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SECURE SYNOPSIS

MAINS 2019

GS- II

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.

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Indian Constitution- historical underpinnings, evolution, features, amendments, significant provisions and basic structure.

To what extent can it be said the constituent assembly was a one party body? Critically Examine.

Indian Polity by Lakshmi Kant

Why this question:

The question is from the static portions of the GS paper II.

Key demand of the question:

Answer must show the composition of constituent assembly, key positions held by prominent members in the committees and Their representation from different political parties.

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:

Provide brief about constituent assembly. Provide by which plan it came in into existence. What was strength before and after partition?

Body:

Write composition of constituent assembly provide facts about representation of different parties.

Quote statements of different political leaders and scholars eg Winston Churchill commented that the Constituent Assembly represented ‘only one major community in India’.

Granville Austin, a British Constitutional expert, remarked: ‘The Constituent Assembly was a one-party body in an essentially one-party country. The Assembly was the Congress and the Congress was India.

Then in next paragraph defend this view by writing there was representation outside of Congress to give examples of Ambedkar, Gopalaswami Ayyangar.

Write decision taken were consensus based and not majority based.

Conclusion:

Conclude with your fair and balanced opinion.

Constituent assembly was the elected body constituted under the British rule to draft the constitution for independent India. It was the official demand of Congress since 1935. The members to the constituent assembly was indirectly elected by the members of newly elected provincial assembly. Total membership of constituent assembly was 389 initially out of which 92 were representative of princely states and 208 were from Congress Party. The membership reduced to 299 after partition

Constituent assembly as single party body

- The provincial assembly which elected the members of constituent assembly was majorly from Congress. In 1946 provincial election Congress was in majority in all provinces except in Bengal Sindh and Punjab
- The Congress Party has huge majority in constituent assembly it had 208 members out of 389 initially



- According to the Winston Churchill "constituent assembly represent only one major community of India" as Congress was in majority and it was considered as representative of Hindus only
- Muslim League tried to showcase itself as a sole representative of Muslims
- Muslim League also boycotted constituent assembly citing Nehru's statement of July 10th as an indicator of majoritarian agenda of Congress.
- According to Granville Austin a British constitutional expert "constituent assembly was one party body in an essentially one party country. Assembly was the Congress and the Congress was India".
- Major committee of constituent assembly was headed by Congress members. Example
- Union power committee, Union constitution committee and State Committee were headed by Jawaharlal Nehru
- Provincial constitution committee and Advisory Committee on fundamental rights minority tribal and excluded area was headed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- Rules and procedure committee and Steering committee was headed by Dr Rajendra Prasad

Therefore it seems that constituent assembly was to a large extent a single party body

Role of people from outside the congress

- But there were other prominent members like Bhimrao Ambedkar and Gopal Swami Ayyangar who were not from Congress.
- The most important of all committee was headed by Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar the sole responsibility to draft the constitution was on him.
- Also decision taken in constituent assembly was consensus based not majority based.

Conclusion

Since most of the mass movements realised under the leadership of Congress it was obvious that Congress was very popular throughout nation for its role in gaining. Therefore people trusted Congress majorly the job of drafting the constitution for future India. Even if a single party controlled the majority in constituent assembly but the views of minority was never been neglected which is quite evident in our constitution

Distinguish between judicial review and judicial activism in India. In your opinion do you think it is ever possible for the Indian judiciary to partake more of judicial activism?

Insightsonindia

Why this question:

Judicial Review, Judicial Activism and Judicial Overreach are terms which come often in news. The question intends to differentiate between judicial review and judicial activism in India.

Key demand of the question:

One has to distinguish between judicial review and judicial activism in India and explain with justifications if it is possible for the Indian judiciary to partake more of judicial activism.

Directive:



Distinguish – provide for a detailed comparison of the two types, their features that are similar as well as different. One must provide for detailed assessment of the two.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Define the terms – judicial activism, judicial overreach in short.

Body:

Explain that though legislature has the power to make laws, this power is not absolute. Judicial Review is the process by which the Judiciary reviews the validity of laws passed by the legislature. Judicial activism denotes a more active role taken by Judiciary to dispense social justice.

Compare and contrast the two features of Judiciary and express a fair and balanced opinion.

Conclusion:

Conclude with suitable examples and justify as to what should be ideally done.

Judicial Review refers to the power of judiciary to review and determine the validity of a law or an order. On the other hand, Judicial Activism refers to the use of judicial power to articulate and enforce what is beneficial for the society in general and people at large or judicial activism means the power of the Supreme Court and the high court but not the sub-ordinate courts to declare the laws as unconstitutional and void.

Judicial Review:

- India has an independent judiciary with extensive jurisdiction over the acts of legislature and executive. Judicial review can be defined as the doctrine under which legislative and executive actions are subject to review by judiciary. It is generally considered as a basic structure of independent judiciary (Indira Gandhi vs. Rajnaraain case).
- However, judicial review can be classified into three categories-reviews of legislative actions, review of judicial decisions, and review of administrative action. Therefore, it is also the duty of judges to ensure that balance of power is maintained, protect human rights, fundamental rights and citizens' rights of life and liberty.
- Judicial review of legislative actions means the power to ensure that the law passed by legislature is in accordance with provisions contained in the constitution and in particular part 3 of constitution (principle of reading down). In case of judicial review of decisions, for instance, when a statute is challenged on the ground that it has been passed by legislature without authority or rights, it is for the courts to decide whether the law passed by legislature is valid or not. Also no legislature in our country has the power to ask instrumentalities of the state to disobey or disregard the decision given by the courts.
- Judicial review of administrative action is a mechanism of enforcing constitutional discipline over administrative agencies while exercising their powers. Judicial review of judicial actions can be visualized in Golaknath case, banks nationalization case, privy purses abolition case, Minerva mills etc.
- As courts have wide powers of judicial review, these powers have to be exercised with great caution and control. The limitations of these powers are:
- It is only permissible to the extent of finding whether the procedure in reaching the decision has been correctly followed but not the decision itself.



- It is delegated to our superior courts only i.e. supreme court and high court Cannot interfere in policy matters and political questions unless absolutely necessary.
- Law once passed may become unconstitutional with passage of the same with changed situation, this may create vacuum in legal system. Hence it can be said that directions given by court would be binding only till legislation is enacted i.e. it is temporary in nature.
- Can interpret and invalidate a law but it cannot itself make laws.
- However, there are also cases in India when executive has ordered judiciary to review policies. For example, in ministry of health vs. treatment action campaign, the government itself gave direction to review its policy regarding distribution of antiretroviral drugs and plan an effective and comprehensive national program to prevent mother to child transmission of HIV.

Judicial Activism

- It can be defined as a philosophy of judicial decision making where by judges allow their personal views regarding a public policy instead of constitutionalism. Some cases of activism in India are:
- Golaknath case in which Supreme Court declared that fundamental rights enshrined in part 3 are immutable and cannot be amendable
- Kesavananda Bharti where by SC introduced doctrine of basic structure i.e. Parliament has power to amend without altering basic structure of constitution.
- SC has assumed a supervisory role in CBI investigation of 2 G scam, in invoking terror laws against Hasan Ali Khan. Moreover, the concept of Judicial Activism also faced certain criticisms. Firstly, it is often said that in the name of activism, judiciary often rewrites with personal opinions. Secondly, the theory of separation of powers is overthrown. However, its importance lies with position accorded to institution as a place of hope for aggrieved persons.
- There is only a thin line of separation between review and activism. While judicial review means to decide if the law / act
- are consistent with the constitution. On the other hand judicial activism is more of a behavioral concept of the judge concerned. It is majorly based on public interest, speedy disposal of cases etc.
- With the power of judicial review, the courts act as a custodian of the fundamental rights. Thus, the power of judicial review is recognized as the part of the basic constitution of India. The activist role of the judiciary is implicit in the said power.

Conclusion:

With the growing functions of the modern state judicial intervention in the process of making administrative decisions and executive them has also increased. In addition, judicial activism keeping in view the ideals of democracy is in fact necessary to ensure that unheard voices are not buried by more influential and vocal voices.



Do you think declaring access to the Internet as a citizen's right is a defensible proposition? Critically examine the statement in the light of recent judgment passed by high court of Kerala stating right to access internet is a fundamental right forming part of right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

Reference

Why this question:

In a landmark judgment, the High Court of Kerala on Thursday declared that right to access internet is a fundamental right forming part of right to privacy under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. Thus it is important to analyse the right to access to internet.

Key demand of the question:

One has to debate whether access to the Internet as a citizen's right is a defensible proposition or not with suitable justifications.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief explain that The right to Internet access, is the view that all people must be able to access the Internet in order to exercise and enjoy their rights to freedom of expression and opinion and other fundamental human rights, that states have a responsibility to ensure that Internet access is broadly available, and that states may not unreasonably restrict an individual's access to the Internet.

Body:

Explain in detail how right to Internet access is closely linked to the right of freedom of speech which can be seen to encompass freedom of expression as well.

Discuss the advantages and critiques to the proposition.

Explain how one should go about it.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Recently, the Kerala High Court upheld the right to have access to the internet as a part of the fundamental right to education along with the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

Observations by the Court:

- The Court observed that the internet acts as a learning tool and nobody can impose restrictions on it, citing discipline.
- The petitioner argued that the restriction on the use of internet amounted to a violation of the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.
- The Kerala HC in response cited the Supreme Court judgment in the S. Rengarajan and others v/s P. Jagjivan Ram case (1989) that the fundamental freedom under Article 19(1)(a) can be reasonably restricted only for the purposes mentioned in the Article 19(2).



- The restrictions under it must be justified on the anvil of necessity and not the quicksand of convenience or expediency.
- It is noteworthy that the Human Rights Council of the United Nations also regards the Right of access to the Internet as a fundamental freedom and a tool to ensure the right to education.

What is Digital Inequality in this context?

- In recent times, several government and private sector services have become digital. Some of them are only available online. This leads digital inequality.
- Digital inequality is the disparities in using digital and information technology among individuals due to information poverty, lack of infrastructure, and lack of digital literacy.
- In 2016, digital literacy in India was less than 10%.

However, in the absence of Internet access and digital literacy enabling that access, there will be further exclusion of large parts of the population, exacerbating the already existing digital divide.

Need for Access to Digital technologies:

- Without providing adequate internet access and digital literacy, digital governance and online service delivery has no value.
- For instance, Common Service Centres, which operate in rural and remote locations, are physical facilities which help in delivering digital government services and informing communities about government initiatives.
- While the government may be saving resources by moving services online, it also has to spend resources since a lot of citizens cannot access these services.
- Digital skills have been recognised as UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), where one of the monitoring indicators calls on countries to track digital literacy skills.
- Moreover, a recent report by the Digital Empowerment Foundation indicates that 30% of Indian population lags on basic literacy and thrice that for digital literacy.
- The government launched Digital India in 2015. However, its challenges include delayed infrastructure development, bandwidth availability, personal computer penetration and the capacity to scale.

Conclusion:

India is moving to a global economy, transforming the way in which people work, consume information, and entertain themselves. In this context, unequal access to the Internet creates and reproduces socio-economic exclusions. Hence, it is important to recognise the right to Internet access and digital literacy and allow citizens increased access to information, services, and the creation of better livelihood opportunities.

Explain the concept of 'office of profit'. Discuss the underlying principle for including 'office of profit' as criterion for disqualification.

Economictimes

Why this question:



In a recent move, The Centre is considering a constitutional amendment to define the term ‘office of profit’ and the exempted categories. The draft amendment proposes to exempt advisors appointed by the Centre or states and those appointed to discharge legislative functions such as leader of opposition, chief whips, etc. from disqualification related to the ‘office of profit’.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must explain the concept of office of profit in detail and how it leads to disqualification in certain specific cases.

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 what an office of profit is.

Body:

Explain what the issue concerning office of profit, why MPs and MLAs should not hold office of profit. Discuss what are the changes suggested in the draft bill aiming at the constitutional amendment. – The draft bill proposes to bring in clear definitions with amendments to sub-clause 1(a) of Article 102 which deals with disqualification.

Conclusion:

Conclude with the significance associated with such changes in the definition and ambit of the concept.

‘office of profit’:

- The term is used in Article 102 (1)(A) of the Indian Constitution which bars a member of the Indian Parliament from holding an office that would give its occupant the opportunity to gain a financial advantage or benefit.
- It refers to a post under central/state government which yields salaries, perks and other benefits.
- The actual amount of profit gained during the violation has no bearing on its classification.
- The word ‘office’ has not been defined in the Constitution or the Representation of the People Act of 1951.
- But different courts have interpreted it to mean a position with certain duties that are more or less of public character.
- The essence of disqualification under the office of profit law is if legislators hold an ‘office of profit’ under the government, they might be susceptible to government influence, and may not discharge their constitutional mandate fairly.
- The intent is that there should be no conflict between the duties and interests of an elected member.

What are the basic criteria to disqualify an MP or MLA?

Basic disqualification criteria for an MP are laid down in Article 102 of the Constitution, and for an MLA in Article 191. They can be disqualified for: a) Holding an office of profit under government of



India or state government; b) Being of unsound mind; c) Being an undischarged insolvent; d) Not being an Indian citizen or for acquiring citizenship of another country.

How do courts or EC decide whether an MP or MLA has profited from an office?

The Supreme Court, while upholding the disqualification of Jaya Bachchan from Rajya Sabha in 2006, had said, "For deciding the question as to whether one is holding an office of profit or not, what is relevant is whether the office is capable of yielding a profit or pecuniary gain and not whether the person actually obtained a monetary gain... If the office carries with it, or entitles the holder to, any pecuniary gain other than reimbursement of out of pocket/actual expenses, then the office will be an office of profit for the purpose of Article 102 (1)(a)..." However, a person who acquires a contract or licence from a government to perform functions, which the government would have itself discharged, will not be held guilty of holding an office of profit. So, acquiring a gas agency from the government or holding a permit to ply do not amount to holding office of profit.

What is the underlying principle for including 'office of profit' as criterion for disqualification?

Makers of the Constitution wanted that legislators should not feel obligated to the Executive in any way, which could influence them while discharging legislative functions. In other words, an MP or MLA should be free to carry out her duties without any kind of governmental pressure.

recent instances of disqualification of legislators for holding office of profit:

In March 2006, President APJ Abdul Kalam disqualified Jaya Bachchan of the SP from Rajya Sabha with retrospective effect from July 14, 2004, for holding an office of profit as chairperson of the UP Film Development Council. In January 2015, UP MLAs Bajrang Bahadur Singh (BJP) and Uma Shankar Singh (BSP) were disqualified from the assembly after they were indicted by the Lokayukta for bagging government construction contracts by misusing their position.

To what extent the sixth schedule of the constitution has been successful in appeasing the demands of people of North Eastern states. Critically examine.

The hindu

Why this question:

A sub-committee constituted by the Meghalaya government has decided to recommend to the Standing Committee of Parliament the removal of the word "unrepresented tribes" from the proposed amendment of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Key demand of the question:

Explain in detail the relevance and importance that sixth schedule holds for India and more so specifically to the North eastern states.

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 the coming of sixth schedule in the Indian constitution.

Body:

Explain the following facts –

Sixth Schedule deals with Article 244(2) and 275(1).



It has provisions related to the Administration of Tribal Areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

It provides for the setting up Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) for administration of these tribal areas. Term of the District Councils is for five years from the date of their constitution. It is governed by an Executive Committee.

Discuss what makes it important in terms of governance of the region.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reasserting significance of such features of the constitution.

India is home to almost 10 crore tribal population who have constitutionally been addressed via two distinct avenues; the Fifth Schedule applies to an Peninsular India's tribes in nine States, while the Sixth Schedule covers areas that are settled in the northeastern States bordering China and Myanmar.

The Sixth Schedule gives tribal communities considerable autonomy; the States of Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya, and Mizoram are autonomous regions under the Sixth Schedule.

The role of the Governor and the State are subject to significant limitations, with greater powers devolved locally.

The District Council and the Regional Council under the Sixth Schedule have real power to make laws, possibility on the various legislative subjects, receiving grants-in-aids from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet the costs of schemes for development, health care, education, roads and regulatory powers to state control.

The mandate towards Devolution, de concentration and divestment determines the protection of their customs, better economic development and most importantly ethnic security.

Furthermore, the Sixth Schedule has certain features that can be implanted in any governance model for tribal areas, particularly concepts of constitutional and legislative subjects that are exclusive to local governments.

An autonomous district council will give greater role in directing administrative requirements without depending on the Central State structure.

Thus, the Sixth Schedule mandating the state to devolve certain political, administrative and fiscal powers to local governments elected by the communities due to which, it has been quite successful in countering the so called Separatist movements, of which some have become active insurgencies, as a key issue in North-East.

Comparison of the Indian constitutional scheme with that of other countries

"The current case against the actions of prime minister of UK is truly a Kesavananda Bharti moment for the British courts". Explain.

[Indianexpress](#)

Why this question:

The United Kingdom Supreme Court, in a slender but significant judgment, decided that the prorogation of parliament by the Queen of England, acting on the advice of the Privy Council, was unlawful on the grounds of parliamentary sovereignty and democratic accountability. Hence the question.

***Key demand of the question:***

One has to explain in what way Indian Supreme Court's jurisprudence, and its demos prudential co-governance of the nation has similarity with its British counterpart.

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:***

Explain the current case of prorogation of parliament by the Queen of England as directed by the judiciary of United Kingdom.

Body:

Explain what is the situation in UK with respect to democratic accountability of the parliament. Discuss the commonalities it has with Indian scenario in detail, compare and contrast with the Kesavananda Bharti case.

Elaborate on the ongoing issues of the British parliament, discuss the challenges in detail.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

The United Kingdom Supreme Court, in a slender but significant judgment, decided that the prorogation of parliament by the Queen of England, acting on the advice of the Privy Council, was unlawful on the grounds of parliamentary sovereignty and democratic accountability.

Commonality with India-

- The situation before the Court was pregnant with the politics of power but it, **like the Indian counterpart, focused merely on constitutionality of the prime minister's action** of prorogation of parliament in mid-session.
- This was truly a **Kesavananda Bharti moment for the British court**. But unlike the full Indian court, there was no riot of concurring and dissenting opinions.
- Written in elegant and firm language, and accessible to all, **the judgment is very brief** (71 paragraphs and 24 pages and heard only for three days).
- **The judicial courage, craft, and contention have a common core in India and UK** — judicial review has its basis primarily in safeguarding people's basic rights but in the Indian context, the end is achieved by a prolixity of judicial opinions addressed to multiple constituencies and the high art of speaking to the future.

Unfolding of the events in UK-

- The UK Supreme Court had available to **it two diametrically opposed readings**.
- The first was the **model of judicial self-restraint or accommodation with other institutions of co-governance**; in effect, to treat the questions raised as the pursuit of politics by other means.
- **The second was to check the political executive by insisting on the basic principles of the common law**, which protect parliamentary sovereignty.



- It adopted the latter course saying that although the “United Kingdom does not have a single document entitled ‘The Constitution’, it nevertheless possesses a Constitution, established over the course of our history by common law, statutes, conventions and practice”.
- Though not codified, “it has developed pragmatically, and remains sufficiently flexible to be capable of further development” and it “includes numerous principles of law, which are enforceable by the courts in the same way as other legal principles”.
- The principle of judicial duty stands reiterated: “... the courts have the responsibility of upholding the values and principles of our constitution and making them effective.
- The courts “cannot shirk that responsibility merely on the ground that the question raised is political in tone or context”. The judicial duty then lies in the discovery of the first principles of constitutional law, which regulate the application of constitutional discipline over the uses of political power.
- The Supreme Court then dexterously linked the doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty with democratic accountability to people at large: “Ministers are accountable to parliament through such mechanisms as their duty to answer parliamentary questions and to appear before parliamentary committees, and through parliamentary scrutiny of the delegated legislation which ministers make.
- Accordingly, the “power to prorogue cannot be unlimited”. Indeed, no power is, at least in a constitutional democracy.

Conclusion

Of course, no judicial decision is beyond socially responsible critique. But in asking parliament to finally decide the terms and conditions of Brexit, the British court has valuably upheld the principles of democratic accountability of a sovereign parliament.

Parliament and State Legislatures – structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

What is Jammu and Kashmir’s Public Safety Act? Why is it considered draconian? Discuss the constitutional safeguards guaranteed to a person so detained.

The hindu

Why this question:

Farooq Abdullah, the chairman of Jammu & Kashmir National Conference who has also served as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir on several occasions since 1982, has been detained for 12 days under Jammu and Kashmir’s Public Safety Act.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must detail upon the Jammu and Kashmir’s Public Safety Act and its recent use during the abrogation of the article 370 and 35A.

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 explain the Jammu and Kashmir's Public Safety Act.

Body:

Explain the following aspects in the body of the answer –

What is Jammu and Kashmir's Public Safety Act? – It is a preventive detention law. It comes into force by an administrative order passed either by Divisional Commissioner or by the District Magistrate and not by a detention order by police based on specific allegations or for specific violation of laws.

Explain Why is it considered draconian? – it allows for detention of a person without a formal charge and without trial, can be slapped on a person already in police custody; on someone immediately after being granted bail by a court; or even on a person acquitted by the court, Detention can be up to two years etc.

Explain what constitutional safeguards are guaranteed to a person so detained?

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

It emerged that former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah has been detained under the state's stringent Public Safety Act (PSA), which enables authorities to detain any individual for two years without trial. A look at the provisions of the Act, and the conversation around it:

What is Public safety Act?

The Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act, 1978 is a preventive detention law, under which a person is taken into custody to prevent him or her from acting in any manner that is prejudicial to "the security of the state or the maintenance of the public order". It is very similar to the National Security Act that is used by other state governments for preventive detention.

By definition, *preventive detention is meant to be preventive, not punitive*. This broad definition is the most common ground used by a law-enforcement agency when it slaps the PSA on an individual. It comes into force by an administrative order passed both by Divisional Commissioner or the District Magistrate, and not by a detention order by police based on specific allegations or for specific violation of laws.

Why is it referred to as a "draconian" law?

- Right from the beginning, the law was misused widely, and was repeatedly employed against political opponents by consecutive governments until 1990. After the emergence of militancy, the J&K government frequently invoked the PSA to crack down on separatists.
- In August 2018, the Act was amended to **allow individuals to be detained under the PSA outside the state as well.**
- The detaining authority **need not disclose any facts** about the detention "which it considers being against the public interest to disclose".
- The **terms under which a person is detained under PSA are vague** and include a broad range of activities like "acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State" or for "acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order".
- The vagueness provided in the act **gives unbridled powers to the authorities**. The detainees, therefore, are effectively debarred from contesting the legality of their detention.



- **PSA does not provide for a judicial review of detention.** To checkmate the J&K High Court orders for release of persons detained under the act the state authorities issue successive detention orders. **This ensures prolonged detention of people.**
- PSC has been used against human rights activists, journalists, separatists and others who are considered as a threat to the law & order. **Right to dissent is stifled by these Acts.**

Preventive Detention and Constitutional Provisions:

- Preventive detention involves the detainment (confinement) of a person in order to keep them from committing future crimes and/or from escaping future prosecution.
- It is different from 'being arrested'. 'Arrest' is done when a person is charged with a crime but the same is not the case for preventive detention.
- Punitive detention is punishment for illegal acts done.
- Article 22(1) of the Constitution states that no person who is arrested shall be denied the right to consult, and to be defended by, a legal practitioner of his choice.
- However, under Preventive Detention Laws like the PSA, the detained person does not have the right to move a bail application before a criminal court, and cannot engage any lawyer to represent him or her before the detaining authority.
- When a person is arrested he/she has to be produced before a magistrate within the next 24 hours. However, in the case of 'preventive detention', a person can be detained for three months.
- Article 22(2) states that every person arrested and detained shall be produced before the nearest magistrate within a period of 24 hours (excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the court) and no such person shall be detained beyond this period without the authority of a magistrate.
- Article 22(3)(b) allows for preventive detention and restriction on personal liberty for reasons of state security and public order.
- Article 22(4) states that no law providing for preventive detention shall authorize the detention of a person for a longer period than three months unless:
 - An Advisory Board reports sufficient cause for extended detention.
 - Such a person is detained in accordance with the provisions of any law made by the Parliament.

What are the associated controversies?

- No democratic country in the world has made preventive detention as an integral part of the Constitution as has been done in India.
- The governments sometimes use such laws in an extra-judicial power. Also, there remains a fear of arbitrary detentions.



- However, the Supreme Court has held that in order to prevent misuse of this potentially dangerous power, the law of preventive detention has to be strictly construed and meticulous compliance with the procedural safeguards is mandatory and vital.

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

The judgment in K.S. Puttaswamy effected little change in the government's thinking or practice as it related to privacy and the personal data of its citizens. Critically comment.

The hindu

In 2017, a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court in Justice K. S. Puttaswamy (Retd) Vs. Union of India unanimously held that Indians have a constitutionally protected fundamental right to privacy that is an intrinsic part of life and liberty under Article 21.. This judgement acted as prerequisite for deciding on constitutional validity of Aadhaar act.

It held that privacy is a natural right that inheres in all natural persons, and that the right may be restricted only by state action that passes each of the three tests:

- Such state action must have a legislative mandate;
- It must be pursuing a legitimate state purpose; and
- It must be proportionate i.e., such state action — both in its nature and extent, must be necessary in a democratic society and the action ought to be the least intrusive of the available alternatives to accomplish the ends.

Intended effect of judgment:

- This landmark judgment fundamentally changed the way in which the government viewed its citizens' privacy, both in practice and prescription.
- It requires governments to undertake structural reforms and bring transparency and openness in the process of commissioning and executing its surveillance projects, and build a mechanism of judicial oversight over surveillance requests.
- It demands from the authorities to demonstrate great care and sensitivity in dealing with personal information of its citizens.
- It requires to legislate a transformative, rights-oriented data protection law that holds all powerful entities that deal with citizens' personal data (data controllers), including the state, accountable.
- Highest court safeguard for privacy of citizens.
- State could no longer monitor citizen's data online offline Phone tapping for ambiguous region.
- It is the way for recognition of rights of LGBT community.



- Citizen could directly appeal to court under article 32 for safeguarding their privacy.

Effect of the judgment was very little:

Following are few examples -

- DNA bill for storing and using BSNL data for solving crime the major concern is DNA has lots of other personal and sensitive data like information about allergic conditions, any genetic complications, complexion, body type etc.
- National Health stack for storing and collecting medical history of a person.
- Ministry of Home Affairs in December 2018 authorized 10 Central Agencies to intercept monitor and decrypt any information stored or generated in any computer in the country
- Government planning to create National data grid regarding personal information such as biometric fingerprint health status, this action certainly disregards the right to privacy.
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting floated a tender in July 2018, for social media monitoring hub to snoop on all social media communication.
- Similar proposal was floated by UIDAI in August 2018.
- The Income-Tax department has its 'Project Insight' which also has similar mass surveillance ends.
- Economic survey of 2019 commends government to sell and monitor vehicle owner's data in Vahan database.
- Newly floated idea of automatic facial recognition system threatens individual's liberty and privacy.

Data use Vs. Privacy:

The government has shunned a rights-oriented approach in the collection, storage and processing of personal data and has stuck to its 'public good' and 'data is the new oil' discourse.

This is evident from this year's Economic Survey as it commends the government for having been able to sell and monetize the vehicle owners' data in the Vahan database and exhorts it to replicate the success with other databases.

The Draft Personal Data Protection Bill that urged for a 'free and fair digital economy' has the digital economy as the end and the notion of privacy merely being a shaper of the means.

Way Forward

- adequate measures to ensure public trust in government institution proper detailed rules and regulation to access data of the citizen provision of prior permission to access citizen data and disclosure of reason for the same unless danger is immense
- Golden Triangle article 14 19 and 21 should only be breached if sufficient public purpose is served

Conclusion



Data in today's digital world has become new oil. Invasion of privacy of citizen through any medium threatens their right to life and liberty which the government tries to safeguard. For the privacy judgment to fulfill its true promise, it needs to go beyond spirited dissents to firm, binding judgments that keep the political executive within clear, limited constitutional boundaries.

In recent times, despite its judicial pronouncements in cases such as the entry of women into Sabarimala and Triple Talaq, the Supreme Court has not exactly covered itself with glory in cases of women on its own administrative side. Critically analyse with suitable examples.

The hindu

Why this question:

The transfer of Chief Justice Vijaya K. Tahilramani from the Madras High Court to Meghalaya is shocking and disconcerting. She had presided over a court of 75 judges and administered a subordinate judiciary in 32 districts in addition to the Union Territory of Pondicherry. In contrast, the Meghalaya High Court has only three judges and a subordinate judiciary in just seven districts.

Key demand of the question:

Discuss the recent incidence of transfer of female judge and her resignation against the transfer made by the collegium.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief discuss the context of the question.

Body:

Explain Supreme Court’s jurisdiction over transfer of judge, what are the provisions and how is it done?

Discuss what can be done – explain that the Supreme Court cannot function as a sentinel of justice unless it puts its own house in order. Its functions, both judicial and administrative, have to be transparent and accountable. The collegium is not a creation of the Constitution, but of the court itself.

Yet, when the collegium’s decisions are called into question for having been influenced by extraneous considerations, there is no institutional check.

Conclusion:

Conclude that any arbitrary transfer by the Supreme Court collegium reduces the High Court judges to a subordinate status. Further, the collegium system, by its opacity, has failed to build a fearless and strong judiciary and serve the public interest.

The transfer of Chief Justice Vijaya K. Tahilramani from the Madras High Court to Meghalaya is shocking and disconcerting. She had presided over a court of 75 judges and administered a subordinate judiciary in 32 districts in addition to the Union Territory of Puducherry. In contrast, the Meghalaya High Court has only three judges and a subordinate judiciary in just seven districts.

The transfer of a Chief Justice from one of the bigger High Courts to one of the smallest High Courts in the country is **an obvious case of downgrading and amounts to public humiliation** of the highest judicial officer in a State. Her response to this humiliation has been graceful but **resolute — resignation.**



Supreme Court's jurisdiction over transfer of judge-

- The Supreme Court derives its **power to select, appoint and transfer judges** from its **verdicts in Three Judges Cases**.
- After a spate of “**punishment transfers**” of upright judges by the Central government during the Emergency in 1975, the judiciary arrogated to itself the power in order to preserve judicial independence.
- Thus, **the collegium system** consisting of the Chief Justice of India and four senior-most judges of the Supreme Court **was put in place**.
- However, the apex court’s power to transfer is not unfettered and absolute and can **only be carried out in public interest for better administration of justice**.
- The Supreme Court can **order a judge’s transfer to improve the functioning of either of the High Courts or if there are close relatives of the judge practicing in the same Court**.
- The apex court can also do so **if the judge has litigation or property interest in the State** or has **become controversial** and so her continuance in the same High Court is not conducive.

What can be done-

- The Supreme Court **cannot function as a sentinel of justice** unless it **puts its own house in order**. Its functions, both judicial and administrative, have to be transparent and accountable.
- The collegium is not a creation of the Constitution, but of the court itself.
- Yet, **when the collegium’s decisions are called into question** for having been influenced by extraneous considerations, **there is no institutional check**.
- The government’s attempt to have a **National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC)** was **rejected by the Supreme Court in 2015** and the system of collegium has continued with its opaqueness and inconsistencies.
- A proper mechanism needs to be placed whereby **the selection and transfer of judges needs to be carried on in public scrutiny**.

Conclusion-

In recent times, despite its judicial pronouncements in cases such as the entry of women into Sabarimala and triple talaq, the Supreme Court has not exactly covered itself with glory in cases of women on its own administrative side.

Any arbitrary transfer by the Supreme Court collegium reduces the High Court judges to a subordinate status. Further, the collegium system, by its opacity, has failed to build a fearless and strong judiciary and serve the public interest.

The idea of making Hindi a common language of the country still remains” Critically examine the evolution of Hindi and its role as the official language of the country.

livenmint

Indian polity by Lakshmi Kant

Why this question:



The recent controversies of making Hindi the national language has led to a plethora of talks and speculations and a sense of intolerance in the non-Hindi speaking population of the country.

Key demand of the question:

The answer should explain the relevance of Hindi as commonly spoken language in the country and its evolution to making it the official language.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief discuss the context of the recent controversies around the national language.

Body:

Discuss that India is a multilingual country and the states were created demarcating areas having common language. Our constitution also does not identify any language as national language.

However considering the multilingual characteristic of India it is important to have one language as an official and link language for administrative purpose.

Issue of language came up twice after independence.

Explain the origin of official language; relevance of Hindi to it.

Discuss the possible pros and cons and emphasize on the plurality of languages in the country.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

India is a multilingual country and the states were created demarcating areas having common language. Our constitution also does not identify any language as national language. However considering the multilingual characteristic of India it is important to have one language as an official and link language for administrative purpose.

Issue of language came up twice after independence. First as a demand for creating linguistic provinces and next as Hindi and Non-Hindi region debate emerged over determination of official language. One language was needed to replace English as a medium of education and administration. Hindi was the foremost contender as it was spoken and understood by large number of people in India. However Southern states were opposed to adoption of Hindi and instead demanded continuation of English.

A balanced approach was therefore adopted and constitution provided for continuation of English along with Hindi for all official purposes until 1965. It was the responsibility of government to promote spread and development of Hindi.

The southern states were not ready to switch to use of Hindi as the pro English sections considered Hindi as less developed to handle the complexity of administration. The southern states considered their own languages had a very long history of evolution and switching over to Hindi would adversely affect their languages.

Therefore government passed the **Official Languages Act in 1963** which removed the restriction of use of English after 1965 in education and administration. English had to be used for all official communications with non-Hindi states.



Government of India established various departments and commission to promote Hindi in administration. But continued resistance from southern states has compelled it to amend the constitution to continue to use English as associate official language. Also the state efforts has heavily damaged Hindi by developing a heavily sanskritised version for official communication. This hindered its expansion and it remained the language of "masses", not transcending to "Classes".

Post liberalization, usages of English expanded exponentially because to survive in system driven by market economy & technology advancements, English was the only medium. Usages of Hindi remained at the free will of people despite many efforts. But English, born out of compulsion consolidated its position.

