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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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The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors /contributions from different parts of the country.

India's many conflictual pasts should teach people understanding and appreciation, rather than revenge or retribution. Examine the statement in reference to Tipu Sultan on his achievements and his excesses.(250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The article discusses the contributions of Tipu Sultan, his achievements and excesses.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must explain the necessity of Developing an understanding of our conflictual pasts, and not retribution, is the way to deal with 'historical wounds'.

Directive:

Examine – When asked to 'Examine', we have to look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Discuss the context of the question in brief.

Body:

The discussion should surround upon the contributions of Tipu in the history of Karnataka and in what way the recent political views that have differed to see his contributions.

over the last few decades in Karnataka, there has been a steady inflation of shrill debates about Tipu's legacy.

Discuss how such incidences shouldn't be seen from the perspective of politics or retribution but from the angle of contribution.

Conclusion:

Form a fair and balanced opinion and conclude.

Introduction:

The controversy surrounding Tipu Sultan, the 18th century ruler of Mysore, has emerged in Karnataka once again. This happened over the new state government's decision to cancel the celebrations of the ruler's birth anniversary.

Body:

Contributions of Tipu Sultan:

- He was born in 1750 and, as a 17-year-old, fought in the first Anglo-Mysore War (1767-69) and subsequently, against the Marathas and in the Second Anglo-Mysore War (1780-84). Haider died while this war was on, and Tipu succeeded him in 1782.
- In the wider national narrative, Tipu has so far been seen as a man of imagination and courage, a brilliant military strategist who, in a short reign of 17 years, mounted the most serious challenge the Company faced in India.
- He fought Company forces four times during 1767-99, and gave Governors-General Cornwallis and Wellesley bloody noses before he was killed defending his capital Srirangapatnam in the

Fourth Anglo Mysore War. With Tipu gone, Wellesley imposed the Subsidiary Alliance on the reinstated Wodeyar king, and Mysore became the Company's client state.

- Tipu reorganised his army along European lines, using new technology, including what is considered the first war rocket. He devised a land revenue system based on detailed surveys and classification, in which the tax was imposed directly on the peasant, and collected through salaried agents in cash, widening the state's resource base.
- He modernised agriculture, gave tax breaks for developing wasteland, built irrigation infrastructure and repaired old dams, and promoted agricultural manufacturing and sericulture. He built a navy to support trade, and commissioned a "state commercial corporation" to set up factories.
- As Mysore traded in sandalwood, silk, spices, rice and sulphur, some 30 trading outposts were established across Tipu's dominions and overseas
- Tipu Sultan for long emblematised the valiant struggle of Mysore against the British and was the only one to die on the battlefield. All others were defeated by, collaborated or made their peace with, the emerging British power.

However, there are concerns raised against Tipu Sultan

- On nearly every historical figure, perspectives differ. Haider and Tipu had strong territorial ambitions, and invaded and annexed territories outside Mysore. Haider annexed Malabar and Kozhikode, and bloodthirsty tyrant who burnt down entire towns and villages, razed hundreds of temples and churches, and forcibly converted Hindus. The historical record has Tipu boasting about having forced "infidels" to convert to Islam, and of having destroyed their places of worship.
- The disagreement then, is between those who see the "Tiger of Mysore" as a bulwark against colonialism and a great son of Karnataka, and those who point to his destruction of temples and forced conversions of Hindus and Christians to accuse him of tyranny and fanaticism.

Conclusion:

Placing a personality in binary terms, i.e. extreme good or bad is neither rational nor progressive. Historical perspectives should be critically analysed only to study from the past so as to live in a better present and build a better tomorrow. Attempts to see such narratives in political, communal or religious lines to create divisions in society should be vehemently opposed. It is improper to judge figures of the past by canons of the present. History should be used to teach people about tolerance and brotherhood rather than dividing based on communal lines.

'August Kranti' was an important milestone in the Indian freedom struggle for it was more of a spontaneous revolt than a planned movement of Congress. Discuss.(250 words)

[Reference](#)

Why this question:

India is observing the 77th anniversary of Quit India Movement today on August 8.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss in what way quit India movement was significant.

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:

Give a brief background of quit India movement – last mass movement for independence, call of Do or Die given by Gandhiji, World war 2 had heightened fears and sensitivities.

Body:

It was 77 years ago that All India Congress Committee approved the ‘Quit India Resolution’ in Bombay Session, paving way for a mass movement to attain independence.

As a precursor to India’s independence, the Quit India Movement was launched at Mumbai’s historic Gowalia Tank Maidan, now popularly known as August Kranti Maidan on 8th August 1942.

Mahatma Gandhi’s clarion call of ‘Do or Die’ inspired thousands of party workers but also created a frenzy among the British who rushed to imprison the entire Congress leadership.

Conclusion:

Conclude with reassertion of the movement even as of today.

Introduction:

‘August Kranti’ or the Quit India movement was started by **Mahatma Gandhi in 1942** but drew protests from the All-India Congress Committee demanding what Gandhi called was **“An Orderly British Withdrawal” from India**. Mahatma Gandhi’s clarion call of ‘Do or Die’ inspired thousands of party workers but also created frenzy among the British who rushed to imprison the entire Congress leadership. This forced the British to act immediately and soon all the senior INC leaders were imprisoned without trial within hours of Gandhi’s speech.

Body:

Unfolding of August Kranti:

- Several national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Abdul Kalam Azad, Jawaharlal Nehru and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel were arrested.
- The Congress was declared an unlawful association, leaders were arrested and its offices all over the country were raided and their funds were frozen.
- The first half of the movement was peaceful with demonstrations and processions. The peaceful protest was carried till Mahatma Gandhi’s release.
- The second half of the movement was violent with raids and setting fire at post offices, government buildings and railway stations. Lord Linlithgow adopted the policy of violence.
- The Viceroy’s Council of Muslims, Communist Party and Americans supported Britishers.

Significance of Quit India movement:

- The movement was carried forward **without the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, or any other leader**, all of whom were jailed on its commencement.
- **All sections of people participated** in huge numbers.
- **Decentralized command** was the prime significance of this movement.
- The British began to seriously think about the issue of Indian independence after seeing the upsurge among the masses.
- It changed the **nature of political negotiations with British Empire** in 1940s which ultimately paved the way of India's independence.
- The slogan of '**Do or Die**' remains the most Krantikari slogan to this day.
- It is also a symbol of political betrayal. Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha, Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (RSS) and even the undivided Communist party opposed Gandhi as well as his call for complete civil disobedience.

Drawbacks of the movement:

- Use of violent methods by the volunteers and participants.
- The movement was crushed in a relatively short period of time by the British.
- Lack of leadership did not lead to well-coordinated guidance and progress of the movement, with the intensity restricted to a few pockets.

Relevance today:

- In 1940s the highest and the lowest in the society were fighting for one single ideal. There is no national ideal today.
- There are ideals of the sectoral society as per their power and position acquired over past 150 years. The idea of India is sacrificed to sectoral and sectional interests.
- Hence it should be taken care that the values of liberty and freedom should not override values sovereignty, integrity and unity of society and nation.
- A sentiment of unity amongst all the sections of Indians is needed while conquering the challenges of 21st century India which mainly are problems of poverty, communalism and corruption that should quit India.

Conclusion:

Despite its failure, the Quit India movement is considered significant as it made the British Government realize that India was ungovernable in the long run. Post the Second World War, the question that was most prominent for the British was on how to exit India peacefully.

Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

Discuss the salient features of the Indian independence act (1947) relating to the transfer of power. How far have they been successful in terms of relevance of today's political set up?(250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

The question is in the context of recent legal nuances of abrogation of Article 370.

Key demand of the question:

One has to discuss the salient features of Indian Independence act of 1947 in detail and then explain its significance and relevance as of 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:

Discuss the background of the act in short.

Body:

Explain first the Important provisions under this Act –

Partition of the British India into two new and fully sovereign dominions-India and Pakistan with effect from August 15, 1947;

Division of the provinces of Bengal & Punjab among the two newly formed countries;

The offices of Governor-General in both the countries would be set up. These Governor-General would be representing the Crown;

The complete legislative authority would be conferred in the hands of the Constituent Assemblies of the two new countries;

The British suzerainty over the princely states would be terminated from August 15, 1947;

Abolishing the use of title “Emperor of India” by the British monarch;

The Act includes the division of the armed forces between the two countries.

Discuss then the relevance of it today.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance.

Introduction:

The Indian Independence Act, 1947, crucial because it enabled the transfer of power from the Crown to India in an amicable manner, was passed in British Parliament on July 5 that year, and received royal assent on July 18. A plan was formulated to split the British Indian colonies into India and Pakistan by Viceroy of India Lord Louis Mountbatten and Prime Minister of Britain Clement Attlee on June 3, 1947, after consultations with the main stakeholders — Indian National Congress, the Muslim League and representatives of the Sikh community.

Body:

Salient features of Indian Independence Act 1947 are:

- The Indian Independence Act was based upon the **Mountbatten plan of 3rd June 1947** and was passed by the British parliament in 1947.

