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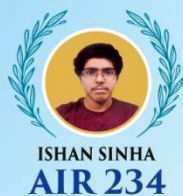
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Important Aspects of GS Answer Writing

To begin with every aspirant should have clarity and have a plan in place regarding how much time they are going to contribute to each question (both in terms of thinking and writing down of the answer). It is always a good investment if, before starting to write an answer, one spends a minute or two to understand the required dimensions and framing the skeleton of the answer. Then one can write a logical and flowing answer in the remaining time. Few things that should be kept in mind are as follows:

- **Self-evident plan:** In order to ensure good flow and progression, there is a need to logically segmentize the answer. For this aspirant has to keep in mind the following:
 - a. Clarity of the thought process
 - b. The examiner should get bird's eye clarity about how the answer is going to unfold.
 - c. There should be continuity and linkage between different parts.
- **Answering the 'question' rather than a 'topic':** aspirant should address the 'focus' of the question. A common mistake committed by aspirants is that they cherry-pick familiar words/ topics and fill pages on that and then expect to score well. It is worth noting that one can't blindly write whatever one knows on a topic. *MAXIMUM ATTENTION SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO CORE CONTENT OF THE QUESTION.* The answer should reflect that the aspirant has understood the question and has catered to its demands. Rather than beating around the bush, aspirant should directly hit the nail on the head.
- **Proportionality:** one common mistake often committed is that aspirant write too much about something or write too little. Sometimes there is inadequate intro or conclusion and sometimes too excessive. This leads to abruptness in starting or ending of the answer. Aspirants often keep repeating the same theme or dimension which leads to a lop-sided answer. *ANSWER SHOULD HAVE A GOOD BUT CONCISE 'FIRST IMPRESSION' AND 'PARTING IMPACT'.*
- **Visual appeal:** answer should be appealing enough to read. This requires neat hand writing, uncluttered presentation, underlining of key content (not to be overdone), heading of sub-parts, diagrams/ flow-charts. Aspirant should ensure that the examiner reads the strongest arguments present in the answer.
- **Creative input:** answer should consist of inter-topic linkages, catchy terms, facts and figures, case studies/ illustrations/ anecdotes. The key here is to demonstrate one's practical awareness, application capabilities. In order to ensure this the best exercise is that, "aspirant should think what he/she can write in the answer which is relevant to the question asked but is from some other topic which others won't find as obvious part of the answer".
- **Expressions:** there should be a balance between one's own view points on one hand and technical jargons, research studies, expert views on the other hand. In other words it should neither appear as too bookish nor as layman like. The key here is to use jargons, expert views, facts/ figures to highlight the crux of the issue that is being addressed. Rest of the answer should be in one's own yet impactful language.
- **Concise and thoroughness:** answer should be written in such a way that it concise and consists of thoughtfully framed sentences and at the same time conveys a lot. The answer should not be ambiguous, un wielding or meaningless.
- **Engaging with the reference statement mentioned in the question:** Many a times a question consists of a statement. In this case, rather than going around in circles one has to quickly come to the statement at first opportunity. If possible, who said the statement, when and in what context should be mentioned. This will take the answer to a different orbit. *IT IS ALWAYS BETTER TO CONCLUDE WITH A REFERENCE TO THE 'QUESTION STATEMENT'.*
- **Addressing the specific requirement of the question:** the specific requirement is indirectly indicated by a concluding word. Eg: discuss, elucidate, critically examine. The meaning of each of these words is different and each of them has a different demand that needs to be addressed.

Meaning of 'Directive Words' in UPSC CSE Main exam

- The 'directive words' usually seen can be categorized as follows:

| S. No. | Critical Approach | Descriptive Approach | S. No. | Critical Approach | Descriptive Approach |
|--------|---------------------|----------------------|--------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Analyse | Clarify | 9. | Justify | Explore |
| 2. | Assess/ Appraise | Compare | 10. | Review | Give an Account of |
| 3. | Comment Upon | Contrast | 11. | To What Extent / How far | Identify |
| 4. | Consider | Define | 12. | | Illustrate |
| 5. | Critically Evaluate | Demonstrate | 13. | | Interpret |
| 6. | Discuss | Describe | 14. | | Outline |
| 7. | Evaluate | Elaborate/ Elucidate | 15. | | Show how |
| 8. | Examine | Explain | 16. | | State |
| | | | 17. | | Summarize |

| Directive Words | Meaning |
|----------------------------|---|
| Analyse | Break an issue into its constituent parts. Look in depth at each part and consider arguments for and against each part. |
| Assess | Weigh up to what extent something is true. Persuade the examiner of your argument by citing relevant research. Remember to point out any flaws and counter-arguments as well. Conclude by stating how far you are in agreement with the original proposition. |
| Clarify | Make something clearer and, where appropriate, simplify it. This could involve explaining in simpler terms a complex process/theory. Or, may need to set out relationship between two or more variables. |
| Comment upon | Select the main points on a subject & give opinion. Reinforce your point of view using argument and referenced relevant evidence. |
| Compare | Identify similarities & differences between two or more phenomena. Say if any of the shared similarities or differences are more important than others. 'Compare' and 'contrast' will often feature together in such questions. |
| Consider | Mention your thinking & observation. Support your comments using appropriate evidence, or own experiences. Include views which are contrary to your own and how they relate to what you originally thought. |
| Contrast | Similar to compare but with a focus on the dissimilarities between the phenomena. You might consider what sets the ideas apart from one another. Point out any differences which are particularly significant. |
| Critically Evaluate | Give your verdict of the extent to which a statement/argument are true. You may need to state to what extent you agree with them. Support your discussion with wide range of evidence. Make sure to consider evidence which both agree with and contradict an argument. Come to a final conclusion. In doing so, base your decision on what you judge to be the most important factors. Finally, justify how you have made your choice. |
| Define | To give in precise terms the meaning of something. Highlight any problems posed with the definition and different interpretations that may exist. |
| Demonstrate | Show how, with examples to illustrate. |
| Describe | Provide a detailed explanation as to how and why something happens. |
| Discuss | It's written debate. Use skills of reasoning, backed up by evidence. The aim is to make a case for and against an argument, or point out the advantages and disadvantages of a given context. Remember to arrive at a conclusion. |
| Elaborate | To 'elucidate' is to give in more detail, provide more information on. |
| Evaluate | See the explanation for 'critically evaluate'. |

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Examine | Look in close detail and establish the key facts and important issues surrounding a topic. This should be a critical evaluation. Thus, you should try to offer reasons why the facts and issues you have identified are the most important. You will also need to explain the different ways they could be understood. |
| Explain | Clarify a topic by giving a detailed account of how and why it occurs. Or, you may need to set out what a term means in a particular context. Your writing should have clarity, describe complex procedures or sequences of events. Define key terms where appropriate. |
| Explore | Adopt questioning approach & consider variety of viewpoints. Where possible reconcile opposing views by presenting final argument. |
| Give an account of | Give detailed description of something. Not to be confused with 'account for' which asks not only what, but why something happened. |
| Identify | Determine key points to be addressed & implications of these points. |
| Illustrate | Similar to 'explain'. You need to show workings of something. Offer definite examples (& statistics) to add weight to your explanation. |
| Interpret | Demonstrate your understanding of an issue or topic. This can be a terminology, or what the statement suggests to you. In the latter instance, comment on any significant patterns & causal relationships. |
| Justify | Make a case by providing a body of evidence to support your ideas and points of view. Present balanced argument by considering opinions which are different to yours. Finally, state your conclusion. |
| Outline | Convey the main points. Place emphasis on global structures and interrelationships rather than minute detail. |
| Review | Thorough look into a topic-critical assessment, not merely descriptive. |
| Show how | Present, in a logical order the stages and combination of factors that give rise to something. Support this presentation with evidence. |
| State | To specify in clear terms the key aspects of a topic without being too descriptive. Refer to evidence and examples where appropriate. |
| Summarise | Condensed version; draw out main facts & omit superfluous information. Brief or general examples will normally suffice for this kind of answer. |
| To What Extent | Evokes a similar response to questions containing 'How far...'. This type of question calls for a thorough assessment of the evidence in presenting your argument. Explore alternative explanations where they exist. |

(Source: Study Guide, Academic Skills Centre, University of Leicester, Abhey Kumar Polity Telegram Channel)

Understanding through examples

General Studies-I

Question 1

What are tides, and how do they differ from waves? List out the types of tides.

Question 2

Examine the influence of Indian art and culture on the neighboring countries of the Indian Subcontinent.

General points on the structure of the answers

Introduction

- The introduction of the answer is essential and should be restricted to 3-5 lines. Remember, a one-liner is not a standard introduction.
- It may consist of basic information by giving some definitions from the trusted source and authentic facts.

Body

- It is the central part of the answer and one should understand the demand of the question to provide rich content.
- The answer must be preferably written as a mix of points and short paragraphs rather than using long paragraphs or just points.
- Using facts from authentic government sources makes your answer more comprehensive. Analysis is important based on the demand of the question, but do not over analyse.
- Underlining keywords gives you an edge over other candidates and enhances presentation of the answer.
- Using flowcharts/tree-diagram in the answers saves much time and boosts your score. However, it should be used logically and only where it is required.

Way forward/ Conclusion

- The ending of the answer should be on a positive note and it should have a forward-looking approach. However, if you feel that an important problem must be highlighted, you may add it in your conclusion. Try not to repeat any point from body or introduction.
- You may use the findings of reports or surveys conducted at national and international levels, quotes etc. in your answers.

Self-Evaluation

- It is the most important part of our Mains answer writing practice. *UPSC Essentials* will provide some guiding points or ideas as a thought process that will help you to evaluate your answers.

THOUGHT PROCESS

You may enrich your answers by some of the following points

Question 1:

What are tides and how are they different from waves? List out the types of tides.

Introduction:

A simple introduction to this answer can revolve around a general statement about tides and how it is formed.

- Tides are defined as “periodical rise and fall (once or twice) of the sea level due to attraction of sun and moon”. The gravitational pull of the moon is higher as compared to the gravitational pull of the sun.
- The study of tides is very complex as it varies in frequency, magnitude and height.
- The centrifugal force (the force that acts to counterbalance gravity) combined with gravitational pull results in the formation of two major tidal bulges on the earth.

How they are different from waves?

- The waves are energy that moves across the ocean’s surface. Winds provide energy to the waves that travel along the surface of the ocean and release energy on shorelines.
- The open oceans have the greatest waves. They continue to grow larger as they move and absorb energy from the wind.
- The height of the waves is determined by the strength of the wind and how long it blows in a single direction. Waves can be classified as:

Steep Waves: These are the younger waves and are formed by local winds.

Steady Waves: These originate from far places.

(Source: ncert.nic.in)

Body:

- You may incorporate some of the following points in the body of your answer:

Types of Tides

| Classification of Tides | Tide | Characteristics |
|-------------------------|--------------|--|
| Based on Frequency | Semi-diurnal | Two high tides and two low tides each day. Most common tidal pattern. |

| | | |
|--|--------------|--|
| | tide | Tides are of the same height. |
| | Diurnal tide | Only one high tide and one low tide each day. Tides are of the same height. |
| | Mixed tide | They have variations in their height. Mainly occur along North America's west coast and Pacific Ocean Islands. |
| Based on the positions of the Sun, Moon and Earth. | Spring tide | Tides will be higher when the sun, the moon, and the earth are in a straight line. These tides are spring tides. They occur twice a month, on a full moon day and a new moon day. |
| | Neap tide | The sun and the moon are at a right angle to each other and the forces of the sun and the moon tends to counteract each other. There is a seven-day gap between a spring tide and a neap tide. When the moon's orbit is closer to Earth (Perigee), the tidal range is higher and when the moon's orbit is far to the Earth (Apogee), the tidal range is less. When the Earth is closer to the Sun (Perihelion), the tidal range is higher and when the Earth is far to the Sun (Apogee), the tidal range is less. |

- The time between the high tide and low tide is called 'ebb' (when the water level is falling) and 'flood' (when the water level rises).

(Source: ncert.nic.in)

Question 2:

Examine the influence of Indian art and culture on the neighbouring countries of the Indian Subcontinent.

Introduction:

A simple introduction to this answer can revolve around a general statement about culture with respect to India.

- Culture plays an important role in the development of any nation. It represents a set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices.*
- India had been in trade communication with the outside world since the middle of the third millennium B.C. Despite India being bordered by oceans on three sides and the Himalayas on the north, Indians continue to communicate with the rest of the world.*
- However, the most notable component of this encounter has been the expansion of Indian culture and civilisation throughout the world.*

Body:

- You may incorporate some of the following points in the body of your answer:

Indian Culture in Central Asia

- Central Asia is a landmass bound by China, Russia, Tibet, India and Afghanistan. India has maintained commercial contact with these countries since 2nd century B.C.
- Traders to and from China regularly crossed the region which later became famous as the Silk Route. Along the way, there were rest stops for monks and missionaries, pilgrims and merchants, and these eventually became well-known centres of Buddhist learning.
- The cultural interactions between India and Central Asian countries can be seen in the findings of ancient stupas, temples, monasteries, pictures, and paintings in all of these countries.
- Among the Central Asian kingdoms, Kuchi was a vital and flourishing core of Indian culture. It was the kingdom where the Silk Route split and rejoined at the Dun-huang caves in China.

- A continual migration of instructors and monks from India to Khotan has witnessed the history of the Indo-Khotanese friendship. Khotan was well-known for its silk industry, dancing, music, literary pursuits, economic operations, and exports of gold and jade.
- A great number of Sanskrit manuscripts, translations, and transcriptions of Buddhist writings in Sanskrit were recovered from the buried monasteries.

Indian Culture in East Asia

- The Sanskrit, Buddhist, and Jain texts indicate that interactions between the two regions go back more than two thousand years ago
- The classical Sanskrit and Pali texts from India carry references of the region using various names such as Kathakosha, Suvarnabhumi (the land of god) or Suvarnadvipa (the golden island), indicating that this was a region that attracted Indian merchants.
- Translation of Sanskrit books into Chinese language.
- With the rise of Buddhism, China began to build large-scale cave temples and monastic complexes.
- The 'dhyana yoga' philosophy reached Korea in the eighth to ninth century AD.
- Sanskrit was accepted as the sacred language in Japan. Monks were given special training to write the Sanskrit syllables and mantras.
- Trade in spices, aromatic wood and most importantly gold is known to have flourished.

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Indian Culture in Sri Lanka and Southeast Asia

- Sri Lanka became a Buddhist stronghold and is so to this day. Pali was adopted as their literary language. Buddhism has a significant impact on Sri Lankan culture. The Dipavansa and Mahavamsa are well-known Buddhist sources in Sri Lanka.
- With Buddhism, Indian Art forms also reached Sri Lanka, where the themes, styles and techniques of paintings, dance, folklores and art and architecture were taken from India.
- In Burma, Pagan was a great centre of Buddhist culture from the eleventh to the thirteenth century. In the third and fourth centuries AD, Brahminical images and Buddhist temples began to be built. The earliest images discovered in Thailand are of Lord Vishnu.
- Brahmanism and Buddhism existed alongside each other in Thailand in the pre-Sukhothai period of the 13th century.
- A Tamil inscription found in Takua-pa testifies trade links between the Pallava region of South India and southern Thailand.

- The kings of Indian heritage controlled the famous kingdoms of Champa (Annam) and Kamhuja (Cambodia). They built massive monuments and adorned them with sculptural depictions of Shiva and Vishnu. Buddha and other deities from the Indian Epics and Puranas.

NOTE: You can cite examples of various temples or monasteries built outside India wherever required.

Conclusion:

Your conclusion should be short.

You can write about the efforts of India that has been taken with respect to maintaining the relations with the countries. For example:

- *Any treaty between India and neighbouring country*
- *Any scheme or project (Tri-lateral Highway, TAPI pipeline, etc)*

General Studies-II

Question 1

How Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner are appointed? Discuss with reference to the recent changes through Supreme Court Order. (150 Words, 10 Marks)

Question 2

China has brokered the restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia. How could it affect ongoing Middle East flash points? (250 Words, 15 Marks)

General points on the structure of the answers

Introduction

- The introduction of the answer is essential and should be restricted to 3-5 lines. Remember, a one-liner is not a standard introduction.
- It may consist of basic information by giving some definitions from the trusted source and authentic facts.

Body

- It is the central part of the answer and one should understand the demand of the question to provide rich content.
- The answer must be preferably written as a mix of points and short paragraphs rather than using long paragraphs or just points.
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- Underlining keywords give you an edge over the other candidates and helps in the better presentation of the answer.
- Using flowcharts/tree-diagram in the answers saves much time and boosts your score. However, it should be use logically and only where it is required.