For any language the primary objective is to communicate. In this sense Hindi is the link language. Today, Hindi is world's 3rd largest language. Even in India, Hindi belts and most of non-Hindi belts use Hindi either as primary or secondary language in both formal and informal communication.

Conclusion

Thus in conclusion, Hindi is the primary link-language of this country but English has also become an important link-language. Therefore in a multilingual country like India, adopting Hindi, which is a regional language of north India, as an official language would not be a pragmatic approach and it would fuel resentment.

The debate on the working of the collegium of judges, especially on the issue of transfers in the judiciary, has yet come around again. Critically analyse.

The hindu

Why this question:

The article describes in detail the recent happenings concerning the issue of transfer of Judges by the collegium.

Key demand of the question:

One has to critically analyse the decision of the collegium with regards to the recent transfers made by it and evaluate such a move.

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 explain the scenario.

Body:

The recent controversy over the transfer of the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani, to the Meghalaya High Court has once again brought to the fore a longstanding debate on the functioning of the 'collegium' of judges that makes appointments and transfers in the higher judiciary.

Explain what constitutes a collegium? What are the debates around it.

What is the procedure followed by the collegium?

Discuss the right to recommend transfers of the collegium.

Explain the criticisms.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.



The recent controversy over the transfer of the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court, Justice Vijaya Kamlesh Tahilramani, to the Meghalaya High Court has once again brought to the fore a longstanding debate on the functioning of the ‘collegium’ of judges that makes appointments and transfers in the higher judiciary.

While sections of the Bar have questioned the transfer as well as the lack of transparency about the exact reason, the Supreme Court (SC) has issued an official statement that the collegium indeed had cogent reasons and that these could be revealed, if necessary.

What is the collegium system?

- The collegium of judges is the Supreme Court’s invention. It does not figure in the Constitution, which says judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts are appointed by the President and speaks of a process of consultation.
- In effect, it is a system under which judges are appointed by an institution comprising judges.
- After some judges were superseded in the appointment of the Chief Justice of India in the 1970s, and attempts made subsequently to effect a mass transfer of High Court judges across the country, there was a perception that the independence of the judiciary was under threat. This resulted in a series of cases over the years.
- The ‘First Judges Case’ (1981) ruled that the “consultation” with the CJI in the matter of appointments must be full and effective.
- The Second Judges Case (1993) introduced the Collegium system, holding that “consultation” really meant “concurrence”. It added that it was not the CJI’s individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior most judges in the Supreme Court.
- On a Presidential Reference for its opinion, the Supreme Court, in the Third Judges Case (1998) expanded the collegium to a five member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior most colleagues.

What is the procedure followed by the collegium?

- The President of India appoints the CJI and the other SC judges. As far as the CJI is concerned, the outgoing CJI recommends his successor.
- For other judges of the top court, the proposal is initiated by the CJI. The CJI consults the rest of the collegium members, as well as the senior most judge of the court hailing from the High Court to which the recommended person belongs.
- The Chief Justice of High Courts is appointed as per the policy of having Chief Justices from outside the respective States.
- The collegium takes the call on the elevation. High Court judges are recommended by a collegium comprising the CJI and two senior most judges.

Does the collegium have the right to recommend transfers as well?

- Yes, the collegium also recommends the transfer of Chief Justices and other judges. Article 222 of the Constitution provides for the transfer of a judge from one High Court to another.



- In matters of transfers, the opinion of the CJI “is determinative”, and the consent of the judge concerned is not required.
- However, the CJI should take into account the views of the CJ of the High Court concerned and the views of one or more SC judges who are in a position to do so.
- All transfers must be made in the public interest, that is, “for the betterment of the administration of justice”.
- What is the common criticism made against the collegium system?
- Opaqueness and a lack of transparency, and the scope for nepotism are cited often as the limitations of the collegium system.
- The attempt made to replace it by a ‘National Judicial Appointments Commission’ was struck down by the court in 2015 on the ground that it posed a threat to the independence of the judiciary. Dissenting judge, Justice J. Chelameswar, termed it “inherently illegal”.
- In respect of appointments, there has been an acknowledgement that the “zone of consideration” must be expanded to avoid criticism that many appointees hail from families of retired judges. The status of a proposed new memorandum of procedure, to infuse greater accountability, is also unclear.
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Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

"The Indian Media must now introspect and develop a sense of responsibility and maturity". Discuss the statement in the context of need of media regulation.

Reference

Why this question:

The question is based on the theme of role of media in India.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss in detail the responsibilities that media carry and in what way they are accountable. Discuss the issues concerning the same and suggest what needs to be done.

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 background of the question.

Body:

First explain the genesis of Media in Indian history, its development towards maturity.

Then explain why the media needs to be more responsible and accountable? Discuss the major defects in the Indian media.

Suggest ways by which it can be overcome.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance and need to have checks and balances.

Print media had originated in Europe as an organ of people against feudal oppression. Print media represented the voice of reason. It came up as fourth state (after noble, clergy and common). Presently media is considered as fourth pillar of democracy

What is expected from Indian media?

India is presently in transition page where old feudal society is being uprooted and modern industrial society is being established it is a period of turmoil and social churning. The same situation was faced by Europe during 15th to 19th century. In Europe and America it represented the voice of the future, as contrasted to the established feudal organs which wanted to preserve the status quo.

Since media deals with information rather than any commodity it can play a very important role in sailing India quickly though this transition.

Problem with Indian media

- **Diversion from issue to non-issue** - entertainment got 9 times the coverage that health education labor agriculture and environment got together enormous space is given to business and very little to social sectors. **Example** - lakme fashion week was covered by 512 journalists where cotton garment were displayed but the plight of cotton grower got only minuscule coverage. The roman emperors used to say "if you cannot give the people bread give them circuses".
- **Twisting facts** - often to create sensation and increase trp of the channel. **Example** - case of justice Gyan sudha mishra



- **Paid news** - it has become scandal during 2009 election
- **Tendency to brand and divide people** - after any bomb blast or any terror attack media covers the issue in very communal way often Gemini rising whole of the Muslim community in India.
- **Promotes superstition** - intellectual level of most of the people in India is low but instead of raising it scientifically Indian media perpetuate it by broadcasting programs such as astrology every morning

At one time people **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** wrote against superstition like sati, child marriage and purdah system in **Mirat-ul-Akbar** and **Sambandh Kaumudhi**.

- **Crossing the security line** - often to be the first to report news media house sometimes neglect security dimension **example ndtv** case in 2016 and Abhinandan video 2019 during Balakot airstrike.
- **Rise of social media** - it has become most unregulated and influential media platform. It houses most of the propaganda being spread into the society.
- **Political and business affiliation** of media groups - it creates biased approach to any issue.

Solution

- Media ethics should be made in for symbol under NBA (news broadcasting standards authority)
- Regular informal meetings with the media (including electronic media) every two months or so.
- More power to PCI by bringing digital media under its control. E.g. Power to suspend government advertisements, or in extreme cases even the license of the media houses for some time. '**bin bhaya hot na preet**'- **Tulsidas**.
- Cross ownership of media house to prevent monopoly.
- Balanced coverage of issues both entertainment and social.
- Security impact assessment of any news related to security matter.
- Media should become voice of reason and represent mass instead of confining itself to few influential sections.

Good journalist should be awarded for their fearless and unbiased work.

To what extent will the draft Healthcare Service Personnel and Clinical Establishments (Prohibition of Violence and Damage to Property) Bill, 2019 be able to address the violence against medical professionals or damage to clinical establishments? Critically examine.

Livemint

Why this question:

The question is amidst the recent violence faced by doctors across various pockets of the country and thus the coming of the Bill.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must be able to address whether the provisions of the bill alone are sufficient to handle the issue or there are bigger causes to the situation.


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 that India is woefully short of doctors and its healthcare infrastructure is creaky. Public hospitals are overcrowded, even as private ones are too expensive for most Indians. It is at such hospitals that instances of violence typically take place, usually triggered by the death of a patient.

Body:

Explain first the underlying causes for such incidences; quote the recent gruesome acts where doctors, medical officers have been lynched to death.

Then discuss the need to enhance the capacity of public services. Explain what measures must be taken by the govt. to ensure such incidences are put to an end – regularize private hospitals, charter for patient rights, increase the numbers of healthcare service personnel, provide for security of life to doctors and clinical establishment etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Recently the union health ministry has introduced a draught bill to deal with the rising cases of assault of on duty doctor and have also asked for public feedback on the draught bill.

Need of the bill

Recent cases like assault of doctor by family member of patient in west Bengal and death of a 73 year old retired doctor in Assam after beaten up by the state worker indicates lack of security to the medical staff

Therefor the bill intends to curb the attacks on medical practitioner and protect clinical establishment from vandalism

Causes of violence

- Inadequate medical professionals in India - who recommends the ratio of 1:1000 but India has 1:10000 doctors of ratio.
- This leads to long waits of patients and overcrowding in the hospitals and end up into patients frustration vented out on doctors.
- Hospital infrastructure needs to be improved, often cleanliness, absence of waiting rooms for patients, inadequate beds etc. Aggravate the situation.
- Out of pock
- Communication gaps between a doctor and a patient. The national medical council needs to evolve some protocol for imparting better communication skills in doctors like telling a bad news to relatives or families of a patient more sympathically or handling and managing emotional bursts.

Provision



- Bill proposes imprisonment of between six months to three years, with a fine of between Rs 50,000 to Rs 5 lakh for whoever commits violence or abets violence.
- If the accused is convicted for causing grievous hurt, then the imprisonment shall be between three years to ten years and with a fine between rs 2 lakh to rs 10 lakh.
- If a convicted person does not pay the compensation then the sum shall be recovered as an arrear of land revenue under the revenue recovery act, 1890.
- The convicted person shall also have to pay an amount, twice the amount of fair market value of damaged property or loss caused, as determined by the court.
- Also the bill covers
- 50m of area around the hospital, ambulances, visiting doctors, medical students etc.
- It also covers the cases of both mental and physical abuse.

Way forward

- Counselling patient and relative about possible adverse outcome at the hospital
- Provide basic security in medical institution if possible declare Clinical Establishment as safe place
- Devoting more public points to health care and improving effectiveness of spending presently India spends nearly one percent of its GDP on health sector and target to achieve 2.5%. Whereas US spends 8.3 % and China 3%.

Conclusion

The bill is a welcome step towards stopping uncivilized action of mob in clinical establishments but it is not sufficient alone as the **reasons for these incidences are multidimensional**. It is connected with lack of medical infrastructure, communication gap between doctor and patient, behaviour of doctors in government hospital, cost of medical facilities available to general public and lack of grievance redressal mechanism for patients.

Therefore, only penal provisions and compensation won't be sufficient to stop such incidents. Bill must address the root cause for such incidences.

"The thing that's going to make Artificial intelligence so powerful is its ability to learn, and the way AI learns is to look at human culture". Examine in the light of recent applications of AI to Indian govt. policies.

livemint

Why this question:

The article is based on the development of Artificial intelligence and the atmosphere required for its startups in the country.

Key demand of the question:

One must explain the prerequisites that are must to develop AI as a solution to many problems amidst varying human culture.

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:

In brief define AI.

Body:

Explain first the potential and significance that AI hold in today’s times.

Provide for the detailed picture of AI and its development in India.

Explain what needs to be done to foster the growth of AI in India.

Discuss the challenges and advantages.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

"Artificial intelligence" is machine's (or computers) to mimic "cognitive" functions that humans associate with the human mind, such as "learning", "Speech recognition", "Planning" and "problem solving".

Application

- Healthcare - Hannover software by Microsoft for cancer treatment,
- Automotive - self driving car by Tesla Uber Google Amazon
- Finance and economics programs like **Kaisisto and money stream**. To detect financial fraud and financial crimes
- Governance - surveillance manhandling traffic management
- Military - threat detection coordination and deconfliction of distributed join fires between network combat vehicle and tank and also inside manned and unmanned teams.
- Games and sports - non player characters best game player such as **alpha-go** and to improve game strategy and performance
- Personal assistant like Siri, Alexa

Issue

- Job loss due to artificial intelligence based automation in industries
- any error in functioning of Artificial Intelligence can be dangerous on many aspects such as cyber threats privacy leakage facilities in accidents
- Ethics guiding artificial intelligence is yet to be incorporated into to judicial system
- Artificial intelligence main supersede human race and can be become apocalyptic.

Significance of artificial intelligence to India

- Artificial intelligence is engine for fourth industrial revolution
- With increasing penetration of Internet in society the amount of data been generated is increasing exponentially artificial intelligence will be required to bring some useful information out of those massive data



- With increasing population the assistance of artificial intelligence in governance is much needed for making policy decisions more efficient. **example** economic survey is using big data analysis since 2017
- Use of AI in economics for predicting economic crisis in future and make preventive decisions
- AI has huge potential in disaster management like weather forecasting, disaster mapping etc.
- In agriculture sector AI can assist Govt. in crop management, price prediction etc. and help farmer increase their income.
- Real time translation of all scheduled languages using AI will certainly bridge any kind of language divide and will make integrity of our country more strong.
- With increasing complexity in research works in any field artificial intelligence may assist in producing better results.

Artificial intelligence in India

- Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics under DRDO
- Niti Aayog's Atal innovation mission having Atal community, Atal tinkering Labs.
- Niti Aayog has partnered with Google to develop artificial intelligence system in India.
- 7000 crore rupees road map for establishment of 5 Centre for research excellence, 20 institutional centres and Cloud Computing platform called **Aravat**.

Challenges in developing AI in India

Lack data centres in India that were capable of offering the level and quantity of gpus—graphic processing units, that are needed by AI model to be able to generate results within a reasonable time frame.

Solution

- Establish centres of excellence; create data repositories and other platforms for AI research to address the infrastructural shortcomings that beset the country.
- Taking advantage of the Atal Innovation Mission and, in particular, the Atal Tinkering Labs to make equipment, training, and sandbox facilities available to schools across the country with the objective of improving AI development in people from a young age.
- Incentivizing as many as 500 leading AI researchers to work in India over the next three years on the condition that each one of them should train 5 to 10 PhD or Masters Graduates over the duration of their stay.
- Incentivize entrepreneurs by earmarking funds in the form of challenge grants that could be awarded to teams that achieve extraordinary breakthroughs in solving identified problems
- Making sure that Indian AI research papers feature among the top 10 most cited in the field.

Conclusion



It is estimated that artificial intelligence will add 950 billion dollar to India's GDP by 2035 hence government need to raise its effort to reach 5 trillion economy. Need is to adopt best practices in the world in this field for example China Germany and Korea are developing framework to regulate artificial intelligence.

After more than 70 years of Independence, India is still in a position where there is only 1 doctor per 1,700 Indians, far less than the WHO standard of 1 per 1000 people. Critically analyse the statement in light of recently introduced National Medical Commission Bill which seeks to replace the Medical Council of India Act, 1956.

Indianexpress

Why this question:

The article highlights the sad picture of the medical health system in the country and in what way it has been failing to cater the population owing to certain specific issues.

Key demand of the question:

Answer must discuss the conditions of health system vis-à-vis medical treatment available in the country. The answer must in detail explain in what way centralized self-regulation of health in the country has resulted in power and the practice of medicine being concentrated in the hands of a certified few.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief state the health system vs. medical facilities available in the country.

Body:

First explain the issue Indian health system is facing in detail in terms of number of medical practitioners serving the country.

Then discuss the concerns and problems associated that have led to such a situation.

Suggest what needs to be done to resolve these issues? Highlight the advantages and disadvantages of the recently proposed National Medical Commission Bill.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting possible solutions to address the issue.

India ranks 145th among 195 countries in global burden of disease report by lancet. The Healthcare system of India is faced with the problem of shortage of human resources in India the ratio between doctor and people is 1: 1700 (WHO requirements 1: 1000)

Due to this shortage of Manpower myriad of problems is being faced by general public such as:-

- High dependence on unqualified medical service provider
- Crowding of hospitals
- Over dependence on private Healthcare services 58% in rural area and 68% in urban area
- Cost overrun for common people in accessing these private facilities 75% of patient care hospital bill from their life savings and 18% borrows from private money lenders

Main reasons for shortage of doctors are -



- Free of medical colleges apart from a few government medical colleges for most of the private college medical education fees are beyond the reach of common people.
- Number of medical colleges also very less therefor supply of qualified doctors to Healthcare sector is low.
- Medical Council of India established under Indian Medical Council Act 1956 has failed in its duty going to the corruption conflict of interest and lack of accountability.

To overcome this issue and Reform medical education and medical practices Government of India has introduced National medical Commission bill 2019

Provisions of the bill

- National medical Commission bill replace Medical Council of India.
- NMC bill frame policies for regulating medical Institution and medical practitioners.
- NMC bill frame guidelines for determining fees for up to 40% of seat in private college and deemed universities.
- Medical Advisory Council it will be the channel through which state and union territories will put forth their views to the Commission it will also advise Commission on measure to enable equitable access to medical education.
- National licentiate exam - what is student graduating from Medical institution. It will also serve as the basis for admission in postgraduate courses.
- Foreign practitioner's will be permitted temporary registration
- Bridge courses - NMC and Central Council of homoeopathy and Indian medicine Mai approved Bridge courses for Ayush practitioners to enable them to prescribe allopathic medicine.

Apart from NMC bill which tries to control the cost of Medical Education making the more accessible and provisions of bridge courses will certainly help dealing with problem of shortage of human resource in health sector, following measures will also so help during the problem:-

- Promoting private parties to open new medical colleges.
- Increasing seats in government medical colleges.
- Lucrative incentive to doctors chose serve in rural areas.
- Stick 360 degree monitoring of public health.
- Regularization of quacks nurses and ANM workers by prescribing suitable courses in line with Bridge courses will also help in dealing with the acute shortage of human resource in medical sector.

Conclusion

As India is going to be world's most populous country by 2027 government needs to increase its investment in health sector up to 5% of GDP. As it is said **health is wealth** only healthy India can



make will the India. Therefore Prime Minister of India has also launched fit India Movement. For all these there must be infusion of human capital in health care sector.

Comment on the urgency to have necessary police reforms in India.

Reference

Why this question:

The article highlights the sorry state of policing prevalent in the country and the findings in the latest report on the Status of Policing in India, produced jointly by Common Cause and the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies.

Key demand of the question:

One must explain the issues with Police system in India and highlight the urgency of reforms.

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 brief highlight the findings of the report.

Body:

Explain first the issues associated and then suggest solutions –

Huge vacancies: With the phenomenal expansion of the geographic area to be policed and the increase in the number of lives to be guarded, the Indian police, more than in many western democracies, have been stretched and outnumbered. There are only about 140 policemen per 100,000 people, a very poor ratio when compared to other modern democracies.

Over-burden: Police force is over-burdened especially at lower levels where constabulary is forced to work continuously for 14-16 hours, 7 days a week. It adversely impacts their performance.

Risk to life: The risk to life in Police is very high. Policemen are killed in India in the performance of duties than in any other country of the world. There's no indication that in future the risk element would be less.

Police Infrastructure: The weaponry, vehicles etc. used by police force at lower level is obsolete and is unmatched with the modern weaponry used by the criminals and anti-social elements.

Qualifications and training of police personnel's: Police training methods have been out dated and aspects of human rights are largely ignored in training modules. Training of police officials is heavily biased in favor of higher level officials. 94% of the total training expenditure is on IPS officers' training.

Politicization of Police: Politicization of a police force is a major problem as it affects the autonomy of police force making them to sub serve the interests of political executive at the cost of ordinary citizens. CID at the state level has failed to perform because of political cases led by the ruling parties against their opponents and because of excessive political interference by political executive.

Ineffectiveness against new forms of crimes: Police force is not in the position to tackle present days' problems of cyber-crimes, global terrorism, naxalism because of its structural weaknesses.

Underutilization of funds for modernization: Both center and states allocate funds for modernization of state police forces. These funds are typically used for strengthening police infrastructure, by way of construction of police stations, purchase of weaponry, communication equipment and vehicles.

Prevailing Corruption: The pay scales of police personnel especially at the lower levels are very low and they are forced to adopt corrupt means to earn their livelihood etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Police force is law enforcing agency of the state. it has the responsibility to maintain social order and prevent the crimes from happening in the society. The report on the Status of Policing in India,



jointly developed by NGO Common Cause and the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, was released recently. It shows the grim picture of police in India.

Reason for police reform

- **Social attitude:** Police forces exhibit frightening prejudices against women, lower castes, and minorities. One in four male personnel demonstrates high bias against their female colleagues. Nearly one-fourth of the women personnel surveyed reported of the absence of the Internal Committee mandated for dealing with sexual harassment at the workplace. One in two police personnel surveyed feel that Muslims are likely to be “naturally prone” to committing crimes. 35% of police personnel interviewed think that it was natural for a mob to punish the “culprit” in cases of cow slaughter.
- **Over-burden:** The crime per lakh population had increased by 28% over the last decade (2005-2015). Whereas the actual strength of police force in various states is 137 police per lakh people, which is against the sanctioned strength and United Nations recommend strength of 181 police per lakh and 222 police per lakh people respectively.

The 24 % of sanctioned police posts in India were vacant in 2016. 2nd ARC highlighted that extra obligations such as traffic management, disaster rescue and removal of encroachments lead to overburdening of the police force.

- **Police Infrastructure:** The weaponry, vehicles etc. used by police force at lower level is obsolete and is unmatched with the modern weaponry used by the criminals and anti-social elements. Police stations, on average, have just 6 computers and states like Bihar and Assam less than one. Nearly 240 stations did not even have vehicles. 1 in 5 women in the police said she lacked a separate toilet.
- **Qualifications and training of police personnel's:** Police training methods have been out dated and aspects of human rights are largely ignored in training modules. Training of police officials is heavily biased in favor of higher level officials. 94% of the total training expenditure is on IPS officers' training. 37% of personnel interviewed feel that for minor offences, a small punishment should be handed out by the police rather than a legal trial.
- **Risk to life:** The risk to life in Police is very high. Policemen are killed in India in the performance of duties than in any other country of the world. There's no indication that in future the risk element would be less.
- **Politicization of Police:** Politicization of a police force is a major problem as it affects the autonomy of police force making them to subserve the interests of political executive at the cost of ordinary citizens. CID at the state level has failed to perform because of political cases led by the ruling parties against their opponents and because of excessive political interference by political executive. 72% of police personnel experience “political pressure” during the investigation of cases involving influential persons. The frequent transfers of senior police persons who do not conform to a political leader's demands have entered the realm of popular culture.
- **Huge vacancies:** With the phenomenal expansion of the geographic area to be policed and the increase in the number of lives to be guarded, the Indian police, more than in many western democracies, have been stretched and outnumbered. There are only about 140 policemen per 100,000 people, a very poor ratio when compared to other modern democracies.



- Ineffectiveness against new forms of crimes: Police force is not in the position to tackle present days' problems of cyber-crimes, global terrorism, naxalism because of its structural weaknesses.
- Underutilization of funds for modernization: Both center and states allocate funds for modernization of state police forces. These funds are typically used for strengthening police infrastructure, by way of construction of police stations, purchase of weaponry, communication equipment and vehicles.
- Prevailing Corruption: The pay scales of police personnel especially at the lower levels are very low and they are forced to adopt corrupt means to earn their livelihood etc.

Solution

- Boosting capacity and infrastructure – including increase in the number of police personnel, improvement in training and service conditions such as improving the infrastructure, working hours, housing facilities etc.
- Undertaking administrative reforms - including separation of investigation from law and order, specialized wings for Social and Cyber Crimes, restricting the police to core functions, setting up authorities as directed by the Supreme Court, strengthening state machinery and linking prosecution with police.
- Undertaking technological reforms - including modernization of the control room, fast tracking the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and System (CCTNS), pushing for National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) and pushing for incorporation of new technology into policing.
- Changes in recruitment - Upgrading the quality of recruits and ensuring dedication and honesty in the day-to-day delivery of service to the public is equally important.
- Role of Leadership - All police ills are not only due to political interference in police routine. The police leadership is also responsible for improving performance.
- Replicating Model police Act – Centre should ensure that Model Police Act is being followed by the states.
- Adopting Evidence based Policing - It is a research based approach which involves identifying 'hot spots' of crime, spotting problematic individuals in a community and making decisions about what works in policing, which practices and strategies accomplish police missions most cost-effectively.

Conclusion

According to NCRB there is 28% rise in crime. the nature of crime is also transforming with advent of internet and smart phones. therefore there is urgent need of police reforms on the line of SMART (Strict & Sensitive, Modern & Mobile, Alert & Accountable, Reliable & responsive, Tech savvy & Trained) policing.

Do you agree that India's employment crisis calls for more government expenditure in education, adequate training? Critically comment by weighing the success of the skill India program in the context of the statement.

Indianexpress

Why this question:



The article weighs the success of Skill India program amidst the job crisis India is facing.

Key demand of the question:

One should bring out the gaps in education system, skill development and employability in the country and the causes and consequences of it.

Directive:

Critically comment – 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 ‘comment’ is suffixed or prefixed to a directive, we have to express our knowledge and understanding of the issue and form an overall opinion thereupon.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief explain the issue.

Body:

First explain why is the issue, despite having all the programs in place why can't the job crisis situation be addressed in the country.

Explain the underlying causes – the fact that demography brings a dividend only if the youth is trained properly. Without proper training, instead of benefits, the country gets massive joblessness. Analyse the problems with skill development programs in the country.

Suggest solutions to overcome.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

India is the second most populous country. The average age of our country's population is 29 years it means most of our people are in working age bracket. This can be a great demographic dividend, provided employment and proper skill sets are available to our youths. Otherwise instead of becoming demographic dividend there will be demographic burden in our country

Employment scenario

According to the last 2018 Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), the unemployment rate among the urban 15-29-year-olds (a very large bracket) was 23.7 per cent.

A minimum of eight million new job seekers enter the jobs market every year.

According to a recent survey, 48 per cent of Indian employers reported difficulties filling job vacancies due to talent shortage.

Causes

Agriculture – A Seasonal Occupation

Being a seasonal activity, agriculture largely offers seasonal employment. Those engaged in farming remain idle four months in a year.

Decline of Small Scale and Cottage Industries

Industrial policy of British government curtailed the growth of small scale and cottage industries. Independent India's preference to large scale industry and new industrial policy of 1990's resulted in decline of small scale industries.

Joint Family System



It encourages disguised unemployment. In big families having large business establishments, many such persons are found who do not do any work and depend on the joint income of the family. Joint family system is more prevalent in rural areas; hence a high degree of disguised unemployment there.

System of Education

Prevailing educational system failed to produce trained and efficient labour force capable of self-employment. Country is producing a large number of graduates and post-graduates capable of white collar jobs only. Since the supply of such jobs is less than their demand, unemployment is the obvious outcome. Budget allocation is also very low; it is only 2.03% of GDP in India.

Mobility of Labour

Labour mobility is very low in India. Because of their family loyalty, people generally avoid migrating to far-off areas of work. Factors like diversity of language, religion and customs also contribute to low mobility. Lower mobility causes greater unemployment.

To overcome the crisis of unemployment and to reap benefit out of our Demographic dividend Govt. has started **Skill India mission**.

- The target of this scheme was to reach out to 300 million young people by 2022, announced the setting up of 1,500 new ITIs and 50,000 Skill Development Centers.
- A very important aspect of Skill India was its PPP character: Companies were requested to “earmark 2 per cent of their payroll bill (including for contract labour) for skill development initiatives”.
- In parallel, the ITIs were supposed to “tie up with industry in the relevant trades to improve placement opportunities for candidates”.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** under which the training fees were paid by the government is part of the mission.

Shortfalls in Skill India mission -

- Only a mere 25 million had been trained under this scheme by the end of 2018. Partly due to mismanagement and partly due to the fact that funds available for “Skill India” were either not spent sufficiently quickly
- The number of those who have benefited from the Skill India scheme has increased, from 3,50,000 in 2016-17 to 1.6 million in 2017-18, but the percentage of those who could find a job upon completion of their training has dropped from more than 50 per cent to 30 per cent.
- Under PMKVY programme 4.13 million people had been trained, but only 6,15,000 (15 per cent) of them got a job.

Reason for shortfalls-

- The training was not good enough – and this is why the employability rate remains very low.



- While the government expected that some of the PMKVY-trainees would create their own enterprise, only 24 per cent of the 6,15,000 mentioned above started their business. And out of them, only 10,000 applied for MUDRA loans —a drop in the ocean.
- India's joblessness issue is not only a skills problem; it is representative of the lack of appetite of industrialists and SMEs for recruiting. The decline of the investment rate is a clear indication that the demand is weak —hence huge idle capacities — and investing is not an easy thing to do anyway because of the limited access to credit that the accumulation of Non-Performing Assets has generated.

Solutions -

- Imparting proper training
- Easing of regulatory barriers
- Stimulating higher education system for more R&D.
- Improving primary and secondary education system so that those who had passed 10th level exam can start any vocation of his choice.
- Govt. budget should allocate more funds to employment generating schemes like skill India, make in India, etc.
- More spending on education at least it should not be in reducing trend.

Conclusion

Skill India will not be enough to create jobs if the slowdown continues. But in the long run, Skill India will also not be enough if government expenditures in education remain low and if, therefore, the ground isn't prepared for proper training. Therefore along with training and education government efforts should also be to give stimuli to the economy and create demand.

Recent legal reforms and judgments have pointed towards India as a country gradually developing into an arbitration-friendly regime. Comment on the statement in the light of recently passed the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Financial express

Why this question:

The question aims to analyse the arbitration regime in the country.

Key demand of the question:

One must explain need for arbitration in the country and its relevance along with recent steps in this direction.

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:

Briefly state the current status of arbitration and reconciliation in the country.

Body:

One has to discuss the various nuances of the arbitration and reconciliation paradigm in the country. Discuss that the country recently passed the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019 and the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2019, which are the first few firm steps in the



long walk ahead of us in terms of making India an international arbitration hub. Along with this, the NITI Aayog's 'National Initiative towards Strengthening Arbitration and Enforcement in India' and the central government's 'Make in India' initiative, these reforms will help the country reach newer heights not only in terms of arbitration, but also in various allied business fields.

Explain the need of it and significance in detail.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Arbitration is the process by which party select an independent person that renders a decision regarding the dispute between the parties. Reconciliation is an attempt to make parties come together to an agreement about the problem/ dispute. Both are alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods that settle disputes outside the court of law.

Status of arbitration and reconciliation in India

- In India arbitration was regulated by arbitration and conciliation act 1996
- It was based on United Nation Commission on international trade law (UNCITRAL)
- This law did not provided for time Bond and Fast Track procedure for arbitration cases, for example there was no time limit for awarding arbitration judgement
- Therefore most foreign companies preferred to choose other international arbitration centres, for example- London Court of international (LCIA), arbitration Singapore International arbitration Centre (SIAC), etc.

As a whole Alternative dispute resolution mechanism in India was not much sound and it was time consuming process to settle dispute in court of law.

India can become International hub for arbitration

- India is fast developing country with lot of consumer base
- Recently it has liberalised FDI norms to attract more foreign investment
- Demarcation of SEZ, call for make in India and efforts to improve ease of doing business will generate many cases for arbitration in future
- The pro arbitration stances by Indian courts and strict adherence to the principle of non-interference with arbitral awards in past cases like - Kandla export **vs.** OC export Corporation case in Supreme Court, SsangYong engineering and construction vs NHAI case in Delhi High Court, etc. has augmented India's credential as an arbitration friendly regime.
- The potential for arbitrations in India has also changed with the reform in third-party funding, making the country all set to present itself and compete with other international jurisdictions as an international arbitration hub. The Supreme Court, in the Bar Council of India vs. AK Balaji case, has clarified that the third parties (i.e. non-lawyers) can fund the litigation and get repaid after the outcome.
- India is also not a member of international centre for settlement of dispute an organisation under World Bank Group to settle dispute between International investors



Recently in India the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019, on August 1, 2019, and that of the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2019, on July 18, 2019 has been passed to deal with the short coming of ADR mechanism in India.

Provisions

- Bill establishes Arbitration Council of India (ACI). ACI is to be headed by a chairperson who must have been a judge of the Supreme Court or Chief Justice of a High Court or a judge of a High Court or an eminent person, having special knowledge and experience in the conduct or administration of arbitration, to be appointed by the central government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
- The Supreme Court, for international commercial arbitrations, and the respective High Courts, for domestic arbitrations, may now designate arbitral institutions for appointment of arbitrators
- An application for appointment of the arbitrator is to be disposed of within 30 days.
- Written submissions are to be filed within six months of the appointment of arbitrators.
- Section 42A requires maintenance of confidentiality of arbitration proceedings.

Bill puts India, with the help of the to-be-established Arbitration Council of India (ACI), at a parallel footing with big arbitration hubs such as the London Court of International Arbitration (LCIA), the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) and the ICC International Centre for ADR (ICC).

Conclusion

The passing of the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2019, on August 1, 2019, and that of the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre Bill, 2019, on July 18, 2019, are the first few firm steps in the long walk ahead of us in terms of making India an international arbitration hub.

Complemented by the NITI Aayog's 'National Initiative towards Strengthening Arbitration and Enforcement in India' and the central government's 'Make in India' initiative, these reforms will help the country reach newer heights not only in terms of arbitration, but also in various allied business fields.

The low representation of women in the legislatures is a stark reminder of Patriarchy in the society. Discuss the significance of 108th Amendment bill 2008 and the challenges in passage of the bill.

Reference

Why this question:

The question is from GS paper II and aims to question the reasons for lower representation of women in Legislatures of the country.

Key demand of the question:

One must elaborate on the 108th Amendment bill 2008 and the underlying causes of its non-passage and suggest 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:



It is a straight forward question where you have to start from the data on Women in legislators.

Body:

Briefly discuss the reasons of low representation of women specially focusing on the social aspects of Patriarchy. Ex. Sarpanch Pati concept , low voting to women candidates , considered as weak against male candidates etc.

Discuss the features of 108th Amendment Bill 2008 i.e Representation of women in legislature and its significance. For ex, Better representation of women in legislature leads to better emphasis on social issues , less tendency to be corrupt etc.