- It provided for **two dominion states : India and Pakistan**
- The boundaries between the two dominion states were to be determined by a **Boundary Commission** which was headed by **Sir Cyril Radcliff**.
- It provided for **partition of Punjab & Bengal** and separate boundary commissions to demarcate the boundaries between them.
- Pakistan was to comprise the West Punjab, East Bengal, Territories of the Sind, North West frontier provinces, Sylhet divisions of Assam, Bhawalpur, Khairpur, Baluchistan and 8 other princely states of Baluchistan.
- The authority of the British Crown over the princely states ceased and they were free to join either India or Pakistan or remain independent.
- Both the dominions of India and Pakistan were to have Governor Generals to be appointed by the British King. The act also provided for a common Governor General if both of them agreed.
- The constituent assemblies of both the states were free to make constitutions of their respective countries.
- For the time being till the constitution was made, both of them would be governed in accordance with the **Government of India act 1935**.
- British Government would not continue any control on any dominion.
- The Governor general was invested with adequate powers until March 1948 to issue orders for effective implementation of the provisions of the Indian independence act 1947
- Those civil servants who had been appointed before the August 15, 1947, will continue in service with same privileges.
- The Constituent Assemblies also had the power to repeal any Act of the British Parliament

Evaluation of the features of act:

- **Hastened act:** the lack of clarity on the border still has its repercussions today with constant tussle between India and Pakistan. The same is the case with border on Chinese side.
- **Jammu and Kashmir question:** Jammu and Kashmir has been the bone of contention even today.
- **Rise in communal feeling:** Another unforeseen consequence of Partition was that Pakistan's population ended up more religiously homogeneous than originally anticipated.
- **Suspicion:** Indian Muslims are frequently suspected of harbouring loyalties towards Pakistan; non-Muslim minorities in Pakistan are increasingly vulnerable thanks to the so-called Islamisation of life there since the 1980s.

Conclusion:

Seven decades on, well over a billion people still live in the shadow of Partition. Thus, post-partition fragmented identities strengthened and much celebrated value of tolerance and acceptance appears to have weakened disturbing social harmony in the country. Exploitation of religious sentiments for political gains has further polarized the society.

History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization.

One Country, Two Systems” – Hong Kong’s Transformation since the handover has been a crisis of democracy. Thus, critically examine the recent uproar in demand of democracy in Hong Kong and the impact it is manifesting in the south Asian political setup. (250 words)

Livemint

Why this question:

Hong Kong held one of its biggest rallies in recent years earlier this month to honour the hundreds or possibly thousands killed in the army assault. Thus, necessary from exam point of view to evaluate the issue.

Demand of the question:

One must critically examine the recent uproar and the quest for democracy being demanded by the Hong Kong people.

Directive word:

Critically examine – When asked to ‘Examine’, we have to look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications. When ‘critically’ is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction

In brief explain the background of the question.

Body

Massive protests in Hongkong has erupted against a government plan to allow extradition to mainland China. The mass demonstration was one of the largest in the city’s history and a stunning display of rising fear and anger over the erosion of civil liberties.

The protest recalled the pro-democracy Umbrella Movement five years ago.

Explain the causes, consequences in detail.

Conclusion

Conclude with a fair a balanced approach while suggesting a way ahead.

Introduction:

Hong Kong, a city synonymous with bankers and brokers, has become a city of inventive protesters. This past weekend, they appeared to be everywhere. Prompted by a desire to re-establish the democracy movement’s reputation for non-violence after recent protests saw petrol bombs thrown at police stations and the airport shut down, people turned out in huge numbers to call for democracy.

Body:

Relationship of Hong Kong with respect to China:

- The former British colony returned to Chinese rule in 1997, and is **semi-autonomous** under the “one country, two systems” principle.
- It has its own laws and courts, and allows its residents a range of civil liberties.
- Hong Kong does not have an extradition agreement with Beijing.

Reasons behind protest:

- The protesters were marching against proposed changes in the law that would allow suspects accused of crimes such as murder and rape to be extradited to mainland China to face trial.
- Once the law is changed, Hong Kong will also handover to China individuals accused of crimes in Taiwan and Macau. Macau, like Hong Kong, is a Chinese special administrative region with significant autonomy.
- The proposed bill appeared to equate China’s courts, infamous for kangaroo trials where the outcome is predetermined by the communist dictatorship, with Hong Kong’s.

Government’s rationale behind law:

- The government says that the proposed amendments would plug loopholes in the criminal justice system.
- The current shortfalls allow criminals evade trial elsewhere by taking refuge in Hong Kong and allow the city to be used by criminals.
- The government has assured that, under the bill, the courts in Hong Kong would make the final decision on extradition.
- Courts can specify that only certain categories of suspects would be liable.
- They can also lay down that individuals accused of political and religious offences would not be extradited.

Concerns of protestors:

- China may use the changed law to target political opponents in Hong Kong.
- Extradited suspects are likely to face torture.
- Also, they say, the change in the law will deal another blow to Hong Kong’s already crumbling autonomy.
- It would further erode the freedoms people enjoy under the Basic Law.
- The issue thus brings to light the tensions between the Hong Kong’s Beijing-appointed elite rule, and the expectations of civil society and pro-democracy movement.

- In all, the Bill could affect Hong Kong's reputation as an international finance centre and also its judicial system.

Impact on South-Asian political setup:

- After Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997, the Hong Kong Basic Law came into effect. Together with the Chinese constitution, it established the territory's legal framework.
- The Hong Kong Basic Law grants press freedom and the freedom of opinion, as well as religious freedom and the right to assembly. It also provides for free elections.
- But Hong Kong's opposition movement fears that if the island's capitalist system were to be abolished after 2047, the notion of "one country, two systems" could be scrapped, too. In which case Hong Kong would be stripped of its civil liberties and never develop into a proper democracy.
- The extradition bill was seen as yet another encroachment by China on Hong Kong's freedoms, notably its separate judiciary, police force and administration that were promised till 2047 as part of the terms of its handover to China in 1997 after 156 years of British rule.
- Prompted by a desire to re-establish the democracy movement's reputation for non-violence, people turned out in huge numbers to call for democracy.

Other impacts:

- Hong Kong being the Asian financial hub was entering "a very difficult economic environment" as trade declined and growth slowed.
- Industries like retail, catering and transportation have taken a hit because of the recent violent unrest, with significant revenue drops.
- Southeast Asian countries remain concerned about adverse effects on tourism caused by the closure of Hong Kong International Airport, even though flights partially resumed after several days of anti-government protests.
- The closure spread jitters in Southeast Asia's tourism-oriented countries such as Thailand and Singapore, as it disrupted Hong Kong residents' plans to go abroad. It also forced connecting travellers to cancel or alter their plans.

Conclusion:

The majority of Hong Kongers support the maintenance of "one country, two systems," though their confidence in this arrangement may be waning. There is a need to handle the situation peacefully and fulfil the demands of the protesters that is in the interest of the nation and reflect the values of democracy. International community should come forward to ensure that the matter is settled peacefully without the use of force by China.

Role of women and women's organization.

As India celebrates its 73rd year of independence, do women continue their struggle to be free in India? Discuss in the context of public safety for women.(250 words)

Livemint

Why this question:

The question is based on the issue of public safety witnessed by the women in India.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the causes and consequences and the concerns of public safety that hinder growth and development of women 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:

Discuss struggle women have gone through in the country historically.

Body:

Discuss why to engage with the world and truly live their lives, Indian women want the rule of law to deliver safety.

What is public safety? Why is it necessary?

What are the consequences of lack of public safety? – Women are far more likely to experience verbal and physical harassment, stalking, molestation, assault, sexual assault and rape compared to men. While India has a high incidence of violence and sexual assault within the household, much of this plays out in public spaces.

Explain in what way safety factor often creates boundaries to women and shackles their freedom.

Conclusion:

Conclude with solutions to address the problems.

Introduction:

The UN has defined **violence against women** very broadly to include such issues as **interpersonal violence in the home, violence against women in public space, trafficking, violence in post-conflict situations and harmful gender-based practices** (UN2006).

Body:

Public safety scenario for women in India:

- While India has a high incidence of violence and sexual assault within the household, much of this plays out in public spaces.
- On streets, in buses, schools, offices and parks, and even police stations and hospitals.
- Sexual harassment and violence against women are so rampant that society does not even consider stalking or groping or verbal harassment to be serious problems.
- In her study of street harassment in Delhi, Girija Borker at the World Bank found that women are willing to choose a lower-quality college for a travel route that is perceived to be safer.

- Alternatively, women are willing to spend, relative to men, an additional 40 minutes on travel time daily or an additional ₹18,800 per year, for a safer route.
- These women are among the most privileged, gaining a college education in a large metropolis. For the less privileged, these options don't exist.
- Rural women also need to bear in mind the security of their workspace in the fields and the areas they use for access to water or open defecation.

Consequences of poor public safety:

- Some are asked to stop going to school when they hit puberty, and their choice set becomes extremely small.
- Others still are asked to change their school based on proximity to home, or safe travel routes, instead of educational outcomes. E
- Even where women are allowed to go to college, it must be near their home, during safe hours, and should preferably be all-girls' colleges.
- Even older women drop out of the workforce just to keep their daughters safe at home until they are married.
- Women's spaces, and therefore actions, are predefined, with little room for improvisation or spontaneity.
- Women with financial means are constantly chaperoned, watched and guarded as they go to school or work, or to socialize.
- For those who are less economically and socially privileged, who cannot afford 24-hour protection from family and staff, it usually means a world restricted to a small physical and social circle.
- For the least privileged, it means taking a risk with their physical safety and well-being while attempting to complete the most ordinary of tasks.
- Because of this, women watch their world shrink. Or in many cases, have never known an unshrunk world.

