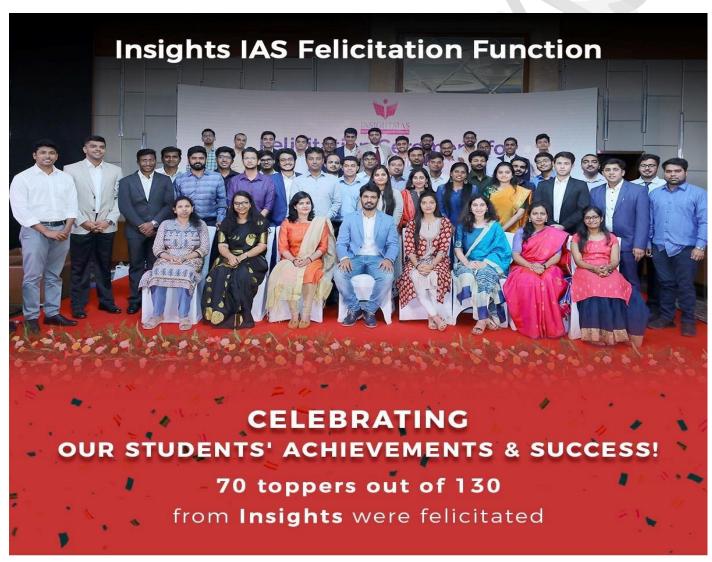# INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

SECURE SYNOPSIS

MAINS 2019

GS- I

SEPTEMBER 2019

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

Table of Contents

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

Was the Vesara Style of Architecture simple a confluence of Nagara style and Dravida style or did it have its own unique features? Analyse.

NCERT – art and culture
Why this question:
The question is from the static portions of GS I .
Key demand of the question:
The question asks the detailed analysis regarding the Vesara style of architectures of Chalukyas of Badami in respect to the confluence of Nagara style and Dravida style.
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:
Briefly introduce Vesara Style and how it was a mix of both Nagara Style and Dravida Style.
Body:
First part of the body should talk about the common features of both Vesara and Nagar style.
The next part should focus about the common features of Vesara and Dravida style.
The last part should clearly highlight the features which were Unique to Vesara style and not found in either Nagara Style or Dravida Style.
Conclusion:
The conclusion stress on the fact that though Vesara has many commonalities with Nagara and Dravida style there were few features unique to it.

The Vesara style also called the Chalukyan type possessed the Dravidian vimana and the Nagara-type faceted walls.

Influence of Nagara tradition

- The plan of shrine, subsidiary shrine, panchayatan style bears similarity to Nagara School.

- The plan of vestibule joining the sanctum to mantapa bears resemblance to orissan temples.

- The most of the temple pillars in Karnataka region bears similarity to sekhari and bhumija type of pillars in northern India.

- The stepped diamond plan that is a plan of design arrangement as seen in Chalukya temples is from northern region.

- The most of the temples in kalyani portrays Nagara articulation projecting stepped diamond or stellate plan.

Influence of Dravida tradition

The Dravida influence is mainly visible in vimana of the Chalukya temples in first part of the Chalukya rule.

Combination of Nagara and Dravida style

- **Vesara sikhar or kadamba sikhara:** It is a shikhara of Chalukya temple showing northern shikhara shikhara and southern vimana features.

- **Ornamentation:** Miniature decorative towers and ornamentation of walls in Chalukya temples show combination of both Nagara and Dravida style.

Special departure from Nagara and Dravida tradition

In case of entrance hall to shrine Chalukya temple bears special uniqueness. It has two or more than two entrances while

- There is a small closed mantapa to the shrine in Nagara temples.

- There is an enlarged, open and closed mantapa in Dravida temples.

Own distinctive features

- **Ornamentation:** In case of ornamentation of temple walls and pillars, Chalukyan temple shows indigenous quality.

- **Transformation of Dravida tower :** The Chalukyan builders modified the Dravida towers by minimizing the height of each storey and arranging them in descending order of height from base to top with much ornamentation in each storey.

- **Transformation of Nagara tower :** Instead of inclined storey here modification is seen in the vertical shape of the tower.

- **Two special features of Chalukya temples – Mantapa and Pillars :**

  o Mantapa : The mantapa has two types of roof – domical ceilings (the dome like ceilings standing on four pillars are very attractive) or Square ceilings (these are vigorously ornamented with mythological pictures).

  o Pillars : As mentioned earlier, the miniature decorative pillars of Chalukya temples stands with its own artistic value.

The Chola Period marks a distinct and significant period in the art and architecture of India. Comment.

Art and culture by Nithin Singhania
Why this question:
The question seeks to examine the significance and the uniqueness of Chola art and architecture.
Key demand of the question:
The answer must discuss the significance of the Chola art and architecture.
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:
Introduce the distinctness of Chola art and architecture that is the Dravida style of architecture.
Body:
The body has to address to parts. First part as to why the Chola art was distinct. In this using salient and important features of Chola art tell the marked changes which started during the Chola art. The emphasis here should be on why these were distinct.
The next part of body should the significance of the Chola art and its uniqueness. Quoting examples from the Chola architecture and art this should be elaborately explained.
Conclusion:

The conclusion should say how Chola Art and architecture changed the scenario of India architecture and influenced the future architecture especially in the southern India.

Art and architecture in India reached its climax during Chola period. Chola style of temple architecture was unique due to the emergence of new style called **Dravidian style**, which was confined mostly to the South India. Chola rulers were wealthy enough to build message palaces with spacious Garden and terraces the use to Mark their victory over other state by building temples that is why number of temples are built during this period

Chola style of architecture

- This architecture developed under the chola regime

- temples surrounded by boundary walls

- High entrance gateway gopuram

- This follows panchayatn style for principal shine and four subsidiary shrines

- The stepped pyramid that rises up is called vimana

- Crowning form in octagon its similar to the kalash in nagara style but not spherical

- On the main temple the vimana on subsidiary shrine temple there is no vimana

- The assembly hall connected with garbgriha using the tunnel that tunnel is called antarala.

- The entrance of garbagriha scplucuure of Dwarpal, Mithun, and yakshas.

- Presence of water tank inside the temple enclosure was a unique style of Dravidian temple architecture.

- e.g. Brahadeeswarar (Big temple) temple at Tanjore

Important features of chola art

A. Sculpture

- They depict socio religious ideas of the chola period.

- Spiritual calmness is depicted in sculptural representations of alwars

- The cholas made use of sculptures to decorate the walls, pillars and roofs

- Scenes from ramayanam mahabharatam, puranas and lives of the 63 nayanmars are sculptured in narrative panels on the walls of temples.e.g.nataraja broze

B. Protatit

- The best specimens of portraits are found on the walls of koranganatha temple and nageswarasamy temple.

- The portraits of cholamadevi and kulothunga-iii are there in kalahasti temple**.**

C. Paintings

- The art of paintings flourished, figures were painted with realism.

- Rajaraja-i and rajendra contributed more for the development of the art of painting during the chola period.

D. Music

- The hymns of aiwars and nayanmars were sung in every temple.

- Nambiandar nambi and nathamuni contributed much for the development of music**.**

E. Dance

- Bharatha natyam and kathakali were two types of dances performed during the chola period

- There were two dance directors to coordinate these dancing girl

- Natarajar temple at chidamparam and sarangapani temple at kumbakonam have dancing poses of lord nataraja.

- Dance dramas were also performed on stages at festival times.

F. Drama

- Rajarajeswara natakam and rajarajavijayam were the dramas enacted during festival times. drama actors received honors from the chola kings.

Conclusion

The Chola period in south India was golden area of art and architecture. they promoted all these arts and also changes timely.

"Buddhism was more of a social movement under the backing of a religion". Elucidate.

Why this question:
The idea behind the question is to evaluate the underlying ideologies of Buddhism. In what way it was more of a social movement rather than being simply called out as a religious movement.
Key demand of the question:
One should explain the significance of Buddhism as a social movement under the pretext of religion.
Directive:
Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
Define what you understand by Buddhism.
Body:
Explain that Buddhism is a pragmatic teaching which starts from certain fundamental propositions about how we experience the world and how we act in it. It teaches that it is possible to transcend this sorrow-laden world of our experience and is concerned first and last with ways of achieving that transcendence. By "social action" it means that there are many different kinds of action intended to benefit mankind. These range from simple individual acts of charity, teaching and training, organized kinds of service, "Right Livelihood" in and outside the helping professions, and through various kinds of community development as well as to political activity in working for a better society.
Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of Buddhism in throwing away the dominant Brahminical culture.

Buddhism is a religion that was founded by Siddhartha Gautama ("the Buddha") more than 2,500 years ago in India. With about 470 million followers, scholars consider Buddhism one of the major world religions. The religion has historically been most prominent in East and Southeast Asia, but its influence is growing in the West. Many Buddhist ideas and philosophies overlap with those of other faiths.

The primary cause for the rise of Jainism and Buddhism was the religious unrest in India in the 6th century B.C. The complex rituals and sacrifices advocated in the Later Vedic period were not acceptable to the common people. The sacrificial ceremonies were also found to be too expensive. However it took the social route due to the following factors.

Reasons for rise of Buddhism:

- **Social cause:** Caste system became rigid and it created inequality in the society. The Kshatriyas had resented the domination of the priestly class, and both Buddha and Mahavira belonged to Kshatriya origin.

- **Religious unrest:** Religious life in ancient India was originally very simple. But in the Later Vedic period complex rituals and ceremonies began to dominate the practice of worship. The complex rituals and sacrifices were not acceptable to the common people. It became expensive and elaborate. Blind faith and superstitious beliefs confused the people.

- **Economic cause:** The growth of trade led to the improvement in the economic conditions of the Vaisyas. Now, they wanted to enhance their social status but the orthodox Varna system did not allow this. Similarly, money-lending was imperative for traders, which was prohibited in Vedas. Thus, merchant class extended the chief support to these new religions.

- Moreover, rise of agriculture raised demand for drought animals which were being sacrificed for religious ceremonies. The principle of nonviolence, suited settled agrarian community better which was brought by Buddhism.

- **Brahminic supremacy:** Priests considered themselves superior and others as inferiors. They took advantage of knowing Sanskrit, and interpreted religion according to their convenience. Whereas these new religions were open for all and preached in local language like Prakrit and Pali, which found appeal to common masses.

Impact of Buddhism on Indian society

- Languages and Literature: Jaina contribution to Prakrit and Kannada literature. The language of Pali and other local languages developed through the teachings of Buddhism.

- Arts and Architecture: The stupas at Sanchi, Bharhut and Gaya, Jaina temples at Mount Abu in Rajasthan in the domain of architecture are wonderful pieces of architecture. Buddhism takes the credit for the chaityas and viharas in different parts of India.

- Philosophy: The concept of ahimsa was chief contribution. Later, it became one of the cherished values of our nation.

- Political progress: Sabhas and samitis find its roots here. It had also promoted the spread of Indian culture to other parts of Asia.

- Simple Religion: Its principles were very simple. It was easily followed by the people. It was not complex like Vedic religion.

- Opposition to Caste System: Due to their opposition the complexity of caste system reduced from the society.

Conclusion:

Buddhism arose to suit the needs of a changing society, patronized by an emerging class and left an indelible mark on India's culture, architecture, philosophy and way of living. Some tenets of these religion have been adopted by Hinduism in their long course of association and have become an integrated part of the society. These religions also found their influence in neighboring countries and helped India expand its footprint in these regions; paving way for a cultural connects to this day.

Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present- significant events, personalities, issues.

To what extent the British policies in colonial India transformed the agrarian structure of the time? Elucidate.

Reference
Why this question:
The question intends to discuss the transformations that agriculture underwent in British times.
Key demand of the question:
One must explain the factors that led to changes in agriculture system and structure during British times.
Directive:
Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
Write in a few introductory lines that there was a tremendous impact on agrarian system of the country.
Body:
Question is straightforward and one has to detail upon the various agrarian changes that British brought into the country –
Britishers' introduced a new class of landlords called Zamindars who regarded land as their private property and aimed at obtaining maximum monetary gains out of it.
Commercialization of agriculture became prominent.
Better means of communication (equipped with rapid development of railways and shipping) made trade in agricultural products feasible, especially over long distances.
There were also efforts made by the British to 'improve' Indian agriculture, during the 18th and 19th centuries.etc.
Conclusion:
Conclude with balanced opinion that the efforts were both positive and negative and Indian agriculture even today hosts few features as the British rule legacy.
Agrarian system in India has always been in accordance with land system

During **ancient** time land used to be collectively owned and was not a commodity taxes were levied. Eg.

- Under mauryans -- dashmulibhaga- protecting crops from 10 types of destruction, hulivakara- tax on plaushare.

- Under guptas -- land grant system led to rise of feudalism.

Medieval

- Kankuth - system of crop estimation by Allauddin

- Ghalla bakshi/ batai - crop sharing

- Zabti - revenue based in land productivity. By Sher Shah Suri and later adopted by Akbar.

- Britishers had colonised India with the sole purpose of making profit.

Impact of British policies on Indian agrarian system

Overcrowding of agriculture

Due to deliberate de-industrialisation of India under colonial rule, dependence on agriculture increased. Population dependent on agriculture increased from 63% in 1901 to 70% in 1941 (census data)

Ruin of old zamindars

Due to sunset clause in permanent settlement and ruthlessly high land rent caused old zamindars who had some tradition of showing some consideration to their tenants to lose their zamindari to new absentee land lords.

Emergence of new zamindari class and jotedars

- War efforts, trade and administrative cost ==> revenue collected from farmers

- With introduction of **permanent settlement** system in bihar and bengal in 1973 land became property of zamindars-- responsible for collecting revenue from the farmer and pain fixed amount to the British

- **1833** - **mahalwari** system was introduced in north west Punjab, Ganga valley and parts of central India.

- Village or groups of village as a unit of revenue assessment number of muscles were responsible for went to the British

- **1820 - ryotwari** system Bengal and Madhya Pradesh revenue directly collected from farmers

- Peasants were recognised as owner.

- Many owner-cultivators and occupancy tenants, having a permanent right to hold land, found it more convenient to lease out land to land-hungry tenants at exorbitant rent than to cultivate it themselves.