Way Forward/ Conclusion

- The ending of the answer should be on a positive note and it should have a forward-looking approach. However, if you feel that an important problem must be highlighted, you may add it in your conclusion. Try not to repeat any point from body or introduction.
- You may use the findings of reports or surveys conducted at national and international levels, quotes etc. in your answers.

Self Evaluation

- It is the most important part of our Mains answer writing practice.

THOUGHT PROCESS

You may enrich your answers by some of the following points:

Question 1:

How Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioner are appointed? Discuss with reference to the recent changes through Supreme Court Order.

Introduction:

A simple introduction to this answer can revolve around a general statement about the Election Commission, CEC and EC.

- *The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and such number of other Election Commissioners (EC), if any, as the President may from time to time fix and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President.*
- *The conditions of service and tenure of office of the Election Commissioners and the Regional Commissioners shall be such as the President may by rule determine.*
- *The Chief Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court and the conditions of service of the Chief Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.*

Body:

You may incorporate some of the following points in the body of your answer:

Appointment of CEC and EC

- The Constitution does not lay down a specific legislative process for the appointment of the CEC and ECs. The President makes the appointment on the advice of the Union Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister.
- The Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991 (EC Act) requires that the EC and CEC must hold the post for a period of six years. This law essentially governs the conditions of service of the CEC and ECs.

Supreme Court Order Regarding Appointment of CEC and EC

- A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that a high-power committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India must pick the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).
- This is a very significant judgment that seeks to change the way in which India's top election officials are appointed, and can potentially have far-reaching implications.

Conclusion:

Your concluding remark should be short.

- All three Commissioners now had equal decision-making powers. The amendment also introduced sections that envisaged that the CEC and the ECs would act unanimously and, in case there was a difference of opinion on any issue, the majority view would prevail.

Related Previous Year Questions

Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct. (2022)

In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India? (2018)

Question 2:

China has brokered the restoration of diplomatic ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia. How could it affect ongoing Middle East flashpoints?

Introduction:

A simple introduction to this answer can revolve around a basic fact such as:

- A Joint Trilateral Statement was issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of China announcing an agreement between Saudi Arabia and Iran to resume diplomatic relations and re-open their embassies and missions.
- The two countries affirmed respect for the sovereignty of states and emphasized on adherence to the non-interference in internal affairs. Saudi Arabia and Iran agreed that the Foreign Ministers of both countries will make arrangements for the return of their ambassadors and discuss means of enhancing bilateral relations.
- The two countries also agreed to implement the bilateral Security Cooperation Agreement signed in 2001 and the General Agreement for Cooperation in the Fields of Economy, Trade, Investment, Technology, Science, Culture, Sports, and Youth, signed in 1998.

(Source: <http://www.icwa.in>)

Body:

You may incorporate some of the following points in the body of your answer:

How could it affect ongoing Middle East flash points?

- The deal brokered by China has a huge significance within the Arab world as well as outside the region. First and foremost, the major beneficiaries of the deal are the bilateral partners.
- The deal symbolizes China's quiet diplomacy in the region and its evolution from a preferred economic partner to an emerging political ally.
- The deal indicates China's emergence as a strong mediator in West Asian affairs; China has also announced to host the Iran-GCC summit in 2023.
- The deal is significant for the regional countries and will have long-term implications for the instability in Yemen and Syria. The conflict in Yemen might take a favorable turn with the restoration of diplomatic ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, as the government and Houthi group have been receiving covert political, military and economic support from Riyadh and Tehran respectively.
- Baghdad has hosted direct talks between its two neighbours but they stalled last year as Iraq faced a political crisis. Baghdad welcomed the deal as they hope for a general regional detente that would allow their country to rebuild, instead of being destabilised by U.S., Gulf Arab and Iranian score-settling.
- The deal has been welcomed by a number of countries, international institutions and non-state groups alike. The United Nations, Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain, Turkey, Houthis, Hezbollah and the Palestinian Authority have appreciated the deal and hope that it brings peace to the region.

Conclusion:

Your concluding remark should be short and should encapsulate both parts of the answer. You can write the possible impacts on India. For example:

- India has good relations with various countries in West Asia and we have abiding interests in the region. China's big-ticket diplomacy in the region is sure to impact the I2U2 (Israel-India-UAE-US) grouping.
- It calls for India to work on its ties to the region independently of the US (for instance with Iran), and in ways that project its civilisational and cultural links and the positive contributions of the Indian diaspora.

Points to Ponder

- India's efforts in the Middle-East to counter China's Influence
- Places in News (Middle-East)

General Studies-III

Question 1

What is Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)? Why a regional navigation system matters to India? (150 words, 10 marks)

Question 2

What are Biofuels? Discuss the government's efforts for promoting its uses. (250 words, 15 marks)

General points on the structure of the answers

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- The introduction of the answer is essential and should be restricted to 3-5 lines. Remember, a one-liner is not a standard introduction.
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Body

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Way forward/ Conclusion

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- You may use the findings of reports or surveys conducted at national and international levels, quotes etc. in your answers.

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Self-Evaluation

- It is the most important part of our Mains answer writing practice. *UPSC Essentials* will provide some guiding points or ideas as a thought process that will help you to evaluate your answers.

THOUGHT PROCESS

You may enrich your answers with some of the following points

Question 1:

What is Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)? Why a regional navigation system matters to India?

Introduction:

A simple introduction to this answer can revolve around a basic fact such as:

- Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) is a regional navigation satellite developed by the Indian Space Research and Organisation (ISRO) to meet the nation's positioning, navigation and timing requirements. (Add a sentence more here, to make it a proper introduction.)*

Body:

You may incorporate some of the following points in the body of your answer:

- NavIC is designed with a constellation of seven satellites and a network of ground stations operating 24 x 7.
- Three satellites of the constellation are placed in geostationary orbit at 32.5°E, 83°E, and 129.5°E, respectively, and four satellites are placed in inclined geosynchronous orbit with an equatorial crossing of 55°E and 111.75°E, respectively, with an inclination of 29° (two satellites in each plane).
- The ground network consists of a control centre, a precise timing facility, range and integrity monitoring stations, two-way ranging stations, etc.
- NavIC offers two services: Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian users and Restricted Service (RS) for strategic users.
- The NavIC coverage area includes India and a region up to 1500 km beyond the Indian boundary.

Why it is important for India?

- India is the only country that has a regional satellite-based navigation system. There are four global satellite-based navigation systems: the American GPS, the Russian GLONASS (GLObalnayaNAVigatsionnayaSputnikovaya Sistema), the European Galileo, and the Chinese Beidou.
- NavIC open signals will be accurate up to 5 metres and restricted signals will be even more accurate. GPS signals, by contrast, are accurate up to around 20 metres.
- NavIC provides coverage over the Indian landmass and up to a radius of 1,500 km around it. In this region, NavIC signals will likely be available in even hard-to-reach areas. Unlike GPS, NavIC uses satellites in a high geostationary orbit – the satellites move at a constant speed relative to Earth, so they are always looking over the same region on Earth.
- NavIC signals come to India at a 90-degree angle, making it easier for them to reach devices located even in congested areas, dense forests, or mountains.
- The usage of NavIC system has increased in India. NavIC finds utilisation in national projects like public vehicle safety, power grid synchronisation, real-time train information system and fishermen safety. Other upcoming initiatives (such as) common alert protocol-based emergency warning, time dissemination, geodetic network and unmanned aerial vehicles are in the process of adopting NavIC system. (Union Minister of State for the Department of Space Jitendra Singh in a written reply in Parliament)*
- With an aim to promote the civilian use of NAVigation with the Indian Constellation (NavIC), L1 frequency is being introduced in all its future satellites.
- The seven satellites in the NavIC constellation so far use two frequencies for providing positioning data – L5 and S band. The new satellites NVS-01 onwards, meant to replace these satellites, will also have L1 frequency that can be used by devices that run on low power, single-frequency chips such as smart watches and security systems.*

NOTE: Do not make the body overloaded with facts and data. Select points which you think are most essential.

Conclusion:

- Your concluding remark should be short and should encapsulate both parts of the answer or you may gain some impressive marks by the examiner on going beyond and giving an international angle, for example:
- *ISRO plans to set up ground stations in Japan and France to better triangulate the entire area under NavIC coverage – the system is likely to become more accurate than GPS. The satellites placed directly over India also ensure better availability of signals in varied geographical regions compared to GPS, which India receives at an angle making it difficult to access in dense forests or valleys.*

Sources: (ISRO's new NavIC satellite launches successfully: Why a regional navigation system matters to India by Anonna Dutt, <http://www.isro.gov.in>)

Points to Ponder:

- What is the difference between PSLV and GSLV?
- What is the RLV-TD, launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation?

Question 2:

What are Biofuels? Discuss the government's efforts for promoting its uses.

Introduction:

A simple introduction to this answer can revolve around a basic fact such as:

- *Biomass can be converted directly into liquid fuels, called "biofuels," to help meet transportation fuel needs. The two most common types of biofuels in use today are ethanol and biodiesel, both of which represent the first generation of biofuel technology.*
- *Ethanol is an alcohol used as a blending agent with gasoline to increase octane and cut down carbon monoxide and other smog-causing emissions.*
- *Biodiesel is a liquid fuel produced from renewable sources, such as new and used vegetable oils and animal fats and is a cleaner-burning replacement for petroleum-based diesel fuel.*

Body:

You may incorporate some of the following points in the body of your answer:

- The National Biofuel Policy was introduced in 2018 and is aimed at reducing dependence on imports by encouraging fuel blending. With bioethanol, biodiesel, and bio-CNG in focus, its key parts include the Ethanol Blending Programme (EPB), production of second-generation ethanol (derived from forest and agricultural residues), increasing capacity for the production of fuel additives, R&D in feedstock, which is the starting material for ethanol production, and financial incentives for achieving these goals.
- After initially setting a 20 per cent blending target for 2030, the government has advanced by five years its target for achieving 20 per cent ethanol blending in petrol. The amended National Biofuel Policy-2018 has now set the new target for 2025–26 instead of 2030.
- The National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC), with the Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas as its head, is the agency to coordinate this blending programme.
- The policy's goal is to enable biofuels' availability in the market, thereby increasing their blending percentage. A target of 20 per cent blending of ethanol in petrol is proposed by the Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2025–26. An indicative target of 5 per cent blending of biodiesel in diesel / direct sale of biodiesel is proposed by 2030. This goal is to be achieved by:
 - a) reinforcing ongoing ethanol/biodiesel supplies through increasing domestic production
 - b) setting up Second Generation (2G) biorefineries.
 - c) development of new feedstock for biofuels.
 - d) development of new technologies for conversion to biofuels.
 - e) creating a suitable environment for biofuels and their integration with the main fuels.

Conclusion:

Your concluding remark should be short and should encapsulate both parts of the answer or you may gain some impressive marks by the examiner by quoting sentences some report, for example:

- *The National Policy on Biofuel aims at promoting the production of biofuels under the "Make in India" program and was also included in the excise duty exemption to promote their production. The policy also allows the use of excess rice or damaged food grains as feedstock for ethanol production. As per a report by the government, from 38 crore litres of ethanol procured during 2013–14, it jumped nearly eight times to 322 crore litres in 2021–22.*

Sources: ([World Biofuel Day: Biofuels, their future](#), [Why has Centre advanced its 20% ethanol blending target by five years? by Parthasarathi Biswas](#), mopng.gov.in, <http://www.energy.gov>)

Point to Ponder:

- Amendments in the National Biofuels Policy, 2022

General Studies-IV

A Concise Guide to Tackle UPSC Ethics Case Studies

Introduction

- The UPSC 'Ethics, Integrity, and Aptitude' paper is relatively a new addition as it was introduced as the GS IV paper in the **2013 UPSC Mains exam**. The purpose of this paper is to select only those candidates who fit into the picture of an honest and sincere officer – An officer for whom duty comes before personal choices and biases.

The Ethics Paper consists of two different sections, for a combined total of 250 marks.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Section A | Consists of Theoretical Questions based on the syllabus. |
| Section B | Consists of application-based case studies. |

- Tackling the Case Studies Section might appear easy but it requires a **well-devised strategy, practice, and mental alertness**. All these attributes can be developed when we have a **detailed roadmap and a clear-cut approach**.
- We shall be decoding the strategy for you in a comprehensive manner over here.

What are Case Studies?

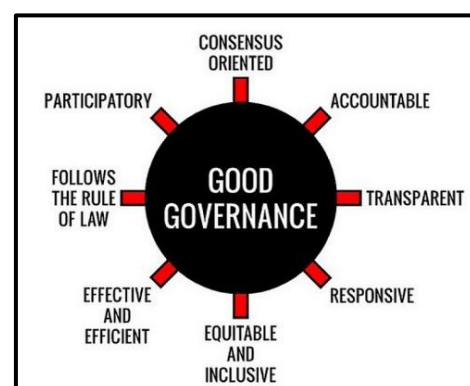
To quote American sociologist Charles Horton Cooley,

"Case Study deepens our perception and gives clear insight into life. It gets at behavior directly and not by an indirect and abstract approach."

- A **case study** is an in-depth, detailed examination of a particular case **within a real-world context**. In the case of the **UPSC GS-IV paper**, Case Studies are real-life scenarios where a civil servant is faced with an Ethical Dilemma --- a problem in the decision-making process between two possible options, neither of which is absolutely acceptable from an ethical perspective.
- To put it simply, it is a situation with no clear right or wrong answers. But as an officer, you would have to solve the dilemma with a **mix of maturity, empathy, and analytical skills** and this should reflect in your answers.

UPSC Ethics Case Studies- A tool to evaluate certain qualities in an aspirant

- An apt and ethical administrator never compromises on the highest



standards of quality in administrative decisions and actions due to complacency or convenience. Certain attributes are vitally important to become a good IAS officer as **an embodiment of Good Governance.**

Responsiveness and Resilience

- Responsiveness and resilience are among the most sought-after and must-have skills. Responsiveness helps you connect with people and pare down communication gaps, the right response at the time, sometimes, can help avert awkward situations. Likewise, being resilient means you are ready to face down all the challenges of future with great finesse.



Commitment for work

- A committed and dedicated person excels and brings incredibly noticeable results wherever he puts his efforts. There is no substitute for hard and committed work. So, an aspirant of the UPSC examination must be a committed worker.

Maximum Compassion

- Compassion for the poor, the disabled, and the weaker segment of society is the highest virtue. It actually determines how successful you are as an administrator. In fact, all great administrators and leaders of society have been compassionate people which is why they could connect to the masses.

Transparency

- Civil servants make all their decisions in a transparent manner. Transparency leaves no room for ambiguity. Civil services aspirants show utmost transparency in all their deeds.

Legal and rational action

- A nation having law-abiding citizens always grows and prospers so it becomes utmost essential for law enforcers to follow the law and rules to govern and guide. A civil servant has the deepest respect for the law and its enforcement.

National Interest

- A nation's prestige comes first and is above everything. A civil servant like a selfless soldier always measures the impact of his action on his nation's strength and prestige.

Maximum of Integrity

- While undertaking any administrative action, an administrator practices utmost honesty and never uses his power, position, and discretion to serve his personal interest.

Consensus oriented

- There are several actors and as many viewpoints in a given society. Good governance requires mediation of the different interests in society to reach a broad consensus in society on what is in the best interest of the whole community and how this can be achieved. It also requires a broad and long-term perspective on what is needed for sustainable human development and how to achieve the goals of such development. This can only result from an understanding of the historical, cultural and social contexts of a given society or community. Civil Servants must take consensus-oriented decisions.

Principle of Justice

- Administrators must observe principles of equity, equality, impartiality, fairness and objectivity.

Equity and inclusiveness

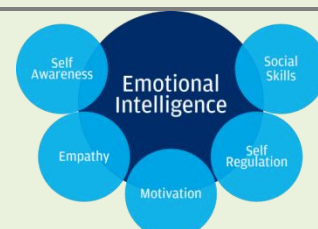
- A society's well-being depends on ensuring that all its members feel that they have a stake in it and do not feel excluded from the mainstream of society. This requires all groups, but particularly the **most vulnerable, have opportunities to improve or maintain their well-being**. Decisions and actions of Civil Servants should be inclusive in nature.

Accountability

- Accountability is a key requirement to be a Civil Servant. Accountability cannot be enforced without transparency and the rule of law.