Measures needed:

- Police vigils should be made mandatory at places. The presence of police should be increased at places like schools, colleges, malls and other places where crowd gathers
- Authorities should ensure that all the public places are lit properly
- The authorities should ensure that women travel safely whether it's the trains, buses or the metro rails.

- The authorities should ensure the cameras are installed at all key places which will help the manual management of law and order a great deal.
- The autos which still are a good and cheap source to commute don't have GPS system installed. Authorities should ensure this.
- A victim should be able to File FIR online, but despite recommendations, FIRs are still filed in conventional ways where the victim is made to wait for hours

Conclusion:

Rule of law and public law enforcement is important for society at large, but has the most impact on women. For women, safety is instrumental to gaining freedom. Even freedom is instrumental. Women want freedom to become the women they want to become.

Critically examine the Cultural stereotypes that pose severe barriers for women's entry into the sciences in the country. Suggest what steps need to be taken to overcome such a barrier.(250 words)

Financialexpress

Why this question:

The article details on studies that have brought to fore the stereotypes – how they pose severe barriers for women's entry into the sciences—for instance, only 29% of female students in India are enrolled in a BTech course, as per the All India Higher Education Survey (AISHE) 2017-18.

Key demand of the question:

One must examine the typical cultural stereotypes that pose severe barriers for women's entry into the sciences in the country and what solutions need to be provided to overcome it.

Directive:

***Critically examine** – When asked to 'Examine', we have to look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications. 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:

Discuss current conditions in science and the number of women contributing towards it.

Body:

One must take hints from the article quote from various case studies and discuss the causes of such stereotyping and explain what needs to be done to overcome such a cultural stereotyping. Discuss government initiatives and policies in this direction. Explain what can be done to overcome and induct more women to participate in the field of science.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

Science, technology, engineering, and medicine –together known as '**STEM**' fields –suffer from lack of women, especially in India. In school exam results, we hear of how girls have outshone boys, but when it comes to those who take up research in later life, the number of women is minuscule. This means that many of our best brains that showed the maximum potential do not pick research as a career.

Body:

Current situation:

- According to a UNESCO report, as of 2015, only 28.8% of STEM researchers globally, and 13.9% in India were women.
- Only 29% of female students in India are enrolled in a BTech course, as per the All India Higher Education Survey (AISHE) 2017-18.
- The same report found that only 6% of the women enrolled in these courses opt for a PhD.
- While more women are enrolling in university, relatively few pursue careers in research.
- The ideal fraction of 50% of female students has not been achieved.
- There is a drastic drop in the percentage of women from the doctoral level to the scientist/faculty position.
- There is a “major paucity” of women at the senior-most administrative and policy making positions in scientific institutions.

Cultural stereotypes:

- Stereotypes encountered by girls to the family-caring responsibilities.
- Reasons like marriage and maternity often cut short their educational pursuit.
- Patriarchal society.
- Women face bias when choosing a career.
- Women face “**double burden syndrome**” -a culture where both men and women feel the family and household duties are primarily the woman’s responsibility.
- Women continue to face the same kind of discrimination at work as they face in society.
- According to a recent Accenture research report, the gender pay gap in India is as high as 67 percent.
- Gender disparity is the highest in fields like Computer Science or Physics while it is least in the life sciences and medicine.
- When highly qualified women drop out of the workforce, it results in considerable depletion of national resources in science and technology.

Measures needed:

- India will have the world’s youngest population by 2022 and the women of the country will play a definitive role in devising the country’s future.

- It takes a multi-pronged approach to create meaningful, lasting changes in the retention of women in STEM fields.
- Women's participation in STEM should be encouraged from primary school level rather only in higher studies.
- Awareness about gender inequality and its outcome has to be increased.
- For e.g.: The Lancet group of journals announced a **Diversity Pledge** and a new '**No All-Male Panel**'—or '**manel**'—policy.
- The move aims to increase the representation of women, people of colour, and colleagues from the Global South among the journal group's editorial boards/advisors, peer reviewers, and authors
- The community should be supportive and understanding of career prospects for women.
- Changing mindsets and overcoming biases.
- Companies can provide more internship opportunities for women and give STEM scholarships to meritorious yet economically backward girls.
- Initiating a well-planned role model programme with successful women scientists.
- Special fellowships for girl students securing top positions in university exams.
- Reintegrate women who have taken mid-career breaks.
- Closing the pay gap.
- Government agencies, universities, and society must work together to ensure that women achieve their full potential.

Conclusion:

Not only do efforts need to be made to attract more female talent to the sciences but also workplace policies—**on pay, sexual harassment, flexi-schedules for working mothers**—need to be modified to encourage retention of female science professionals.

"To ensure genuine gender equality, we need a fundamental reform of beliefs upheld by the institutions of family and faith ", analyse. (250 words)

Livemint

Why this question:

The article discusses the root cause of gender inequality in the world.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss in detail the root causes of gender inequality.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief bring out the context of the question statement.

Body:

Explain why women are still being treated as unequal to men, discussion should suggest the causes for such disparity and its existence even today, to ensure genuine gender equality, we need a fundamental reform of beliefs upheld by the institutions of family and faith.

According to the World Employment and Social Outlook Trends for Women 2018 report, more women than ever before are both educated and participating in the labour market today. Even as opportunities for people without a college education shrink, men's rates of graduation remain relatively stagnant, while women across socioeconomic classes are increasingly enrolling for and completing post-secondary degrees.

Explain why is it that women are still not accepted as equals although so many women are educated and entering the work force in larger numbers? What are the significant forces that hinder our progress towards gender parity?

Conclusion:

Conclude with way ahead.

Introduction:

Gender equality is when women and men enjoy the same rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including **economic participation and decision-making**, and when the different behaviours, aspirations and needs of women and men are equally valued and favoured.

Body:**Factors leading to gender imparity:**

- The unequal treatment of women by religion has exerted a very strong influence on every society's gender norms.
- All the key functions of organized religion, such as conducting religious ceremonies and heading the religious hierarchy, are reserved for men. No organized religion treats women equal to men.
- Countries where the majority of inhabitants have no religious affiliation display the lowest levels of gender inequality, and countries with the highest levels of gender inequality are those with high levels of religious affiliation.
- For millions of years, except in few matriarchal societies, the man has always been considered the head of the family. The provider-role he played was always seen superior to the nurturer-role that women played in a family. The man's decision was always the final word. Gender parity was not a norm in families across societies.
- Marriages in which the woman earned more were less likely in the first place and more likely to end in divorce.
- Women who out-earned their husbands were more likely to seek jobs beneath their potential and do significantly more housework and child care than their husbands, perhaps to make their husbands feel less threatened. The norms in our families act as a huge deterrent to achieving gender parity.

- Stereotypical thinking and Patriarchal mindset is the biggest challenge.
- Declining child sex ratio (CSR), the practice of gender-biased sex selection, and child marriage.
- Domestic violence against women is also high.
- Women being exposed to violence by their partners
- Judicial remedies or police reforms, though absolutely necessary, are mostly curative, rather than being preventive.
- Benefits like maternity leave or related facilities will not be accessible to her in the informal sector

Measures needed:

- We cannot achieve gender parity if religion, one of the strongest forces in most societies, continues to turn its back on women.
- The agenda of creating a **planet 50-50** cannot come true if religion, religious leaders, and faith actors remain outside the conversation.
- Need to create avenues and opportunity with conscious effort for empowering women rather than giving freebies.
- Gender Neutral laws.
- Implementation to full potential of laws is the key.
- Infrastructure to be put in place and proper efforts to go ahead.
- Favouring women gives rise to inequality in society so even men should be given avenues.
- Article 15 should be considered and positive discrimination should be there wherever needed.

Conclusion:

Achieving gender parity is not about organizing awareness programmes and pasting a few posters in offices. It is all about fundamentally altering beliefs upheld by the two strongest institutions of any society: the family and religion.

Population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues

India's total fertility rate (TFR) is declining. It is now 2.2 per woman, nearing the replacement rate of 2.1, according to the latest government data. Discuss the causes of falling fertility rate and critically analyse India's challenges as its fertility rate falls.(250 words)

[Indianexpress](#)

Why this question:

PM has flagged 'challenges' posed by India's 'population explosion'. While India is expected to soon overtake China as the world's most populous country, the total fertility rate has been falling almost everywhere in India. Thus, it is important for us to analyse the situation.

Demand of the question:

One has to delve into the data to raise issues that will confront the government as India may not remain young for long and explain the possible causes of such a trend and analyse the upcoming challenges.

Directive word:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction

Define what is fertility rate, its significance in population studies of the country.

Body

Discussion should have the following aspects explained:

What does the data say about India's TFR?

How does TFR vary between urban and rural areas of the country? discuss the causes.

The factors that have contributed to declining TFR are: Higher education, increased mobility, late marriage, financial independence among women and overall prosperity.

Then move onto explaining the possible challenges that the falling TFR may lead to.

Conclusion

Conclude by suggesting solutions to the challenges.