Discuss the challenges in passage of the bill – lack of Political will, shift in power , low bargaining power of women themselves etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude by highlighting the importance of passage of the bill, behavioral change and women empowerment.

According to inter-parliamentary Union, India ranks 153 among 190 countries in terms of percentage of women in lower house. **Presently Lok Sabha has 14.3 6% of female member** which is much below the Global average of 24.3 %. According to census 2011, **48% of Indian population is female**. However, there is only 10% increase in the representation of women since 1952 from 4.4% to 14.3%. This is a Stark reminder of prevalent patriarchy in our society. To correct the miss representation in the parliament government has tried to bring 108th Constitutional Amendment Bill also known as **Women's Reservation Bill**.

Women Reservation Bill: A timeline

- On September 12, 1996, when it was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the United Front government, it failed to get the approval of the house and was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC).
- Again In 1998, NDA-I introduced the bill without any success. Thereafter, the Bill lapsed and was reintroduced – in 1999, in 2002 and 2003.
- In 2008, the UPA-I introduced the Women Reservation Bill in the Rajya Sabha and it was passed. But until now the Lok Sabha has not passed it.

Why is there a need for political representation?

Women's political empowerment is premised on three fundamental and non-negotiable principles:

- The equality between women and men;
- Women's right to a full development of their potential;
- Women's right to self-representation and self-determination;

Political empowerment through the use of a mix of power, effectiveness, capability, force and influence can challenge and transform the structures and institutions of patriarchal ideology and existing power relations.

Highlights of the Bill



- The Constitution (One Hundred and Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2008 seeks to reserve one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies. The allocation of reserved seats shall be determined by such authority as prescribed by Parliament.
- One third of the total number of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes shall be reserved for women of those groups in the Lok Sabha and the legislative assemblies.
- Reserved seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in the state or union territory.
- Reservation of seats for women shall cease to exist 15 years after the commencement of this Amendment Act.

Key Issues and Analysis

- There are divergent views on the reservation policy. Proponents stress the necessity of affirmative action to improve the condition of women. Some recent studies on panchayats have shown the positive effect of reservation on empowerment of women and on allocation of resources.
- Opponents argue that it would perpetuate the unequal status of women since they would not be perceived to be competing on merit. They also contend that this policy diverts attention from the larger issues of electoral reform such as criminalization of politics and inner party democracy.
- Reservation of seats in Parliament restricts choice of voters to women candidates. Therefore, some experts have suggested alternate methods such as reservation in political parties and dual member constituencies.
- Rotation of reserved constituencies in every election may reduce the incentive for an MP to work for his constituency as he may be ineligible to seek re-election from that constituency.
- The report examining the 1996 women's reservation Bill recommended that reservation be provided for women of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) once the Constitution was amended to allow for reservation for OBCs. It also recommended that reservation be extended to the Rajya Sabha and the Legislative Councils. Neither of these recommendations has been incorporated in the Bill.

Way forward

- Introducing dual constituency - two members from same constituency should have one member as female.
- Extending reservation provision to political parties.
- Extending the application of reservation to Rajya Sabha and legislative councils too.
- Reservation provisions for OBC women must be taken into considerations.
- Best practices from around the world like Sweden, Mexico, Rwanda etc. where the women's representation is as higher 61% in Rwanda



- In India states like Odisha have provided reservation of 50 percent to women in Panchayati Raj institution.

Conclusion

No society, no household, no state, no Country can ever move forward without empowering their women in decision making. The political empowerment of women is necessary to attain a sustainable and inclusive society. Thus, in view of the international experiences it is imperative that affirmative action must be legislated for political empowerment of women.

What do you understand by mob lynching? Why prevalent laws are largely failed to curb mob lynching in the recent past? To what extent new laws passed by the state governments would address the issue?

The hindu

The hindu

Mob lynching is a form of violence in which mob under the pretext of administering justice, takes laws into their hand and tries to inflict punishment on the President of India without due process of law. Mob lynching is often fuelled by ideological political for class hatred. In some cases it is fuelled due to the sudden arousal of mass due to their social and political attitudes towards the matter.

Example - rumours of child lifters have led to mob rising and taking laws into their hand to punish the child-lifter and protect the society against evil without any trial.

Effect of mob violence

- It is against the constitutional value of Liberty equality and fraternity.
- It creates a reasonable restriction on the fundamental rights (right to life and right to freedom of expression).
- It weakens the law and justice system on which democracy functions.
- Life of civil servants, who do not affiliate themselves to the ideology of mob, itself is in danger. E.g. SHO investigating Dadri lynching case was also lynched by the people.
- It creates the atmosphere of fear and threat to security in the society.
- These cases promote communal hatred and kill the character of mercy and tolerance inside a person.
- It drives the society towards majoritarianism.
- Mob violence itself is a crime and it also facilitates other crimes to be committed in the veil of mob. For **example** - burning alive of a woman on a superstitious presumption of her being indulged in witchcraft and black magic.
- Mob violence does not have any respect for law it creates unbearable damage to the democracy.

**Reason for rising mob violence-**

- The ineffectiveness of police department that lacks cohesion, critical mass, and political support to make a difference.
- In several cases, the accused get away scot-free through the support of the political system. It shows that mob-lynching has become a premeditated act and not an expression of public outrage.
- The lackadaisical attitude of the police is responsible for shoddy investigation in handling the cases which are given various names: cow smuggling, road rage, rash driving, and animal cruelty.
- The unholy nexus between politicians and the perpetrators even leads to registering of cases against the victim itself. It adds insult to injury.
- Police officials are either too late or they are outnumbered to save the innocent as his killing unfolds.

What needs to be done?

The apex court, while hearing the **case of Tehseen Poonawalla vs the Union of India** on 17 July 2018, gave a detailed order addressing the issue of mob lynching. The court observed, "Mob vigilanism and mob violence have to be prevented by the governments by taking strict action... Rising intolerance and growing polarisation expressed through [a] spate of incidents of mob violence cannot be permitted to become the normal way of life or the normal state of law and order in the country." The **court issued guidelines to be followed by the state governments to curb mob lynching.**

The court formulated a three-pronged approach to putting an end to mob lynching:

- The first step requires states to take preventive steps to ensure that lynching does not occur.
- The court's guidelines mandate the states to identify regions where lynching could occur.
- In every district a senior police officer should be designated as the nodal officer to take measures to prevent lynching. They specify that the nodal officer should take steps to prevent the creation of a hostile environment against any community or caste.
- The officer is also required to prevent the spread of messages or videos that could incite mobs.
- Also, regular situational review and coordination meetings between police and state administration are part of the preventive approach prescribed by the court.
- The guidelines categorically state that every police officer shall be duty-bound to disperse a mob which may cause lynching.
- So far, three states have given legislative backing to the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court. Manipur was the first state to do so followed by Rajasthan and West Bengal.

Way forward:

- Implementation of the Supreme Court judgment in Prakash Singh case: a police establishment board has to be constituted for internal transparency and accountability.



- Distinguishing the core functions of police from the functions at the periphery as per the Malimath committee report.
- Use of latest technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT) for remote monitoring of the identified sensitive areas. It can save the time of the police.

Conclusion:

The dastardly act of lynching has no easy solution. The responsibility of state legislatures should not be limited to enacting a law providing strict punishments. State legislatures need to be continuously involved with the issue. Their involvement should extend to an in-depth discussion with respect to budgetary requirements of police and judiciary and a continuous holding to account of the state administration for every unlawful act of lynching in the state.

India has some of the deadliest roads in the world, and 1, 47,913 people died in road accidents only during 2017. In this context, to what extent steep penalties for violation of road rules would decrease fatalities in road accidents? Discuss the importance of better infrastructure to curb road accidents in near future?

The hindu

In India, 147913 people have died in road accident only in 2017. It shows something is wrong with road transport system. According to ministry of road transport 78% of road accidents happens due to negligence of the driver. Therefore, to attend the target of 50% reduction in road accident by 2020 under Brasilia declaration government has introduced amendment to motor vehicle act.

Provisions of the Act:

- Increased penalty for violation of traffic rules.
- Penalty for Juvenile driving and making the owner of vehicle accountable.
- Provision of double fine for violation bye police and traffic inspector.
- Good Samaritan rule inculcated.
- Tight RTO rule for granting license.

Role of increased fine

- Most of the accidents are due to driver's negligence of traffic rule.
- Increased penalty will act as a deterrent for those who violate the rule
- It will take juveniles off the roads as it has very high penalty in this case.
- There will be all over awareness, improvement among the masses about the traffic rules.

Importance of Transport Infrastructure -

- Scientific construction of road improve is of driving such as proper turn over bridges etc. Other Infrastructures such as traffic lights signals etc. to tell drivers about what lies ahead. Hence give him enough time to take proper actions.



- Emergency services such as dedicated ambulance, phone booth, availability of first aid reduces the impact of an accident and contribute in saving life.
- Automatic sensors to detect traffic violation provide another layer of deterrence for violating traffic rules.

Way forward

- Adoption of the bill by all the States. In theory, heftier fines should act as a deterrent for speeding but in practice, this may not happen. Higher fines could mean more rent-seeking as drivers pay off authorities to avoid fines or simply abscond.
- According to TRIPP, the global experience with imposing stricter penalties has not proven to change driver behaviour and has even decreased overall enforcement of penalties. A better strategy, then, could be to ensure that speed limits are enforced more regularly.
- The WHO's global report, which measured enforcement levels across the world, rated India's enforcement as fairly weak. One way to address this could be through technology such as speed cameras and in-vehicle sensors.
- Rather than concentrating only on fine for behaviour change other methods of persuasion should also be used side by side.
- Attention should also be paid on curbing corruption because in Christ find also opens a new Avenue for corruption by traffic officers.

Conclusion

To have effective curbing of road accident behaviour change of driver is necessary along with proper infrastructure because without enabling infrastructure traffic violation is bound to happen. In paucity of infrastructure citizen of fun things government is is transfer in their responsibilities on the shoulder of general people. However, better enforcement alone may not be enough. The United Nations' prescription for road safety policy is that it should focus on five key areas together: improving road safety management capacity; developing safe infrastructure; rolling out safer cars; changing road-user behaviour and improving post-crash care.

Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting a uniform civil code (UCC) for its citizenry as provided for by the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) of the Indian constitution.

Indianexpress

Why this question:

There have been various calls for a uniform civil code in the country, right since the independence. The debate involves several issues and it is important to analyze the nature of the debate, various issues involved therein etc.

Key demand of the question:

Discuss the need for UCC in India and explain in detail the possible factors that have hindered the coming of UCC 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:

Write a few introductory lines about the UCC in India. E.g. the Constituent Assembly debates reveal a lack of consensus on what a potential uniform civil code would entail. While many thought the UCC would coexist alongside the personal law systems, others thought that it was to replace the personal law.

Body:

Explain briefly first the Uniform civil code and the respective constitutional provisions. Discuss the need for a UCC and how imposing a UCC will affect democracy and personal freedom. Also discuss what should be the way ahead, what steps should be taken.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward, what should be the next step ahead.

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India proposes to replace the personal laws based on the scriptures and customs of each major religious community in the country with a common set of laws governing every citizen.

The constitution has a provision for Uniform Civil Code in Article 44, as a Directive Principle of State Policy which states that “The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.”

Factors obstructing the passage of UCC:

- **Practical difficulties due to diversity in India** - It is practically tough to come up with a common and uniform set of rules for personal issues like marriage due to tremendous cultural diversity India across the religions, sects, castes, states etc.
- **Perception of UCC as encroachment on religious freedom** - Many communities, particularly minority communities perceive Uniform Civil Code as an encroachment on their rights to religious freedom. They fear that a common code will neglect their traditions and impose rules which will be mainly dictated and influenced by the majority religious communities.
- **Interference of state in personal matters** - The constitution provides for the right to freedom of religion of one's choice. With codification of uniform rules and its compulsion, the scope of the freedom of religion will be reduced.
- **Sensitive and tough task** - Such a code, in its true spirit, must be brought about by borrowing freely from different personal laws, making gradual changes in each, issuing judicial pronouncements assuring gender equality, and adopting expansive interpretations on marriage, maintenance, adoption, and succession by acknowledging the benefits that one community secures from the others. This task will be very demanding time and human resource wise. The government should be sensitive and unbiased at each step while dealing with the majority and minority communities. Otherwise, it might turn out to be more disastrous in a form of communal violence.
- **Time is not yet suitable for this reform** - Considering a major opposition from Muslim community in India over this issue overlapping with controversies over beef, saffronization of school and college curriculum, love jihad, and the silence emanating from the top leadership on these controversies, there needs to be given sufficient time for instilling confidence in the community. Otherwise, these efforts towards common will be counterproductive leaving



minority class particularly Muslims more insecure and vulnerable to get attracted towards fundamentalist and extremist ideologies.

Way forward

- Major sensitization efforts are needed to reform current personal law reforms which should first be initiated by the communities themselves.
- Current institutions need to be modernized, democratized and strengthened for this change. Sincere efforts towards women empowerment have to be taken for all women of all religions.
- UCC can only emerge through an evolutionary process, which preserves India's rich legal heritage, of which all the personal laws are equal constituents.

Conclusion

The codification and implementation of UCC may not necessarily usher in the expected equality among genders and religions. The plural democracy is an identity of the modern India. Therefore, efforts should be focused on harmony in plurality than blanket uniformity for flourishing Indian democracy.

Recent observations by the Supreme Court have put the spotlight back on the debate over a Uniform Civil Code. Analyse what such a Code would seek to achieve, and what have been the arguments for and against it.

Indianexpress

Why this question:

The question aims to evaluate the debate of Uniform civil code.

Key demand of the question:

One must analyse the arguments for and against the Uniform civil code and discuss why it is back in news and what should be the next step in this direction.

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:

Define UCC – A Uniform Civil Code means that all sections of the society irrespective of their religion shall be treated equally according to a national civil code, which shall be applicable to all uniformly.

Body:

The question is straightforward, take cues from the article and discuss in detail the arguments for and against the UCC.

Discuss the constitutional provisions related to it – Part IV, Article 44 of the Constitution states that “The State shall endeavor to secure the citizen a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India”.

However, Article 37 of the Constitution itself makes it clear the DPSP “shall not be enforceable by any court”. Nevertheless, they are “fundamental in the governance of the country”.

This indicates that although our constitution itself believes that a Uniform Civil Code should be implemented in some manner, it does not make this implementation mandatory.

Discuss the challenges in implementing it.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way ahead.



Recently, while hearing a matter relating to properties of a Goa, the Supreme Court described Goa as a “shining example” with a Uniform Civil Code, observed that the founders of the Constitution had “hoped and expected” a Uniform Civil Code for India but there has been no attempt at framing one.

Uniform Civil Code:

- A Uniform Civil Code is one that would provide for **one law for the entire country**, applicable to **all religious communities in their personal matters** such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.
- **Article 44** of the Constitution lays down that the **state shall endeavor to secure a Uniform Civil Code for the citizens throughout the territory of India**.
- **Article 44 is one of the directive principles.** These, as defined in Article 37, are **not justiciable** (not enforceable by any court) but the principles laid down therein are fundamental in governance.

What are more important — fundamental rights or directive principles?

- The Supreme Court held in **Minerva Mills (1980)**: “Indian Constitution is founded on the bedrock of the balance between Parts III (Fundamental Rights) and IV (Directive Principles). To give absolute primacy to one over the other is to disturb the harmony of the Constitution”.
- **Article 31C inserted by the 42nd Amendment in 1976**, however, lays down that if a **law is made to implement any directive principle, it cannot be challenged on the ground of being violative of the fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 19**.

Doesn't India already have a uniform code?

- **Indian laws do follow a uniform code in most civil matters** – Indian Contract Act, Civil Procedure Code, Sale of Goods Act, Transfer of Property Act, Partnership Act, Evidence Act etc. States, however, have made hundreds of amendments and therefore in certain matters, there is diversity even under these secular civil laws.
- Recently, **several states refused to be governed by the uniform Motor Vehicles Act, 2019**.
- **“Personal laws” are mentioned in the Concurrent List** making it difficult to jurisdiction. Last year, the Law Commission concluded that a Uniform Civil Code is neither feasible nor desirable.

Is there a common personal law for any religious community governing all its members?

- **All Hindus** of the country are **not governed by one law, nor are all Muslims or all Christians**. Not only **British legal traditions**, even those of **the Portuguese and the French** remain **operative in some parts**.
- In the **Northeast**, there are more than 200 tribes with their **own varied customary laws**. The Constitution itself protects local customs in Nagaland.
- Similar protections are enjoyed by Meghalaya and Mizoram. Even **reformed Hindu law, in spite of codification, protects customary practices**.

How does the idea of a Uniform Civil Code relate to the fundamental right to religion?



- Article 25 lays down an individual's fundamental right to religion;
- Article 26(b) upholds the right of each religious denomination or any section thereof to "manage its own affairs in matters of religion";
- Article 29 defines the right to conserve distinctive culture. An individual's freedom of religion under
- **Article 25 is subject to "public order, health, morality" and other provisions relating to fundamental rights, but a group's freedom under Article 26 has not been subjected to other fundamental rights.**
- In the Constituent Assembly, there was division on the issue of putting Uniform Civil Code in the fundamental rights chapter.
- **By a 5:4 majority, the fundamental rights sub-committee held that the provision was outside the scope of fundamental rights** and therefore the Uniform Civil Code was made less important than freedom of religion.

Conclusion-

If the framers of the Constitution had intended to have a Uniform Civil Code, they would have given exclusive jurisdiction to Parliament in respect of personal laws, by including this subject in the Union List. Even the law commission has suggested in against of the idea. **The government needs to find a moral backing a unanimous support across the sections of the society to undertake such a move.**

National identity is something that transcends linguistic and regional differences. In such a scenario, is it justified to link it to any one language based on majority? Critically analyse.

The hindu

Why this question:

The question is amidst the recent controversies that have risen owing to the comments made by Amit Shah over making Hindi a national language.

Key demand of the question:

One has to analyse the context of regional differences and the making of a single language as the national language.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief explain the context.

Body:

First explain the reasons of Hindi gaining prominence, discuss its association of making it a national language with vote bank politics.

Discuss the constitutional provisions related to the official language.

Present the arguments for regional identity, language and the need for a national language.

Explain that cultural plurality is significant than a unified language for the country.

Conclusion:



Conclude that According a hegemonic role to the “most-spoken” language in the country may promote cultural homogenization, but that is hardly desirable in a country with a diverse population, a plural ethos and is a cauldron of many languages and cultures.

The Majority-Minority relation between populations is an interesting and important factor in the development and nation-building discourse. It assumes different contours at different times in any country. At present, India is witnessing a transition. The Indian political plane is so volatile that it may overcrowd, eliminate, submerge, or transform the kind of identity assertions that we have been witnessing for the past half a century or so.

The *debate over Hindi being India's "National Language" has been on since the time the Constitution was being written*. It was recently resurrected by the Draft National Education Policy which seems to be giving Hindi more importance than other Indian languages. In fact, the **numbers of native Hindi speakers in India are only around 44%**, which includes speakers of languages such as Bhojpuri.

The promotion of Hindi and factors working against its success:

- The Constitution of India was framed with the provision that the official language of the Union would be Hindi in Devanagari script with international numerals.
- Many actions were taken to aid the ascendancy of Hindi. A plan was adopted to phase out English over a fifteen year period and replace it with Hindi (by 1965). The Indian government funded associations which promoted Hindi throughout India, the most successful of which were organizations which provided Hindi instruction in the south. The government also gave money to writers, poets, and translators to produce works in Hindi.
- Committees were formed to "develop" Hindi in order to give it a more comprehensive vocabulary which would allow it to fulfill its official functions. The primary source for new words was Sanskrit; however, the new terminology was often unfamiliar and exceedingly long for the average person, and the majority of these words never took hold. Instead, English words or variants of them were often used.

Revolt against the imposition of Hindi:

- Because of these and other factors working against the promotion of Hindi, neither the planned changeover from English to Hindi as the official language nor the envisioned rise of Hindi as the national language occurred. Nonetheless, in 1965, in accordance with the 15-year plan, instructions were given to go ahead with the linguistic changeover.
- Communication between the Center and the states was to be in Hindi, except for the non-Hindi states, which would receive an accompanying English translation. This determination led to protests in many different regions of India-most notably in Madras. There, the Dravida Munnetra Kazagham (DMK) political party helped organize the Madras State Anti-Hindi Conference on January 17, 1965-little more than a week before the January 26 date scheduled for Hindi's ascent to the role of sole official language of India. The day before this deadline, students in Madras picketed with cries of "Hindi Imperialism" and "Hindi never, English ever!", beginning a two month long period of agitation and repression. During this time, sixty-six people died-two of which were members of the DMK who committed suicide by self-immolation on the



street. At the same time, pro-Hindi groups in the north staged demonstrations which attacked "**English imperialism**" and urged the Union government to go ahead with the shift to Hindi.

A compromise was worked out, but it was plagued by the equally adamant and opposing pro-Hindi and anti-Hindi forces. In February 1965, a resolution was passed by the Congress Working Committee which stated that the position of English as an official language would not change unless all states consented to it.

Even though Hindi was perhaps the most natural choice, there were many blocks to its achieving success as the national language. One of these was the high position of English—a position it has retained until today despite the plan to phase it out of all government communications by 1965. However, because of English's importance internationally and the many advantages conferred upon those who could speak it, the study of English continued with even greater vigor than before, whereas Hindi suffered in many regions where people perceived little need for it. This ensured that a large section of the educated population who went into government services needed to use English in performing their jobs. Accordingly, English has merely shared its position as an official language with Hindi rather than relinquishing the role entirely.

Where English has acted as a stumbling block for Hindi, the other major Indian languages have provided a wall. According to the Indians I talked to, English is fine as an official language, but it could never be a national language. However, other Indian languages, particularly Sanskrit, could be national languages or could share the position. The major Indian languages are all highly developed and have impressive literary traditions of their own. People have great pride in their own languages and fail to see why Hindi should be given a dominance which it cannot claim on its own. Even so, it is more than just "a matter of psychological resentment, for while this elevation of one language to the status of official language endows great benefits and advantages on those whose mother tongue it is, it also places a discriminatory burden on others". This can lead speakers of non-favored languages to push for a foreign language as the link medium in order to neutralize this imbalance. Certainly, this condition has helped English keep its place in India.

What are the dangers of imposing a language in the pretext of its Majoritarianism?

- It can affect the learning ability of non-native speakers thereby affecting their self-confidence.
- It can also endanger other languages and dialects and reduce diversity.
- National integration cannot come at the cost of people's linguistic identities. Language is integral to culture and therefore privileging Hindi over all other languages spoken in India takes away from its diversity.

This is an argument that has often been put forth by southern states, especially Tamil Nadu, even before independence. In fact, when the draft on the National Education Policy came out, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam President M. K. Stalin made a statement where he reminded the centre of Nehru's promise. This was that Hindi would only serve as a linking language and it would not be imposed on non-Hindi speaking states as long as they were against it. There have also been protests in other southern states, such as in Karnataka, where pro-Kannada outfits like Karnataka Rashna Vedika held round tables to discuss how to tackle "Hindi chauvinism". Similar groups such as the Bengal Pokkoh have emerged even in Bengal that are spearheading movements against Hindi imposition.



Conclusion:

It is time the Centre realised that the creation of linguistic States has obviated the need for a campaign against a “foreign language” allegedly fostering a slave mentality. Regional languages have become the official languages of the States, and the continued use of English has a strong utilitarian value. While the development of Hindi is undoubtedly a constitutional command the Union government cannot ignore, the manner in which it is done should not give the impression to the States that there is creeping imposition of Hindi.

Job quotas in the private sector are a Band-Aid approach to the on-going job crisis and are aimed largely at political dividends. Analyse and suggest what should be the way forward?

Hindustantimes

Why this question:

Rajasthan has become the latest state to join the bandwagon of states proposing to provide job reservations in the private sector. It plans to reserve 75% of jobs for the local residents in the private sector, much as Andhra Pradesh did earlier this year through a law.

Key demand of the question:

Explain that though there is no doubt that there is a huge need for job creation across states, but forcing the private sector’s hand is not the way to go about it.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief discuss the context of the question.

Body:

First explain whether reservations should be envisaged in the private sector or not. Then explain the recent steps taken by various state governments and their implications on the employment factor and quality. Discuss the associated concerns in detail and give your opinion.

Conclusion:

Conclude with a fair and balanced opinion with suitable justifications.

It's the duty of the government to provide equality of status and opportunity in India. Reservation is one of the tools against social oppression and injustice against certain classes. Otherwise known as affirmative action reservation helps in uplifting backward classes.

However, reservation is just one of the methods for social upliftment.

There are many other methods like providing scholarships, funds, vocational training, and other welfare schemes.

The way the reservation is implemented and executed in India is largely governed by vote-bank politics.

Indian Constitution allowed reservation only for socially and educationally backward classes. However, in India, it became caste-based reservation instead of class-based reservation.

Initially, the reservation was intended only for SC/ST communities – that too for a period of 10 years (1951-1961). However, it got extended ever since. After the implementation of **Mandal Commission**



report in 1990, the scope of the reservation was widened to include Other Backward Communities (OBCs).

The benefits of the reservation were successively enjoyed only by a few communities (or families), excluding the truly deserving ones. Even 70 years after independence, the demand for reservation has only increased.

Now, with the introduction of economic criteria for reservation, in addition to the caste-criteria which already existed, things have become more complicated.

What are the issues or concerns involved?

- Denying India, the service of the meritorious candidates, who see them being overtaken by others with lesser academic performance or brilliance, is also a crime and injustice.
- Reservation based entirely on economic criteria is not an all-in-one solution, though family income can be one of the parameters. Also its time to fix a time period for the reservation system rather than extending it to eternity.
- Reforms in the reservation system of India are the need of the hour. However, as the subject of reservation revolves around a lot of votes, parties are reluctant to disrupt the existing system.

Steps India can take to make private sector jobs more inclusive other than quota:

- Affirmative action in the private sector should be based on a fine-tuned system of incentives and disincentives rather than a punitive regime of inspector-raj or legally mandated quotas. This could be designed and monitored by a new institution like an equal opportunity commission.
- There is no doubt that there is a huge need for job creation across states, but forcing the private sector's hand is not the way to go about it. As people move out of the agrarian sector, they are faced with unemployment and few skills for the jobs that are available. The answer should be to provide the kind of education and skills that the job market demands rather than impose quotas on the private sector. And the answer also should be to create a business-environment that attracts the private sector. The rest will follow.
- The private sector is crucial to the growth and development of a growing economy and should not be hobbled by moves that are not business-friendly. There is another aspect to such quotas — they prevent free movement of talent and labour.

It is the right time for the government to take effective measures to enact a generic law to provide reservation (assistance) to the deserved skillful people who are either physically or economically backward. Right Action at right time takes our nation to a glorious height.

What are E-cigarettes? Discuss the associated concerns and relevance of the recent ban placed on them by the government of India.

Indiatoday

Why this question:

The Union Cabinet recently approved a ban on all forms of electronic cigarettes including Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS), amid growing fears over the health risks posed by vaping. The ban has been approved following the recommendations of a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by the Finance Minister.

Key demand of the question:



The answer should discuss in detail the coming of the ban of e-cigarettes and the relevance of such a decision.

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 e-cigarettes are.

Body:

Explain the coming of the ban, then move on to discuss the significance that once the ban comes into force, consumption, production, manufacturing, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement of e-cigarettes would become illegal and any violation would be treated as a cognizable offence punishable with imprisonment of up to one year, or fine up to ₹1 lakh, or both for the first offence; and imprisonment of up to three years and fine up to ₹5 lakh for a subsequent offence.

Analyse the pros and cons of such a decision.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

- The Union Cabinet has approved a ban on all forms of electronic cigarettes including Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS), amid growing fears over the health risks posed by vaping.
- The ban has been approved following the recommendations of a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by the Finance Minister.
- Once the ban comes into force, **consumption, production, manufacturing, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage and advertisement of e-cigarettes would become illegal and any violation would be treated as a cognizable offence punishable with imprisonment of up to one year, or fine up to ₹1 lakh, or both for the first offence; and imprisonment of up to three years and fine up to ₹5 lakh for a subsequent offence..**
- The ban has been brought in through an ordinance (Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance, 2019) and it has to be approved by the Parliament in its next session.
- According to the draft ordinance, the storage of e-cigarettes shall now be punishable with imprisonment of up to six months or a fine of up to ₹50,000 or both.
- Once the ordinance is issued, those holding e-cigarette stocks must declare them and deposit the stocks at the nearest police station.
- While a sub-inspector of police will be authorized to search and seize stocks, the central and state governments will be free to designate any other equivalent officer for the same.
- The government has said that the ban is aimed at protecting the youth, the section that is most vulnerable to the health hazards of e-cigarettes.
- Prior to this announcement, 15 states and one Union territory had already banned e-cigarettes. These include Punjab, Karnataka, Mizoram, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar,



Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, Odisha and Nagaland.

What are E-cigarettes?

- E-cigarettes and ENDS are battery-operated devices and they do not burn tobacco, but use a heating element to vaporize liquid nicotine, which the user inhales/vapes.
- These are often marketed as products that are less harmful than cigarettes and which can help smokers quit their addiction.
- The main constituents of the solution, in addition to nicotine, are propylene glycol, with or without glycerol and flavouring agents.
- Studies have shown that vaping can be far more dangerous than smoking regular cigarettes and instead of aiding in de-addiction, it can actually become a gateway product for youngsters to get addicted to smoking.
- The World Health Organisation has flagged these concerns and it has stated that they can be as addictive as conventional cigarettes.
- WHO says, "It can have adverse effects during pregnancy and may contribute to cardiovascular disease."
- The Indian Council of Medical Research has also issued a white paper recommending a complete ban on e-cigarettes based on available scientific evidence.
- Although nicotine itself is not a carcinogen, it may function as a tumour promoter. Nicotine seems to be involved in fundamental aspects of the biology of malignant diseases, as well as of neuro-degeneration.
- There are other compounds in the aerosol that are toxic and known to have deleterious effects, and might just be less harmful than cigarettes but not entirely harmless.
- Seven deaths have been recorded in the United States which is the world's largest consumer of e-cigarettes and recently, New York has even banned the sale of flavoured e-cigarettes.

Concerns

- These products are not registered as nicotine replacement therapy products in India.
- E-cigarettes usually contain nicotine which makes product addictive.
- E-cigarettes cause health hazards for youth, young adults, and pregnant women.
- A number of metals, including lead, chromium, and nickel, and chemicals like formaldehyde have been found in aerosols of some ENDS, with concentrations equal to or greater than traditional cigarettes, work as 'tumor promoters'.
- Traditional cigarette manufacturing companies are having parallel e-cigarette like device making industries. This growing hub in India is under-regulated.
- Lack of knowledge about negative effects of nicotine and easy accessibility of these products make the youth prone to addiction.

Analysis:



- The Centre's move to ban these products shows a welcome intolerance of anything that impact negatively on the health and wellness of the people of the country.
- There is enough evidence available to prove the harmful effects of nicotine addiction and how vaping, which is marketed as a cool, fun, activity, lures youngsters, and ironically, pushes them to take up smoking.
- According to the WHO's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), these devices can be considered to be successful in promoting de-addiction only if smokers have moved on to an alternative nicotine source, and then stopped using that too.
- It should also push the entry of minors into nicotine dependency, eventually to zero.
- The FCTC also reports that e-cigarettes are actually harmful, and in the long run its usage is expected to increase the risk of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and possibly cardiovascular disease and other diseases associated with smoking.
- Considering the exponential increase in the import of e-cigarettes and its accessories, it is justified for the government to act on it by bringing in stringent measures.
- The government appears to have the right intentions in mind but if it has to succeed in its efforts then it must enforce the ban in letter and spirit.
- The poor execution of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act should serve as a reminder in this regard.
- So the ban can be effective only if there is rigorous implementation.

What do you understand by Agro ecology? Why do Powerful lobbies with vested interests see agro ecology as a threat to their influence on farming systems? Discuss the case of Indian farming system

The hindu

Why this question:

In a recent view that came as a surprise, the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, based on a brainstorming session that included industry representatives, sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi opposing Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF). ZBNF developed and publicized by agro-scientist Subhash Palekar.

Key demand of the question:

One has to throw light on the fact that Powerful lobbies with vested interests see agroecology as a threat to their influence on farming systems. Thus it is important to deal with the concerns associated for the farming system to be free from these vested interests.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Start by explaining the context of the question – National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, based on a brainstorming session that included industry representatives, sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi opposing Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF).

Body:

In short define what is meant by agroecology.



Explain the roles and functions of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS).

Discuss in what way Farming in India, as in most other countries, is largely under the control of powerful lobbies with vested interests and connections to deep pockets.

Quote examples/recent cases to substantiate your answer while explaining the concern associated.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what can be done and suggest way forward.

Agroecology:

- It is recognized worldwide as a system that enhances fertile landscapes, increases yields, restores soil health and biodiversity, promotes climate resilience and improves farmers' well-being.
- Its practices are supported by many agricultural scientists, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, farmers' groups and several NGOs.
- It basically makes the best use of nature's goods and services while not damaging it. It works on enhancing healthy ecosystems, and build on ancestral knowledge and customs
- As an agricultural practice, Agroecology mimics natural processes to deliver self-sustaining farming that **grows a greater diversity of crops, drastically reduces artificial inputs** (pesticides, fertilizers, antibiotics) and **recycles nutrients** (plant and animal waste as manure).

Context

- National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, based on a brainstorming session that included industry representatives, sent a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi opposing Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF).
- ZBNF, developed and publicized by agro-scientist Subhash Palekar, has been adopted by Andhra Pradesh.

