as per the details annexed for treatment of Cancer, Diabetes, CVDs and Stroke.

Conclusion:

- The NCDs disproportionately affect the poor, impoverish families, and place a growing burden on health care systems. A majority of cancers and CVDs can be prevented and treated if diagnosed at an early stage. The NPCDCS is a step in the right direction.

Q) “Human health and animal health are interdependent and are bound to the health of the ecosystems in which they exist.” Analyse with suitable examples. (250 words)

[Indianexpress](https://www.indianexpress.com)

Why this question:

The author of the article discusses in detail Why healthy animals mean healthy humans, and how to meet that goal.



Key demand of the question:

One has to explain in detail the interconnectedness between Human health and animal health as well as the effect of ecosystem on such an interdependence.

Directive:

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:

Begin with brief introduction on the context of the question.

Body:

Discussion should include the following:

Explain how developing countries like India have much greater stake in strong One Health systems on account of agricultural systems resulting in uncomfortably close proximity of animals and humans. This calls for strict health surveillance to incorporate domestic animals, livestock and poultry too.

Explain how animal health is connected with human health, explain with examples of avian influenza, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome etc. Discuss what needs to be done?

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the need to balance the interlink and care for health of both humans and animals interconnected to the ecosystem.

Introduction:

- As human populations expand, it results in greater contact with domestic and wild animals, providing more opportunities for diseases to pass from one to the other. Early detection at animal source can prevent disease transmission to humans and introduction of pathogens into the food chain.
- Climate change, deforestation and intensive farming further disrupt environment characteristics, while increased trade and travel result in closer and more frequent interaction, thus increasing the possibility of transmission of diseases.

Body:

- The **World Organization of Animal Health**, commonly known as OIE (an abbreviation of its French title), summarises the **One Health concept** as “human health and animal health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystems in which they exist”.
- The erstwhile pandemics of Avian Influenza and SARS brought to the fore the One health concept, that was forgotten, which recognises inter-connectivity among human health, the health of animals, and the environment.

Link between Animal and Human Health:

- According to the OIE, 60% of existing human infectious diseases are zoonotic i.e. they are transmitted from animals to humans. E.g.: H1N1, H5N1, Nipah, rinderpest cattle disease etc.
- 75% of emerging infectious human diseases have an animal origin. Of the five new human diseases appearing every year, three originate in animals.
- If this is not scary enough, 80% biological agents with potential bio-terrorist use are zoonotic pathogens.
- It is estimated that zoonotic diseases account for nearly two billion cases per year resulting in more than two million deaths — more than from HIV/AIDS and diarrhoea.
- One-fifth of premature deaths in poor countries are attributed to diseases transmitted from animals to humans.

Developing countries like India are at a much higher risk due to:

- Agricultural systems resulting in uncomfortably close proximity of animals and humans.
- This calls for strict health surveillance to incorporate domestic animals, livestock and poultry too. Humans require a regular diet of animal protein.
- Thus, loss of food animals on account of poor health or disease too becomes a public health issue even though there may be no disease transmission, and we lose 20% of our animals this way.
- The size of India's human and animal populations is almost the same; 121 crore people (2011 Census) and 125.5 crore livestock and poultry.
- A network of 1.90 lakh health institutions in the government sector form the backbone of health governance, supported by a large number of private facilities.
- On the other hand, only 65,000 veterinary institutions tend to the health needs of 125.5 crore animals; and this includes 28,000 mobile dispensaries and first aid centres with bare minimum facilities.



- Private sector presence in veterinary services is close to being nonexistent.
- Unlike a physician, a veterinarian is always on a house call on account of the logistic challenge of transporting livestock to the hospital, unless they are domestic pets.
- There could not be a stronger case for reinventing the entire animal husbandry sector to be able to reach every livestock farmer, not only for disease treatment but for prevention and surveillance to minimise the threat to human health.

Way forward:

- Early detection at animal source can prevent disease transmission to humans and introduction of pathogens into the food chain.
- A robust animal health system is the first and a crucial step in human health.
- There is a need to establish a collaborative mechanism for joint surveillance and monitoring, strengthening disease reporting and control programmes.
- Disease surveillance has to go beyond humans and encompass preventive health and hygiene in livestock and poultry, improved standards of animal husbandry for greater food safety, and effective communication protocols between animal and public health systems.

Q) The growing disconnect between higher education and industry requirement in India is a matter of grave concern. Discuss the role played by private sector in scaling up skill development initiatives in such a scenario. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

Recently Directorate General of Training under the aegis of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Ministry has joined hands with Cisco and Accenture to skill the youth for the digital economy through its Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).

Key demand of the question:

One has to discuss and analyse the key role played by private sector in addressing the growing disconnect between higher education and industry requirement in India.

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:

Begin with brief introduction on need for focus on skill development in India.

Body:

Discussion should include the following: Discuss the current conditions of skill development in India. What are the lacunae associated with the policies trying to address the skill development programs? Role played by private players? And its significance.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the need to make skill development programs multi-pronged.

Introduction:

- In India, youth unemployment and skills gaps are threatening the growth of economies, the stability of societies and the wellbeing and prospects of individuals. Despite improvements in average educational attainment, the youth unemployment situation is common to all nations in the world.
- According to India Skill report 2019, employability in the country is at 47%. When compared to the percentage of formally skilled work force globally, India scores the least at 2% against South Korea (96%), Japan (80%), Germany (75%), UK (68%) and China (40%).

Body:

- On the one hand, India has a large number of educated unemployed, and on the other, industry is desperately short of skilled professionals. One of the biggest challenges HR managers face, today, is finding candidates with the right skill sets. Being qualified is one thing, being skilled for the job quite another.

Reasons for the disconnect between Higher education and industry requirement:

- The **targets allocated are very high** and without regard to any sectoral requirement. Everybody was chasing numbers without providing employment to the youth or meeting sectoral industry needs.



- The focus of PMKVY has been **largely on the short-term skill courses**, resulting in low placements. There has been an over emphasis on this scheme and hence it is seen as the answer to all skill-related issues.
- The **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)** has pointed out **flaws in the design and operations of the NSDC and National Skill Development Fund** which has resulted in falling short of skill development goals. Majority of them also could not achieve the placement targets for the trained persons.
- The **Sharada Prasad Committee**, held the NSDC responsible for poor implementation of the **Standard Training Assessment and Reward (STAR) programme**. It highlighted that **only 8.5 per cent of the persons trained were able to get employment**. That is what has been claimed by NSDC.
- The Report also cites “**serious conflict of interests**” in the functioning of the National Skill Development Corporation. NSDC has not been able to discharge its responsibilities for setting up **sector skill councils (SSCs)** owing to lots of instances of serious conflict of interest and unethical practices.
- The skilling courses are not in line with the **Industrial Revolution 4.0** which is round the corner.
- Against 12.8 million new entrants to the country’s workforce every year, the capacity of skill development in India is only around 3.1 million.
- Lack of awareness about vocational training programmes, absence of adaptability with changing market needs, and lack of vertical mobility are key challenges facing the skill development landscape in India.
- Vocational education is regarded as non-academic training related to a specific trade route or occupation.

The **private sector can help in the following ways:**

- **Industry-ready talent:**
 - Job training institutes can play a big role in picking up deserving candidates with industry tie-ups.
 - Smooth coordination between industry and placement institutes can help in tapping of the right potential and creating industry-ready talent.
 - Accreditations and certifications from the industry also add value to new entrants to the job market.
- **Perfect matching:**
 - Training and placement institutes can match organisations’ and candidates’ requirement.
 - Perfect matching is key to good placement.
 - The idea is to get the right candidate for the right job.
- **Internship opportunities:**
 - Internships provide students hands-on work opportunity and help them learn to apply their theoretical knowledge to real-life situations.
 - These are stepping stones to the job market.
 - Many companies give high-performing interns job offers, others give internship certificates which could help one land a good job.
 - Placement institutes that have tie-ups with MNCs and industry bodies can facilitate internships and jobs.
- **Soft skills:**
 - Good communication and soft skills are part of the job requirement.
 - Placement training institutes can help students master soft skills to increase their market value.
- **Mock interviews:**
 - Companies no longer just look for academic excellence; they lay great stress on a candidate’s suitability for the job.
 - Here, mock interviews and assessment tests can be great tools for preparing them for the day of reckoning.
 - These provide appropriate grooming and build confidence for campus placement interview.
- **Future skills**
 - We are living in a fast-paced, technological world.
 - If India wants to move up in the comity of nations, we need to improve our educational infrastructure, and technology is the most important component for that improvement.
 - We need to integrate technology at the grass-roots level and introduce futuristic skills for students to learn.
 - The aim should be to empower schools and support the budding generation of change-makers and innovators to visualise, design and create.
- **Job fairs:**
 - Job fairs aid in recruitment and networking.
 - The attempt should be to connect prospective employees with multiple employers.



- Recruitment fairs give students industry exposure and the interactions held provide them real-time experience about the hiring process and methodologies.

Other measures:

- **Sharada Prasad committee recommendations:**

- Create a sound and well defined **National Vocational Education and Training System** of the country which should ensure the following:-
 - At the secondary school level, the children should be sensitized about the dignity of labour, world of work and career options but vocational education and training should start only after 10 years of schooling which is the case in most of the developed world.
 - Every child should be given an option to go for higher vocational education and training.
- Create **National Labour Market Information System, National Occupational Standards, National Competency Standards, National Training Standards, National Accreditation Standards, National Assessment Standards and National Certification Standards and align them to the International Standards.**
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship should become the owner of all National Vocational Education and Training Standards and get them developed through intense industry involvement.
- Set up state of the art **Vocational Education and Training Colleges** to impart vocational education and training with a clear objective of meeting the skills needs of the industry and providing employment to youth.
- **In-plant apprenticeship training** should be made an integral part of the Vocational Education and Training for all trainees.
- The industry must come together to contribute towards a National Skill Development Fund.
- All diploma colleges and ITIs should be renamed as VETCs and their capacities should be enhanced to about 500 trainees per annum.
- There should be one **Skill Development Centre (SDC) in a cluster of about 10-12 villages**, which would provide skills to the youth so that they can access employment opportunities in the local economy.
- **The state of Gujarat has already set up a good number of such SDCs called Kaushal Vardhan Kendras which are doing excellent work.**
- The two existing Acts i.e. Apprentices Act, 1961 and The Employment Exchanges (Compulsory Notification of Vacancies) Act, 1959 should be repealed and a **new Vocational Education and Training Act (VETA)** should be enacted.

Conclusion:

- India is one of the youngest nations. Its median age is 27.3. As India aims to have one of the strongest economic growth stories in the 21st century, it becomes vital for it ensure its growing workforce **is capable to handle the incoming disruptions and find suitable jobs**. Skill development holds the key to India's future as a globally competitive economy and the demographic dividend it hopes to reap.

Case Study: India could learn a lesson from Germany, which imparts skills in just 340 occupation groups. Vocational education must be imparted in broadly defined occupational skills, so that if job descriptions change over a youth's career, she is able to adapt to changing technologies and changing job roles.

Q) What is Acute encephalitis syndrome ? Discuss the causative agents, do you think authorities failed at several levels in preventing deaths due to encephalopathy in Bihar ? Suggest what needs to be done ? (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

Several children have died in the Muzaffarpur district of north Bihar, due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). The AES cases in Muzaffarpur, Bihar and adjoining litchi producing districts have been observed mostly from April to June, particularly in children who are undernourished with a history of visiting litchi orchards.

Key demand of the question:

The article discusses in detail the policy lacunae in focusing upon the health crisis. One has to analyse the causes and the consequences of the such policy irregularities.

**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:**

Begin with brief introduction on the background of the question.

Body:

Discussion should include the following:

- First define what is acute encephalitis syndrome – It is a severe case of encephalitis transmitted by mosquitoes and is characterized by high fever and inflammation of the brain.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) in 2006, coined the term AES to signify a group of diseases which seem similar to one another but are difficult to differentiate in the chaotic environment of an outbreak.
- The disease most commonly affects children and young adults and can lead to considerable morbidity and mortality.
- Discuss the government initiatives in this direction, what were the lacunae in the policy framework? Etc.
- Suggest what needs to be done?

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting the importance of strong policy framework which is multi-pronged as well as focused.

Introduction:

- **Acute encephalitis syndrome is a severe case of encephalitis transmitted by mosquitoes and is characterized by high fever and inflammation of the brain.** The World Health Organization (WHO) in 2006, coined the term AES to signify a group of diseases which seem similar to one another but are difficult to differentiate in the chaotic environment of an outbreak.
- The disease most commonly affects children and young adults and can lead to considerable morbidity and mortality. Several children have died in the Muzaffarpur district of north Bihar, due to Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)

Body:**Current state of AES in India:**

- The AES cases in Muzaffarpur, Bihar and adjoining litchi producing districts have been observed mostly from April to June, particularly in children who are undernourished with a history of visiting litchi orchards.
- The outbreak of JE usually coincides with the monsoon and post monsoon period when the density of mosquitoes increases while encephalitis due to other viruses specially entero-viruses occurs throughout the year as it is a water borne disease.
- Relationship between consumption of litchi and AES was postulated by National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi in acute encephalitis in children, in Muzaffarpur.
- Unripe litchis contain the toxins hypoglycin A (naturally occurring amino acid) and methylenecyclopropylglycine (MCPG), which cause vomiting if ingested in large quantities.

Causative Agents:

- **Viruses** are the main causative agents in AES cases, although other sources such as bacteria, fungi, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals, toxins, and noninfectious agents have also been reported over the past few decades. It is not vaccine-preventable.
- Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is the major cause of AES in India (ranging from 5%-35%).
- Herpes simplex virus, Nipah virus, Zika virus, Influenza A virus, West Nile virus, Chandipura virus, mumps, measles, dengue, scrub typhus, S.pneumoniae are also found as causative agents for AES.

Government Initiatives:

- In order to reduce morbidity, mortality, and disability in children due to JE/AES, Government of India under National Programme for Prevention and Control of Japanese Encephalitis(JE)/ Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (NPPCJA) has developed a multi-pronged strategy with the convergence of the concerned Ministries.
- In 2014, 74% of sick children were saved through a simple intervention by infusing 10% dextrose within 4 hours of the onset of illness.



- Also, the prevention strategy of ensuring that no child goes to bed without eating a meal was adopted from 2015.
- This ensured a sharp drop in the number of children falling sick.
- The Bihar government introduced free vaccines at all primary health centres. The current coverage is 70%.
- The central and state governments have also conducted awareness campaign asking people not to expose their children to sun.
- Also, ensuring a proper diet and increased fluid intake were insisted.
- Besides these, early hospital referral and standard treatment for convulsions, high fever and vomiting can save lives.

Despite these measures, there have been deaths due to lack of awareness, poor implementation of the plan to thwart the disease.

Measures needed:

- Increase access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities
- Improve nutritional status of children at risk of JE/AES
- Preparative measures to be in place before the possible outbreaks.
- **Vector control :**
 - The preventive measures are directed at reducing the vector (mosquito) density.
 - Personal protection against mosquito bites using insecticide treated mosquito nets.
 - Clothing reduces the risk of mosquito biting if the cloth is sufficiently thick or loosely fitting. Long sleeves and trousers with stockings may protect the arms and legs, the preferred sites for mosquito bites. School children should adhere to these practices whenever possible.
 - Repellents are a common means of personal protection against mosquitoes and other biting insects. These are broadly classified into two categories, natural repellents and chemical repellents. Essential oils from plant extracts are the main natural repellent ingredients, i.e. citronella oil, lemongrass oil and neem oil.
 - The reduction in mosquito breeding requires eco-management, as the role of insecticides is limited.
- **Vaccination:** As per Govt. of India guidelines, 2 doses of JE vaccine have been approved to be included in UIP to be given one along with measles at the age of 9 months and the second with DPT booster at the age of 16-24 months w.e.f. April, 2013.
- Better awareness generation among children, parents through Anganwadi workers, ANMs etc.

Q) Do you agree that the recent Muzaffarpur litchi incident is more of a manifestation of already present hunger and malnutrition conditions of Bihar rather than mere consumption of litchi fruit or failure of health facilities to address the incidence? Critically analyse. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

An unexplained illness in children aged 15 years and younger in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, which claims many lives in May-June, has been solved. Scientists from the U.S. and India have found that consumption of litchi fruit and skipping evening meal can result in very low blood glucose level (less than 70 mg/dL) and acute encephalopathy that provokes seizures and coma, and causes death in many cases.

Key demand of the question:

However, the key reason behind such an incident happens to be the prevailing hunger and poverty conditions of the region rather than the etymology presented by the toxins in the fruit.

Directive:

Critically analyse – 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. 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 narration of the incidence of Bihar.

Body:

Discussion should include the following:



Main content of the answer should focus on the link between the incidence and hunger vis-à-vis malnourishment of the population of the region. Explain how health facilities can not address or fail in such situations as the root cause of the issue is hidden and is mainly the hunger.

Conclusion:

Conclude that to resolve such an issue, the government must focus on eradicating the root cause – hunger and malnutrition.

Introduction:

- The outbreak of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) in Bihar has led to close to 350 cases and around 100 deaths. While the causes of AES are still researched, the association with hypoglycaemia and litchi fruit has drawn attention.
- At present, more than 400 children with AES have been admitted to various hospitals. Most of the deaths have been attributed to low blood sugar level (hypoglycaemia). These children are from the poorer sections of society where Malnourishment is rampant.