- In time, landlordism became the main feature of agrarian relations not only in the zamindari areas but also in the Ryotwari ones.

All the land revenue system introduced by Britishers were highly exploitative.

Growth of subinfeudation or intermediaries:

Since the cultivating tenants were generally unprotected and the overcrowding of land led the tenants to compete with one another to acquire land, the rent of land went on increasing. The zamindars and the new landlords found it convenient to sublet their right to collect rent to other eager persons on profitable terms. But as rents increased, sub-leasers of land in their turn sublet their rights in land. Thus by a chain-process a large number of rent-receiving intermediaries between the actual cultivator and the government sprang up.

Commercialisation of agriculture

- Crops like tea coffee indigo opium cotton jute and sugarcane started being cultivated for profit motive

- Indian opium wars to balance the trade of chinese tea in favour of Britishers

- Post production of indigo undertaker undertaker under **3 kathiya system** lead to land in fertility

- System of advances and government system first farmers to cultivate commercial crops at the whims and fancies of Britishers

- Under "garmatiya majdoor"- those who had signed agreement, were transporter to plantation fields of tea and coffee in Srilanka, Malaysia.

Rise of money lending class-

- Due to ever increasing hardship of farmers and their inability to pay the revenue led to the rise of money lenders.

- The gradually usurp the land ownership of vulnerable pigeons using unfair means like false accounting and forged signature.

- Absence of industries also caused money lenders to divert all their capitals in acquiring land/zamindari and become land lord.

Conclusion

Though a few measures like introduction of tea and bringing railway lines by Britishers still benefit India but the village has lost their **'self-sufficient'** status because of British policies

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

Discuss the accomplishments and failures of Non-cooperation movement of 1920. Also elaborate upon its impact on the subsequent freedom movements in pre-independence India.

Indian modern history by Spectrum publications / Bipin Chandra
Why this question:
The question is straightforward from the static portions of GS paper I.
Key demand of the question:

One has to analyse the Non-cooperation movement of 1920 of India in detail.
Directive:
Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
In short start by explaining the significance that Non-cooperation movement of 1920 holds in the freedom struggle of India.
Body:
Describe the Non-cooperation movement in detail first – At the Nagpur session of the Indian National Congress the programme of Non-cooperation was endorsed. An important change made was, until now Congress sought to attain self-government through constitutional means as its goal. In Nagpur session the Congress decided to have the attainment of Swaraj through peaceful and legitimate means, thus committing itself to an extra constitutional mass struggle. Gandhi declared that if the non-cooperation programme was implemented completely, Swaraj would be ushered in within a year. State its achievements and failures and comment on the impact it made upon the consequent freedom movements.
Conclusion:
Conclude by highlighting the significance it holds in the history of freedom movement of the country.

At the Nagpur session of the Indian National Congress the programme of Non-cooperation was endorsed. An important change made was, until now Congress sought to attain self-government through constitutional means as its goal. In Nagpur session the Congress decided to have the attainment of Swaraj through peaceful and legitimate means, thus committing itself to an extra constitutional mass struggle. Gandhi declared that if the non-cooperation programme was implemented completely, Swaraj would be ushered in within a year.

Achievements:

- The non-cooperation movement led by Gandhi was a mass movement which had never been seen before and after the Great Rebellion of 1857.

- With the Non-Cooperation Movement, nationalist sentiments reached every nook and corner of the country and politicized every strata of population—the artisans, peasants, students, urban poor, women, traders, etc.

- This politicization of men and women which imparted a revolutionary character to the national movement.

- The myth that British rule was invincible was challenged by Satyagraha through mass struggle.

- It gave push to indigenous products thereby helping Indian producers and damaged Britain's economic and commercial interests.

Failures:

- People from the middle classes led the movement at the beginning but later they showed a lot of reservations about Gandhi's programme.

- In places like Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, which were centers of elite politicians, the response to Gandhi's call was very limited.

- The response to the call for resignation from the government service, surrendering of titles, etc., was not taken seriously.

- A section of the big business remained skeptical towards the movement. They seemed to be afraid of labour unrest in their factories.

- People had not learnt or fully understood the method of non-violence. Violent incident in Chauri-Chaura in February 1922 marred the spirit of the movement. Gandhi responded by withdrawing Non-Cooperation movement arguing masses have not yet learned to practice non-violence.

Conclusion

Even though the Non-Cooperation movement did not achieve its stated aims but the strategic and leadership role of Mahatma Gandhi gave India's freedom struggle new dimensions. The biggest gain of the movement was that it gave a new confidence to the common people and taught them to be fearless in their political pursuit and made Swarajya an important goal.

Though in theory, the Ryotwari settlement was supposed to prove better than the permanent settlement, in practice its impact was far worse. Critically analyse.

Modern history by spectrum publications
Why this question:
The question is from the static portions of GS paper I.
Key demand of the question:
The question seeks to know the drawbacks of the Ryotwari settlement which was disastrous in its implementation while it was originally designed to counter the deficiencies of Zamindari settlement.
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:
The introduction must highlight the circumstances that led to the introduction of Ryotwari which was supposed to be better than the Zamindari system.
Body:
The body should clearly highlight how the Ryotwari Settlement seemed fair and practical on paper but the devil was in its implementation.
All the drawbacks of the settlement must be clearly stated with supporting data. The impact it caused upon peasants in areas it was introduced must also written. The flaw in the logic and its implementation must be brought out. The Ryotwari vis-a-vis zamindari must also be explored.
For representation purpose, draw maps highlighting regions where zamindari and Ryotwari was introduced in India.
Conclusion:
The conclusion must bring out the steps taken by the government to improve the conditions of the Ryotwari areas.

Lord Cornwallis in 1793 introduced zamindari system through permanent settlement in Bengal Bihar Orissa and Varanasi. Under the settlement zamindars were made land owners and were given right to collect rent from present who were the tenants of the land.

Demerit of zamindari system

- Zamindars did not went in agricultural land and only interested in extracting the revenue

- Zamindars were like middleman endless share was left with presents.

- Taxation was fixed which has to be paid by pigeon even in case of famine or low production

- Zamindari in order to maintain their zamindari has arrest tenants (fear of sunset clause)

- Zamindars often tried to extract more than sanctioned revenue so that they are left with more money after giving Britishers their fixed share.

- In zamindari system even in case of high production Britishers did not get enhanced revenue. Because the taxation rates were fixed in such situation zamindars were the main gainer.

To overcome the above limitation new Ryotwari system was introduced in Madras Bombay Assam by Thomas Munro in 1820. It was supposed to be boon for present and improve their condition due to following features

Features of Ryotwari system

- peasant was made land owner and it can be taken away only for non-payment of revenue

- Freedom was given to give up or acquire new land

- Middlemen were eliminated who often oppressed peasant and provided false assessment of land being cultivated to the British

Optimistic official has imagined that new system would transform peasant into rich farmers but this did not happened. Ryotwari settlement seems fair and practical on paper but proved to be worse than zamindari system.

Reasons

- High taxation rate - levy was not based on actual revenue from produce of land but instead on estimate of potential of the soil.

- 50% for dryland and 60% for irrigated land

- Payment of land tax in cash - cash payment ruined cultivators, exposing them to demands of money lenders as an alternate to the loss of land and starvation when crop failed

- Revenue officials harassed villages - subordinate revenue officer forgiven much power who's activities were in adequately supervised they were industries in Harsh measure for non-payment delayed payment

- Misery of cash crops - in order to gain huge profit farmers fell into the trap of government's proposal to grow cash crops like Indigo opium which lead to scarcity of food grains and in fertility of soil.

- Land became commodity - excessive marketing of land for or payment of tax in cash has led to the loss of sentimental link that existed between land and the farmers.

- Many owner-cultivators and occupancy tenants, having a permanent right to hold land, found it more convenient to lease out land to land-hungry tenants at exorbitant rent than to cultivate it themselves.

- In time, landlordism became the main feature of agrarian relations not only in the zamindari areas but also in the Ryotwari ones

- Growth of subinfeudation or intermediaries - Since the cultivating tenants were generally unprotected and the overcrowding of land led the tenants to compete with one another to acquire land, the rent of land went on increasing.

Therefore, even though in theory, the Ryotwari settlement was supposed to prove better than the permanent settlement, in practice its impact was far worse. It became more devilish version of Zamindari system.

Post-independence consolidation and reorganization within the country.

Environmental movements in the post independent India did not have pan Indian character as they were mostly outcomes of local issues. Critically Analyse.

post-independence India by Bipin Chandra
Why this question:
The question is from the static portions of GS paper I.
Key demand of the question:
Answer should explain in detail the Environmental movements in the post independent India and the reasons for its lack of pan Indian presence.
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 judgment.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
In brief discuss the environmental movements that started in post-independence India.
Body:
Explain first what environmental movements are.
Discuss how they were different in the past (post-independence) and how are they today.
Explain why the movements were localized? Discuss the causes and consequences.
Explain few examples – Bishnoi Movement, Chipko Movement, Appiko Movement etc.
Conclusion:
Conclude with today's times and how movements are different.
Environmental movement refers to mass mobilization for environmental causes.

Post-independence movement was mainly for improvement of quality of life not for changing power sharing arrangement as was there before independence. Similar was the case with environment movement

Various environment movement of post-independence India were -

▪ Chipko Movement

   • No forest exploitation contracts to be given to outsider.

- Local communities should have effective control over natural resources like land water and forest.

- Narmada Bachao Abhiyan

  - A proper cost benefits analysis of the major developmental projects completed in the country so far.

  - Social cost should be calculated too with respect to such projects. Social cost meant forced settlement of project affected people, serious loss of means of livelihood and culture, depletion of ecological resources

- Appiko movement

  - Against the felling and commercialization of natural forest and the ruin of ancient livelihood.

    - Silent valley movement: Against dam construction on Kuntipuzha river.

All these movements started from local issues and mostly local people only took part in them. These movements can be seen as competition between environmentalism and industrialization

Reason for Limited participation

- The issue over which the movement started had direct impact over the particular region only. For example in Chipko Movement the movement was against issue of license to a private company to cut down trees which were the source for livelihood of the locals.

- The awareness about environment were not widespread, during those times people were not aware that environment at one place could impact environment of other places.

- There was not much clarity for referring environment to development.

- Environment movement work considered anti-development in some part of the countries which were more industrialized.

- These movements were mostly during the time of emergency and while political churning of our country was going through various other political movements like JP Andolan.

- Responsive government work quick government responded to local demand before the movement could spread outside the region example in silent valley movement Prime Minister of India himself inaugurated Silent Valley National Park to fulfill the demand of people

However though the movements were concentrated in local regions there impact was Pan Indian.

- They made people more aware about environment, appiko movement made villager aware throughout the Western Ghats. Jungle bachao andolan of Singhbhum district of jharkhand spread all over to Odisha.

- They forced government to make policies to protect environment. For example appiko movement forced Government of India to change forest policies like concession to login company was stopped.

- These movements motivated people of other region to take similar sentences for example Chipko movement has motivated Appiko movement and Beej Bachao movement.

- It changed the colonial tradition of forests being controlled solely by bureaucrats.

Presently environment movement is gaining Global prominence. NGOs like Greenpeace and organizations like United Nations are taking steps to save environment at Global scale and mitigate climate change. Different nations are also making their effort to save the environment and develop sustainable example International solar Alliance by India and France.

Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.

Wealth of Indian linguistic culture lies outside the purview of what is recognised as official language, in the backdrop of the statement analyse the linguistic diversity and richness in the country.

NCERT – Indian society
Why this question:
The question is about the significance of linguistic diversity that India has and the richness of it.
Key demand of the question:
One must discuss in detail the linguistic diversity of India.
Directive:
analyze *– When asked to analyse, you have to examine methodically the structure or nature of the topic by separating it into component parts and present them as a whole in a summary.*
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
Begin with brief write up on what you understand by linguistic diversity in Indian context.
Body:
Explain that in India, there are more than 200 languages, being spoken by different groups. There exists 'linguistic pluralism' in India, which is a state of 'mutual existence' of several languages in a contiguous space.
Discuss the factors responsible for diversity in the languages.
Explain the relevance of official languages.
Conclusion:
Conclude with need to preserve such rich heritage of the country.

India is one of unique countries in the world that has the legacy of diversity of languages. The Constitution of India has recognised 22 official languages. **Multilingualism** is the way of life in India as people in different parts of the country speak more than one language from their birth and learns additional languages during their life time.

Though officially there are 122 languages, **Peoples Linguistic Survey of India has identified 780 languages**, of which 50 are extinct in past five decades.

The **twenty two languages that are recognised by the Constitution** are: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kashmiri, Kannada, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu are included in the **Eighth Schedule of the constitution.**

Among these three languages, **Sanskrit, Tamil and Kannada** have been recognised as **classical language with special status and recognition by Government of India. The classical languages have**

written and oral history of more than 1000 years. In comparison to these, English is very young as it has the history of only 300 years.

Provisions that safeguard the wealth of Indian languages -

- In addition to these scheduled and classical languages, The Constitution of India has included the clause to **protect minority languages** as a **fundamental right.** It states" Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part of thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same."

- The **language policy of India** provides guarantee to **protect the linguistic minorities.** Under the Constitution, **provision is made for appointment of Special Officer for linguistic minority** with the sole responsibilities of safeguarding the interest of language spoken by the minority groups.

- During the colonial rule the first linguistic survey was conducted during 1894 to 1928 by George A. Grierson that identified 179 languages and 544 dialects. Due to lack of trained personnel as linguists this survey had many deficiencies.

- In the post-independence era **Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL),** based in **Mysore** was assigned to carry out an in-depth survey of languages.

- In 1991 the **Census of India listed 1576 mother tongues'** with separate grammatical structures and 1796 speech varieties that is classified as other mother tongues'.

- Another unique feature of India is the concept of protecting the interest of children to get basic education in **their mother tongue**. The Constitution provides" it shall be the endeavour of every State and of every local authority within the state to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups". Thus, even before the United Nations declared the International Mother Language Day (February 21) the founders of the Indian Constitution gave top priority to teaching in mother tongues', enabling the child to develop its full potential.