Emotional Intelligence

- Emotional intelligence refers to the ability to identify perceive, control, evaluate and manage one's own emotions. An emotionally intelligent Civil Servant succeeds in managing emotions in anxiety-provoking situations and gives shape to policies better.



Tenacity

- Tenacity and consistency to achieve practical results to improve people's lives; to build that vision of a better society.

Innovative

- Sometimes professional and strategic skills reach their limits due to legacy structures and systems of public sector organisations. In these cases, civil servants need to be innovative to redesign the tools of governance and develop novel solutions to persistent and emergent policy challenges.

Leading by Example

- One way to inspire others is to lead by example, such as by demonstrating a careful commitment to ethical conduct. Someone who leads and places himself or herself in the same situations as others can inspire others.

Policy advisory skills

- Leveraging technology and synthesizing a growing range of evidence-based scientific insights (e.g., behavioral economics, data science, strategic foresight) and a diversity of citizen perspectives for effective and timely policy advice to political decision-makers.

Engagement skills

- Working directly with citizens and users of government services to improve service experience, legitimacy and impact by leveraging the "wisdom of the crowd" to co-create better solutions that take into account service users' needs and limitations.

Firmness

- Firmness is being resistant to externally applied pressure and is marked by or indicating the tone and resiliency of the person. It is used to denote the quality of showing determination or resolution.

Nishkam Karma

- Nishkam Karma or self-less or desireless action, is an action performed without any expectation of fruits or results. It is the central message of the Bhagavad Gita and the foundational value of public service.

Altruism

- Altruism is the unselfish concern for other people – doing things simply out of a desire to help, not because you feel obligated to out of duty, loyalty, or religious reasons. It involves acting out of concern for the well-being of other people.

Probity

- Probity in Governance is a vital need for executing the governance system and socio-economic development. It is defined as adherence to ethical and moral values like honesty. Integrity, rectitude, uprightness etc. It is the presence of procedural integrity with high standards of ethical behaviour.

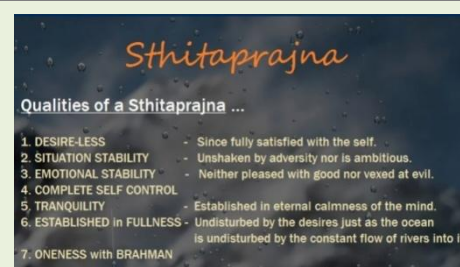


Expediency

- It is the quality of being convenient and practical despite possibly being improper or immoral; convenience.
- 'an act of political expediency'

Stithaprajnata

- He whose mind is not shaken by adversity, who does not hanker after pleasures and who is free from attachment, fear and anger, is called a stage of steady wisdom. This state is known as Stithaprajnata.



Collaborative

- Has the ability to find common ground, negotiate differences and work with civil servants across different departments.

How to inculcate the above-mentioned qualities in reality?

- It can be hard to define your own values, vision, and mission, but it is a great way to get clear on what is important to you.
- The **Golden Rule** is the foundation of ethical behaviour and incorporates actions such as **honesty, kindness, empathy, personal responsibility, etc.** Once you have mastered these characteristic traits of behavior, a deeper learning about ethics can come about as discussed in this book.
- This deeper learning includes philosophical reasoning methods, such as Utilitarianism where you evaluate the benefits and harms of alternative actions and select the one that maximizes the goodness while keeping harms in check. The Rights Theory calls on us to act in ways that are universal meaning others would act in the same way. It means to meet your obligations to others as members of the human race. It calls on us to treat others fairly, without prejudice and in an unbiased manner.

Towards a professional, strategic and innovative civil service

| | Professional | Strategic | Innovative |
|--|---|---|--|
| Needs civil servants who are: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified • Independent • Values driven • Ethical | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes driven • Evidence based • Future oriented • Proactive • Networked | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iterative • Data literate • Citizen centred • Curious • Storytellers • Insurgent |
| In a civil service which is: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merit based • Capable of integrating soft skills, ethics, talent management (future potential vs. past performance) • Able to structure the right balance of generalist and specialist professions and career paths | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agile • Attractive to skilled job seekers • Planned and managed to ensure the right skills and competencies are effectively allocated to areas of current and emerging need • Future oriented and responsive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open and collaborative cultures, leadership and management • Engaged • Autonomous (e.g. work design) • Mobile • Diverse • Learning oriented |
| Led by Senior Civil Servants who are: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trusted policy advisors and effective transactional managers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transformational leaders, change managers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative leaders and adaptive managers |

How to get a preliminary idea of Case Studies?

- To begin with, **read a large number of case studies** [questions asked in previous years].

- Next, read Newspapers and try to analyse the behaviour of various stakeholders involved. Everything boils down to three things: communication, stakeholders, and decision-making.
- Keep resources to a minimum and focus on what is necessary.
- Ethics is all about articulation. It can only be improved through consistent answer-writing practice.
- Personal experiences, observations and stories can play a key role in tackling Case Studies.



Types of Case Studies

- Case is given; options are also given; evaluate the merits and demerits of each of the alternatives and suggest the best option
- Case is given; you have to generate options and suggest the best one
- Reaction to a situation.

Depending on the nature of case studies/area of focus:

- Public organization; RTI officer; EE in Municipal Corporation; senior officer in Finance Ministry; District Admin. etc
- Private sector: ED in an IT company (sexual harassment case); CEO of a company that manufactures electronic equipment
- Common citizen/civil society: Sivakasi and child labour
- Issue based: Environment degradation, migration, displacement and rehabilitation

Ethical Dilemmas

- Ethical dilemmas are common in business and public institutions as many issues need to be dealt with daily, issues that can be complicated to solve. These dilemmas give rise to the question of whether ethics plays an important role in decision-making or not. What are the factors that should be considered when making decisions? Is it best to sacrifice one thing to get another or should the focus be on what's morally, right?

What are Ethical Dilemmas?

- Ethical dilemmas occur when a person is faced with choices between conflicting values. As an example, imagine that you are a nurse working in the emergency room and have to decide whether or not to tell your patient they have cancer. An ethical dilemma is a decision you have to make which could result in hurting one person or group, but benefitting another.

Pros and Cons of Private Institutions:

- Private institutions, on one hand, may be seen as more flexible because they do not answer to any governmental organization. On the other hand, because private institutions lack oversight, they are not required to comply with certain regulations designed to protect people. They also have less accountability for their actions because they cannot go bankrupt as public institutions can. Furthermore, it is harder for groups of people to get together and start a private institution than it is for a group of individuals or a government agency to create a public institution.

Pros and Cons of Public Institutions:

- Public institutions have a responsibility to provide their services to anyone willing to pay for them. This means that anyone, regardless of status or social position, can receive treatment from these public establishments. The downside is that as a result of serving everyone, many are unable to provide quality service due to a lack of sufficient time and resources. To combat this issue, some public institutions have shifted focus away from meeting basic standards of care or regulation to serving more clients per day.

Examples of Ethical Dilemmas at Private Institutions:

- One particular ethical dilemma that private institutions are faced with is if they are obligated to disclose their clients. Another dilemma is how much information about the students should be shared to promote collaboration among them. There is also the question of what level of privacy for every student should be guaranteed by a university. Furthermore, there are questions as to whether or not a university can turn down admission applications from certain applicants based on race, gender, or religion.

Examples of Ethical Dilemmas at Public Institutions:

- One dilemma is that government agencies may use confidential information, like social security numbers or names of people suspected of a crime, as part of their duties. There are privacy rights that prohibit government agencies from releasing this information without the express permission of the person to whom it belongs.
- It can be a dilemma for agency workers whether they should protect their privacy rights or obey their employer's orders by disclosing confidential information to someone else.

How to Handle Ethical Dilemmas at Private Institutions:

- Keep information confidential, never breach confidence, or break a promise without permission.
- Respect personal privacy when collecting data or conducting research.
- Ensure that work conducted is ethical; adhere to local and international laws as well as institutional guidelines on human experimentation, animal experiments, etc.
- For example, in the US, private institutions must abide by The Code of Federal Regulations for The Protection of Human Subjects – Institutional Review Board (IRB) which states that informed consent shall be obtained from all subjects (FDA). In other countries, IRB approval may not be required but can be necessary depending on what type of research is being done.

How to Handle Ethical Dilemmas at Public Institutions:

- Public institutions must provide fair, reliable, and cost-effective services for the people that they serve. This is why many public institutions adopt strategies such as taking market share away from competitors and focusing on large customers. However, these strategies can come at a cost because they may not be ethical or socially conscious. In contrast, private institutions do not face any legal obligations to serve a specific group of people or give service.

List all Possible Ethical Dilemmas for Both Public and Private Institutions:

- Ethical dilemmas in public institutions often stem from resources or access to other resources. Whether it be a student taking another student's seat at the university library, or a family without adequate space living next to an empty lot that is zoned for more housing units, ethical dilemmas can often be resolved by restructuring how resources are allocated. Ethics can also come into play when the property is publicly owned but privately used- for example, when a business leases public land.

Evaluate each type of Dilemma from Both types of Institutions:

- An ethical dilemma often means there is no clear answer or right course of action. Some dilemmas are personal and have to do with individual actions, while others concern work situations. When considering a more personal dilemma, it's best to reflect on what your values are, and then think through various courses of action before choosing one. With dilemmas at work, you may be able to confer with colleagues or consult a set of guidelines (such as those published by your profession's professional association) for guidance.

Public Institutions have a Higher Level of Accountability:

- Public institutions often have higher levels of accountability than private institutions. They are more transparent, there is a greater chance of oversight, and they have to answer to the people. On the other hand, they are usually slower to change because they're always striving for 100% compliance with a policy or regulation.

Public Institutions are more Transparent than Private Institutions:

- Public institutions, such as colleges and schools, have to deal with much more scrutiny than private institutions. A school's administrative structure is public knowledge, for example. On the other hand, a college might not be required to reveal any of its employees' salaries unless it so chooses. So, while public institutions are subject to open-records laws, most private ones aren't.

The Role of Public Institutions:

- Public institutions are comprised of those who work for a government or publicly funded entity. This includes law enforcement, teachers, public works employees, public school students, all first responders, etc. As workers in a public institution, you have an ethical responsibility to treat all people equally and with dignity even if they are not on your team. Your decisions should focus on what is best for the public interest and not on other factors such as race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity.

What ethics is NOT?

- Ethics is not the same as feelings.** Feelings do provide important information for our ethical choices. However, while some people have highly developed habits that make them feel bad when they do something wrong, others feel good even though they are doing something wrong. And, often, our feelings will tell us that it is uncomfortable to do the right thing if it is difficult.
- Ethics is not the same as religion.** Many people are not religious but act ethically, and some religious people act unethically. Religious traditions can, however, develop and advocate for high ethical standards, such as the Golden Rule.
- Ethics is not the same thing as following the law.** A good system of law does incorporate many ethical standards, but law can deviate from what is ethical. Law can become ethically corrupt—a function of power alone and designed to serve the interests of narrow groups. Law may also have a difficult time designing or enforcing standards in some important areas and may be slow to address new problems.
- Ethics is not the same as following culturally accepted norms.** Cultures can include both ethical and unethical customs, expectations, and behaviors. While assessing norms, it is important to recognize how one's ethical views can be limited by one's own cultural perspective or background, alongside being culturally sensitive to others.
- Ethics is not science.** Social and natural science can provide important data to help us make better and more informed ethical choices. But science alone does not tell us what we ought to do. Some things may be scientifically or technologically possible and yet unethical to develop and deploy.

Six Ethical Lenses

- If our ethical decision-making is not solely based on feelings, religion, law, accepted social practice, or science, then on what basis can we decide between right and wrong, good and bad? Many philosophers, ethicists, and theologians have helped us answer this critical question. They have suggested a variety of different lenses that help us perceive ethical dimensions. Here are six of them:

The Rights Lens

- Some suggest that the ethical action is the one that best protects and respects the moral rights of those affected. This approach starts from the belief that humans have a dignity based on their human nature per se or on their ability to choose freely what they do with their lives. On the basis of such dignity, they have a right to be treated as ends in themselves and not merely as means to other ends. The list of moral rights—including the rights to make one's own choices about what kind of life to lead, to be told the truth, not to be injured, to a degree of privacy, and so on—is widely debated; some argue that non-humans have rights, too. Rights are also often understood as implying duties—in particular, the duty to respect others' rights and dignity.

The Justice Lens

- Justice is the idea that each person should be given their due, and what people are due is often interpreted as fair or equal treatment. Equal treatment implies that people should be treated as equals according to some defensible standard such as merit or need, but not necessarily that everyone should be treated in the exact same way in every respect. There are different types of justice that address what people are due in various contexts. These include social justice (structuring the basic institutions of society), distributive justice

(distributing benefits and burdens), corrective justice (repairing past injustices), retributive justice (determining how to appropriately punish wrongdoers), and restorative or transformational justice (restoring relationships or transforming social structures as an alternative to criminal punishment).

The Utilitarian Lens

- Some ethicists begin by asking, “How will this action impact everyone affected?”—emphasizing the consequences of our actions. Utilitarianism, a results-based approach, says that the ethical action is the one that produces the greatest balance of good over harm for as many stakeholders as possible. It requires an accurate determination of the likelihood of a particular result and its impact. For example, the ethical corporate action, then, is the one that produces the greatest good and does the least harm for all who are affected—customers, employees, shareholders, the community, and the environment. Cost/benefit analysis is another consequentialist approach.

The Common Good Lens

- According to the common good approach, life in community is a good in itself and our actions should contribute to that life. This approach suggests that the interlocking relationships of society are the basis of ethical reasoning and that respect and compassion for all others—especially the vulnerable—are requirements of such reasoning. This approach also calls attention to the common conditions that are important to the welfare of everyone—such as clean air and water, a system of laws, effective police and fire departments, health care, a public educational system, or even public recreational areas. Unlike the utilitarian lens, which sums up and aggregates goods for every individual, the common good lens highlights mutual concern for the shared interests of all members of a community.

The Virtue Lens

- A very ancient approach to ethics argues that ethical actions ought to be consistent with certain ideal virtues that provide for the full development of our humanity. These virtues are dispositions and habits that enable us to act according to the highest potential of our character and on behalf of values like truth and beauty. Honesty, courage, compassion, generosity, tolerance, love, fidelity, integrity, fairness, self-control, and prudence are all examples of virtues. Virtue ethics asks of any action, “What kind of person will I become if I do this?” or “Is this action consistent with my acting at my best?”

The Care Ethics Lens

- Care ethics is rooted in relationships and in the need to listen and respond to individuals in their specific circumstances, rather than merely following rules or calculating utility. It privileges the flourishing of embodied individuals in their relationships and values interdependence, not just independence. It relies on empathy to gain a deep appreciation of the interest, feelings, and viewpoints of each stakeholder, employing care, kindness, compassion, generosity, and a concern for others to resolve ethical conflicts. Care ethics holds that options for resolution must account for the relationships, concerns, and feelings of all stakeholders. Focusing on connecting intimate interpersonal duties to societal duties, an ethics of care might counsel, for example, a more holistic approach to public health policy that considers food security, transportation access, fair wages, housing support, and environmental protection alongside physical health.

Using the Lenses

- Each of the lenses introduced above helps us determine what standards of behavior and character traits can be considered right and good. There are still problems to be solved, however.
- The first problem is that we may not agree on the content of some of these specific lenses. For example, we may not all agree on the same set of human and civil rights. We may not agree on what constitutes the common good. We may not even agree on what is a good and what is a harm.
- The second problem is that the different lenses may lead to different answers to the question “What is ethical?” Nonetheless, each one gives us important insights in the process of deciding what is ethical in a particular circumstance.

Making Decisions

- Making good ethical decisions requires a trained sensitivity to ethical issues and a practiced method for exploring the ethical aspects of a decision and weighing the considerations that should impact our choice of a course of action. Having a method for ethical decision-making is essential. When practiced regularly, the

method becomes so familiar that we work through it automatically without consulting the specific steps.

- The more novel and difficult the ethical choice we face, the more we need to rely on discussion and dialogue with others about the dilemma. Only by careful exploration of the problem, aided by the insights and different perspectives of others, can we make good ethical choices in such situations.
- The following framework for ethical decision-making is intended to serve as a practical tool for exploring ethical dilemmas and identifying ethical courses of action.

A Framework for Ethical Decision Making

Identify the Ethical Issues

1. Could this decision or situation be damaging to someone or to some group, or unevenly beneficial to people? Does this decision involve a choice between a good and bad alternative, or perhaps between two “goods” or between two “bads”?
2. Is this issue about more than solely what is legal or what is most efficient? If so, how?