Body:

Link between the incidence of AES and hunger vis-à-vis malnourishment:

- While the theory that the consumption of locally produced, unripe and rotten litchis led to the deaths has gained ground, medical experts have blamed 'malnutrition'.
- A research into the AES deaths in Muzaffarpur a few years ago, said consumption of the fruit had only proved to be a trigger for the already malnourished children.
- Chronic malnutrition is a pre-dispositional factor, while unripe and rotten litchis are only the triggering factor for the deaths of children in Muzaffarpur.
- Hypoglycaemic encephalopathy occurred in children between one to 10 years of age and those who accompanied their parents at work in litchi orchards.
- As the fruit is harvested around 4 am every day, labourers and their children sleep early the previous evening without having dinner.
- Raw litchi, which tastes bad and is not fit for sale, is often consumed by the poor children.
- These children eat the unripe and rotten litchis as their first meal at the orchards.
- As a result of prolonged fasting, which sometimes stretches for more than 12 hours, the malnourished children suffer from hypoglycemia and the process, leading to the triggering of gluconeogenesis (the breaking down of sugar) in their bodies since they have a lower level of glucose stored in their liver.
- It was found that unripe and rotten litchis contain **methyl cyclopropyl glycine (MCPG)**, which inhibits the process of gluconeogenesis.
- This deadly combination of malnutrition and prolonged hypoglycemic status, combined with MCPG, leads to the sugar level in children to dip much below 50, sometimes to zero, and they start showing symptoms of convulsions and high fever, locally known as "chamki bukhari".
- Children from urban areas and well-off families never suffered from hypoglycemic encephalopathy as the glycogen storage in the liver was not depleted due to sufficient food consumption.

However, there are contrarian voices that AES is not due to malnutrition and litchis.

- High humidity combined with high temperatures is the reason for AES.
- When temperature has gone beyond 38 degree with 65-85 per cent humidity, it is better time for the spread of the deadly disease.
- Muzaffarpur may not be the only region to suffer from this mysterious disease. Lychee-growing areas in neighbouring Bangladesh and Vietnam have also reported outbreaks of acute encephalitis syndrome in the past where Malnourishment has not been a major issue.
- Genetic predisposition is a causative factor because not all the children in a family fall ill despite the same conditions.

Measures needed:

- Research has concluded that evening meals and restricted consumption of litchis are short-term measures that can prevent such deaths, while fighting malnutrition is a long-term step to root out the problem from the region known as a major litchi producer.
- Child should be administered 10% glucose within four hours of the onset of illness, it can ensure complete recovery.
- An equally simple preventive technique is to ensure that no child goes to bed without eating a meal first.
- Primary health centres (PHC) should procure and use glucometers which measure the blood-glucose levels.



- The state government and the Centre must focus on creating awareness in the area by **distributing oral rehydration solution (ORS) through auxiliary nurse midwives (ANM) and Asha workers.**

Conclusion:

- Malnourishment is a scourge on India despite efforts at various levels. Effective implementation of the POSHAN Abhiyan through the front-workers like ANMs and ASHAs, schemes like MDM will help in curbing such preventable deaths.

Q) What is Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) ? Discuss the challenges around the vaccination, what are the views opposing and supporting the HPV vaccination ? Critically analyse. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

The article states that widespread vaccination programmes can help achieve WHO's global call to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the HPV and the challenges around the vaccination.

Directive:

Critically analyse – 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. 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 by explaining what is HPV. 'Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)' causes penile cancer in men and cervical, vaginal, anal & vulvar cancer in women.

Body:

Discussion should include the following:

Have a detailed discussion on the HPV, its spread and onset.

Then discuss the current status of the Vaccination drive for HPV in India, explain the issues and challenges around it. what are the views opposing it, supporting it etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude by stating importance of it.

Introduction:

- Human Papilloma viruses (HPVs) is a class of virus which causes an infection that is easily spread through direct sexual contact, from the skin and mucous membranes of infected people to the skin and mucous membranes of their partners. It causes penile cancer in men and cervical, vaginal, anal & vulvar cancer in women. It can also cause throat or rectum cancer in both men and women.
- The virus is transmitted through intimate contact like – sexual intercourse, oral or anal sex. It poses a higher risk for HIV-infected persons, smokers, and people dependent on hormonal contraceptives.

Body:

Challenges around the vaccination for HPV:

- India has the largest burden of cervical cancer in the world and about 70,000 women die because of it each year.
- Around 70% of these cases are caused by infections from HPV strains, which the vaccines prevent.
- In India, two vaccines namely "Gardasil" & "Cervarix" are available.
- These vaccines protect against almost 90% of genital warts in men and women.
- The HPV vaccine is given thrice within six months to girls aged 9-13 years, before they become sexually active.
- Post-vaccination, a girl should ideally undergo pap smear tests every three years to check for pre-cancerous or cancerous cells.
- Punjab and Delhi have already begun vaccination for girls.
- National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) has proposed the inclusion of these vaccines in UIP for nationwide implementation.
- However, the medical community in India is divided over the vaccine's utility.



Views opposing HPV vaccination:

- The cost of the vaccine is around INR 12,000 per person and the budget to cover a huge population are the major challenge in India.
- With 6.2 crores Indian girls aged 9-13 years, the cost to the government will be over Rs 56,000 crores.
- Also there is no data to suggest that they comprehensively prevent invasive cervical cancer as evaluation requires long testing periods.
- HPV vaccine has also been found to have side-effects such as regional pain syndrome and neurological problems in some cases.
- Contrarily, India is already witnessing a declining trend in cervical cancer due to better nutrition, hygiene & reproductive patterns.
- Hence, a case for improving these aspects further, rather than expose the entire population to the vaccination holds ground.

Views supporting HPV vaccination:

- 'WHO Global Advisory Committee for Vaccine Safety (GACVS)' had concluded that there the HPV vaccines are safe.
- 71 countries had introduced HPV vaccine in their immunisation programme for girls and 11 countries included boys too.
- Australia was the first country to introduce HPV vaccination in its school program and now has the lowest level of cervical cancer.
- In India there is already enough manpower and cold storage for vaccines.
- Hence, some argue that the prevention cost will be lower than treatment cost.
- As, awareness on prevention of HPV infections and safe sex is low in India, there is a view that it can't be solely relied to fight HPV.

Conclusion:

- The efforts needs to be scaled-up in low and middle-income countries (LMICs), where the burden of disease is far greater than in high-income countries.
- Redoubling our efforts to tackle the fiscal, supply, and programmatic barriers that currently limit HPV vaccine programmes; with these efforts, HPV vaccination could become a hallmark investment of cancer prevention in the 21st century

Topic: Role of civil services in a democracy

Q) With ever rising complexity of demands as of today, how do you think the role of civil servants has been changing in shaping the democracy of today's world countries ? (250 words)

Governance by Lakshmikanth

Why this question:

The question is about discussing the importance of civil services in shaping the democracy with changing times.

Demand of the question:

Answer is straightforward and one must discuss details of how civil services shape democracy with changing times.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction

Start with highlighting the importance of civil servants and their services in a democracy.

Body

There is not much to deliberate as the question is straightforward, one must discuss the fact that times have changed, and with it the democracy has evolved long way

Conclusion

Conclude by reasserting its importance.

Introduction:

- The administration of the British era was essentially for the perpetuation of imperial interest and not for the welfare of people. Hence it had the inherently elitist, secretive and irresponsive attitude around it. With it came non responsiveness, bureaucratic delay and red tapism thereby widening the gap between the administration and the common people.



- Also during the early years of independence the people were completely dependent on government for the provisioning of most goods and services which left the common man at the mercy of the civil services.

Body:

- Since Independence, there have been covert and overt changes in administration. The need arose for administrative reforms as people become more aware and their aspirations increased. Also, there was an enormous increase in the scale of the governmental operations. There has been a change in the role of civil servants with evolving changes and challenges in the society.

The politico economic transition:

- With the opening of the economy in 1991 and the forces of privatization ushering in the administration could not remain unaffected.
- It had to respond to the changed demands from the government and the functional versatility expected out of it.
- For instance, the BSNL or Air India being the sole operators in the field suddenly faced competition from private players.
- Now the administration had to look after efficiency and effectiveness along with economy and equity.
- An altogether new set of functions started cropping up for the civil servants such as being part of Tribunals, Regulatory bodies and independent commissions.
- This transition made the civil servants play the role of a watch dog than that of the service provider.

The ICT wave:

- The wave of Internet and communication technology has deeply touched even the smallest details of our life.
- In this era of information overload and enhanced accessibility how can the civil services be rigidly working through their non transparent and inwardly looking silos?
- ICT has ushered in an ease of doing routine work such as file management, record keeping and highly cut down the interaction time.
- This has left the civil servants with time to better focus on the actual developmental and welfare oriented work that the constitutional ethos expects them to do.
- With ICT has come in a lot of accountability, better opportunities for people to monitor work or participate through different platforms and thus making the civil servants and their work come into common public scrutiny.

The era of participation:

- Seventy years since the independence and India has leaped high on its literacy and social awareness paradigms.
- From legislations like The Right to Information Act to “Maximum Governance , Minimum Government” agendas, from political manifestos of transparency, accountability to social media stepping into governance, popular participation in democratic functioning of the nation is the demand of the day.
- In this era the administration cannot act as the sole decision maker and has to work in cooperation with the political heads and the people as well thus acting as a bridge.

Collaborative actions:

- With the passage of time, the role of civil society organisations, in governance, has increased with demands for better governance.
- The same can be said of the private sector, which is increasingly providing services in several areas, which hitherto were the exclusive preserve of the public sector.
- Consequently, civil servants should view civil society organisations and the private sector as partners in the process of the country's governance

Way forward:

- Any attempt to re-engineer the bureaucracy would have to deal with two aspects.
- The first would have to address the systems or structures and the other would have to be the professional or attitudinal aspects of civil servants.
- No civil service structure can be static in its character. It has to be dynamic and has to change with the times.
- A professional, socially relevant, empathetic and empowering civil service is the thing of the time.

Conclusion:

- Thus we see that the role of civil servants has evolved from being an elite and inward looking cog in the administrative wheel to being the facilitator of welfare services on one hand and promoting free market ethos on the other and further needs to become the proactive handler of change.



- Newer challenges of environmental degradation, nuclear threats, social unrest, terrorism, population pressure and the need of transparency, accountability, equity and participation is at the doorstep. Now the role of a civil servant is not only that of a service provider but a torch bearer of change and a social stabiliser

Q) Elucidate upon the importance of civil services in modern day democracy. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The question is intended to evaluate the role played by civil services in modern day democracy.

Key demand of the question:

The answer is straightforward and is about discussing in detail the contributions made by civil services to the modern-day democracy.

Directive word:

Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Briefly narrate the significance of democracy.

Body:

The answer to discuss the following aspects –

Discuss how civil services has contributed in bringing scientific and technological development, brought out economic planning, industrial revolution, handle situations of crisis and disasters in a much better way.

Explain how it led to good governance, emergence of welfare state.

Justify how it leads to a strong government, brings out participation etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Civil services or Bureaucracy is an administrative body of officials whose roles are determined by written rules. It's an impersonal system operating on the basis of calculable rules and staffed by full time appointed officials.
- Civil Services are the bedrock of public administration. Civil services have assumed more important role in democracy to ensure good governance, both in developing and developed countries.

Body:

A number of factors have contributed the increasing importance of civil service in modern day society:

- The scientific and technological development:** They have led to revolutionary changes in transportation and communication system. The invention of telephone, telegraph, railways and airways has made big government and large scale administration possible.
- Industrial revolution:** It brought about certain changes in society. It led to the growth of large scale industries and factory production, over-crowded industrial towns and urban slums. The factory system also resulted in certain evils such as growth of capitalism, large scale unemployment, exploitation of labour etc. In the interest of socio-economic justice, governments in the developed and developing countries have to assume new responsibilities to set right the bad effects of the above evils. The tasks and responsibilities as well as the importance of civil service have thus vastly increased.
- Economic Planning:** Modern governments have resorted to planning as a method of achieving economic development and goals of welfare state. The new responsibilities relating to planning activities, i.e., plan formulation and implementation and creation of elaborate necessary administrative machinery have naturally widened the scope of public administration. However, in the new liberalized economic reforms, planning as a method of economic development and the administrative functions relating to it are gradually getting diminished.
- Calamities and crisis:** Natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, droughts and cyclones have also enhanced the importance of civil services. In the event of occurrence of such natural calamities, the public administrators have to act quickly and undertake rescue operations in order to prevent loss of life and property of the affected people. Thus crisis management is an important function of public administration.



- **Population and the problems of metropolitan cities:** The rapid growth of population in almost all the countries of the world, especially in developing countries, has complicated the problems of providing food, shelter, education, health and sanitation etc. to the people. Also, the growth of metropolitan cities has created certain problems peculiar to them. Some of the problems include congestion, growth of slums, housing scarcity, insufficient water supply, increasing urban crime rate etc. The responsibility for tackling these acute social and economic problems has resulted in the increase in the sphere of activity of civil service.
- **Emergence of welfare state:** As a welfare state, governments have to perform major functions such as dispenser of social services, a provider of essential commodities, a manager of key industries and banking services and a controller and regulator of private economic enterprises and activities. This has naturally increased the importance of civil service

Conclusion:

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel described Civil Services as the 'Steel frame of India'. It is widely recognised that the civil services have contributed to stability in terms of maintenance of peace, the conduct of fair elections, managing disasters and the preservation of the unity of the nation, providing stability and maintaining order in a vast country prone to various conflicts & ethnic, communal, regional etc.

Q) Elaborate upon the specific challenges that the civil services face in a democracy also suggest what can be done to address such issues in detail. (250 words)

Governance by Lakshmikanth

Why this question:

The question is about discussing the challenges faced by civil servants.

Key demand of the question:

The question expects us to discuss the challenges faced by the civil servants.

Also suggest solutions as to how one can address these challenges.

Directive word:

Elaborate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin with brief on role of civil services in a democracy.

Body:

Discuss the specific challenges that the civil services face in a democracy like:

- Civil servants fall prey to political forces under threat or bribes.
- They indulge in nepotism.
- They are alienated from the public.
- Frequent transfers prevent any real work.
- Political interference prevents people from working sincerely.

Then move on to explain how these challenges can be addressed.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Civil services or Bureaucracy is an administrative body of officials whose roles are determined by written rules. It's an impersonal system operating on the basis of calculable rules and staffed by full time appointed officials.
- Civil Services are the bedrock of public administration. Civil services have assumed more important role in democracy to ensure good governance, both in developing and developed countries.

Body:

Challenges faced by the civil servants:

- **Political interference:** The first and foremost challenge is the dispute between the IAS officers and MP or MLA. The major reason is the difference in opinion, corruption, using public office for personal use and protection given to criminals and law breakers by the MP and MLA.
- **Lack of professionalism and poor capacity building** leads to poor outcomes and redtapism.
- **Inefficient incentive systems** that do not appreciate upright and outstanding civil servants but reward the corrupt and the incompetent
- **Outmoded rules and procedures** that restrict the civil servant from performing effectively



- Lack of adequate transparency and accountability procedures – there is also no safety for whistle blowers
- Work overload: Over demand and casework overload are facts of life for many public servants.
- Transfers: The transfer malaise is all-pervasive. Everything relies on the impulses of the minister and sometimes an honest to goodness necessity. Arbitrary and whimsical transfers leads to insecurity in tenures and thus impedes institutionalization
- Lack of control: A lack of discretion over their work can leave the public servant frustrated when they can see what needs to be done but are prevented from doing it. Unnecessarily detailed procedures or interference from superiors — what is known as micro management — are both aspect of this challenge.
- Silo working: Silo working is what happens when departments or organisations focus on protecting their own position and role rather than the needs of the people that they are working for. From the public servant's point of view this makes it harder to get things done.
- Lack of recognition: The problem of lack of recognition is not just about the public servant getting personal appreciation for good work well done but also systemic inconsistencies in promotion and empanelment. This leads to demotivation and discouragement.
- Gradual erosion in values and ethics leading to corruption and systemic ills.

Measures to fight the challenges:

Skilled Bureaucracy: There is a need for development of new skill:

- Develop Project/Programme Management skills to implement large projects in a timely and cost effective manner. This should also include commercial, legal and financial negotiation and contract management skills.
- Digital Skills to be used for improved service delivery. There should be increased reliance on e-governance and mobile governance.
- Capacity/Skill building is vital for lower bureaucracy since they are in the front line of the public service delivery. There is a need to enhance both their professional and soft skills.

Converged Bureaucracy : There is a need to break down the silos within Government to unlock productivity and outcomes :

- Need for Horizontal convergence in vertical administration –Greater thrust should be accorded on cross departmental working, interdepartmental engagements, and lateral communication among and within departments.
- Shared services model may be adopted for services such as IT, Finance, procurement So that there is no duplication in effort and cost.

Open Bureaucracy : A culture of openness needs to be cultivated towards new ideas, new challenges and innovation to bring about continues transformation for better service delivery.

- Open Policy Formulation—may be undertaken through openness to new thinking or in the gathering of evidence & insight from external experts. Collaborative approaches to policy making by taking views from members of civil society, think tanks, Universities, other countries and states.
- Social Media for Participatory Governance—Social media, crowd sourcing and open sourcing can be powerful tools to connect with people and promote participatory governance.
- Constantly engaging with the private sector –Culture of openness needs to be adopted for new forms of partnership with private sector.

Connected Bureaucracy –There is a need for the Bureaucracy to be connected within and globally to imbibe the best practice.

- Understanding global best practices will help our bureaucracy to develop world class acumen.
- Horizontal Connectivity between the State Departments. There is a need for the State Government departments to share the learning and best practices with their counterparts in other states.
- Improvement in Interdepartmental connectivity through Government process re-engineering, simplification of rules.

Better pay and good work conditions to keep the civil servants motivated and work better for the development of country.

Conclusion:

- There is an urgent need for balanced development across the country. The mechanics of good governance have to be replicated and adapted throughout.
- There is a need for a common and integrated action plan of Nation Building through an Effective Delivery of Public Services in a Transparent, Accountable, Citizen Friendly, Innovative, High Quality, Cost effective and Timely manner.



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Q) Reforms in India's law enforcement are the need of the hour. Discuss the key reasons hindering both police reforms and the impetus for police performance. (250 words)

[Livemint](#)

Why this question:

The article discusses in detail the issues police system is facing in the country.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must analyse in detail what are the issues and concerns associated with functioning of Police system; causes and consequences along with the necessary reforms needed.