- In 1956 reorganisation of states in India was carried out with linguistic boundaries that had its own script. Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel, the then home minister played key role in formation and amalgamation of states based on linguistic attributes.

- The language policy of India has been pluralistic, giving priority to the use of mother tongue in administration, education and other fields of mass communication. **The Language Bureau of Ministry of Human Resource Development** is set up to implement and monitor the language policy.

Thus it is quite clear from the above facts that the language diversity and richness of the country is much beyond just the recognised official languages and is the true identity of the diverse Indian culture. In recent years the language diversity is under threat as speakers of diverse languages are becoming rare and major languages are adopted after abandoning the mother tongues. The problem needs to be addressed at societal level, in which the communities have to take part in conservation of language diversity that is part of cultural wealth.

Just as India has committed to moving up the ranks in Ease of Doing Business indicators, a similar commitment should be made on the 'Ease of living'. Comment in view of prevailing corruption practices with special focus on bureaucracy.

Livemint
Why this question:
The article captures the dismay of the Indian bureaucratic system with respect to corruption.
Key demand of the question:
One must discuss in detail the causes and consequences and need to move towards achieving ease of living.
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:
In short explain the findings of the report.
Body:
First explain why Citizens across urban and rural India find it difficult to get work done in government offices without connections or giving bribes.
Explain the underlying causes with examples.
Discuss the policies or initiatives being taken by the govt. in this direction.
Conclusion:
Conclude with solutions such as – technology-based interventions to reduce bureaucratic discretion and make processes transparent and quicker, make the local bureaucracy and front line staff more accountable, efficient and responsive to the citizens – reducing vacancies, outsourcing some tasks to private firms, and opening up grievance cells in government departments etc.

Corruption, as defined by the World Bank, is the misuse of public property for private gain. It ranges from embezzlement of public money to abuse of power (e.g. asking for bribes). On the Corruption Perceptions Index, India's rank is 79th, while, 'the ease of doing business' is concerned, we have moved a couple of notches. The older paradigm, that is, merit-based bureaucracy, has failed to control corruption, and unfortunately public bureaucracy in India today is rated as one of the most corrupt in the world.

The root causes of prevailing corruption in the Indian bureaucracy:

There are many causes behind the spread of corruption –

- Deterioration of the ethical qualities and moral values of people working as government administrators;

- Comparative low salaries of government officials;

- Complex laws and procedures;

- Poor economic infrastructure and illiteracy that take the general public towards corrupt lifestyle;

- High tolerance of people towards corruption.

- Lack of transparency in governance of rules because procedures are complicated and the bureaucracy enjoys broad discretionary power.

Overall a complicated tax and licensing systems, numerous government departments with opaque bureaucracy and discretionary powers, monopoly of government controlled institutions on certain goods and services delivery, and the lack of transparent laws and processes all have led to breeding of corruption.

India's standing

With an ever growing number of scams, the unholy nexus of politicians and bureaucrats have put the whole mechanism of probity in public life of India under a scanner. Yet, corruption banks on lack of integrity – whether financial integrity, intellectual integrity or moral integrity. While training is one way to inculcate values, it is only a long term remedy. But having a simpler and straightforward bureaucracy – which is incredibly easier today with digital technology – could be an effective way to fight corruption.

Anti- corruption efforts:

Legal provisions and policies –

- **Prevention of corruption Act 1988**

Provides a definition for corruption and lists out the acts which would amount to as corruption such as bribes, gifts for favours etc. Seeks to create a balance between need to bring corrupt to the books and protect honest officers. Prosecution of an officer requires sanction from the government. It includes employees of the central government and the union territories, the employees of public undertakings, nationalized banks etc.

- **Benami property Act 1988**

Recent amendments have widened the definition of the benami property and allow the government to confiscate such properties without any hassles of court approvals

- **Central Vigilance Commission Act 2003**

It gives statutory status to CVC. Central Vigilance Commissioner shall be appointed by President. It covers AIS officers, Gazetted officers of centre, senior members of the PSB banks etc. Commission, while conducting the inquiry has all the powers of a Civil Court.

- **Right to Information Act 2005**

It makes disclosure of information a legal right of the public, to promote transparency. Section 4 mandates proactive disclosure of the information and digitization of the records. Many RTI activists have used it to bring out the irregularities in the functioning of the public authorities e.g. Vyapam scam of MP.

- **Whistle-blower protection Act 2014**

More than 60 RTI activists have been murdered and many more assaulted due to lack of protection

WPA accords special protection to the people who disclose the acts of wrongdoing in the government. It provides anonymity and protection from prosecution under acts such as Official secret act 1923.

- **Lokpal and Lokayukta Act 2013**

It appoints an independent authority - Lokpal at centre and Lokayukta at the states to probe into the complaints of wrongdoing by the public servants. In 2015, Parliament passed the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Bill, 2015 to curb and impose penalties on black money hoarded abroad.

Civic anti-corruption organisations - A variety of organisations have been created in India to actively fight against corrupt government and business practices. E.g. **India against Corruption** was a popular movement active during 2011–12 that received much media attention.

Administrative reforms- E-governance initiatives - e-gov apart from advancing the good governance objectives of accountability and transparency also seeks to reduce the manual interface between state and citizen thus preventing the incidences of bribery

Initiatives like service delivery through CSCs, digitization of the land record, JAM, DBT, E-biz (single window system), e-marketplace etc. help prevent corruption. Citizen Charters, Public Service delivery and Grievance Redressal Acts in states. Many states like Karnataka (SAKLA initiative) and Rajasthan have enacted such acts to make bureaucracy legally accountable for delivering quality service within stipulate time periods. Bihar is the only state to have a Grievance Redress Act covering all departments. These acts also create grievance redress mechanism (GRMs) for the public to ensure effective enforcement of the act. CPGRAMS is another such GRM created under e-gov project.

Way forward –

In recent times though, while Right to Information has brought about a sea change in creating awareness among the people on government functions. More changes are required. The **alternative public management model** emphasizes that corruption is best fought when systematic efforts are made **to inform citizens about their rights and entitlements, and empower** them to resist corruption, thus, giving them the leading role in anti-corruption efforts. To conclude, corruption is a multi-faceted problem and requires a comprehensive strategy to deal with and requires a strong political will.

Should live-in relationships be regulated by the state? And, if so, to what extent? Examine and give your opinion in the light of recent demands made by the Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission in this regard.

Livemint
Why this question:
The article explains in what way the call of Rajasthan's human rights commission to regulate live-in relationships is problematic on many counts. Their regulation could go against the principle of free choice.
Key demand of the question:
One must examine the nuances of regulating the live-in relationship into the institution of marriage.
Directive:
Examine – When asked to 'Examine', we must 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:
Explain in brief the context of the question. Define what live-in relationships are.
Body:
The answer must discuss the following aspects –

What is it? – A live-in relationship gives the couple an opportunity to know the partner without having to engage into a legally binding relationship.
Explain that live-in relationships are considered a taboo in the Indian society. Although the legal status of live in relationships in India is unclear, the Supreme Court has ruled that any couple living together for a long term will be presumed as legally married unless proved otherwise.
Explain the social perspective, the belief of the younger generation, the cultural context of Marriages in India and provide a balanced opinion on the basis of fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian constitution.
Conclusion:
Conclude with the verdicts of Apex court.

The relationships where two people cohabit outside marriage without any legal obligations towards each other are known as live-in relationships. It not "walk in and walk out" relationship, couple must have lived under one roof and co-habited for a considerably long time for society to recognize them as husband and wife

This is a relationship in the nature of marriage but unlike a marriage

The legal status of live-in relationships in India is unclear, the Supreme Court has ruled that any couple living together for a long term will be presumed as legally married unless proved otherwise.

Thus, the aggrieved live-in partner can take shelter under the Domestic Violence Act 2005, which provides protection and maintenance and thereby grant the right of alimony.

Judgements regarding Live-in relation

- **Badri Prasad vs. Dy. Director of Consolidation, 1978**- This was the first case in which the Supreme Court of India recognized live in relationship and interpreted it as a valid marriage.

- **Tulsa & Ors vs. Durghatiya & Ors, 2008** - The Supreme Court provided legal status to the children born from live in relationship.

- **D.Velusamy vs. D.Patchaiammal, 2010** - The judgment determined certain pre-requisites for a live in relationship to be considered valid. It provides that The couple must hold themselves out to society as being akin to spouses and must be of legal age to marry or qualified to enter into a legal marriage, including being unmarried. It was stated that the couple must have voluntarily cohabited and held themselves out to the world as being akin to spouses for a significant period of time.

- **Indra Sarma vs. V.K.V.Sarma, 2013** - illustrated five categories where the concept of live in relationships can be considered and proved in the court of law.

Need of regulation of living relationship

- Women right there is concern about fake relationship and women life after separation only domestic violence act considered right of women under live in relationship

- Need to decide line between marriage and live in relationship Indian liberalism based on social values hence we need to preserve that also

- Security concern and need of legal protection there is need maintaining women security Hans Mali Nath committee 2000 and law commission in their report says women should be given legal status of wife, explicitly, those who are under long time live in relationship.

- Maintenance in case of separation National Commission Of Women proposed amendment in CRPC about women rights to claim alimony

- There is need of legal definition to have clarity about live in relationship. Till now only Court with various judgements has clarified live in relationship.

- Since coat has recognised legal entitlement to the live in relationship couple therefore it becomes necessary that the relationship must come under regulation of state.

Extent of regulation

- Regulation should not encroach upon the freedom of choice and other fundamental rights associated with it.

- The biggest concern about regulating live in relationship is violation of privacy as most of the live in relationship are not known to to the parents of the couple.

- Regulation must also try to remove the social stigma attached with live in relationship.

Conclusion

India is a nation where traditional beliefs are still dominant. The live in relationship are considered threat to marriage institution but the greatest benefit of live in relationship is that it helps in in couple getting comfortable before they are locked in marriage institution. Thus, instead of weakening marriage institution live in relationship help in concretizing marriage relationship. Along with that it must not be walk in work out type of relationship as that is mainly for fulfilment sexual Desire.

Role of women and women's organization.

On one hand where women Goddesses are worshipped, the very women are denied identity, status and independence in India, discuss the root cause of such a paradox and suggest what needs to be done.

Reference
Why this question:
The question is based on the context of recognition and role given to woman in the Indian society.
Key demand of the question:
One must discuss in detail the status of women in Indian society.
Directive:
Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
In brief narrate the context of the question.
Body:
One has to discuss the causes for such a paradox witnessed in the country.

Explain then what needs to be done to overcome the challenge?
Suggest solutions – short term and long term to address the same.
Conclusion:
Conclude that the Indian society is doing much progress on this front despite deep societal prejudices
of the past and that situations are changing.
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Women have completely transformed in the modern day, the urban woman especially has changed from being a mere homemaker to the modern day multitasking woman, handling responsibilities without fear. She has taken on the world with confidence. However, she still struggles to create her identity, exercise her independence and have equal status in the society as her counterpart. Women, be it from urban or rural backgrounds, still face harassment and humiliation in domestic as well as professional circles. However high they reach in their lives, women are still made to feel helpless when men mete out unhealthy treatments and behave badly in front of them.

Following are the causes for such a paradox:

- Patriarchy and gender inequality in society is the main cause of women's deprivation by way of health, food and nutrition, more susceptible to mortality and contributing to unbalanced male female ratio as well as in the sphere of education, employment, wages and that of political representation.

- Women are treated by men only as consumers, sex objects or reproductive machines as a result of which their status in the family and society has been demoted.

- The patriarchal family system that prevails in India gives more rights and authority to the male enabling them to enjoy more power over the female in the family.

- Women are considered inferior, secondary individuals to men. So they are suppressed, oppressed, harassed, subjugated and deprived of even their basic rights till date. Atrocities and crimes are committed against them by their own family members.

- Managing both the family and job responsibility on the part of the women today are quite tough and challenging. It is very difficult for them to carry dual responsibilities at home and the workplace. It creates psycho-socio problems both in the family and professional field; despite the fact that it provides economic security. Thereby it had done more harm than good for which women are experiencing stress and frustration in life.

Last but not the least the lack of self-confidence is the main cause of women problem. Women themselves are willing to aberrant the female sex. They are interested to participate in obscene picture and advertisement and wearing indecent and provocative clothes. They are quarrelling with parents for the dowry. They are creating conflict with in-laws instead of co-operating with them.

What needs to be done?

- **Ensure the constitutional provisions for women are strictly enforced** - The Preamble to the Constitution of India assures justice, social, economic and political; equality of status and opportunity and dignity to the individual. Thus it treats both men and women equal, fundamental Rights, Directive Principles of State Policy etc.

- Given the long-term nature of issues which impact on women in India, there is a **need to strengthen the processes that promote all-round development** of women by focusing on a coordinated approach **for implementation of the schemes** of the concerned Ministries/Departments and by creating an enabling environment conducive to social change.

- The Government of India had adopted the **National Policy for Empowerment of Women** in 2001 with the objective to bring about the **advancement, development and empowerment of women and to eliminate all forms of discrimination** against women. It was directed towards achieving inclusive growth with special focus on women.

- India is also a signatory to a number of UN conventions, Primarily Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action and Convention on Rights of the Child.

- Various welfare schemes should be at the forefront.

To conclude, there is a need for ushering in changes in the societal attitude towards women and usher in behavioural changes involving men and boys and institutions of family and women's organizations to ensure India women to have equal rights and provisions as men.

According to Global Gender Gap Report 2018, India ranks one of the worst in Gender wage disparity. Discuss the reasons and remedy.

Economictimes
Why this question:
The question aims to discuss the findings of global gender gap report 2018.
Key demand of the question:
One must discuss the alarming issue of gender wage disparity in the country.
Directive:
Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
Highlight the issue of gender wage gap by giving data of WEF's Global Gender Gap Report Rank of India is 108th.
Body:
First state the reasons for gender wage gap in India. For eg. Legal restrictions, patriarchal attitude, biased human capital model, workplace insecurity, , inadequate travel and transport facilities, Societal perception of women who work long hours, lack of crèches facility at workplace etc.
In next part discuss what impact it is having on the development of country. For e.g. Impact on GDP of country, increasing gender disparity, low female labor force participation rate, financial dependence, etc.
In third part, discuss remedies to address the same. Formalization of Workforce to create better job opportunities for women and streamlining labor laws.
Skill Development. Mandating parental leave rather than maternal leave will help women to reintegrate into the workforce after childbearing and allowing men to take on the responsibility of parenthood. Gender sensitization.
Conclusion:
Conclude by some of the constitutional provisions and laws regarding gender wage equality. For e.g. DPSP, Equal remuneration act, Maternity benefits act, etc. SP, Equal remuneration act ,Maternity benefit act, etc.