Introduction:

Total fertility rate (TFR) indicates the average number of children expected to be born to a woman during her reproductive span of 15-49 years. The government's Sample Registration System in 22 states shows that TFR for India declined to 2.2 in 2017 after being stable at 2.3 between 2013 and 2016.

Body:

Reasons for falling fertility rate:

- **Higher education, increased mobility, late marriage, financially independent women, overall prosperity** are all contributing to a falling TFR.
- It goes below 2 in both urban and rural areas, where girls complete schooling and reduces further as they pass college.
- Bihar, with the highest TFR of 3.2, had the maximum percentage of illiterate women at 26.8%, while Kerala, where the literacy rate among women is 99.3%, had among the lowest fertility rates.
- **Increased focus on family planning by use of Contraceptives, increased tubectomies and relatively lesser vasectomies** have also contributed to the reducing TFR.
- **Urbanization, reduced joint family system, increasing nuclear and single-parent families, higher cost of living in urban areas and higher wages** have discouraged aspiring parents to reduce the number of kids.

- Working people in urban areas want better pay, implying that they have to reduce the number of children so as to increase the time they spend at their workplace.
- As more cities come up, people move for jobs and employment tenure gets shorter, TFR may fall further.

Decreasing fertility rate and its challenges:

- The decrease in fertility and the associated decrease in the dependency ratio, in turn lead to an increase in the share of the population concentrated in the working ages and hence in the ratio of the working age to the non-working age population.
- **Dependency ratio:**
 - The proportion of workers rises sharply, even as the proportion of dependants falls. In many countries, the ratio of workers to dependents goes up, giving a huge boost to per capita income.
 - India will see a significant rise in working age adults India's dependency ratio that is the number of dependents to working people is low at 0.6, compared with the developed countries. That ratio is going to decline further with fertility rates continuing to fall.
- For the next few decades India will have a youthful, dynamic and productive workforce than the rest of the world.
- A demographic trend where the proportion of persons aged 15-24 in the population increases significantly compared to other age groups which paired with limited employment opportunities may contribute to **increased poverty, hunger, malnutrition, poorer health, lower educational outcomes, child labour, unsupervised and abandoned children, and rising rates of domestic violence.**
- **Education constraints:**
 - There are serious problems with Indian higher education. These include a shortage of high quality faculty, poor incentive structures, lack of good regulation
 - India is home to the world's largest concentration of illiterate people in the world
- **Health:**
 - At the primary level, there are also serious problems with health and nutrition that impact the effectiveness of education and the capacity for learning.
 - In future large proportion of older working aged people who face longer periods of retirement, accumulate assets to support themselves.

Way forward:

- Health and education parameters need to be improved substantially to make the Indian workforce efficient and skilled.

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

The best investment India can make towards economic prosperity and societal progress is in higher education and employment prospects of women. Discuss.(250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

The article talks about the interrelationship of women empowerment and economic prosperity.

Key demand of the question:

Answer must discuss in what way higher education and employment prospects of women would matter and bring prosperity and societal progress for 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:

Body:

The status of women has dramatically increased in India. At the time of Independence, policymakers did not focus on educating women. As a result, household income and India's GDP did not grow as much as it could have.

The data from the AISHE and NFHS surveys indicate that the best investment India can make towards economic prosperity and societal progress is in higher education and employment prospects of women. Take excerpts from the article and discuss with suitable illustrations.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what needs to be done.

Introduction:

Higher education is the **gateway to economic security and opportunity particularly for women in India**. Women are part of socio-economic system and they uphold rich cultural and traditional values. Their progress is equated with the progress of the nation.

Body:

Trends in female higher education:

- The number of women enrolling themselves for higher education in India has risen by a jaw-dropping 1,350 per cent in the last seven years, the **All India Survey of Higher Education (AISHE)**.
- From 1.2 million women in 2010-11, the number has gone up to 17.4 million women in 2017-18.
- However, when compared to the percentage of women in the workforce in India, the number is abysmally low.
- As per the **World Bank Report on Labour Force Participation**, just about 29 per cent of women in India are part of the workforce.
- There has also been an **increase of more than seven per cent in the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of women in higher education** in this period — from 17.9 per cent in 2010-11 to 25.4 per cent this year.
- In M.Phil. courses, nearly 70 per cent of students are female, while in post-graduation, they account for 60 per cent of the student population.

Higher GER for women is beneficial for India:

- The GER between genders is normalising, again indicating that more women are turning towards higher education to improve their livelihood.
- As more women are turning towards higher education and correspondingly better employment opportunities, they are delaying childbirth and having fewer children. **Higher education is one of the contributors to the levelling off of population growth.**
- AISHE data shows that for the first time in 2017-18 enrolment in MBBS had more women, 50.3 percent, than men. If workforce participation for women doctors is improved through policy, this could **transform India's healthcare system**.
- If more women are incentivised to work, they will contribute to society and the GDP for a long time, especially given that Indian lifespan and general wellbeing are also increasing.
- With India's women pursuing higher education in larger numbers, they must be empowered to contribute to the nation's growth. It is opportune for India to leverage this economic multiplier to its GDP as it sets course to the \$10 trillion mark.

The Indian Government has introduced policies and procedures with the goal of sensitizing the higher education system, recognize gender equity and increasing the number of women enrolling for higher

education. Higher education for women in India has witnessed an impressive growth over the years and the Government is pooling resources needed to promote female education at all levels.

Some initiatives:

- The **Udaan program of the CBSE** is dedicated to the development of girl child education, so as to promote the admission of girl students.
- To improve the Social Group Equity, Government of India had Established **Equal Opportunity Cells (EOC) for SC/ST/ OBC/Minorities**.
- Government has also established **Residential Coaching Academy for SC/ST/ Minorities and Women in Universities and Colleges** and the aim of these schemes is to prepare students for NET and All India & State Civil Services examinations and UG/ PG level examinations.
- Indian Government has also introduced **Post-Doctoral Fellowship for SC/ST and Women and Post-Graduate Scholarships for SC/ST students in professional courses**.
- **PRAGATI – Scholarships for Girl Child for Technical education** aims at providing encouragement and support to girl child to pursue technical education.
- UGC has introduced the **Swami Vivekananda Scholarship for Single Girl Child for research in Social Sciences** with an aim to compensate direct costs of higher education especially for such girls who happen to be the only girl child in their family.

Conclusion:

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, **“If you educate the man, you educate the person but if you educate the woman, you educate the nation”**. One of the most significant transformations in education in India over the past several decades is the drastic increase in women’s access to colleges and universities. Formulating and implementing stringent and powerful laws and policies have addressed the malice of gender discrimination of Higher Education. Most Indian women, with the possibility of economic independence, through respectable employment, have become an important earning member of the family. An educated woman has the skills, the self-confidence and the power to be a better citizen. Women have all the power and capacity as that of men and they are manifesting themselves amongst different opportunities provided through higher education.

Declining rates of both absolute population growth and total fertility have been steady in the country, do you think they negate the need for population regulation measures?

Critically analyse. (250 words)

[Financialexpress](#)

Why this question:

The prime minister, in his Independence Day speech, flagged “population explosion” as a problem and talked of the need to counter it. It is surprising that the government has missed the message on the declining trend in fertility in the country and is gearing up to fight yesterday’s problem.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must evaluate the current population level dynamics.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Present the situation of population in the country.

Body:

The proponents of population regulation raise the bogey of the absolute population level already being too high and the resulting resources-demand gap fueling social misery and instability. But this deliberately ignores or underplays the fact that the rates of both absolute population growth and total fertility have been declining steadily, and negate the need for population regulation measures. Explain the causes and consequences of the declining trend and what kind of change in population policy is desired.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

The government's Sample Registration System in 22 states shows that TFR for India declined to 2.2 in 2017 after being stable at 2.3 between 2013 and 2016. Further, the country's annual population growth rate fell from 2.5% in 1971-81—a time when 'population explosion' was bandied around commonly, and when India infamously experimented with forced sterilisation—to 1.3% in 2011-16.

Body:

Population control measures are no longer needed:

- The TFR in the country is down from 5.52 in 1971.
- The TFR is expected to reach 1.8 in 2021 – similar to the current rate in France – and stabilise at 1.7, the stage where China, which is heading for a population decline, is now.
- As per the **Sample Registration System (SRS)** that provides the most dynamic data on fertility rates, even the states that have a higher fertility rate—Bihar (3.2), Uttar Pradesh (3), Madhya Pradesh (2.7), Rajasthan (2.6), Jharkhand (2.5), Chhattisgarh (2.4) and Assam (2.3)—than the national TFR have shown precipitous decline in fertility rates.
- 13 of the 22 major states TFR is below 2.1, meaning that these states, including those in the south, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal and Maharashtra are already quite advanced in their demographic transition, mirroring trends in countries with much higher levels of income.
- Just a decade ago, for instance, Bihar had a TFR of 4 and UP of 4.1 while MP, Jharkhand and Rajasthan had a TFR of 3.5 each.
- States already below replacement level fertility will see a further decline to decline to 1.5-1.6. The survey estimates that the large poorer states of central India, like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh are likely to reach TFR levels below 1.8 between 2021 and 2031.