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:

Begin with some facts from the article that could substantiate the question's demands.

Body:

Discussion should include the following:

What are the issues with the law enforcement system in the country?

Major issues with Police in India- huge vacancies, over-burden, Arduous nature of duties and working conditions, lack of physical infrastructure, Qualifications and training of police personnel etc.

Why is the issue? What are the underlying causes? – criminalization of politics, lack of political will, lack of education etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting solutions.

Introduction:

- The primary role of police forces is to uphold and enforce laws, investigate crimes and ensure security for people in the country. Under the Constitution, police is a subject governed by states.
- There has been almost 30 years of debate on policing and reform in India. However, the centre is also allowed to maintain its own police forces to assist the states with ensuring law and order. The present Indian police system is largely based on Police act of 1861

Body:

Need for Police Reforms:

- If India is to achieve its status as a great power, it is absolutely essential that police is restructured and modernised.
- Without the police ensuring good law and order in the country, the other services would find it difficult to operate.
- To transform the colonial police structure of the country into a progressive, modern force sensitive to the democratic aspirations of the people.
- To eliminate the undue political interference. The police of today are victims of politicization as well as criminalization.
- To instil the confidence of the people in the institution of police by making police more people friendly.
- The security of the society and the welfare of the people is dependent on the efficiency of the police.

Key reasons hindering both police reforms:

- **An overburdened police force:**
 - Police force is over burdened especially at lower levels where constabulary is forced to work continuously 14-16 hrs and also for 7 days a week. It adversely impacts their performance.
 - While the sanctioned police strength was 181 police per lakh persons in 2016 when the United Nations recommended standard is 222 police per lakh persons.
 - 86% of the state police comprises of constabulary. Constables are typically promoted once during their service. This could weaken their incentive to perform well.
- **Improving police infrastructure:**
 - Failure of police infrastructure like vehicles, weaponry. Also audits have found that the POLNET network is non-functional in various states.



- For example, an audit of the Gujarat police force reported that the network had not been operationalised till October 2015 due to non-installation of essential infrastructure, such as remote subscriber units and generator sets.
- Funds dedicated for modernisation of infrastructure are typically not utilised fully. For example, in 2015-16, only 14% of such funds were used by the states.
- **Political influence:**
 - Second Administrative Reforms Commission has noted that ministers have used police forces for personal and political reasons.
- **Police accountability:**
 - Police forces have the authority to exercise force to enforce laws and maintain law and order in a state. However, this power may be misused in several ways.
- **Poor quality of investigation:**
 - Crime per lakh population has increased by 28% over the last decade (2005-2015). However, convictions have been low. So it shows the poor quality of investigation.
 - The Law Commission and the Second Administrative Reforms Commission have noted that state police officers often neglect investigation because they are understaffed and overburdened with various kinds of tasks.
 - Further, they lack the training and the expertise required to conduct professional investigations.
 - They also have insufficient legal knowledge and the forensic and cyber infrastructure available to them is both inadequate and outdated. In light of this, police forces may use force and torture to secure evidence.
 - Crime investigations may be influenced by political or other extraneous considerations
- **Forensic labs:**
 - Expert bodies have however said that these laboratories are short of funds and qualified staff. Further, there is indiscriminate referencing of cases to these labs resulting in high pendency.
- **Lack of co-ordination** between centre and states is matter related to maintenance of law & order results in ineffective functioning of police force.
- Police force is not in the position to tackle present problems of cyber crime, global terrorism, Naxalism because of structural weaknesses.
- **Prevalence of Rank system** within the police force results in abuse of power by top level executive over lower level personnel.

Reforms needed:

Reforms needed:-

- **Directions of the Supreme Court in Prakash Singh vs Union of India:**
 - The Supreme Court ordered the centre and states to set up authorities to lay down guidelines for police functioning, evaluate police performance, decide postings and transfers, and receive complaints of police misconduct.
 - The court also required that minimum tenure of service be guaranteed to key police officers to protect them from arbitrary transfers and postings.
- **Independent Complaints Authority:**
 - The Second Administrative Reforms Commission and the Supreme Court have observed that there is a need to have an independent complaints authority to inquire into cases of police misconduct.
 - Example is that of the New York City Police which has a Civilian Complaint Review Board comprising of civilians appointed by local government bodies and the police commissioner to investigate into cases of police misconduct.
- **Investigation:**
 - Experts have recommended that states must have their own specialized investigation units within the police force that are responsible for crime investigation.
- **Padmanabhaiah commission:**
 - It has also been recommended that constables, and the police force in general, should receive greater training in soft skills given they need to deal with the public regularly.
- **Housing:**
 - Importance of providing housing to the constabulary (and generally to the police force) to improve their efficiency and incentive to accept remote postings has also been emphasised by expert bodies, such as the National Police Commission.



- **Community policing: Janamaithri Suraksha in Kerala**
 - This project is an initiative of the Kerala Police to facilitate greater accessibility, close interaction and better understanding between the police and local communities. For example, Beat Constables are required to know at least one family member of every family living in his beat area.
 - **Meira Paibi (Torch-bearers) in Assam:** The women of the Manipuri Basti in Guwahati help with improving the law and order problem in their area, by tackling drug abuse among the youth. They light their torches and go around the basti guarding the entry and exit points, to prevent the youth of the area from going out after sunset
- **Courts:**
 - The Madras High Court has said that the state government should contemplate giving policemen a day off in a week like other government officials in order to spend time with their families.
 - The court suggested introducing an 8-hour, three-shift system for police personnel. It will help them rejuvenate themselves and relieve them from stress.
- **Evidence based policing** is gaining credibility day by day – Indian police force must be exposed to it.
- **Second ARC** recommended that the government should declare certain crimes as “federal” and entrust their investigation to a Central agency.
- Police need to have the operational freedom to carry out their responsibilities professionally, and satisfactory working conditions, while being held accountable for poor performance or misuse of power.
- **Gender Parity in Police force:** The 2nd Administrative Reform Commission recommended that the representation of women in police at all levels should be increased through affirmative action so that they constitute about 33% of the police.
- **Improvement in Intelligence gathering:** The intelligence gathering machinery in the field needs to be strengthened and at the same time, made more accountable. Human intelligence should be combined with information derived from diverse sources with the focus on increased use of technology.

Conclusion:

- The police force needs to be freed from the stranglehold of the executive and given functional autonomy to enforce the rule of law. Police should be a **SMART Police** -a police which should be strict and sensitive, modern and mobile, alert and accountable, reliable and responsible, tech-savvy and trained.

TOPIC: Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- application, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

Q) What do you understand by Open data ? In what way open data is heralded as a game-changer for transparency and government accountability ? Analyse. (250 words)

Livemint

Why this question:

The article discusses in detail the concept of open data and in what way it addresses the issues of transparency and accountability.

Key demands of the question:

Answer should discuss the concept of open data, its significance, utility to achieve better transparency and accountability.

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. 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 a few introductory lines explain what you understand by Open data.

Body

Discuss the following aspects in the body of the answer:

What is open data? – refers to publicly available data that can be freely reused and redistributed.



Proponents of open data argue that it allows citizens to hold governments accountable and thus drive better service delivery.

In a new World Bank study, Michael Jelenic suggests that this type of open government data could improve both government accountability and service delivery.

Discuss what are the What are the benefits of open data?

Why open data is important?

Conclusion

Reassert the significance of using open data to aid transparency and accountability in the system.

Introduction:

- Open data, broadly refers to publicly available data that can be freely reused and redistributed, argue that open data allows citizens to hold governments accountable and thereby drive better service delivery. It is often heralded as a game-changer for transparency and government accountability.
- Research by PwC in Australia estimated that open data can add an additional 1.5% to the country's GDP. In the Indian context, this could conservatively translate to about \$22 billion.

Body:

Open data and Government accountability and transparency:

- Governments across the world are increasingly sharing data with the public. For instance, the government of India's open data initiative, data.gov.in, regularly publishes data released by different government ministries.
- In a new World Bank study, Michael Jelenic suggests that this type of open government data could improve both government accountability and service delivery.
- Such data collected by governments are for citizen welfare; hence they have an implicit right to benefit from the information
- Data sets such as government budget usage, welfare schemes and subsidies increase transparency and thereby build trust
- It paves the way to develop technology-led innovations which can unlock massive economic value, thereby benefitting even the poorest of poor, the under-represented and the marginalised
- Countries with more open data have higher levels of accountability (which includes less corruption and greater transparency in government work).
- Though Open government data is only associated with greater accountability when there is political agency for citizens to act on the data (e.g. free and fair elections).

Benefits of Open Data:

- Availability of data on yearly produce of crops, soil data health cards and meteorological data sets can help companies develop customised crop insurance solutions with specific risk-based pricing
- Data points around progress in literacy rates, demographic data and density of educators can help develop customised solutions for villages
- Information on the availability of facilities in public hospitals, current occupancy rates, hospital and demographic data can pave the way for curated health-care applications

Conclusion:

- Since open data is a relatively new phenomenon, more research is needed as open data expands to explore its effects on service delivery. The time is now ripe for the government to create a data-driven governance architecture by building digital trust in the economy and its intent.

Q) What is Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) ? Why is it important, discuss its key features ? (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

The question is about discussing the significance of ICANN.

Demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the key features of ICANN, one has to discuss in detail

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 description of ICANN.

Body

One can have the following points in the answer:

The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a nonprofit organization that was set up in 1998 to oversee the administration of domain names. ICANN coordinates and ensures the smooth and secure functioning of the cybernetic framework.

Then explain What it does?

The global nature of the Web today means that there are constantly increasing numbers of Domain Names, Host Names, IP addresses and web sites that are emerging on a daily basis. ICANN oversees this interconnected network and ensures that computers across the internet can find one another through defined unique pathways and identifiers.

Explain what are the major functions and roles played by it.

Conclusion

Conclude with its significance.

Introduction:

- The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a non profit organization that was set up in 1998 to oversee the administration of domain names. ICANN coordinates and ensures the smooth and secure functioning of the cybernetic framework.
- ICANN and NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies) have announced collaboration for working in developing standards and identifier technology that will feed into the global consultation for managing Internet-of-Things (IoT) devices and infrastructure using internet.

Body:**ICANN performs four major functions namely:**

- Approval of companies that can become accredited registrars for domain names.
- Decision making regarding the addition of new Top Level Domains (TLDs) to the Root system.
- Coordinating technical parameters to maintain universal connectivity.
- Creating a Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) for competing domain names.

Importance of ICANN:

- It ensures that computers across the internet can find one another through defined unique pathways and identifiers.
- The global nature of the Web today means that there are constantly increasing numbers of Domain Names, Host Names, IP addresses and web sites that are emerging on a daily basis.
- The numbering facilities ICANN manages include the Internet Protocol address spaces for IPv4 and IPv6, and assignment of address blocks to regional Internet registries. ICANN also maintains registries of Internet Protocol identifiers.
- ICANN oversees this interconnected network and ensures that computers across the internet can find one another through defined unique pathways and identifiers.
- ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet.
- It is responsible for coordinating the maintenance and methodologies of several databases, with unique identifiers, related to the namespaces of the Internet – and thereby, ensuring the network's stable and secures operation.
- ICANN is governed by an internationally diverse Board of Directors overseeing the policy development process.
- ICANN's President directs an international staff, working from three continents, who ensure that ICANN meets its operational commitment to the Internet community.
- The ICANN along with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) also manages the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP) dealing with Domain Name registration.
- **ICANN Who is** is a utility which allows users to get details of the registering entity for generic domain names. The utility is under review in light of privacy concerns

**Conclusion:**

- ICANN's primary principles of operation have been described as helping preserve the operational stability of the Internet; to promote competition; to achieve broad representation of the global Internet community; and to develop policies appropriate to its mission through bottom-up, consensus-based processes.

Q) Discuss the various dimensions of Governance in India. What are the issues associated with it ? Elaborate. (250 words)

Governance by Lakshmikanth

Why this question:

The question is straightforward and is from the static portions GS II Paper.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss in detail the aspects/dimensions of Governance in India and the concerned issues.

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.

Elaborate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin with brief introduction on the timeline of various poverty alleviation programmes.

Body:

Explain that Department of Administrative reforms and Public grievances (DARPG) in its report "State of Governance – A framework of assessment" has broken down governance into five dimensions viz. political, legal & judicial, administrative, economic and social & environmental dimensions.

Explain each of these dimensions in detail.

Then move on to discuss the issues associated with them.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting solutions as to what can be done.

Introduction:

- Governance relates to management of all such processes that, in any society, define the environment which permits and enables individuals to their raise their capability levels, on one hand, and provide opportunities to realise their potential and enlarge the set of available choices, on the other.
- Governance has been broken down into five dimensions viz. political, legal and judicial, administrative, economic and social & environmental dimensions.

Body:

Political dimension: The political dimension is the most essential aspect of governance. Without this dimension, other dimensions would be meaningless because it is the political process that brings in the key governance values of participation, accountability and transparency. This dimension has been broken down into four components.

- **Exercise of franchise:** This is the doorway to democratic governance which establishes legitimacy and accountability of the government by enabling participation by the citizens.
- Profile and Conduct of Political Representatives, Political Parties and the Political Executive.
- **Functioning of Legislature:** The role of the legislature is critical to the way governance takes shape in any particular State.
- **Political Decentralisation:** It reflects the willingness of the State to comply with constitutional imperatives, but also is an important indicator of empowerment at the grassroots level.

Legal and Judicial dimension: The state is vested with coercive power to maintain law and order. It is one of its sovereign functions. Another important responsibility of the state is to ensure that everybody has access to speedy justice. This dimension has been broken down into four basic components.

- **Law & Order and Internal Security:** This pertains to the basic function of the state – its *raison d'être* – to ensure that law and order prevails and citizens live in an environment where in their lives and property are generally safe and secure.
- **Safeguarding of basic rights:** This aspect relates to the ability of the state to protect the basic rights of the citizen, particularly those of poor, women and weaker sections.



- **Police Administration and Citizen-friendliness of the Police:** Its role is to protect the innocent and punish the guilty.
- **Access to Justice and Judicial Accountability:** Lastly, under this dimension, a significant indicator of the quality of governance relates to the access to and delivery of justice which is reflected in its capacity to provide timely justice, judicial efficiency, judicial accountability and citizen perception.

Administrative dimension: The administrative dimension is a critical aspect of governance because it determines the ability of government to deliver basic services to citizens by efficiently managing the human and financial resources. This dimension has been broken down into four basic components.

- **Citizen Interface and Engagement:** It indicates the citizen centricity of government agencies in their day to day functioning viz. accessibility, responsiveness, quality of grievance redressal/ complaint handling, compliance with RTI Act provisions etc.
- **Managing human, financial and other resources.**
- **Basic service delivery:** The cutting edge of administrative governance is the timely delivery and the quality of basic services such as primary healthcare services, primary schooling, drinking water, sanitation facilities, public distribution system, electricity, roads and transportation.
- **Corruption Perception, Vigilance & Enforcement.**

Economic dimension: The economic dimension pertains to the ability of the state to ensure macro-economic stability and create conducive climate for economic activity to take place across different sectors of the economy. This dimension has been broken down into three components:

- **Fiscal Governance:** This aspect of economic governance relates to how the State has managed its finances over the short to medium term.
- **Business Environment:** This component pertains to those aspects of economic governance which affect the way businesses operate within the State and includes general investment climate, legal aspects, procedural issues, infrastructure and manpower, regulatory systems, etc.
- **Support to the Primary Sector**

Social & environmental dimension: The social dimension pertains to the ability of the state to take care of the vulnerable sections of the society. This dimension has been broken down into three basic components:

- **Welfare of the Poor and Vulnerable**
- **Role of Civil Society and Media**
- **Environmental Management**

Challenges facing governance in India:

Issue of Transparency, Accountability and Credibility:

- Many of the institutions of Govt. and their processes are happening behind a black Curtain which is not in line with the philosophy of Good Governance as it promotes Transparency.
- **Solution:** Strengthening the RTI act, bringing more institutions and processes under RTI will surely help. A start can be by bringing Political parties under the ambit of RTI. Proper review mechanism should be derived and ratings should be provided.

Issue of Bypassing the Institutions and Processes:

- Good Governance Promotes the Rule of Law, Govt.'s to fulfil some petty political agenda tends to by-pass the Process. E.g. Many Ordinances were promulgated again and again when consensus was not formed (this was an abuse of Power).
- **Solution:** A common ground should be achieved by Deliberations and Discussions, Interest of the Nation and its people should be foremost, Strong Political will is needed.

Issue of Policy Paralysis and Effectiveness:

- Our institutions are suffering because of poor Decision making or no decision making at all. Policies are either not formed or if formed are not implemented properly.
- **Solution:** Use of BIG DATA technology to gather and analyse as much data as possible, since information is the first and the most imp. Part of any decision making process.

Issues of Bureaucracy:

- What we have seen from time immemorial is that there is a gap between the bureaucrats and the common masses, which is detrimental for coordination and Good Governance.
- **Solution:** Promotion of Barefoot Bureaucracy which promotes Bureaucrats to act as the first among equals, so that people feel like being a part of the system and Governance.

**Issue of Static attitude:**

- The world has become very dynamic and in such a dynamic atmosphere, the processes, the methods and the rules need constant monitoring and change. But what we see that most Govt. wants to maintain the old order and very reluctantly accept the new changes.
- Solution: Promoting Scientific Temper, adoption of reliable Technology and new methods, taking examples from developed nations.

Conclusion:

- The Government of India has undertaken a host of governance reform initiatives cutting across different Ministries and Departments.
- Good Governance is the most important solution of every problem that the country is facing. Govt. by all means should try to work on the issues and think of solutions to address these in order to achieve goodness of both nation and its citizens.