Get the Facts

3. What are the relevant facts of the case? What facts are not known? Can I learn more about the situation? Do I know enough to make a decision?
4. What individuals and groups have an important stake in the outcome? Are the concerns of some of those individuals or groups more important? Why?
5. What are the options for acting? Have all the relevant persons and groups been consulted? Have I identified creative options?

Evaluate Alternative Actions

6. Evaluate the options by asking the following questions:
 - Which option best respects the rights of all who have a stake? (The Rights Lens)
 - Which option treats people fairly, giving them each what they are due? (The Justice Lens)
 - Which option will produce the most good and do the least harm for as many stakeholders as possible? (The Utilitarian Lens)
 - Which option best serves the community as a whole, not just some members? (The Common Good Lens)
 - Which option leads me to act as the sort of person I want to be? (The Virtue Lens)
 - Which option appropriately takes into account the relationships, concerns, and feelings of all stakeholders? (The Care Ethics Lens)

Choose an Option for Action and Test It

7. After an evaluation using all of these lenses, which option best addresses the situation?
8. If I told someone I respect (or a public audience) which option I have chosen, what would they say?
9. How can my decision be implemented with the greatest care and attention to the concerns of all stakeholders?

Implement Your Decision and Reflect on the Outcome

10. How did my decision turn out, and what have I learned from this specific situation? What (if any) follow-up actions should I take?

A STANDARD FRAMEWORK FOR ANSWERS

- It's important to have a **concrete framework while answering the Case Studies**. A proper structure helps in keeping with the flow and prevents the aspirant from deviating away from the demand of the question or exceeding the word limit.
- In general, there is **No One-Size Fits All Approach** while answering case studies. However, there is a **standard format** that must be followed in Case Studies.
 1. Subject Matter
 2. Stakeholders
 3. Dilemmas
 4. Answer Body

5. Points
 6. Keywords
 7. Theory
 8. Diagram
 9. Conclusion
- The answer can be divided into various sub-headings.



Subject Matter

- As an introduction describe the issue captured by the Case Study. [Just in one or two lines].

For example:

Career VS Good Samaritan Dilemma

- In a case, where a UPSC Interview candidate sees an accident while going to give his Interview.

Stakeholders:

- It's important to jot down each and every actor/stakeholder directly/indirectly involved in the Case Study.

Example

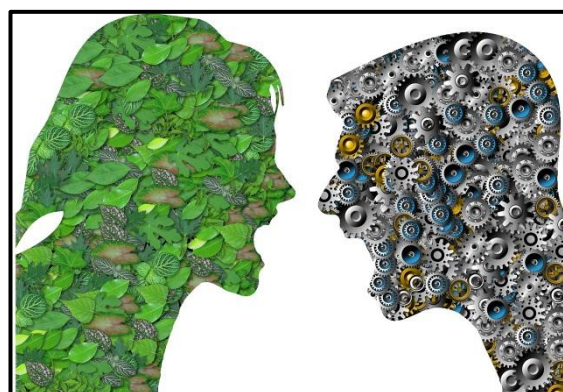
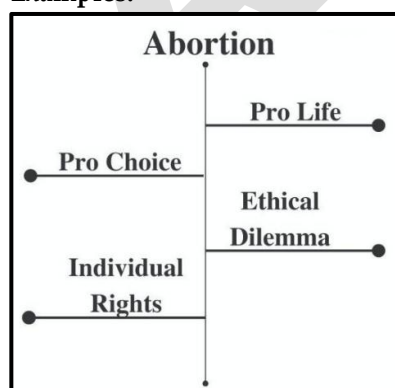
- In the above sample Question i.e UPSC Mains 2021 GS Paper 4 – Case Study 1, the stakeholders are:

Ethical Dilemmas

- The Ethical Issues and dilemmas need to be enumerated properly while approaching the answer.

| 1. Define the situation objectively | 4. Identify loyalties to stakeholders |
|--|---|
| <i>An objective description of the pertinent facts of the practice situation, i.e. context, affected persons and the problem at hand</i> | <i>Identify the persons for whom the decision maker is responsible for, i.e. employer, colleagues and/or the public</i> |
| 2. Identify Values | 3. Select Principles |
| <i>Identify the values and beliefs which contribute to the situation and that of the decision maker</i> | <i>Decide on the ethical principles involved in the situation and explore it from more than one ethical dimension</i> |

Examples:



Dam---Development vs Environment Conservation



Mining--Public Interest vs Protection of Tribal Rights



Migrant Worker breaks the rule of lockdown

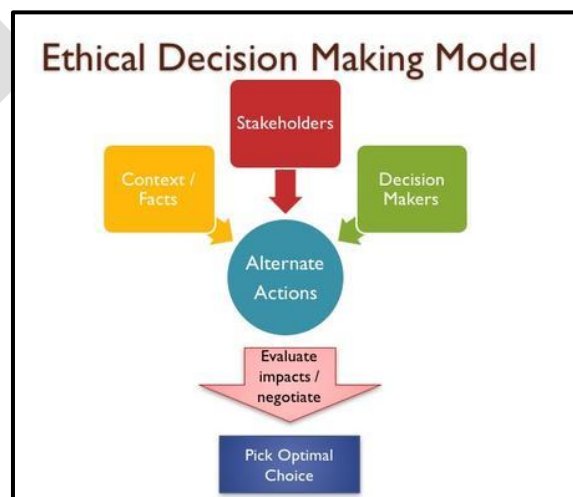
Answer Body and Points

- Jot down the choices available to you in the given situation.
- Write the Pros and Cons for choosing each of the alternative options.
- There need to be at least two options that describe decisions that are extreme in nature.
- Rest of the options need to be practical ones.
- Present your arguments. Use quotes, examples, and excerpts from Government Reports, and views of moral thinkers, for substantiating your point. Quote examples of successful models.
- Finally, choose the course of action that is most practical. Use objectivity, rationality, empathy, and pragmatism to reach your choice.

Example: Putting a blanket ban on the construction of a Dam [that can provide water to millions] is impractical. Ensuring strict implementation of Tribal Rehabilitation policy and taking them in confidence is the way out.

Some principles to be followed

- **Short term v/s long term solutions:**
- What to do to deal with the case in hand (short term); how to ensure such cases do not happen in future; institutional and systemic reforms (long term)
- **Soft v/s hard measures**
- **Supply side and demand side measures**
- Examples: Policies and programmes of the govt; examples: PRAGATI, compulsory retirement, 360 degree appraisal system, biometric attendance system
- Wherever possible, try to write in table form; steps taken and why it will be effective; looks neater and more pleasing to examiner.



Evaluation of options

- **Micro/Individual level:** Role of conscience as a responsible, ethical human being
- **Organizational level:** Public service values (public interest), private sector values, AIS/CCS conduct rules etc
- **Macro level:** Constitution, law, policies and programmes, international conventions etc
- **Indian ethics:** Vedas, Bhagvad Gita, Dharma, Nishkama Karma, KarmaphalaSiddhanta
- **Normative ethical theories:** Rule Utilitarianism, Deontology, Virtue Ethics, Contractarianism, Care Ethics etc
- EI, attitude, persuasion, social influence etc
- Teachings from the lives of great leaders, reformers etc
- Quotes on different values

Ethics is not just about finding solutions but the process and analysis that you have carried out for arriving at

solutions; so, you have to explain the ethical issues involved; conflict of values; ethical questions and dilemmas; you have to analyse and then justify your conclusion; just writing "I will do this" is not enough; analyse the case; have a conversation with the examiner; examiner wants to test your approach; whether you are exploring options..

Usage of Keywords + Reasoning to Articulate the Answer

The course of action that has been chosen needs to be justified and substantiated using strong keywords.

- Conscience
- Apathy
- Empathy
- Red Tapism
- Partisanship
- Objectivity
- Summum bonum- meaning the highest or ultimate good.
- Nishkam Karma or self-less or desireless action.
- **Citizen's Charter**- An undertaking, public organization gives to citizens, to provide a high level of service, while meeting standards contained in declaration.
- Humanism
- Righteousness
- Non-violence
- Pluralism
- Pragmatism
- Scientific temper
- Secularism
- Solidarity
- Tolerance
- Unity
- Truth



Key Pointers

- Use I, wherever possible to personalize your answer. It helps in substantiating your arguments.
- Always put yourself in the shoes of an officer and substantiate your points using realistic and concrete steps that you will take to reach a solution as an administrator.
- Use diagrams and flowcharts to illustrate your answer.
- Cite real-life examples, stories, and experiences in your answers.
- Don't beat around the bush. Use to-the-point, crisp statements.
- Try to give pragmatic implementable solutions rather than an idealistic solution to the issue.
- Use quotes to make your arguments powerful.

SAMPLE CASE STUDY BY ANUDEEP DURISHETTY [IAS AIR 1, UPSC CSE 2017]

Q. You are aspiring to become an IAS officer and you have cleared various stages and now you have been selected for the personal interview. On the day of the interview, on the way to the venue you saw an accident where a mother and child who happen to be your relatives were badly injured. They needed immediate help. What would you have done in such a situation? Justify your action. (25 Marks)

Subject matter: Dilemma between achieving career ambition Vs responding to accident as a good samaritan.

Stakeholders involved: The mother, child, me, my family, society at large and the UPSC.

Ethical dilemmas:

- Personal ambitions vs. Moral responsibility to help others
- Being punctual to the interview vs Saving life
- Personal and family's dream to be civil servant vs Moral obligation to relatives

| Options Available | | |
|--|--|--|
| Options | Merits | Demerits |
| Ignore the accident and head to the interview | Punctuality will be maintained Personal ambition will be fulfilled | Morally abdicating my duty to save life Selfish and against my conscience Poor example of an aspiring civil servant |
| Skip the interview and help the victims | Moral obligation towards my relatives will be met A good example to the society | Hampers the years of hard work to be a civil servant Failing my and my family's dream Unbalanced decision making in response to multiple needs |
| Admit them to a nearby hospital and quickly try to reach the interview venue | Rescue the relatives Realise my career goals Clear conscience | · Risk of missing the interview |

Final Course of action

- I shall choose the last option because I have a moral responsibility to help the victims, and a personal responsibility to myself, my family and my career. I worked hard to reach the interview stage, so it makes sense to balance both these obligations.
- So, my immediate response would be to quickly move the victims to my cab. Using Google Maps, I'll check for nearby hospitals and find the shortest route possible to get there. I will call the hospital and ask them to arrange emergency services by the time we reach.
- Along the way, I will also call the relatives' family and ask them to reach the hospital. I will admit the victim to the hospital and pay any charges, if required. If it gets late for the relatives to reach, I will entrust the cab driver to kindly look after her, pay him his waiting charges and proceed to the interview.
- In the meantime, I will also check if I can reach out to anyone who can inform the interview panel about my situation and that I may reach late. If I do get delayed, I will make every attempt to convince the authorities involved as to the reasons why it happened. As soon as the interview is done, I will come back to the hospital and check on the victim's condition and help them in any way I can.
- As remarked by Gandhiji "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others". By helping people, we not only make the world a better place but also stay true to our conscience. It leads to harmony, balancing social good with personal ambition.

Question 1

Swami Vivekananda's thought is as relevant to India's future as it was in its past. Discuss.

Question 2

CASE STUDY

Rashmi is assigned to teach Environmental Science in a Government High School in an industrial town. This is her first job. Rashmi believes in helping students to understand the syllabus of Science but also making them learn how these issues of Science are connected to Science in their society and community.

While teaching the topic related to human effects on climate change, Rashmi reached a point of discussing the impacts of

industrialisation on the Environment and Climate change stressing negative pointers. It wasn't directly mentioned in the syllabus. Many of the students belonged to the families of workers in the industries and factories of that town. Rashmi felt some unease from the side of the students while discussing the topic. This was confirmed when many of the parents complained about her to the Principal for disrespecting the industries which get bread and butter for them. The Principal calls for an explanation from Rashmi.

- (a) What is the issue being addressed in the case?
- (b) What should be highlighted in the explanation by Rashmi?
- (c) If you were the Principal what would be your action? Justify.

THOUGHT PROCESS

You may enrich your answers by some of the following points

Question 1

Swami Vivekananda's thought is as relevant to India's future as it was in its past. Discuss.

Introduction

You may either begin with a general historical fact or with a philosophical line. You may also connect it to youth (future) by the following fact:

- Swami Vivekananda is the inspiration behind National Youth Day. In just 39 years, 14 of which were in public life, he filled the country with a thought whose energy is still felt today. Generations to come will continue to feel this energy.

Body

This is an open ended question but it is expected for you to have some historical and philosophical information. You may incorporate some of the following points in the body of your answer:

- One of India's most important resources is the youth. Every fifth young person in the world is an Indian. It is due to this segment of the population that India's growth rate has been the third-highest among the 13 major economies in the last five years. After the COVID-19 pandemic, India has emerged as a country that is full of possibilities in the race for development. Those among the youth who are associated with Swami Vivekananda's ideas are preparing India for a leadership role on the world stage.
- "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached." This mantra of Vivekananda's is as effective, relevant and inspiring today as it was in the days of colonialism. Now, India is ready to be a global leader. With the power of yoga and the energy that comes from spirituality, the youth of the country are impatient about giving direction to the world.
- Swami Vivekananda's lessons still inspire the youth: "Make a life's aim and incorporate that idea into your life.... Think that thought over and over again. Dream it, Live it... that is the secret to being successful." His mantra for the youth is evergreen: "Until you can trust yourself, you cannot trust Allah or God." If we are not able to see God in other humans and ourselves, then where can we go to find divinity?
- Vivekananda caught the world's attention with his ideas in Chicago in 1893. A speech like the one he made then could not be made today. The themes in that speech included "Vishwabandhutva", tolerance, cooperativeness, participation, religion, culture, nation, nationalism and the collective India-Indianness.
- At the Parliament of World religions, Vivekananda said he is "from that Hindustan, which gives shelter to persecuted people from all religions and countries".
- He addressed the Parliament of World Religions as: "American brothers and sisters". The eternal message of universal brotherhood was clear in his speech. The New York Herald wrote: "Hearing him (Swami Vivekananda) seems that sending a Christian missionary to a knowledgeable nation like India is foolish. Even if he only passes through the stage, the applause starts."
- Swami Vivekananda taught the world that it is our duty to encourage all those doing good so that they can make their dreams come true.
- His vision also gave rise to the idea of Antyodaya. Until the upliftment of the last poor person in the country is ensured, development is meaningless, he said.
- Swami Vivekananda's belief about God is tied to every religion. His idea of charity is at the root of Sanatan Dharma. Charity was a way of life for him. For Vivekananda it was important to connect everyone with this way of life. He said,

"The more we come to help and help others, the more pure our heart becomes. Such people are like God."

Vivekananda's legacy

- Through his speeches and lectures, Vivekananda worked to disseminate his religious thought. He preached 'neo-Vedanta', an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
- 'Raja Yoga', 'Jnana Yoga', 'Karma Yoga' are some of the books he wrote.
- Before his death in 1902, Vivekananda wrote to a Western follower: "It may be that I shall find it good to get outside my body, to cast it off like a worn out garment. But I shall not cease to work. I shall inspire men everywhere until the whole world shall know that it is one with God."

Conclusion

Connect back to the question. For example:

- Swami Vivekananda combined thinking of different religions, communities and traditions. His thoughts inspire liberation from inertia. His ideas remain fresh and relevant for present and for future.

(Sources: [Swami Vivekananda's thought is as relevant to India's future as it was in its past](#))

Question 2

CASE STUDY

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- What is the issue being addressed in the case?**
- What should be highlighted in the explanation by Rashmi?**
- If you were the Principal what would be your action? Justify.**

Introduction:

There can be many ways to start a case study. You may begin with a general statement that the case study highlights and then you may list down some of the stakeholders. Make sure the introduction should not be the same as the answer to part (a). For example:

- The case explores the tensions a teacher, in her first job, faces in teaching a topic of impacts of industrialisation on the Environment and Climate change to students belonging to the community who work in the industries of that town.

Body:

(a) This part allows you to list down issues that may be between the lines. You may consider writing the following points:

- This case directly highlights the consequences that can be faced while dealing with an issue sensitive to the communities.

Or

- How should the values of the local community guide one's actions and decisions?

And you may then briefly explain some key pointers from the case study which support your answer.