- Some states like Tamil Nadu could witness population declines after 2031 unless there is migration from other states.
- With such trends likely to continue, as demographers predict, the population burden on India's resources will only ease in the coming decades.
- Given the **improving levels of education, especially amongst women, and access to contraception, late marriage, financial independence of women**, etc, fertility rates are coming down sharply.
- **Local culture** also plays a strong factor.
- As educational attainment levels go up, and more women push marriage for later, TFR will come down further, even child-bearing shifts to the older age-brackets.
- The solution to achieving population stability rests on **increasing access for women to education and jobs**.

Population control measures are necessary because:

- Population experts have said that while India's large population presents challenges in providing food, housing, jobs and other essentials, the country has entered a demographic stage when a plateauing of population and a subsequent decline in numbers is just decades away.
- India currently adds around 10 million people annually to the working age population; this increase is likely to decline to 4.2 million in 2031-41.
- It is indeed a fact that population of India is growing and will continue to grow for the next couple of decades. This is because, as compared to the past, there are a higher proportion of people in the marriageable age group who will produce children, and people are now living longer.
- In India, the global demand for water in 2050 is projected to be more than 50 per cent of what it was in 2000.
- The demand for food will double in the year 2050 and even if India manages to feed its expanding population, its growth may not be ecologically sustainable.
- Women empowerment as people will not favour for sons because of cap of 2 child policy
- Though China's one-child policy has been criticized as against human dignity and rights, it has improved and controlled the nation's population by a possible 400 million people as per the report of East India Forum.
- If Population control won't happen, there will be no resources left, and the growing population's demand will increase to the next level, resulting in increasing death rates increasing in the country.

Conclusion:

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

Rather than worrying for population control alone the country must work specifically to avert the alarming gender crisis to restore the balance. Comment in the context of recent controversies surrounding the policy and action for population control. (250 words)

Livemint

Why this question:

The long dormant issue of a “population explosion” has come to the national forefront, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling it a challenge in his Independence Day speech.

Key demand of the question:

Answer must significantly explain the urgency to focus of the gender crisis the country is facing.

Directive:

Comment— here we have to express our knowledge and understanding of the issue and form an overall opinion thereupon.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Narrate the crisis of sex ratio India is witnessing.

Body:

The answer must explicitly explain upon the widening gender gap.

India has about 930 females per 1,000 males. This sex ratio is alarming, but the skew looks even worse if you look at new births. According to government figures, the country’s sex ratio at birth declined from 900 females per 1,000 males in 2013-15 to 896 in 2015-17.

Explain that this is a phenomenon that is likely to impact India hard in the decades ahead.

Suggest what needs to be done to avert gender crisis, how we must work to restore the balance.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

In 2050, India’s population is projected to be 1.69 billion, which will be higher than that of China. The population of China is estimated to be 1.31 billion in the same year. But there is hope. According to **Sample Registration System data**, the country’s total fertility rate—roughly, the average number of children born to a woman—has fallen to an estimated 2.2. This figure is only marginally higher than 2.1, the replacement rate of the existing population. However, the widening gender gap in India poses a big problem.

Body:

Declining Sex Ratio in India:

- India has about 930 females per 1,000 males. This sex ratio is alarming, but the skew looks even worse if you look at new births.

- According to government figures, the country's sex ratio at birth declined from 900 females per 1,000 males in 2013-15 to 896 in 2015-17.
- This is a phenomenon that is likely to impact India hard in the decades ahead.
- A report from the NITI Aayog (2018) highlighted that sex ratio at birth (SRB) nationwide had dropped from 906 in 2012-2014 to 900 in 2013-2015.
- In all, 17 of 21 large Indian States saw a drop in the SRB, with Gujarat performing the worst, declining 53 points.
- Also, newer data from India's Sample Registration System show the SRB fell even further in 2014-2016, from 900 to 898.

Implications of lowering sex ratio:

- Low Sex ratio at birth has led to large numbers of "surplus men" in countries like India and China.
- Skewed sex ratio lead to more violence against men and women, as well as human trafficking.
- In India, some villages in Haryana and Punjab have such poor ratios that men "import" brides from other states. This is often accompanied by the exploitation of these brides.
- Skewed sex ratio reduces the ability to women to influence policy making and act as a pressure group.
- Skewed sex ratio is leading to the practice of bride purchase. This is leading to objectification of women.

Measures needed:

- The welfare schemes must be aimed at **not only bringing the structural reforms rather attitudinal changes**. For example: the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao program launched as a movement.
- Promoting the women participation at the higher levels so that the empowerment can penetrate through their efforts. For example the 108 CAA be implemented to provide 33% reservation to the women in the parliament. This empowers the few and inspires the millions.
- Involving multiple stakeholders like the civil society and the NGO's in the policy cycle so that the effectiveness of the implementation can be ensured with due participation go the people. For example: the ASHA, ANM through the civil society awakening the people through them these institutions need to be empowered through the ICDS and adequate resources and training methodologies be made more robust.
- Capacity building program for empowering the women through an inward out process. For example: SHG's for micro lending linkage.

- Convergence of all departments at the district-level, coupled with strong political will and co-ordinated efforts by all districts in the State
- Creation of a social media group, moderated by the Additional Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister. This forum enabled healthy competition between different districts and helped them learn from each other's experiences.
- Universal health Care System which focuses especially on Girl Child and women at large.
- Special focus on pregnant and lactating women to Ensure better health of both Girl Child and Mother – ICDS, JSY, JSSY, Maternity Leave and allowance.
- Educating the Adolescent Girl Children about Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health.
- Improvement in the food quality of Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
- Bio-fortification of food grains distributed through PDS which address Hidden Hunger.

Conclusion:

Initiatives like Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao in Haryana have shown that concentrated efforts can aid in countering the declining sex ratio. Similar initiatives must be undertaken at high priority regions to counter the declining sex ratio.

There is no shortcut to right-sizing a country's population. And coercive laws can sometimes be counter-productive, leading to age composition imbalance. Critically examine the statement in the context of population control scenario in the country. (250 words)

Livemint

Why this question:

The article states that there is no doubt India has a population problem, but any strategy to change fertility rates should be carefully thought.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss in detail the need to balance population control policies that are coercive and in what way such policies can become counterproductive.

Directive:

***Critically examine** – When asked to 'Examine', we have to look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications. When 'critically' is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, one needs to look at the good and bad of the topic and give a fair judgement.*

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In short explain the context of the question.

Body:

Explain that Though India's family planning programme is one of the oldest in the world (dating back to 1951), the forced sterilization campaign of the mid-1970s ensured any mention of "population" would take a backseat, at least at the national level. That 40-year spell was broken on 15 August when Prime

Minister Narendra Modi flagged the challenge of “population explosion” -keeping family size small is an act of patriotism.

Then explain the possible negative consequences.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

India projected to become the most populous country in the world by 2027 (currently at 1.37 billion). In 2050, India's population is projected to be 1.69 billion, which will be higher than that of China. Undoubtedly, India has a population problem, but any strategy to change fertility rates should be carefully thought out. India's population concern is largely restricted to Bihar, UP, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and MP.

Body:

Implications of coercive laws of population control:

- Demographers like Srinivas Goli, a population studies professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, point out, citing the examples of Iran and China.
- Any large-scale “unnatural intervention”, even if purely incentive-based, can dramatically change the future age profile of a population.
- In Iran, in a short span between the late-1980s and early 2000s, the average number of children born to a woman in her lifetime plummeted from seven to less than three.
- While population growth rate fell steeply, the share of Iran's population in the working age band also fell.
- According to a study on the two-child norm (Nirmala Buch, Economic and Political Weekly, 2005) which was adopted by several Indian states like Rajasthan, Haryana and Bihar, the move led to a spike to sex-selective and unsafe abortions.
- Since the state-level laws linked the ability to contest Panchayat or local body elections with family size, the study found that men divorced their wives to run for elections and families put children up for adoption to avoid disqualification.

But, the problems faced due to burgeoning growth of population:

- It is indeed a fact that population of India is growing and will continue to grow for the next couple of decades. This is because, as compared to the past, there are a higher proportion of people in the marriageable age group who will produce children, and people are now living longer.
- In India, the global demand for water in 2050 is projected to be more than 50 per cent of what it was in 2000.
- The demand for food will double in the year 2050 and even if India manages to feed its expanding population, its growth may not be ecologically sustainable.

- Women empowerment as people will not favour for sons because of cap of 2 child policy
- Though China's one-child policy has been criticized as against human dignity and rights, it has improved and controlled the nation's population by a possible 400 million people as per the report of East India Forum.
- If Population control won't happen, there will be no resources left, and the growing population's demand will increase to the next level, resulting in increasing death rates increasing in the country.

The Right Math behind population growth:

- Simply put, for every 1,000 people, demographers suggest that at least 550 must be of working age, in order to educate the young (below 15) and take care of the old (above 60).
- The government's **Sample Registration System** in 22 states shows that TFR for India declined to 2.2 in 2017 after being stable at 2.3 between 2013 and 2016.
- Further, the country's annual population growth rate fell from 2.5% in 1971-81—a time when 'population explosion' was bandied around commonly, and when India infamously experimented with forced sterilisation—to 1.3% in 2011-16.
- Any intervention which doesn't pay attention to this delicate age composition balance is "ignorant and foolish"
- Success stories from within India (Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh) and from Indonesia and Bangladesh (predominantly Muslim countries) also show the **central importance of investing in education and healthcare access** to advance population stabilization.
- India will also find it hard to announce a nationally mandated two-child policy since it is a **signatory to the Cairo declaration in 1994**, which gives couples the "right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children".