Q) What is e-governance, discuss the potential of e-governance with respect to India and its future. (250 words)

Governance by Lakshmikanth

Why this question:

The question is about discussing the concept of e-governance and its potential.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must elaborate on the concept of e-governance and its potential in detail and with possible examples wherever possible.

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:**

Begin with brief introduction on what you understand by e-governance.

Body:

The answer is direct and there isn't much to deliberate. Discuss first the concept of e-governance, then the dimensions and various aspects associated with it. Then discuss the issues associated. What are the possible solutions to it? Quote relevant case studies and bring out the potential of it.

Conclusion:

Conclude with suggestions.

Introduction:

- e-Governance which also known as electronic governance is basically the application of Information and Communications Technology to the processes of Government functioning in order to bring about 'Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent' governance.
- e-Governance involve the use of ICTs by government organisations for exchange of information with citizens, businesses or other government departments, faster and more efficient delivery of public services, improving internal efficiency, reducing costs / increasing revenue, re-structuring of administrative processes and improving quality of services.

Body:**Potential of e-governance with respect to India:**

- **Increased effectiveness and efficiency:** Improved government services in terms of accomplishing the government purpose and functioning
- **Better services:** E-government can provide quick and timely services to stakeholders
- **Transparency by dissemination and publication of information on the web:** This provides easy access to information and subsequently makes the system publicly accountable. Also as the web enables the free flow of information, it can be easily accessed by all without any discrimination.
- **Accessible anytime and anywhere:** As e-government services are provided through web-enabled technology they can be accessed anytime and anywhere
- **User-centred ICT enabled services:** The services are primarily intended for the use of citizens, businesses, and the government itself



- **Reduced cost and time:** As the services are provided through internet they are effective in terms of time and cost
- **Economic Development:** The deployment of ICTs reduces the transaction costs, which makes services cheaper. For example, rural areas suffer on account of lack of information regarding markets, products, agriculture, health, education, weather, etc. and if all this could be accessed online would lead to better and more opportunities and thereby prosperity in these areas.
- **Social Development:** The access to information empowers the citizens. The informed citizenry can participate and voice their concerns, which can be accommodated in the programme/ project formulation, implementation, monitoring and service delivery. Web-enabled participation will counter the discriminatory factors affecting our societal behaviour.
- **Reduced bureaucracy:** E-government minimizes hierarchy of authority for availing any government services
- **Automation of Administrative Processes:** A truly e-governed system would require minimal human intervention and would rather be system driven.
- **Enhanced communication and coordination between government organizations:** An automated services can be accessed by different organizations coordination and further communication became relative
- **Paper Work Reduction:** An immediate impact of automation would be on the paperwork. Paperwork is reduced to a greater extent with communication being enabled via electronic route and storage and retrieval of information in the electronic form. All this has led to the emergence of less paper office'.
- **Quality of Services:** ICT helps governments to deliver services to citizens with greater accountability responsiveness and sensitivity. Quality of services improves, as now the people are able to, get services efficiently and instantaneously.
- **Elimination of Hierarchy:** ICT has reduced procedural delays caused by hierarchical processes in the organisation. Through Intranet and LAN, it has become possible to send information and data across various levels in the organisation at the same time.
- **Change in Administrative Culture:** Bureaucratic structures have been plagued by characteristics aptly described by Victor Thompson as 'bureau-pathology'. From the days of New Public Administration, efforts have been made to find ways to deal with the pathological or dysfunctional aspects of it.
- **Strategic Information System:** Changing organisational environment and increasing competitiveness have put pressures on the performance of the functionaries. Information regarding all aspects needs to be made available to the management at every point to make routine as well as strategic decisions.

Some of the e-Governance models implemented in India: **Customs and Excise (Government of India); Indian Railways; Postal Department; Passport/Visa; Bhoomi – Automation of Land Records (State Government of Karnataka); Gyandoot: Intranet in Tribal District of Dhar (State Government of Madhya Pradesh); e-Mitra – Integrated Citizen Services Center/ e-Kiosks (State Government of Rajasthan) etc.**

Conclusion:

- India was ranked 96 in United Nation's E-Government Index 2018. Governments at the center and state made large investment in establishing some aspects of e-governances infrastructure.
- They have not been able to harness fully the opportunities it has provided and the expansion of e-governances website alone will not help unless cultural change occurs, in order to support transparency, minimize bureaucracy, and enhance citizen empowerment.
- Further progress still needs to be made to overcome the complex socio-economic challenges to e-government usage in India. It is only if this is achieved that India could implement world class e-government systems with the aim of creating an equitable information society.

Q) E-Governance in India has steadily evolved from computerization of government departments to initiatives that encapsulate the finer points of governance. Elucidate. (250 words)

Introduction:

- E-Governance is basically associated with carrying out the functions and achieving the results of governance through the utilization of what has today come to be known as Information and Communications Technology.
- It is basically the application of ICT to the processes of Government functioning in order to bring about 'Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent' (SMART) governance.



Body:

Evolution of E-Governance in India:

The Indian experience demonstrates that the onset of e-Governance proceeded through the following phases:

- **Computerisation:** In the first phase, with the availability of personal computers, a large number of Government offices got equipped with computers. The use of computers began with word processing, quickly followed by data processing.
- **Networking:** In this phase, some units of a few government organizations got connected through a hub leading to sharing of information and flow of data between different government entities.
- **On-line presence:** With increasing internet connectivity, a need was felt for maintaining a presence on the web. This resulted in maintenance of websites by government departments and other entities. Generally, these web-pages/web-sites contained information about the organizational structure, contact details, reports and publications, objectives and vision statements of the respective government entities.
- **On-line interactivity:** A natural consequence of on-line presence was opening up of communication channels between government entities and the citizens, civil society organizations etc. The main aim at this stage was to minimize the scope of personal interface with government entities by providing downloadable Forms, Instructions, Acts, and Rules etc. In some cases, this has already led to on-line submission of Forms. Most citizen-government transactions have the potential of being put on e-Governance mode.

Types of Interactions in e-Governance in India:

E-Governance facilitates interaction between different stake holders in governance. These interactions may be described as follows:

- **G2G (Government to Government):** In this case, ICT is used not only to restructure the governmental processes involved in the functioning of government entities but also to increase the flow of information and services within and between different entities. E.g.: **Khajane Project in Karnataka:** It is a comprehensive online treasury computerization project of the Government of Karnataka. The project has resulted in the computerization of the entire treasury related activities of the State Government; **SmartGov (Andhra Pradesh)**
- **G2C (Government to Citizens):** In this case, an interface is created between the government and citizens which enables the citizens to benefit from efficient delivery of a large range of public services. E.g.: **Computerisation of Land Records** (Department of Land Resources, Government of India); **Bhoomi Project** in Karnataka; **Revenue Administration through Computerized Energy (RACE) Billing Project**, Bihar; Admission to Professional Colleges – Common Entrance Test (CET)
- **G2B (Government to Business):** Here, e-Governance tools are used to aid the business community – providers of goods and services – to seamlessly interact with the government. The objective is to cut red tape, save time, reduce operational costs and to create a more transparent business environment when dealing with the government. E.g.: **e-Procurement Project** in Andhra Pradesh; **MCA 21** – The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has implemented the MCA 21 Mission Mode Project under the NeGP
- **G2E (Government to Employees):** Government is by far the biggest employer and like any organisation, it has to interact with its employees on a regular basis. Use of ICT tools helps in increasing the satisfaction levels of employees. E.g.: Biometric attendance project.

Conclusion:

- Thus, e-Governance has led to better access to information and quality services for citizens; Simplicity, efficiency and accountability in the government and expanded reach of governance.
- In the light of wide range of e-Governance initiatives that have been carried out in India with varying degrees of success as well as the diversity of conditions in the country, the report recognizes that e-Governance projects have to be designed for specific contexts and environments.

Q) What is a Citizen's Charter ? What are the components of a Citizen's Charter ? Explain how citizen's charter can enhance quality of service delivery in public offices. (250 words)

Introduction:

- A Citizens' Charter represents the commitment of the Organisation towards standard, quality and time frame of service delivery, grievance redress mechanism, transparency and accountability. The concept of Citizens Charter enshrines the trust between the service provider and its users.
- **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in Government of India (DARPG)** initiated the task of coordinating, formulating and operationalising Citizen's Charters.

**Body:****Components of Citizen's Charter:**

- Vision and Mission Statement;
- Details of Business transacted by the Organisation;
- Details of clients;
- Details of services provided to each client group;
- Details of grievance redress mechanism and how to access it;
- Expectations from the clients
- Additional commitments such as compensation in the event of failure of service delivery.

Citizen's charter can enhance quality of service delivery:

- **One size does not fit all:** formulation of CC should be a decentralized activity with the head office providing only broad guidelines.
- **Wide consultation process:** CC should be formulated after extensive consultations within the organization followed by a meaningful dialogue with civil society.
- **Firm commitments to be made:** CC must be precise and make firm commitments of service delivery standards to the citizens/consumers in quantifiable terms wherever possible.
- **Redressal mechanism in case of default:** clearly lay down the relief which the organization is bound to provide if it has defaulted on the promised standards of delivery.
- **Periodic evaluation of CC:** preferably through an external agency.
- **Hold officers accountable for results:** fix specific responsibility in cases where there is a default in adhering to the CC.
- **Include Civil Society in the process:** to assist in improvement in the contents of the Charter, its adherence as well as educating the citizens about the importance of this vital mechanism.

Conclusion:

- A Citizens' Charter cannot be an end in itself, it is rather a means to an end – a tool to ensure that the citizen is always at the heart of any service delivery mechanism. Drawing from best practice models such as the Sevottam Model (a Service Delivery Excellence Model) can help CC in becoming more citizen centric.

Q) Building a congenial environment is a sine-qua-non for successful implementation of e-Governance initiatives. In this context, discuss the important recommendations of 2nd Administrative Commission on e-governance. (250 words)

2nd ARC Report – E-Governance, Citizen's Charter.

Introduction:

- E-Governance is basically associated with carrying out the functions and achieving the results of governance through the utilization of what has today come to be known as Information and Communications Technology (ICT).
- It is basically the application of ICT to the processes of Government functioning in order to bring about '**Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive and Transparent**' (SMART) governance.

Body:

E-governance promotion is based on two important planks:

- (a) To reduce red-tape, delay and inconveniences through technology interventions including the use of modern tools, techniques and instruments of e-governance.
- (b) Promote knowledge sharing to realise continuous improvement in the quality of governance

Recommendations of 2nd ARC on e-Governance:

Building a Congenial Environment: Building a congenial environment is a sine qua non for successful implementation of e-Governance initiatives. This should be achieved by:

- Creating and displaying a will to change within the government
- Providing political support at the highest level
- Incentivising e-Governance and overcoming the resistance to change within government
- Creating awareness in the public with a view to generating a demand for change.

Identification of e-Governance Projects and Prioritisation: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has defined four stages of e-government Projects, each one more demanding than the next.



These are:

- Information: Putting information on web-sites
- Interaction: Allowing citizens to enquire about services, procedures etc. and filling up forms and submitting them online
- Transaction: Allowing payments online
- Transformation: A mix of all the above and allowing the citizen to participate in governance through ICT.

Business Process Re-engineering (BPR): The basic idea behind such re-engineering is to avail of the opportunity provided by ICT in transforming governmental processes and not just in modifying them.

- For every function a government organisation performs and every service or information it is required to provide, there should be a step-by-step analysis of each process to ensure its rationality and simplicity.
- Such analysis should incorporate the viewpoints of all stakeholders, while maintaining the citizen-centricity of the exercise.
- After identifying steps which are redundant or which require simplification, and which are adaptable to e-Governance, the provisions of the law, rules, regulations, instructions, codes, manuals etc. which form their basis should also be identified.
- Following this exercise, governmental forms, processes and structures should be re-designed to make them adaptable to e-Governance, backed by procedural, institutional and legal changes.

Capacity Building and Creating Awareness: The success of an e-Governance project would depend on building human capacities in terms of necessary knowledge and skills to conceptualize, initiate, implement and sustain e-Governance initiatives across government as also on the ultimate use by citizens of the facilities created.

- Capacity building efforts must attend to both the organizational capacity building as also the professional and skills upgradation of individuals associated with the implementation of e-Governance projects.
- Each government organization must conduct a capacity assessment which should form the basis for training their personnel.
- A network of training institutions needs to be created in the States with the Administrative Training Institutes at the apex.
- State Governments should operationalise the Capacity Building Roadmap (CBRMs), under the overall guidance and support of the DIT, Government of India.
- Lessons learnt from previous successful e-Governance initiatives should be incorporated in training programmes.

Developing Technological Solutions: There is a need to:

- Develop a national e-Governance 'enterprise architecture' framework as has been done in some countries.
- Promote the use of 'enterprise architecture' in the successful implementation of e-Governance initiatives; this would require building capacity of top level managers in all government organizations.

Implementation: E-Governance projects could be of a wide variety based on their objectives, technological requirements, dependence on databases, requirement of institutional support etc

- All organizations should carry out a periodic independent evaluation of the information available on their websites from the citizens' perspective and then re-design their websites.
- Each organization should prepare a time-bound plan for providing of transactional information through their websites.
- Complex e-Governance projects should be planned and implemented like any major project having several parts / components for which Project Management capability should be developed in-house

Public-Private Partnership (PPP): Financial and managerial resources are critically required for successful implementation and more so, the sustainability of e-Governance initiatives. While the normal preference for any reform initiative is through exclusive use of inhouse resources, the merits of inducting the private sector resources into the e-Governance sector have now been appreciated and accepted by policy-makers in Government.

- Several components of e-Governance projects lend themselves to the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode. In all such cases (PPP) should be the preferred mode.
- The private partner should be selected through a transparent process.
- The roles and responsibilities of government as well as the private partner should be clearly laid down in the initial stage itself, leaving no room for any ambiguity.

Protecting Critical Information Infrastructure Assets

- There is need to develop a critical information infrastructure assets protection strategy.
- This should be supplemented with improved analysis and warning capabilities as well as improved information sharing on threats and vulnerabilities.

**Conclusion:**

- The above principles and recommendations were given by 2nd ARC in the realm of e-Governance.
- The NeGP and many other projects are based on the above. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India, has visualized e-Governance in the Indian context to mean: “A transparent, smart e-Governance with seamless access, secure and authentic flow of information crossing the interdepartmental barrier and providing a fair and unbiased service to the citizen.”

Topic-Development processes and the development industry the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders

2) Discuss the role of NGOs in our society along with the Issues involved in their functioning. (250 words)

Indian polity by Lakshmikanth

Why this question:

The question is based on the static portions of the syllabus.

Key demands of the question:

Answer must discuss the role of NGOs in Indian society and the challenges that they face /issues involved in their functioning in detail along with suggestions as to how can we overcome and address such issues.

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**

In a few introductory lines explain what are NGOs.

Body

Discuss the following :

What are NGOs and their key features –

- As defined by the World Bank NGOs refers to not-for-profit organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development.
- These organizations are not a part of the government, have a legal status and they are registered the specific Act under which they have to be registered.
- The term NGO in India denotes wide spectrum of organizations which may be non-governmental, quasi or semi-governmental, voluntary or non-voluntary etc.
- Then move on to discuss their classification.
- Explain their functioning and the challenges involved therein like – Accreditation remains a big challenge as it is very difficult to distinguish whether an organization wants to work for the cause or has been set up only for the purpose of receiving government grants.
- Over dependence on funds from the government dilutes the willingness of NGOs to speak out against the government.
- NGOs have acted as a cover for organized crime in past and are often seen as fronts for fundamentalist causes. Foreign funded NGOs have been responsible for organizing agitations and scuttling development projects in India.
- NGOs are often seen as encroaching on centuries-old tradition and culture of the people, and lead to mass protest at times. Ban of Jallikattu, after the PIL by PETA is one such example.

Conclusion

Reassert their significance and conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- **Non Governmental Organizations (NGO)** are legally constituted organizations, operates independently from the government and are generally considered to be “non-state, non-profit oriented groups who pursue purposes of public interest”.
- The primary objective of NGOs is to **provide social justice, development and human rights**. NGOs are generally funded totally or partly by governments and they maintain their non-governmental status by excluding government representatives from membership in the organization.



Body:

Role of NGOs:

- **The Advocacy/Social Safety-Valve Role:** Non-profit organisations play vital role in mobilizing public attention to societal problems and needs. They are the principal vehicle through which communities can give voice to their concerns.
- **Improving government performance:** NGOs can broaden government's accountability by ensuring government is responsive to citizens at large rather than to narrow sectarian interests. They also induce innovation and flexibility in policymaking by bringing their own independent expertise and research teams.
- **The Service Role:** The non-profit sector acts as a flexible mechanism through which people concerned about a social or economic problem can begin to respond. It also caters to groups of the population who desire a range of public goods that exceeds what the government or society is willing to support.
- **Conflict Resolution:** NGOs help in constructive conflict resolution. In the international arena Track II diplomacy (involving non-governmental bodies) plays a crucial role in creating an environment of trust and confidence.
- **Building Community Participation:** The non-profit organisations offer alternative perspectives; and most importantly, the capacity to conduct a meaningful dialogue with communities, particularly those that are disadvantaged. They foster pluralism, diversity and freedom. Many NGOs work to preserve and promote India's diverse culture. For example SPIC MACAY is a society for promoting Indian classical music and culture amongst youth.