Global Gender Gap Report is published by the World Economic Forum (WEF). India has been ranked 108th out of 149 countries in the Global Gender Gap Index 2018, the same as 2017. The report benchmarks countries on their progress towards gender parity on a scale from 0 (disparity) to 1 (parity) across four key pillars- economic participation and opportunity (42%), educational attainment (4.4%), health and survival (4.6%), and political empowerment (77%).

India in report

- India has been ranked at 108.

- India has slightly improved in **WEF's wage equality for similar work indicator**, where it stood at 72nd place. The country has also closed its tertiary education enrolment gap for the first time in 2018 and has managed to keep its primary and secondary gaps closed for the third year running.

- It **ranks 142nd out of 149 countries in the economic opportunity** and participation sub index.

- India continues to rank third-lowest in the world on health and survival, remaining the world's least-improved country on this sub index over the past decade.

- India has the second-largest artificial intelligence (AI) workforce but one of the largest AI gender gaps, with only 22% of roles filled by women.

- Women on an average are paid 34% less than similarly qualified male workers for performing same tasks.

Reasons for Persistent Gender Gap

- **Lack of quality jobs** and wage disparity are key reasons behind inequality in the Indian labour market.

- The **burden of unpaid care work** and the continuing prevalence of other **regressive social norms** are also factors behind women's low participation in the workforce.

- **Primary responsibility** of taking care of family and bringing up the child is still on the women.

- Now-a-days, quiet a number of women can be seen in **'Arts' Field** but even the same number is missing in **'Science' field.** The reason is that girls are not conditioned for mathematics, physics and chemistry.

- The women are mostly deemed fit for **"pink collar jobs"** only, such as teachers, nurses, receptionist, baby sitter, lecturer etc. which have been stereotyped for women. This denies them opportunities in other fields.

- Many women due to **family pressures** have to retreat from work force.

- Companies are interested in hiring more number of young women because it has been generally seen that the work and the **family environment, marriage and maternity** generally forces a married woman for resignation.

- Women receive **lower amount of wages** compared to men for the same work.

Solution

- Apart from providing education to women, they need to be provided with all kinds of **opportunities and skills** without any discrimination or stereotyping.

- The **health and safety** of women should be given priority to enable them to participate in public life efficiently.

- The **disparity in pay structure** for women for same work and skill set needs to be closed at all levels.

- Women should be given the **right to decide the size of their family** i.e. number of and spacing between children. Further, all women need to be made aware about contraception.

- **Support** from the society, family and corporate is required to create a soothing working environment for a woman.

- A working couple needs to spend part of their income on domestic arrangements; otherwise the woman will get marginalized.

- The family of a woman needs to understand that she is pursuing a particular job as her passion, not just to earn some income.

- Also, life of the child needs to be planned by couple in advance so that s/he does not suffer.

- Now-a-days, companies do not want to lose their efficient employees. They are generally ready to provide much necessary break (maternity leave) to women.

- Countries need to work with society and its adolescent population to identify gaps which are limiting women's access in any field and should try to bridge those gaps.

- Evidence shows that women make better decisions. Therefore, their participation in top decision making bodies at corporate as well as at democratic level needs to be boosted.

- Change in the mindset is required to bridge the gaps in gender equality. Apart from family and workplace support, use of technology is required to maintain work-life balance.

Conclusion

According to Article 39(d) under DPSP, the state shall, in particular, direct the policy towards securing that there is equal pay for equal work for both men and women. The economies that will succeed in the fourth industrial revolution will be those that are best able to harness all their available talent.

So proactive measures that support gender parity and social inclusion and would address historical imbalances must be taken.

Women instinctively fear for their safety every time they step out of their homes in many parts of India, Critically examine whether they enjoy the most basic of rights of free movement, enshrined in the Constitution? What should be the way forward?

Hindustantimes
Why this question:
The article covers the story of the plight of women whose lives have drastically changed since becoming victims of snatching.
Key demand of the question:

Discuss in detail the factors responsible for such a plight of women in India , the issues associated with their public safety and what needs to be done to ensure their fundament rights of free movement are justifiably given to them.
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 the issue of public safety associated with women.
Body:
Discuss first in what way in spite of various claims being made and voices being raised, the situation of women in India remains precarious with respect to public safety.
Explain the notions of "safety" and "freedom" of women in India, what are the associated flaws.
Discuss the role of state, stakeholders involved in assuring women public safety.
Conclusion:
Conclude with way forward as to what needs to be done to ensure women safety in public.

Public safety has different meanings for men and women in India. Women are far more likely to experience verbal and physical harassment, stalking, molestation, assault, sexual assault and rape compared to men.

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. The usual reaction is the thought that thankfully it wasn't sexual assault, or worse, rape, and then how to change one's daily routine to avoid the perpetrators.

What are the challenges that women face with respect to Public safety?

Public transport is a shared passenger transport service which is available for use by the general public. Public transport modes include city buses, trolleybuses, trams (or light rail) and passenger trains, rapid transit(metro/subways/undergrounds etc) and ferries.

In urban spaces public transport forms an important component of infrastructure and means of public conveyance. Even as India marks the second year of the tragic rape and killing of a 23-year-old student in Delhi, an incident that triggered extensive debate on women's safety in public spaces and even forced the government of the day to enact **the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013**, widely termed as a "bill of rights" for women, the news of the rape of another young professional in the capital returning home at night in a 'secure' taxi has once again forced everyone to reassess the state of public transportation in cities across India and issues related to women's safety.

As the city grows and opportunities rise, more and more women are stepping out of their homes for studies or jobs. While some make their own transportation arrangements everyone cannot afford it. Women commuting by public transport are vulnerable to harassment and abuse by mischievous troublemakers. There have been some cases of rape and abductions in the city where the auto drivers were involved.

India was ranked as the fourth most dangerous place for a woman to take public transport in a poll published recently by the **Thomson Reuters Foundation**. It polled second-worst on safety at night

and for verbal harassment. On average 40 cases of crimes against women are registered daily by Delhi Police, including at least four cases of rape, according to government officials.

Public transport interacts with employment issues for the poor in two main ways: indirectly by providing access to employment opportunities and directly through employment of low-income people in the transport sector. The relative immobility of the urban poor, especially poor women is a central fact in their lives and severely limits their employment options.

Thus, insecure transportation not only leads to violence against and violation of basic rights of women, but also adversely affects their ability to participate in the labor market. Therefore, it is imperative that measures must be taken for making transportation secure and safe.

Measures for making public transport safer for women - The Policy Framework

Design of public transport infrastructure which includes access to public transport stops, the design of the stop, vehicle design will have to become safety and security compliant. Following is a list of policy interventions required to improve public transport safety for all:

(a) Public transport safety must be guaranteed during the whole length of the trip: on vehicles, during the waiting time, and on the routes of access to stations and stops.

(b) Every access should be checked and improved. Old people and women are particularly sensitive to the problems of personal safety on public transport networks. Increasingly frequent action is required by the operators. The need of taking immediate action requires a direct connection between staff, the operational center and the police.

(c) Lighting, good design, visibility at stops and stations are an essential component in creating feelings of security.

(d) Instead of trend projections from the past, we have to depend on scenario building techniques—for instance, transport planners need to have a city vision; they need to think about how the quality of life in a city would be affected by a particular choice in transport. The choices made will go a long way in determining people's behaviour and lifestyles. To do this, planners will need to assess the impact their decisions will make on safety, socio-economic benefits to different users groups and environmental aspects.

(e) The urban development ministry has issued fresh guidelines to all states to install preventive security apparatus in all modes of public transport -- buses, taxis and auto rickshaws -- for safe travel of women and children.

Presently, most of the cities in India do not have reliable, comfortable, quick and affordable public transport. However, in big cities, the public transport provided lacks in availability of frequency, extent of coverage and adequate safety measures.

(f) Some state governments have developed and implemented model for public transport which can be replicated by other states:

• **G-Auto model of Ahmedabad:** Under this model auto-rickshaws are managed through a common control centre to offer safe and reliable service to commuters.

• **Pink Auto initiative of the Government of Odisha:** The pink autos have drivers who have undergone a strict psychological test, criminal background check and training. With a big question mark on women's safety in India, this seems like a feasible solution.

The recent Uber taxi rape incident in Delhi has definitely renewed a deep sense of fear among women commuters across the country. Such situations can be averted if authorities take the time to track the past record of those who are part of the transportation system and sensitize them towards issues like violence against women. In Bhubaneswar, before launching the pink autos for women commuters they did put the drivers through a psychological test, which is really necessary. Besides this, we should consider holding monthly orientation meetings with the auto drivers regarding gender sensitivity and talk to them about gender violence. Regular interaction will help them to change their mindset towards women commuters.

The Way Forward:

(a) Both societal norms for behavior and the built environment affect a woman's safety in public spaces. Knowledge of women's issues might begin to make a shift in the way women are treated and respected in the society. While retaliation and rejecting the notion that it is okay to be inappropriately treated in public is perhaps a beginning, the journey is much longer. A crucial step is to generate more awareness about women's safety issues in public spaces.

(b) The behavior and attitudes of the society cannot be transformed overnight, but the built environment can be controlled and can be used as a medium for change. As a beginning we can start with creating favorable urban infrastructure, like proper lighting on the public places, safe and secure urban transportation, installing CCTV cameras at places thought to be prone to sexual violence etc.

(c) Setting up of specially designed courts (Fast Track Courts) for trying cases of violence against women. These courts could be mandated to finalize the case within a stipulated time frame.

(d) Setting up of all women police stations and recruiting of more policewomen. However, in the light of instances where members of women police force were themselves harassed, raped or even murdered, there is greater need for reforming and sensitizing the police system as such.

(e) Unlike the cases of sexual molestation registered in police stations, there is a large portion of women in India who are subjected to rape and other forms of sexual assault on a daily basis and still their cases go unnoticed. These women are the unfortunate wives who have to indulge in sexual intercourse with their husbands even if they don't want to (non-consensual sex is nothing but rape). They don't actually have a say in front of their husbands when it comes to sex, they have to comply with the needs and demands of their husbands.

(f) Another category of such women who are bound to indulge in sexual activities against their wishes are the hundreds of thousands of sex workers in India who are visited by numerous men every day and even tortured by many of their clients. They are compelled to do as their clients say as they have no other means of feeding themselves and their children other than selling their bodies to the sex-hungry men of India.

If we take account of all these women and then collectively see the scenario of sexual crimes against women, it can be easily seen that stringent laws alone cannot do much. What really needs to be done is the moral overhauling of the minds of the masses by means of education and awareness.

Strong and stringent laws are definitely necessary as the existing laws have proved to be inefficient in ensuring swift justice and appropriate punishment to the guilty. But the actual need of the hour is a revolutionary change in the mindsets and conscience of Indian men so that they stop seeing women as objects of sexual pleasure.

(g) Further research needs to be done while engaging various community organizations, municipal authorities, police departments and other important stakeholders. Workshops need to be organized and future women's safety audits need to be designed and led by community members. This would

Help form crucial links between the community and decision-making organizations. No change can be achieved without creating a dialogue between the users and the designers of the space.

Justice J.S.Verma panel provided a valuable blueprint for women's safety on the basis of which the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 was enacted which provides not only the severest punishment for heinous crime against women but also added new specific crimes (though less heinous) as Sexual harassment, Stalking, Voyeurism, Disrobing of women at public places, Acid throwing, and Trafficking to be dealt with penal provisions.

However, despite enactment of new Criminal Law, the crime against women neither mitigated nor curbed. The introduction of new specific offences in IPC against women were made with a view, for example; The stalking, if checked at earlier stage, may prevent stalker to become a rapists but the sad affairs of Indian society is that the small offences against female are generally taken for granted. How many cases have been registered of petty heinous crimes so far? Almost negligible, it is because the Legislature has done its job but our leaders, administrative machinery, Police, media and Social activists and organizations failed to convey the message to the people, especially to the girls and women who earnestly require the awareness.

Moreover, the newly enacted Sexual Harassment Act,2013 also needs wide publicity to reach to the ears of working women in an organized or unorganized sector.

The criminal attitude & gender based discrimination is directly related to the psychology of a child which baffled dominating patriarchal environment in the house with the biased lowering treatment to girl child vis-à-vis the preferential treatment to boy, which in turn enhance misogynistic characteristics that may lead to commit crime against fair sex.

Conclusion:

To sum up, the mindset of People, Society, Police, Criminals and entire criminal Justice delivery Mechanism needs to be changed, as it is very much notorious and insensitive to maintain the dignity of women in the country. 'Enough is enough' was the thought perceived in the mind of people against the perpetrators, including the baddy juvenile of such heinous crime aftermath of Delhi Gang rape. The outstanding spirit of such remarkable reaction of people across the country demands in reflection the justice from the Nation. If our social, political and judicial systems as a composite society are able to sensitize ourselves to inflict severe deserved punishment to all culprits; Justice can be delivered to all women by giving them the much deserved freedom of movement.

Population and associated issues.

Migrants are often blamed to be depriving locals of their rights and opportunities, how far is it justified? Explain and suggest measures for establishing a concordant relationship between migrants and locals with suitable illustrations.

Indianexpress
Why this question:
The question is premised on the ongoing issue of NRC in Assam and the treatment meted out to the migrants.
Key demand of the question:
One must discuss in detail the issue of immigrants in the country and the concerns associated thereafter and what needs to be done to overcome the same.
Directive:
Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
In brief narrate the case of immigrants in the context of India.
Body:
Explain that Citizenship in India has been subjected to many upheavals recently. NCR exercise and the proposed decision to deport all immigrants have been at the core of this controversy along with the discussion around the recent scrapping of Article 35.
Quote examples such as – mention the problems associated with the exercise to demarcate legal and illegal immigrants- like the problems of exclusion as seen in the Assam NRC exercise; some illegal immigrants would be difficult if not impossible to deport- like the Tamilians from the Sri Lanka; Gorkhas and Lepchas from Nepal; India has no agreement with nearby governments for large-scale deportation etc.
Explain that the issue of deportation of all immigrants is not a feasible and recommended solution.
Conclusion:
Conclude by suggesting steps necessary to deal with the issue.