Conclusion:

Thus, the need of the hour is **better education and awareness rather than an iron hand policy to control the population**. Government should improve the **implementation of poverty alleviation measures** which can also help control population.

Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

"Poverty has a female face and economic crisis hits women the hardest", provide for your concurrence with suitable justifications.(250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The article captures a dismal picture of the conditions of women in the drought-stricken regions of Maharashtra and the toll that it has been taking especially on the women in the society.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must critically evaluate the relationship between poverty and women and how often the economic crisis hits women the hardest.

Directive:

Justify – here we have to express our knowledge and understanding of the issue and form an overall opinion thereupon using suitable illustrations/case studies.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

State facts of the matter in the question.

Body:

Discussion should include the following:

The burden of poverty weighs down heavier on girls and women in India than it does on the opposite sex. Quote various reports that justify this fact like the United Nations report, called “Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

Take cues from the article and quote the case study of Beed in Maharashtra and explain the issues.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what needs to be done to overcome these major challenges prevalent in the Indian society.

Introduction:

Feminization of poverty is the phenomenon that **women represent disproportionate percentages of the world’s poor**. UNIFEM describes it as **“the burden of poverty borne by women, especially in developing countries”**.

Body:

Women’s poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy, lack of access to economic resources, including credit, land ownership and inheritance, lack of access to education and support services and their minimal participation in the decision-making process. Poverty can also force women into situations in which they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

Female face of poverty:

- Unpaid work done by women across the globe amounts to a staggering \$10 trillion a year, which is 43 times the annual turnover of the world’s biggest company Apple, according to an Oxfam study
- Inequality has ‘female face’ in India, women’s unpaid work worth 3.1% of GDP
- Women spend 312 minutes per day in urban areas and 291 minutes per day in rural areas on such unpaid care work, it added. In comparison, men spend only 29 minutes in urban and 32 minutes in rural areas on unpaid care work.
- Although India has many laws that deal with violence against women, but their implementation remains a challenge, including due to a deeply patriarchal society.

Causes:

- Several factors affect the feminization of poverty, and these factors place women at high risk of poverty.

- Though low income is the major cause, there are many interrelated facets of this problem.
- **Lone mothers** are usually at the highest risk for extreme poverty because their income is insufficient to rear children.
- It then lowers their children's possibilities for good education and nourishment.
- **Low income is a consequence of the social bias** women face in trying to obtain formal employment, which in turn deepens the cycle of poverty.
- As the number of women in poverty increases, the diverse causes affecting their poverty must be examined.
- Poverty is multidimensional, and therefore economic, demographic, and socio-cultural factors all overlap and contribute to the establishment of poverty.
- It is a phenomenon with multiple root causes and manifestations

Measures needed:

- **Access to an independent and adequate income for all**
 - Barriers to employment should be tackled by investment in childcare and adult social care, public transport and flexible and adaptable jobs.
 - Benefits should be designed to ensure that every individual within a household has access to a fair income
 - In addition to collecting data at the household level, statistical authorities (including the ONS and DWP) should collect and publish income data at the individual level.
- **Sharing care responsibilities and care costs more equally – within families and in society**
 - Parental and paternity leave should be lengthened and adequately paid to ensure that men can take it. Maternity leave should be paid at the same higher rate.
 - Flexible working should be offered as an immediate right to all employees so that women and men can choose their right balance of work and family responsibilities. Differential use of flexible working by men and women should be monitored, and policies put in place to encourage more equal take up.
 - Investment in child and adult social care should be consistent and adequate to ensure that these services are high quality, affordable and available to all who need it.
- **Sustainable funding for specialist women's organisations**
 - Specialist local women's organisations should be adequately funded to ensure that all women have access to relevant support.

Conclusion:

Thus, there is a need for a multipronged approach with better choices and decision making for women in terms of inadequate food, housing, education, healthcare, sanitation, poor developmental policies, and more.

Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

Mob Lynching has become a recurring phenomenon in India which is surging hate violence targeting religious and caste minorities. Explain the causative factors and suggest ways to address it.(250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The article captures the dismay of mob lynching as a social evil prevalently being witnessed in the country.

Demand of the question:

One has to discuss the causative factors of such a social evil and suggest ways to address it.

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

Explain what is mob lynching in brief.

Body

Mob lynching refers to killing someone for an alleged offense without following any due process of law. In last few years mob lynching has emerged as a collective hate crime which targets people of specific identity or forms a minority community or strangers under suspicion. Lynching may be sparked variously by disputes over allegations of cow smuggling or slaughter, wild rumors of cattle theft or child kidnapping.

Discuss the causative factors to it.

Then move on to examine to what extent abysmal condition of the criminal justice system provides safe-havens and impunity to the perpetrators of such horrendous acts of mobocracy in India.

Explain what needs to be done.

Take hints from the article and suggest solutions – such as Implementation of the Supreme Court judgment in Prakash Singh case: a police establishment board has to be constituted for internal transparency and accountability. Distinguishing the core functions of police from the functions at the periphery as per the Malimath committee report. Use of latest technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT) for remote monitoring of the identified sensitive areas. It can save the time of the police. The police officials must be empowered to take punitive actions against the perpetrators in case of emergency.

Conclusion

Conclude that constructive reforms to tide over the grim threat of criminalization of politics which casts its terrifying shadow over large swathes of the country is the need of the hour.

Introduction:

The country is witnessing a series of incidents of lynching and targeted mob violence against vulnerable groups. The causes behind and the threats it impose calls for bringing in an anti-lynching law. Manipur became the first to pass a remarkable law against lynching, late last year.

Body:

Supreme court ruling: Supreme Court — anguished by what it described as ‘**horrific acts of mobocracy**’ — issued a slew of directions to the Union and State governments to protect India’s ‘pluralist social fabric’ from mob violence. The court felt compelled to act in the shadow of four years of **surging hate violence targeting religious and caste minorities**. It also urged Parliament to consider passing a law to combat mob hate crime.

Causative factors:

- With modernity, there is **growth of individualism and an erosion of associational life and intolerance towards pluralism**.
- Associations encourage us to appreciate others culture and moderate our aggressive instincts.
- **Mob has no face**, this impunity leads mob to take extreme steps
- Weakening of civil society organizations and other organic institutional links.
- A culture of political mobilization that uses **violence as a tool of politics**.
- Indifferent attitude towards other cultures and religions.
- Indifferent attitude of Police leads people to take law in their own hands. e.g. Tamil Nadu Lynching
- According to India spend report, in 21% of the cases, the police filed cases against the victims/survivors.
- **Rise in penetration of Social media** and its usage to **spread rumours and hatred**. E.g.: Bangalore Exodus of North east people.
- **Growing Prevalence of Fake news and Hate News**. E.g.: Dadri Lynching. There are instances of **organized hate campaigns** as well.
- According to ‘India spend’ 52% of attacks in last 8 years are based on rumours.
- The silence of political class. They are ineffective to create deterrence through strong law.
- Ineffective and delayed justice. E.g.: Manipur Lynching of rape accused.
- High Unemployment rates leave millions of youth unengaged. E.g.: Manesar Maruti Plant Incident

Measures needed:

- Government should **criminalize the act of mob violence**. Manipur became the first to pass a remarkable law against lynching, late last year. The precedent should be followed in other states too.

- Awarding of penalties on public servants for failing to investigate properly due to malafide intentions or wilful neglect of their duties.
- **Establishment of Special Courts** for the trial of mob violence.
- **Empowering local law enforcement officials** to take pre-emptive action.
- There needs to be continued responsiveness on part of the local administration in dealing with anxiety and suspicion in local communities.
- Create a mechanism to **insulate investigations of communal violence from political interference**.
- Community Sensitisation and awareness through multi-media campaigns. **Counter-information campaign** to check fear-mongering and fake news.
- **Strengthen civil society Organisation**. This helps to nurture solidarity.
- Re-orient values and traditional principles towards enhancing compassion, empathy and fraternity among people.
- Find productive engagement avenues for large unemployed or under-employed youths.
- A targeted region specific approach is need of the hour as reasons for such acts vary widely across space.
- Police reforms are vital along with sensitization drive to make transformational changes in their behavioural and attitudinal approach towards tackling of crime.

Way forward:

- The term 'hate crimes' should also be added as a provision in the comprehensive definition of the "lynching".
- **Others states' and centre** should follow suit and legislate a law for anti-lynching as per SC directives.
- **Rehabilitation** should be done at the ground level to make the victims spring back to normalcy.
- Measures to **curb spreading of fake news** on social media should also be looked at parallel.
- Ensure **public officials are faithful to their constitutional responsibilities and victims**.

Conclusion:

Parliament must create a special law against lynching, asserting that "fear of law and veneration for the command of law constitutes the foundation of a civilised society". Lynching should be **nipped in the bud** and Manipur has shown the way forward. It has taken the leadership in creating the new India, where every citizen should claim – of **safety, fairness and fraternity**.

“Triple Talaq Bill passage is a transformative point in India’s socio-political context.”