Issues involved in NGO functioning:

- **Misappropriation of funds:** Many NGOs don't have sophisticated finance and legal teams, nor do they have the funds to conduct audits.
- **The issue of foreign funding:** According to government data a total of 3,068 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) received foreign funding above Rs. 22,000 Cr in 2014-15. It is often said that foreign-funded NGOs tries to propagate the foreign propaganda to stall developmental projects. Example: Kudankulam Protest.
- **Non-accountable, non-transparent undemocratic functioning:** CBI records filed in the Supreme Court show that only 10% of the total registered NGOs under the Societies Registration Act file annual financial statements.
- **Money Laundering:** Corrupt or unscrupulous NGOs that receive foreign funds may serve as conduits for money laundering.
- **Accreditation** remains a big challenge as it is very difficult to distinguish whether an organization wants to work for the cause or has been set up only for the purpose of receiving government grants.
- **Over dependence on funds from the government** dilutes the willingness of NGOs to speak out against the government.
- NGOs are often seen as encroaching on centuries-old tradition and culture of the people, and lead to mass protest at times. Ban of Jallikattu, after the PIL by PETA is one such example

Way Forward:

- A **National Accreditation Council** consisting of academicians, activist, retired bureaucrats should be made to ensure compliance by NGOs.
- There should be better coordination between Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance in terms of monitoring and regulating illicit and unaccounted funds.
- A **regulatory mechanism** to keep a watch on the financial activities of NGOs and voluntary organizations is the need of the hour.
- Citizens today are keen to play an active role in processes that shape their lives and it is important that their participation in democracy go beyond the ritual of voting and should include promotion of social justice, gender equity, inclusion etc.
- The government should frame guidelines for their accreditation, the manner in which these organizations should maintain their accounts and the procedure for recovery in case they fail to submit their balance sheets.
- Avoid tussle between Home Ministry and Finance Ministry by bringing the regulation of NGOs under one head.
- **General Financial Rules, 2005** have mandated a regulatory mechanism for the NGOs and a comprehensive law in line with these rules should be framed in no time.

Conclusion:

- NGOs, Pressure groups and CSOs form the backbone of democracy. Democracy does not just revolve around elections but how rights of the citizens are protected and are allowed to hold power holders accountable. The state must respect the articulation of the politics of voice and not just the politics of the vote.



- The promises of democracy can only be realised through collective action in civil society. A democratic state needs a democratic civil society and a democratic civil society also needs a democratic state. They mutually reinforce each other.

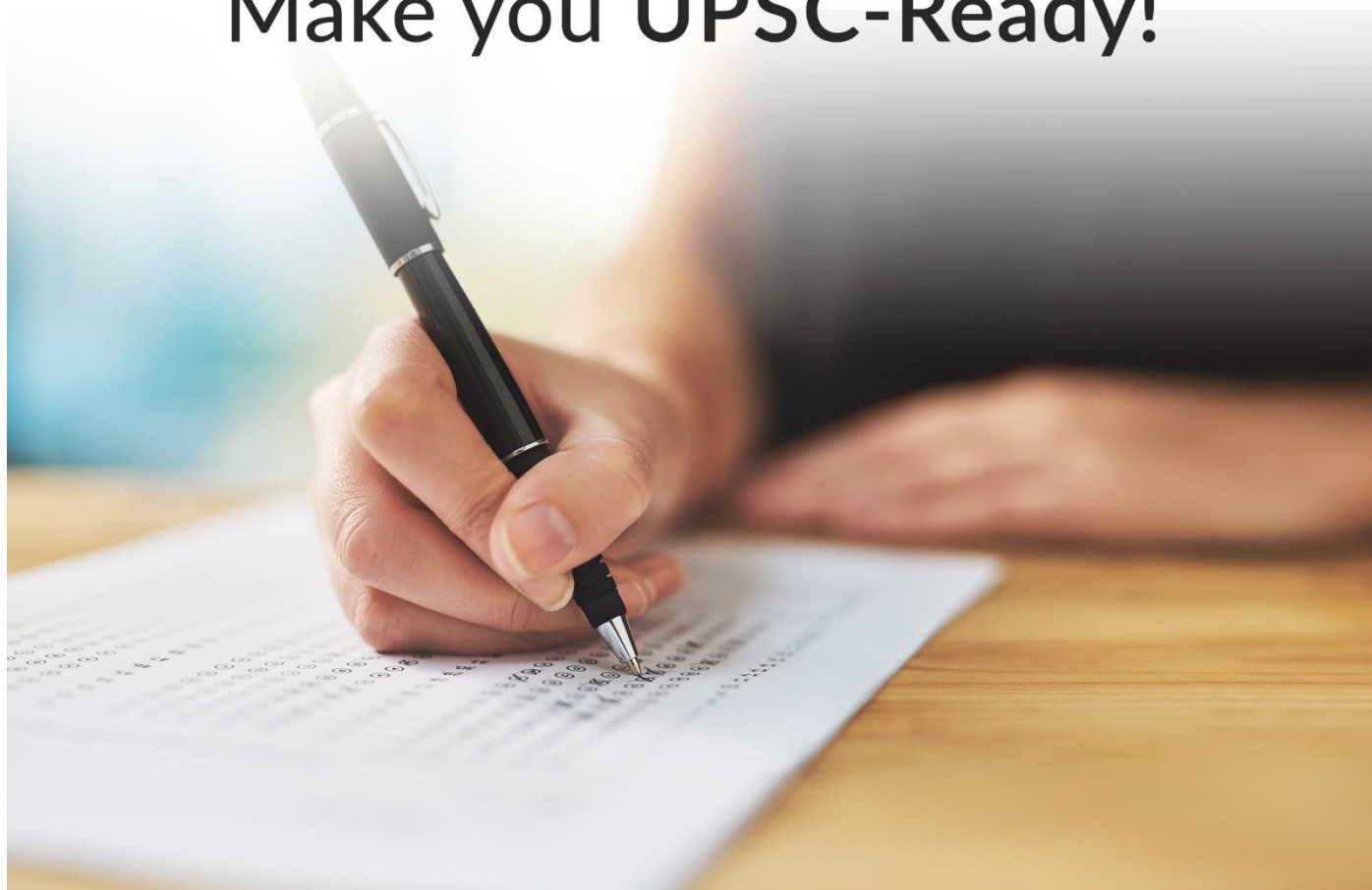


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Q) What are self-help groups ? Discuss the critical role played by them in the rural development of India. (250 words)

Indian polity by Lakshmikanth

Why this question:

The question is about discussing self-help groups and their role in rural development.

Key demand of the question:

The question is straightforward and one must discuss the concept of self-help groups, their role in general and specific role in rural development in the country.

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:

Begin with brief introduction on what are self- help groups.

Body:

Have the following dimensions covered in your answer –

- Self Help Groups are groups of 10-20 people in a locality formed for any social or economic purpose. Most of the SHGs are formed for the purpose of better financial security among its members. SHGs can exist with or without registration. SHGs in India often work in association with Banks (SHG – Bank Linkage Programme).
- The same is basis of Indian Micro finance Model too. SHG – Bank Linkage was started in India in 1992 under the guidelines of NABARD and Reserve Bank of India.
- Discuss their origin in brief.
- Role played by self-help groups in general, then move onto discussing their role in rural development.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- A self-help group (SHG) is a **village-based financial intermediary committee normally consist of 10–20 local women or men.**
- When the formal financial system fails to help the needy, then small groups volunteer to cater to the needs of the financially weak by collecting, saving and lending the money on a micro scale. SHGs have gained wide recognition in most developing countries in Asia where their presence is quite pervasive

Body:

SHG Movement in India:

- The concept evolved over decades and was pioneered by Noble laureate Mohammad Yunus as Self Help Groups (SHGs) in 1970s.
- SHG movement in India gained momentum after 1992, when NABARD realised its potential and started promoting it.
- NABARD's SHG-Bank Linkage Program (SBLP) connected group members to formal financial services.
- Over the last two decades, the SBLP has proven to be a great medium for social and economic empowerment for rural women.
- India has witnessed state-led promotion of SHGs through a three-tiered architecture of community institutions at group, village and cluster level
- In 1999, Government of India, introduced Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) to promote self-employment in rural areas through formation and skilling of SHGs.
- The programme evolved as a national movement in 2011 and became National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).
- The programme was renamed in November 2015 as Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY –NRLM).
- DAY –NRLM now covers 100 million families through 8.5 million SHGs with savings deposit of approx. INR 161 billion.
- State government initiatives such Kudumbasree in Kerala and Jeevika in Bihar.



Role of SHGs in India:

- SHGs have played an important role in **enabling financial inclusion in rural areas**.
- It has financially empowered women within the family and in local community.
- SHGs have the required **social and financial capital** to expedite India's economic growth.
- The Social capital of SHGs could be an asset for solving various social issues in India e.g. gender based discrimination, dowry system, casteism etc.
- There are many successful cases where SHG women have come together to close liquor shops in their village.
- They also act as a **delivery mechanism** for various services like entrepreneurial training, livelihood promotion activity and community development programs.
- Study shows that women in SHGs are more likely to save on a regular basis, have formal loans and scored more on average on the empowerment index.
- They can act as **an intermediary to provide financial services** in their community

Way forward:

- Government programs can be implemented through SHGs.
- This will not only improve the transparency and efficiency but also bring our society closer to Self-Governance as envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Constant and enduring structural handholding support from the self-help group promoting institutions (SHPIs).
- Employment in the large unorganised sector can be improved if banks channelise funds through the self-help groups (SHGs)
- Linking the SHG members to other social security schemes like Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana.
- Womenfolk must play a crucial role in achieving open defecation free (ODF) villages, participate in the planting and protection of sapling.
- Frequent awareness camps can be organised by the Rural Development department authorities to create awareness about different schemes.
- Periodic capacity-building of all members, to make the group the collective.
- With the Government's focus on digital financial inclusion, investing in training of group members for transition towards technological platforms.
- It is important to invest in providing the right kind of support to maximize the impact these groups can have on livelihoods.
- Emphasising SHG movement on women's entrepreneurship as an engine of growth in rural India.
- There should not be any discrimination among members based on caste, religion or political affiliations.

Extra information:

Case Study: The Power of Kudumbasree

Workers of the Kudumbasree poverty eradication and women empowerment programme played a big role in clean-up in the Kerala's flood hit areas. Around 4, 00,000 women of Kudumbasree self-mobilised across the State to do relief work. The secular composition of Kudumbasree acts as a facilitator for the secularisation of public spaces. The community farms run by Kudumbasree groups are acknowledged as a critical avenue for the rejuvenation of agricultural production in Kerala. Kudumbasree training courses are quite comprehensive and include women's rights, knowledge of constitutional and legal provisions, training in banking practices, and training in skills to set up micro-enterprises. The Kudumbasree model can be implemented across India, with the same secular and gender-sensitive spirit.

Q) What are voluntary organizations (VOs)? Explain how they contribute to the social, cultural and economic advancement of the people of India. (250 words)

[Vikaspedia](#)

Why this question:

The article discusses national policy for voluntary sector, the question is to appreciate the role played by this sector and how it has been serving as an effective non-political link between the people and the Government.

Key demands of the question:

Answer is to discuss the significant role played by Vos in the development of the country.



Directive word

Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction

In a few introductory lines explain what are voluntary organizations (VOs) – they mean to include organizations engaged in public service, based on ethical, cultural, social, economic, political, religious, spiritual, philanthropic or scientific & technological considerations.

Body

Discuss the following aspects in your answer:

Explain what are voluntary organizations (VOs)?

Their contributions in the spheres of – social, economic and political scenario.

Discuss their objectives ranging from – partnership in developmental policies and programmes, identifying shared goals and defining complementary roles with the government etc.

Conclusion

Reassert the significant role played by them and conclude with way forward and need for recognizing their contributions to the society.

Introduction:

- A voluntary organization is a group of individuals who enter into an agreement, usually as volunteers, to form a body (or organization) to accomplish a purpose. Unlike the private sector where the generation and return of profit to its owners is emphasized, money raised or earned by an organization in the voluntary sector is usually invested back into the community or the organization itself.
- VOs include formal as well as informal groups, such as community-based organizations (CBOs); non-governmental development organizations (NGDOs); charitable organizations; support organizations; networks or federations of such organisations; as well as professional membership associations.
- Common examples include trade associations, trade unions, learned societies, professional associations, and environmental groups. Examples of organizations in the voluntary sector include American Red Cross, World Wildlife Fund, Human Rights Watch, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation etc.

Body:

- The voluntary sector has contributed significantly to finding innovative solutions to poverty, deprivation, discrimination and exclusion, through means such as awareness raising, social mobilization, service delivery, training, research, and advocacy. The voluntary sector has been serving as an **effective non-political link between the people and the Government**.

Socio- cultural advancement:

- With the changing scenario of the society the role of voluntary organization had also changed. In ancient times these organizations were helpful to meet the needs of the people but now these organizations are being used as development agencies by policy makers.
- They not only provide their services to the poor or disadvantaged section but they have brought in to focus on issues like health, education, rural and urban development, environment protection, women and child welfare and they have become an active part of the contemporary development scene in India.
- Voluntary organizations have become an important global force today. These organisations provide accountable, effective and equitable services in many areas then public or private agencies in India .
- The voluntary organization provides social services to the poor, needy, neglected, the old aged and the sick in India and making India.
- They made different efforts not only to reduce poverty or inequality in society but also put control on social evils which includes drug addiction, suicide, dowry child marriage,
- Voluntary organization also provide their services in emergency situations like droughts, floods etc. on a massive scale.
- It is believed that voluntary organization not only teaches essential civics skills such as trust, compromise and reciprocity but it also binds society together by creating bridges between diverse groups .
- They work for development, welfare of people so, their ample service is to bind people towards progress and towards well being of the society, nation and country.

**Economic advancement:**

- To supplement the government efforts in offering the rural poor choices and alternative.
- To activate the delivery system and make it effective at the village level and respond to the needs of the poorest of the poor
- To show how villages and original resources and how human resources, rural skill and which local knowledge is grossly underutilized at present, could be used for their own development.
- To demystify technology and bring it in the simpler form to the poor
- To train a cadre of grass root who believes in professionalizing volunteerism.
- To mobilize financial resources from within the community with a view making communities stand on their feet.

Conclusion:

- In sum, voluntary organisations main functions comprise giving concrete expression to the fundamental right of freedom of association, identifying the needs of individuals, groups and communities and initiating projects and programmes to meet them on their own or with the grant-in-aid of the government, sharing the responsibility of the state in providing minimum needs of the citizens.

Q) Write a note on role played by NGOs in tribal development with suitable examples. (250 words)

Reference**Why this question:**

The question is straightforward and is about discussing on role played by NGOs in tribal development

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss role played by NGOs in tribal development with suitable case study/relevant examples.

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

Begin with brief introduction on NGOs.

Body:

Discussion should cover how NGOs play an important role in development activities for the betterment and upliftment of tribals. how they act as catalytic agents for socialization of people. Their works and contributions in various areas like rural development, environmental conservation, population control etc. all directly or indirectly help and contribute to tribal development.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting their role.

Introduction:

- Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) are legally constituted organizations, operate independently from the government and are generally considered to be “non-state, non-profit oriented groups who pursue purposes of public interest”. The primary objective of NGOs is to provide social justice, development and human rights. NGOs are generally funded totally or partly by governments and they maintain their non-governmental status by excluding government representatives from membership in the organization.

Body:

- It has been recognized that the task of the development of Scheduled Tribes cannot be achieved by Government efforts only. The role of voluntary or non-governmental organizations, with their local roots and sense of service has become increasingly important.

British Era:

- The Christian missionaries are perhaps the oldest among the various agencies responsible for the development of Though they are primarily keen in evangelisation, welfare schemes such as opening schools, dispensaries, hospitals to the people were undertaken.
- The intensity of their voluntary services can be traced out in the tribal belts of Assam, Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh.
- Inspired by Gandhian values, a seva kendra was established for the first time in Ranchi in 1940.
- It formulated two categories of programs the first to implement plans on tribal education and the second to encourage the scheme of Khadi production, Cottage industries, crusade against alcoholism, and distribution of ayurvedic medicines and to form Gram panchayat and cooperative



- Of the organizations started in the same lines, Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh under the Presidentship of Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Nagaland Gandhi Ashram are noteworthy.
- While the former focused in publishing tribal problems, the later established a health centre.

Post Independence:

- In the era of good governance, NGOs are playing a more proactive role.

The failure of the Government gives a fertile ground to the NGOs to work upon and extend a helping hand to their tribal brethren.

- **Protection of Rights:**
 - They are playing a protective role by seeing that the tribal rights are Greenpeace is one such organization.
 - Implementation of PESA act to empower gram sabha to safeguard tribal rights and culture.
 - Implementation of forest right act 2006 to ensure individual and community rights for tribals over forest and forest produce
 - Fighting on land issues, restoration of land rights and Fighting against injustice. E.g.: Dongria Konds' fight for land in the Niyamgiri hills.
- **Education:**
 - They have helped facilitate free boarding and lodging to the Tribal children for education
 - Computer centres were also being established by various NGO's such as Kothari institute.
 - These institutions are directing their energies for socio-economic development of tribes to bring them into fruitful channels of development
- **Health and Medicine:**
 - NGOs have contributed in a positive note to the development of tribal health and in the protection of their indigenous knowledge base which is either ignored or exploited.
 - Tribals have a profound knowledge of the flora and fauna, the appropriate plant species with medical importance, their location, the parts to be used, time of collection, preparation.
 - Their knowledge of the ethno-medicine is very important for their Provision of food : Nutrition programmes and Immunization drives against deadly diseases
- **Environmental Conservation:**
 - Protection of sacred groves, water bodies etc which hold cultural significance for tribal population.
 - Fights against construction of dams, roads, industries in the Eco-Sensitive Zones which can affect the ecosystem.
- **Livelihood enhancement:**
 - Self employment by Guidance on self occupation, Handicraft development etc.
 - To overcome the debt trap, several NGO have formed Self-help Groups (SHG's), which pool money collected from tribals and provide low interest loans to them.
 - Providing market access to the Minor Forest Produce collected by tribals and the products created by them.
 - This helps reduce the distress migration to cities in search of work.
- **Awareness Generation:**
 - The NGOs create awareness among the tribals by demonstrating the conservation and preservation of the forest and its resources.
 - They use the audio-visual aids for creating a lasting impression and campaign for ensuring the promotion of important herbal plants in kitchen-garden and nurseries.
- **Inclusive Development:**
 - Activities related with Women's development: Formation of Women's groups, Saving group of women, training of self-employment, Women's Co-operative Society, Income generation for women, Women's employment, etc.
 - Youth development activities: Formation of Youth groups

Conclusion:

- It is an undeniable fact that the NGOs have emerged universally as a "Universal Third Force" in tribal development in India. However, there is lack of coordination among them.
- Developmental role of NGOs is preparing the people for a change which is basically an advocacy role, viz. development of education, incorporating self-sustainable development philosophy, and form public opinion about govt. policies or social issues, consciences for environmental problem, literacy, health, use



of appropriate technology for family planning and empower the poor to overcome psychological inhibitions and opposition of appraisers.