India is a large country and the problem of imbalances in Regional Development among states is inevitable. Therefore it is natural that people move from their home state to other states of India in search of employment opportunities.

Of late few states in India have looking at this issue as the one that snatched employment opportunities of the locals. But the true story is that the migrants take up the jobs which the locals are not willing to take up at the cost offered by the employer. The present move by the few states will jeopardize their economic growth and development in the near future.

Migration will likely remain a long term challenge for the countries' politics, institutions, governments and values. Even with the drop in numbers and the development of institutional capabilities to manage it, its pros and cons will always remain attached to it.

Nowadays, many people decide to migrate to have a better life. Employment opportunities are the most common reason due to which people migrate. Except this, lack of opportunities, better education, construction of dams, globalization, natural disaster (flood and drought) and sometimes crop failure forced villagers to migrate to cities.

Impacts of Migration

Migration is becoming a very important subject for the life of cities. Many opportunities and attraction of big cities pull large numbers of people to big cities. Migration can have positive as well as negative effects on the life of the migrants.

Positive Impact

- Unemployment is reduced and people get better job opportunities.

- Migration helps in improving the quality of life of people.

- It helps to improve social life of people as they learn about new culture, customs, and languages which helps to improve brotherhood among people.

- Migration of skilled workers leads to a greater economic growth of the region.

- Children get better opportunities for higher education.

- The population density is reduced and the birth rate decreases.

Negative Impact

- The loss of a person from rural areas, impact on the level of output and development of rural areas.

- The influx of workers in urban areas increases competition for the job, houses, school facilities etc.

- Having large population puts too much pressure on natural resources, amenities and services.

- It is difficult for a villager to survive in urban areas because in urban areas there is no natural environment and pure air. They have to pay for each and everything.

- Migration changes the population of a place, therefore, the distribution of the population is uneven in India.

- Many migrants are completely illiterate and uneducated, therefore, they are not only unfit for most jobs, but also lack basic knowledge and life skills.

- Poverty makes them unable to live a normal and healthy life.

- Children growing up in poverty have no access to proper nutrition, education or health.

- Migration increased the slum areas in cities which increase many problems such as unhygienic conditions, crime, pollution etc.

- Sometimes migrants are exploited.

- Migration is one of the main causes of increasing nuclear family where children grow up without a wider family circle.

- Nativism, the cry for job protection of locals, is rearing its head again in India.

Thus there needs to be a balanced approach in handling the issue of migrants so as to ensure mutual benefit between the locals and the migrants.

Following are few initiatives that can be taken to ensure concordant relationship between the two –

- **Provide for reservations to local in selected sectors**. And at the same time the best way to grow out of nativism is to ensure economic recovery and provide enough job opportunities for youths.

- **Skill training and proper education** should be the key focus for the states to prepare their masses to compete in the free market.

- Instead of nativism, states need to create a framework where safe interstate migration for work is facilitated and fiscal coordination is pursued to enable the portability of social security benefits. If this is done, interstate migration would rise and provide more opportunities to remedy regional disparities.

Matching skills seamlessly across geographies within India would also facilitate the ease of doing business, a much valued goal continually emphasized for faster growth.

Modern societies are shaped by migration and it may be futile to engage in costly exercises to identify "outsiders". Critically analyse the statement in the light of recent chaos created by the NRC of Assam.

Indianexress
Why this question:
The article provides for a detailed analysis on the issue of NRC of Assam, recently the final list of National Register of Citizens (NRC) has been released in Assam.
Key demand of the question:
One has to critically analyse the effects of such a move on the migrants and the multiple aspects associated with declaring an individual as an outsider.
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:
Brief about the current status of NRC.
Body:
Explain the following aspects –
The NRC was introduced in 1951 in response to a political demand that arose from the fear of migration, in the backdrop of Partition, causing demographic and cultural upheaval.
The sub nationalist politics that privileged Assamese identity over other categories, including class, caste and religion, has since shaped the social imaginary in the region, with devastating consequences.
It has produced a narrative that plays on the fear of the "outsider" and a politics that borders on xenophobia.
Explain what can be the possible consequences and what should be done.
Conclusion:
Conclude with way forward.

Migration is a way to move from one place to another in order to live and work. Movement of people from their home to another city, state or country for a job, shelter or some other reasons is called migration. They are critical to shaping of our modern societies today.

Recently the exclusion of 19 lakh people from the Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) has sparked a debate over the future of these families and individuals. To understand the chaos with respect to NRC lets first understand the following -

What is Migration?

- Migration is a natural process that often happens depending on the **socio-economic, demographic, cultural, political and environmental factors** related to the migrant people.

- It is most fundamental to the understanding of continuously changing space content and space relationships of areas.

- The **main reason** for migration is **employment** or business related migration. The male migration constitutes the highest level of migration in India due to employment purpose.

- The female usually migrates as accompanists of males, but with the recent survey single females are also slowly increasingly moving out in search of jobs.

Impact of migration on modern societies –

Migration is a response to the uneven distribution of opportunities over space. People tend to move *from place of low opportunity and low safety to the place of higher opportunity and better safety.* This, in turn, creates both benefits and problems for the areas; people migrate from and migrate to.

Following are the effects of migration -

Social Effect:

The new ideas related to new technologies, family planning, girl's education, etc. get diffused from urban to rural areas through them.

Migration leads to intermixing of people from diverse cultures.

It has positive contribution such as evolution of composite culture and breaking through the narrow considerations and widens up the mental horizon of the people at large.

It creates social vacuum and sense of dejection among individuals. Continued feeling of dejection may motivate people to fall in the trap of anti-social activities like crime and drug abuse.

En**vironmental Effect:**

Overcrowding of people due to rural-urban migration has put pressure on the existing social and physical infrastructure in the urban areas.

This ultimately leads to unplanned growth of urban settlement and formation of slums shanty colonies.

Due to over-exploitation of natural resources, cities are facing the acute problem of depletion of ground water, air pollution, disposal of sewage and management of solid wastes.

Other Effect:

Brain drain occurs when scientists, engineers, doctors, IT- professionals and other intellectuals migrate to another country for higher studies, to undertake research activities, to get better job and work experiences which they are not getting from their country of origin. India is a very prominent

source for supply of professionals. The educated crowd instead of serving their own country prefers to work for the developed nations for the sake of better pay and standard of living or any other reason.

Reasons of futility of the process and the idea of NRC of Assam -

- Citizenship and identity have been fraught issues in Assam for decades. The NRC was introduced in 1951 in response to a political demand that arose from the fear of migration, in the **backdrop of Partition, causing demographic and cultural upheaval**. The sub nationalist politics that privileged Assamese identity over other categories, including class, caste and religion, has since shaped the social imaginary in the region, with devastating consequences.

- India, as a country follows the ideology of **'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'**, thus it should not be hasty in taking decisions that can disenfranchise her citizens – contradicting its centuries-followed values.

- The need of the hour is that the Government should clearly chart out the course of action regarding the **fate of excluded people** from final NRC data and political parties should refrain from coloring the entire NRC process through electoral prospects that may snowball in to **communal violence**.

- There is a need for a robust mechanism of legal support for the four million who have to prove their citizenship to India with their limited means.

Conclusion –

The idea of citizenship can't be imprisoned within the framework of blood and soil or religion; it needs a broader, more inclusive definition rooted in the liberal spirit of the Constitution. For now, however, at the end of an elaborate NRC process monitored by the Supreme Court, which has shown unusual alacrity in doing so, the onus is on the court to ensure that human rights are not undermined by short-term political interests.

Falling fertility rate will have a direct impact on the child sex ratio in India irrespective of the methods of population control. Elucidate.

Livemint
Why this question:
The article discusses in detail the effects of population control policies on the child sex ratio of the country.
Key demand of the question:
One has to analyse in detail the correlation of population control measures that result into declining of fertility rate with that of child sex ratio in the country. And discuss the possible effects and consequences it can have.
Directive:
Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
In brief narrate the recent call out made by the prime minister on the independence day eve for population control measures and efforts.
Body:
Explain what the correlation is; define fertility rate, child sex ratio and their correlation.

Discuss in what way irrespective of the policy that bases the population control the effect on skewing the child sex ratio is inevitable and must be dealt with greater concern.
Discuss what can possibly be done to address the issues arising out of it.
Conclusion:
Conclude with fair and balanced opinion and suggest a way forward.

The decline of family sizes in India—with richer, healthier and better-educated families deciding to have fewer children—has gone hand in hand with **a worsening of the sex ratio**.

The decline in fertility explains one-third to one-half of the **recent increase in India's sex ratio in favor of boys.**

Data from the National Family Health Survey **(NFHS) 2015-16** indicates that **families where a son is born are more likely to stop having children** than families where a girl is born.

The **male-biased** Indian sex ratio at birth is distinctly sharpened for the **last child of the family**.

According to a comparison made in the 2017-18 Economic Survey with Indonesia, sex ratios in a population do not normally change significantly with birth order, signaling that there is something "unnatural" going on with Indian fertility.

Role of in-utero selection procedures-

Although, families that continue to have children until they have as many sons as they would like. However, in-utero sex selection definitely plays a part, too.

With the spread of ultrasound technology that can be used for prenatal sex determination, **the likelihood that third and fourth order births would be girls** in families that had not yet had a son **declined sharply** after the mid-1980s.

By the mid-1990s, ultrasound access was more widespread, but the **desire for small families** was growing, too. As a result of these two phenomena, families were no longer waiting for third and fourth births to intervene and even **second order births began to be less likely to be those of girls.**

Observations across states and countries-

According to Chinese census data, it was found that areas in China that enforced fines for second births more strictly during the one-child policy regime had lower fertility but worse sex ratios than areas that enforced fines less strictly.

A scheme launched by the **Haryana government in 2002** offered financial incentives to families that had fewer children, with the highest cash incentive to those having only one daughter, and a lower amount to those having only one son, or only two daughters. The **result was a decline in fertility** as evidenced by the share of families with only one child but it was driven almost entirely by **families having only one boy**.

There was **no increase in families having only one daughter**, despite the financial incentives being highest for this outcome.

Starting with **Rajasthan in 1992**, several states began to enact laws debarring candidates with more than two children from contesting local body elections. The **laws did reduce fertility,** but this came

at the cost of a **worsening sex ratio,** as families tried to ensure their future eligibility for public office, while still having their desired number of sons.

Conclusion-

Population control schemes will only seek to worsen the sex ratio, even as growth and development are already lowering fertility, making the task of "Beti Bechao" more challenging than it is today.

The sliding Liveability index of Indian cities urgently calls for reforms in urban management especially with the aspect of municipal governance. Elucidate in the context of recently released world liveability index 2019.

Timesofindia
Why this question:
The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Global Livability Index 2019. The index ranks 140 global cities based on their living conditions. Thus important from the exam point of view for GS paper I.
 Key demand of the question:
One must bring out the inherent issues the cities of the country are facing in terms of livability and what needs to be done.
Directive:
Elucidate – Give a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
In brief narrate the findings of the report.
Body:
Explain the underlying causes of depriving livability in India cities.
Quote the examples of Delhi and Mumbai.
Explain that India needs to approach urban local government differently. State governments have centralized too much authority and devolve too little power and funds to municipal corporations. Consequently, civic bodies and town planners lack the capacity to handle rapid urbanization.
 The spurt of slums and landfills, encroachment on public land, non-existent drainage, groundwater exploitation, and clogged roads can all be traced to weak municipal corporations.
Conclusion:
Conclude with way forward while suggesting solutions.

Global liveability index is released by The Economist intelligence unit which ranks 140 cities worldwide based on parameters like Health Care, Education and Employment, infrastructure, cultures and environment.

From India Delhi and Mumbai respectively occupied 118th and 119th rank in the index.

Reason for depriving livability index in India -

Abuse against journalist - the economist intelligence unit also flag and escalation in abuse against journalist in recent years in India

Rise in crime rates - decline in Mumbai's rank was due to downgrade in culture score while New Delhi has fallen in index because of downgrade in its cultures and environment as well as folinz tablet is going to rising crime rates

<u>Education</u> - in urban cities the dropout rates are increasing day by day which leads to decline in in education score livability index

<u>Climate change</u> - according to global ambient air quality database Delhi has six highest annual PM 2.5 concentration in the world

<u>Poor functioning of urban local bodies</u> -

- Unplanned City architecture leading to rise in slums in outskirts. Example- Seemapuri in New Delhi.

- *Politicization of ULBs* - By subverting the elected representative to state government bureaucracy. Example Mumbai BMC is capable of handling floods which cause large scale loss of life.

- *Paucity of 3Fs* **- funds, functionary and functions**. This causes infrastructural shortage in cities like lack of healthcare and sanitation, lack of safe drinking water and ultimately leads to drop in rating of Mumbai and Delhi.

Solution

- Improving infrastructure in Big metro cities example - having Mohalla clinics, functional drinking water to every house good public transport facilities.

- More power to urban local bodies in terms of funds functions and functionaries.

- Strict implementation of Building Code.

- Modernization of police force to curb rising crime.

- Increasing green cover in the City by promoting rooftop gardening and afforestation along roads.

- Controlling pollution by adopting electrical vehicle and higher standards of fuels such as Bharat 6.

- Making rainwater harvesting system mandatory for new Constructions and public building to improve groundwater.

- Proper solid waste management system and sewage water treatment plants to control any valuation of land as well as water bodies.

- Sensitizing population with gender issue, children problems, tolerance to other's ideology and religion, education, crime as well as various rules and regulations.

Conclusion

Decline in livability rate is a thing of concern as a higher quality index brings more investment and tourist to the country which is much needed for our dream of 5 trillion economies. Therefore there is a serious need of improvement in our urban city as most important industrial centers, Education Centre, Health cents are situated in these areas.