(b) While answering this part, use point format. You may ponder on some of the following points:

1. The role of a true teacher.
2. Duty without bias.
3. The teacher's challenges with modern problems. Why is efforts to impart the reality of climate change

important whether or not it is in the syllabus?
(Add your own points.)

(c) As a Principal, you are not only in-charge of the school but also a leader for teachers and a guardian at school for students. It is a test of your (Principal's) leadership qualities. Some of the following statements can help you in deciding your questions.

This is her first job.

Many of the students belonged to the families of workers in the industries and factories of that town.

Rashmi reached a point of discussing the impacts of industrialisation on the Environment and Climate change stressing negative pointers. It wasn't directly mentioned in the syllabus.

It was confirmed when many of the parents complained about her to the Principal for disrespecting the industries which get bread and butter for them.

How important is this fact for the Principal?

Should teaching be affected by this aspect?

Is she right in taking up this topic? Should the Principal talk to her on dealing sensitive topics?

How should this fact affect the action of the Principal?

- The above questions will act as a blue print for your answer. Think on the course of an action considering all dimensions and stake holders. Act as a Principal, and post your steps in the comments box.

Conclusion:

- You may conclude by stating a line on teaching ethics and Principal's role as a leader.


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Important Aspects of Essay Writing

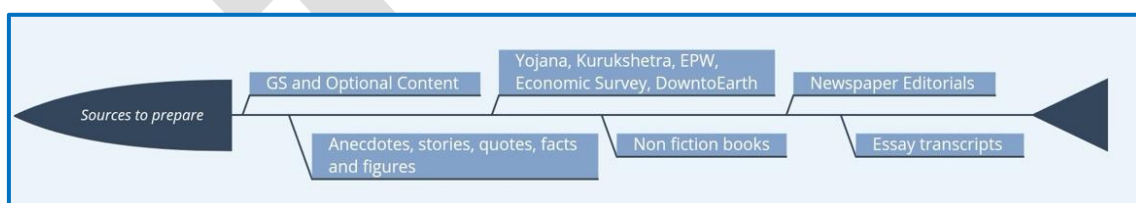
UPSC notification says that “candidates may be required to write essays on multiple topics. They will be expected to keep closely to the subject of the essay, to arrange their ideas in an orderly fashion, and to write concisely. Credit will be given for effective and exact expression.”

Through the essay, the examiner will not only evaluate the content of the aspirant but also his thought process, viewpoints on critical matters, clarity in thinking, ability to explain his viewpoint concisely and effectively, ability of coherence and putting his ideas in an orderly fashion, language.

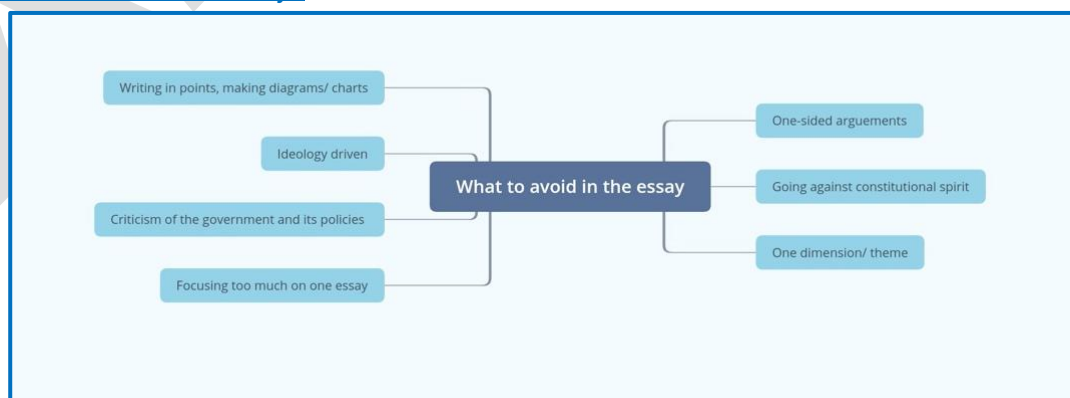
Essay is considered to be very dicey paper as one year a candidate may score 155 and the following year the score may drop to 100.

- However, if one compares GS papers score with that of essay one can find out that it is difficult to achieve a score of more than 50% marks in the former whereas aspirants touch 60-65% in the essay paper. There have been candidates who have drastically increased their marks from scores like 100-110 to 150-160 with proper strategy and preparation.
- The purpose of this blog is to help aspirants strategise their essay preparation in such a manner that they are able to cross the 65% marks barrier in the exam.
- First of all, aspirants should avoid the highly believed misconceptions that there is no preparation required for essay paper-GS and optional knowledge will suffice and that there is no difference between language paper essay and ‘Essay’ paper. The importance of both is vastly different. One is aimed to judge the language of the aspirant whereas the other is aimed to bring out the true traits of a potential Civil Servant.

What shall be the sources to prepare?



What should be avoided in the essay?



How to prepare for the essay?

- Reading toppers’ transcripts gives the feel of well-written essay.

- An aspirant should prepare fodder on all the general themes that have been asked in the exam previously. A separate notebook for essay should be prepared where fodder collected from the mentioned sources should be written.
- Whenever aspirant takes a particular topic, he should try to think of all the possible themes/ dimensions of it. For eg: Consider the topic "With great power, comes great responsibility". Aspirant can think of the topic from SPECLIH perspective- Social, Political, Economic, Cultural, Legal, International and Humanistic. This is one way of covering multiple dimensions.
- Next step is to write essays. Pick up the previous year papers and practice them at home in exam conditions. Self-evaluate and get a feedback from mentors, peers and teachers.

Tips for essay:

- Aspirant should have clear cut plan ready for attempting the essay paper. It should be clear in his mind before entering the examination hall how he is going to manage the time. Eg: Topic Selection: 5 minutes, Brainstorming: 10-15 minutes, writing: 1 hour, revision: 5 minutes.
- Choose the essay, which you can interpret in true spirit and have sufficient content.
- Next thing is to interpret the topic. One should understand the theme of the topic. **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING ABOUT ESSAY WRITING IS PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE TOPIC AND "WRITING ON THAT TOPIC". DOING THIS MUCH ENSURES THAT ONE WILL NOT GET BELOW AVERAGE MARKS.**
- Write introduction strictly according to the demand of the topic. This can be a fictitious story, real life anecdote, quote, a paragraph on what all is going to be covered in the essay.
- Enrich the body part with data, facts, reports, as well as whatever you know, even optional thinkers, quotes etc. Don't write unsubstantiated points. Put very logical arguments.
- Themes/ dimensions to be covered eg: SPECLIH, temporal, sectoral, walks of life, problem and solution format.
- Try to use the theme of essay in the last sentence of every paragraph. Use connecting words when you shift from one paragraph to the other- Further, Moreover, Similarly, Even, Simultaneously, or to contrast- However, although etc.
- Interact with the examiner, by raising questions, for example, Is this right? Are we heading in a right direction? Let's discuss etc.
- Try to provide concrete solutions to the issue, you can take help of some case studies, committee recommendations, reports of national and international bodies etc.
- Conclusion: it should always be on a futuristic and optimistic note. Summarize the essay in 4 to 5 lines and then write the vision for future. Some saying, quote, lines of eminent personalities can be used.
- Aspirants should remember that if they cannot write well, they cannot think well and if they cannot think well others will do the thinking for them and this is not an acceptable trait of a civil servant. This is what exactly UPSC is looking to evaluate from the aspirant's essay. Does the aspirant have the traits to become a decision maker for tomorrow? Aspirants are advised to prepare the essay in this spirit. And finally, always remember to answer what has been asked in the question rather than beating around the bush. Accomplishing this makes win half the battle.

10 Sample Philosophical Essays

Q1. Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

Meaning:

- The quote "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire" signifies that education is more than the mere accumulation of knowledge or information. It emphasizes the idea that education should go beyond the passive transfer of facts and figures and instead ignite a passion for learning and personal growth.
- The phrase "filling of a pail" suggests a passive approach to education, where knowledge is simply poured into an individual without active engagement or critical thinking. On the other hand, "lighting of a fire" represents the transformative power of education, igniting curiosity, enthusiasm, and a thirst for knowledge.
- In essence, the quote highlights the importance of nurturing a love for learning, fostering critical thinking skills, and encouraging individuals to explore their interests and unleash their full potential. It encourages educators to create an environment that sparks curiosity, promotes independent thinking, and instills a lifelong love for learning.

Introduction:

- Introduce the quote and its author, William Butler Yeats.
- Explain the meaning of the quote, emphasizing that education is not merely about acquiring knowledge, but about igniting a passion for learning and personal growth.
- Thesis statement: This essay explores the transformative power of education, encompassing intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, holistic development, and societal impact, through a collection of quotes, real-life examples, and case studies.

Body:

I. Intellectual Curiosity:

- Quote 1: "The mind is not a vessel to be filled, but a fire to be kindled." – Plutarch
- Discuss the importance of intellectual curiosity in education.
- Provide a real-life example of a curious individual who pursued knowledge and made significant contributions in their field.
- Case study: Highlight a school or educational program that encourages curiosity and self-driven learning, sharing its impact on students' intellectual development.
 - Real-life Example: Marie Curie, a renowned physicist and chemist, demonstrated immense intellectual curiosity throughout her life. Her relentless pursuit of knowledge in the field of radioactivity led to groundbreaking discoveries and earned her two Nobel Prizes. Curie's curiosity and passion for learning continue to inspire generations of scientists.
 - Case Study: The Montessori Method, developed by Maria Montessori, emphasizes self-directed learning and encourages children to explore their interests. This approach fosters intellectual curiosity by providing students with the freedom to choose their learning activities and delve deeper into subjects that capture their interest. Research studies have shown that Montessori-educated students demonstrate higher levels of intellectual curiosity and engagement in their studies.

II. Critical Thinking:

- Quote 2: "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence." - Robert Frost
- Explore the role of critical thinking in education.
- Provide a real-life example of how critical thinking skills have shaped important decisions or brought about positive change.

- Case study: Examine a specific educational institution that incorporates critical thinking into its curriculum, showcasing the benefits it offers to students' intellectual growth.
 - Real-life Example: Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Prize laureate, demonstrated exceptional critical thinking skills in her advocacy for girls' education. Despite facing adversity and threats, she used her critical thinking abilities to analyze the societal impact of denying education to girls and effectively communicate her message on a global scale.
 - Case Study: The Harvard Business School's case study method is widely recognized for its emphasis on critical thinking. Students are presented with real-world business scenarios and challenged to analyze, evaluate, and propose solutions. This approach develops their critical thinking skills, preparing them for complex decision-making in their future careers.

III. Holistic Development:

- Quote 3: "Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself." - John Dewey
- Discuss the concept of holistic development in education.
- Provide a real-life example of an individual who has experienced personal growth and development through education.
- Case study: Highlight an educational approach or school that focuses on nurturing students' social, emotional, and physical well-being alongside their academic progress.
 - Real-life Example: Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa, emphasized the importance of education in achieving holistic development. He believed that education should not only focus on academic knowledge but also nurture individuals' character, values, and social consciousness.
 - Case Study: The High/Scope Perry Preschool Project conducted a long-term study on the impact of high-quality early childhood education on children's holistic development. The findings revealed that children who received this type of education showed significant improvements in academic performance, social skills, and overall well-being throughout their lives.


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IV. Societal Impact:

- Quote 4: "The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future in life." – Plato
- Examine the broader impact of education on society.
- Provide a real-life example of how education has influenced societal change or addressed social issues.
- Case study: Explore a social initiative or educational program that has positively impacted a community or addressed a specific social challenge.

- Real-life Example: Dr. Hawa Abdi, a Somali human rights activist and physician, established a school and medical center in war-torn Somalia. Her educational and healthcare initiatives provided essential services to the local community, empowering individuals and contributing to the rebuilding of society.
- Case Study: The Teach For All network, which includes organizations like Teach For America and Teach For India, aims to address educational inequity by placing highly motivated graduates in underprivileged schools. These initiatives have shown positive outcomes, improving educational opportunities and outcomes for disadvantaged students.

Conclusion:

- Recap the main points discussed in the essay, highlighting the multi-dimensional nature of education as the catalyst for intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, holistic development, and societal impact.
- Emphasize the importance of moving beyond a passive approach to education and fostering a love for learning.
- Conclude by reinforcing the idea that education has the power to ignite a fire within individuals, leading to personal growth, social transformation, and a brighter future for all.

Q2. Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve.

Meaning:

- The quote, "Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve," conveys the idea that the quality of governance in a democratic system is directly influenced by the collective choices and actions of the people. It suggests that the effectiveness and efficiency of a democratic government are contingent upon the engagement, awareness, and responsibility of the citizens. In other words, the quote implies that the outcomes of a democratic society are a reflection of the values, knowledge, and active participation of its people. If the citizens are apathetic, uninformed, or disengaged, the quality of governance is likely to suffer, resulting in subpar outcomes. Therefore, the quote serves as a reminder that democracy is not a guarantee of good governance, but rather a system that responds to and reflects the engagement and choices of the citizens.

Introduction:

- Opening statement and hook
- Explanation of the quote: Democracy is a device that ensures we shall be governed no better than we deserve by George Bernard Shaw
- Thesis statement: This essay will explore the meaning of the quote and discuss its implications for the functioning of democracy, including the role of citizens, the quality of governance, and the responsibility of the electorate.

Body:

I. The Nature of Democracy

- a) Definition of democracy and its key principles
- b) Explanation of how democracy functions as a system of government
- c) Importance of citizen participation and the power of the electorate
- d) Quote: "Democracy is not just about voting; it is about making our voices heard and actively engaging in the democratic process." - Unknown
- e) Real-life example: The Civil Rights Movement in the United States and the efforts of citizens to fight for equal rights and promote democratic values.

II. The Role of Citizens in Democracy

- a) Active citizenship and its impact on the quality of governance
- b) The responsibility of citizens to make informed choices and hold elected officials accountable
- c) Quote: "The price of democracy is the ongoing pursuit of an informed, active, and engaged citizenry." -

Sandra Day O'Connor

- d) Case study: The anti-corruption movement led by Anna Hazare in India, where citizens rallied against corruption and demanded better governance.

III. Quality of Governance in Democracy

- a) Challenges and limitations in achieving good governance in a democratic system
- b) Real-life example: The Watergate scandal in the United States, which revealed the importance of transparency and accountability in maintaining a healthy democratic system.
- c) Quote: "Good governance is essential for democracy to thrive, ensuring that the government serves the people's interests and upholds democratic values." - Kofi Annan

IV. Democracy and Socioeconomic Development

- a) Examination of the link between democracy and socioeconomic progress
- b) Case study: South Korea's transformation from an authoritarian regime to a thriving democracy, which contributed to its economic growth and improved living standards.
- c) Quote: "Democracy provides the foundation for sustainable development, as it allows for inclusive decision-making and equitable distribution of resources." - Unknown

V. Threats and Criticisms to Democracy

- a) Analysis of common criticisms of democracy, such as populism and polarization
- b) Real-life example: The rise of populist movements in Europe and their impact on democratic institutions and values.
- c) Case study: The erosion of democratic norms in Hungary and Poland, highlighting the challenges faced by democracies in protecting democratic values.

Conclusion:

- Recap of key points discussed in the essay
- Reiteration of the quote's significance in understanding the relationship between democracy and governance
- Final thoughts on the importance of active citizenship, responsible governance, and safeguarding democratic institutions to ensure the proper functioning of democracy.

Q3. The greatest tragedy in mankind's entire history may be the hijacking of morality by religion.

Meaning:

- The quote by Arthur C. Clarke, "The greatest tragedy in mankind's entire history may be the hijacking of morality by religion," suggests that when religion becomes the sole arbiter of morality, it can lead to negative consequences. It implies that the imposition of religious doctrines and beliefs on moral judgments can limit individual autonomy, hinder critical thinking, and result in conflicts and ethical dilemmas.
- Clarke's quote challenges the notion that morality should be exclusively determined by religious teachings and emphasizes the potential dangers of such an approach. It calls for a critical examination of the relationship between religion and morality, urging individuals to question and evaluate the moral values propagated by religious institutions.
- The quote encourages individuals to consider the broader implications of religious influence on morality and highlights the importance of personal ethical autonomy, critical thinking, and an inclusive approach that embraces diverse perspectives. It prompts us to explore the complexities of religious morality and the need for a thoughtful balance between religious teachings, personal values, and the broader ethical principles that guide society.

Introduction:

- The quote, "The greatest tragedy in mankind's entire history may be the hijacking of morality by religion," by Arthur C. Clarke, invites us to explore the complex relationship between religion and morality. It provokes a

critical examination of how religious beliefs and practices have influenced moral frameworks throughout history.