Q) Discuss the need for a new legal framework for charities in India. (250 words)

Indian polity by Lakshmikanth

Why this question:

The question is direct and is about discussing the urgent need for a robust legal framework for charities in India.

Key demands of the question:

Answer is to discuss the need for a regulatory legal framework for charities in India.

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

In a few introductory lines explain what the role of charities.

Body

Discuss the following aspects in your answer:

The multiplicity of charity laws in India has prevented evolution and growth of a proper institutional framework in this sector.

While, voluntary organisations often feel harassed in complying with various legal obligations, institutions of the government too have not been effective in regulating the sector and securing legal compliance.

Instances of misuse of tax provisions, fraud and poor governance have become frequent. There is need to create an effective institutional mechanism which would provide a supportive environment for the growth and development of charities in this country. India being a federal Union, a decentralized institutional setup for charities similar to that existing in the USA, seems to be appropriate. The power of registration and oversight needs to lie with the State Governments.

Conclusion

Reassert the significant role played by them and conclude with way forward and need for recognizing their contributions to the society along with a regulatory legal framework for them.

Introduction:

- A charitable organization or charity is a non-profit organization whose primary objectives are philanthropy and social well-being (e.g. charitable, educational, religious, or other activities serving the public interest or common good).
- It is an act of extending love and kindness to others unconditionally, which is a conscious act but the decision is made by the heart, without expecting a reward. When Charity is carried out selflessly, it is a one-way act where a person gives but asks for nothing in return.

Body:

- They form a part of the NGO's or VO's. Charitable Companies are set up according to section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013. For charitable companies, the compliance requirements are high, as loans and advances are easily available to them compared to a trust or a society. They have to even pay Income tax under IT act 1961.
- The task of socio-economic development in India is vast and complicated. Along with the governmental efforts, a holistic vision and collaborative efforts involving various departments, agencies, charities and NGOs is required.

Challenges faced by the charities:

- Income generation remains a big challenge for organisations, followed by meeting demand for services and reductions in funding. Charitable organizations often depend partly on donations from businesses. Such donations to charitable organizations represent a major form of corporate philanthropy.
- One of the biggest challenges to giving today is the **credibility of organizations**. A lot of organizations have poor reputations in terms of how they're using their funds
- Few charities are optimistic about government support for the sector and most think that over the next five years, government will see them as a nuisance for criticising government policy.



- **Non-accountable, non-transparent undemocratic functioning:** CBI records filed in the Supreme Court show that only 10% of the total registered NGOs under the Societies Registration Act file annual financial statements.
- **Over dependence on funds from the government** dilutes the willingness of NGOs to speak out against the government.
- **Money Laundering:** Corrupt or unscrupulous NGOs that receive foreign funds may serve as conduits for money laundering.
- **Accreditation** remains a big challenge as it is very difficult to distinguish whether an organization wants to work for the cause or has been set up only for the purpose of receiving government grants.
- The number of foreign-funded organisations operating in India has reportedly shrunk by nearly half in the past two years amid a crackdown by the government.
- Emotional ties play a big part, if parents and grandparents have given to a particular religious trust or temple, somehow the present generation feels obliged to continue that, even when they would rather channel that money somewhere else.
- Some family foundations that were set up many decades ago with very specific purposes. But they've become a bit redundant now because those issues don't arise any more.

Thus, there is a need for a new legal framework for charities in India.

Way Forward:

- A **National Accreditation Council** consisting of academicians, activist, retired bureaucrats should be made to ensure compliance by NGOs.
- There should be better coordination between Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance in terms of monitoring and regulating illicit and unaccounted funds.
- A **regulatory mechanism** to keep a watch on the financial activities of NGOs and voluntary organizations is the need of the hour.
- Citizens today are keen to play an active role in processes that shape their lives and it is important that their participation in democracy go beyond the ritual of voting and should include promotion of social justice, gender equity, inclusion etc.
- The government should frame guidelines for their accreditation, the manner in which these organizations should maintain their accounts and the procedure for recovery in case they fail to submit their balance sheets.
- Avoid tussle between Home Ministry and Finance Ministry by bringing the regulation of Charity under one head.
- **General Financial Rules, 2005** have mandated a regulatory mechanism for the NGOs and a comprehensive law in line with these rules should be framed in no time.

Conclusion:

- Many charitable organizations like **AkshayaPatra foundation (MDM scheme), Infosys Foundation (Swachh Bharat – building toilets)** etc. are playing a vital role in the socio-economic development of India.
- Thus, there is a need for a systematic regulation and smooth working of such organizations and help in the benefit of the general public.

Topic –India and its neighborhood- relations

Q) Buddhism constitutes a key linkage between India and south east Asia. Elaborate. (250 words)

[Financialexpress](#)

Why this question:

The question is about the cultural aspects of Buddhism which is a key link between India and south Asia.

Key demand of the question:

The question expects us to discuss the cultural linkages that India shares with south Asia. And the role specifically played by Buddhism in it.

Directive word:

Elaborate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.



Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Begin with brief on India and South east Asian relations.

Body:

Explain how The Buddhist faith, due to its emphasis on peaceful co-existence and its wide pan-Asian presence, lends itself well to India's soft-power diplomacy, through which India can establish strong relationship with South-Asian nations. Explain the factors that make Buddhism bridge between India and South-East Asia.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- The Government of India's 'Act East policy' aims at improving economic and political relations with the Southeast Asian region which has had close contacts with India for centuries and is linked culturally and geographically with it.
- Buddhism remained as the solid foundation for societal and cultural transformation in Asia. It still remains a key anchor for Asian identity and a phenomenon of unprecedented Pan-Asian importance, especially in terms of spiritual connectivity among nations with enduring impact.

Body:

India and Buddhism:

- Despite the fact that it is host to a relatively small population of Buddhists, India can claim legitimacy in its promotion of Buddhist diplomacy for a number of reasons.
- First, the Buddhist faith originated in India, therefore granting it singular historical legitimacy.
- Second, India has numerous sites of importance to the Buddhist faith, such as Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, and Nalanda.
- Third, India has nurtured an image of being a protector of the persecuted through the presence of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan parliament-in-exile in Dharamshala.
- In addition, historical links to Theravada Buddhism mean that India is in a good position to further relations with other Buddhist countries and create conversation between multiple streams of this faith.
- Successfully leveraging these associations with other Buddhist countries could have an impact beyond the realm of cultural diplomacy, and aid in other areas of foreign policy as well.
- Deepening ties with Asian nations on the basis of Buddhism could potentially feed into the government's larger policy objectives, for example, the 'Neighbourhood First' policy, and the 'Act East' policy.

Buddhism as a key linkage:

- Buddhism in India as a Soft Power is different from the conventional sense of the term. India talks about shared cultural development instead of export of culture.
- The values of peace, accommodation, inclusiveness, and compassion that are part of our societies can be attributed to the influence of the teachings of Lord Buddha and Buddhism.
- The ideals of Buddhism continue to intersect with the political and economic contexts of many Asian nations with 22% of the world's population.
- Buddhism can act as an intensifying factor for Asian emotional bonding and connectivity as it is embedded into their "nationalistic" thinking and actions.
- Buddhism is not restricted to Asia and has been able to generate a spiritual awakening elsewhere in the world and influenced a stream of philosophical traditions world over.

Way Forward:

- Effective revitalisation of the Nalanda University project and encouragement of Buddhist studies in well-established universities will bring International community at a common platform.
- The promotion of Buddhist tourism reminiscent of the 'Incredible India' campaign is required to popularise India's association with the faith internationally.
- The government faces the crucial challenge of effective execution. Buddhist diplomacy would go a long way in countering the rise of China, strengthening its relations with Asian countries, and helping it further down the path of its regional and global power ambitions.

Conclusion:

- Buddhism could become a catalyst for building greater interaction within the Asian community. The country needs to end its apathy towards its heritage of global significance, which is lying largely unattended. It has to



simply utilise the Buddhist heritage circuits, improve connectivity and infrastructure so that they could tap millions of Asian pilgrims annually.

- Most of all, India needs to raise its own capabilities to comprehend the Asian cultural complexities and foster a sense of responsibility towards deepening linkages with the Asian population.

Q) Discuss the changing Political Scenario of India with Pakistan, what are the factors contributing to it ? Suggest what should be the way forward for peaceful relations amidst the two countries. (250 words)

Epw

Why this question:

The question is straightforward and is to evaluate the relations of India and Pakistan.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must evaluate in detail the changing Political Scenario of India with Pakistan and the factors contributing to it. suggest way forward for what should be the strategy for the two countries ahead in future.

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:

In a few introductory lines bring out the current state of relations between India and Pakistan.

Body:

Answers must discuss the following aspects –

- Factors affecting the relationship between the two countries – historical mileage, current turf, terrorism, political differences and ideology etc.
- Discuss the changing Political Scenario in Pakistan, its impact on India.
- What needs to be done?

Conclusion –

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- The recent spate of events between India and Pakistan after the terror attack at Pulwama has put the bilateral relations at an all time low.

Body:

Changing political scenario of India with Pakistan:

- The influence of Hindutva in political culture on India's strategic culture has been traced.
- It has resulted in a hardening of strategic culture with the bias towards the offensive also resulting from the military's organisational culture that has been independently penetrated by Hindutva.
- Political culture with Hindutva as a principal ingredient has had an impact on strategic culture towards strategic self-assertion.
- Organisational culture has also been separately impacted, through penetration of cultural nationalist thinking, thereby making it receptive to changes in strategic culture.
- This explains the offensive content in the strategic doctrine—offensive—compellent—reflected in offensive military doctrines.
- Zero-tolerance to terror attacks, eye-for-an-eye strategy as seen through the surgical strikes.
- Reinforcing the national security policy on cross-border operations
- The strategic cultural shift towards an assertive India has long been in the making.

The best possible course of action for India is

- **Strategic:**
 - It is time to define the **nature and scope of our conflict** with Pakistan.
 - As the dominant power in South Asia and one of the world's leading democracies, India must find a proper answer to what could otherwise become a serious existential crisis.
 - India need to establish a national security doctrine in order to deal with all security issues
 - Surgical strikes with support of the global countries.



- Strong intelligence network both inside as well as outside the country with effective dissemination to the stakeholders.
- Water issues should be resolved through the mechanisms provided by the Indus Basin Treaty and should not be allowed to degenerate into a serious source of conflict.
- **Diplomatic:**
 - Creating International pressure on Pakistan to curb state sponsored terror.
 - There is a strong need for India to change its approach from Responsive to Proactive.
 - Gaining support of global players to designate terror organizations and its entities as global terrorists.
 - India needs to engage and develop relationships with countries from important organizations like SCO, BRICS and try to enable solutions for the issue of cross border terrorism.
 - This must be bolstered with **Dialogues at the highest level to track 2 diplomacies.**
 - More avenues for **people to people contact** need to be encouraged.
- **Economic:**
 - Imposing economic and political sanctions on Pakistan and asking the world to follow suit.
 - The recent move of removing MFN status, increasing of import duty to 200%.
- **Technological:**
 - Advance technology like drones, thermal imaging etc can be used to monitor the activities in the border and track any violations beforehand.
- **Against cross-border firing:**
 - To reduce the destruction of civilian habitats is to lower the calibre of the violations. The two sides could consider withdrawing heavy artillery to 50 km behind the zero line.
 - The two Director-Generals of Military Operations, along with their delegations, could consider holding regular meetings every six months. Data show that every time the leaderships of the armed forces meet, ceasefire violations come down
 - Establishing more flag meeting points between local commanders and responding quickly to meeting requests could lead to better communication and reduced misunderstandings resulting in fewer ceasefire violations.
 - Confidence-building measures should be pursued to alleviate the “trust deficit” but should not be used as a substitute for the resolution of disputes.

Conclusion:

- There is a need to embrace an overarching strategic stability regime and to shun aggressive security doctrines to reduce the possibility of a nuclear conflict.
- The problems of terrorism and Non-State Actors need to be addressed jointly through institutionalised mechanisms. Indeed, India should focus on a different type of a surgical strike; it's a strike that could push Pakistan out of its terror past and military dependency.

Q) What do understand by tax information exchange agreement (TIEA) that was recently signed with Marshall Islands ? Discuss in detail its features along with its significance. (250 words)

[The hindubusinessline](http://Thehindubusinessline)

Why this question:

Recently India notified a tax information exchange agreement (TIEA) with the Marshall Islands.

Demand of the question:

This question seeks to examine the key features of TIEA, its significance for India and other countries involved.

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 introduction on what is TIEA.

Body

- The TIEA is based on international standards of tax transparency and exchange of information and enables sharing of information on request.



- What are its key features? – The agreement enables bilateral sharing of information, including banking and ownership information for tax purposes. It also allows officials of one country to undertake tax examinations in the other.
- The agreement between the two countries provides an effective framework for exchange of information on tax matters which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance.
- Recent agreement: The TIEA for exchange of information with respect to taxes was signed in 2016 at Majuro, the Capital of the Marshall Islands. India notified the TIEA on May 21, 2019.

Conclusion

Conclude with significance of such efforts.

Introduction:

- Tax information exchange agreements (TIEA) provide for the exchange of information on request relating to a specific criminal or civil tax investigation or civil tax matters under investigation.
- A model TIEA was developed by the OECD Global Forum Working Group on Effective Exchange of Information. Recently, India has notified the Tax Information Exchange Agreement (TIEA) signed with the Marshall Islands in 2016.

Body:

Features of TIEA between India and Marshall Islands:

- The Agreement enables the exchange of information, including banking and ownership information, between the two countries for tax purposes.
- It is based on international standards of tax transparency and exchange of information and enables the sharing of information on request.
- The Agreement also provides for representatives of one country to undertake tax examinations in the other country.
- The Agreement will enhance mutual cooperation between India and the Marshall Islands by providing an effective framework for the exchange of information in tax matters which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance.

Significance of TIEA:

- It provides for exchange of information that is “foreseeably relevant” to the administration and enforcement of domestic tax laws on the Contracting Parties.
- The information provided under TIEA is protected by confidentiality obligations. Disclosure can be made to courts or judicial forums only for the purpose of determination of the taxation matter in question.
- Information requested may relate to a person who is not a resident of a Contracting Party.
- There is an obligation on part of requested Party to gather information if it is not in its possession, notwithstanding that it does not itself need that information. Therefore, no “domestic interest” for tax purposes is required for the provision of information.
- Information is defined in an expansive manner to cover banking details, ownership details of companies/persons/funds/trusts etc.
- Apart from exchange of information, representatives of one Party may be permitted to conduct tax examinations in territory of another party including interviews of individuals and examination of records.

Conclusion:

- India has been actively seeking to tax off-shore wealth. It has not only been party to international developments, but has also taken steps like introduction of The Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Asset) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015.
- Indian revenue authorities are significantly adding strength to their armoury through TIEAs and similar measures, which would yield results in the near future.

Q) Enumerate the principal goals and targets of Sustainable Development Goals. Critically analyze the potential of SAARC in meeting the common challenges of inequality, poverty, weak governance and poor infrastructure in South Asia for attaining the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. (250 words)

The hindu

Introduction:

- In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 193 member countries, including India, got committed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that require



efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change while ensuring that no one was left behind. There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals, associated 169 targets and 304 indicators.

Body:

State of Affairs in South Asia:

- South Asia covers only about 3.5% of the world's land surface area but hosts a fourth (25%) of its population, making it a region of significant importance for international development.
- In spite of the geographic proximity countries in this region enjoy and their common socio-cultural bonds, this is one of the world's least integrated regions.
- Intra-regional trade is a meagre 5% of the total trade these countries do globally, while intra-regional investment is less than 1% of the region's overall global investment.
- South Asia's average GDP per capita is only about 9.64% of the global average. Accounting for more than 30% of the world's poor, the region faces myriad economic and environmental challenges.

South Asian countries and SDG performance:

- Both performance and progress towards these goals appears to have little to do with levels of per capita income or degree of development.
- For Instance, in India, which is not only the largest and most diversified economy in the region but also prides itself on rapid income growth rates and hopes to emerge as a potential leader of the world economy, performs very poorly even in relation to other South Asian countries.
- Bhutan and Nepal both landlocked countries at lower levels of development show better ranks and significantly higher scores.



SDG INDEX			
SAsia Ranking	Global Ranking	Country	Score
1	81	Sri Lanka	65.9
2	83	Bhutan	65.5
3	105	Nepal	61.6
4	116	India	58.1
5	120	Bangladesh	56.2
6	122	Pakistan	55.6
7	150	Afghanistan	46.8

10 high-income nations providing lowest official development assistance as percentage of gross national income:

Israel	0.07	Greece	0.12
Cyprus	0.09	Spain	0.12
Latvia	0.09	Czech Republic	0.12
Slovak Republic	0.10	Hungary	0.13
Poland	0.10	South Korea	0.14

Reasons for poor performance of South Asia in SDGs:

- It could be that at least some of the answer lies in the goal for which all countries show "insufficient data" to allow for assessment: that of reducing inequalities.