India is on the path of becoming the most populous nation of the world. In such a context discuss the consequences of the soon to be acquired distinction.
Livemint

Why this question:
The question is in the backdrop of World Population Prospects 2019 that has been recently released by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
Key demand of the question:
One must discuss in detail the causes and consequences in terms of the implications the booming population numbers of India will have on its future.
Directive:
Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
In brief narrate the highlights of the report.
Body:
Discuss the following facts in detail –
World's population is expected to increase by two billion people in the next 30 years, from 7.7 billion currently to 9.7 billion in 2050.
India is projected to become the most populous country by 2027 surpassing China, and host 1.64 billion people by 2050.
At the national level, achieving a reduction in fertility rates in States such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh — which are high as per Sample Registration System data — is a challenge for India as it seeks to stabilize population growth.
Explain what should be the way forward? Discuss both at global level and national level.
Conclusion:
Conclude with way forward.

According to United Nation India could surpass China and will become most populous country by 2027 and will have 1.64 billion people. The average age of population in 2020 will be 29 years; also 65% of population will be below 35 years of age. India will have peak of 59% of population in working age bracket by 2041. Thus there is huge potential locked in our demography.

Consequence of being most populated country-

Positives

- With greater portion of population in working bracket there will be more savings, hence it will provide stimulus for growth in the economy.

- More population means more working hands for taking the nation forward on growth path.

- With improved education and health India can become Centre for human capital India will be exporter of skill to the world where in most other countries the working age population is on decline.

Negatives

- Per capita availability of resources will decline causing resource stress example malnutrition etc.

- **Rise in poverty** - with more population, the wages will fall as there will be increased supply of workforce and falling demand.

- **Problem at aging** - when the big population process the productive age it will turn into a burden on the economy.

- **Law and order problem** – rising population will lead to resource crunch thus leading to rise in crime. Handling such a big population will be challenging.

Reasons for high population

- Low use of contraceptives - only 48% of married women use contraceptive measures in India.

- Poor families tend to have more children to supplement the family income

- High mortality - high mortality pushes family to produce more children as only some of them would survive.

Government initiatives in response to population growth -

- For growth control

    o Mission Parivar Vikas

    o Sterilization compensation scheme

- Skill and education development

    o Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan

    o Mid day meal scheme

    o skill India machine

- For Employment generation

    o Make in India initiative

    o Mudra Yojana

- For Poverty eradication

    o Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act

- For mortality control

    o Janani Suraksha Abhiyan

    o mission indradhanush

    o poshan abhiyaan

Way forward

- Increasing awareness about family planning.

- Proper implementation of schemes which have potential to tackle cause of rising population **example** - Make in India, MGNREGA, Fit India campaign.

Conclusion

India is a developing country which is endowed with a potential population, instead of seeing this as a liability; it must be realized as an asset which will provide the boost - much needed

for our growing economy. Special focus must be on health and education sector because without healthy and skilled population there is no chance of growth.

The World Population Prospects 2019 finds that India's total fertility rate (TFR) has declined from 5.9 in early Sixties to 2.4 to 2010-15, Discuss the factors responsible to such a decline and the outcome of it.

Indianexpress
Why this question:
Since 2018, India's working-age population (people between 15 and 64 years of age) has grown larger than the dependent population — children aged 14 or below as well as people above 65 years of age. This bulge in the working-age population is going to last till 2055, or 37 years from its beginning.
Key demand of the question:
One must discuss the factors responsible for such a scenario in the population numbers of the country and explain the possible consequences along with way forward.
Directive:
Discuss – This is an all-encompassing directive – you have to debate on paper by going through the details of the issues concerned by examining each one of them. You have to give reasons for both for and against arguments.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
In brief bring out the recent findings of the World Population Prospects 2019.
Body:
The question is more or less straightforward. One has to elaborate on the fact that Policy-making in India has in recent decades been generally neutral to data and research. However, in matters of demography, particularly while prescribing strong punitive measures for having large families, decisions must be taken based on rigorous analysis of the data to avoid a China type crisis.
Conclusion:
Conclude by suggesting solutions and methods to overcome the situation.

According to NFHS, India's TFR has come down to 2.2 in 2015-16 nearing the ideal TRF of 2.1 which would ultimately lead to population stability. There has been a faster decline in the TFR than was expected.

Factors causing the decline in TFR:

- Increased female literacy leading to more women opting for higher education and hence increase in marriage age.
- The increasing trend of nuclear family and compartmentalized urban lifestyle: This leads to lack of care taker for the child, a role erstwhile performed by the grandparents. Thus couples opt for a smaller family
- The Increased rural to urban migration and the subsequent rise in cost of living also has led to couples opting for smaller families.
- Increased awareness drive and mobilization by the civil society against the increasing population

Consequences of declining TFR:

- Opportunity to increase the Female Labour participation ratio as they look beyond their role as mothers: The World bank predicts that if we were to achieve parity in LFPR with Bangladesh, our GDP will increase by a full percentage.

- Non uniform growth across the social sector: The TFR varies significantly, according to the NFHS, the poorest section has a TFR of 3.2 , second poorest has TFR of 2.5 while the richest has TFR of 1.5 children per women. This will hamper social equity and is an obstacle in achieving SDG 1, 2,3 and 4.
- Short window for reaping the demographic dividend: The share of 60 + population will cross the 20 % mark in 2050, the advantage of labour force is feasible till this percentage is below 15 %.
- The regional issue of population growth: Different states are growing at different rates; the southern states have a lower TFR compared to the northern. This could fuel further migration and the ensuing backlash against migrants

Way forward:

The 1994 International Conference on Population and development, held in Cairo provides a way forward where it was suggested to shift the emphasis away from slowing population growth to improving the lives of women. Family planning must be provided a broader package of reproductive health care. The older population growth is going to be 370 % between now and 2050 while the overall population is growing just 56 %. We need to look after the older sections that are increasingly going to have lesser and lesser number of people to rely upon.

Urbanization, their problems and their remedies.

Discuss in detail the issues and challenges involved in India's waste Management system also explain in what way India's Smart Cities Mission is creating new opportunities for better management of wastes.

Financialexpress
Why this question:
The article explains in what way the thrust of urban solid waste management should be on household level segregation and that Lobbies are pushing for unsustainable alternatives instead. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs should stop financing compactors under the Smart Cities Mission.
Key demand of the question:
Explain in detail the issues and challenges involved in India's waste Management system also explain in what way India's Smart Cities Mission is creating new opportunities for better management of wastes
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 what is meant by solid waste management.
Body:
First provide for some statistics like India generates over 150,000 tonnes of municipal solid waste (MSW) per day, According to the World Bank, India's daily waste generation will reach 377,000 tonnes by 2025 etc.
Discuss the Major Techniques of Solid Waste Management in India, what are the issues and challenges in India's waste Management system.
Explain the relevance of smart cities mission in managing the urban waste problems.
Conclusion:
Conclude with way forward.

Solid Waste Management refers to the process of collecting and treating solid wastes. It also includes solutions for recycling items that do not belong to garbage or trash.

Issues and Challenges in India's waste Management system:

- With rapid urbanization, there is substantial increase in solid waste generation which has strained the Solid Waste Management System

- Most Urban local bodies in India struggle to provide efficient waste management services due to financial problems, lack of infrastructure and technology

- Issues with segregation: Though solid waste management rules mandate source segregation of wastes, it has largely not been followed. Due to improper segregation of waste, much of recyclability of waste is lost.

- Disposal of waste: Most of the municipal authorities deposit solid waste at open dump sites without any leachates treatment. These sites emanate foul smell and are breeding grounds for pests and insects causing disease. Liquid seeping out of waste pollutes groundwater and poses a serious threat to health and environment. Further, these landfill sites are also responsible for air pollution.

- Processing/ recovery from waste: Most of the funds for solid waste management are allotted to collection and transportation, with very less left for processing or resource recovery and disposal. Also many waste-to-energy plants are non-operational.

- Waste management sector- Workforce: The waste management sector in India is constituted primarily of the informal workers who come from the urban poor. The rag pickers, who are instrumental in waste recycling, are highly vulnerable to health damages owing to poor work conditions.

- Apathy on the part of management and also poor community participation is a major constraint in solid waste management in India.

What needs to be done?

- The key to efficient waste management is to ensure proper segregation of waste at source and to ensure that the waste goes through different streams of recycling and resource recovery.

- Waste to energy is a key component of SWM. Installation of waste-to-compost and bio-methanation plants would reduce the load of landfill sites.

- There is a need to encourage research and development so as to reinvent waste management system in India. The focus should be on recycling and recovering from waste and not landfill. Further, it is important to encourage recycling of e-waste so that the problem of e-waste

- Public- Private Partnership models for waste management should be encouraged.

How Smart Cities creating new opportunities for better management of waste:

- ULBs are looking to technological innovation to curb rising garbage problems in newly minted smart cities. Agra – which houses the Taj Mahal plans to install 293,000 garbage containers tagged with radio frequency identification (RFID). These waste containers will be tracked throughout the city to ensure they are used to their maximum efficiency.

- Retrofitting new technologies into existing waste management structures, while using other technologies to redevise waste mapping systems, will allow for transparent and sustainable waste management.
- Indian startups producing innovative technologies to help deal with India's unique urban challenges.

It is thus important to remember that the natural beauty is a legacy and a right for future generations and conserving it, as well as our natural resources, for their benefit is our responsibility today.

Explain the significance "Affordable Housing for All" in the economic development and well-being of India. (250 words)

The hindubusinessline

Why this question:
Cumulative number of Houses Sanctioned Under PMAY(U) are now more than 90 Lakhs. Thus making it important from exam point of view to analyse the significance of housing for all.

Key demand of the question:
The question is direct and one must discuss the significance "Affordable Housing for All" in the economic development and well-being of India.

Directive:
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:
Define what is meant by housing for all.
Body:
Discuss in what way Food, cloth and housing are the basic necessities of any individual. How Affordable housing improves well-being of an individual and a country.
Elucidate on how Affordable housing helps in human development, how it helps in Economic Development.
What are the mechanisms available from the government side for the same and what are the challenges involved?
Conclusion:
Conclude with way forward and importance of housing for all for the overall development of the country.

The 21st century is called the urban century because for the first time, since dawn of civilization, more people are residing in urban India than in rural areas. The most important problem in all cities has been housing due to sudden and large scale influx of migrants from rural areas to urban areas. Because of the housing shortage in every city almost fifty percent of the population lives in slums. Whilst the overall population growth has declined over the last decade, urban population growth continues to be almost twice the annual national population growth rate.

Further, the urban share of the GDP is projected to increase to 75 per cent in 2031 from an estimated 62-63 percent in 2009-2010 (The High Powered Expert Committee (HPEC), 2011), Consequently, there is a dire need to improve the quality of life in our cities and to address the current and anticipated future shortage of housing along with other infrastructure deficit issues prevalent in our urban centers.

The government estimated the total urban housing shortage at 18.78 million units in the 12th year plan (The Technical Group on Urban Housing, 2011). Within these 18,78 million units, the housing

shortage amongst the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and the Lower Income Group (LIG) is extraordinarily high with a 96 per cent share of the total shortage.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), or Affordable Housing for All Mission is divided into two parts:

- PMAY (Gramin), which comes under the ambit of the Ministry of Rural Development and

- PMAY (Urban), which falls under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

- The target for PMAY is to build approximately 1.2 crore affordable homes in urban centers by the year 2022 in 4 years.

- PMAY has already quadrupled the number of affordable house sanctioned when compared to the previous 10 years of JNNURM.

 What is an affordable house?

Under PMAY(U), an affordable house goes beyond the construction of four walls using bricks and cement. A PMAY (U) home, by its very definition, must have a functioning toilet, an electricity connection, a tapped water connection, and door waste collection, the title of a PMAY (U) home can be registered under the lady of the house, or co-jointly through a PMAY(U) home, families have access to all amenities that will allow them to lead a life of dignity, security and prosperity.

PMAY(U) Implementation:

The implementation of PMAY(U) is undertaken through four verticals:

- In-situ slum redevelopment.

- Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP).

- Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).

- Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC).

 A – In – situ slum redevelopment (ISSR)

This uses land as a resource. The scheme aims to provide houses to eligible slum dwellers by redeveloping the existing slums on public/private land. A grant of INR 1 lac per house is provided by the central government to the planning and implementing authorities of the states/UTs under this scheme.

B – Affordable housing in partnership (AHP):

This aims to provide financial assistance to private developers to boost private participation in affordable housing projects; central assistance is provided at the rate of INR 1.5 lac per EWS house in private projects where at least 35 percent of the houses are constructed for the EWS category.

C – Credit – linked subsidy scheme (CLSS):

This scheme facilitates easy institutional credit to EWS, LIG and MIG households for the purchase of homes with interest subsidy credited upfront to the borrower's account routed through primary lending institutions (PLIs). This effectively reduces housing loan and equated monthly installments (EMI).

D – Beneficiary – led construction or enhancement (BLC):

This scheme involves central assistance of INR 1.5 lakh per family for new construction or extension of existing houses for the EWS/LIG.

Holding period for capital gains tax for immovable property reduced form 3 years to 2 years.

Indira Awaas Yojana will be extended to 600 districts.

Through these verticals, the Mission covers the entire canvas of affordable housing -from the slum dweller living in the most inhumane conditions; to those belonging to the economically weaker sections and middle income groups who need affordable banking finance; and to those belonging to the economically weaker sections and middle income groups who need affordable banking finance; and to those who own a piece of land, but require additional funding to build their house.

PMAY (U) makes a significant departure from previous top-down models. The Mission trusts the judgment of the beneficiary to make the most optimal decisions, based her needs.

PMAY(U) is one of several flagship programmes, which is anchored in, and thriving under, the cooperative federalism model. Under PMAY(U), the state governments themselves accord these approvals, with only minor suggestions, if any, made at the central level.

Under the scheme, government has announced that an interest rate of only 4 per cent would be charged on loans above Rs 9 lakh and 3 per cent on amount above Rs 12 Lakhs. However, there is ambiguity whether those not falling under EWS (Economically Weaker Section) or the LIG (Low Income Group) segments would be the beneficiaries. More projects will now be eligible for profit-linked income tax exemptions.