- Thesis Statement: This essay aims to analyze the ways in which religion can impact morality, both positively and negatively, by exploring historical and contemporary instances, examining the role of religious institutions, and considering the perspectives of various scholars and thinkers. It will highlight the potential for religion to inspire individuals towards acts of compassion and righteousness, while also acknowledging the challenges and controversies that arise when religious beliefs are used to justify immoral actions.

Body:

I. Historical Perspectives on the Intersection of Religion and Morality

A. Ancient religious codes and moral principles

- Quote: "The moral principles outlined in ancient religious texts have provided guidance for generations, emphasizing virtues such as compassion, honesty, and justice." - Unknown
- Real-life Example: The Ten Commandments in Abrahamic religions as a moral foundation for believers.

B. Influence of religion on ethical systems throughout history

- Quote: "Religion has acted as a driving force for shaping moral frameworks across different civilizations, influencing societal values and individual conduct." - Karen Armstrong
- Case Study: The influence of Hinduism's principle of "Dharma" on moral decision-making in Indian society.

II. Religious Institutions as Guardians of Morality

A. The role of religious leaders in guiding moral behavior

- Quote: "Religious leaders serve as moral guides, imparting wisdom and encouraging adherents to follow ethical principles in their daily lives." - Dalai Lama
- Real-life Example: The influence of religious leaders like Pope Francis in advocating for social justice and promoting moral values.

B. Religious teachings on compassion, justice, and integrity

- Quote: "Religious teachings often emphasize the importance of compassion, justice, and integrity as core moral values that individuals should uphold." - Unknown
- Case Study: The work of Mother Teresa and her Missionaries of Charity in serving the poor and marginalized.

III. Controversies and Challenges in the Relationship between Religion and Morality

A. Religious conflicts and their impact on moral judgments

- Quote: "Religious conflicts have revealed the dark side of the intersection between religion and morality, as differing interpretations lead to moral justifications for violence and discrimination." - Unknown
- Real-life Example: The sectarian violence in Northern Ireland fueled by religious differences.

B. Divergent moral interpretations within religious communities

- Quote: "The diversity of religious interpretations can lead to conflicting moral perspectives within religious communities, challenging the notion of a singular religious morality." - Unknown
- Case Study: The debates within various religious groups over issues like LGBTQ+ rights and gender equality.

IV. Perspectives on the Separation of Religion and Morality

A. Secular ethics and alternative sources of morality

- Quote: "Secular ethics recognizes that morality can exist independently of religious beliefs, drawing upon reason, empathy, and humanistic principles." - Sam Harris
- Real-life Example: The growth of secular humanism as a moral framework based on human values and rationality.

B. Critiques of religious morality from secular thinkers

- Quote: "Critics argue that religious morality can be dogmatic and exclusionary, often failing to address the

complexities and diversity of human experiences." - Richard Dawkins

- Case Study: The controversy surrounding the legal and ethical implications of religious exemptions from certain medical treatments, such as Jehovah's Witnesses refusing blood transfusions.

Conclusion:

- In the conclusion, we will summarize the key themes covered in the essay and provide a concise reflection on the relationship between religion and morality. Some of the themes that can be covered in the conclusion include:
 - The complex interplay between religion and morality: Acknowledge the intricate and multifaceted nature of the relationship, recognizing that religion has both positive and negative impacts on moral values and behavior.
 - The importance of critical examination: Emphasize the significance of critically examining religious teachings and practices to ensure they align with ethical principles and promote inclusivity, justice, and compassion.
 - The need for ethical autonomy: Highlight the importance of individuals developing their own ethical framework based on reason, empathy, and a comprehensive understanding of diverse perspectives, beyond religious dogma.
 - The role of dialogue and understanding: Stress the significance of open and respectful dialogue between individuals of different religious and philosophical backgrounds to foster mutual understanding and bridge moral divides.
 - The quest for a harmonious society: Advocate for the promotion of moral values that transcend religious boundaries and contribute to the establishment of a just and harmonious society.
- By addressing these themes in the conclusion, we can provide a comprehensive and thought-provoking summary of the essay's exploration of the complex relationship between religion and morality.


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Q4. The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man.

Meaning:

- The quote "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt

the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man" suggests that progress and innovation are driven by individuals who refuse to conform to existing norms and conventions. It implies that those who challenge the status quo and think outside the box are the ones who bring about positive change and push society forward.

- The "reasonable man" represents those who conform to societal expectations and are content with the existing state of affairs. They adapt themselves to fit within the constraints of the world as it is. On the other hand, the "unreasonable one" refers to individuals who reject complacency and actively seek to reshape the world according to their own vision and ideas.
- According to the quote, it is the "unreasonable man" who drives progress because they persistently challenge existing limitations, question established practices, and push boundaries. They refuse to accept things as they are and strive to make improvements, innovations, and breakthroughs. By daring to be different and pursuing unconventional paths, they become agents of change and catalysts for progress.
- In essence, the quote highlights the importance of embracing an "unreasonable" mindset characterized by creativity, curiosity, and a willingness to challenge the status quo. It suggests that true progress and innovation come from those who are unafraid to go against the grain, think differently, and take risks to bring about transformative change.

Introduction:

- Hook: "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself." This thought-provoking quote by George Bernard Shaw highlights the role of the "unreasonable" individuals in driving progress and innovation.
- Background on the significance of progress and innovation in society.
- Thesis statement: This essay explores the meaning of the quote, its implications for progress, and provides real-life examples and case studies that demonstrate the importance of embracing an "unreasonable" mindset for driving innovation across various dimensions.

Body:

I. Understanding the Quote

- Explanation of the quote's meaning: The distinction between the reasonable and unreasonable individuals and their approach to the world.
- Elaboration on the concept of adaptability versus the pursuit of change and transformation.
- Importance of challenging the status quo and embracing an unconventional mindset.
- Example: Albert Einstein
- Quote: "Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution." - Albert Einstein
 - Description: Albert Einstein, with his unconventional thinking and rejection of established norms, revolutionized physics with his theory of relativity. His imagination and willingness to challenge prevailing beliefs led to groundbreaking scientific advancements.
- Case Study: SpaceX
 - Description: SpaceX, founded by Elon Musk, exemplifies the pursuit of the unreasonable in the field of space exploration. The company's mission to make space travel more accessible and affordable seemed implausible to many, but through relentless innovation and unconventional approaches, SpaceX has achieved significant milestones, such as the successful development of reusable rockets and the launch of commercial satellites.

II. The Role of the Unreasonable Man in Science and Technology

- Exploration of how scientific and technological advancements often arise from the pursuit of the unreasonable.
- Real-life examples of innovative thinkers who defied conventions and made groundbreaking discoveries.
- Example: Thomas Edison
- Quote: "I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." - Thomas Edison

- Description: Thomas Edison, the inventor of the practical electric light bulb, exemplifies the spirit of the unreasonable. Despite numerous failures and setbacks, his perseverance and unconventional methods eventually led to one of the most significant technological advancements in history.
- Case Study: CRISPR-Cas9
 - Description: The development of CRISPR-Cas9, a revolutionary gene-editing tool, highlights the impact of unreasonable innovation in the field of biotechnology. Scientists Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier, through their visionary research and unorthodox approach, unlocked the potential to edit genes with unprecedented precision, opening up possibilities for advancements in medicine, agriculture, and beyond.

III. Unreasonableness in Social and Political Change

- Examination of how societal progress and political transformation often require the persistence and audacity of unreasonable individuals.
- Quotes and examples from influential leaders who challenged the existing social norms and fought for justice and equality.
- Example: Mahatma Gandhi
- Quote: "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." - Mahatma Gandhi
 - Description: Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent resistance and unwavering commitment to India's independence from British rule demonstrate the power of unreasonable activism. His peaceful methods and determination inspired millions and led to significant social and political change.
- Case Study: Civil Rights Movement in the United States
 - Description: The Civil Rights Movement in the United States, spearheaded by leaders like Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and others, challenged racial segregation and discrimination. Their unreasonable pursuit of equality and justice through nonviolent protests and civil disobedience reshaped the social and political landscape, leading to landmark legislations and the advancement of civil rights for African Americans.

IV. Unreasonable Innovation in Business and Entrepreneurship

- Exploration of how unreasonable thinking and innovation drive entrepreneurial success and economic growth.
- Real-life examples of visionary entrepreneurs who disrupted industries and achieved remarkable success.
- Example: Steve Jobs
- Quote: "Stay hungry, stay foolish." - Steve Jobs
 - Description: Steve Jobs, the co-founder of Apple Inc., epitomized the spirit of unreasonable innovation. His relentless pursuit of excellence and his refusal to conform to traditional industry norms revolutionized the technology landscape. The creation of iconic products like the iPhone and the Macintosh computer stands as a testament to his unreasonable vision.
- Case Study: Airbnb
 - Description: Airbnb, founded by Brian Chesky, Joe Gebbia, and Nathan Blecharczyk, is an example of an innovative and disruptive business that challenged the hospitality industry. By connecting travelers with unique accommodation options offered by individuals, Airbnb transformed the way people travel and disrupted the traditional hotel industry.

Conclusion:

- Recap of the main points discussed, emphasizing the importance of the "unreasonable" mindset in driving progress and innovation.
- Reinforcement of the quote's meaning and its relevance in various domains, including science, technology, social change, and business.
- Final thoughts on the significance of embracing an unreasonable approach to overcome challenges, create positive change, and shape a better future.

Q5. Human resources are like natural resources; they're often buried deep. You have to go looking for them; they're not just lying around on the surface.

Meaning:

- This quote highlights the analogy between human resources and natural resources, emphasizing that valuable talent and potential in individuals are not always readily apparent. Just as valuable minerals and resources are hidden beneath the surface, human capabilities and talents may be hidden or undiscovered. It conveys the idea that discovering and harnessing human potential requires effort, exploration, and investment. The quote underscores the importance of recognizing and nurturing the talents and abilities of individuals to unlock their full potential and contribute to organizational and societal growth.
- "Human resources are the lifeblood of any organization, the catalysts of innovation and the driving force behind success. They are not merely assets on a balance sheet, but the heartbeat of an organization, breathing life into its vision and propelling it towards greatness. Without the investment in developing and nurturing human resources, organizations risk stagnation, missed opportunities, and a loss of competitive advantage. In an era where knowledge and skills are the currency of progress, it is the enlightened organizations that understand the true value of their human resources and invest in their growth and well-being. By recognizing and harnessing the potential of their people, organizations can unleash a cascade of creativity, productivity, and excellence, shaping a future where success knows no bounds. The importance of human resources cannot be overstated, as they hold the key to unlocking the unlimited possibilities that lie within."

Introduction:

- Hook: Start with a thought-provoking statement about the importance of human resources.
- Background: Provide a brief overview of the quote by Ken Robinson.
- Thesis Statement: Discuss the significance of human resources in organizations and explore how they contribute to organizational success.

Body:

I. The Value of Human Resources

- Quote: "The only source of competitive advantage is the one that can survive technology-fueled disruption: an obsession with talent."
- Explain the quote and its meaning in the context of human resources.
- Real-life Example: The success story of Netflix and how its focus on hiring and retaining top talent contributed to its growth and dominance in the streaming industry.
- Case Study: The employee development programs at General Electric (GE) and their impact on the company's ability to foster innovation and drive growth.

II. Talent Acquisition and Development

- Quote: "Great vision without great people is irrelevant." - Jim Collins
- Discuss the process of talent acquisition and how it contributes to building a skilled workforce.
- Real-life Example: The talent acquisition strategies of companies like Google and Apple, and how they attract top talent from around the world.
- Case Study: The employee training and development initiatives at Amazon and their role in upskilling the workforce and driving business outcomes.

III. Employee Engagement and Motivation

- Quote: "Employees who believe that management is concerned about them as a whole person - not just an employee - are more productive, more satisfied, more fulfilled." - Anne M. Mulcahy
- Explain the importance of employee engagement and its link to organizational productivity and success.
- Real-life Example: The employee engagement initiatives at Zappos and how they foster a positive work culture and drive customer satisfaction.
- Case Study: The motivational techniques used by Southwest Airlines to inspire its employees and create a customer-centric service culture.

IV. Effective Leadership and Human Resources

- Quote: "The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership." - Harvey S. Firestone
- Explore the role of leadership in managing and maximizing human resources.
- Real-life Example: The leadership approach of Satya Nadella at Microsoft and its impact on employee empowerment, innovation, and organizational transformation.
- Case Study: The people-centered leadership style of Richard Branson and its influence on the success of the Virgin Group.

V. Diversity and Inclusion

- Quote: "Diversity is being invited to the party; inclusion is being asked to dance." - Verna Myers
- Discuss the significance of diversity and inclusion in the context of human resources.
- Real-life Example: The diversity and inclusion initiatives at IBM and their impact on fostering innovation, creativity, and employee satisfaction.
- Case Study: The inclusive workplace culture at Salesforce and how it drives employee engagement and business performance.

VI. Challenges and Future Trends

- Quote: "The future of work is about harnessing human potential, not replacing it." - Diane Gherson
- Identify the challenges organizations face in managing and leveraging human resources effectively.
- Real-life Example: The impact of technological advancements on job roles and the need for reskilling and upskilling employees to adapt to the changing landscape.
- Case Study: The implementation of artificial intelligence (AI) in human resources management and its potential benefits and ethical considerations.

Conclusion:

- Recap the key points discussed in the essay and their significance.
- Emphasize the critical role of human resources in organizational success.
- Concluding Statement: Reinforce the idea that investing in human resources is essential for organizations to thrive and achieve their goals in a rapidly changing world.

Q6. Disruptive Technology: Our world's future is far more malleable and controllable than most people realize.

Meaning:

- The quote "Disruptive Technology: Our world's future is far more malleable and controllable than most people realize" emphasizes the transformative power of disruptive technology in shaping our future. It suggests that advancements in technology have the potential to reshape industries, societies, and our daily lives in ways that are often underestimated by the general population. This quote highlights the idea that our future is not predetermined or fixed, but rather, it is influenced by our ability to embrace and harness the potential of disruptive technologies.
- It signifies that technology has the capacity to bring about significant changes, challenging established norms, and creating new opportunities. It emphasizes the need for individuals, businesses, and societies to recognize the potential of disruptive technologies and adapt to the evolving landscape. By acknowledging the malleability and controllability of our future through technology, we are encouraged to embrace innovation, explore new possibilities, and take calculated risks to shape a better world.
- In essence, the quote conveys the importance of being proactive, open-minded, and adaptable in the face of disruptive technology. It reminds us that the future is not predetermined, but rather, it is shaped by our choices, actions, and our ability to harness the transformative power of technology to drive positive change.

Introduction:

- Hook: "As Nobel laureate Eric Hoffer once said, 'In times of change, learners inherit the earth, while the learned find themselves beautifully equipped to deal with a world that no longer exists.' This quote captures the essence of disruptive technology and its transformative potential in shaping our future."
 - "The future is not a fixed path, but an open canvas waiting to be painted. As author John Naisbitt once said, 'The future belongs to those who see possibilities before they become obvious.' This quote encapsulates the idea that our world's future is not predetermined, but shaped by our actions and choices."
- Background on the concept of disruptive technology and its significance in today's rapidly evolving world.
- Thesis statement: "This essay delves into the profound impact of disruptive technology, weaving together quotes, compelling case studies, and a range of futuristic themes to illuminate the extent to which our world's future can be shaped and controlled."

Body:***I. Economic Disruption:***

- Quote: "Disruptive technologies create new market opportunities and drive economic growth. As Clayton M. Christensen stated, 'Disruption is a process, not an event.'"
- Case study: The emergence of blockchain technology and its potential to revolutionize industries beyond cryptocurrencies, such as supply chain management, financial services, and healthcare.

II. Social Empowerment:

- Quote: "Disruptive technology has the power to empower individuals and communities, enabling them to create meaningful change. According to Melinda Gates, 'Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important.'"
- Case study: The rise of social media platforms and their impact on activism, social movements, and citizen journalism, showcasing how technology amplifies the voices of the marginalized and fosters global connections.

III. Environmental Sustainability:

- Quote: "Disruptive technology can play a pivotal role in addressing environmental challenges and fostering sustainable practices. As Elon Musk once said, 'The overarching objective of Tesla is to help accelerate the advent of sustainable transport.'"
- Case study: The potential of advanced renewable energy solutions in reshaping the energy landscape and driving the transition to a sustainable future.