National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS)

- It was established in 1990 and owes its origin to the vision of the late Dr. B. P. Pal, noted Indian agricultural scientist
- The Academy focuses on the broad field of agricultural sciences including crop husbandry, animal husbandry, fisheries, agro-forestry and interface between agriculture and agro-industry.
- The Academy's role is to provide a forum to Agricultural Scientists to deliberate on important issues of agricultural research, education and extension and present views of the scientific community as policy inputs to planners, decision/opinion makers at various levels.
 - To achieve this, the Academy organizes and supports national and international congresses, conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops and brainstorming sessions on critical issues in the field of agricultural sciences.
- One of its objective is to promote ecologically sustainable agriculture

Threat to powerful elites



- Farming in India, as in most other countries, is largely under the **control of powerful lobbies with vested interests and connections to deep pockets.**
 - These include fossil fuel, fertilizer and seed companies as well as scientists with funding connections to agribusiness.
 - These **lobbies perceive large-scale transitions to agroecology as a substantial threat to their influence on farming systems.**

Examples of Corporate Threats and criticisms

- In Britain, when public hearings were held in the early 2000s to discuss Genetically Modified (GM) crops, **corporations threatened to pull grants from scientists on the committees if they voted against GM.**
- In some parts of Europe and in the University of California when individual scientists published articles describing how GM foods and crops affected the health of human beings and insects adversely, they were personally attacked and vilified.
- When **glyphosate trials against Monsanto** were decided in favour of litigants who accused the company of causing cancer, some voices called to have only scientists on such juries.

Disturbing Trends

- With this introduction of fertilizers into the Agricultural ecosystem, there is **grave threat to food systems and biodiversity**
- As a result of industrial farming, **friendly insects are no longer part of the agricultural landscape**, water pollution is rampant, depleted soils are commonplace and falling groundwater tables have become the norm.
- The opportunity cost incurred from investing only in industrial methods of agriculture is one that has been **borne largely by the farming community and the natural systems.**
- The constant funding by the corporate groups to the scientists has become an established norm. It includes fields like Agriculture, pharmaceuticals and university research.

Conclusion

- ZBNF experiment is showing success largely because farmers are supporting it.
- The practice may not be all zero budget, may not be fully successful everywhere and will need to be adapted to India's various agro ecological zones. But the ZBNF has led to sustainable agriculture
- Farmers appear to be listening to and following Mr. Palekar.

If policymakers ignore the posturing and stay focused on improving soil health and quality of life for farmers, while observing and supporting successes, farmers may even double their incomes and India's food security could sow new beginnings.



Comment on the new draft National Resource Efficiency Policy (NREP), 2019. How far does it seek to plug gaps in implementation of waste laws?

livemint

Why this question:

The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has proposed a draft National Resource Efficiency Policy 2019 which aims to streamline the efficient use of these resources with minimum negative impact on environment.

Key demand of the question:

One must explain what resource efficiency is, and bring out the salient features of draft National Resource Efficiency Policy 2019 and its significance.

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 brief narrate that Driven by serious sustainability concern, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had proposed a draft National Resource Efficiency Policy 2019.

Body:

Explain what is Resource Efficiency?

Discuss that the policy aims to streamline the efficient use of these resources with minimum negative impact on environment.

Then move on to discuss the key features of the policy.

Explain what the challenges before India are.

Discuss the strategy required.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Recently, The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has proposed a draft National Resource Efficiency Policy 2019 which aims to streamline the efficient use of these resources with minimum negative impact on environment.

The National Resource Efficiency Policy (NREP), 2019 seeks to create a 12 facilitative and regulatory environment to mainstream resource efficiency across all sectors 13 by fostering cross-sectorial collaborations, development of policy instruments, action plans 14 and efficient implementation and monitoring frameworks.

NREP, 2019 is guided by the 15 principles of reduction in primary resource consumption to ‘sustainable’ levels, in keeping 16 with achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and staying within the planetary 17 boundaries, creation of higher value with less material through resource efficient and 18 circular approaches, waste minimization, material security, and creation of 19 employment opportunities and business models beneficial to the cause of environment 20 protection and restoration.

Salient Features of Policy:

Objective: The draft policy intends to minimize this inherent cost of economic growth on the natural environment by transforming country’s waste management sector into a secondary resource recovery sector.



National Resource Efficiency Authority (NREA): This will be achieved by setting up a NREA with a core working group housed in the Ministry of Environment. Its mandate will be developing and implementing resource efficient strategies for material recycling, reuse and land-filling targets for various sectors and set standards for reuse of secondary raw materials.

Inter-Ministerial National Resource Efficiency Board: NERA would be supported by an Inter-Ministerial National Resource Efficiency Board to guide on the aspects critical to its implementation.

Strategy:

It is also planned to offer tax benefits on recycled materials, green loans to small and medium Enterprises (SMEs) and soft loans to construct waste disposal facilities, apart from setting up Material Recovery Facilities (MRF).

Manufacturers and service providers would be required to use more recycled or renewable materials.

How the policy ensures mainstreaming of resource efficiency in India?

- Two major sectors of Solar Photovoltaic and Plastic Packaging has been taken up on a very large scale by the Prime Minister of India (ban on one time use plastic from 2nd October).
- Only one ministry will not be able to meet the desired results so a wholesome process and a holistic approach by all ministries is required to get the desired results.
- In the concept of Resource Efficiency, end product of one industry would be used as an initial product of another industry so there has to be an industrial symbiosis.

All the ministries would have to be on board to check the complete and total outlook of the end product and less of virgin material (materials sourced directly from nature in their raw form, such as wood or metal ores) will be used and more focus will be on the secondary resource material which can help India to achieve the five trillion dollar economy by 2024.

The future of news hinges on the interplay of the Press and online aggregators, and survival of the offline Press Critically analyse the statement in the backdrop of coming of newer business models of news aggregation.

Hindustantimes

Why this question:

The article explains that the business model of news aggregation has meant the slow death of newspapers. Entailed within it is the decline of hard-nosed journalism and fearless content generation that has been the credo of the newspaper industry.

Key demand of the question:

The question demands detailed analysis on urgent need to protect newspapers from the business model of news aggregation that are against the norms of Democracy.

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:



Start with importance of newspapers (media) in a democracy.

Body:

Discuss the evolution of 'News' and its newer methods that have evolved over time.

Explain that while newspapers continue to play an important role in society, online aggregators are rapidly changing the way people consume news. Access to news is now quick, efficient, and often, personalised. Above all, it is widely considered free.

Explain what are the possible threats that press is currently facing and in what way they can be overcome.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting solutions to the problem and discuss the way forward.

Until a few decades ago, the newspaper was not just a source of news for people. It was a medium where community exchanges were facilitated, marriages were announced, wars were declared, and births and deaths were recorded. Triumphs and tragedies of the day were communicated in equal measure. It was, most importantly, a piece of paper which could unite strangers.

Today, while newspapers continue to play an important role in society, online aggregators are rapidly changing the way people consume news. Access to news is now quick, efficient, and often, personalised. Above all, it is widely considered free. While this evolution has benefited readers in the short-term, it poses several challenges to the future of news itself — which hinges upon the relationship between the Press and online aggregators, and the survival of offline Press itself.

The business model of news aggregation has meant the slow death of the newspaper. Entailed within it is the decline of hard-nosed journalism and fearless content generation that has, for over a century, been the credo of the newspaper industry. It is feared that the diversion of readership to news aggregator websites has resulted in revenue losses for media houses, even the ones with a significant online presence.

In India, while readership of national and local newspapers has witnessed an overall rise, the slow decline of vernacular news dailies, and loss of print advertisement revenue, is not accounted for.

Policymakers across the world are presented with a significant concern — ensuring that newspapers, and traditional and authentic modes of news collection, are not threatened. So far, solutions have taken the form of amendments to existing copyright laws or extending competition law protections to the Press.

For instance, **Article 15 of the latest European Union Copyright Directive** protects Press publications from unauthorized use by online platforms. The right granted to publishers shall expire after two years. This will ensure that the Press gets statutory protection for the content published by it. However, many fear that negotiating licenses, particularly with news aggregator giants, will be cumbersome for the Press. This move has initiated a robust debate on harmonizing interests of the Press and online aggregators.

There is a definite need to begin thinking about protecting the newspaper in India. Aggregators like Google News and Inshorts usually credit the original source, provide hyperlinks, and only provide short excerpts/headlines of content on their feed. Users can then access the original story on the source website. In this context, whether aggregation itself amounts to free-riding, misappropriation or a copyright violation remains contentious, as witnessed through litigation in other countries.



At present, there is little empirical evidence to accurately indicate revenue losses, declining readership, and access benefits. While on the one hand, aggregation websites appear to promote wider access to news content online, many newspapers are becoming financially unviable. Courts are yet to exhaustively examine the application of traditional legal principles to the act of news aggregation.

Any policy intervention in this regard must be adequately backed by evidence, and should ensure that platform growth is harmonized with the interests of media houses, both online and offline.

Conclusion:

Making social media platforms publishers accountable, by changing the intermediary liability regime, may be one option that is being discussed. But the real question is much wider — democracy needs fair balance between content generators and content aggregators. Unreasonable restrictions on either will be detrimental to the future of news and access to information.

Discuss in detail the objectives of National Launch of 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029).

Pib

Why this question:

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI launched the 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029), which focus on sustaining the sanitation behavior change that has been achieved under the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), ensuring that no one is left behind, and increasing access to solid and liquid waste management.

Key demand of the question:

The question is straightforward and is about discussing the salient features of Recently launched National Launch of 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029).

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 explain the significance of rural sanitation in the overall development of the country.

Body:

Explain briefly About the Rural Sanitation Strategy, why is it significant, what have been the strategies in the past, their successes and failures.

How is the current strategy different from the past?

Explain the salient features in detail and suggest way ahead.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched the 10 Year Rural Sanitation Strategy (2019-2029).

Rural Sanitation Strategy:

- The strategy has been prepared by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation in consultation with the State Governments and other stakeholders.



- The strategy lays down the roadmap for Open defecation free(ODF) Plus which is the government's next step in dealing with open defecation and sanitation issues in the country.
- The aim of the strategy is to take a step further from the construction and maintenance of toilets for rural households by focussing on waste water and solid waste treatment at the village and panchayat level.
- The strategy also demands focused intervention through (a)capacity strengthening (b)IEC (Information, Education, and Communication), (c)organic waste management (d)plastic waste management and (e) water management.
- Further, the strategy also involves sanitation coverage of public spaces which will involve construction of community toilets as well as community sanitary complexes in gram panchayats.

What is Open defecation?

Open defecation refers to the practice whereby people go out in fields, bushes, forests, open bodies of water, or other open spaces rather than using the toilet to defecate.

A city or ward can be notified as Open defecation free(ODF) if at any point of the day,not a single person is found defecating in the open.

The ODF+ strategy focuses on sustaining community/ public toilet usage by ensuring their functionality, cleanliness and maintenance.

Further, the ODF++ is aimed at achieving sanitation sustainability by addressing complete sanitation value chain, including safe containment, processing and disposal of fecal sludge and seepage.

Conclusion:

India has seen a sanitation revolution, and the SBM-G transformed itself into a Jan Andolan (a people's movement).The 10 year strategy focuses on the need for States/UTs to continue their efforts to sustain the gains of the mission through capacity strengthening, IEC (Information, education and communication), organic waste management, plastic waste management, grey water management and black water management.



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AIR 4, CSE 2015



Kirti Chekuri
AIR 14, CSE 2015

2016



Nandini K R
AIR 1, CSE 2016



Dhyanchandra H M
AIR 47, CSE 2016

2017



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

Recently the ambit of RTI was widened by bringing in NGOs under its purview, don't you think bringing judiciary under the purview of the RTI Act can lead to enhanced public trust in the judiciary? Critically Analyse.

The hindu

Why this question:

To bring further transparency in "public dealings and probity in public life", the Supreme Court on Tuesday held that NGOs getting substantial funds directly or indirectly from the government fall within the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Key demand of the question:

One must discuss the nuances of bringing judiciary under the ambit of RTI and the outcome of such a move.

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 relevance of RTI as of today.

Body:

The answer body should capture the following aspects briefly –

Explain first the salient features of RTI.

Provide for arguments in favour of bringing the Judiciary under RTI.

In what way it will enhance the public trust in Judiciary – quote necessary reasons such as Transparency, will ensure accountability, help address abuse of discretion, corruption and other administrative malpractices.

Discuss the necessary arguments against bringing judiciary in RTI.

Conclusion:

Conclude with fair and balanced opinion.

The Indian judicial system has attained maturity over a period of more than one and a half century and has now earned an international reputation as one of the most efficient adjudicatory systems of the world. Time and again it has vehemently supported the principles of transparency and irritability in all spheres of governance. The Right to Information Act (RTI) aims to promote transparency in government institutions in India.

Judiciary can be said to be the backbone of the right to information (RTI). Thus, bringing it under RTI purview will enhance public trust in judiciary.

Arguments for bringing the Judiciary under RTI:

- All power, judicial power being no exception, is held accountable in a modern Constitution.



- A blanket judicial exemption from the RTI Act would defeat the basic idea of “open justice”: that the workings of the courts, as powerful organs of state, have to be as transparent and open to public scrutiny as any other body.
- Bringing the judiciary under the RTI Act will not destroy the personal privacy of judges as feared: as the High Court judgment noted, the RTI Act itself has an inbuilt privacy-oriented protection, which authorizes withholding the disclosure of personal information unless there is an overriding public interest.
- While disclosure of assets is arguably justified by an overriding public interest, medical details or information about marital status, for example, are clearly not. There will always be borderline cases, of course, but that only calls for nuanced and fine-grained analysis of such cases, nothing more.
- The Collegiums at present has immunized itself from any form of public scrutiny. The nomination process is secret, the deliberations are secret, and the reasons for elevation or non-elevation are secret.
- Courts have always been questioned for pending cases. RTI can place yardstick among judicial for timely disposal of justice.

Will it enhance the public trust in judiciary?

- Transparency in judicial functioning is crucial to maintaining public faith in the impartiality of the institution.
- It will ensure that accountability shall target mismanagement, abuse of discretion, corruption and other administrative malpractices.
- People of the country have increasingly started believing in the decision of the courts and have, from time to time, shown their faith in the judicial process. This move of exempting judiciary from RTI without any just, legal or logical reasoning will cast doubts on the judges and the public confidence in such a pious institution will be lost.

Arguments against bringing the Judiciary under RTI:

- Disclosing the correspondence of the Collegium might destroy judicial independence and disclosing the reasons for rejection of a judge might destroy his or her life or career.
- It will compromise independence of judiciary as specified by constitution.
- It will challenge the decision-making power of Supreme Court.
- It will create extra burden on judiciary as every field will be answerable by judiciary.
- It will compromise secrecy & security involved in certain cases. This may prove detrimental for our country.
- Judiciary will become puppet in the hands of people rather than being the sole justice provider of the country.
- It will increase the political involvement in judiciary.



Conclusion:

The RTI has been inherently recognized as a part of the right to freedom of an individual through the prism of fundamental rights. The growth of PIL has considerably helped in eroding the secrecy regime and provided access to information and democratization of the judicial process. Right to Information is no doubt a key to good governance. But it also has to be kept in mind that the independence of the judiciary is a part of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution. Thus, while dealing with the ambit of RTI act regarding judiciary, its applicability and extend both have to be taken into consideration.

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

The negative impact of malnutrition on the population's productivity remains undisputed in the country, in such a context present the current status of malnutrition in India and discuss measures proposed by the government in recent.

Reference

Why this question:

The entire month of September 2019 is being celebrated as the Rashtriya Poshan Maah. This year the theme is Complementary Feeding. Thus it is important from exam point of view to discuss the nutrition scenario of the country.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the context of the question, discuss why there is prevalence of malnutrition in India, how is it associated with the productivity of the country and discuss what are the govt. initiatives being taken.

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 malnutrition.

Body:

Explain the reasons leading to malnutrition in the country.

Discuss in what way it affects the population and its productivity; explain with examples.

Then explain the recent initiatives – National nutrition mission, poshan maah etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way ahead.

Despite India's 50% increase in GDP since 1991, more than one third of the world's malnourished children live in India. Among these, half of the children less than three years old are underweight and a third of wealthiest children are over-nourished. A new report, '**Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, India, 2019**', authored by the Government of India and the United Nations World Food Programme, paints a picture of hunger and malnutrition amongst children in large pockets of India. This punctures the image of a nation marching towards prosperity.

Causes of Malnutrition in India -



One of the major causes for malnutrition in India is **economic inequality**. Due to the low social status of some population groups, their diet often lacks in both quality and quantity.

Women who suffer malnutrition are less likely to have healthy **babies**. Deficiencies in nutrition inflict **long-term damage to both individuals** and society. Compared with their better-fed peers, nutrition-deficient individuals are more likely to have **infectious diseases** such as pneumonia and tuberculosis, which lead to a **higher mortality rate**.

In addition, **nutrition-deficient individuals are less productive at work**. Low productivity not only gives them low pay that traps them in a vicious circle of under-nutrition, but also brings inefficiency to the society, especially in India where labour is a major input factor for economic production. In India national obesity rates in 2010 were 14% for women and 18% for men with some urban areas having rates as high as 40%.

Current status of Malnutrition in India –

According to the 'Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, India, 2019' report authored by the Government of India and the United Nations World Food Programme malnutrition amongst children in India is projected to remain high, despite all the progress made in food security.

Some progress has been made in reducing the extent of malnutrition:

- Chronic malnutrition decreased from 48% in 2005-06 to 38.4% in the recent.
- The percentage of underweight children decreased from 42.5% to 35.7% over the same period.
- Anaemia in young children decreased from 69.5% to 58.5% during this period.
- Malnutrition in India also persists because of the age-old patterns of social and economic exclusion - Over 40% of children from Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes are stunted, Close to 40% of children from the Other Backward Classes are stunted.

However, many studies over the last five years have exposed the failure of the Indian state to ensure that its most vulnerable citizens are provided adequate nutrition in their early years.

Efforts by the government –

National Nutrition Mission - The government launched National Nutrition Mission (renamed as Poshan Abhiyaan) in March 2018.

It aims to reduce undernutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and low birth weight by 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively. It also aims to reduce stunting (a measure of malnutrition that is defined as the height that is significantly below the norm for age) by 2% a year, bringing down the proportion of stunted children in the population to 25% by 2022.

The policy aims to map various schemes that address malnutrition and set up a robust convergence mechanism, and an information and communications technology-based real-time monitoring system, besides incentivising states and Union territories to meet the targets.

National Nutrition Mission is backed by a **National Nutrition Strategy prepared by the NITI Aayog** with the goal of attaining "Kuposhan Mukt Bharat" or malnutrition-free India, by 2022.

What more can be done?



Recommendations to solve malnutrition by Food and Nutrition Security Analysis, India, 2019 can be taken forward on the following fronts - availability, access and utilisation.

Availability:

- Farmers should be encouraged and incentivised for agricultural diversification.
- Innovative and low-cost farming technologies, increase in the irrigation coverage and enhancing knowledge of farmers in areas such as appropriate use of land and water should be encouraged to improve the sustainability of food productivity.
- The government should improve policy support for improving agricultural produce of traditional crops in the country.

Accessibility:

- The targeting efficiency of all food safety nets should be improved, especially that of the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), to ensure that the poorest are included.
- In addition, fortification of government-approved commodities within the social safety net programmes can improve nutritional outcomes.
- Child feeding practices should be improved in the country, especially at the critical ages when solid foods are introduced to the diet.
- Fortification, diversification and supplementation may be used as simultaneous strategies to address micro and macronutrient deficiencies.

Utilisation:

- Storage capacity should be improved to prevent post-harvest losses.
- There is a need for more robust measures that can take cognizance of all aspects of SDG 2.
- All the major welfare programmes need to be gender sensitive.
- The inherited dehumanising poverty explains the persistence of malnutrition on a large scale.
- Children born in impecunious circumstances suffer the most from malnutrition. It is all the more reason for governments to intervene to provide adequate nutrition to all.
- Funds for food to all yield great returns and help in unlocking the full potential of citizens besides strengthening the workforce.

However, achieving these targets will require doubling the current annual rate of reduction in stunting and If India wants to be malnutrition free, it will not be achieved only through government intervention, but through a social Revolution or Jan Andolan to have a malnutrition free India.

After a year's time of Supreme Court judgment decriminalising article 377, that asserted itself to be "historic" verdict granting them a basic human right, acknowledging complete equality however still remains a distant dream. Critically analyse.

Hindustantimes

**Why this question:**

The article discusses the significance of verdict of article 377 and the effects it has been making in the society for the community and the challenges still prevalent.

Key demand of the question:

One must analyse the impact of the verdict and the success it has been able to achieve in the past one year of its coming into action.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:**Introduction:**

In brief narrate the historical verdict that came into force with respect to decriminalizing article 377.

Body:

Explain that It's been a year since the Supreme Court read down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code but still the battle for civil rights lies ahead for the community.

Discuss the challenges being faced by the community despite recognition bestowed upon them by the SC judgment.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what needs to be done to ensure equity.

A year ago, Supreme Court had declared that Section 377 violates Articles 14, 15 and 21 insofar as it penalises any consensual sexual relationship between two adults in private, be it homosexual, heterosexual, lesbian or transgender persons.

Provisions of Section 377 remained applicable in cases of **non-consensual carnal intercourse** with adults, all **acts of carnal intercourse with minors**, and acts of bestiality. But, Supreme Court judgment has merely decriminalised homosexuality, but it has not altered the civil law/Personal laws on it.

Example

- Right to own and inherited property
- Nominate their same sex partner on hospital and insurance forms
- Receive legal recognition of same sex relationship and marriages
- Reservation under most backward section for education and employment
- Protection under IPC and CrPC as they recognise only male and female sex
- Since the ruling was not retrospective, so people convicted under Section 377 are left without any effective remedy. According to data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) between 2014 and 2016, there were 4,690 cases of persons being booked under Section 377.

Problem faced by transgender

- A 2016 survey by **Mission for Indian Gay and Lesbian Empowerment (MINGLE)** revealed **one in five LGBT employees were discriminated** against at the workplace. Such discrimination has



economic costs too. A 2014 World Bank report said India loses \$31 billion due to stigma and exclusion of the community.

- Public opinion regarding LGBT rights in India is complex. According to a 2016 poll by the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association, 35% of Indian people were in favour of legalising same-sex marriage, with a further 35% opposed
- A 2016 survey by **Mission for Indian Gay and Lesbian Empowerment (MINGLE)** revealed **one in five LGBT employees were discriminated** against at the workplace. Such discrimination has economic costs too. A 2014 World Bank report said India loses \$31 billion due to stigma and exclusion of the community.
- Social rejection - Trans people often face the aggression and humiliation right from their home they are turned "chhakka" as very derogatory status in society. they face exclusion from all social gathering and celebrations. They are often sexually abused in public
- Financial insecurity - they are rarely accepted in any job hence they are forced into begging and some are forced into sex work
- Health - their social rejection renders them without proper Health Care facilities. they do not have enough awareness about STD. Sex reassignment therapy is also not much accessible to them because of cost involved and different state laws on the matter
- Education - they are often forced to drop out of school due to discrimination rejection and humiliation by their fellow classmates. Parents of transgenders also force them out of their home to two transgender community this also denies them opportunity to attend school
- Homophobia - due to continued rejection abuse violence and humiliation from the society they become homophobic. they remain constantly in fear of being humiliated because of their gender identity
- Political - they do not have considerable political se anywhere this is the reason why the reform in this area is quite slow.

Steps taken by government

- They were legally granted voting right as third sex in 1994
- 2014 supreme court declared transgender people socially and economically backward class entitling them for reservation in education and employment
- Transgender person protection of rights bill 2019 - it tries to bring equality to transgender community by granting them various legal rights which are generally available to all other people.
- In 2017 ministry of drinking water and sanitation has instructed all states to allow trans genders to access public toilet of their choice
- 2019 madras high court rule that the term "bride" under **Hindu marriage act** includes trans women this has made possible the marriage between a man and a trans woman
- Tamil Nadu and Kerala was the first state to introduce transgender welfare policy for free sex reassignment therapy in government hospital

Conclusion



As our society will progress and education spreads, there won't be any section in the society who will face any discrimination, there shall be equality. The present status of LGBT community is bound to improve as govt. is taking active steps for it. Once they have explicit legal rights and protection like those in Norway. They will also come on board of development

Is India's Employment Guarantee Program – MGNREGA, Successfully Challenging Her Historical Inequalities? Critically analyse.

livemint

Why this question:

The article paints a big picture of the India's Employment Guarantee Program – MGNREGA.

Key demand of the question:

Discussion should capture the successes and challenges faced by the India's Employment Guarantee Program – MGNREGA. And to what extent has it succeeded in achieving the set target by achieving historical inequalities.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief explain the concept underlying MGNREGA.

Body:

Explain the genesis of MGNREGA, the objectives of it.

Then discuss to what extent has it been successful in addressing regional inequalities.

Explain the challenges that are still prevalent and pose a hurdle to the mandate of the program as of today.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what needs to be done to improvise and do away with the challenges posed by the current set up of land holdings in the country.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was enacted in 2005 it has materialized right to work with the provision of unemployment allowance

The main objectives of MGREGA are:-

- Enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year, to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- To create durable assets (such as roads, canals, ponds and wells).

Successes of MGNREGA are:

- There are around 11.06 crore worker under MGNREGA in 2019-20.
- According to a study conducted by New Delhi-based Institute of Economic Growth.
 - there has been an 11 per cent increase in rural household income,
 - 11.5 per cent increase in cereal productivity and



- 32 per cent increase in vegetable productivity,
- Helped in increasing groundwater table in the last one decade. due to project like In farm Pounds which are taken under MGNREGA.
 - **Example** - Rise in water table varies from 30 per cent in Muktsar to 95 per cent in Vizianagaram.
 - Sasur Khaderi-2, a tributary of the Yamuna River flowing through Teliyani block of Fatehpur district, 150 km south of Lucknow, was revived under MGNREGS. The 46 km-long stream originating in Thithoura Lake was encroached over time, resulting in its drying up. Its revival generated 205,000 person days of work and cost around Rs 4 crore.
- There is improvement in availability of fodder on account of rise in water table and land restoration under MGNREGA. --> Income from Livestock increased.

Lacunae in MGNREGA -

- Wages paid are 40% lower than National minimum wage
- Only 30% of wages on time
- Presence of Ghost beneficiary increasing the fiscal deficit and non-targeted delivery service

Obstacle in proper implementation -

- Historical patterns of landownership and the concentration of socio-economic power associated with it, determine how decisions to implement MGNREGA are taken and whether workers are successful in enforcing their legal rights under the program.
- The number of employment days created under MGNREGA in 'zamindari' districts has been lower than that in non-landlord districts of British India.
- Inequality in landownership adversely impacts their bargaining power when demanding their MGNREGA entitlements.

Steps to improve MGNREGA

- focus should be on adequate wages according to the work which Goodwill is a right step which should also include mg
- Timely payment of wages should be insured because wages on time which reduces dependence of rural poor on large landowners
- Implementation of DBT and AADHAR to cut down ghost beneficiaries
- Implementation of Central welfare database of citizens as highlighted by economic survey 2018-19 can give away for having reliable data for MGNREGA
- Last but not the least, proper implementation of Land reforms in letter and spirit to deal with inequality of land holdings.

Conclusion



The success of MGNREGA is that it had empowered rural poor and reduced their dependence on large landowners for employment. In a sense it has attacked on historical inequality which was there since the rise of feudalism.

Discuss the salient features of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme. Comment upon its objectives and associated challenges.

Vikaspedia

Why this question:

The question is straightforward and aims to evaluate the salient features of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme – its objectives and challenges.

Key demand of the question:

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 brief explain whom does the scheme cater to? What are its key objectives etc?

Body:

Explain the key objectives of the scheme – With a view to provide income support to all land holding eligible farmer families, the Government has launched PM-KISAN. The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.

Then move on to brief a little on benefits and eligibility conditions of the scheme.

Discuss the possible challenges the scheme may face and how can these challenges be overcome.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of such initiatives and suggest way forward.

The Government with a view to augment the income of the farm families is implementing a Central Sector Scheme, namely, "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)".

Objective:

With a view to provide income support to all land holding eligible farmer families, the Government has launched PM-KISAN. The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.

About Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi:

Under this programme, vulnerable landholding farmer families, having cultivable land up to 2 hectares, will be provided direct income support at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year.

This income support will be transferred directly into the bank accounts of beneficiary farmers, in three equal installments of Rs. 2,000 each. The complete expenditure of Rs 75000 crore for the scheme will be borne by the Union Government in 2019-20.

Significance:

Around 12 crore small and marginal farmer families are expected to benefit from this. It would not only provide assured supplemental income to the most vulnerable farmer families, but would also



meet their emergent needs especially before the harvest season. It would pave the way for the farmers to earn and live a respectable living.

Similar programmes by state governments:

- **Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana** in Madhya Pradesh was sought to provide relief to farmers by providing the differential between MSPs and market prices.
- The **Rythu Bandhu scheme** of the Telangana government provides ₹4,000 per acre for every season to all the farmers of the state. Similar initiatives have also been framed in Jharkhand and Odisha.
- In December 2018, Odisha launched **the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income augmentation (KALIA)**. KALIA is more complicated in design and implementation. It commits to give Rs 5,000 per SMF, twice a year, that is Rs 10,000 a year.

Benefits of direct cash transfers:

- It has immediate impact on reducing hunger and rural poverty.
- They can help households to overcome credit constraints and manage risk. This can increase productive investment, increase access to markets and stimulate local economies.
- Income support can be used to make a repayment or at least activate a bank account which can then receive a loan.
- It can increase investment in agricultural inputs, including farm implements and livestock.
- It can serve as an important complement to a broader rural development agenda, including a pro-poor growth strategy focusing on agriculture.

Challenges with cash transfers- criticisms:

- Landless laborers are not being covered under PM-KISAN.
- Cash transfers are not greatly superior in terms of leakages compared to other schemes of in-kind transfer such as the public distribution system (PDS).
- A targeted cash transfer scheme envisions the role of the state to only providing cash income to the poor. This kind of approach seeks to absolve the state of its responsibility in providing basic services such as health, education, nutrition and livelihood.
- Cash transfer scheme such as PM-KISAN cannot be substituted for subsidies and other institutional support systems such as the National Food Security Act-powered public distribution system. In fact, such cash transfer schemes could be counterproductive and may lead to more distress.
- Cash transfers do not solve the following problems which are the reasons for the current agrarian crisis. The Agrarian crisis is not just of low incomes in agriculture. The genesis of the current crisis lies in the faulty and ad hoc export-import policy, lack of infrastructure and cartelization and collusion in agricultural markets, which have prevented farmers from realizing the market prices for agricultural produce.



- Cash transfer is neither a substitute for the structural reforms needed in agriculture, nor does it adequately compensate the farmer for the risks and uncertainty of crop cultivation.
- In the absence of proper tenancy records, it will also benefit the absentee landlords.
- It is no substitute for the lack of investment in agriculture, which has declined at 2.3% per annum in real terms.

Conclusion:

PM-KISAN is an ambitious scheme that has the potential to deliver significant welfare outcomes. However, the current top-down, rushed approach of the government ignores governance constraints and is therefore likely to result in failure. An alternative bottom-up strategy and well-planned implementation mechanism would allow weaknesses to be identified and rectified at the local level. The most effective modalities can then be scaled nationally and ensure success.

Providing basic needs as well as freedoms to the people shall go hand in hand for the holistic development of the country. Elucidate. (250 words)

The hindu

Why this question:

The question ascertains the necessity of basic needs and its interrelation with right to freedom.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must analyse the need for individual freedom along with basic needs for the holistic development of the country.

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 discuss what basic needs of an individual in a society are.

Body:

In brief, discuss the basic needs of the people with an emphasis on the recent initiative taken by the government to provide basic needs.

The freedoms that are to be given to an individual – freedom of speech, expression, etc.

The importance of both in developing an individual.

Discuss the impact of providing basic needs at the cost of freedoms and vice-versa.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

India's population has been pegged at 1.3 billion. The composition of the population clearly indicates a large working age group (15-59 age group), hence we may be called "Young India" at present. However, what is also present in the composition is the poverty levels, education levels, unemployment levels, etc., which clearly point out the need for more human development efforts for India.

The idea that the quality of life people enjoy in a country, the opportunities they have and freedoms they enjoy, are important aspects of development, is not new. They were first time clearly spelt out by two South Asian Economists, Mahbub-ul-haq and Amartya Sen.



The work of Amartya Sen holds significance in this context; Amartya Sen.'sx' work on 'Capability approach' to human development provides that building human capabilities in the areas of health, education and access to resources is the key to increasing human development. Therefore, providing freedoms merely self-sufficient if the individual is not capable. He discusses that making the individuals capable, that is, by providing them the basic needs, only makes them capable to utilizing their freedoms.

The Constitution of India itself stands on the bedrock of balance between DPSP's and our Fundamental Rights as mentioned by the Supreme Court. Hence, it signifies that both welfare and freedoms go hand in hand for the better functioning, progress and development of India.

It is also important to understand that the basic needs of humans may increase as time progresses and hence, so would freedom. For instance, just recently, Kerala High Court declared that Right to Internet Access is a fundamental right under Article 21: Right to Education under constitution.

Also, with the above example, one can understand that freedom to internet access is merely of significance to someone without the access to internet.

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

The cases of Diphtheria are on the rise, what does it mean for India? Discuss the causes and consequences of it.

Reference

Why this question:

Up to 25 medical students at the Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Kalaburagi district in Karnataka have contracted the vaccine-preventable disease, diphtheria. Thus necessary to understand the scenario from the exam point of view.

Key demand of the question:

One must analyse the causes and consequences of the rising number of incidences of the disease in the country and explain what needs to be done to overcome and eradicate the disease completely.

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 Diphtheria and highlight the incidences of it in India.

Body:

Explain that Diphtheria is an acute bacterial infection of respiratory system which can cause mild to severe illness.

Discuss that a disease which has disappeared from most of the world and one for which India introduced a vaccine as a part of routine immunization as early as 1978 – in the national capital so far. The resurgence across the country shows that the vaccination is not reaching everyone.

Explain the possible causes that have led to rise in the numbers.

Conclusion:

Conclude with what needs to be done to overcome the epidemic of Diphtheria.