- The absence of statistical indicators cannot blind us to the severely constraining role played by inequalities of income, power, access to services and citizen's entitlements, which then play out in affecting the other goals in each country.
- This in turn highlights the significance of political processes and the orientation of governments: those governments that have been more explicitly concerned with reducing inequalities in practice (rather than simply paying lip-service to such a goal) have been more effective in ensuring better performance to several other goals and targets.
- Despite the relatively low Gini coefficients of consumption inequality in South Asian countries, the region is actually one of the most unequal in the world, because of a complex and intersectional system of hierarchy and discrimination in which caste, ethnic and gender distinctions all play roles.
- Of these, caste differences (which interestingly exist across the region, and across different religions as well) may be the most significant in terms of how they influence opportunities for employment and income, affect access to housing, basic social services of health and education, and amenities like clean water and energy, as well as political voice.
- In other words, reduction of inequalities is not just a separate goal; it is a crucial underlying factor that affects the ability of a country to move towards progress in achieving sustainable development in general.

Way Forward:

- A regional strategic approach to tackle common development challenges can bring enormous benefits to South Asia.
- SDGs related to energy, biodiversity, infrastructure, climate resilience and capacity development are transnational, and here policy harmonisation can play a pivotal role in reducing duplication and increasing efficiency.
- For instance, India has formulated some pragmatic plans and initiatives to improve food and nutrition security from which many of the neighbouring countries can benefit.
- To address institutional and infrastructural deficits, South Asian countries need deeper regional cooperation.
- On financing the SDGs in South Asia, countries can work towards increasing the flow of intra-regional FDI. The private sector too can play a vital role in resource mobilisation.
- A stable and effective balance of power has to be achieved across our eastern shores in South and South-East Asia to meet challenges posed by all types of social, economic and political issues.
- A convergence towards achieving a common socio-economic agenda gives hope that no one in South Asia will be left behind in the journey towards eradicating poverty and enduring dignity to all.

Conclusion:

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), the platform for regional economic cooperation in this region, has become moribund and remains unsuccessful in promoting regional economic cooperation.
- If the countries of South Asia, the fastest growing region of the world, can come to a common understanding on regional integration and cooperation in achieving the SDGs, it can unleash a powerful synergistic force that can finally make South Asia converge.

Topic: Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

Q) "Though neighbourhood first remains India's foreign policy priority, but the emphasis has shifted from SAARC to BIMSTEC". Analyse. (250 words)

[Indianexpress](https://www.indianexpress.com)

Why this question:

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi begins his second innings in diplomacy this week with a visit to Maldives and Sri Lanka, his foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar has chosen Bhutan as his first foreign destination.

Thus it is important for us to evaluate the shift in India's neighborhood policy.

Key demands of the question:

Answer is about discussing the changing foreign policy scenario of India.

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

In a few introductory lines define the current foreign policy of India.

Body

Discuss the core points of focus of Indian foreign policy.

- Trace the change in trends of India's foreign policy in the past five years.
- How and why is there a shift?
- India and its neighborhood scenario.
- India – SAARC, India- BIMSTC relations.
- Conclude with what is the significance of such a shift in the policy, India's role.

Conclusion

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- The **Bay of Bengal** is fast becoming a key area of economic and strategic competition in the Indo-Pacific. It's the largest bay in the world and forms an important part of southern Asia. The limitations of SAARC due to multiple reasons have led to **South Asian region** being the **least integrated region** in the world vis-à-vis the European and ASEAN experiences.
- BIMSTEC is a **bridge between South Asia and South East Asia**. BIMSTEC has gained more favour as the preferred platform for regional cooperation in South Asia

Body:

SAARC has failed in achieving its objectives because:

- **India-Pakistan rivalry:** This has become a bottleneck in achieving effective coordination. India has conveyed that terrorism and talks cannot go on simultaneously.
- **Bilateral issues:** Long pending issues between members like fishermen issue between India and Srilanka, Teesta water sharing between India and Bangladesh, lack of direct access to Afghanistan to other members except Pakistan have restricted in arriving at common ground for regional integration.
- **Perceived Big-Brother attitude of India:** Asymmetry in the region due to sheer size of Indian economy and stature in international arena requires India to play an over active role. However, this is perceived as big brother attitude by other members creating mistrust.
- **Internal Crises:** Almost every member is facing numerous internal crises like Tamils issue in Srilanka, Constitutional crisis in Nepal, religious fundamentalism in Pakistan and Bangladesh, Terrorism and instability in Afghanistan. Consequently, there is no much enthusiasm to achieve collaboration in the sub continent.
- **China's inroad into SAARC countries:** Increasing presence of china in the region and reservations of India with China is creating roadblocks. India cannot match the levels of financing by China. China with its grand plan of BRI has lured the small nations.
- **Poverty- Ridden:** Even though the region accounts for **21% of world population, its share in global GDP is just around 3%**. Being one of the poverty ridden areas of the world, there is limited avenues to achieve synergy.

BIMSTEC provides an alternative to SAARC due to the following reasons:

- **Connectivity:**
 - BIMSTEC serves two purposes for India – it makes it easier for India **to share a common regional platform with its neighbours in South Asia** (sans Pakistan) and secondly, **BIMSTEC also establishes a linkage between South and Southeast Asia**.
 - Urgency of **promoting regional and sub-regional cooperation** via BIMSTEC and BBIN has to be seen in the context of China's BRI and the compelling strategic challenge posed by China's muscular geo-economic and geo-political interventions in Asia, particularly in India's neighbourhood.
 - The **development of the North-eastern region**, by opening up to Bangladesh and Myanmar, is another incentive for India.
- **Regional Co-operation:** Regional cooperation under the ambit of SAARC has become difficult made BIMSTEC more viable:
 - Despite India's keen interest in cooperating and strengthening intra-regional connectivity by backing the SAARC–Motor vehicle agreement, the agreement was stalled following Pakistan's reluctance.
 - Similarly, the **SAARC satellite project** that India proposed was abandoned following objection from Pakistan in 2016



- **SAARC has also faced obstacles in the area of security cooperation.** A major hindrance in this regard has been the lack of consensus on threat perceptions, since member countries disagree on the idea of threats. **Example:** cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.
- **Cordial Relationship:**
 - The member countries have **generally cordial relationships**, something patently missing among the SAARC countries.
 - BIMSTEC's major strength comes from the fact that it **includes two influential regional powers: Thailand and India.** This adds to the **comfort of smaller neighbours by reducing the fear of dominance by one big power.**
- **Economic vistas:** As a trade bloc, BIMSTEC provides many opportunities.
 - The region has countries with the **fastest-growing economies in the world.** The combined GDP in the region is around **US\$2 trillion** and will likely grow further.
 - Trade among the BIMSTEC member countries reached **six percent in just a decade**, while in SAARC, it has **remained around five percent since its inception.**
 - Compared to SAARC, BIMSTEC has greater trade potential as well. Among the member countries, **India's intra-BIMSTEC trade is around 3 percent of its total trade.**
 - BIMSTEC regional grouping happens to have five nations that are also part of SAARC. The fact that this region is growing at 6.5% per annum, collectively comprises of 1.5 billion people, is the drive behind India's focus being part of BIMSTEC.

However, there are concerns which need to be addressed.

- **Infrequency of the BIMSTEC summits**, the highest decision-making body of the organisation. In its **20 years of existence**, the **BIMSTEC summit has taken place only thrice.**
- The **delay in the adoption of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA)**, a framework that was agreed upon in 2004, fuels doubts about BIMSTEC's efficacy.
- **BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement [MVA]** is an instrument that was conceived to transform and facilitate trade. It has not yet been completely successful as Bhutan is worried about security and environmental fallout of such an agreement.
- In the latest summit in 2018, it was noted that the **Motor Vehicle Agreement and the Coastal Shipping Agreement** would still need more time for finalisation.
- **Both Thailand and Myanmar** are criticised for having ignored BIMSTEC in favour of ASEAN.
- **Region lacks physical connectivity.** The tri-lateral highway connecting India-Myanmar-Thailand has been a non-starter.
- BIMSTEC has identified **14 priority sectors** and has signed an FTA (2004) and a **Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking (2009).** The pace of implementation has been quite sluggish so far.

Conclusion:

- Both SAARC and BIMSTEC focus on regions which are geographically overlapping but this does not make them equal alternatives. SAARC is a purely regional organization, whereas BIMSTEC is interregional and connects both South Asia and ASEAN.
- Hence, SAARC and BIMSTEC complement each other in terms of functions and goals and India has a unique opportunity to connect with ASEAN through **3Cs (Commerce, Culture and Connectivity).**

Topic– Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora

Q) Write a note on New START treaty. What are its key features ? Discuss its significance. (250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

Recently Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Russia was prepared to drop New START with the US as Trump administration has showed no genuine interest in conducting talks on extending the treaty.

Key demand of the question:

The question expects us to discuss in detail what is New START treaty, its key features and significance.



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:

Begin with brief on New START Treaty – The New START caps the number of nuclear warheads well below Cold War limits.

Body:

- First trace the history of coming of the treaty – The treaty was signed by US President Barack Obama and Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev in Prague in 2010.
- New START replaced the 1991 START I treaty, which expired December 2009, and superseded the 2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), which terminated when New START entered into force.
- Both Russia and the United States announced that they met New START limitations by Feb. 5, 2018.
- New START expires in 2021.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way significance.

Introduction:

- New START treaty is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation with the formal name of **Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms**. It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification entered into force on 5 February 2011.
- New START replaced **the Treaty of Moscow (SORT)**, which was due to expire in December 2012. Its name is a **follow-up to the START I treaty**, which expired in December 2009, the proposed **START II treaty, which never entered into force**, and **the START III treaty, for which negotiations were never concluded**.

Body:

Current scenario:

- Russia has warned that it was prepared to drop New START treaty with the U.S. and warned of “global catastrophe” if Washington keeps dismantling a global arms control regime.
- It alleged that Washington showed no genuine interest in conducting talks on extending the New START treaty, which caps the number of nuclear warheads well below Cold War limits.

Key features:

- The number of strategic nuclear missile launchers will be reduced by half.
- A new inspection and verification regime will be established, replacing the SORT mechanism.
- The number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads is limited to 1,550, which is down nearly two-thirds from the original START treaty, as well as 10% lower than the deployed strategic warhead limit of the 2002 Moscow Treaty.
- It will also limit the number of deployed and non-deployed inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers, submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) launchers, and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments to 800.
- The number of deployed ICBMs, SLBMs, and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments is limited to 700.

Significance:

- New START benefits both directly by limiting the number of weapons deployed, and in indirect ways through information gathered.
- The U.S. decision to withdraw from a nuclear arms treaty with Russia that was a cornerstone of European security in the post-Cold War era could erode other arms control agreements even as it enhances Washington’s ability to respond to growing threats from both Russia and China.
- New START’s demise could support a larger strategic weapons force, so it’s possible that programs such as Ground-Based Strategic Deterrent [Boeing vs Northrop] and LRSO [Lockheed Martin vs Raytheon] competition are upsized, and there would be more work on nuclear weapons in the Department of Energy
- Hypersonic weapon delivery platforms and missile defence could also play well in this environment, particularly with the possible loss of inspection/verification provisions of New START.

**Conclusion:**

- Making New START extension is even more imperative is the imminent demise of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) in conjunction with the United States' decision to pull out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) in 2001.

Q) Global arrangements may not avert local failures and are as likely to be captured by special interests as domestic politics, critically analyse the statement in the light of recent national security argument for tariffs made by the US. (250 words)

[livemint](#)

Why this question:

The article discusses how Global arrangements may not avert local failures and are as likely to be captured by special interests as domestic politics in the backdrop of the US President Donald Trump who has used national security as a justification for his tariffs on steel imports, his threatened tariff hikes on autos and the tariffs he recently vowed to impose on Mexican imports.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must evaluate in detail the contradictions around global agreement vis-à-vis domestic policies and interests.

Directive word:

Critically 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. 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 a few introductory lines bring out the context of the question.

Body:

Answers must discuss the following aspects –

- The critical challenge of global governance is determining the dividing line between policy domains in which nation-states are free to do as they please and those that are regulated by international agreement. In a world economy that has become increasingly interdependent, pretty much everything that one country does spills over to others.
- What are the reasons to worry?
- Explain the debate around international agreements vs domestic policies in the name of national security, to what extent are they justified?
- Take hints from the article and conclude what measures must be taken.

Conclusion –

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

- Increasing protectionism and trade wars has been on a rise in the recent past by many countries. US President recently used **national security as a justification** for his tariffs on steel imports, his threatened tariff hikes on autos and the tariffs he recently vowed to impose on Mexican imports.
- Such unilateral decisions raise difficult questions for the world trade regime and global economic governance more broadly.

Body:

Global Governance and its potential:

- The canonical case for global governance is based on two classes of problems.
- The first concerns **global public goods (or bads)**: policies that benefit the world at large but produce little or no benefit at home. Controls on greenhouse-gas emissions is a key example.
- The second class of problems is so-called **beggar-thy-neighbour policies**: actions that produce economic benefits at home only to the extent they harm others—and generate global inefficiency in the process. A classic example is the cartelization of some scarce commodity to extract monopoly prices from trading partners.
- These cases present impeccable arguments for global economic governance.



However, some of the issues cannot be globally governed. Consider public education, gasoline taxes or highway speed limits. Each of these policies has consequences for trade partners. Improved skills alter a country's comparative advantage and hence others' trading opportunities. Gasoline taxes and speed limits affect demand for oil and hence prices on world markets. Such policies are not regulated internationally, and doing so would be widely—and rightly—considered absurd.

Global Governance bodies and its challenges:

- The critical challenge of global governance is determining the dividing line between policy domains in which nation-states are free to do as they please and those that are regulated by international agreement.
- In a world economy that has become increasingly interdependent, pretty much everything that one country does spills over to others.
- Such spillovers are not by themselves a sufficient reason to constrain national autonomy.
- Subsidies, industrial policies, employment-protecting tariffs, non-tariff measures that target health or social concerns, poor financial regulations and inappropriate (excessively austere) fiscal policies are **neither global public goods/bads, nor beggar-thy-neighbour policies**. Some of these policies are **in fact beggar-thyself policies**.
- Trump's tariffs are a beggar-thyself policy. If, on the other hand, Trump is given the benefit of doubt and are willing to accept that there is a genuine national security case, then it is proper for the decision to be made domestically.
- Empowering international bureaucracies to prevent countries from harming themselves when there is considerable ambiguity beforehand would seem inappropriate.
- In a recent ruling in a case not involving the United States, the WTO has adopted the position that it can review national decisions in this area and judge their appropriateness.

Way forward:

- Most policy mishaps in the world economy today—as in the case of Trump's tariffs—occur as a result of failures at the national level, not because of a lack of international cooperation.
- Global arrangements cannot be relied on to prevent such domestic failures, and they are as likely to be captured by special interests as domestic political processes—with far less democratic legitimacy.
- External constraints may in fact aggravate domestic governance failures, insofar as they empower particular distributional coalitions at the expense of the broad public.
- The best we can hope for is what one might call “democracy-enhancing global governance”.
- Global oversight would be restricted to procedural requirements—such as transparency, accountability, participation by relevant stakeholders, use of scientific/economic evidence—intended to strengthen domestic democratic deliberation, without prejudging the ultimate outcome.

Q) Discuss the political and economic significance of Strait of Hormuz – the world's most important oil artery. (250 words)

[The hindubusinessline](#)

Why this question:

Recently series of explosions damaged two tankers south of the Strait of Hormuz. Making it important for us to analyse the significance of Strait of Hormuz.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the political and economic significance of Strait of Hormuz.

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:

In a few introductory lines discuss the situation.

Body:

In brief discuss the following aspects –

- The Strait of Hormuz lies between Oman and Iran. It links the Gulf north of it with the Gulf of Oman to the south and the Arabian Sea beyond. It is 33 km wide at its narrowest point, with the shipping lane just three km wide in either direction.
- Why is the strait important?



- What are the associated political tensions around it?
- Narrate the major incidents.
- Discuss the significance.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what more needs to be done.

Introduction:

- Strait of Hormuz is the waterway separates Iran and Oman, linking the Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. The Strait is 21 miles (33 km) wide at its narrowest point, but the shipping lane is just two miles (three km) wide in either direction.
- A third of the world's liquefied natural gas and almost 20% of total global oil production passes through the strait, making it a highly important strategic location for international trade.