IV. Healthcare Transformation:

- Quote: "Disruptive technology is revolutionizing healthcare delivery and improving patient outcomes. According to Dr. Eric Topol, 'We are moving from an era of one-size-fits-all medicine to targeted approaches based on an individual's unique genetic makeup.'"
- Case study: The impact of artificial intelligence and machine learning in healthcare, including diagnosis, personalized treatment plans, and drug discovery, opening new frontiers for precision medicine and enhancing patient care.

V. Education and Learning:

- Quote: "Disruptive technology has the potential to revolutionize education and learning. As Sir Ken Robinson stated, 'The principle goal of education in the schools should be creating men and women who are capable of doing new things, not simply repeating what other generations have done.'"
- Case study: The rise of online learning platforms and adaptive educational tools, transforming traditional classroom models and providing accessible and personalized learning experiences.

VI. Future of Work:

- Quote: "Disruptive technology is reshaping the landscape of work and employment. According to Jack Ma, 'The world is changing very fast. Big will not beat small anymore. It will be the fast beating the slow.'"

- Case study: The impact of automation, artificial intelligence, and gig economy platforms on job roles, workforce dynamics, and the need for upskilling and reskilling to thrive in the future job market.

VII. Futuristic Perspectives:

- Quote: "The future belongs to those who understand that exponential technology trends will reshape society. As Peter Diamandis said, 'The best way to predict the future is to create it.'"
- Exploring emerging technologies like quantum computing, virtual reality, and augmented reality, and their potential implications for communication, education, entertainment, and human experiences.

VIII. Ethical Considerations:

- Discuss the ethical dilemmas and considerations raised by disruptive technology, such as privacy concerns, data security, and algorithmic bias.
- Real-life example: The Cambridge Analytica scandal, which highlighted the ethical implications of data misuse and the need for stronger privacy protections.

Conclusion:

- Recap of the transformative power of disruptive technology across various domains, including economic, social, environmental, healthcare, education, and work sectors.
- Final quote emphasizing the need to embrace and responsibly navigate the future of disruptive technology for a world that we can actively shape and control.

Q7. Women, like men, should try to do the impossible. And when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others.

Meaning:

- The quote "Women, like men, should try to do the impossible. And when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others" emphasizes the importance of women pushing boundaries and striving for excellence, even in the face of failure. It suggests that women should not be discouraged by setbacks but instead use them as opportunities to inspire and motivate others.
- This quote acknowledges that both men and women have the potential to achieve extraordinary feats and make a difference in the world. It highlights the need for women to break through societal barriers, challenge stereotypes, and pursue their goals with determination and resilience.
- When women take on seemingly impossible tasks and persevere, even if they encounter failures along the way, their efforts become a catalyst for change. Their failures serve as a challenge to others, urging them to question societal limitations and strive for greatness.
- Overall, the quote encourages women to embrace their capabilities, pursue their dreams, and view their failures as stepping stones to success. It conveys the idea that women have the power to inspire and create a lasting impact by pushing boundaries and defying expectations.

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Introduction:

- The quote "Women, like men, should try to do the impossible. And when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others" conveys a powerful message about gender equality and empowerment. It emphasizes that both women and men possess the potential to strive for extraordinary achievements, and their failures can serve as inspiration for others. This essay explores the meaning and implications of this quote, highlighting the importance of gender equality and the significance of women's and men's successes and failures in challenging societal norms.
- Thesis Statement: The quote underscores the need for gender equality by encouraging both women and men to pursue remarkable goals and view their failures as opportunities to motivate and inspire others.

Body:***I. Breaking Gender Stereotypes:***

- Discuss the historical gender stereotypes that have limited women's aspirations and potential.
- Highlight the importance of challenging these stereotypes to achieve gender equality.
- Quote: "Gender equality is not a women's issue, it is a human issue. It affects us all." - Michelle Bachelet

II. Striving for Extraordinary Achievements:

- Emphasize the importance of both women and men setting ambitious goals and pursuing greatness.
- Explore examples of women and men who have defied societal expectations and achieved remarkable success.
- Real-life example (Women): Share the story of Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the only person to win Nobel Prizes in two different scientific fields.
- Real-life example (Men): Share the story of Elon Musk, an entrepreneur who has made ground-breaking advancements in the fields of electric vehicles, space travel, and renewable energy.
- Quote: "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." - Marie Curie

III. Embracing Failure as a Catalyst for Change:

- Discuss the idea that failure is not a reflection of one's abilities but a stepping stone to success, applicable to both women and men.
- Highlight the significance of resilience and determination in overcoming failures.
- Real-life example (Women): Share the story of J.K. Rowling, who faced rejection and setbacks before achieving immense success with the Harry Potter series.
- Real-life example (Men): Share the story of Steve Jobs, who experienced failures but persevered to revolutionize the technology industry.
- Quote: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts." - Winston Churchill

IV. Inspiring Others Through Resilience:

- Explore how the failures of both women and men can motivate and inspire others to overcome their own challenges.
- Discuss the importance of sharing stories of resilience and perseverance from both genders.
- Real-life example (Women): Share the story of Serena Williams, a tennis champion who has overcome setbacks and adversity to become one of the greatest athletes of all time.
- Real-life example (Men): Share the story of Nelson Mandela, a renowned leader who fought against apartheid and inspired the world with his resilience and forgiveness.
- Quote: "It is in our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." - Aristotle Onassis

V. Embracing the Impossible:

- Discuss the societal barriers and stereotypes that have historically limited women's aspirations.
- Highlight the importance of women challenging these limitations and pursuing ambitious goals.
- Quote: "Believe in yourself, take on your challenges, dig deep within yourself to conquer fears. Never let anyone bring you down. You got this." - Chantal Sutherland

VI. Resilience in the Face of Failure:

- Explore the idea of failure as a natural part of the journey toward success.
- Discuss the importance of resilience and perseverance in overcoming failures.
- Real-life example: Share the story of J.K. Rowling, who faced numerous rejections before achieving immense success with the Harry Potter series.
- Quote: "Failure is so important. It is the ability to resist failure or use failure that often leads to greater success." - J.K. Rowling

VII. Inspiring Others Through Failure:

- Discuss how women's failures can serve as a motivation and challenge for others.
- Highlight the idea that failure is not a reflection of one's abilities but an opportunity for growth.
- Real-life example: Share the story of Serena Williams, who has faced setbacks but continues to inspire with her determination and resilience.
- Quote: "I think you have to embrace the fear and allow yourself to fail forward." - Serena Williams

VIII. Breaking Societal Expectations:

- Explore how women challenging the impossible can break traditional gender roles and expectations.
- Discuss the impact of women's achievements on inspiring future generations.
- Real-life example: Share the story of Malala Yousafzai, who defied societal norms and fought for girls' education.
- Quote: "I raise up my voice—not so I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard." - Malala Yousafzai

Conclusion:

- The quote "Women, like men, should try to do the impossible. And when they fail, their failure should be a challenge to others" highlights the need for gender equality and empowerment. By encouraging both women and men to aim for remarkable achievements and view their failures as sources of inspiration, we can challenge societal norms and create a more equitable and inclusive world. When individuals from all genders embrace the impossible and demonstrate resilience in the face of adversity, they inspire others to push beyond their limits and strive for greatness. Through collective effort and support, we can build a society where everyone, regardless of gender, is empowered to pursue their dreams and make a lasting impact. By recognizing the potential of both women and men to accomplish the impossible and learning from their failures, we can create a more inclusive and progressive world for future generations.

Q8. One day there will be no borders, no boundaries, no flags and no countries and the only passport will be the heart.

Meaning:

- The quote expresses the vision of a world without physical and ideological divisions. It suggests that in the future, humanity will transcend the concept of national boundaries and unite based on a shared sense of humanity and compassion. The quote emphasizes the power of love and understanding as the ultimate unifying forces that surpass cultural, political, and geographic differences. It envisions a world where people recognize their interconnectedness and embrace a global community based on mutual respect and cooperation.

Introduction:

- Hook statement: Imagine a world where the divisions that separate us vanish, and the only passport we need is the love within us. As the renowned musician Carlos Santana once said, "The world is one family, and we are all interconnected souls dancing to the rhythm of the universe."
- Thesis statement: In this essay, we delve into the profound message behind the quote, exploring the vision of a borderless world driven by compassion, unity, and interconnectedness.

Body:***I. Breaking Down Barriers:***

- The quote suggests that a future without borders and boundaries is possible, signifying a world where people can freely travel, live, and work across nations. It highlights the potential for greater mobility and exchange, fostering cultural diversity and understanding.
- Quote by Carlos Santana: "We are all citizens of the world, with no borders, no boundaries. We are connected through music, love, and a shared humanity."
- Example: The Schengen Area in Europe, where countries have abolished internal borders, allowing for seamless travel and fostering a sense of shared identity.
- Quote by Nelson Mandela: "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."
- Example: The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, symbolizing the dismantling of physical barriers and the reunification of a divided nation.

II. Unity and Cultural Harmony:

- The absence of flags and national boundaries in the quote emphasizes the power of cultural unity and harmony.
- A world without such divisions encourages the celebration of diversity and the sharing of traditions, languages, and customs.
- By embracing cultural exchange and understanding, societies can grow more tolerant, inclusive, and accepting.
- Case studies of international events like the Olympics or global music festivals showcase how people from different countries come together to appreciate and learn from one another's cultures, breaking down stereotypes and fostering mutual respect.
- Quote by Maya Angelou: "We are more alike, my friends, than we are unlike."
- Example: The rise of multiculturalism in cities like New York and London, where diverse communities come together, celebrating their differences and embracing cultural exchange.

III. Environmental Stewardship:

- The quote's mention of a borderless world also holds relevance in addressing global environmental challenges.
- Issues like climate change, deforestation, and pollution transcend national boundaries and require international cooperation.
- Real-life examples, such as the Paris Agreement, demonstrate the significance of collaborative efforts in mitigating environmental risks.
- By working together across borders, countries can pool resources, share knowledge, and develop sustainable solutions for a healthier planet.

IV. Global Governance and Peace:

- The absence of countries and flags in the quote alludes to the idea of a borderless world where global governance takes precedence.
- In such a world, international institutions play a crucial role in resolving conflicts, promoting peace, and upholding human rights.
- Quote by Jane Goodall: "Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference."
- Real-life examples of diplomatic negotiations, peacekeeping missions, and organizations like the United Nations showcase the importance of global cooperation in maintaining stability and justice.

V. Humanitarian Endeavors and Global Solidarity:

- Quote by Mahatma Gandhi: "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
- Example: The work of organizations like Amnesty International, dedicated to promoting human rights worldwide, transcending national boundaries in their pursuit of justice and equality.

VI. Technological Advancements and Virtual Connectivity:

- Quote by Tim Berners-Lee: "The web is more a social creation than a technical one. I designed it for a social effect—to help people work together—and not as a technical toy."
- Example: The impact of social media platforms in fostering global connections, breaking down barriers, and giving a voice to marginalized communities.

Conclusion:

- The quote challenges us to imagine a world where divisions are transcended, and a sense of unity prevails. While it may seem like an idealistic vision, it reminds us of the importance of breaking down barriers, fostering cultural harmony, addressing environmental challenges, and promoting global governance.
- Recap the key points discussed, emphasizing the powerful vision of a world where borders, flags, and divisions are replaced by a shared understanding and love for humanity.
- Reinforce the importance of embracing our interconnectedness and recognizing that we all have a role to play in building a more inclusive and harmonious world.
- Encourage individuals to foster empathy, promote unity, and celebrate the beauty of our collective existence, where the only passport needed is the love that beats within our hearts.

Q9. Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites.

Meaning:

- The quote "Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites" by William Ruckelshaus conveys the idea that while the natural world offers abundant resources and benefits, it is essential for us to exercise restraint and sustainable practices in order to fully enjoy and preserve those benefits. It emphasizes the importance of responsible stewardship and the need to strike a balance between human development and the protection of the environment. Essentially, the quote suggests that we can reap the rewards of nature's provisions, but only if we exercise self-control and adopt practices that ensure the long-term health and sustainability of our ecosystems.

Introduction:

- Hook statement: The delicate balance between the environment and development is a pressing concern in today's world. As William Ruckelshaus, former administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, once said, "Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites."
- Thesis statement: This essay explores the philosophical implications of the quote, highlighting the need for responsible and sustainable practices that reconcile the demands of development with the preservation of our natural environment.

Body:

I. The Quest for Development:

- Quote by Mahatma Gandhi: "Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed."
- Example: Instances of unbridled exploitation of natural resources in the pursuit of economic growth, leading to environmental degradation and ecological imbalances.

II. The Ecological Footprint:

- Quote by Chief Seattle: "The earth does not belong to us. We belong to the earth."
- Example: The concept of the ecological footprint, highlighting the impact of human activities on the environment and the importance of mindful consumption and sustainable lifestyles.

III. Sustainable Development: Balancing the Equation:

- Quote by Ban Ki-moon: "Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all."

- Example: Success stories of sustainable development projects that prioritize environmental conservation, social well-being, and economic progress, such as renewable energy initiatives, organic farming practices, and green urban planning.

IV. The Role of Technology and Innovation:

- Quote by Elon Musk: "We have a moral duty to use technology to protect our planet and its inhabitants."
- Example: Technological advancements and innovative solutions that promote environmental sustainability, such as clean energy technologies, waste management systems, and conservation-focused applications.

V. Policy and Global Cooperation:

- Quote by Wangari Maathai: "You cannot protect the environment unless you empower people, you inform them, and you help them understand that these resources are their own, that they must protect them."
- Example: International agreements and collaborative efforts among nations to address global environmental challenges, emphasizing the importance of policy frameworks and collective action.

Conclusion:

- Recap the central theme of the essay, highlighting the need to control our appetites and adopt responsible practices in the pursuit of development.
- Emphasize the importance of sustainable development as a means to safeguard the environment for future generations.
- Call for individual and collective action, urging people to embrace eco-conscious behaviors, support sustainable policies, and foster a harmonious relationship between development and the environment.
- Conclude with a powerful thought-provoking statement that leaves the reader with a sense of responsibility towards preserving our planet.

Q10. Civilization is the progress toward a society of privacy. The savage's whole existence is public, ruled by the laws of his tribe. Civilization is the process of setting man free from men.

Meaning:

- The quote by Ayn Rand highlights the concept of privacy and its significance in the progress of civilization. It suggests that as societies evolve, there is a shift from a primitive state where individuals have limited privacy and are bound by tribal laws, to a more advanced civilization where privacy is valued and individuals are liberated from the control of others.
- The quote implies that privacy is a fundamental aspect of human progress and development. In a civilized society, individuals have the freedom to protect their personal lives, thoughts, and actions from public scrutiny and interference. It signifies the importance of individual autonomy and the right to have personal space without external interference or judgment.
- Furthermore, the quote suggests that privacy is essential for the flourishing of individuality, creativity, and innovation. When individuals have the freedom to explore their thoughts, ideas, and beliefs privately, they can develop unique perspectives and contribute to the advancement of society.
- In summary, the quote emphasizes that privacy is a crucial aspect of civilization and human progress. It signifies the transition from a communal existence to a society that values individuality, personal freedom, and the right to privacy.

Introduction:

- Hook: "In the age of digital connectivity, the words of Ayn Rand ring true: 'Civilization is the progress toward a society of privacy. The savage's whole existence is public, ruled by the laws of his tribe. Civilization is the process of setting man free from men.' These profound words compel us to reflect on the timeless importance of privacy in shaping the course of human civilization."

- Thesis: Privacy, a cornerstone of individual freedom and self-determination, plays a pivotal role in the advancement of civilization. It serves as a catalyst for personal growth, social harmony, and the protection of fundamental rights, ultimately contributing to a more inclusive and enlightened society.

Body:***I. Privacy in the Primitive State: Communal Existence and Collective Norms***

- Quote: "In traditional societies, privacy is often sacrificed in favor of communal living and collective decision-making." - Margaret Mead, Cultural Anthropologist
- Example: Indigenous tribes, living in close-knit communities, prioritize collective interests over personal privacy, with shared spaces and transparent governance structures.

II. Privacy as a Pillar of Individual Autonomy: Safeguarding Personal Boundaries

- Quote: "The right to privacy is one of the most important elements of individual freedom." - Warren E. Burger, Former Chief Justice of the United States
- Example: Landmark legal cases, such as Roe v. Wade, have recognized the right to privacy as integral to personal autonomy, particularly in matters of reproductive choices.