Diphtheria is an infectious disease caused by *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, a bacterium. The primary infection is in the throat and upper airways.

According to the National Health Portal, one type of diphtheria affects the throat and sometimes the tonsils. Another type causes ulcers on the skin; these are more common in the tropics (places where all 12 months have mean temperatures of at least 18 °C). Diphtheria particularly affects children aged 1 to 5 years. In temperate climates diphtheria tends to occur during the colder months.

The rising trends

- Cases have been going up in the last few years. In 2015, as per World Health Organization data, India reported 2,365 cases. This was a steep drop from the 6,094 cases reported the previous year. However, in 2016, 2017 and 2018, the numbers rose successively to 3,380, 5,293 and 8,788.
- As per data from the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence, during 2005-2014, India reported 41,672 cases of diphtheria (average 4,167 per year) with 897 deaths (case fatality ratio 2.2%). Ten of the states (Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Nagaland, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and West Bengal) accounted for 84% of the cases reported across the country.
- Up to 25 medical students at the Gulbarga Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) in Kalaburagi district in Karnataka have contracted the vaccine-preventable disease, diphtheria.

Why it is rising

- In 1978, India launched the Expanded Programme on Immunisation. The first three vaccines in the programme were BCG (against TB), DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus) and cholera. In 1985, the programme was converted to the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). DPT continues to be a part of UIP, which now includes 12 vaccines. But As per data from the National Family Health Survey 4, the **coverage of diphtheria vaccine is 78.4%**.
- Low vaccination coverage diphtheria vaccine is divided into three stages first vaccine under one year of age followed by two booster doses. The coverage of first vaccine is 78% followed by 60% for first booster dose and 36% for second booster dose
- Less awareness towards vaccination in rural tribal and slum area
- Communicable disease spreads from person to person. It is very infectious in nature
- Late diagnosis due to negligence and infrastructure inadequacy in health sector
- Socio religious causes stereotypes live vaccine causes illness to the baby and sometimes rumours family planning spread by illiterate religious cleric
- Poor sanitation hygiene condition- unplanned urbanization and lack of water resources lead to rise in the number of slums and deteriorating hygiene condition there
- Absence of vaccine booster for adults in India which is present in USA

What it means for India



- It questions the health care sector and quality of pharmacovigilance in the country as the disease has disappeared from most of the countries
- It also points towards the loophole in immunization program of India as the vaccine for diphtheria is covered under the program
- It also indicates demand of more vigilant Healthcare system to ensure non restitution of eradicated disease
- It is new headache for the government as other diseases like Japanese encephalitis, dengue, malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis are still very prone to become epidemic
- Incidents also shows that it even if India is sixth largest economy in the world it carries highest burden of communicable disease.
- Diphtheria being bacterial disease its resurgence may also points towards rise of new superbugs.

Way forward

- **Meticulous planning of campaigns/sessions at all levels:** Ensure revision of microplans in all blocks and urban areas in each district to ensure availability of sufficient vaccinators and all vaccines during routine immunization sessions. Develop special plans to reach the unreached children in more than 400,000 high risk settlements such as urban slums, construction sites, brick kilns, nomadic sites and hard-to-reach areas.
- **Effective communication and social mobilization efforts:** Generate awareness and demand for immunization services through need-based communication strategies and social mobilization activities to enhance participation of the community in the routine immunization programme through mass media, mid media, interpersonal communication (IPC), school and youth networks and corporates.
- **Intensive training of the health officials and frontline workers:** Build the capacity of health officials and workers in routine immunization activities for quality immunization services.

Establish accountability framework through task forces: Enhance involvement and accountability/ownership of the district administrative and health machinery by strengthening the district task forces for immunization in all districts of India and ensuring the use of concurrent session monitoring data to plug the gaps in implementation on a real time basis.

What are Institutions of Eminence? Discuss the benefits of Institutions of Eminence to India.

The hindu

Why this question:

On 4th September 2019, the Ministry of Human Resource Development issued orders to 5 public Universities and Letters of Intent to 5 Private Universities related to Institutions of Eminence scheme.

Key demand of the question:

The question aims to evaluate the significance of Institutions of Eminence and the benefits of it.

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 explain what are Institutions of Eminence.

Body:

Explain the following –

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has issued orders to 5 public Universities conveying their declaration as Institutions of Eminence (IoE). These are IIT Madras, Banaras Hindu University, IIT Kharagpur, University of Delhi and University of Hyderabad.

In addition, Letters of Intent were issued to 5 Private Universities for accepting and sending their preparedness for being declared as Institutions of Eminence.

Benefits of Institutions of Eminence:

Government Institutions to get additional funding upto 1000 Crore.

The selected Institutions under IoE shall have complete academic, administrative and financial autonomy.

Academic collaborations with foreign higher educational institutions (in top 500) would be exempt from government approvals; Freedom to recruit faculty from outside India (limit of 25% of its faculty strength for public institution).

Freedom to admit additionally foreign students on merit subject to a maximum of 30% of the strength of admitted domestic students. Freedom to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction.

Freedom to have own transparent merit based system for admission of students.

Flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus, with no UGC mandated curriculum structure.

Freedom to offer online courses as part of their programs with a restriction that not more than 20% of the programme should be in online mode.

UGC Inspection shall not apply to Institutions of Eminence.

Conclusion:

Conclude by reiterating its benefits to the education system of the country.

An institute of Eminence is a tag given to the higher education institutions by Human Resource Development Ministry under Institutions of Eminence scheme. The Human Resource Development Ministry has awarded the status of Institute of Eminence to the IIT-Madras, the IIT-Kharagpur, Delhi University, Benares Hindu University and the University of Hyderabad,

Institutions of Eminence scheme:

- The institutes of eminence scheme under the Union human resource development (HRD) ministry aims to project Indian institutes to global recognition.
- The selected institutes will enjoy complete academic and administrative autonomy.
- The government will run 10 of these and they will receive special funding.
- The selection shall be made through challenge method mode by the Empowered Expert Committee constituted for the purpose.
- Eligibility: Only higher education institutions currently placed in the top 500 of global rankings or top 50 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) are eligible to apply for the eminence tag.
- The private Institutions of Eminence can also come up as Greenfield ventures provided the sponsoring organisation submits a convincing perspective plan for 15 years.

Benefits of Institutions of Eminence:



- Government Institutions to get additional funding upto 1000 Crore.
- The selected Institutions under IoE shall have complete academic, administrative and financial autonomy.
- Academic collaborations with foreign higher educational institutions (in top 500) would be exempt from government approvals; Freedom to recruit faculty from outside India (limit of 25% of its faculty strength for public institution).
- Freedom to admit additionally foreign students on merit subject to a maximum of 30% of the strength of admitted domestic students. Freedom to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction.
- Freedom to have own transparent merit based system for admission of students.
- Flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus, with no UGC mandated curriculum structure.
- Freedom to offer online courses as part of their programs with a restriction that not more than 20% of the programme should be in online mode.
- UGC Inspection shall not apply to Institutions of Eminence.

Importance of IoE for India:

- India has been facing a persistent brain drain due to the belief that Indian institutions are not up to the mark. The number of Indian students flying off to the US, Europe and Australia for their post graduate, and lately even undergraduate degrees has risen sharply.
- Foreign degrees cost a packet and are funded by high-cost loans. If India had home-grown Institutions of Eminence, there would be no need to fly abroad for fancy degrees. Indian talents stay within the country and contribute to the growth of the economy.
- Academic institutions that can impart high quality education, generate cutting edge research, and attract the best and the brightest from across the globe can have multiplier beneficial effects for the country. So the idea of elevating the best in a sector to an eminent status by granting autonomy is a good one

Conclusion

To bring back the glory of India higher education system as it had in past. Such scheme is quite necessary; it will attract foreign students and promote R&D and ultimately our nation's vision of "Make in India".

Primary health care is the key to the attainment of the goal of "Health for All", in this context discuss the relevance of Alma Ata principles and elucidate.

The hindu**Why this question:**

The article discusses in detail the essence of primary health centers as key nodes in the health system of the country.

Key demand of the question:

One should discuss the importance of PHCs and the concept of the Alma Ata principles.

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 explain that The Alma-Ata Declaration of 1978 emerged as a major milestone of the twentieth century in the field of public health, and it identified primary health care as the key to the attainment of the goal of “Health for All” around the globe.

Body:

Explain in detail the following aspects –

First explain the significance of primary health care systems and the underlying principles – Includes the interconnecting principles of equity, access, empowerment, community self-determination and inter-sectorial collaboration. Encompasses an understanding of the social, economic, cultural and political determinants of health etc.

Then highlight the importance of Alma-Ata as the Declaration of Alma-Ata, co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), is a brief document that expresses “the need for urgent action by all governments, all health and development workers, and the world community to protect and promote the health of all the people of the world.”

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Primary health care is a whole-of-society approach to health and well-being centred on the needs and preferences of individuals, families and communities. **Alma-Ata Declaration 1978** was the first declaration which identified Primary Health Care as a key to the attainment of the goal of **Health for All**.

Importance of Primary health care

- Primary health care has been proven to be a highly effective and efficient way to address the main causes and risks of poor health and well-being today, as well as handling the emerging challenges that threaten health and well-being tomorrow. It has also been shown to be a good value investment, as there is evidence that quality primary health care reduces total healthcare costs and improves efficiency by reducing hospital admissions.
- individuals, families, and communities to optimize their health, as advocates for policies that promote and protect health and well-being, as co-developers of health and social services, and as self-carers and care-givers to others.
- Stronger primary health care is essential to achieving the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and universal health coverage.
- It will also contribute to the attainment of other goals beyond the health goal (SDG3), including those on poverty, hunger, education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, work and economic growth, reducing inequality and climate action

Condition of primary health care in India

- In India, primary care infrastructure exists as a network of sub-centres, primary health centres and community health centres. But, they are **inadequately provided for in terms of financial, infrastructural & human resources.**



- The focus of primary healthcare services has remained narrow – **prioritized around reproductive, maternal and child healthcare, and communicable diseases like malaria** – rather than tackling broader determinants of health.
- Increasing disease burden & mortality due to NCDs indicate failure in early detection & preventive interventions like lifestyle changes.
- **no representation from primary care in decision making body** causing policy concentrating more on secondary and tertiary health. E.g. - AYUSHMAN BHARAT scheme provides insurance only for secondary and tertiary care.

Way forward:

- practitioners of modern medicine (say medical assistants) trained through short-term courses, like those of a 2-3 year duration, can greatly help in providing primary health care to the rural population,
- train practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine, like Ayurveda, in modern medicine
- nations like the U.K. and the U.S. are consistently training paramedics and nurses to become physician assistants or associates through two-year courses in modern medicine.
- generously incentivising general practitioners (GPs) in both pecuniary and non-pecuniary terms
- scrupulously designing a system that strongly favours primary health care.
- no one should be allowed to bypass the primary doctor to directly reach the specialist, unless situations such as emergencies so warrant. It is only because of such a system that general practitioners and primary health care have been able to thrive in U.K.'s health system.
- Adequately empower and ennable PCPs and give them a prominent voice in our decision-making processes pertaining to health care.

Conclusion

Declaration of Alma-Ata, co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), is a brief document that expresses “the need for urgent action by all governments, all health and development workers, and the world community to protect and promote the health of all the people of the world.”

“Internet gaming has turned worse than drugs”. Do you agree? Critically examine the statement in the light of the announcement made by World Health Organization (WHO) to include “gaming disorder” as a mental health condition.

Reference

The hindu

Why this question:

While addiction to gaming is widely recognized, recently reported incidents associated with gaming are alarming in the country. The question aims to look into the threats it poses on the society.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the ill effects of gaming and the impact it creates on the psychology of an individual and the mental health condition in general.

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 what is internet gaming.

Body:

First explain why WHO has classified “gaming disorder” as a mental health condition.

Explain what makes internet gaming a worst disorder?

Justify that Nearly 7% of population studied for gaming and internet addiction have exhibited depressive symptoms, somatisation and anxiety, including behavioural changes and sleep disturbances.

Explain what are the underlying causes?

What needs to be done to resolve the issue?

Conclusion:

Conclude with solutions in terms of policy actions such as formalizing the disorder that would help experts across the world to conduct more research, and will help diagnose the issue at an early stage and help take necessary actions.

Internet gaming is playing a video game which uses internet or any other computer network for gameplay. The most recent International classification of diseases ICD 11 released by WHO gaming addiction/disorder has been classified as mental health condition

Symptoms

- Feelings of restlessness and/or irritability when unable to play
- Preoccupation with thoughts of previous online activity or anticipation of the next online session
- Lying to friends or family members regarding the amount of time spent playing
- Isolation from others in order to spend more time gaming
- Fatigue
- Migraines due to intense concentration or eye strain
- Carpal tunnel syndrome caused by the overuse of a controller or computer mouse
- Poor personal hygiene
- Someone addicted to video games will often avoid sleeping or eating proper meals in order to continue gaming.
- Addicted gamers focus less on their education or career.

Gaming disorder included in ICD11 because:

- Development of treatment programmes for people with health conditions identical to those characteristic of gaming disorder in many parts of the world,
- Inclusion will result in the increased attention of health professionals to the risks of development of this disorder and, accordingly, to relevant prevention and treatment measures.

Reason

- Increased penetration of mobile devices and internet



- Affordability of internet has improved a lot in last 3 years
- Free availability of various games on internet
- Unemployment (more leisure time)
- Rising fashion of nuclear family and rise of flat system of housing in urban areas
- Viscosity of playground for childrens
- Increased in security of parent to send their child to play outside freely
- Busy life of parents children's left alone often Resort to most accessible source of internet that is internet use and gaming
- Reduction in socialization and rise of social media people start Giving more priority to virtual world on internet then real
- Lack of physical activity in present world where internet has killed the need to go out to buy anything (rise of e-commerce).

Solution

- Self-regulation of time spent with electronic devices specially
- Increasing physical activity such as gym, running, playing outdoor games
- Strict regulation of housing society so that there will be enough space for all children to play
- Government should mind avoiding system to be included in all gaming platforms which will warn the player if they exit the healthy time limit
- Reducing unemployment will also reduce excess leisure time available to youth.
- Parent must be watchful of their child in the child is resorting to too much of gaming in their absence
- Counselling of both parents and child to make them aware of gaming disorder

Conclusion

Nearly 7% of population studied for gaming and internet addiction have exhibited depressive symptoms, somatisation and anxiety, including behavioural changes and sleep disturbances.

There are recent incidences in India where murder was committed for restricting gaming activity. Example Raghuvir Kumbar, 21, an unemployed diploma-holder Kakati village, Karnataka who was addicted to mobile games, killed his father who objected to his gaming. It shows that Internet gaming has turned worse than drugs.

What is meant by Census? Explain how the Census is carried out and why the 2021 Census will be different while discussing how the Census data collection has changed over the decades.

Indianexpress

Why this question:



The next census of India to be conducted in 2021 with March 1, 2021 as the reference date, except for the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Key demand of the question:

One has to discuss the concept of Census; process involved therein and evaluates the transition involved in the procedure of carrying out Census.

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 explain or define census.

Body:

Explain in detail the concept of census and its evolution.

The census provides information on size, distribution and socio-economic, demographic and other characteristics of the country's population.

The Census gives us a clear picture of India—its demography, how they live, what they do—and are the basis on which key policies are formulated.

Explain the importance of Census 2021.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance.

A census is the procedure of systematically acquiring and recording information about the members of a given population. Census provides information on size, distribution, socio-economic, demographic and other characteristic of countries population.

Importance of census

- It is the only source of primary data about the population.
- It provides information for formulation of planning and policies.
- Highly useful for agencies, scholars etc. for doing research.

Methods -

- Census in India is conducted under provision of Census Act 1948, once every 10 years.
- Post 1949, it has been conducted by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Census data is collected by visiting each and every household and filling up census form by asking predefined questionnaire.
- These forms are then transferred to data processing Centre located at 15 cities where scanning and destruction of data is done.
- The result of census data is generally available after 2 to 3 years of census year.

The next Census of India is to be conducted in 2021 with March 1, 2021 as the reference date except in Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh



- The Census 2021 will be conducted in 18 languages out of the 22 scheduled languages (under 8th schedule) and English, while Census 2011 was in 16 of the 18 scheduled languages declared at that time.
- It also will introduce a code directory to streamline the process
- The option of “Other” under the gender category will be changed to “Third Gender”.
 - There were roughly 5 lakh people under "other" category in 2011.
- For the first time in the 140 year history of census in India, data is proposed to be collected through a mobile app by enumerators and they will receive an additional payment as an incentive.
- The Census data would be available by the year 2024-25 as the entire process would be conducted digitally and data crunching would be quicker.
 - Data from the Census 2011 is still being released. E.g.: The dataset on migration was published recently.

Way forward

- Census data is first time being collected by mobile hence specific training should be given to the collectors
- Also public must be aware about the methodology
- Method must be developed to tackle the problem faced in earlier phases

Conclusion

Census is a major pillar for development and hence, Centre, States as well as local bodies must help for smoother process of Collection of data.

Discuss the primacy of empowering primary care practitioners for assuring health care for all in India.

The hindu

Primary health care is a whole-of-society approach to health and well-being centered on the needs and preferences of individuals, families and communities. **Alma-Ata Declaration** 1978 was the first declaration which identified Primary Health Care as a key to the attainment of the goal of **Health for All**.

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- individuals, families, and communities to optimize their health, as advocates for policies that promote and protect health and well-being, as co-developers of health and social services, and as self-carers and care-givers to others.
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Way forward

- practitioners of modern medicine (say medical assistants) trained through short-term courses, like those of a 2-3 year duration, can greatly help in providing primary health care to the rural population,
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Conclusion



Declaration of Alma-Ata, co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), is a brief document that expresses “the need for urgent action by all governments, all health and development workers, and the world community to protect and promote the health of all the people of the world.”

India needs an overhaul of medical education, new colleges alone won’t ensure quality healthcare. Do you agree? Critically examine.

Economictimes

Why this question:

One has to discuss that India’s medical education system needs to go beyond existing reform moves.

Key demand of the question:

It’s a rather sad state of affairs when the present 398 medical colleges in India fail to provide the much-needed healthcare for its 1.2 billion-strong population. Students are expected to discuss the various issues plaguing medical education in India.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief bring out the importance of medical education in India.

Body:

Explain in detail the key problems plaguing medical education in India.

What are the issues? – Doctor-patient ratio is too less, Rote learning is more important than clinical skills, Backdated syllabus and teaching style, Lack of skilled teachers, Disparity in infrastructure across different states, Lack of social accountability etc.

Discuss how these issues listed above can be fixed and what changes are to be made to overcome the challenges.

Conclusion:

Conclude with the fact that fixing the problems in the medical industry is crucial to the health and well-being of a country.

The current government plans set up 75 medical colleges to bridge regional disparities in access to quality healthcare, but India needs structural reforms to build world-class institutes. The new National Medical Commission must thus find ways to plug systemic deficiencies, from an outdated curriculum to a faculty crunch.

Problems of Medical Education in India:

Medical education in India faces many issues, some of which are identified in the vision document. Most important of them are:

- Inter-state and intra-state inequality in the distribution of manpower and resources:

There is a huge disparity in availability of opportunities for students across states. 2010 report by MHRD had stated that four states – Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu – account for 1.3 lakh out of 2.4 lakh medical seats across India.



There is also a glaring rural-urban disparity in both availabilities of health care and colleges. A blanket standard for starting a medical college leads to neglect of states like Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland etc. and rural areas.

Amidst this situation, new medical colleges can bring in uniformity of access across states and fill the demand-supply gap.

- Low doctor-population ratio:

One of the reasons for this low ratio is that only low numbers of medical graduates are passing out each year. Reasons include:

- As MBBS students are unable to find jobs, they are forced to specialize in a particular field leading to a Super-Specialty craze.
- Brain drain to developed countries is also one of the reasons for unavailability of doctors in India.
- MCI regulations prevent experienced MBBS doctors from carrying out procedures like cesareans and ultrasound tests. Experienced nurses are barred from administering anesthesia. This leads to failure of utilizing the experienced manpower to increase the service delivery.
- This shortage of doctors is largely affected by rural health care.
- Another casualty of the Super-specialty craze is Research and teaching, as no one is choosing research or teaching as their preferred career.
- Single breed of doctors can't cater to all the needs, especially in a country as diverse as India. So medical colleges should sensitize students about all the available opportunities and the attached perks and perils. This will introduce various options available to the students to explore and choose the field best applicable to them.

- Deficiencies in the quality of medical education:

There is no uniformity in selection students to medical colleges. A common entrance test at all India level is required to ensure this uniformity.

Breakthroughs are frequent in the medical field, but syllabus is not updated adequately reflecting these new trends in the medical field.

Lack of skilled teachers has afflicted all the educational paradigms of India. In the medical field, this issue is more critical. Here teachers are selected based on academic knowledge rather than clinical experience and adequate training is not imparted to them. Inadequate salary to teachers is also the main problem that makes this profession unattractive.

No uniform quality standards of graduating doctors across India. There should be an exit test that will bring parity to standards graduating from all medical colleges across India.

- Lack of social accountability:

The medical profession is unique as it requires an amount of social responsibility and societal empathy. Newly graduated doctors are unaware or indifferent to their social responsibility. Colleges play a major role in infusing the young students with an empathetic attitude towards society. But



instead, they are encouraging rote learning without the consideration of humanitarian dimension. Hippocratic Oath is largely morphing into hypocrisy.

- recognition issue of foreign degrees

MCI recognizes only a few medical courses from foreign universities. This becomes difficult for foreign graduated students to start practicing in India.

- Unregulated private colleges

Change in rules brought about after the reforms of the 1990s made it easier to open private colleges. This has increased the number of medical colleges but leads to many undesired consequences. This commercialization of medical education had a profound impact on quality of graduate doctors, as anyone with money can buy seats in these colleges.

MCI was incompetent to deal with this influx of commercialization and capitation fee skyrocketed, leading to corruption and black money circulation.

Conclusion:

Thus sanctity of education was lost as medical education became a field for unscrupulous practice and profit gain than imparting education and providing quality doctors. This has resulted in an unhealthy competition which in-turn lead to unreasonable medical practices and unwarranted diagnostics as graduates from these institutions wanted to recover their capitation fees at the earliest. Eventually, this leads to complete crowding out of the societal and humanitarian dimension of medical education from colleges.

Discuss the Salient features of recently launched National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) scheme by the ministry of human resources and development that aims to gain better results in higher education.

Indiatoday

Why this question:

The article discusses the salient features of newly launched National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) scheme by the ministry of human resources and development.

Key demand of the question:

Explain in detail the National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) scheme by the ministry of human resources and development; its features and impact.

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:

The Ministry of Human Resource Development has announced a new PPP Scheme, National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) under which technology will be used for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.

Body:

Discuss in detail the objectives of the programme – The objective is to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.

Explain then the salient features of the program in detail –

MHRD would act as a facilitator to ensure that the solutions are freely available to a large number of economically backward students.



MHRD would create and maintain a National NEAT platform that would provide one-stop access to these technological solutions.

EdTech companies would be responsible for developing solutions and manage registration of learners through the NEAT portal. They would be free to charge fees as per their policy. Etc.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of such programmes.

Ministry of HRD announces National Educational Alliance for Technology (NEAT) Scheme for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.

Significance of the scheme:

1. Using technology for better learning outcomes in Higher Education.
2. Development of technologies in Adaptive Learning to address the diversity of learners.
3. Creating a National Alliance with such technology developing EdTech Companies through a PPP model will help in educating the youth.

Objective: To use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.

How to achieve this?

1. There are a number of start-up companies developing this and MHRD has to recognize such efforts and bring them under a common platform so that learners can access it easily.
2. MHRD has to act as a facilitator to ensure that the solutions are freely available to a large number of economically backward students.
3. MHRD would create and maintain a National NEAT platform that would provide one-stop access to these technological solutions.
4. EdTech companies would be responsible for developing solutions and manage registration of learners through the NEAT portal.
5. As their contribution towards the National cause, they would have to offer free coupons to the extent of 25% of the total registrations for their solution through NEAT portal.
6. MHRD would distribute the free coupons for learning to the most socially/economically backward students.

Other details of the Scheme: Implementing Agency: AICTE

The scheme will be administered under the guidance of an Apex Committee constituted by MHRD. Independent Expert Committees would be constituted for evaluating and selecting the EdTech solutions.

Awareness programs would be taken up by MHRD to create awareness of the NEAT solutions to teachers and students.

Establishment of patient care services for genetic disorders is the need of the time. In this context discuss the salient features of 'UMMID' initiative recently launched by the government.



Reference

Why this question:

Recently Minister of Science, Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated five diagnostic centres under the program Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders (UMMID) to tackle the menace of genetic diseases in newborns.

Key demand of the question:

One has to elaborate on the significance of establishment of patient care services for genetic disorders with a special focus on the recently launched UMMID scheme for

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Start by suggesting in what way the initiative of the government will help the future generation in treating and preventing these diseases caused by genetic disorders.

Body:

Explain that UMMID aims to create awareness about genetic disorders amongst clinicians and establish molecular diagnostics in hospitals so that the fruits of developments in medical genetics reach the patients in India.

Discuss the significance and need of such an initiative.

Justify that in India congenital malformations and genetic disorders are the third most common cause of mortality in newborns.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Congenital and hereditary genetic diseases are becoming a significant health burden in India, and hence there is a need for adequate and effective genetic testing and counselling services. In India's urban areas, congenital malformations and genetic disorders are the third most common cause of mortality in new-borns.

Factors contributing to this high prevalence include consanguineous marriages, high birth rate, improved diagnostic facilities, and a lack of expertise in genetic counselling.

UMMID (Unique Methods of Management and treatment of Inherited Disorders) initiative:

Department of Biotechnology has started the UMMID Initiative which is designed on the concept of 'Prevention is better than Cure'. UMMID aims to create awareness about genetic disorders amongst clinicians and establish molecular diagnostics in hospitals so that the fruits of developments in medical genetics reach the patients in India.

Objectives of UMMID:

- The new initiative **aims** to create awareness about genetic disorders and establish molecular diagnostics in hospitals so that the benefits of developments in medical genetics could reach patients.
- Under this scheme 75 new medical colleges will be opened in the country by 2022.
- About 115 districts have been identified in the rural areas where these centers will be started soon.



- These centres will provide counselling, prenatal testing/diagnosis and management in government hospitals of the country.

Methodology of operation:

In NIDAN centres, potential patients or parents of such disorders will be identified and counselled by the experts before the birth of the children. Counselling sessions after the birth of the child will also be provided if required. NIDAN centres will create awareness to normalize the life of children suffering from disorders.

Conclusion:

In India's urban areas, congenital malformations and genetic disorders are the third most common cause of mortality in newborns. With a very large population and high birth rate, and consanguineous marriage favored in many communities, prevalence of genetic disorders is high in India. Establishment of patient care services for genetic disorders is the need of the time.

How is Indian president impeached? What is the procedure for impeachment of a president? Compare and contrast it with the process of impeachment of the President of United States.

Indianexpress

Why this question:

A call between Trump and the Ukraine President has triggered a new crisis in the US, with the Democrat-led House of Representatives deciding to initiate an impeachment inquiry against the President. Thus making it important from the point of view of GS-II paper.

Key demand of the question:

The question is straightforward and aims to throw light on the impeachment process of President in India and discuss in what way it is different from that in United States.

Directive:

Compare and Contrast – Identify the similarities and differences between two or more phenomena. Say if any of the shared similarities or differences are more important than others.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Start by explaining the significance of the post of President in India and in US.

Body:

Explain the procedure of impeachment in both the countries; discuss how they are different from each other. Explain the significance of the process in the respective constitution.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of impeachment in a democratic country.

Article 61: Procedure For Impeachment Of The President of India:

- When a President is to be impeached for violation of the Constitution, the charge shall be preferred by either House of Parliament.
- No such charge shall be preferred unless –
 - the proposal to prefer such charge is contained in a resolution which has been moved after at least fourteen days' notice in writing signed by not less than one-fourth of the total number of members of the House has been given of their intention to move the resolution, and
 - Such resolution has been passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the House.



- When a charge has been so preferred by either House of Parliament, the other House shall investigate the charge or cause the charge to be investigated and the President shall have the right to appear and to be represented at such investigation.
- If as a result of the investigation a resolution is passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the House by which the charge was investigated or caused to be investigated, declaring that the charge preferred against the President has been sustained, such resolution shall have the effect of removing the President from his office as from the date on which the resolution is so passed.

Impeachment is a provision that allows Congress to remove the President of the United States.

Under the US Constitution:

The House of Representatives (Lower House) has the “the sole power of impeachment” while the Senate (Upper House) has “the sole power to try all impeachments”.

The Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court has the duty of presiding over impeachment trials in the Senate.

Grounds for impeachment:

The President can be removed from office for “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanours”.

Essentially, it means an abuse of power by a high-level public official. This does not necessarily have to be a violation of an ordinary criminal statute. Historically, in the US, it has encompassed corruption and other abuses, including trying to obstruct judicial proceedings.

The process:

It begins with an investigation by a House committee. If they find that there is enough evidence of wrongdoing, it will refer the matter to the full House.

House Vote: When the full House votes, if one or more of the articles of impeachment gets a majority vote, the President is impeached. Next, the proceedings move to the Senate.

Senate Trial & Vote: The Senate holds a trial, overseen by the chief justice of the Supreme Court. A team of lawmakers from the House, known as managers, play the role of prosecutors. The President has defence lawyers, and the Senate serves as the jury. If at least two-thirds of the Senators present find the President guilty, he is removed and the Vice President takes over as President.

Harmonization of food safety standards is vital for enhancing food trade worldwide and to protect the health of the users. Discuss.

Financial express

Why this question:

The article discusses that Harmonization in food safety can only be attained when all countries adopt same standards. The General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius specify the ways in which member countries may “accept” Codex standards.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the importance of Harmonization in food safety and its significance to the overall health sector of the world.

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 importance of food safety in general.

Body:

Discuss the General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius, explain that The emerging interests in all Codex activities do indicate a global acceptance of the Codex philosophy, embracing harmonization, consumer protection and facilitation of international trade. However, in practice, it is difficult for many countries to accept such standards in the statutory sense.

Explain the hurdles involved in codification.

Discuss the effect of it on health of the consumers.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Food safety is used as a scientific discipline describing handle, preparation, and storage of food in ways that prevent food-borne illness.

International food trade has existed for thousands of years but until not too long ago food was mainly produced, sold and consumed locally. Over the last century the amount of food traded internationally has grown exponentially, and a quantity and variety of food never before possible travels the globe today.

The CODEX ALIMENTARIUS international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice contribute to the safety, quality and fairness of this international food trade. The efforts are being internationally coordinated by Food and Agriculture organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Need for food safety standards:

- International food trade is a highly complex, technical and administrative operation involving the global movement of a very large quantum and variety of food. Food production is scientifically-based. It is possible to transport food over long distances to arrive at its destination in a wholesome condition, without an appreciable loss of quality.
- Consumers worldwide now have access to a wider variety of high quality food in greater quantities than ever before. Codex standards enable consumers trust the safety and quality of the food products they buy and importers can trust that the food they ordered will be in accordance with their specifications.
- Food safety is important as it helps to protect consumer from the risk of food borne illnesses. It also helps to prevent consumers from risks of health –related conditions such as allergy and even death.
- It also protects food processing establishments from product recalls which results in financial losses due to unsafe products. Other issues due to unsafe products which can impact a business include: rejected products, possible lawsuits and business closure by the public health authorities due to reports of unsafe product sold to the general public.

The latest WTO's Monitoring Report on G20 trade measures shows that the coverage of new import-restrictive measures introduced during October 2018 to May 2019 is more than 3.5 times the



average since May 2012. These measures considerably affected trade coverage worth \$335.9 billion during October 2018 to May 2019. It is observed that in case of trade in food and beverages, countries, mostly the developed, are becoming over-sensitive, perhaps due to stringent quality and safety standards. The WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) sets out the basic framework and standards for food safety, animal and plant health standards. While giving a platform to countries for framing own standards, it notes that regulations must be justified through science, i.e. regulations should be implemented only to the extent necessary to protect the animal, human or plant life or health, and also not unjustifiably discriminate between countries where identical or similar conditions prevail.

Although member countries are encouraged to use international standards, guidelines and recommendations, they may use measures that result in higher standards if there is a requisite scientific justification. Besides, they can set higher standards based on an appropriate assessment of risks so long as the approach is consistent, not arbitrary.

One must recall the acrimonious saga of 1989-90 when the EU banned beef import from the US due to the quality of hormones of beef. This incident signaled that harmonisation of food safety standards is indispensable for spurring food trade globally in an eloquent atmosphere.

Harmonisation can only be attained when all countries adopt same standards. The General Principles of the Codex Alimentarius specify the ways in which member countries may “accept” Codex standards.

The emerging interests in all Codex activities do indicate a global acceptance of the Codex philosophy, embracing harmonisation, consumer protection and facilitation of international trade. However, in practice, it is difficult for many countries to accept such standards in the statutory sense. Differing legal formats and administrative procedures, varying political systems and sometimes a growing influence of national attitudes and concepts of sovereign rights impede the progress of harmonisation and hence deter acceptance of Codex standards.

Notwithstanding these, the process of harmonisation is gaining stimulus by virtue of strong international desire to facilitate international trade. Countries are increasingly aligning their national food standards, or parts of them (especially those relating to safety), with those of the Codex Alimentarius. This is particularly so in case of additives, contaminants and residues.

Conclusion:

Thus to conclude, The public sector in tandem with support from the private sector can be instrumental in delivering the skills and infrastructure required for maintaining the safety and level of quality in the agri-food chain. India's upcoming five-year foreign trade policy 2020-25 can consider the integration of Codex practices on a mass scale.

How is Internet access different from digital literacy? What is the role of digital literacy? Discuss the current status of digital literacy in India.

The hindu

Why this question:

The article captures the discussion as to why the right to Internet access and digital literacy should be recognized as a right in itself.

Key demand of the question:



One has to explain and differentiate the two concepts- Digital literacy and Internet access and explain in what way the two are complementary to each other while establishing the status of digital literacy in India.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief discuss what is meant by internet access and digital literacy.