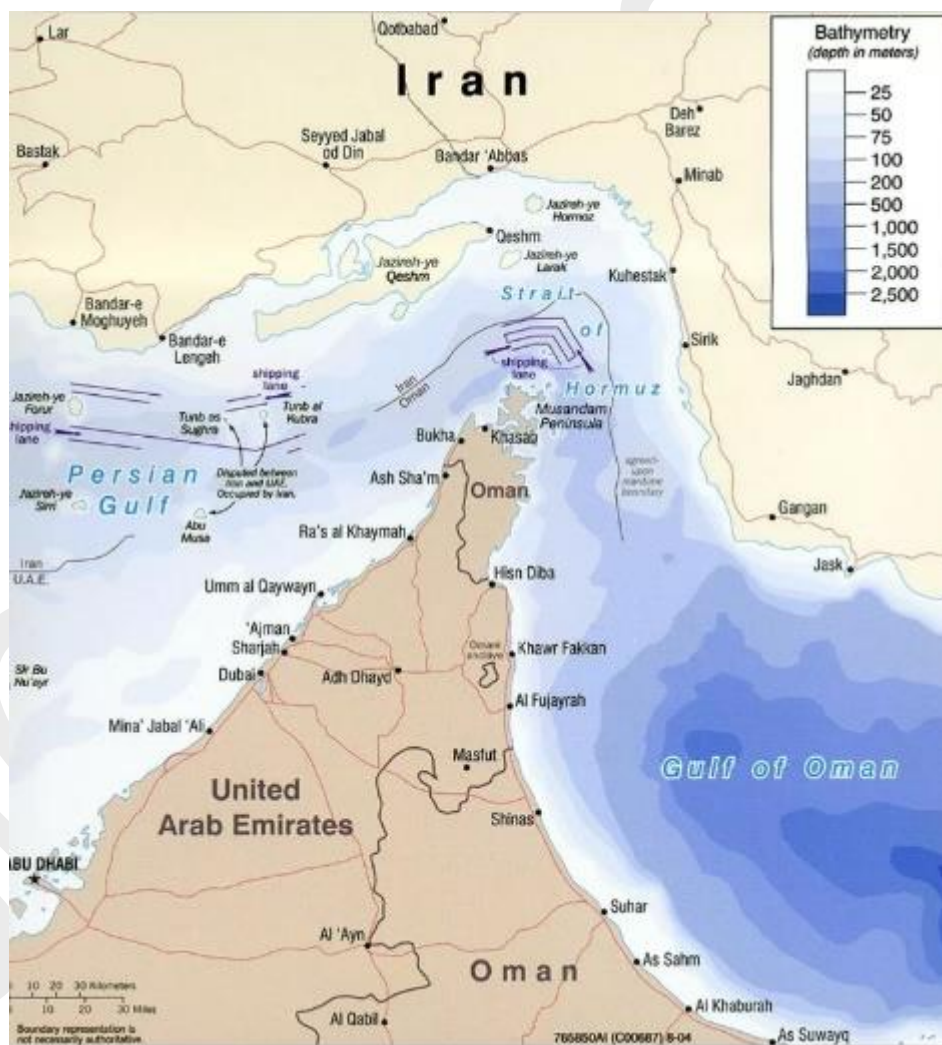
Body:

Political Significance:

- Iran agreed to rein in its nuclear programme in return for an easing of sanctions under a 2015 deal with the United States and five other global powers.
- Washington pulled out of the pact in 2018. Western powers fear Iran wants to make nuclear weapons. Tehran denies this.
- The United States has imposed sanctions on Iran with the objective of cutting its oil exports, a position that favours Saudi Arabia, its regional ally and Iran's enemy.
- Iran has threatened to stop oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz if the United States tries to strangle its economy.
- The United States Fifth Fleet, based in Bahrain, is tasked with protecting commercial shipping in the area.
- Iranian naval forces monitor and police the Strait of Hormuz along with the Sultanate of Oman via the Omani enclave of Musandam.
- More importantly, to transit through the Strait of Hormuz all maritime traffic, including the U.S. Navy, must sail through Iranian territorial waters.
- Iran allows foreign ships to use its territorial waters in good faith and on the basis of Part III of the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea's maritime transit passage provisions.
- This maritime chokepoint became an arena of conflict during the Iran-Iraq War in the 1980s. Each side in the so-called "Tanker War" tried to sink the other's energy exports.

Economic Significance:

- 5 million barrels per day (bpd) of seaborne oil passed through the waterway in 2016. That was about 30 per cent of crude and other oil liquids traded by sea in 2016. About 17.2 million bpd of crude and condensates were estimated to have been shipped through the Strait in 2017 and about 17.4 million bpd in the first half of 2018.





- With global oil consumption standing at about 100 million bpd, that means almost a fifth passes through the Strait.
- Most crude exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, Kuwait and Iraq — all members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries — is shipped through the waterway.
- It is also the route used for nearly all the liquefied natural gas (LNG) produced by the world's biggest LNG exporter, Qatar.

Recent Incidents:

- In a recent incident, four commercial vessels were sabotaged near Fujairah (an emirate of the UAE), one of the world's largest bunkering hubs lying just outside the Strait of Hormuz.
- The incident has come at a time of heightened tensions in the Gulf.
- The US has deployed an aircraft carrier, bomber planes and defence missiles to the region amid rising tensions with Iran, which has threatened to block oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz if the US succeeds in halting its energy exports.

Conclusion:

- The high seas are constituent element of the global commons which belongs to the entire world. Blocking the **freedom of navigation** goes against the rules based order of the UNCLOS and other inter-governmental agreements.
- The bilateral tensions should not affect the global trade and in turn the other countries. Issues must be sorted out by discussions between the concerned parties and peaceful solutions are the need of the hour.

Q) Discuss the implication of U.S.'s maximum pressure tactics with Iran on India ? What measures must India take to secure its energy supply ? (250 words)

[The hindu](#)

Introduction:

- The **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action**, commonly known as the **Iran deal**, was signed on July 14, 2015 between Iran, the U.S., China, France, Russia, the U.K., Germany and the European Union.
- It was considered a landmark deal which would eventually bring peace and harmony to the turmoil-stricken Middle East. However, President Donald Trump recently decided to unilaterally pull the U.S. out of the Iran nuclear deal and to re-imposing nuclear sanctions against that country

Body:

Recent Incidents:

- In a recent incident, four commercial vessels were sabotaged near Fujairah (an emirate of the UAE), one of the world's largest bunkering hubs lying just outside the Strait of Hormuz.
- The incident has come at a time of heightened tensions in the Gulf.
- The US has deployed an aircraft carrier, bomber planes and defence missiles to the region amid rising tensions with Iran, which has threatened to block oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz if the US succeeds in halting its energy exports

Implications for India:

- **Oil and Gas:**
 - The impact on world oil prices will be the immediately visible impact of the U.S. decision.
 - Iran is presently India's third biggest supplier (after Iraq and Saudi Arabia), and any increase in prices will hit both inflation levels as well as the Indian rupee.
 - The negotiations on the **Farzad-B gas field** remain stuck, with both sides blaming the other for shifting the goalposts. It was remained on paper because of Iranian unhappiness over India's stand in the IAEA.
- **Chahbahar port:**
 - India's moves over the last few years to develop berths at the Shahid Beheshti port in Chahbahar was a key part of its plans to circumvent Pakistan's blocks on trade with Afghanistan.
 - India has already committed about \$85 million to Chahbahar development with plans for a total of \$500 million on the port, while a railway line to Afghanistan could cost as much as \$1.6 billion.
- **INSTC:**
 - Beyond Chahbahar, India has been a founder of the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) since it was ratified in 2002.
 - It starts from Iran and aims to cut right across Central Asia to Russia over a 7,200-km multi-mode network, cutting down transportation and time taken by trade by about 30%.



- New U.S. sanctions will affect these plans immediately, especially if any of the countries along the route or banking and insurance companies dealing with the INSTC plan also decide to adhere to U.S. restrictions on trade with Iran.
- **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation:**
 - India joined the SCO along with Pakistan last year, and both were formally admitted in June 2018, when Prime Minister travelled to the Chinese city of Qingdao for the SCO summit.
 - Chinese officials say they will consider inducting Iran into the 8-member Eurasian security organisation.
 - If the proposal is accepted by the SCO, which is led by China and Russia, India will become a member of a bloc that will be seen as anti-American, and will run counter to some of the government's other initiatives like the Indo-Pacific quadrilateral with the U.S., Australia and Japan.
 - The move may also rile other adversaries of Iran, like Saudi Arabia, UAE and Israel, with whom the government has strengthened ties in an effort to balance its West Asia policy.
- **Rules-based order:**
 - India has long been a proponent of a "rules-based order" that depends on multilateral consensus and an adherence to commitments made by countries on the international stage.
 - By walking out of the JCPOA, the U.S. government has overturned the precept that such international agreements are made by "States" not just with prevailing governments or regimes.

Measures to enhance energy security for India:

- **Policy measures:**
 - Around three-quarters of our power comes from coal powered plants. It is important that India increases its domestic coal to reduce its dependence on imports. There is need to fast track the regulatory clearances, improve labour productivity, increase coal production and enhance efficiency of distribution.
 - **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)** intends to minimize government's discretion in decision making, reduce disputes, reduce administrative delays and introduce concept of revenue sharing, freedom of marketing to stimulate growth in the oil and gas sector in India.
 - The tax structure should be rationalized in import and sale of energy on thermal value basis with a view to enhance the competitiveness of the economy.
 - The **INDIA ENERGY SECURITY SCENARIOS, 2047(IESS)** has been developed as an energy scenario building tool. The guiding ambition of this is to develop energy pathways leading up to the year 2047, comprising of likely energy demand and supply scenarios.
 - NITI Aayog launched the India Energy Security Scenarios 2047 calculator (IESS 2047), as an open source web based tool.
- **Energy diplomacy:**
 - India is setting up a web of energy relationships in the extended neighbourhood covering Myanmar, Vietnam in the east, with Central Asian countries like Kazakhstan and Gulf countries in the west.
 - Indo-US Nuclear deal opened new vistas for India in field of Nuclear energy facilitating cutting edge technology and nuclear fuel. India has started to engage with China, Kazakhstan and Australia for nuclear fuel.
 - India's SCO membership could now play a bigger role in ensuring greater energy cooperation between energy producers and consumers by linking Central Asia and South Asia.
- **Promotion of Renewable Energy:**
 - A renewable energy capacity of 100 GW should be achieved by 2019-20 so as to contribute to achievement of 175 GW target by 2022.
 - Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) should develop storage solutions within next three years to help bring down prices through demand aggregation of both household and grid scale batteries.
 - A large programme should be launched to tap at least 50% of the bio-gas potential in the country by supporting technology and credit support through NABARD by 2020.
 - The potential non-conventional energy sources must be explored and researched to make them technologically economical and accessible, like geothermal energy, tidal energy etc.



- **Enhancing efficiency:**
 - The **National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)** should conduct a thorough cost-benefit analysis of the available energy-efficient technologies and products across all sectors, especially agriculture, housing and transportation.
 - At the institutional level, the national and state designated agencies working in the area of energy efficiency should be strengthened.
 - To enhance vehicle fuel efficiency gains, the auto fuel quality should be upgraded to BS VI norms for nation-wide launch in 2020.
- **Infrastructure:**
 - Augment refining and distribution of oil and gas. India should sustain its export capacity of refined products by setting up new refineries.
 - For the hydro projects, the government will need to make efforts to expedite progress on capacity under construction through satisfactory Rehabilitation & Resettlement implementation.
 - India has also built its strategic petroleum reserves in order to meet any supply shocks due to any external exigencies like wars, natural disasters etc.
 - Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd, a special purpose vehicle under the Oil and Gas Ministry, has constructed three strategic petroleum reserves in huge underground rock caverns at Visakhapatnam on the East Coast, and at Mangaluru and Padur on the West Coast.
 - These facilities, with total capacity of 5.33 million tonnes, can meet about 10 days of India's crude oil requirements. India now plans to build another 6.5 million tonnes of storage at Padur and Chandikhole in Odisha which will augment its supply to 22 days

Conclusion:

- India and Iran are looking to swiftly conclude a preferential trade agreement and a bilateral investment treaty. India needs to ensure long term planning to ensure universal energy access and meeting its commitment under Paris Agreement to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

Topic: Important International institutions, agencies and fora, their structure, mandate.

Q) What Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit means for India's global and regional interests ? Discuss in the light of recent yet to be held meet of SCO at Bishkek. (250 words)

[Indianexpress](https://www.indianexpress.com)

Why this question:

The article captures the significance of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit for India.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must evaluate in detail Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit and its significance for India in terms of global and regional interests.

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:

In a few introductory lines discuss the context of the question.

Body:

Answers must discuss the following aspects –

- What kind of a grouping is the SCO?
- Under what circumstances did India enter the SCO?
- How does membership of the SCO help India?
- How does global geopolitics play out for SCO and India?
- Significance to India.

Conclusion –

Conclude with way forward.

**Introduction:**

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, also known as the Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation which was founded in 2001 in Shanghai. SCO assumes greater importance after entry of India and Pakistan.
- Recently the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit was held in Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan. Prime Minister Modi introduced the acronym **HEALTH** ('H' for Healthcare Cooperation, 'E' for Economic Cooperation, 'A' for Alternate Energy, 'L' for Literature and Culture, 'T' for Terrorism free society and 'H' for Humanitarian Cooperation)

Body:**SCO's significance for India:**

- The invite for the Prime Minister Modi's swearing-in ceremony to the current chair of SCO has signalled India's desire to increase its engagement with the organisation.
- The SCO's significance for India lies in economics and geopolitics with the Eurasian states.
- SCO is a potential platform to advance India's Connect Central Asia policy.
- The SCO would also be a new channel to enhance bilateral ties with China and Russia.
- The SCO member states occupy the huge landmass adjacent to India's extended neighbourhood where India has both economic and security imperatives.
- Importance of SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group to stabilise Afghanistan.
- SCO membership provides India a vital counter to some of the other groupings it is a part of.
- The SCO provides the only multilateral platform for India to deal in close proximity with Pakistan and Afghanistan
- India is likely to get greater access to major gas and oil exploration projects in Central Asia.
- India must aim to further enhance connectivity, given the existing strong cooperation bilaterally with existing member countries.
- Sectors such as education, tourism and even medical tourism, can be focused upon to further strengthen the SCO platfor

SCO Bishkek Declaration:

- Terrorism, regional cooperation and the future of Afghanistan were major themes at the 2019 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Heads of State summit in Bishkek.
- The SCO member states also urged the global community to work towards a consensus on adopting the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT).

Way Forward:

- Increase cooperation between SCO and other multilateral organisations.
- Need to increase economic cooperation among SCO member states.
- Focus on illegal drug trafficking, cooperation in information technology, environment, healthcare and sports.
- Strengthen the fight against terrorism, extremism, drug trafficking and organised crime among others.
- Increasing awareness of our shared cultures can help boost tourism.
- If India is not able to exploit the economic potential of the region, it will be a missed opportunity.
- Chahbahar port and Ashgabat agreement should be utilized for a stronger presence in Eurasia besides a clear focus on operationalising INSTC.

Q) Discuss the organizational structure, aims and mandate of Shanghai Cooperation Organization. (250 words)

Livemint**Why this question:**

SCO Summit 2019 is being held in Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan. Thus its important to ponder on the same from exam point of view.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss in detail the organizational structure, aims and mandate of Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

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:

In a few introductory lines discuss SCO and its coming into existence.

Body:

Answers must discuss the following aspects –

What is it? The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, also known as the Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation which was founded in 2001 in Shanghai.

Founding members: China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. The cooperation was renamed to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation after Uzbekistan joined the organisation in 2001. The SCO's main goals are: strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states; promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas; making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region; and moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.

Presently, the SCO comprises eight member states, namely the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan;

The SCO counts four observer states, namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Mongolia.

Conclusion –

Conclude with significance of such global groupings.

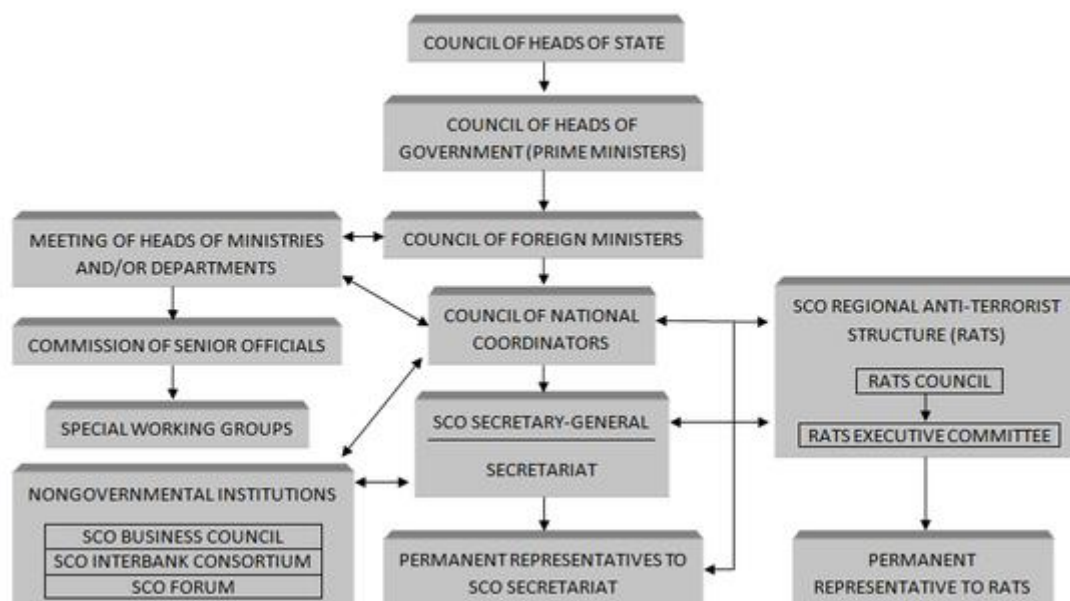
Introduction:

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), or Shanghai Pact, is a **Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance**. The original five nations (**China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan**), with the exclusion of **Uzbekistan**, were previously members of the **Shanghai Five group**, founded on 26 April 1996.
- Since then, the organisation has expanded its membership to eight countries when **India and Pakistan** joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Body:

Organizational Structure:

THE STRUCTURE OF THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION



- **Heads of State Council:** The supreme SCO body which decides its internal functioning and its interaction with other States & international organisations, and considers international issues.
- **Heads of Government Council:** Approves the budget, considers and decides upon issues related economic spheres of interaction within SCO.
- **Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs:** Considers issues related to day-to-day activities.
- **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS):** Established to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.



- **SCO Secretariat:** Based in Beijing to provide informational, analytical & organisational support.

Aims:

The aim of SCO is to **establish cooperation** between member nations on:

- **Security-related concerns**
- **Resolving border issues**
- **Military cooperation**
- **Intelligence sharing**
- **Countering terrorism**
- **Countering American influence in Central Asia**

Mandate:

- Strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states.
- Promoting effective cooperation in -politics, trade & economy, research & technology and culture.
- Enhancing ties in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, etc.
- Maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region.
- Establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political & economic order.

Conclusion:

- India's membership of SCO can help in achieving regional integration; promote connectivity and stability across borders.
- Recently the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit was held in Bishkek in Kyrgyzstan. The SCO's significance for India lies in economics and geopolitics with the Eurasian states. SCO is a potential platform to advance India's Connect Central Asia policy.