Government as Catalyst:

In the budget for 2017-18, affordable housing was given infrastructure status.

The budget for 2018 -19 institutionalized an Affordable Housing Fund under the National Housing Banks, to boost financing in the sector.

In addition to these, measures, Section 80-IBA of the Income Tax now provides for 100 percent deduction of profits for Affordable Housing Projects, to encourage private participation in the mission.

Way forward:

- The Swachh Bharat or Clean India Mission has today become a Jan Andolan, or a social movement. Its emphasis on ODF seeks to not only build the requisite number of toilets, but bring about behavioral change in the country.

- The 500 cities under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), which will have universal water supply coverage and improved sewage networks, will further improve the quality of life of those living in affordable homes.

- Under the Smart Cities Mission, the 99 cities selected have had extensive citizen engagement to ensure those living in affordable homes too have an equal say in the development of their city.

- Estimates suggest for India to meet its urban demand, the country will have to build 700 to 900 million square meters of residential and commercial space every year till 2030. To put this in perspective, between now and 2030, India will have to build a new Chicago every year, if it has to meet its citizen demand for urban living.

- Given this context, the success of PMAY(U) needs to be viewed in conjunction with entire gamut of planned urbanization underway in the country.

The PMAY(U) epitomizes the seismic shifts taking place in our urban centres and the efforts that are being made to make Indian cities best in their class.

Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

Growing feeling of regionalism can be a real threat to India's unity and integrity. Discuss.

Insightsonindia
Why this question:
Question is about how if regionalism is not contained will give rise to secessionist trend affecting territorial integrity and unity in diversity.
Key demand of the question:
One must deliberate on the concept of regionalism while explaining the pros and cons with suitable illustrations.
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:
Explain what regionalism means in political context.
Body:
List trend of rising regionalism and factors responsible for it. Talk about how regionalism can be a threat to territorial integrity provide example of Khalistan movement.
Write about such other movement in the country and how they are trying to break Indian federation. Provide benefits of regionalism such as its importance in development of underdeveloped region. Account on how regionalism can be contained by constitutional measures.
Conclusion:
Conclude that Regionalism altogether is not bad phenomena however if not prevent from proliferating it will give rise to threat

Regionalism is an ideology and political movement that seeks to advance the causes of regions. It is driven by the conscientiousness of loyalty to a distinct region with homogenous population in terms of cultural, social, political, economic aspiration or ethnicity.

It can be at national level (Dravidian movement, violence against northindians in maharastra, naga movement, assam movement, demad of separate state for Vidhabha region, khalistan movement) or international level (Shanghai cooperation organisation (SCO), BIMSTEC, RCEP, IORA, Europian Union).

Trends of regionalism in india

1950s and 1960s - intense (ethnic) mass mobilisation in south india. For separate statehood for the Telegu-speakers out of the composite Madras Presidency. Potti Sriramulu was the leader he went on unto death in 1952 for his demand. Result- **State Reorganization Act, 1956**.

1970s and 1980s - tribal insurgency for separation and statehood in NE India. Result - North-eastern States Reorganisation Act, 1971 which upgraded the Union Territories of Manipur and Tripura, and the Sub-State of Meghalaya to full statehood, and Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh (then Tribal Districts) to Union Territories. The latter became states in 1986. Goa (based on Konkani language (8th Schedule)), which became a state in 1987, was the sole exception.

During 1990s - demand for Chhattisgarh out of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand out of Bihar and Uttaranchal out of Uttar Pradesh. Regional backward ness was the reason. In 2000 all three states were carved out of parent state.

Most recent - the division of Andhra Pradesh, giving a separate state of Telangana in 2014.

Causes of regionalism in India are as follows:

(i) Geographical Factor: The territorial orientation based on geographical boundaries relate to the inhabitants of a particular region which are symbolic, at least in the Indian context. This is more so because of the linguistic distribution along geographical boundaries. The topographic and climatic variations along with differences in the settlement pattern induce in people the concept of regionalism.

(ii) Historical and Cultural Factors: In the Indian scenario the historical or cultural factors may be considered the prime components of the phenomenon of regionalism. The historical and cultural components interpret regionalism by way of cultural heritage, folklore, myths, symbolism and historical traditions. People of a particular cultural group also derive inspirations from the noble deeds and glorious achievements of the local heroes. Nevertheless there are sudden political and economic realities which can be covered under the gamut of historical and cultural factors.

(iii) Caste and Region: Caste system and religion in Indian society play only a marginal roll in causing regionalism. Only when caste is combined with linguistic preponderance or religion it may cause regional feeling. In the like manner religion is not so significant except when it is combined with linguistic homogeneity or based on dogmatism and orthodoxy or linked with economic deprivation. However, regionalism is usually a secular phenomenon in a relative sense and it can cross-cut the caste affiliation or religious loyalties.

(iv) Economic Factors: In the present times, uneven developments in different parts of the country may be construed as the prime reason for regionalism and separatism. There are certain regions in the country where industries and factories have been concentrated, educational and health facilities are sufficiently provided, communication network has been developed, rapid agricultural development has been made possible. But there are also certain areas where the worth of independence is yet to be realized in terms of socio-economic development.

(v) Political-Administrative Factors: Political parties, especially the regional political parties as well as local leaders exploit the regional sentiments, regional deprivation and convert them to solidify their factional support bases. They give place to the regional problems in their election manifesto and promise for political and regional development.

(vi) <u>Scarcity of resources:</u> Due to scarcity of resources which is shared by two or more regions often the competition is fuelled by regional aspirations. Example Cauvery water dispute

Pros of regionalism

- Preservation of distinct identity of the region. Hence preserves the rich diversity e of India

- Example Naga movement was to preserve the distinct identity of their proposed Nagalim.

- Economic development of backward regions.

- Example demand for vidharba in Maharashtra solely to deal with Economic distance present in the region

- It boosts Federal character of the nation

- Example rise of regional party and collision government at centre pushes for more state autonomy

- Example - state reorganisation Act 1956 was proposed at earliest even though the centre had apprehension about it and prevented our country E from getting divided just after independence.

Cons of regionalism

- Regionalism puts the regional priority above the national priority. Therefore it may impair the national development.

- It breeds hatred among the region. Example violence against Bihari workers in North East by ULFA

- It impacts the integrity of nation . Over motivated regionalism sometime turns into secessionist movement. example Khalistan movement.

- Violence is a very common character of regionalism. To protect regional identity people may take violent means. Example Naellie massacre during Assam movement.

- It discourages the cultural exchange and often breeds intolerance towards other region.

- Example branding of Bihari and UP people as Bhaiyas in Maharashtra and generalising Bihari as uncivilized.

- It discourages migration. Due to hostility towards people from other region workers reference from moving out and settling there

- It impact ease of doing business. Due to regional aspiration local people pass difficulties for private investors to hire freely as per their own requirement private companies are often forced to reserve job and contract only for local people son of the soil

- It also impact International relationship example West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is obstructing Teesta deal between India and Bangladesh only to quench her regional thirst.

Constitutional provisions regarding regionalism

- Fundamental right to preserve culture under article 29 and 30

- Freedom of speech and expression to express regional priorities and criticize government if a region is being neglected

- Fifth and sixth schedule to preserve tribal identity

- DPSP article 38 to deal with inequality in income status and opportunity among individuals and regions

- Schedule 7 division of power between centre and state to give more regional autonomy through state

- Eighth schedule recognised different regional languages in constitution of India

- Article 79 and 80 provision of Rajyasabha as Council of States

- Article 368 amendment procedure for having ratification by half of the States if amendment is affecting federalism

Other action by the government

Implementation of industrial policy of 1956, constitution of National Integration Council, Niti Aayog, Assam Accord, Bodo Accord, Naga Accord, enactment of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Pradhan Mantri gram Sadak Yojana, mid day meal, nationalisation of bank, establishment of NABARD, priority sector lending norms, regional councils and Jammu and Kashmir reorganisation bill are some of the majors which promotes healthy use of regionalism.

Provisions to deal with excessive regionalism

- Preamble - promotion of unity and integrity of nation

- Article 19 (2) under reasonable restriction of fundamental right one of the restriction is to preserve unity and integrity

- Fundamental duties article 51 A (c) - duty of every citizen to uphold the unity and integrity of India

- Emergency provisions - Article 356 presidential rule; Article 352 against war, external aggression and armed rebellion.

Conclusion

Hence regionalism can be regarded as double edged sword. If not what use properly it can disintegrate the nation and can cause chaotic situation. If used properly it can help bringing down regional inequalities and can strengthen unity in diversity

Salient features of world's physical geography.

What do understand by Atlantic Meridional Overturning Current? Explain in detail its relations with warming up of Indian Ocean.
Indianexpress
Why this question:
Since the past 15 years, Atlantic Meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) has been weakening —
a development that could have dramatic consequences for Europe and other parts of the Atlantic rim.

Warming up of Indian Ocean is said to be a key driver behind this. Thus it is important from exam point of view for us to examine the concept in detail.
Key demand of the question:
The question is straightforward; one must explain the concept of Atlantic Meridional Overturning Current in detail and its linkages with warming of Indian Ocean.
Directive:
Explain – Clarify the topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurred, or what is the particular context. You must be defining key terms where ever appropriate, and substantiate with relevant associated facts.
Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
In brief define AMOC.
Body:
First explain what the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation is.
Then discuss the concept in detail, use facts from the article and detail upon how it affects the Indian Ocean and vice-versa.
Conclusion:
Conclude with significance of understanding such phenomena's for their applications in understanding changing whether patterns.

Since the past 15 years, **Atlantic Meridional overturning circulation (AMOC)** has been weakening; a development that could have dramatic consequences for Europe and other parts of the Atlantic rim. Along with which **Warming up of Indian Ocean** is said to be a key driver.

How Atlantic Meridional Overturning Current affects?

Warming in the Indian Ocean generates additional precipitation, which, in turn, draws more air from other parts of the world, including the Atlantic. The higher level of precipitation in the Indian Ocean will reduce precipitation in the Atlantic and increase salinity in the waters.

What is the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation?

- Atlantic Meridional overturning circulation (AMOC) — which is sometimes referred to as the "Atlantic conveyor belt" — is one of the Earth's largest water circulation systems where ocean currents move warm, salty water from the tropics to regions further north, such as western Europe and sends colder water south.

- As warm water flows northwards in the Atlantic, it cools, while evaporation increases its salt content.

- Low temperature and high salt content increases the density of the water, causing it to sink deep into the ocean.

- The cold, dense water deep below slowly spreads southward.

- Eventually, it gets pulled back to the surface and warms again, and the circulation is complete.

- This continual mixing of the oceans and the distribution of heat and energy around the planet contributes to the global climate.

- Atlantic Meridional Overturning Current (AMOC) ensures the oceans are continually mixed, and heat and energy are distributed around Earth.

How does the AMOC work?

- The AMOC is a large system of ocean currents, like a conveyor belt, driven by differences in temperature and salt content – the water's density.

- As warm water flows northwards it cools and some evaporation occurs, which increases the amount of salt. Low temperature and a high salt content make the water denser, and this dense water sinks deep into the ocean.

- The cold, dense water slowly spreads southwards, several kilometres below the surface. Eventually, it gets pulled back to the surface and warms in a process called "upwelling" and the circulation is complete.

Link between Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) and the Indian Ocean:

- For thousands of years, Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) has remained stable but in the last 15 years, signs show that AMOC may be slowing, which could have drastic consequences on the global climate.

- However, the rising temperatures in the Indian Ocean can help to boost the AMOC and delay slow down.

- Warming in the Indian Ocean generates additional precipitation, which, in turn, draws more air from other parts of the world, including the Atlantic.

- With so much precipitation in the Indian Ocean, there will be less precipitation in the Atlantic Ocean.

- Lesser precipitation leads to higher salinity in the waters of the tropical portion of the Atlantic — because there won't be as much rainwater to dilute it.

- This saltier water in the Atlantic, as it comes north via AMOC, will get cold much quicker than usual and sink faster.

- The above process would act as a jump start for AMOC, intensifying the circulation.

- But if other tropical ocean's warming, especially the Pacific's, catches up with the Indian Ocean, the advantage of intensification for AMOC may stop.

- Moreover, it isn't clear whether the slowdown of AMOC is caused by global warming alone or it is a short-term anomaly related to natural ocean variability.

- Slowdown of AMOC had taken place 15,000 to 17,000 years ago which caused harsh winters in Europe, with more storms or a drier Sahel in Africa due to the downward shift of the tropical rain belt.

Alternating oceanic system patterns like ENSO also affects rainfall distribution in the tropics and can have a strong influence on weather in other parts of the world.

Do you agree that Linguistic policy should not be driven by a politics of identity? Critically analyse.

Indianexpress
Why this question:

The article discusses about how the major problem that saddles any discussion on linguistic policy in India; looking at language only as a marker of identity.

Key demand of the question:
One has to present arguments for and against the language always being looked upon in the country as a marker of identity.

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 judgment.*

Structure of the answer:
Introduction:
In brief define the context, why the whole thing is in news.
Body:
Explain the significance of language in general.
Discuss why a country should have a common language? What should be the criteria? What is the scenario in India?
Explain why language is often linked with identity politics. Elucidate on that.
Conclusion:
Conclude with what can be the possible solution to such a problem.

Every day some languages are dying out, others are spreading its influence around. To believe that it's a natural development of a language is absurd because the decision on a language destiny (to develop or go extinct) is determined by the political, economic and social conjunctions of an area.

Language politics is the way language and linguistic differences between peoples are dealt with in the political arena. This could manifest as government recognition, as well as how language is treated in official capacities. Some example - Legal status of a language; Hindi as an official language of the country, state, or other jurisdiction. This generally means that all official documents affecting our country or region are published in the official language(s), but not in those that are not. Evidence in a court of law may also be expected to be presented in an official language.

Throughout the world, language is a major market of human identity – so much so that in places such as Europe, nations and language communities – such as the French, Germans and Poles – are seen as synonymous. While not as salient in India, here too, language has played a major part in the country's politics.