Body:

The question is straightforward; one has to differentiate between internet access and digital literacy. Explain the points of information literacy, digital divide and the current status of digital literacy in India in detail.

Take hints from the article and justify your answer with suitable examples wherever required.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Recently, in Faheema Shirin v. State of Kerala, the Kerala High Court declared the right to Internet access as a fundamental right forming a part of the right to privacy and the right to education under Article 21 of the Constitution. While this is a welcome move, it is important to recognise the right to Internet access as an independent right.

Digital inequality-

- In recent times, several government and private sector services have become digital. Some of them are only available online.
- This leads to a new kind of inequality, digital inequality, where social and economic backwardness is exacerbated due to information poverty, lack of infrastructure, and lack of digital literacy.
- According to the Deloitte report, ‘Digital India: Unlocking the Trillion Dollar Opportunity’, in mid-2016, digital literacy in India was less than 10%.
- We are moving to a global economy where knowledge of digital processes will transform the way in which people work, collaborate, consume information, and entertain themselves.
- This has been acknowledged in the Sustainable Development Goals as well as by the Indian government and has led to the Digital India mission.

Current status in digital resource availability-

- Offering services online has cost and efficiency benefits for the government and also allows citizens to bypass lower-level government bureaucracy.
- Moving governance and complete service delivery online without the requisite progress in Internet access and digital literacy however, does not make economic sense.
- For instance, Common Service Centres, which operate in rural and remote locations, are physical facilities which help in delivering digital government services and informing communities about



government initiatives. While the state may be saving resources by moving services online, it also has to spend resources since a large chunk of citizens cannot access these services.

- The Bharat Net programme, aiming to have an optical fibre network in all gram panchayats, is to act as the infrastructural backbone for having Internet access all across the country. However, the project has consistently missed all its deadlines while the costs involved have doubled.
- Similarly, the National Digital Literacy Mission has barely touched 1.67% of the population and has been struggling for funds.

The importance of digital literacy-

- Internet access and digital literacy have implications beyond access to government services.
- Digital literacy allows people to access information and services, collaborate, and navigate socio-cultural networks. In fact, the definition of literacy today must include the ability to access and act upon resources and information found online. While the Kerala High Court judgment acknowledges the role of the right to access Internet in accessing other fundamental rights, it is imperative that the right to Internet access and digital literacy be recognized as a right in itself.
- Recognizing the right to internet access and digital literacy will also make it easier to demand accountability from the state, as well as encourage the legislature and the executive to take a more proactive role in furthering this right.
- A right to Internet access would also further provisions given under Articles 38(2) and 39 of the Constitution.

Conclusion-

We are living in an ‘information society’. Unequal access to the Internet creates and reproduces socioeconomic exclusions. It is important to recognise the right to Internet access and digital literacy to alleviate this situation, and allow citizens increased access to information, services, and the creation of better livelihood opportunities.

India needs universities with a core mission of producing educated people who are needed to build and run a flourishing economy, in such a context discuss the relevance of triple helix model to Indian universities.

The hindu

Why this question:

The article discusses the possible application of the triple helix model to the Indian universities.

Key demand of the question:

One must explain the concept of triple helix model and in what way the model can be effectively applied to the case of Indian universities.

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 define what is meant by triple helix model.

Body:



Explain the basics of the model – The triple helix model of innovation refers to constant interactions between academia, industry and governments to foster economic and social development.

The model emphasizes on boosting innovation for development.

Explain that problems that Indian universities are currently facing.

Conclusion:

Conclude that we need universities with a core mission of producing educated people who are needed to build and run a flourishing economy. Today, in India, how many universities have been able to connect their activities to society and the nation's economy is a major concern. It is hoped that the current government takes keen interest in developing scientific research culture in Indian universities.

The triple helix model of innovation refers to **constant interactions between academia, industry and governments** to foster economic and social development. The model emphasizes **on boosting innovation for development**.

- It describes the role of a university to join hands with industry and government.
- It explains social formats for production, transfer and application of knowledge.
- **Triple helix covers creative destruction**—a concept coined by Joseph Schumpeter in 1942—i.e. new innovations killing older ones. **Innovation arises within each of the three spheres**—university, industry and government.
- Creative destruction cannot be avoided when we embrace innovation. In an economic sense, **creativity can produce some destructive consequences**.
- Triple helix was **developed** in the **1990s** by **Henry Etzkowitz and Loet Leydesdorff**.

What are triple helix interactions?

- **University-industry interactions:** Etzkowitz and Leydesdorff emphasised that the initial role of a university is to provide education to individuals and basic research.
- It's like the Linear Model of Innovation; universities are supposed to provide research, on which industry builds commercial goods.
- **University-government interactions:** The power of interactions **between government and universities depends on policies on higher education**.
- Government has a higher influence on universities because they are the main source of funding. Government depends on universities to push innovations for the purpose of defence, economics, medical science, etc.

Example of triple helix

The best example of triple helix is **the Silicon Valley**. The government provided land, flexible financing, stretched tax holidays and fitting guidelines to the IT cluster in California. Small and big IT businesses thrived in this cluster.

The world has seen success stories of Dell, HP, Oracle, Intel, Microsoft, etc. The very needs of the industry, powered by the created market, generate the need for the academia, which, in this case, comprises of ICT professionals who are given all facilities to do R&D and new product development.



- Government, industry and academia all profit as taxes are collected on sales of goods, revenue is generated and knowledge is developed inside a suitable research environment.
- Role of triple helix model in developing institutions-
- The triple helix model is based on developing institutions, not just individuals. Innovation is the key in any research.
- Many research scholars registered for PhD in universities can do wonders if only government and industry take interest in them.
- Government and industry can seed early-stage researches that are useful for business and societies. Progressive organizations increasingly seed it in areas of interest to them.
- They work closely with the progress of the PhD by funding or co-funding.
- Difficult scientific problems or new areas of technology are of interest to companies. Their scientists or engineers co-mentor researchers and their guides.

Conclusion

We need universities with a core mission of producing educated people who are needed to build and run a flourishing economy. Today, in India, how many universities have been able to connect their activities to society and the nation's economy is a major concern. It is hoped that the current government takes keen interest in developing scientific research culture in Indian universities.

Issues relating to poverty and hunger.

What do you understand by Disability-adjusted life year (DALY)? Why has Malnutrition still remained a leading cause of death among Indian children under the age of five?

Critically analyse.

The hindu

Why this question:

Malnutrition continues to be the leading cause for death among Indian children under the age of five, according to a study led by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Thus it is important to understand the underlying causes and solutions to address the situation.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the concept of DALY and discuss in detail the causes of malnutrition prevalent in the country.

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:

Two-thirds of the 1.04 million deaths in children under five years in India are still attributable to malnutrition, according to the first comprehensive estimate of disease burden due to child and maternal malnutrition and the trends of its indicators in every State from 1990.

Body:

Explain first what is DALY? – The disability-adjusted life year (DALY) rate is measured by financial cost, mortality, morbidity, or other indicators.



Then explain the reasons for rising malnutrition incidences in the country.

Suggest what measures are required to address the problem.

Conclusion:

Conclude by suggesting need for a multi-pronged approach and reforms in the policies and programmes to address the issue effectively.

The disability-adjusted life year (DALY) is a measure of overall disease burden, expressed as the number of years lost due to ill-health, disability or early death. It was developed in the 1990s as a way of comparing the overall health and life expectancy of different countries.

The DALY is becoming increasingly common in the field of public health and health impact assessment (HIA).

India's much coveted 'demographic dividend' might be in jeopardy. It is estimated that by 2030, there will be 484.86 million youth (aged 15 to 34) in India. Much has been said about its potential for the Indian economy to reap rich harvest in the coming days.

Causes for malnutrition:

The causes for malnutrition are various and are multidimensional. To sum up, they include:

- Household food insecurity
- illiteracy specially in women
- Poor access to health services
- Lack of availability of safe drinking water
- Poor sanitation and environmental conditions augmented with low purchasing power.
- Early marriages of girls
- Teenage pregnancies resulting in low birth weight of the newborns
- Poor breastfeeding practices
- Poor complementary feeding practices
- Ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections further aggravate the situation.
- Number of other factors such as environmental, geographical, agricultural, and cultural including various other factors have contributive effects resulting in malnutrition.

Therefore, it is widely recognized that a multi sectorial approach is necessary to tackle the problem of malnutrition.

Consequences of Malnutrition

Undernourished children have significantly lower chances of survival than children who are well-nourished. They are much more prone to serious infections and to die from common childhood illnesses such as diarrhoea, measles, malaria, pneumonia, and HIV and AIDS. The risk of dying



increases with the severity of the under-nutrition. For instance, a child suffering from severe acute malnutrition is nine times more likely to die than children who are not undernourished.

Nutrition is important to ensure proper brain formation and development, which starts in the womb: development of the brain goes on during early childhood. Evidence suggests that children who are stunted often enrol late in school, complete fewer grades and perform less well in school. This, in turn, affects their creativity and productivity in later life. Iodine deficiency is known to affect a child's Intelligence Quotient (IQ) adversely. It has also been established that children with deficient growth before age two are at an increased risk of chronic disease as adults, especially if they gain weight rapidly in the later stages of childhood. A low birth weight baby, who is stunted and underweight in its infancy and gains weight rapidly in childhood and adult life is much more prone to chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Government Intervention:

Good nourishment is the right of every child, and the state must ensure proper nutrition for all children. In this regard government has taken number of steps, but in spite of these measures, malnourishment is highly prevalent. This is mainly because of failure in delivering services, and loopholes in some of the schemes.

Direct interventions schemes include:

- Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme,
- National Rural Health Mission (NRHM),
- Mid-Day Meal Scheme,
- Rajiv Gandhi Schemes for Empowerment of Adolescent Girls (RGSEAG) namely SABLA and
- Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojna (IGMSY)

Other important Measures:

- There is overwhelming evidence to suggest that tackling child under-nutrition requires a life-cycle approach, which implies that different interventions are needed at different stages in the life of a woman (during adolescence and pre-pregnancy as well as during pregnancy and after the birth of the child) and of a child (immediately at birth, up to six months, 6-23 months and 24-59 months). Listed below are such five critical technical interventions.
- Improve breastfeeding practices in the first six months of life by ensuring that: All newborns start breastfeeding within one hour after birth (early initiation); All newborns are fed the nutrient-rich colostrum in the first three-to-four days of life (colostrum feeding); and All infants are fed only breast milk in the first six months of life (exclusive breastfeeding) and are not fed any other solid or liquid, not even water.
- Improve foods and feeding practices for children 6-23 months old by ensuring that: Infants are fed complementary foods beginning at about six months of age while breastfeeding continues until two years and beyond; Complementary foods are rich in energy, protein, and micronutrients (vitamins and minerals).
- Control micronutrient deficiencies and anaemia in the first years of life by ensuring that:



All children 6-59 months old are provided with vitamin A supplements twice a year (about six months apart);

All children 12-59 months old are provided with deworming tablets twice a year (about six months apart); and

All children with diarrhoea receive appropriate treatment with zinc supplements and oral rehydration solution (ORS).

- Control micronutrient deficiencies and anemia in adolescent girls and women by ensuring that Anemia is prevented in adolescent girls and pregnant women through supplementation programmes with iron and folic acid and deworming tablets; Iodine deficiency is prevented in adolescent girls and women by ensuring that all salt for direct human consumption contains adequate levels of iodine.
- Provide quality care for children with severe under-nutrition by ensuring that cases of severe acute under-nutrition are managed at home with simplified protocols and also clinically (wherever required) under appropriate medical supervision.

In terms of immediate actions that can yield quick results, four priorities for the child would be the initiation of breastfeeding within one hour after birth, exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of life, introduction of appropriate complementary foods after six months, and bi-annual vitamin A supplementation with deworming for children under five. To realize the potential of demographic dividend, India must ensure that its children grow healthily. Economic growth of 9% cannot guarantee good health to the citizens if the states do not take pains to redistribute wealth properly to make India a safer place for its children to grow with dignity.



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Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance- applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures. Conscientious dissent strengthens democracy". Do you agree with the statement? Discuss in the backdrop of recent resignations by civil servants across the country for various causes.

Deccanherald

Why this question:

Recently Karnataka Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Sashikant Senthil submitted his resignation quoting "fundamental building blocks of democracy were being compromised in an unprecedented manner".

Key demand of the question:

The answer must elaborate upon the statement in the question and discuss in detail the associated concerns and issues.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief narrate the recent incidences of dissent in general.

Body:

Explain first the significance of dissent, and discuss the possible underlying causes.

Move on to highlight the significance of these coveted services – For decades, the civil services in India have enjoyed an unparalleled social standing. A share in power, job security, and the possibility of bringing about change has made the profession, particularly the IAS, one of the most coveted in the country.

Discuss the effect it may have in administration system of the country.

Suggest solutions to address the issue.

Conclusion:

Conclude that the political class cannot afford to antagonize or alienate the civil servants. They may be there to execute the decisions of the political party in power, but these officers cannot be reduced to political propagandists or dummies for the government. The political class must responsibly respond to such resignations of IAS officers before they become a trend.

Conscientious dissent is when we use our ability to distinguish between good or bad and right or wrong, and based on which we take a call to disagree or agree. Right to dissent is considered as a fundamental right under Article 19 of our constitution.

Importance of dissent in a democracy -

- Dissent makes democracy more representative and more vibrant.
- It was only through dissent humanity has progressed overtime. Example Copernicus and Galileo have descended with the order of church.
- It forms a part of right to freedom of expression.
- It prevents the government from becoming authoritarian.



Democracy is essentially rule of people not the rule of majority over minority hence dissent it is essential to take account for minority view (which made you agree with date of majority) while making policy decision. Dissent act as a safety valve, Therefore, majority of Indians must be tolerant to dissent.

Recent resignation by various civil servants against government's policies in Jammu and Kashmir is an act of mere crystal clear dissent, more apt to such a situation will be conscientious dissent as they found it in violation of their morality to be silent and not bringing out the violation of right of the people in Jammu and Kashmir to express their views on the decision which affects no one more than them.

Greater social, political and economic freedom for the individual is a better ideal for a country as against the massive, coercive powers of a centralized State which seeks to consolidate national dialogue along a definite alignment and culls contrary opinions.

Now the question arises if Civil Servants have similar rights to dissent as other citizens and if their dissent is detrimental to the governance of the country and national interest.

To answer that we have to figure out how a Civil Servant measures his success. In terms of honesty, or loyalty to the government. It is possible that blind loyalty to the government can turn out to be detrimental for the nation. It is better for a civil servant to be honest and to express their dissenting views about policy in writing or in meetings.

It might happen then that your adversaries in government do not pay heed to your opinions and gang up on you and make your service condition difficult. It is ok then to resign and continue your fight for the convictions you believe in, than to remain in government and undermine it from within.

The fight for the strengthening of collective national dialogue must go on. The multiplicity of viewpoints enhances democratic structures and discourse from which novel solutions to embedded problems of polity emerge.

Way forward

- Establish positive attitude towards dissent and dissenters.
- Robust grievance redressal system.
- Electoral reforms like including some kind of proportionate representation (mixed system of Representation).
- Colonial laws such as sedition laws like Section 124 A of IPC should be repealed.
- Dissent must be encouraged unless it causes or intend to cause violence.

Conclusion

Democracy is all about view of people and their representation in decision making process. Dissent keeps the process from becoming homogeneous hence, keeps democracy alive and Society progressive. "**I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it**". - **Voltaire.**



Government has revived National Population Register project at a time when National Register of Citizens has been published in Assam. How are the two different? What kind of data will be collected, and why? Elucidate.

Indianexpress

Why this question:

Amidst the recent backdrop of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam excluding 19 lakh among the 3.3 crore who had applied, the resurrection of the National Population Register (NPR) project has added to the uncertainty around the idea of citizenship in the country.

Key demand of the question:

One has to explain what is NPR, in what way it is similar to the NRC that was recently updated by state of Assam and the purpose of such a registration and its consequences.

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 the NPR is.

Body:

Discuss the concept of NPR in detail, differentiate it from NRC – The NPR is a list of “usual residents of the country”. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a “usual resident of the country” is one who has been residing in a local area for at least the last six months, or intends to stay in a particular location for the next six months. Unlike the NRC, the NPR is not a citizenship enumeration drive, as it would record even a foreigner staying in a locality for more than six months.

Discuss what and why is the controversy. Throw light upon the one nation, one card initiative.

Conclusion:

Conclude with a fair and balanced opinion by weighing pros and cons of such a move.

In the backdrop of the **National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam** excluding 19 lakh among the 3.3 crore who had applied, the resurrection of the National Population Register (NPR) project has added to the uncertainty around the idea of citizenship in the country.

Even as issues of privacy associated with Aadhaar continue to be debated in the country, the NPR is on a drive to collect detailed data on residents of India.

What has added to the conversation is Home Minister Amit Shah floating the idea of **“one nation, one card”** and asserting that the NRC would be implemented across the country.

What is the NPR?

- The NPR is a list of **“usual residents of the country”**.
- According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, a “usual resident of the country” is **one who has been residing in a local area for at least the last six months**, or intends to stay in a particular location for the next six months.
- Unlike the NRC, the **NPR is not a citizenship enumeration drive**, as it would record even a foreigner staying in a locality for more than six months.
- The NPR is being prepared under provisions of the **Citizenship Act 1955** and the **Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003**.



- It is **mandatory** for every “usual resident of India” to register in the NPR.
- The NPR exercise is **conducted at the local, sub-district, district, state and national levels**.
- It will be **conducted in conjunction with the houselisting phase**, the first phase of the Census, by the Office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) under the Home Ministry for Census 2021.

What is the controversy around it?

- With the government insisting that the NRC would be implemented across the country, **the NPR has raised anxieties around the idea of citizenship in the country**.
- Even as a debate continues on Aadhaar and privacy, the **NPR intends to collect a much larger amount of personal data** on residents of India.
- After a list of residents is created, **a nationwide NRC could go about verifying the citizens** from that list.
- The NPR is also **amongst a host of identity databases such as Aadhaar**, voter card, passport and more that would be combined into one card.

History of NPR-

- The idea actually **dates back to the UPA regime** and was put in motion by then Home Minister P Chidambaram in **2009**.
- The Home Ministry had then pushed the idea of the **NPR being a better vehicle than AADHAR** because it connected every NPR-recorded resident to a household through the Census.
- The **data for the NPR were first collected in 2010** along with the house listing phase of Census 2011.
- Through a notification on August 3 by the RGI, however, the idea has now been revived. The exercise to update the 2015 NPR with additional data has begun and will be completed in 2020.

What kind of data will NPR collect?

- The NPR will **collect both demographic data and biometric data**. There are 15 different categories of demographic data, ranging from name and place of birth to education and occupation, that the RGI is supposed collect in the NPR.
- For **biometric data it will depend on Aadhaar**, for which it will seek Aadhaar details of the residents.
- According to Home Ministry sources, while registering with the NPR is mandatory, **furnishing of additional data such as PAN, Aadhaar, driving license and voter ID is voluntary**.

Why does the government want so much data?

- While there are concerns around privacy, **the government position** on collection of so much **data is twofold**.
- The first is the assertion that **every country must have a comprehensive identity database** of its residents with relevant demographic details.



- It will help the government formulate its policies better and also aid national security.
- The second, largely to justify the collection of data such as driving licence, voter ID and PAN numbers, is that it will only ease the life of those residing in India by cutting red tape.

With NPR data, residents will not have to furnish various proofs of age, address and other details in official work. It would also eliminate duplication in voter lists, government insists.

The Political Meddling in the institutions has deteriorated the credibility of the institutions over time which in turn has crippled the economy. Elaborate with examples.

The hindu

Why this question:

The article explains in what way The credibility of the RBI, the CSO and the Niti Aayog has taken a beating in recent times due to political interference.

Key demand of the question:

Bring out the recent controversies that have arisen due to lack of credibility in the way institutions have been contributing to the economy in justifying their roles.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief explain the ongoing issues with institutions in the country.

Body:

Discuss in brief the role of institutions in a political economy.

Explain the recent instances in which the autonomy of the institutions got crippled- RBI, NITI Aayog, CSO etc.

Discuss on the present slowdown in the economy vis –a vis the institutional factors.

Suggest measures to address the situation.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

The credibility of the RBI, the CSO and the Niti Aayog has taken a beating in recent times due to political interference.

- The slowdown in GDP growth rate has been dissected, digressed and disowned by analysts, commentators and policymakers. However, the diagnosis is far from complete and the growth engine is running out of fuel. Both the demand- and supply-side factors have been central in all the analyses, but the crucial role of institutions in shaping the outcomes of both the factors in this episode of slowdown has been neglected. This has resulted in a series of banal policy measures for reviving growth.
- A market-centered economic model necessitates creating and sustaining credible institutions that further the efficiency of market mechanism. Given the possibility of ‘market failures’, such institutions assume a larger role in the economy in shaping expectations and decisions.
- The credibility of three such important institutions — the Reserve Bank of India (RBI); the Central Statistical Organization (CSO); and the Planning Commission/NITI Aayog — has taken a beating in recent times.



Examples -

- **Case of RBI** - The RBI, which was clamoring for more autonomy, has been systematically brought under the ambit of the Central government. Starting from the sidelining of the central bank on the important issue of currency demonetisation, the attempt has been to steadily erode the central bank's independence. A three-pronged strategy resulted in this — first, the RBI was bypassed on matters relating to currency; second, its role as regulator of the banking sector was questioned when banks faltered; and, finally, its reserves were siphoned. The net result has been that the RBI has been reduced into an institution which presides over a limited space of monetary policy, that is, inflation targeting.
- **NITI Aayog** - presents the case of an institution that lost its character in the process of transformation. By abolishing the erstwhile Planning Commission and transforming it into the NITI Aayog, the government lost the space for mid-term appraisals of plans and policies. Course correction and taking stock of the economy have now become routine exercises, with uncritical acceptance due to a lack of well-researched documents.

Conclusion

Institutions are the rules of the game in a society or, more formally, are the humanly devised constraints that shape human interaction.” Institutions are formed to reduce uncertainty in human exchange. Together with the technology employed, they determine the costs of transacting (and producing). While the formal rules can be changed overnight, as has been practised by the present government, the informal norms change only gradually.

Role of civil services in a democracy.

Discuss the role of Academy of Administrations in systematically training the higher civil services in India? Does training institutions in India should be reshaped to cater the changing demands of 21st Century? Critically comment.

The hindu

Civil servants are considered Steel frame of our country. Their performance is reflected in our Nation's progress. Therefore their training is very much necessary training improves once capability, capacity and performance.

The Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration was simply called the Academy of Administration when it was set up in 1959 in Mussoorie. It signalled a resolve to systematically train members of the higher civil services in order to equip them to be the change agents of a resurgent India.

The two All-India Services, the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and the Indian Police Service, instituted earlier under a specific provision of the Constitution, as also other Services attracted some of the finest minds from the university system. The IAS motto, ‘Yogah Karmasu Kaushalam (proficiency in action is yoga)’, and the Academy song, ‘Hao Dharomete Dheer, Hao Karomete Bir (Be firm in your faith, courageous in action)’, symbolize the nation’s expectation from them.

Role of Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) -



- Provide training for skill, personality and leadership development, promote Team Spirit and Conquer fear.
- Foundation course instills a shared understanding of Government and built comaraderie among Civil Servants.
- Inculcates sense of discipline and professionalism. This is necessary as many of those who qualify the exam are freshers.
- It gives exposure to work ethics.
- It enhances the capacity of civil servants to act as a link between Government and the masses.
- Bharat Darshan part of training provides for a multifaceted view of vibrant India and enhances tolerance towards all people and community of the country.
- District training of one year give exposure to field experience.
- Mid-career training of policy implementation.
- There are 5 Research Centre for rural studies, disaster management, gender, public management system, leadership development and competency development.
- Joint civil military program.

Limitations of the academy -**On part of society**

- New kinds of law and order situations have surfaced in recent past such as mob lynching that require special understanding and handling capabilities.
- Improved educational status of citizens has made them more aware of their rights and duties, thus making administration more challenging day by day.
- Cultural upliftment in the society has attacked many of the national laws such as Section 377 498 a 375 etc. this calls for change approach are civil servants towards the situation

On part of Academy

- No serious attempts have been made to record experience of officers and their experience.
- The in house journal the administrator does not seems to have great impact on academic discourses on governance.
- Academy has not yet realized the potential to emerge as a main think tank for Civil service reforms.
- Output from the five research centers has been low so far.

Way forward

- The research in academic centers should come in Centre place to provide keystone as think tank.
- Mid-career training should focus more on specialization.



Conclusion

Thus any reform of the civil services, including that in the recruitment and training phase, should aim to create a band of diligent and fearless change agents whose loyalty lies primarily with the Constitution and laws of the land.

India and its neighborhood- relations.

Why is Chabahar Port important to India? Discuss in detail its geopolitical significance.

Economictimes

Why this question:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani met along the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's 74th session in New York.

The leaders especially mentioned operationalization of Chabahar Port and noted its importance as gateway to and for the landlocked Afghanistan and the Central Asian region.

Key demand of the question:

One has to bring out the significance of Chabahar port to the geopolitics of the region.

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 discuss the context of the question.

Body:

Start by explaining few facts about Chabahar port.

Discuss in brief the India-Iran historic ties.

Explain the geopolitical significance of the port, India's stakes.

What are the possible challenges?

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward with emphasis on the role India got to play.

Chahbahar port is a seaport located in southeastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. It serves as Iran's only oceanic port and consists of two ports Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti and ten berths.

Significance of the port for India

- Chahbahar Port is of particular significance to India because of its location as it is the only oceanic port of Iran that can be accessed from the western coast of India bypassing Pakistan.
- In short, it is an unobtrusive gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- Pakistan denies overland transit facility to India through its soil and India's commerce with Afghanistan and Central Asia gets hampered.
- Herein lays the elevated strategic importance of Chabahar port for India as it can open new frontiers of engagement with the region bringing in shared prosperity.

Geo-Political Importance



- Chabahar's geopolitical significance rises considerably as it is also a gateway to INSTC (International North-south Transport Corridor).
- It will boost India's presence in the region and hence this strategic project has been pursued by India in the right earnest.
- Chabahar port will also act as a check for increasing Chinese presence in the Arabian Sea as China is heavily involved in the construction of the Gwadar, a deep sea port in the Balochistan area of Pakistan.
- The location of Chabahar and Gwadar ports in close vicinity of each other underlines the intense competition between India and China in the region with Pakistan siding with the Chinese.
- India's spirited efforts in development of Chabahar port underscores the point that on the strategic chessboard of geopolitical competition India is not to be left far behind.
- The chances of an extension of ties to Indian Iran military cooperation is also possible and will be highly beneficial to counter Chinese navy in the Indian ocean too.

Economic Importance

- Costs of imports of products like iron ore, oil, sugar, and rice to India will be significantly lowered.
- A study commissioned by the Ministry of Commerce has found that cost of imports via Chabahar port along with INSTC is 30% cheaper than those via Mediterranean-Suez route.
- Economic ties between India and Afghanistan which were in limbo due to political uncertainty will significantly improve once Chabahar is completely operationalized.
- India will link Chabahar port to Zaranj-Delaram highway in Afghanistan and is keen on developing a rail link there with the cooperation of Iran.
- India will also be developing various industries (aluminum and urea plants) in the Chabahar Economic Zone.

Diplomatic Importance

- Chabahar port can be used by India to launch humanitarian operations in Afghanistan and also in Horn of Africa regions.
- The Zaranj-Delaram highway constructed by India can be a access point to four major cities in Afghanistan namely Kabul, Heart, Kandahar, and Mazar-e-sharif which can be accessed via the Garland highway in Afghanistan.
- Keeping this geostrategic significance India's transport minister Shri Nitin Gadkari has termed the port as 'a gateway to golden opportunities'.



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

In spite of challenges, India's international relations with respect to Europe point to its cessation from the past and demonstrate willingness for a more creative commitment. Justify.

Indianexpress

Why this question:

The article highlights India's strategic neglect of Central Europe in the past decades and highlights the recent productive engagement with the region by the current government.

Key demand of the question:

Analyse the trends in India –Europe relations from past to present.

Directive:

Justify – When you are asked to justify, you have to pass a sound judgement about the truth of the given statement in the question or the topic based on evidences. You have to appraise the worth of the statement in question using suitable case studies or/ and examples.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief explain the context of the question.

Body:

First discuss the historical relations that India shared with European countries.

Explain how today, Located at the crossroads of Asia and at the heart of the Indian Ocean, India sees itself as a maritime power in the Indo-Pacific with big interests in continental Eurasia.

Explain in what way In deepening its partnership with Europe, Delhi can overcome some of the recent challenges that have emerged in the conduct of its foreign policy.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of such increasing ties and way forward.

India Europe relationship has never been same it has always been changing. Ancient times- Greeks came to India- Alexander came for conquest. Medieval - trade relationship grew very strong. Indian spices and handicraft were in Very high demand in Europe. Modern - India became Colony of Europeans majorly under Britain. After independence India gradually established diplomatic relationship with all European countries

In recent past

- India used to follow method of engaging Europe through big powers
- India preferred for scholarship like g77
- India do not have any free trade agreement with Europe still India is destination for 20% of European export
- There were no visits by any Indian Prime Minister since 1988 to Hungary and 1979 to Poland. This underlines India's strategic neglect to Central Europe for all these decades
- Relationship to cut all on account of disintegration of USSR

The changing relationship

- Visit of Prime Minister Modi to G7 meeting as a special guest



- Visit to Vladivostok to meet Russian president
- Unwillingness of India to accept the proposition that there is tension between concept of Eurasia and Indo Pacific
- Coining of acronym Infra highlight the importance of France as a strategic partner
- External affair minister visit to Moscow Budapest was and Brussels to elevate Central Europe in the list of India's diplomatic priorities.

Reason for change

- Reconciliation with Russia - Russia was suspended from G8 after its intervention in Ukraine in 2014 France and Germany are planning to resolve European standoff with Russia no country has highest IQ than India in seeing our approachment between Russia and you in the west and Japan in the East
- Stability of Indo Pacific - France (resident power in indo-pacific) is eager to work with India in developing a new coalition to stabilize indo-pacific region and prevent the littoral from becoming a Hostage of deteriorating USA China relationship
- To Save global Trading system - the effectiveness of collision like g-77 has reduced due to ever increasing protectionism. Working with Europe and Japan might lend greater weight and credence to India's trade diplomacy
- Multipolar world - India from the beginning has supported the idea of multipolar world there is reduction in the significance of **Non Alignment Movement**

The Germany initiated "Alliance for multilateralism" with backing of France. Cause for modernizing international institution strengthening the rule based order and promoting Global rather than National solution to global challenges

- There is enormous possibility for mutual enrichment with Central Europe and European Union
- India and Europe convergence on large number of issues like climate change and Clean Energy - International solar Alliance was launched by India and strongly backed by France, Horizon 2020 program to develop next generation influenza vaccine

Concerns / Challenges

- Indian negotiators feel that the Europeans are less flexible and whereas Europeans think that India is not open to lifting trade barriers and giving market access.
- Brexit induced uncertainty in EU, and the global flux on trade norms introduced by the Trump presidency in the US.
- Stalled negotiations for concluding the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), or Broad Based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).

Way Forward

- Exchange of scientists and researchers.



- The EU has capacities to deal with issues like global governance, climate change and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. India must utilise this through bilateral dialogues and consultations.
- Working on FTA and realising concrete results in other areas can make the India-EU partnership truly strategic.

Deepen the strategic relations and go ahead with the long-term view on global and regional challenges, and a rule-based international order.

The India-Pakistan face-off on bilateral trade can result into more repercussions than intended, with border economies the worst hit. Do you agree? Discuss the consequences

The hindu

Why this question:

The article captures the ongoing trade-off between India and Pakistan post abrogation of Article 370 by the government of India.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the issue in detail, provide for the nuances of the burning issues between India and Pakistan with special focus on trade.

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 recent trade issues between the two countries and the hostilities associated.

Body:

First discuss the nature of trade across the borders of India and Pakistan.

Discuss the bilateral trade factor.'

Elucidate upon the factor of border economies.

Explain that In the spirit of nationalism, the trade fraternity on both sides, by and large, has stood by their respective governments. But locals in border economies on both sides have mouths to feed, which calls for a solution.

Suggest what are the possible alternative sources of livelihood that can be generated to keep border economies afloat?

Conclusion:

Conclude with possible solutions and way forward.

India has recorded Pakistan MFN status in 1996, which has recently revoked in February 2019 after Pulwama attack and imposed 200% duties on all imports from Pakistan. India Pakistan had trade of 2.4 billion dollars which was in favor of India. After passing of **Jammu & Kashmir Reorganization Bill, 2019** both the countries have virtually shielded the border for trade. With this India-Pakistan face-off on bilateral trade the most affected community are those in border area. Their economy has suffered most.

How does it affect border economy?

- Unlike national economy border economy owes their existence to cross border economic opportunities



- These economies generally experience a sudden boom-bust cycle on account of political changes, trade bans, price and exchange rate and tax fluctuations.
- Example -
 - the inception of India-Bangladesh border haats, the costs and benefits are mutual to the border economies on both sides
 - Amritsar is land-locked, is not a metropolis and traditionally has no significant industry. Since February, according to estimates on ground, 5,000 families have been directly affected in Amritsar because of breadwinner dependence on bilateral trade.
- The freight cost with Punjab as one destination has increased owing to empty backhauling due to loss of business in the state. Example - For example, gypsum, imported from Pakistan, was being used in India as well as in Nepal for the cement plants there. To avoid empty backhauling on the return journey, trucks carrying these consignments brought back specific products such as yarn from mills in Uttar Pradesh to Punjab.
- Cost of other goods that were traded between both countries got increased as the goods have to be sourced from another costlier countries or routed through 3rd country.

As a result, there has been a loss in business, rise in prices, lack of alternative sources of livelihood, as well as an expected increase in bank defaults.