Discuss.(250 words)

Indianexpress

Why this question:

The article discusses in detail the significance of Triple Talaq bill that was passed recently by the parliament.

Demand of the question:

The question demands one to analyse the significance of the triple talaq bill from the view point of socio-political context.

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

Discuss the concept precisely.

Body

The use and status of triple talaq in India has been a subject of controversy and debate. Those questioning the practice have raised issues of justice, gender equality, human rights and secularism. Amidst all these questions the bill has succeeded in bringing relief to the oppressed Muslim women who were shackled by the ills of triple talaq.

Explain how many Islamic nations, including Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and Iraq, have banned or restricted such practice.

Discuss in what way the bill empowers women socially, how has it proved to be an inflection point in the history of Indian society.

Conclusion

Conclude by reasserting the merits and the socio-political transformation that the bill brought.

Introduction:

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

Body:

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

- Triple Talaq goes against the **constitutional principles of gender equality, secularism, right to life of dignity**, etc. It **goes against Article 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 15(1)** which states that there shall be **no discrimination against any citizen on the basis of gender, race, etc.** and this kind of talaq is **biased against the interests of women**.
- According to a study, **92% of Muslim women in India wanted the triple talaq to be banned**.

- It gave men the **right to arbitrarily divorce their wives without any valid reason.**
- The law provides the **rights of subsistence allowance, custody of minor children to victims of triple talaq i.e. talaq-e-biddat.**
- The Government held that 473 cases of Triple Talaq have taken place even after two years of judgement pronounced by the Supreme Court.
- The law has been placed as a deterrent to eradicate social evils. For example:
- Untouchability was abolished by the Constitution, but the continued practise of untouchability forced Parliament to enact the Untouchability (Offences) Act in 1955 and later renaming it as Protection of Civil Rights Act in 1976.
- To eliminate atrocities faced by women in domestic space, parliament enacted:
 - **The Dowry Prohibition Act in 1961**
 - **Prevention of domestic violence Act 2005**
- Triple Talaq is **banned in more than 20 Islamic countries including Pakistan.**
- The constitution of the country says that it shall strive to bring a uniform civil code for the entire country. Doing away with triple talaq will definitely be a step closer to the constitution-makers' dream of having a uniform civil code for all citizens.
- Experts also opine that only the essential or integral features and aspects of a religion (article 25) are protected by the Constitution. Triple talaq was not an integral feature of Islam.

Issues with the law:

- **Divorce is a civil matter and making Triple Talaq a criminal offence is disproportionate to criminal jurisprudence.**
- The Supreme Court declared Triple Talaq as invalid and did not ask the government to make it a penal offence.
- Thereby criminalizing the Triple Talaq goes **against the spirit of the Supreme Court judgement.**
- **Religious groups infer the banning of a traditional practice sanctified by Sharia as interfering in the religious aspects of minorities.**
- The bill introduced in Parliament proposes a three-year jail term for a man divorcing his wife through triple talaq. Although most Muslim women feel it is time to end the practice, they are **wary of the slipshod manner in which the government has passed the bill in the Lok Sabha.**
- If the aim of the law is to protect the rights of women, **how is that possible with their husbands in prison?** If they have children under the age of 18, who will take care of their education, health, financial and other needs? The woman will not be protected but instead be vulnerable to more abuse.

- The Bill does not provide the victimised woman **any additional benefits in terms of her rights in marriage and divorce.**
- Since the Bill says that triple talaq is cognizable and non-bailable, **married Muslim man become vulnerable target** as policemen can arrest and investigate the accused with or without the complaint from wife or any other person.

Way forward:

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

Conclusion:

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

India needs a comprehensive law to deal with 'honor killing'. Critically Examine. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The question must discuss the social evil of honor killing and need for comprehensive law to tackle the same.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss in detail the need for comprehensive law for honor killing.

Directive:

Critically examine – When asked to 'Examine', we have to look into the topic (content words) in detail, inspect it, investigate it and establish the key facts and issues related to the topic in question. While doing so we should explain why these facts and issues are important and their implications. 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:

Explain in brief honor killing as a social evil in the country.

Body:

Explain that In India, honor killings take place if a couple marries outside their caste or religion. Khap panchayats also oppose and mete out punishments to couples who marry within the same gotra (lineage) or transgress other societal norms.

The Supreme Court, in 2006, ruled that, “Inter-caste marriages are in fact in the national interest as they will result in destroying the caste system.”

Explain that We have the law, but unfortunately, the system doesn't function properly. We need a special law that specifies what needs to be looked at during the investigation and prosecution of an honour killing case and that it is not tried broadly as a murder. There need to be detailed examinations, the forensic evidence needs to be collected keeping the motive of honour killing in mind and so on. They need to check what preceded the murder.

Discuss then the need for laws in place to tackle with such evils.

Conclusion:

Conclude with need for urgency of stringent laws to handle honor killing in the country.

Introduction:

The term 'honour killing' is being used widely to describe the class of murders that family members commit while seeking to impose on young couples their medieval view that all marriages should be within their community. The use of murderous violence in the face of imagined threats to family or community honour is an unfortunate reality in most parts of the country.

Body:**Causative factors:**

- The incidences of honour killing are common in the northern states of India such as Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Honour killing also widespread in South Indian states and the western Indian states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- The basic reason behind honour killings is the idea that a family's honour is tied to a woman's chastity.
- A wide range of causes can trigger honour killing such as **marital infidelity, pre-marital sex, having unapproved relationships, refusing an arranged marriage or even rape.**
- In India, honour killings take place if a couple marries outside their caste or religion.
- **Khap panchayats** also oppose and mete out punishments to couples who marry within the same gotra (lineage) or transgress other societal norms.
- Danger of losing Prestige and Status in society: A person's ascribed status is more important than the achieved status.
- Another characteristic of honour killings is that the perpetrators often do not face negative stigma within their communities, because their behaviour is seen as justified.

Need for a comprehensive law:

- Honour killing violates **article 14, 15, 19, 21, 39 (f)** of the constitution.

- According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figures released in 2018, a total of 28 cases in 2014, 251 cases in 2015 and 77 cases in 2016 were reported with motive as honour killing.
- In Past five years in Rajasthan, 71 cases of illegal diktat given by 'Khap Panchayats' (caste councils which function like kangaroo courts) were registered and 10 cases of honour killing occurred in which four men and eight women were killed.
- Honour killing cases have increased in the past few years and have become a hurdle in societal development.
- Sections of the IPC and the CrPc were not adequate in dealing with such cases.
- Such crimes are also in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women which provide that women should have the right to freely choose a spouse.
- These actions of honour killing are also violative of certain fundamental rights in the Constitution of India, including the right to life, and liberty which includes the right to bodily integrity, and the right to choose whom to associate with

Challenges to the law:

- The death penalty award for honour killing doesn't deter perpetrators as seen in previous instances.
- The existing penalty for the offence of murder is sufficient if they are implemented strictly and effectively.
- A new set of laws would not deter honour killings because the basic issue is social sanction for acts committed to curtail same gotra marriage, inter-caste marriage, inter-religion marriage.
- Need for creating awareness among traditional communities through education.
- Holding khap panchayats collectively accountable can be detrimental to members who do not support such killing.
- Also, it could be misused for vindictive agendas.

Laws which exist to prevent such practices:

- **Section 302 of IPC:** Perpetrators, family members & khap panchayats can be punished under it.
- **Special Marriage Act 1954:** specially enacted to prevent atrocities arising out of marriages in India.
- **Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act 2006:** to protect individual & constitutional rights of citizens.
- **Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005:** to protect against violence occurring within the family.

- **Article 14, 15(3), 19, 21:** India has signed various international conventions like Human Rights, ICCPR, UN CEDAW

Way forward:

- Administrators must give full effect to the various preventive, remedial and punitive measures recommended by the Supreme Court.
- The Centre may also examine the need for a comprehensive law to curb killings in the name of honour and prohibit interference in matrimonial choice of individuals.
- **Media** play a more crucial role in expressing their views in the front of whole of society, without any fear, even there is a right of freedom to express is also given in our Constitution.
- It is necessary to **improve sex ratio** in the areas where females low in number and still practicing the female foeticide like Haryana, UP, and Punjab.
- **Literacy** must be enhanced to curb this menace.
- The laws should be clear and issues related to the **validity of the Khap Panchayat** should be clear to people.
- There should be a provision of one or two women sitting in the Khap Panchayats so that equality right also follows.
- It is imperative for the state to focus on such programmes and projects which help in **gender equity**.

Conclusion:

The Supreme Court, which has been intervening repeatedly to preserve the freedom of marital choice of individuals, once remarked that there is **no 'honour' in 'honour killing'**. Various judgments have highlighted the need to come down on such crimes, as well as the social structures that keep such a communal outlook alive.

Salient features of Indian Society.

Discuss Honour killings and Mob Lynching as prevalent social evils of the country examine the need of legislation for bringing social change in the same context.(250 words)

Reference

Why this question:

Rajasthan legislative assembly passed two important bills to curb honor killings and Mob Lynching in the state.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must examine closely the evils of mob lynching and honor killing prevalent in India and what changes are required to do away with such social evils.

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:

Define mob lynching and honor killing

Body:

Discuss the highlights of the bill – The Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019:

Rajasthan has become the second state after Manipur which passed a law to curb lynching cases.