Colonial era

The first language controversy in the subcontinent emerged in Uttar Pradesh in the 19th century as a section of Hindus sought to replace Urdu – till then the language of administration along with English – with Hindi. As part of this politics, "Urdu and Hindi became proxies for Muslim and Hindu – political mobilisation,"

Power dissemination in the society is usually enabled through social stratification and accumulation of power reinforces further social differentiation. Do you agree? Comment.

Indian Society NCERT class 11 and 12
Why this question:

The question is based on the negative side of social stratification prevalent in the country even today and its relations with power distribution.
Key demand of the question:
One must discuss in detail the effect of power distribution on social stratification and in what way it ultimately leads to social differentiation.
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:
Define what you understand by social stratification.
Body:
Explain that Social stratification is a particular form of social inequality. All societies arrange their members in terms of superiority, inferiority and equality. Stratification is a process of interaction or differentiation whereby some people come to rank higher than others.
Explain the factors of social stratification.
Give examples suggesting role of power distribution and its influence over social segregation.
Conclusion:
Conclude with solutions to overcome the challenge.

Sociologists use the term **social stratification** to describe the system of social standing. Social stratification refers to a society's categorization of its people into rankings of socioeconomic tiers based on factors like wealth, income, race, education, and power.

Stratification is not about individual inequalities, but about **systematic inequalities** based on group membership, classes, and the like. No individual, rich or poor, can be blamed for social inequalities. The structure of society affects a person's social standing. Although individuals may support or fight inequalities, social stratification is created and supported by society as a whole.

What factors define stratification?

- In most societies, *stratification is an economic system*, based on wealth, the net value of money and assets a person has, and income, a person's wages or investment dividends. While people are regularly categorized based on how rich or poor they are.

- Other important factors influence social standing. For example, in some cultures, wisdom and charisma are valued, and people who have them are revered more than those who don't. In some cultures, the elderly are esteemed; in others, the elderly are disparaged or overlooked. Societies' cultural beliefs often reinforce the inequalities of stratification.

- Other determinants are found in a society's occupational structure. Teachers, for example, often have high levels of education but receive relatively low pay. Many believe that teaching is a noble profession, so teachers should do their jobs for love of their profession and the good of their students—not for money.

- **Power distribution is strongly related to social stratification**. It is a phenomenon that separates and distinguishes individuals on certain basis such as occupation, wealth, status in society etc. on this basis the society on its own judge and treat people accordingly.

Social stratification classifies the society into different classes under the three parameters - i.e. property (wealth), power (influence) and prestige (status). These 3P's are the deciding factor on how

an individual will get treated in society. For ex- a professor earning less than a plumber will be treated with more respect because the nature of their work.it will naturally honor them with more prestige by the society.

Social stratification leads to social differentiation because-

- It brings an atmosphere of negativity in the society where the powerful is treated with all prestige and the powerless with no respect.

- It is correct that a person get access to certain status on basis of their hard work so they deserve that prestige but, in some cases, it builds a feeling of greed, ego which further leads to violence in society and inequal treatment of people by them.
  The basic moral values and principles are undermined by individual once they get access to 3P's.

- The powerful in some cases misuse their position to hurt the inferior person which creates a very negative impact on society where no people dare to speak against the powerful.

- The power of law also becomes nil in such cases and it lowers the dignity of an individual.

Hence it is true that an individual in society who get access to the 3P's get utmost power and prestige but they are also embedded with the truthful responsibility of treating other people with humility, generosity and grounded behavior.

Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.

As an issue, land degradation of land is much more complex than it appears. Explain in context of its relationship with climate change.

Reference
Why this question:
Land degradation is happening at an alarming pace and is affecting regions inhabited by over one-third of the global population. This phenomenon contributes to a dramatic decline in the productivity of croplands and rangelands worldwide. Thus it is important from exam point of view to analyse the concept in detail.
Key demand of the question:
One has to discuss the issue of land degradation, in what way it is a complex process and what are its relations with climate change.
Directive:
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:
First define what you understand by land degradation.
Body:
One has to emphasize on the fact that Land is both an issue and a solution to global warming and the fact is that the relationship between land and climate change is becoming increasingly complex. Explain in detail the land-climate link. Quote data and reports to justify your stand. Discuss the complexities and challenges and suggest solutions to the same.
Conclusion:
Conclude with way forward.

Recently, **India has hosted** the meeting of **the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.** A major global agreement on issues related to land, the convention **(UNCCD) seeks to address the phenomenon of desertification**, the process through which fertile and productive land become degraded and unfit for useful activities like agriculture. The UNCCD meeting **takes place every two years** and the ongoing one in Greater Noida is the 14th such meeting.

More about desertification-

- A variety of **factors, both natural and human-induced**, are known to be affecting the productivity of land, and making them desert-like.

- **Increasing populations and the resultant rise in demand for food and water, feed for cattle**, and a wide variety of ecosystem services these offer, have prompted **human beings to clear forests, use chemicals, cultivate multiple crops, and over-exploit groundwater**.

- This has **affected** both the **health and productivity of land**.

- Natural processes such as **rising global temperatures increase the frequency and intensity of droughts**, and changing weather patterns have put further pressure on the land.

- A recent **report by the International Resources Panel**, a scientific body hosted by the UN Environment Programme, said that about **25 per cent of world's land area has been degraded.**

- Another **report**, by the **Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**, said that **nearly 40 per cent of world's population was being impacted negatively because of land degradation.**

- Desertification has **implications for food and water security, livelihoods, migration, conflicts and even international security**.

- **Changes in food habits and international trade have altered cropping patterns** in many areas. **Large-scale migration to urban centres** and industrial hubs has seen a heavy concentration of populations in small areas, **putting unsustainable pressure on land and water resources.**

What is the Convention to Combat Desertification?

- **The UNCCD is one of three Conventions that have come out of the historic 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro**.

- **The Rio summit** gave rise to **the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** under which countries have agreed to restrict the emissions of greenhouse gases, first through the Kyoto Protocol of 1997 and now through the Paris Agreement that was finalised in 2015 and becomes operational next year.

- It also gave rise to **the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)** which too has delivered an international arrangement to protect and use biodiversity.

- The **UNCCD has not yet resulted in any international treaty** or protocol to fight desertification.

What is the relationship between land degradation and climate change?

- Land has always been an important conversation in the climate change debate. That is because **land affects, and is affected by, climate change.**

- **Forests, trees and vegetation cover are important sinks of carbon dioxide**. **Land degradation, therefore, reduces the amount of carbon dioxide that is absorbed**, and consequently leads to a rise in emissions.

- At the same time, **agriculture and activities such as cattle rearing contribute to emissions and are a major source of methane** which is a much stronger greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

- Restoration of degraded land can, therefore, have major co-benefits for climate change objectives.

Way ahead-

During the conference, **India announced that it would restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.**

Working on a recent mandate of the CCD, countries are making efforts towards achieving what is called **Land Degradation Neutrality, or LDN,** within their territories, and trying to ensure that the amount and quality of land necessary to support ecosystem services and strengthen food security remains stable or increases within time periods targeted by them.

Geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Briefly discuss various factors that control the formation of soil. Explain with suitable example.

Geography by Majid Hussain
Why this question:
The topic is from the static portions of GS paper I .
Key demand of the question:
Explain the various factors responsible in the formation of soils with suitable examples.
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.*
***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:
Define soils in brief and their significance.
Body:
Explain the process of soil formation in detail –
The soil is one of the important components of the sustainability of an ecosystem because it is the vitally important natural medium for the growth of vegetation. The soil is one of the important components of the sustainability of an ecosystem because it is the vitally important natural medium for the growth of vegetation.
Explain each factor in detail.

Conclusion:
Conclude with importance of soil in the ecosystem.
Soil is a relatively thin layer of unconsolidated mineral and organic material on the immediate surface of the earth. Soil is a mixture of organic matter, minerals, gases, liquids, and organisms that together support life. Earth's body of soil, called the Pedosphere. Fertile soil contains approximately 25% of both air and water, about 5% organic matter and about 45% mineral matter.

Soil formation process (paedogenesis)

In general, soil formation starts with rocks that are pushed to the surface of the earth by geological or climactic forces. These rocks then undergo **weathering** - the chemical alteration and physical breakdown of rock during exposure to the atmosphere, hydrosphere, and biosphere. Through the weathering process, eventually enough essential elements become available to support lichens and other lower forms of plant life. As continuing generations of lichens grow, die, and decay, they leave increasing amounts of organic matter. Naturally-occurring organic acids further hasten decay of the rock. An increasing build-up of organic matter and formation of fine rock fragments result in more water retention in the soil and more water available for use by larger numbers of plants and animals.

Five soil forming factors

Active factors:

Which represent agents that supply energy that act upon the mass for process of soil formation? They are climate and biosphere.

Passive factors:

Which represent the source of the soil-forming mass and conditions affecting it. They are parent material, relief, and time.

1. Climate:

Climate influences soil formation largely through precipitation and temperature.

(a) precipitation or rainfall:

Water percolates and moves from one part of parent material to another it carries with it substance in solution as well as in suspension. Rainfall also affects profile development through erosion, producing these soils on slopes and deposition of soil material downhill. In general, with increasing moisture, nitrogen and carbon content, clay content, aggregation, saturation capacity and exchangeable hydrogen tend to increase. On the other hand, exchangeable bases and ph values show a decrease with increasing moisture. The depth of the calcium carbonate horizon in pedocal (lime accumulating) soils increases with increasing moisture.

(b) temperature:

It influences the organic matter decomposition and microbiological activities in the soil. In general, with increasing temperature, the depth of weathering and clay content show an increase. Under tropical and sub-tropical conditions, with high rainfall highly leached soils have developed such as laterite soils. Tropical – soils, especially those developed from igneous and metamorphic rocks, have bright yellow or dark red colours because of intense hydration and oxidation respectively, during their weathering.

2. Organism

(a) flora**:**

It exerts main influence on soil formation through the amount and nature of organic matter it adds to the soil. Vegetation also aids in the control of erosion. They facilitate percolation and drainage and bring about a greater dissolution of minerals through the action of carbon dioxide and other acidic substances.

(b) fauna**:**

Burrowing animals, rodents, earthworms, ants etc., are highly important in soil formation. Burrowing animals cause constant mixing within the soil profile. The role of microorganisms as soil formers is intimately related to humification and mineralizations.

3. Relief (topography)

Relief influences soil formation primarily as a factor affecting erosion and as a modifier of climate and water-air relationship in the soil. Topography largely determines the drainage condition and the ground water level in the soil. With the same kind of climate and parent material, soils that have developed on steep hill sides are thinner. This is because the surface erodes quite rapidly and less water moves downward within the profile. Soil materials on gently sloping topography have more water passing through them and the profile is generally deeper, the vegetation more luxuriant and the organic matter level higher, than in soils on steep topography

4. Parent material:

Parent material refers to the primary material from which the soil is formed. The type of soil that forms depends on the type of rocks available, the minerals in rocks, and how minerals react to temperature, pressure, and erosive forces. Soil parent material could be bedrock, organic material, an old soil surface, or a deposit from water, wind, glaciers, volcanoes, or material moving down a slope.

5. Time:

The length of time required for a soil to develop horizons depends upon many interrelated factors, such as climate, nature of the parent material, burrowing animals and relief. Certain soils are termed mature or immature which give some idea of the time factor.

To achieve the land degradation neutrality (LDN) goal by 2030, India needs a total overhaul of its policies and programmes governing land. Discuss and suggest what needs to be done to achieve the goal at the earliest?

Financialexpress
Why this question:
India recently hosted the Conference of Parties (COP14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and announced a voluntary target to achieve land degradation neutrality by 2030.Thus it is important from the exam point of view to evaluate the conditions to achieve LDN in India.
Key demand of the question:
The discussion should spell out the changes required in the approach of Indian policy regime and programmes so as to achieve the LDN goal by 2030.
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:
First explain what you understand by LDN.
Body:
Explain the concept of LDN – A state whereby the amount and quality of land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security, remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems.
Then discuss what the key elements that require change are.
What changes are required in terms of policies and programme to address the challenges?
Suggest solutions.
Conclusion:
Conclude with way forward.

Land, water and agriculture are all State subjects; forest is a Concurrent subject. However, land degradation assumes national importance because of its overwhelming impact on the economy and the well-being of all the citizens. India faces a severe problem of land degradation, or soil becoming unfit for cultivation. About 29% or about 96.4 million hectares are considered degraded.

Land Degradation Neutrality as a concept:

- Land degradation neutrality (LDN) is a condition where further land degradation (loss of productivity caused by environmental or human factors) is prevented and already degraded land can be restored.

- LDN has been defined by the Parties to the Convention as:

- "A state whereby the amount and quality of land resources, necessary to support ecosystem functions and services and enhance food security, remains stable or increases within specified temporal and spatial scales and ecosystems."

What are the Benefits of LDN?

- As land is fixed in quantity, there is ever-increasing competition to control land resources and capitalize on the flows of goods and services from the land.

- LDN represents a paradigm shift in land management policies and practices.

- It is a unique approach that counterbalances the expected loss of productive land with the recovery of degraded areas.

- This has the potential to cause social and political instability, fueling poverty, conflict and migration.

How can LDN be Implemented?

- The implementation of LDN requires multi-stakeholder engagement and planning across scales and sectors, supported by national-scale coordination that utilizes existing local and regional governance structures.

- UNCCD and the UN Environment Programme (UN Environment) came together to mark the United Nations General Assembly adoption of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

- To date, over 120 countries have engaged with the LDN Target Setting Programme and considerable progress has been made since the 2030 Agenda was adopted in 2015.

India's initiatives in this direction:

- Recently, India became part of the "Bonn Challenge", a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.

- India's pledge is one of the largest in Asia.

- Schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme, Soil Health Management Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana are seen as prongs to tackle this land degradation.

- India for the first time hoisted the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) from September 2 to 13.

Way ahead:

The new UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework is the most comprehensive global commitment to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) in order to restore the productivity of vast expanses of degraded land, improve the livelihoods of more than 1.3 billion people, and reduce the impacts of drought on vulnerable populations to build.

By sustainably managing land and striving to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality, now and in the future, not only will the impact of climate change be reduced, but a conflict over natural resources will be avoided.