In the spirit of nationalism, the trade fraternity on both sides, by and large, has stood by their respective governments. But locals in border economies on both sides have mouths to feed, which calls for a solution.

The solution lies in

- Development of border area at par with those in hinterland. For this govt has initiated border area development programme.
- Procurement of military ration must be done from border areas
- Market link of border area to the nearby cities should be strengthened by developing transport infrastructure.
- Just to support the border economy the govt contracts can be given to local people there.

Conclusion

Resuming bilateral talks and trade is the ideal solution. With Pakistan getting more isolated Sooner Or Later it will come in terms with India but in the meantime to protect the border economy is alternative employment opportunities should be promoted by setting up industries and providing better roads Railway connectivity with other parts of India.

In view of the emergence of China as a superpower, the Indo-Pacific region has turned into a theatre of conflicting interests. Analyse.

The hindu

Why this question:



The question is amidst the current conditions of China emerging as superpower and the associated changes in the Indo-Pacific's geopolitics.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must discuss the relevance and impact of Quadrilateral Security Dialogue between U.S., Japan, India and Australia has not made any progress towards the stated objective of securing the Indo-Pacific. And in what way the emergence of China as superpower will have an impact over it.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief explain the current conditions of geopolitics in the region.

Body:

Explain the relationship between the actors in the Indo-Pacific theatre.

Discuss the changing relations of Russia and India amidst emerging China, explain in what way it will have impact on the world power equation.

Also explain the relevance of Asia pivot policy of US and in what way it can add to the dynamics of the region.

Conclusion:

Conclude with possible consequences of such dynamics in the region and the effect it will have on India.

Indo-pacific is a biogeographic region of Earth's seas, comprising the tropical waters of the Indian Ocean, the western and central Pacific Ocean, and the seas connecting the two in the general area of Indonesia. It does not include the temperate and polar regions of the Indian and Pacific oceans

In last few years China has started asserting its military as well as economic might in Indo Pacific region example it has built artificial islands in South China Sea and asserting sovereignty over international waters this issue involved Asian countries directly and Japan India Russia Australia Korea indirectly

The rising China is also challenging USA directly to be world power

It is pushing for OBOR very aggressively and using depth book diplomacy in its veil (example Humbantota port of Sri Lanka has been acquired by Chinese for non-fulfilment of Debt obligation)

Why rise of China is causing conflict-

- China's expansion into South China Sea by constructing an artificial Island is challenging sovereignty of ASEAN countries mainly Philippines and Vietnam
- threat to sea line of communication - Chinese expansion and militarization of the region is a trade to trade and Commerce of Japan Korea Russia and ASEAN countries with Africa West Asian India
- It is threat to freedom of navigation and UNCLOS - China is forcibly asserting its military might into open sea which according to UNCLOS is free for any country to navigate
- It will hamper India's role as Net security provider in the region.



- Natural resource Indo Pacific region is endowed with huge Reserve of natural resources like natural gas Petroleum Philippines and Vietnam want India to co-ordinate them in resource exploration which is opposed to Chinese
- North Korea - North Korea has become a great threat to United States by developing its own nuclear arsenal against US China has very cordial relationship with North Korea North Korea USA allies in the region Japan and Korea are facing threat the responsibility for their security lies on USA and this has become background for two Rival ideology communalism vs capitalism
- Chinese string of Pearl theory and O B O R is also a challenge to Indian Sovereignty
- Use of term indo-pacific by United State asserts importance of India as an active partner in the region this is not liked by China.
- The military exercise like Yudha Abhyas by India USA and Japan is also irritating China

Solution

- QUAD grouping which was mainly formed to contain Chinese influence over indo-pacific needs to be more active. As of now continued rise in Chinese aggression and its state conflict with USA and continued this respect to International laws shows the grouping so far has not achieve its Moto.
- QUAD + grouping - it includes Quad country and ASEAN countries.
- ASEAN outlook - it reinforces ASEAN Centre regional architecture
- Strengthening of inter organisational dialogue forum
- Establishing code of conduct for Indo Pacific region rise of conflict has created hostility and lack of Trust between the parties code of conduct must be put in place agreed by all the stakeholders
- Diplomatic dialogue like 2 + 2 dialogues with each other will help in reducing tension
- Mutual conflict between the countries of the region must be resolved amicably to build trust example India and China disputes must be resolved quickly
- Countries must respect sovereignty of other countries and international laws for betterment of whole humanity example China must take India's approval for cpec

Conclusion

Having multiple stakeholders always creates tension and conflicting environment but the situation can be handled if we follow concept of **5S** is given by India.5S stands for **Samman (respect)** **samvad (dialogue)** **Sahyog (Corporation)** **Shanti (peace)** **Samriddhi (prosperity)**. Concept like **SAGAR** - security and growth for all in the region must be used in Indo Pacific region too.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic partnership (RCEP) agreement has the potential to be a game changer for India. Elucidate.

Livemint

Why this question:

Recently RCEP grouping resolved to conclude negotiations for a free trade agreement by the year end while recognizing that growing protectionism may impact negotiating positions.

***Key demand of the question:***

One must explain the context of the question and bring out the significance of RCEP to India and its position in global dynamics.

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:***

Explain in short what is RCEP and countries involved in the RCEP agreement.

Body:

Discuss the objectives and functions of RCEP first, the significance of the RCEP trade deal: For example: RCEP is poised to become world's largest trade deal, covers 40% world trade and 34% of world's GDP.

Explain in detail about the advantages of RCEP to India- trade, investment and services etc.

Discuss in what way it can be a game changer to India's stance in the global economy.

Conclusion:

Conclude with a positive note for joining RCEP and also suggest what needs to be done to overcome challenges posed by RCEP.

The RCEP is a proposed trade pact between the 10 countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and their six FTA partners, including Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand. It accounts for 25% of global GDP, 30% of global trade, 26% of FDI flows, and 45% of the world's population.

Significance of RCEP

- Growing protectionism of USA and its intention of withdrawing from TPP has turned the focus of the world towards RCEP.
- RCEP will cover trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic, technical cooperation, intellectual property, dispute settlement and other issues.
- RCEP will also reduce the overlapping between Asian FTAs.
- RCEP will reduce the trade barriers in Asia and the new rules will be consistent with WTO agreements.
- RCEP will promote easier FDI flows and technology transfers by multinational corporations

Importance for India:***Act East Policy:***

For India, the RCEP provides a decisive platform to influence its strategic and economic status in the Asia-Pacific region and realise the goals of its "Act East Policy".

Complement existing FTAs:

- The RCEP agreement would complement India's current FTAs with the ASEAN+6 countries = address challenges of implementation issues, overlapping agreements etc.
- Thus RCEP will make rules and regulations for doing trade more efficient = reduce trade costs.

**Unlock the true potential of the Indian economy:**

- RCEP is expected to harmonize trade-related rules, investment and competition regimes of India with those other countries in the group = Indian companies could enter the regional and global value chains and unlock the true potential of Indian economy.
- It will give a boost to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India.
- RCEP will especially boost textile and pharma industries as it will facilitate the removal of trade barriers such as sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures of these products.

Services sector growth:

- India has been seeking a more balanced outcome of the RCEP deal with a strong agreement on services trade, including a deal on easier movement of skilled manpower.
- Besides facilitating Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), the RCEP will create opportunities for Indian Service Sector companies to access new markets.
- It is because the manufacturing structure in many of these countries is becoming more and more service oriented. This phenomenon is known as Servicification of manufacturing.

Make in India:

Make in India will become a global success if India becomes a part of the Asian Value and Supply Chain.

MSMEs:

RCEP will also facilitate [MSMEs](#) to effectively integrate into the regional value and supply chains, thus promoting their growth.

Concerns for India**Trade deficit:**

India's trade deficit (Imports > Exports) with various countries have always widened after signing FTAs with them. Example - ASEAN, Japan, Korea, and Singapore, most of which are RCEP nations.

Vulnerable sectors:

India's vulnerable agriculture and dairy sectors will be exposed to vagaries of global trade as India is not in a position to compete with Australia and New Zealand, the top performers in these sectors.

The China factor:

- India fears that the RCEP pact will enable China to dump its products at lower prices and finally capture the market.
- India's trade deficit with China is already at \$63 billion which will further rise if India joins RCEP.
- Security concerns have also arisen over Chinese companies influencing market trends in sectors like telecommunication.

Make in India:



- Indian manufacturing is not competitive enough to face the consequences of a free trade regime.
- Rationalisation of multiple GST rates is still a work-in-progress.
- The compliance with the complex GST norms adds to the transaction costs.
- Labour productivity in manufacturing in India is still one of the lowest in the world with regionally fragmented labour laws increase the cost of doing business.
- Make in India seeks to create enabling conditions not only for domestic industries but also for foreign industries = more competition.
- Considering the above issues, the Indian industry is hardly in a position to compete in a free trade region.

Skewed sectorial growth:

- The issue of trade liberalisation in services is still a bone of contention among RCEP Nations.
- India wants to capitalise on its pool of skilled labour from improved access to these economies.
- Thus it sought binding commitments to simplify services trade.
- India is even willing to trade up its remaining tariff policy powers in the manufacturing sector to get these concessions for services sector in RCEP.
- However, given the situation of the manufacturing and agriculture sectors in India, it is definitely not a good idea to sacrifice them for the services sector. It will promote the skewed nature of sectorial growth.

Raising trade barriers with non-members:

- A preferential trade agreement such as RCEP provides preferential access to certain products by reducing trade barriers such as tariffs for member countries and not for others.
- Hence, a preferential reduction of trade barriers = rise in relative trade barrier against non-members countries of RCEP.

Affect economic sovereignty:

Harmonisation of foreign investment rules and IPR laws = take away India's ability to calibrate trade policies according to its needs.

Rigid tariff regime:

- India needs a tariff regime that must be flexible enough to allow tariffs to be calibrated.
- Such flexibilities are provided by WTO's tariff regime, but not in other FTAs like RCEP.

IPR provisions:

- Japan and South Korea are proposing [intellectual property](#) provisions referred to as TRIPS-plus, which go far beyond the obligations under the WTO's agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). The proposed provisions seek to extend pharma firms'



patent terms beyond the usual 20 years (patent term extensions) and also require data exclusivity that limits competition by encouraging monopoly. These will hit our access to affordable medicines.

- Issues related to Intellectual Property Chapter, particularly pacts that constrain our farmers' ability to produce, preserve, exchange and sell seeds need to be rejected. If India makes any agreement like the International Union of New Plant Varieties (UPOV) 1991 (that favours multinationals and is against farmers' interests), it will kill the livelihood of our farmers.

Conclusion

If India is out of the RCEP, it would make its exports price uncompetitive with other RCEP members' exports in each RCEP market, and the ensuing export-losses contributing to foreign exchange shortages and the subsequent extent of depreciation of the rupee can only be left to imagination. Some of the sectors that have been identified as potential sources of India's export growth impulses under RCEP to the tune of approximately \$200 billion.

There are more compelling trade and economic reasons for RCEP to become India-led in future, than otherwise. India would get greater market access in other countries not only in terms of goods, but in services and investments also.

Calling off of Taliban peace talks indicate greater regional stability, than in its completion. Critically comment.

Timesofindia

Why this question:

The recent US President Donald Trump's shock announcement that he had called off the peace negotiations with the Taliban brings the region back to where it had started. Apart from Pakistan all other powers in the region have collectively breathed a quiet sigh of relief.

Key demand of the question:

The answer seeks to examine the effects on the Indian geopolitical scenario of the recent decision made by the US to withdraw from the Taliban peace talks.

Directive:

Critically comment – 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 'comment' is prefixed, we have to express our knowledge and understanding of the issue and form an overall opinion thereupon.

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Explain the highlights of the issue.

Body:

Explain the following aspects –

Since October 2018, Taliban and US have been meeting to thrash out a peace treaty. By pushing Taliban to the negotiating table, Pakistan was seen by many as a key player. Pakistan has pushed Afghani jihadis to Kashmir to foment trouble in the state.

Discuss the regional political scenario.

Explain the possible way forward.

Conclusion:

Conclude with possible outcome and future of the region



Taliban is a political Fundamentalist fraction in Afghanistan which was thrown out of power in 2001 by USA invasion after 26/11 attack. Since then USA and NATO has station and their military e in Afghanistan. A democratic government has been installed with the help of USA.

The present USA Taleban talk was concentrated on withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and in return Taleban would not allow the use of Afghan soil for attacking NATO members, when they returned to power. The talk was called off by USA.

Effect of USA military presence in Afghanistan

- It preserves democratic government - presently Afghanistan do not have enough military power to handle the powerful terror groups from copying the democratic government
- Stops ISIS - Islamic state which is expanding its influence to East is anti to elected government of Afghanistan the presence of USA in Afghanistan puts immense pressure on the expansion plan of ISIS to Afghanistan.
- Human rights - under present regime there are our respect for human rights. Women and media enjoy much elaborated right than those which were available during fundamentalists' rule of Taleban.
- Stability in Central Asia - there was civil war among different factions present in Afghanistan drawing their support from different countries condition of proxy war was prevailing which presence of us military their civil war situation got awarded and elected government was formed.
- Terror breeding - Taleban have deep Nexus with Al-Qaeda deadly terror organisation. Us military presence prevents Afghanistan from becoming a terror breeding ground like Pakistan
- Peace in Kashmir - Pakistan supports Taleban against democratic government. If Taleban come to power there will be search of terror activities in Kashmir as Taleban will also support Pakistan by sending its jihadist into India
- Strategic Ally Afghanistan is the gateway to Central Asia and very important friend of India presence of us military save the government and keep the Gateway open for India

Therefore, the presence of us military scenes necessary in the elected government of the Afghanistan become powerful enough to deal with the disturbing faction on its own hence breaking of US - Taleban talk is indicated of Greater regional stability

Way forward

To bring long lasting peace only Afghan LED Afghan on and Afghan controlled process with all stakeholders on board can do the magic of bringing peace. **Moscow format** was one step towards this.

“Iran is pivotal in realizing the idea of connecting India with Central Asia”, in the back drop of statement discuss the challenges in realizing it? What steps do you suggest as way forward?

Reference

Why this question:



The question aims to suggest the pivotal role played by Iran in connecting India with central Asia.

Key demand of the question:

One must bring out the vital role that Iran plays in building relations of India with Central Asia along with the challenges in doing so.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Start with a statement saying the necessity of connecting India with Central Asia through Iran.

Body:

Talk about the India's plan on connecting India with Central Asia through Iran and Afghanistan. Mention some facts like chabahar port to Afghanistan, International north south transport corridor etc.

Discuss the challenges in realizing the above idea: for example US sanctions on Iran and cautioned other countries not to engage with Iran in trade, Enmity between Saudi Arabia and Iran etc.,

Suggest possible solutions.

Conclusion:

Conclude asserting the need of friendly relations with Iran and also with other countries.

Relations of India with Iran can be traced back to ancient times. They have had strong trade relations with each other in the past. In recent times also Iran and India have supported each other on various issues. Example- both have supported northern alliance in Afghanistan, on the defense front - defense cooperation agreement of 2002, India welcomed Iran as an observer member in SAARC. The most significant support that Iran has given to India was to help her to access Central Asia by bypassing Pakistan.

Importance of Central Asia for India -

- India has a very wide array of interests in Central Asia covering security, energy, economic opportunities etc.
- Central Asia serves as a land bridge between Asia and Europe, making it geopolitically axial for India.
- Security, stability and prosperity of Central Asia are imperative for peace and economic development of India.
- The region is rich in natural resources such as petroleum, natural gas, antimony, aluminum, gold, silver, coal and uranium which can be best utilized by Indian energy requirement.
- Central Asia has huge cultivable areas lying barren and without being put to any productive use, offering enormous opportunity for cultivation of pulses. Indian agribusiness companies can setup commercial agro-industrial complexes in Central Asia.
- Owing to higher economic growth, several areas have become attractive for construction business, providing huge scopes to Indian companies engaging in financial services, contractors, engineers, and management specialists.
- Both India and **Central Asian Republics (CARs)** share many commonalities and perceptions on various regional and world issues and can play crucial role in providing regional stability.



- For India to use Chabahar as a vital gateway to access Eurasian markets and optimally operationalize its use, requires a Central Asian state joining the project as a direct stakeholder.
- Central Asian Regions are fast getting linked to the global market for production, supplies of raw materials and services. They are also increasingly getting integrated into the **East-West Trans-Eurasian transit economic corridors**.

Importance of India for central Asia

- Central Asia is facing many challenges in food security; Indian expertise in the field can be a game changer in the region.
- Commercial farming is another important area where India and CARs can cooperate.
- India's experience in boosting food and milk production and modernizing agro-techniques under the green and white revolution can prove panacea for Central Asia.
- Good relations with India will provide an assured market to these countries for their energy, raw materials, oil and gas, uranium, minerals, hydroelectric power etc.
- India can significantly bring in lots of foreign investment along with technical expertise in field of infrastructure, hospitality, medical etc.

Role of Iran as gate way

- Iran is the only Country friendly enough in the region which can provide link to India to reach Central Asia.
- India is constructing a 560 mile long railway line linking the Iranian port (Chabahar port) with the Hajigak in southern Afghanistan which is close to Zaranj-Delaram Highway.
- Iran is the key link to provide connectivity to Central Asia and Europe, via the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- The development of a port in Iran can serve as an alternative route to Afghanistan
- Presence in Afghanistan helps expanding access to Central Asian Republics (CARs). E.g. Plan to extend the Zaranj-Delaram highway to connect with Uzbekistan

Challenges in realising Iran as a gateway to Central Asia

- USA sanctions - US has forced India to decline its oil imports from Iran, in this backdrop relations between India and Iran are getting stretched.
- There is lingering uncertainty on various projects by India in Iran. Example - Chabahar port: budgetary expenditure was reduced from 150 crore rupees to 50 crore rupees only.
- OBOR – China's ambitious project to connect Europe and Central Asia with south east and East Asia is in competition with India's aspiration.

Way Forward

- India should be fully mindful of its historic Silk Route ties with Central Asia, and try to make an entry into the largely untapped energy potential of the region.



- India needs to use its instrument of economic leverages more efficiently to build closer ties with Central Asia.
- 'Connect Central Asia' Policy is a very comprehensive policy which includes political, security, economic and cultural cooperation.
- India should make efforts to step up multilateral engagement with Central Asian partners using the synergy of existing forums like the SCO, Eurasian Economic Community (EEC) etc.
- Measures such as relaxing of visa regimes, establishing schools and universities; strengthening tourism; Investment in agriculture sector can significantly improve India's position in the region.

Growing synergies between the India and CAR will promote security, stability, economic growth and development of all countries.

Critically analyze the new areas of co-operation between India and Russia in the wake of China's galloping ambition in Eastern Russia.

The hindu

India-Russia ties in the post-Soviet era have acquired a qualitatively new character with enhanced levels of cooperation in almost all areas of the bilateral relationship including political, security, trade and economy, defense, science and technology, and culture.

There have been very strong relations between India and Russia from Soviet Union times. One of the dimensions of Russia - India relationship is to balance Chinese influence in the region, for example: The 1971 Treaty of friendship between India and Russia. Or be it the Russian support for India's introduction to SCO as the member.

But the recent turmoil between China and US may trigger China and invigorate its outreach throughout the continent to toss American presence. India is concerned about Russia's dependence on China and Russia doesn't want rift between India China relations. Therefore, both the countries are exploring new areas of cooperation.

Trade relations

- India-Russia bilaterally decided to increase the trade to 30 billion dollars by 2025.
- Russia invited India to invest in its Far East region to balance Chinese domination there.
- India initiated new for East policy and Maritime corridor from Chennai to Vladivostok.
- India extended \$1billion line of credit to Russia.
- India has to concentrate on export of its strength areas (sectors such as IT/ITeS, pharmaceuticals and healthcare) while gaining from Russia's expertise in nuclear technology, defence, energy and hydrocarbons so that efforts like Make in India, Digital India and Smart Cities get aligned with India-Russia bilateral relationship.
- There are certain concerns that India is looking up to the West and trying to replace Pakistan as US pivot in the South Asian region as it aspires for Western defence equipment (including aircrafts) and Russia is warming up to Pakistan to counter the US in Afghanistan and Central Asia.



Despite the concerns, if the two countries keep playing the balancing game the bilateral relations will endure.

Maritime cooperation - the two can work in exploration of minerals in Far East region & arctic region. The maritime security dimension considering the fact that India is net security provider in Indian Ocean region.

Economic relations

- FDI - Russia has invested 12.9 billion dollar through Rosneft in India
- Infrastructure - Nagpur Secunderabad High Speed Rail, construction of major energy and transport projects.
- Petrochemicals - Corporation for butyl rubber manufacturing in India (Reliance and Sibus entered into Joint venture)
- Defense - recently both countries signed agreement to carry payment through national currency to award USA sanction in defence deals
 - Example - S400 deal, joint venture at Amethi for manufacturing AK 203 Rifles, Joint production of Kamov Ka 226T helicopter.
- Space - ISRO and ROSCOSMOS signed a MoU to train Indian astronauts for Gaganyaan mission.

Way forward

The fact is that Russia has been a long standing, significant partner of India. The bilateral relationship with Russia forms a cornerstone of India's foreign policy and it is likely to continue so despite occasional concerns. The two countries have a political understanding underpinned by a strong economic and strategic relationship which continues to evolve and endure.

India and China have border dispute and have occasional standoff situation in this relation Russia's balancing role is necessary. They want balance diversify and policy that keep enough space for maneuvering.

Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian Diaspora.

Is sand mining illegal in India? Discuss the impacts of sand mining and suggest way forward.

Timesofindia

Why this question:

Sasikanth Senthil, a 2009 batch Karnataka cadre IAS officer and Deputy Commissioner of Dakshina Kannada district, has resigned from the civil services; he is credited with dealing with illegal sand mining in the district of Uttara Kannada effectively.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the legalities of sand mining in India and the impact it has on ecology along with suggestions to overcome the issue.

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 discuss the issue in India and its prevalence.

Body:

Explain what sand mining is – it is a practice that is becoming an environmental issue in India. Environmentalists have raised public awareness of illegal sand mining in the states of the country. Explain the effects of unregulated sand mining.

Unregulated mining of large volumes of sand along beaches leads to their erosion. Sea beaches are usually formed by the balanced action of depositional and erosional forces.

Conclusion:

Conclude with need to curb the illegal mining issue prevalent in the country and urgent need to arrest the conditions.

Sand mining is the extraction of sand through an open pit but sometimes mined from inland dunes from oceans, riverbeds and beaches.

A per the union ministry of mines, sand is the fourth most important minor mineral in terms of production after road metals, building stone and brick earth. Sand is an important economic resource and also a source of silica for making sodium silicate, a chemical compound used for manufacture of both common and optical glasses.

Sand mining is legal in India and is regulated under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

The regulatory and administrative jurisdiction of minor minerals falls under the purview of State governments. These include the powers to frame rules, prescribe rates of royalty, contribution to District Mineral Foundation, the procedure for grant of mineral concessions, regulation of their mining, control of illegal mining etc.

But, in India sand mining problem is so prevalent that it has developed into black market, that continues to exploit millions of tons of commodity annually, in the open loot of the riverbeds, canals and beaches sand is being drained by illegal means.

Impact of sand mining

- Depletion of sand in the streambed and along coastal areas causes the deepening of rivers and the enlargement of river mouths and coastal in let
- It causes the destruction of aquatic and riparian habitat through large changes in the channel morphology and it also includes bed degradation and bed coarsening
- It causes major habitat disruptions that favoured some species over others and caused overall declines in biological diversity and productivity
- Sand mining transforms the riverbeds in large and deep pits as a result the groundwater table drops leaving the drinking water wells on the embankments of these dry rivers



- Mangrove forests had been destroyed due to illegal construction of storage docks, roads and other infrastructure to facilitate easy removal and transferring of sand from the river. This has made Mumbai and other regions very vulnerable for floods.

Steps take to deal with illegal sand mining -

- In 2012 ,the supreme court of India ruled that approval under the 2006 environment impact assessment (EIA) notification is needed for all the sand miners collection activity, even if the area being is less than 5 hectares.
- madras high court has disposed of public interest litigation (PIL) petition seeking a direction to the state government to ban sand carrying in the state and to mandate use of M-sand (manufactured sand) as an alternative to river sand in mainly construction activities

Way forward

- Enhanced use of satellite imagery to track illegal mining activities
- App based complaint system so that there is minimum interference of human
- Establishing complaint cell in every district to allow people to complaint against illegal sand mining occurring in that district
- Mandating the use of **manufactured Sand** for the construction purpose throughout the country.
- Empowering local bodies to take control over approval for mining activities in their areas
- generating awareness
- guidelines to administrator for raid in areas of illegal mining
- strict penalties to violet environmental impact assessment notification 2006

Conclusion

Sand is an important source for various construction activities but it can't be extracted at the cost of our ecosystem and biodiversity proper action must be taken against mining Mafia who violate the rule sustainable sand mining along with approval under a 2006 is best possible solution

“Every nation has a right to protect its borders from undocumented migration of considerable volume”. Critically analyze the statement in the light of series of migrations witnessed in the recent past.

The hindu

When the migrating people sideline the migration law of destination country or migrate without valid document then they are called **undocumented migrants**.

Reason for migration:

- **Trade liberalization**, Rapid opening of domestic market had led to massive unemployment of Agricultural and unskilled workers they then see to get better life by migrating to more opportunistic place.



- **Poverty** - people in less developed country tend to skip the poverty by migrating to more developed countries or to the countries where they can find better living. example Migration of mexicans to America.
- **Overpopulation** - when the population exceeds the carrying capacity of an area and results in extreme competition then migration to other area act as a "relief valve".
- **Wars** - war creates extreme hardship for people living in the country it is very strong push factor for migration. example Syrian Refugee crisis ongoing war between ISIS and Army of Syrian government supported by various other Nations, along with the demands of Kurdish people has created an in human condition there people are escaping to European Nation in order to save their life
- **Persecution or deprivation of citizenship** - whenever the minimum rights are denied and people are left stateless in their own country it become necessary for them to seek Asylum in other countries. example- rohingya Refugee crisis : rohingya Muslims were denied citizenship right in Myanmar which is predominantly Buddhist majority country.

Why it is a concern for destination country:

- Excessive **stress on the resources**.
- **Law and order issues** due to conflict between migrants and native people. example Assam movement use flow of Bangladeshi Ye people in Assam during Bangladesh Liberation war has created tensed situation in Assam and resulted in Assam movement against Bangladeshi migrants.
- **Threats to internal security** - migrants do not find regular jobs in destination countries making them vulnerable to be used by crime network. Threat of migrants getting radicalized and joining any terror network is always lingering over them.
- **Degraded health and sanitation hygiene condition** in the area where migrants generally resides. Migrants are made to settle on degraded lands outside the city the generally develop slum settlement for their living.
- **Burden on government purse** - Government cannot leave any person in its jurisdiction to die government spends money for safeguarding the human right of the migrants.
- Huge flow of migrants can change demography of a region. Example demography of Assam has been changed due to huge influx of undocumented migrants from Bangladesh.

Why to open the borders?

- As a peace and humanitarian gesture - undocumented immigrants due to war, ethnic cleansing and etc. can get Asylum example rohingya Muslims from Myanmar has been settled in India and Bangladesh; Libyan and Syrian people took Refuge in Europe.
- People from becoming stateless - stateless people can enjoy any human right. This is very unjust for any civilized society.
- To save lives of migrants- undocumented migrants tend to use any means of communication without evaluating its safety in order to get to the destination where they can have a peaceful



life again. **Example-** 111 people died in Mediterranean Sea while migrating from Syrian War zone.

- Migrants can add to workforce of the destination country. Hence they can be asset for development

Conclusion

Though, it is duty of every Nation to have good Jester with other and make humanitarian add so that basic human rights can never be violated. At the same time economic and regional security are also important. If the undocumented migration is on considerable scale then that may in endanger the similar rights of native people. Therefore it is correct to say a every Nation has right to protect its border from huge volume of immigrants.

In the emerging multipolar world order, India is a natural leader in the Indian Ocean region. Comment.

Indiatoday

The hindubusinessline

Why this question:

The Fourth Indian Ocean Conference recently took place in the Maldives, with leaders of about 40 countries participating in it.

Key demand of the question:

The question aims to analyse the India's emergence as a natural leader in the changing dynamics of the world powers.

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 first explain the current conditions of the multipolarity of the world.

Body:

Explain how the advent of the globalisation era had coincided with a significant geo-political development. Starting with the late '80s, fissures started erupting in the USSR body politic, ultimately leading to its dismemberment and collapse in the early '90s. And then discuss how Countries world over are increasingly turning inwards as of today and all the global institutions are losing their relevance and influence over large parts of the world.

Then explain where does India stand today in the world.

Discuss the relevance of Indian Ocean Conference and changing leadership of India and its centrality.

Conclusion:

Conclude with its importance and India's emergence as a world leader.

Since independence, India has progressive approached towards Indian Ocean region. After 1990 US emerge as an uncontended Maritime power because of Soviet Navy withdrawal. In recent years the Indian Ocean has become arena of strategic competition among regional as well as extra regional powers. China, India and Japan's naval potential has grown exponentially.

Though, there are many emerging powers in Indian Ocean region **India still is a natural leader** in the region **because** of the following reasons:

- Strategic position of India in the heart of Indian Ocean.



- Vast coastline around 7500 km in Indian Ocean.
- Two Island groups - Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep extend India's reach to Indian Ocean.
- It is the largest economy among littoral States of this region.
- India maintains good relationship with most of the littoral state in Indian Ocean.
- India was successfully able to get Maldives and Seychelles into its sphere of influence. Example India convinced Seychelles for Indian Naval base in Asuncion Island.
- Recently India has started many projects some of them are following: -
- **Blue economy** - India is operating with Mauritius, Maldives, Bangladesh Seychelles and Sri Lanka to promote blue economy in the region.
- **Sagar** - it is India's most ambitious project which deals with security as well as growth of this region.
- **IORA (Indian ocean regional Association)** - for the first time IORA Action Plan 2017 21 has been accepted

Challenges

- In recent time China has been emerging as a biggest threat because of its debt trap policy. China is working on Humbantota port of Sri Lanka. China is also negotiating with mamma to get stronger in Indian ocean region.
- String of pearls which China is making do circumscribe India is another big challenge for India.
- Erratic behaviour of allies like USA.
- Piracy in Indian Ocean.

Way forward

India should promote rule-based order in the region and follow the policy of reconciliation with China.

Conclusion

India should respect this status given by its Peer Nations of the region and should work for progress of region as a whole in faster pace.

The recent suspension of U.S.-Taliban talks has opened the space for the global community and India to reset the peace process, do you agree? Analyse and give your opinion

The hindu

Why this question:

The article discusses in what way The suspension of U.S.-Taliban talks has opened the space for the global community and India to reset the peace process.

Key demand of the question:



One has to explain the recent changing dynamics with Taliban and the Afghan-India scenario with a chance for the global countries to have stakes in the peace process associated.

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:

Explain the withdrawal of talks by Trump.

Body:

Explain the context and situation currently being witnessed in the peace process involving Taliban. Discuss the conditions in which such a decision was made by US.

What should be India's role in such a scenario? Discuss India's relations and stakes in the region.

Conclusion:

Conclude with possible future outcome as a result of withdrawal of US from the peace talks with Taliban.

Taliban is a political Fundamentalist faction in Afghanistan which was thrown out of power in 2001 by USA invasion after 26/11 attack. Since then USA and NATO had stationed their military in Afghanistan, a democratic government had been installed with the help of USA.

Recent happenings:

- While calling-off the talks, Trump also revealed that he had secretly invited the Taliban and the Afghan President separately to clinch a deal personally.
- The Khalilzad-brokered deal had been in the making over nine rounds of talks, largely in Doha, Qatar. (The Afghan government was not a part of this due to a Taliban veto that the U.S. implicitly accepted.)
- The salient details of the agreement were revealed on a private television channel.
- They centered on an initial timetable for the withdrawal of around 5,400 out of nearly 14,000 U.S. troops from 5 Afghan bases in 135 days.
- A tight timeline of two weeks to kick-start intra-Afghan talks before the Afghan presidential elections (scheduled on September 28) was also included.

Was the deal fair?

- The deal as negotiated was one-sided, partial and highly flawed.
- It was loaded heavily towards Mr. Trump's goal of a withdrawal of all U.S. troops by November 2020.
- It was weak in guarantees against terrorism aimed at the U.S., and lacking safeguards for the security and stability for Afghanistan.
- The comprehensive ceasefire was diluted to a limited 'reduction' in violence.
- Unresolved differences over many other issues were among the reasons for Mr. Trump's decision to call-off the talks.
- Notably, the agreement was also widely criticized in the U.S. and elsewhere.



- It was seen as a “negotiated withdrawal”, “abdication”, and even “surrender” rather than a peace agreement.
- It has sacrificed the political, military and economic investments and civic gains of the last 18 years including democracy and the advancement of women.
- This would create the conditions for civil war, promoting radical extremism.
- In Afghanistan too, the agreement was widely perceived as a sell-out and a betrayal of Afghanistan to the Taliban and Pakistan.

What opportunities does suspension of talks offer?

- The suspension of U.S.-Taliban talks has opened the space for the holding of Afghan presidential elections.
- The Afghan election authorities and security forces should now be supported to conduct free and fair elections as an exercise of sovereignty.
- Concerns about misuse of government apparatus should be addressed as the Taliban will try to disrupt the elections.
- The election outcome could provide a stronger foundation for talks with the Taliban that are Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled.
- It may not be dictated from Washington, Islamabad, Doha or Moscow.
- India should be able to support such talks.
- Also, free from elections, the Afghan government could take the lead in forging a national consensus behind talks with the Taliban

Besides these, the international community should support this peace process. It should focus its efforts on the Taliban to demonstrate their ‘nationalism’ by -

- Distancing themselves from Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence
- Halting attacks against fellow Afghans.
- Agreeing to a ceasefire.
- Negotiating directly with a representative Afghan delegation.

What should way forward:

Afghanistan and the world may breathe a sigh of relief that the deal has been aborted for now.