The government told during the debate that 87 % of the total incidents took place across the country were recorded in the state during the last five years.

Offences under new law will be investigated by a police officer of the rank of Inspector and above, and state DGP will appoint an officer of IG or above rank as state coordinator to prevent lynching.

In cases of “hurt” and “grievous hurt” from such assault, the convict may get up to seven and 10 years in jail, respectively.

If the attack leads to death, the punishment is life imprisonment.

The Bill also makes conspirators accountable.

Then discuss in what way such bills are game changers for our society.

Conclusion:

Conclude on a positive note and that all the states in the country should have such laws and policies put in place.

Introduction:

Mob lynching refers to killing someone for an alleged offense without following any due process of law. It is not just “mobocracy”; it is a collective hate crime. **Honour killing** is defined as the killing of a relative, especially a girl or woman, who is perceived to have brought dishonour on the family. Rajasthan legislative assembly passed two important bills to curb honour killings and Mob Lynching in the state recently. Rajasthan has become the second state after Manipur which passed a law to curb lynching cases.

Body:

Provisions of Bill to prevent Mob lynching:

- **Imprisonment and Fine:** For the offence of an assault by mob, leading to the victim suffering grievous hurts, the bill provides for jail terms up to 10 years and a fine of ₹25,000 to ₹3 lakh and if victims suffer simple injuries the imprisonment is up to seven years and a fine up to ₹1 lakh
- **Conspiracy of Lynching:** For plotting a conspiracy of lynching or aiding, abetting or attempting such an offence, the bill seeks to punish the offenders in the same manner as if he actually committed the offence of lynching.
- **Prevention of Lynching:** Bill empowers the state police chief to appoint a state coordinator of the rank of Inspector General of Police to prevent the incidents of lynching
- **Other Offences Related to Lynching:** Bill also enlists various other offences related to the lynching such as dissemination of offensive materials, propagation of hostile environment and obstructing legal processes, which would be punishable with jail terms varying from three to five years.

- Victim Compensation and Rehabilitation: Bill also stipulates the provision of compensation to victims by the state government as per the Rajasthan Victim Compensation Scheme.
- It also binds the state government to take necessary measures to rehabilitate the victims of mob lynching, suffering displacements from their native places.

Provisions of Bill to curb Honour killing:

- Punishment of death penalty or life imprisonment till natural death for killing a couple or either of them in the name of honour and with fine which may extend to ₹5 lakh.
- If the couple or either of them is grievously hurt, the punishment will be from 10 years rigorous imprisonment to imprisonment for life and with fine of maximum ₹3 lakh, whereas the punishment will be three to five years imprisonment with fine which may extend to ₹2 lakh in case of simple injuries.
- Sub Divisional Magistrate or the District Magistrate shall receive any request or information from any person or persons seeking protection from any unlawful assembly, or from any other person who is likely to or who have been objecting to any lawful marriage.
- No person or group shall assemble at any time with the view or intention to deliberate on or condemn any marriage, not prohibited by law, on the basis that such marriage has dishonoured the caste or community tradition or brought disrepute to all or any of the persons forming part of the assembly or the family or the people of the locality concerned.
- Such gathering shall be treated unlawful and every person convening or organising such assembly, and every member, thereof, participating therein directly or indirectly shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not less than six months, but may extend to five years and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to ₹1 lakh.

Need for the legislations:

- Among the total number of mob lynching cases happened in India after 2014, 86% of cases of mob lynching reported in the Rajasthan.
- In Past five years in Rajasthan, 71 cases of illegal diktat given by 'Khap Panchayats' (caste councils which function like kangaroo courts) were registered and 10 cases of honour killing occurred in which four men and eight women were killed.
- Honour killing cases have increased in the past few years and have become a hurdle in societal development.
- Sections of the IPC and the CrPc were not adequate in dealing with such cases.
- Such crimes are also in violation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women which provide that women should have the right to freely choose a spouse.

- These actions of honour killing are also violative of certain fundamental rights in the Constitution of India, including the right to life, and liberty which includes the right to bodily integrity, and the right to choose whom to associate with.

Conclusion:

The bills uphold Supreme Court judgements about curbing Honour killing and anti Mob lynching. There is a need for the union government to enact a model law which can be emulated in the states.

The “Elder Abuse Study Report-2018” shows the grim condition of the old-aged in the country. How far do you think that modernization is responsible for this condition? Also discuss the steps taken by the government to provide geriatric care.(250 words)

Hindustantimes

Why this question:

The question intends to evaluate the connection between modernization and the elder abuse in the country.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss the situation of the old-aged population in the country, issues and challenges of elder abuse and what needs to be done to overcome 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:

State facts from the report and highlight the current problem.

Body:

Explain in what way the advent of technology has adversely impacted the lives of the elderly in the country, contributing to abuse and their feelings of isolation.

Quote that recent surveys have revealed while 73 per cent elders felt their adult children were too busy on the phones even when at home with them, over 60 per cent of them agreed quality time spent with their children and grandchildren has decreased with the increase in usage of phones and computers. Social media, in particular, 78 per cent of the respondents said, had decreased the family time spent together. Explain what needs to be done? How can these concerns be overcome and suggest solutions.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Introduction:

The **World Health Organization** defines **Elder abuse as a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.** According to the 23 city report by HelpAge India released Thursday, the maximum amount of abuse happens in Mangalore (47 per cent), followed by Ahmedabad (46 per cent), Bhopal (39 per cent) and Amritsar (35 per cent).

Body:

This type of violence constitutes a violation of human rights and includes physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional abuse; financial and material abuse; abandonment; neglect; and serious loss of dignity

and respect. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is observed every year on 15 June to raise voice for the elders who are abused and suffered.

Modernization and Elderly Abuse:

- **Poor financial status of family:** Lower income or poverty has been found to be associated with elder abuse. Low economic resources have been conceptualized as a contextual or situational stressor contributing to elder abuse.
- **Health care costs increase:** As older people stop working and their health care needs increase, governments could be overwhelmed by unprecedented costs
- **Lack of space:** Living with a large number of household members other than a spouse is associated with an increased risk of abuse, especially financial abuse.
- interpersonal issues
- **Chronic diseases of older persons:** At the individual level, elders who have poor physical and mental health are at higher risk.
- **Elderly women issues:** They face life time of gender-based discrimination. The gendered nature of ageing is such that universally, women tend to live longer than men. Social mores inhibit women from re-marrying, resulting in an increased likelihood of women ending up alone.
- **Declining moral value system:** At the socio-cultural level, a representation of an older person as weak and dependent, lack of funds to pay for care, elderly people who need assistance but live alone, and destruction of bonds between the generations of a family are possible factors in elder abuse.

Steps taken by Government:

- **Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana**
 - The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PNVVY) was launched in May 2017 to provide social security during old age. This is a simplified version of the VPBY and will be implemented by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India.
 - Under the scheme, on payment of an initial lump sum amount ranging from Rs 1,50,000 for a minimum pension of Rs 1000 per month to a maximum of Rs 7,50,000/- for a maximum pension of Rs 5,000 per month, subscribers will get an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum payable monthly/quarterly/half-yearly/annually.
- **Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY)**
 - This scheme is run by the Ministry of Finance. The Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY) was first launched in 2003 and then relaunched in 2014. Both are social security schemes for senior citizens intended to give an assured minimum pension on a guaranteed minimum return on the subscription amount.

- **Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)**
 - This scheme is run by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. This is a central sector scheme funded from the Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund. The fund was notified in the year 2016. All unclaimed amounts from small savings accounts, PPF and EPF are to be transferred to this fund.
- **Vayoshreshtha Samman**
 - Conferred as a National award, and given to eminent senior citizens & institutions under various categories for their contributions on International day of older persons on 1st october.
- **Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS)**
 - The Ministry of Rural Development runs the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) that extends social assistance for poor households for the aged, widows, disabled, and in cases of death where the breadwinner has passed away.
- **Integrated Programme for Older Persons (IPOP)**
 - Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is a nodal agency for the welfare of elderly people. The main objective of the scheme is to improve the quality of life of older persons by providing basic amenities like shelter, food, medical care and entertainment opportunities, etc.

Way forward:

- **Public:** Watch for signs of elder abuse
- **Older people:** staying connected with family and friends, making sure their financial and legal affairs are in order.
- **Family and informal caregivers:** lower their risk of committing abuse by getting help from family or friends, by getting support from local health and social services.
- **Health sector:** Raise awareness within the health sector and other sectors about the health and social burden of elder abuse; recognize elder abuse as a public health problem
- Establish a focal point to address elder abuse, develop and test evidence based interventions to prevent elder abuse.
- Provide services to victims of elder abuse; collaborate with other sectors to address elder abuse, such as criminal justice, health, and social services.
- Implementation of laws like **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007** to ensure that the rights of senior citizens are protected.

Conclusion:

The elderly should be seen as a blessing, not a burden. The elderly are becoming the fastest growing, but underutilized resource available to humanity. Rather than putting them aside, physically (and mentally), to be cared for separately, they should be integrated into the lives of communities where they can make a substantial contribution to improving social conditions. The benefits of turning the 'problem' of the elderly into a 'solution' for other social problems are being demonstrated in several countries like Vietnam, Japan etc.