But, this is short-lived as the mindset of a unilateral pullout without being aware of its consequences for Afghanistan and the region and the danger of Trump’s uncertain decisions remain.

For now, Mr. Trump has proclaimed the talks to be “dead” and ordered offensive operations. But he still needs a counter-terrorism strategy for which he would have to look for options. On the other hand, crucial to Afghanistan’s future is its ability to stand on its own feet economically.

This could be through investment in Afghanistan’s mineral sector to generate revenues, and militarily, through a progressive ‘Afghanisation’ of security forces at a lower budget. India should be able to help in this.



The Saudi Aramco incident is a wake-up call for Indian policymakers to work on an inward looking national policy on energy security. Critically analyse.

Livemint

Why this question:

The recent drone attacks have caused the biggest-ever disruption in global crude oil supplies and has further escalated tensions in the Persian Gulf. With the drone strikes disrupting around 5% of the global oil supply and further exacerbating tensions in West Asia; India is keeping a close watch on the rapidly evolving situation.

Key demand of the question:

The answer should analyse the need of a strong policy that focuses on growing energy security requirements of the country amidst changing world energy scenario.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief explain the recent incident.

Body:

Explain the following –

Saudi Arabia is a crucial source of energy for India and the second largest supplier of crude and cooking gas to India, Any spike in global crude prices will impact India’s oil import bill and trade deficit.

Discuss how it will affect the energy security scenario of the country.

What should be India’s stand, suggest way forward.

Conclusion:

Conclude with the need of the policy makers to focus on alternative energy resources.

Recently, **the Houthis, a rebel Shia group of Yemen** that is backed by Iran, **bombed the Abqaiq plant** as well as **the Khurais oil field in Saudi Arabia**.

The attack, executed by drones, meant that Saudi Aramco, the state-owned oil company, had to not only suspend the production of almost 6 million barrels per day (about 6 per cent of global oil supply) but also restrict the use of 2 mbd of spare capacity.

This is the largest-ever disruption in crude oil production in Saudi Arabia, which supplies 10 per cent of global world supply and is the world’s largest crude oil exporter.

Extent of oil supply shock

- A report from Kotak Institutional Equities Research points out, **the world has a large enough oil buffer to tide over the current disruption.** For instance, OECD countries have 2.93 billion barrels of commercial petroleum inventories and another 1.55 billion barrels of strategic reserves, which are under government control.
- To the extent that the **world has enough inventories to tide over the immediate shortfall**, and assuming that this attack is not the start of a long streak of international hostilities between a US-led bloc (including Saudi Arabia) and an Iran-led bloc (including the Houthis), the price shock could be relatively limited.



- Even so, crude oil prices have already shot up by over 10 per cent, and the Brent price was \$66.6 per barrel
- However, prices will keenly reflect not just the immediate disruption but also the likely disruption should the US initiate some kind of military response.

What will be the impact on India?

- India imports 80 per cent of the oil it consumes**, which means there are multiple ways in which the country will be impacted by this disruption.
- The first issue is supply**. India is already trying to make up for the loss of supply from Iran after US-imposed sanctions. After Iraq, **Saudi Arabia is India's second-largest supplier of crude oil** — it accounts for almost **17 per cent of the country's imports**.
- Although Saudi Arabia has assured that there will be no loss of supply, if the process of restoration takes more time than anticipated, **India would have to look for alternatives**.
- A hit on prices may then follow. **India is expected to import 1.6 billion barrels of crude oil** in the current financial year.
- Supply constraints and rising oil prices** would mean that the **rupee will weaken further** against the dollar — that's because, as the dollar prices of crude oil rise, India would need to buy more dollars for the same amount of oil, thus depreciating the value of the rupee vis-à-vis the dollar.
- Rising oil prices will **worsen the Indian government's fiscal balance**. Moreover, higher crude oil prices would also **lead to higher domestic oil prices**, which, in turn, will **further depress the demand for all things, especially those that use oil as the primary input** — say, cars.
- This dip in consumption demand, which is already under strain as the recent growth slowdown has shown, would likely mean **lower economic activity and consequently lower revenues for the government**.

"The Indian diaspora diplomacy is double-edged". Critically examine the statement.

Indianexpress

Why this question:

Recently an UN report claimed India to have largest diaspora in the world in 2019.

Key demand of the question:

The answer must elucidate upon the importance that Indian diaspora holds for the country, discuss its potential and concerns associated.

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:

State that Diaspora forms a human link between two countries. It is one of the most important kind of Human Resource for a country which must be used wisely

Body:



Explain the evolving approach of Indian government towards the Indian diaspora. Discuss the status of Indian diaspora across the world countries.

Show out few guidelines for actualization of the soft power credentials of the Indian diaspora; explain in what way the diaspora can act as a double edged sword.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

The Indian Diaspora is a generic term to describe the people who migrated from territories that are currently within the borders of the Republic of India. It also refers to their descendants. The Diaspora is currently estimated to number over twenty million, composed of "NRIs" (Indian citizens not residing in India) and "PIOs" (Persons of Indian Origin who have acquired the citizenship of some other country). The Diaspora covers practically every part of the world. It numbers more than a million each in eleven countries, while as many as twenty-two countries have concentrations of at least a hundred thousand ethnic Indians.

The impressive Diaspora has played an important role in promoting India's interest abroad and act as its unnamed ambassadors. This is more so in the fields of culture, education, economic development and health and arts. Indians are leaders in areas like information technology and largely contribute in this. Above all these PIOs can help India by investing in Indian industry and infrastructure to encourage its economic growth.

For example - The political role of the diaspora has been valuable for Delhi in the US. In the last decade, the diaspora generated much needed political support in the US Congress for changing the American non-proliferation laws and facilitating civil nuclear cooperation with India. Today, the diaspora might once again have a critical role in informing the Congress and the wider public about the situation in Kashmir and explaining the historic context and the logic behind India's recent actions.

What are the issues with Diaspora and their demands?

- Dual citizenship is one of the important demands of the Diaspora. Presently, once they opt to take foreign citizenship, they forfeit their Indian citizenship.
- The Indian Diaspora strongly feels that such a step would result in their playing bigger role by way of investment and other things.
- The Government has recently cleared the proposal for new law to expand scope for dual citizenship.
- There is need for better interaction and requires deeper cultural relations. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations can play a big role in this regard.
- On the economic side India could attract more foreign direct investment if procedural delays are cut down.
- The climate has to be created for investor's confidence. The expertise in management, financial, corporate, trade and banking sectors should be tapped for economic rejuvenation of India. The second generation reforms should be speeded up.



To sum up, the nature of engagement with Diaspora has changed according to the needs of the time. Because of extraordinary diversity and geographical spread the policy of engagement has to be flexible and tailor made to suit each segment of Diaspora. The approach towards the workers in the Gulf is primarily welfare oriented and remittance centric. Engagement with the Diaspora in the developed world has to be multifaceted and aimed at making India a knowledge power. Their strengths have to be leveraged for political lobbying, image projection and economic development of India.

Conclusion

To conclude, the communication and transportation revolution and the global reach of media are creating a major change in the nature of relationship between the Diasporas and their country of origin. India must follow a robust and flexible policy in order to leverage the strengths of Diaspora and minimize the possibilities of any negative fallout. Diaspora can play an important role in India's quest to be a knowledge power and a developed country.

"The Indian Ocean is one of the fingerprints of global warming", critically examine the statement with suitable justifications.

Indianexpress

Why this question:

A key question for climate scientists in recent years has been whether the Atlantic Ocean's main circulation system is slowing down, a development that could have dramatic consequences for Europe and other parts of the Atlantic rim. But a new study suggests help may be on the way from an unexpected source – the Indian Ocean.

Key demand of the question:

Explain in what way the Indian Ocean is one of the fingerprints of global warming.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

In brief explain the significance of Indian ocean in understanding the changing global weather patterns.

Body:

First explain how Indian ocean can effect or have consequences of global weather patterns.

Explain Atlantic Meridional overturning circulation and how Indian ocean affects it.

Discuss in what way the Indian ocean is an indicator of global warming.

Conclusion:

Conclude that Warming of the Indian Ocean is considered one of the most robust aspects of global warming and thus it is essential to understand and acknowledge the significance of the same.

Ocean heating is critical marker of climate change because an estimated 93 per cent of the excess solar energy trapped by greenhouse gases accumulates in the world's oceans.

Ocean warming:



- The ocean absorbs most of the excess heat from greenhouse gas emissions, leading to rising ocean temperatures.
- Increasing ocean temperatures affect marine species and ecosystems. Rising temperatures cause coral bleaching and the loss of breeding grounds for marine fishes and mammals.
- Rising ocean temperatures also affect the benefits humans derive from the ocean – threatening food security, increasing the prevalence of diseases and causing more extreme weather events and the loss of coastal protection.
- Achieving the mitigation targets set by the Paris Agreement on climate change and limiting the global average temperature increase to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels is crucial to prevent the massive, irreversible impacts of ocean warming on marine ecosystems and their services.
- Establishing marine protected areas and putting in place adaptive measures, such as precautionary catch limits to prevent overfishing, can protect ocean ecosystems and shield humans from the effects of ocean warming.
- 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.
- It aids in distributing heat and energy around the earth, as the warm water it carries releases heat into the atmosphere, and in absorbing and storing atmospheric carbon.

What is the issue?

The ocean absorbs vast quantities of heat as a result of increased concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, mainly from fossil fuel consumption. The Fifth Assessment Report published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2013 revealed that the ocean had absorbed more than 93% of the excess heat from greenhouse gas emissions since the 1970s. This is causing ocean temperatures to rise.

Why is it important? How is it an indicator of global warming?

Ocean warming leads to deoxygenation – a reduction in the amount of oxygen dissolved in the ocean – and sea-level rise – resulting from the thermal expansion of sea water and continental ice melting. The rising temperatures, coupled with ocean acidification (the decrease in pH of the ocean due to its uptake of CO₂), affect marine species and ecosystems and, consequently, the fundamental benefits humans derive from the ocean.

Impact on marine species and ecosystems - Marine fishes, seabirds and marine mammals all face very high risks from increasing temperatures, including high levels of mortalities, loss of breeding grounds and mass movements as species search for favorable environmental conditions. Coral reefs are also affected by increasing temperatures which cause coral bleaching and increase their risk of mortality.

Rising temperatures also affect vegetation and reef-building species such as corals and mangroves, which protect coastlines from erosion and sea-level rise. Rising sea levels and erosion will particularly affect low-lying island countries in the Pacific Ocean, destroying housing and infrastructure and forcing people to relocate.



The rise in sea surface temperatures is causing more severe hurricanes and the intensification of El Niño events bringing droughts and floods. This can have significant socio-economic and health effects in some regions of the world.

Warming ocean temperatures are linked to the increase and spread of diseases in marine species. Humans risk direct transmission of these diseases when consuming marine species, or from infections of wounds exposed in marine environments.

What can be done?

Limiting greenhouse gas emissions - There is an urgent need to achieve the mitigation targets set by the Paris Agreement on climate change and hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. This will help prevent the massive and irreversible impacts of growing temperatures on ocean ecosystems and their services.

Protecting marine and coastal ecosystems - Well-managed protected areas can help conserve and protect ecologically and biologically significant marine habitats. This will regulate human activities in these habitats and prevent environmental degradation.

Restoring marine and coastal ecosystems - Elements of ecosystems that have already experienced damage can be restored. This can include building artificial structures such as rock pools that act as surrogate habitats for organisms, or boosting the resilience of species to warmer temperatures through assisted breeding techniques.

Improving human adaptation - Governments can introduce policies to keep fisheries production within sustainable limits, for example by setting precautionary catch limits and eliminating subsidies to prevent overfishing. Coastal setback zones which prohibit all or certain types of development along the shoreline can minimise the damage from coastal flooding and erosion. New monitoring tools can be developed to forecast and control marine disease outbreaks.

Strengthening scientific research- Governments can increase investments in scientific research to measure and monitor ocean warming and its effects. This will provide more precise data on the scale, nature and impacts of ocean warming, making it possible to design and implement adequate and appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

In wake of PM's ongoing visit to US, critically discuss the current INDO-US relations and examine how it is a great opportunity to "reaffirm the strategic partnership" between the two countries.

Timesofindia

Why this question:

Howdy, Modi became one of the most anticipated global events of 2019 where Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed over 50,000 attendees during his US visit in Houston, Texas.

Key demand of the question:

One has to bring out the changing trends in Indo-US ties and in what way they affirm the changing strategic partnership between the two countries.

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 background of the question.

Body:

Explain the following aspects of the event:

This is an Indian community event.

It was hosted by Texas India Forum (TIF).

The American President Donald Trump joined PM Modi at the Howdy Modi event to reaffirm the strategic partnership between the world's largest and oldest democracies.

TIF said that Howdy Modi was the largest gathering for an invited foreign leader visiting the US other than the Pope.

Conclusion:

Conclude with significance of strategic partnership between the two countries.

The U.S.-India partnership has its foundation in common values, including the rule of law and democratic principles. The United States and India have shared interests in promoting global security, stability, and economic prosperity through trade, investment, and connectivity. The United States supports India's emergence as a leading global power and vital partner in efforts to ensure that the Indo-Pacific is a region of peace, stability, and growing prosperity. The strong people-to-people ties between our countries, grounded in shared values, are a tremendous source of strength for the partnership.

Eliminating the hesitations of history, India and the United States have built a strong and strategic bilateral relationship and continue to contribute the stability and prosperity of the world.

Importance of Indo-US relations - Why India Matters to the USA?

- India is an indispensable partner for the United States. Geographically, it sits between the two most immediate problematic regions for U.S. national interests. The arc of instability that begins in North Africa goes through the Middle East, and proceeds to Pakistan and Afghanistan ends at India's western border.
- The Indian landmass juts into the ocean that bears its name. With the rise of Asian economies, the Indian Ocean is home to critical global lines of communication, with perhaps 50 percent of world container products and up to 70 percent of ship-borne oil and petroleum traffic transiting through its waters.
- India's growing national capabilities give it ever greater tools to pursue its national interests to the benefit of the United States. India has the world's third-largest Army, fourth-largest Air Force, and fifth largest Navy. All three of these services are modernizing, and the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy have world-class technical resources, and its Army is seeking more of them.
- India is an important U.S. partner in international efforts to prevent the further spread of weapons of mass destruction.
- India's broad diplomatic ties globally (most importantly in the Middle East), its aspirations for United Nations (UN) Security Council permanent membership, and its role in international organizations such as the International Atomic Energy Agency makes New Delhi an especially effective voice in calls to halt proliferation.
- India's position against radicalism and terrorism corresponds with that of the United States.



- India's English-speaking and Western-oriented elite and middle classes comfortably partner with their counterparts in U.S. firms and institutions, including more than 2.8 million Indian Americans. The U.S. higher education system is an incubator of future collaboration, with more than 100,000 Indian students in American universities.
- As India modernizes and grows it will spend trillions of dollars on infrastructure, transportation, energy production and distribution, and defence hardware. U.S. firms can benefit immensely by providing expertise and technology that India will need to carry out this sweeping transformation.
- India-USA cooperation is critical to global action against climate change.
- India is genuinely committed to a world order based on multilateral institutions and cooperation and the evolution of accepted international norms leading to accepted international law.
- Indian culture and diplomacy have generated goodwill in its extended neighborhood. New Delhi has positive relations with critical states in the Middle East, in Central Asia, in Southeast Asia, and with important middle powers such as Brazil, South Africa, and Japan—all of the strategic value to the United States. India's soft power is manifest in wide swaths of the world where its civil society has made a growing and positive impression.
- Indian democracy has prospered despite endemic poverty; extraordinary ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity; and foreign and internal conflicts.

Importance of US to India –

- America remains the critical stabilizing force in Asia through its military and diplomatic power projection and commitments to the region.
- The twentieth century bore witness to a multigeneration U.S. efforts to prevent the emergence of any hostile hegemon on the Eurasian landmass, a function that the United States continues to fulfil today with the help of its Asian partners.
- China has chosen episodically to ignore global nonproliferation norms, a pattern of behaviour that the United States has assiduously sought to curtail. Though no nation can a priori prevent future Chinese proliferation activities, only a U.S.-led international effort has any chance of success.
- India will be better able to protect its national interests in Pakistan and Afghanistan in coordination with the United States.
- The United States will continue to be important for India's economic success. India's economy has been built around unleashing domestic consumption rather than relying on exports.
- The United States has also remained one of the top sources of foreign direct investment in India, bringing important managerial expertise, capital, and technology with it to the dynamic Indian market.
- The United States has a long-term commitment to maintain security and freedom of navigation on the high seas, something critical to India as a net energy importer.
- Washington retains unparalleled power and influence in global governance institutions.



- As India seeks a larger role in the UN Security Council and international monetary institutions, U.S. support for India will be critical to reforms that benefit New Delhi's national interests.
- The United States retains a sizable technological edge on many commercials, aerospace, and defence technologies, the access to which benefits Indian national interests as well as Indian firms and customers.

Conclusion:

It appears highly likely that in strategic, political, security, defence and economic terms, relations between India and the USA will continue their upward trajectory under President Trump. Impact of USA's relations with Pakistan over India is likely to be beneficial and positive. Geopolitical maneuvers can have significant impact on India-USA relations, however, it would remain to be multi-faceted and an "indispensable partnership".

West Asia is important to India not just for oil imports, but also for many other factors like that of the presence of Indian Diaspora. Comment.

Financial express

Why this question:

The question is to ascertain the significance of stability in West Asia owing to India's interest in the region with special emphasis on Indian diaspora.

Key demand of the question:

One must explain in what way West Asia is important to India not just for oil imports, but also for many other factors like that of the presence of Indian Diaspora.

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:

Explain the current situation of the West in general.

Body:

Briefly elaborate on the recent attacks on Saudi and US sanctions on Iran and other Incidents in west Asia and its impact on India.

Explain the strategy of India towards west Asia in a broader perspective. Discuss the interests of India over West Asia- with focus on Indian Diaspora.

Quote data suggesting statistics of large number of Indian Diaspora present in West Asia and its significance.

Conclusion:

Conclude with need for geo-political stability in the region.

Recent disruptions and turmoil in West Asia has again raised the issue of energy security and rising oil prices in India. 70% of India's imported energy needs come from West Asia. But West Asia is not only important from the point of energy security.

Importance of West Asia for India:

Geopolitically West Asia occupies an important position in international relations due to its geographical location and proximity to continents and countries – South Asia, China, Central Asia, Europe, and Africa.



The region is strategically significant due to its enormous energy resources, trade route links to different parts of the world and the fact that it is a place of origin for the Abrahamic religions.

It is the world largest oil-producing region accounting for 34% of world production, 45% of crude oil exports and 48% of oil proven reserves. All powers seek a stake in the affairs of the region due to the abundance of natural resources. It is also a region plagued with instability largely due to the involvement of external forces, and sometimes due to internal conflicts.

Remittances: About 11 million Indians work in West Asia India is the largest recipient of foreign remittances from West Asia.

Geo strategic importance: gate way to energy rich Central Asia to reduce influence of China in West Asia and Arabian Sea.

To counter radicalisation: close cooperation is needed.

Investment: West find India as a good investment destination.

The presence of Indian diaspora has also become an important element of spreading soft power prerogatives.

Key Challenges in West Asia:

- Political instability
- Terrorism: rise of ISIS most disturbing factor
- Involvement of global powers can lead to cold war like situation
- Regional conflicts, such Arab Israel and Saudi Iran.

Way forward for India:

The presence of Indian diaspora has also become an important element of spreading soft power prerogatives. They are looked upon as an unofficial ambassador to foreign policy and an important bridging link between two regions. One cannot deny the fact that Indian diaspora in the Gulf has been neglected. However, the role played by the Gulf diaspora is profound in India's development.

It is only recently that India accorded importance to the Gulf region as is clearly evident in the diplomatic visits paid by Indian PM to the countries of the West Asia in general and to the Gulf States in particular. His visits to Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Iran, and Israel have yielded results, like UAE allocating land for the construction of a temple. The Qatar-Saudi blockade and the on-going U.S. sanctions over Iranian Nuclear deal are the two contentious issues, which India is watching closely.

The change instance of India's foreign policy has been due to the large influx of labour from India to the economies of the GGC, which account for nearly 9 million contributing significantly for both the economies of India and the Gulf.

It is pertinent for India to adapt our West Asian policy in a way that our national interest could be promoted in terms of trade, energy security, the export of human resource and security of its labor and remittances. Our policy needs to focus on being mutually beneficial, candid and acceptable to many countries of West Asia. Notably, our diaspora policy has become a major source of soft power diplomacy by the Indian government. Our energy security in West Asia is well protected.



Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate. What is International Criminal Court? Do you think the refusal of major states to come under ICC jurisdiction has weakened the objective of building a future free of violence? Critically analyse.

Reference

Why this question:

The question is to evaluate the relevance of International Criminal Court and the problems plaguing it, especially the aspect of States refusing to come under its ambit.

Key demand of the question:

One should discuss the significance of ICC, its objectives and the issues around it.

Directive:

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

Structure of the answer:

Introduction:

Explain what is ICC and its objectives.

Body:

Discuss about the structure of the ICC and its membership first then move to explain the functioning of ICC and conviction of warlords- for example Congolese warlord Bosco Ntaganda.

Explain in detail the criticisms on ICC. For example: Targeting of African leaders, withdrawing of membership from ICC and inefficient in convicting perpetrators etc. and about refusal of Major states to come under ICC ambit and its effect on ICC objective.

Conclusion:

Conclude with the significance of ICC and reforms needed to ensure its effective functioning.

The International Criminal Court (“the ICC” or “the Court”) is a permanent international court established to investigate, prosecute and try individuals accused of committing the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, namely the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

The **primary mission** of the International Criminal Court is to help put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole, and thus to contribute to the prevention of such crimes.

Weakness of ICC

- It has territorial jurisdiction only over those states that have ratified Rome statute or accepted the Court's jurisdiction by filing a declaration with the Court.
- It does not have its own police force rather it relies on national police
- Many big and powerful countries are not the member of ICC. e.g. China, Israel, USA, Russia, India etc.
- It depends on member state for their voluntary contribution hence the rich and powerful Nation will have influence in in ICC.



- It has been accused of being tool of Western imperialism and Biased in favour of powerful countries against weak States.
- Many crimes committed by major States remain outside the jurisdiction of ICC for
- Example - China in Xinjiang district, USA in Iraq war, Israel in Palestine, Russia in Ukraine.
- The unrest ongoing in various countries like Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Hong Kong, Venezuela, etc. is directly or indirectly caused by big States.
- Palestine where millions of people are living in Refugee camp in their own country was only caused by western countries.
- ICC cannot mount successful cases without state cooperation is problematic for several reasons. It means that the ICC acts inconsistently in its selection of cases, is prevented from taking on hard cases and loses legitimacy. It also gives the ICC less deterrent value, as potential perpetrators of war crimes know that they can avoid ICC judgment by taking over government and refusing to cooperate.

Thus, it can be said that refusal of major States to join ICC and id.me States has weekend the objective of world free from violence.

Way forward

- cooperation between ICC and Human Rights defenders are needed
- more permanent member of United Nation Security Council should be included under ICC
- focus should always be on long-term peace stability and equitable development in post conflict scenarios
- awareness through seminar and workshop is needed

Conclusion

World free from violence can only be realised with participation and cooperation of all the states just for me International Criminal Court and making laws is not enough or should be implemented properly to ensure justice as "law without justice is wound without cure" -William Scott Downey.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership is considered a mammoth trade deal currently being negotiated. Discuss the possible apprehensions of India with respect to joining the RCEP trade deal.

businesstoday

Why this question:

India's indecisive stance on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and agreement to review the free trade agreement, or FTA with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) indicates it has been evaluating options outside the larger regional group as well. Thus compelling us to analyse the apprehensions India has.

Key demand of the question:

One should discuss the relevant factors responsible for possible apprehensions of India with respect to joining the RCEP trade deal.

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 the RCEP.

Body:

Discuss first the relevance of the recent RCEP meet held. What are RCEP and its objective? Then move onto discuss what has been the relationship of India and RCEP from the past to present. What are the recent challenges and factors that are compelling India to rethink upon joining the partnership?

Conclusion:

Conclude with possible way forward and what should India do.

RCEP is a proposed trade pact between 10 Asean countries and their six FTA partners, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. It accounts for 25% of global GDP, 30% of global trade, 26% of foreign direct investment (FDI) flows and 45% of the total population.

However there are set of apprehensions India has with respect to joining the trade deal of RCEP, which are as listed below:

- Firstly India has to take into account geostrategic issues while moving ahead with the RCEP deal as it will mean opening up the market to its adversary China.
- The NITI Aayog too recently noted that while trade agreements are a means to promote bilateral trade, with both parties benefiting as a result of trade complementarities, with China, India's trade seems to be skewed and China's capacity overhang in most sectors may lead to a surge of imports into India with very limited access for Indian exports to the Chinese market.
- India already has bilateral FTAs with Asean, Korea and Japan and negotiations are underway with Australia and New Zealand.
- Widening Trade Deficit: NITI Aayog held that India's trade deficit with the ASEAN, Korea and Japan has widened post-FTAs.
- Tariff elimination due to RCEP could worsen the trade deficit, at \$105.2 billion in 2018-19.
- Since import duties are also a source of revenue for India, it could experience a disproportionate loss of customs revenue.
- Sensitive List: Most of the RCEP countries have very high tariffs on certain products sensitive to them, such as rice, footwear, dairy products and honey, which they can continue to shield through the sensitive lists.
- Services Sector: India has demanded that the ASEAN countries should open up their services sector so that Indian professionals and workers can have easier entry into their market. However, ASEAN countries are very sensitive about protecting this sector and have not offered much liberalisation even within the bloc to each-other.
- Almost every sector registered its apprehension that once the RCEP agreement was in place, China would harm the domestic market with its cheap exports and would also dump its products.
- China already has a \$70 billion (approx.) trade surplus with India.



- Agriculture: It threatens farm livelihoods, autonomy over seeds and also endangers the country's self-sufficient dairy sector.
- So, in terms of enhanced market access, India would benefit relatively less from its RCEP partners than the benefits given to them by it.

Way forward –

India will need second-generation reforms of its domestic economic policies, including those that reform its factor markets, to make its trade more competitive and export-oriented.

These reforms will help India better access other markets and will mitigate some of the repercussions arising from the RCEP.

So, it is important to ensure that the recent stance of the Indian government regarding the RCEP must not dissipate after the Beijing meeting.

Conclusion –

The RCEP can be a stepping stone to India's Act East Policy, but at a time of growing protectionism and the US-China trade war, opening our market to China (through RCEP) can prove to be disastrous, given the structural issues in the Indian market. Hence, it is important that India focuses on resolving the structural issues in the domestic market, before concluding the RCEP negotiations.

Do you agree that it is high time for member states to unite and adopt corrective measures and halt the WTO from losing its relevance? Elucidate with your opinion.

Reference

Why this question:

U.S. President Donald Trump earlier this month attacked the World Trade Organization (WTO) for allowing countries such as India and China to engage in unfair trade practices that affect American economic interests. While addressing a gathering in Pennsylvania, Mr. Trump took issue with the “developing country” status enjoyed by India and China at the WTO.

Key demand of the question:

In such a context it is essential to debate on the fact that it is high time for member states to unite and adopt corrective measures and halt the WTO from losing its relevance.

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 discuss the relevance of WTO is today's times.

Body:

Explain in detail how during recent years, the capacity of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as the supreme body of trade rules, has been questioned on several occasions.

There is increasing debate about the WTO losing its relevance to address many of the modern trade issues and resolve disputes among its members.

Discuss the significant issues that are at fore.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.



U.S. President Donald Trump earlier this month attacked the World Trade Organization (WTO) for allowing countries such as India and China to engage in unfair trade practices that affect American economic interests. While addressing a gathering in Pennsylvania, **Mr. Trump took issue** with the **“developing country” status enjoyed by India and China** at the WTO.

The story so far-

- During recent years, the capacity of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as the supreme body of trade rules, has been questioned on several occasions.
- There is increasing debate about the WTO losing its relevance to address many of the modern trade issues and resolve disputes among its members. A growing number of members, primarily from the **developed world, started questioning the ability of the trade body to resolve matters** which had been hovering for a long time.
- A **similar feeling also emerged among the developing nations** as they feel the WTO largely failed to protect their interests.
- The WTO got its **first setback** with the **failure of Doha in 2015**. In **2001, the ambitious DDA was launched** with the aim to substantially lower trade barriers, support poor nations and resolve difficult issues like agricultural subsidies among others. The **failure of this program seriously undermined the credibility** of the multilateral trading system and put developing nations in peril.

What is the issue with “developing country” status?

- The “developing country” status **allows a member of the WTO to seek temporary exception from the commitments under various multilateral trade agreements** ratified by the organisation.
- It was introduced during the initial days of the WTO as a mechanism to offer some respite to poor countries while they try to adjust to a new global trade order marked by lower barriers to trade.
- Countries such as **India and China**, while seeking exception from various WTO agreements, have argued that their **economic backwardness should be considered** when it comes to the **timeline of implementation of these agreements**.
- **Individual countries are allowed to unilaterally classify themselves as developing economies.** So, as many as two thirds of the 164 members of the WTO have classified themselves as developing countries.

How do countries such as India and China benefit from the special status?

Developing countries such as India and China can **seek to delay the implementation of WTO agreements owing to their disadvantaged economic status**. They can **continue to impose tariffs and quotas on goods and services in order to limit imports and promote domestic producers** who may otherwise be affected adversely by imports that are lower in price or better in quality.



India, for instance, subsidises agriculture heavily in the name of food security in order to protect its farmers. While local producers may be protected by protectionist barriers such as tariffs, consumers in India and China will have limited access to foreign goods.

Even many developed economies such as **Singapore and Hong Kong** which have per capita income levels higher than the U.S., have made use of the provision to **classify themselves as growing economies**.

What are the issues with WTO?

- **Global tariff rates** over the years have **dropped more due to bilateral trade agreements** rather than due to multilateral trade agreements brokered at the WTO.
- Further, the **dispute resolution mechanism of the WTO**, which can pass judgments on disputes, **lacks the powers to enforce them** as the enforcement of decisions is left to individual member states.
- While initially envisaged as a global body to promote free trade, the WTO has now deteriorated into a **forum where competing governments fiercely try to protect their narrow interests**.
- There has also been pressure from some members to **include many non-trade issues like labour and environment standards, foreign investment, competition, government procurement, investment facilitation and trade**.

What lies ahead?

Mr. Trump's criticism of the WTO is seen by many as the **opening of a new front in his trade war against China**. Earlier, the U.S. President had termed China as a "currency manipulator" for allowing the Yuan to depreciate against the dollar. China's developing country status at the WTO gives Mr. Trump yet another opportunity to attack China.

Why is India pushing for membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)? What are the impediments to joining the group for India? Examine.

Hindustantimes

Why this question:

The article discusses that China has kept India out of the 48-member Nuclear Suppliers Group, which controls the export of nuclear materials. The leader of the world's second most populous country declined to commit to a reduction in coal usage, which both he and his predecessors have said is essential to ensure electricity to millions of its citizens.

Key demand of the question:

Explain the relevance and importance of joining NSG for India and why it is crucial for India.

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:

In brief explain what NSG is.

Body:

Explain that the NSG was created in response to India's 1974 atomic bomb test that challenged the credibility of laws written to prohibit nuclear proliferation. While nations are free to discuss bilateral details with uranium suppliers even if they are out of the NSG, India has struggled to add nuclear



generation capacity because of a range of challenges, including developers' concerns over a liability law and local protests.

Discuss the relevance of NSG and its importance for India.

Conclusion:

Conclude with way forward.

Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is a group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment, and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

What is NSG?

- Brought in 1974– in response to the Indian nuclear test (smiling Buddha).
- It is a multilateral export control regime.
- It is a Group of nuclear supplier countries that seek to prevent nuclear proliferation by controlling the export of materials, equipment and technology that can be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.
- The NSG first met in November 1975 in London, and is thus popularly referred to as the “London Club”.
- It is not a formal organization, and its guidelines are not binding. Decisions, including on membership, are made by consensus.
- Membership: 48 supplier states.

Why the membership is important for India?

- Membership will increase India's access to state-of-the-art technology from the other members of the Group.
- Access to technology and being allowed to produce nuclear equipment will give a boost to the Make in India program. That will, in turn, boost the economic growth of our country.
- As per India's INDC under the Paris Climate agreement, we have committed to reducing dependence on fossil fuels and ensuring that 40% of its energy is sourced from renewable and clean sources. In order to achieve this target, we need to scale up nuclear power production. This can only happen if India gains access to the NSG.
- Namibia is the fourth-largest producer of uranium and it agreed to sell the nuclear fuel to India in 2009. However, that hasn't happened, as Namibia has signed **Pelindaba Treaty**, which essentially controls the supply of uranium from Africa to the rest of the world. If India joins the NSG, such reservations from Namibia are expected to melt away.
- India will get an opportunity to voice its concern if in case of change in the provision of the NSG guidelines.

Other Benefits associated with NSG membership- Once admitted, an NSG member state gets:

- Timely information on nuclear matters.



- Contributes by way of information.
- Has confirmed credentials.
- Can act as an instrument of harmonization and coordination.
- Is part of a very transparent process.

Factors in favor of India's membership:

- France got membership in the elite group without signing the NPT.
- Commitment to nonproliferation: India's commitment to bifurcate its civilian and military nuclear programs along with its nonproliferation record ensured indigenously developed technology is not shared with other countries.
- Transparency: India has also ratified an Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) which means that its civilian reactors are under IAEA safeguards and open for inspections.

Conclusion:

The recently framed draft proposal for accepting new members into the Nuclear Suppliers Group increases India's chances of entry into NSG. It's a welcome development for India as NSG membership would definitely boost the economic and strategic development in the future.

Therefore, India should take up this opportunity to aggressively pursue the development of nuclear energy while providing the essential emphasis on safety and addressing concerns of the public. It will also pave the way for clean energy initiatives and continued focus to achieve our commitments to reduce the carbon footprint pledged during the climate summit.



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