III. Privacy as a Catalyst for Intellectual and Artistic Expression: Unleashing Human Potential

- Quote: "In solitude, great ideas are born, and the depths of creativity are explored." - Maya Angelou, Poet and Author
- Example: Renowned artists, writers, and scientists often retreat to private spaces to nurture their creativity, allowing their imaginations to flourish beyond the constraints of public scrutiny.

IV. Privacy and Social Progress: Fostering Diversity and Inclusive Dialogue

- Quote: "The right to be left alone is indeed the beginning of all freedom." - William O. Douglas, Former Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States
- Example: The LGBTQ+ rights movement fought for privacy protections, enabling individuals to freely express their identities and challenging societal norms, leading to greater acceptance and social progress.

V. Privacy in the Digital Era: Balancing Connectivity and Individual Rights

- Quote: "In an age of relentless connectivity, we must strike a delicate balance between transparency and personal privacy." - Sheryl Sandberg, Chief Operating Officer of Facebook
- Example: The Cambridge Analytica scandal exposed the need for robust privacy regulations in the digital realm, urging policymakers and tech companies to prioritize user privacy and data protection.

VI. The Future of Privacy: Technological Advancements and Ethical Considerations

- Quote: "As we navigate the era of artificial intelligence and big data, preserving privacy will require innovative solutions and ethical frameworks." - Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google
- Example: The advent of technologies like facial recognition and surveillance systems raises concerns about the potential encroachment on personal privacy and the importance of ensuring responsible use.

VII. Privacy in the Advanced Civilization: Balancing Transparency and Individual Rights

- Quote: "Privacy is not about hiding, it's about being able to control how we present ourselves to the world." - Esther Dyson, Technology Writer and Investor
- Example: The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) sets strict standards for data privacy and empowers individuals with greater control over their personal information.

VIII. Privacy as a Fundamental Human Right: Upholding Dignity and Security

- Quote: "Privacy is not a privilege, it is a fundamental human right." - Catherine Crump, Director of Samuelson Law, Technology & Public Policy Clinic
- Example: The landmark Supreme Court ruling in the case of Roe v. Wade recognized a woman's right to privacy in matters related to reproductive health.

IX. Privacy in the Digital Age: Challenges and Solutions

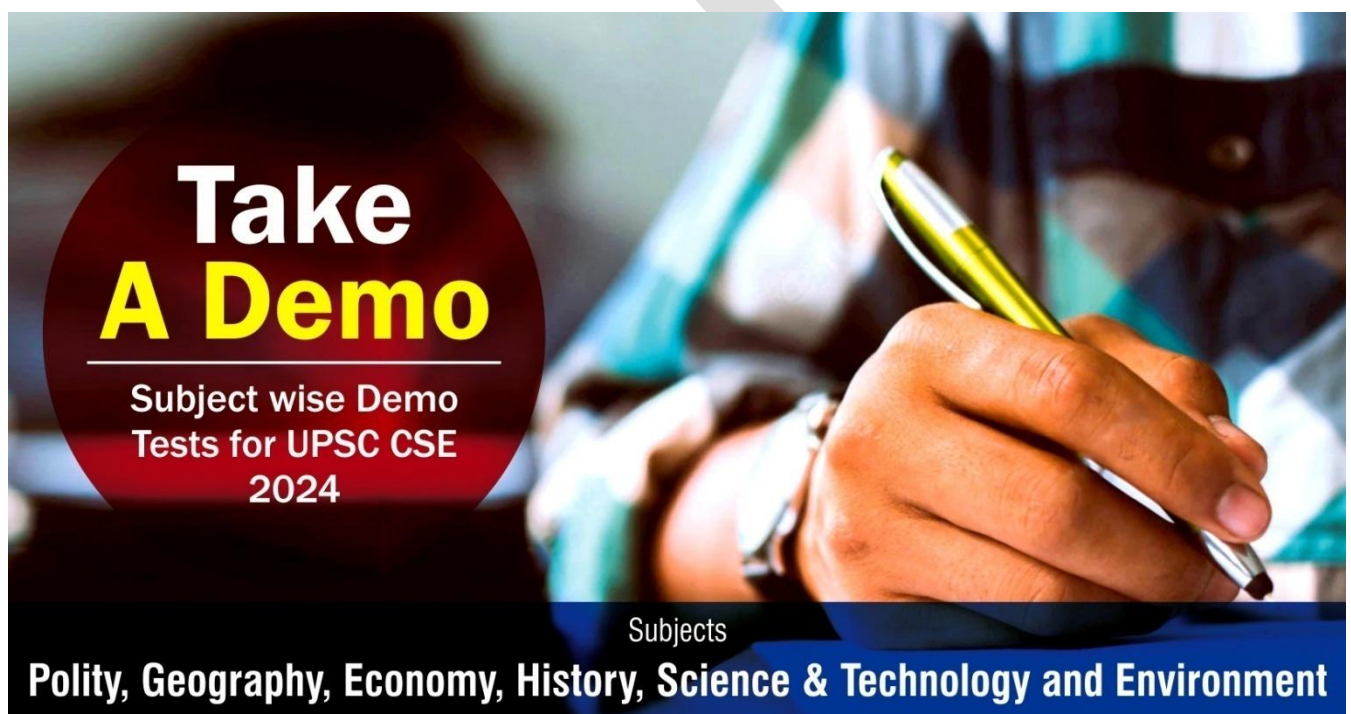
- Quote: "Privacy is not an option, and it shouldn't be the price we accept for just getting on the internet." - Gary Kovacs, Former CEO of Mozilla
- Example: The Cambridge Analytica scandal revealed the extent to which personal data can be exploited without individuals' consent, prompting a global conversation about the need for robust privacy regulations in the digital realm.

X. Striking the Balance: Privacy, National Security, and Surveillance

- Quote: "The balance between privacy and security is a delicate one." - Philip Hammond, Former UK Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Example: The ongoing debate surrounding government surveillance programs, such as the USA PATRIOT Act, raises questions about the trade-off between individual privacy and national security interests.

Conclusion:

- Recap the vital role of privacy in the progress of civilization, enabling personal growth, fostering social harmony, and protecting fundamental rights.
- Emphasize the need for a comprehensive approach to privacy, encompassing legal frameworks, technological safeguards, and societal awareness.
- Conclude with a thought-provoking statement: "In our quest for an enlightened civilization, let us safeguard the essence of privacy, recognizing it as the cornerstone of individual freedom and a catalyst for the progress of society."



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25 Probable Questions On GS I Paper

(Students should note that these are model answers. Hence, they are advised to pick up important points, phrases and data as per the word limit and demand of the question.)

Q1. Analyze the contributions of Indian School of Painting in depicting religious, mythological, and courtly themes, and its role in shaping the visual representation of Indian art and culture.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- The question is in line with the UPSC's focus on current affairs. The Indian School of Painting has been featured in recent news articles and publications, and candidates are expected to be familiar with this topic.
- The question is analytical in nature. It requires candidates to think critically about the Indian School of Painting and its contributions to Indian art and culture.

Approach

1. Introduce Indian School of Painting (25 words)
2. Explain the contributions of Indian School of Painting in depicting religious, mythological, and courtly themes (125 words)
3. Discuss the role of Indian School of Painting in shaping the visual representation of Indian art and culture (75 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- The Indian School of Painting has made significant contributions to the depiction of religious, mythological, and courtly themes, playing a pivotal role in shaping the visual representation of Indian art and culture. They can be categorized into- Modern Indian Painting, Wall Painting, and Miniature Painting.

Body:**Religious Themes:**

- Religious themes hold immense importance in Indian art, and the Indian School of Painting has effectively portrayed the multifaceted aspects of various religions practiced in the country. From the intricate miniatures of the Mughal school depicting scenes from the life of the Prophet Muhammad to the vibrant depictions of Hindu deities in the Rajput school, religious art reflects the spiritual beliefs and cultural traditions of India. These paintings not only serve as visual narratives but also evoke devotion and reverence among the viewers. Religious texts on Buddhism under the Palashad miniature paintings, the illustrations on Jain religious manuscripts during Chalukya dynasty, Mysore paintings, Thangka Painting are few examples.

Mythological themes:

- Mythological themes are another significant aspect of the Indian School of Painting. The depiction of stories from ancient Indian epics such as the Ramayana and Mahabharata has been a recurring motif in Indian art. The school's contributions in portraying the heroic deeds of gods, goddesses, and mythical characters have helped preserve and pass down these ancient narratives through generations. The Rajput and Deccani schools, in particular, have beautifully captured mythological tales, employing intricate details and vibrant color palettes. It offers positivity, and contributes to spirituality.

Courtly themes:

- Courtly themes, often associated with royal patronage, showcase the opulence and grandeur of the Indian princely courts. The Mughal school, with its refined techniques and meticulous attention to detail, portrayed courtly life and events with great finesse. These paintings served as visual representations of power, authority, and the magnificence of the royal courts. The Mughal miniatures, known for their delicate brushwork and intricate designs, have set standards for artistic excellence, and influenced subsequent generations of Indian artists.

Role in shaping the visual representation of Indian art and culture:

- The Indian School of Painting has played a vital role in shaping the visual representation of Indian art and culture. Through its exquisite craftsmanship, meticulous detailing, and adherence to cultural traditions, it has helped create a distinct artistic identity for India. These paintings have not only served as aesthetic objects but also provided insights into the socio-cultural milieu of different periods in Indian history.
- Moreover, the Indian School of Painting has influenced other forms of visual arts, such as sculpture, architecture, and even contemporary art practices. It has inspired artists across generations to explore new artistic expressions while staying rooted in the rich artistic heritage of India.

Conclusion:

- The artistic achievements of Indian School of Painting have shaped the visual representation of Indian art and culture, preserving, and passing down religious and mythological narratives and capturing the grandeur of courtly life. The school's influence extends beyond its immediate context, impacting the broader artistic landscape of India and serving as a testament to the rich cultural heritage of the country.

Q2. Examine the impact of colonialism on Indian art and culture, highlighting the changes and continuities in artistic expressions during that period.

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- As the UPSC mains aim to assess candidates' knowledge and understanding of India's history and cultural heritage, a question on the impact of colonialism on Indian art and culture aligns well with the examination's objectives. Understanding this impact can help candidates develop a deeper appreciation for Indian art and culture. This question allows candidates to demonstrate their ability to make connections between historical events and their lasting implications on the country's contemporary cultural expressions.

Approach

1. Introduce the impact of colonialism on Indian art and culture (25 words)
2. Explain the changes in artistic expressions during that period (50 words)
3. Also explain the continuities in artistic expressions during that period (50 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- The impact of colonialism on Indian art and culture was profound, bringing about significant changes and continuities in artistic expressions during that period. Colonial rule, primarily by the British, influenced various aspects of Indian art like paintings, literature, handicrafts etc., ranging from subject matter and techniques to patronage and the reception of art. Analyzing this impact provides insights into the complex dynamics between colonial powers and indigenous artistic traditions.

Body:**Changes in artistic expressions during that period:**

- One of the most significant changes that occurred during the colonial period was the **introduction of oil painting**. Oil painting was a new medium for Indian artists, and it allowed them to create more realistic and detailed paintings. The British encouraged Indian artists to paint landscapes and portraits, which were not

traditional subjects in Indian art. This led to a diversification of Indian painting, as artists began to explore new themes and subjects.

- The impact of colonialism on Indian literature was profound. The British introduced **new literary forms**, such as the novel and the short story, and they also encouraged the translation of Western literature into Indian languages.
- English became the language of government, education, and commerce, and this led to a decline in the use of traditional Indian languages. As a result, many Indian writers began to write in English, and this led to the development of a new genre of Indian literature: **Indian English literature**.
- The British introduced new materials, techniques, and designs, which led to a **hybridization of Indian and Western handicrafts**. New materials were introduced, such as machine-made yarn and dyes. These materials were cheaper and more readily available than the traditional materials used by Indian artisans, which led to a decline in the use of traditional materials.

Continuities in artistic expressions during that period:

- **Traditional art forms** like miniature painting, sculpture, and folk art continued to flourish, albeit with adaptations to suit the changing times. Artists found ways to incorporate colonial influences without completely abandoning their indigenous roots. For example, the Bengal School of Art, led by artists like Rabindranath Tagore, sought to revive traditional Indian art forms while incorporating elements of European academic art.
- There were also continuities in **Indian literature** during the colonial period. Many Indian writers continued to use traditional Indian techniques and styles. They also continued to depict religious and mythological themes, which were popular subjects in Indian literature for centuries.
- Artists used their work to express nationalist sentiments, critique colonial policies, and highlight the richness of Indian culture. This period witnessed the emergence of artists who aimed to create a distinct Indian art that celebrated indigenous traditions and sought to counter the dominance of colonial aesthetics.
- Another continuity was the **role of patronage**. While colonial powers influenced the patronage system, Indian rulers and wealthy individuals continued to support artistic endeavors. The princely states and local patrons provided patronage to artists, preserving, and nurturing traditional art forms.

Conclusion:

- Western influences and new subject choices emerged, yet continuities were maintained through adaptations of traditional art forms and expressions. Some scholars argue that colonialism was a destructive force that led to the decline of traditional Indian art. Others argue that colonialism had a more complex impact, leading to both changes and continuities in Indian artistic expressions. Ultimately, the impact of colonialism on Indian art and culture is a complex and multifaceted issue that is still being studied and debated today.

Q3. Discuss the influence of regional folk-art forms in preserving local traditions and cultural identities in different parts of India.

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- The question is in line with the UPSC's focus on current affairs. The importance of preserving cultural heritage has been a topic of discussion in recent years, and candidates are expected to be familiar with this issue.
- The question is analytical in nature. It requires candidates to think critically about the role of regional folk art forms in preserving local traditions and cultural identities.
- The question is open-ended. It allows candidates to express their own ideas and opinions on the topic.

Approach

1. Briefly explain about regional folk art forms (25 words)
2. Elaborate on the influence of regional folk art forms in preserving local traditions and cultural identities (100 words)
3. Conclude with the measures that can be taken to preserve these art forms (25 words)

Introduction:

- Folk art is art that is created by ordinary people, rather than by professional artists. It is often characterized by its simplicity, its use of traditional materials and techniques, and its focus on everyday life. Regional folk art forms are deeply rooted in the specific regions they originate from, reflecting the unique cultural heritage and social fabric of the communities they represent.

Body:**Influence of regional folk art forms in preserving local traditions and cultural identities:**

- **Repositories of traditional knowledge and practices:** Regional folk art forms act as repositories of traditional knowledge and practices. They embody the collective wisdom and skills passed down through generations, encompassing various aspects of life including rituals, crafts, music, dance, and storytelling. By preserving and showcasing these traditions, folk art forms contribute to the continuity of local customs and rituals, ensuring their survival in the face of modernization and globalization.
- **Vehicles for the expression of cultural identity:** Folk art forms serve as vehicles for the expression of cultural identity. They provide a means for communities to celebrate and showcase their distinct cultural heritage, enabling them to assert their unique identities and maintain a sense of belonging. The vibrant costumes, intricate patterns, and symbolic motifs found in folk art visually communicate the stories, beliefs, and values specific to each region. They foster a strong sense of pride among community members, reinforcing their cultural bonds and fostering intergenerational transmission of knowledge. For example, puppet shows are a way to explore different cultures and traditions.
- **Role in community cohesion and social integration:** regional folk art forms play a role in community cohesion and social integration. These art forms are often performed and practiced collectively during festivals, weddings, and other community gatherings. They serve as platforms for social interaction, creating a sense of unity and shared experiences. Through participation in these art forms, individuals develop a sense of belonging and connection to their community, promoting social harmony and fostering a sense of collective identity.
- **Contribute to the economy of local communities:** Folk art forms contribute to the economy of local communities. They generate employment opportunities for artisans, musicians, dancers, and other practitioners, thereby sustaining traditional livelihoods and local economies. By promoting use of local materials and supporting folk art forms, communities can benefit from cultural tourism and the appreciation of their artistic heritage, creating a sustainable ecosystem for the continuation of these art forms.

Conclusion:

- Regional folk art forms can be preserved by documenting them. This involves collecting information about the history, techniques, and materials used in the art form. This information can be used to create a record of the art form and to help to ensure that it is not lost. Once the art form has been documented, it is important to educate the public about it. This can be done through school programs, museum exhibits, and public workshops. Education can help to raise awareness of the art form and to encourage people to participate in it.

Q4. Assess the significance of the South Indian Bhakti movement and its impact on the socio-cultural and religious fabric of the region during the medieval period.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- Understanding the significance of the movement can help candidates develop a deeper appreciation for Indian culture.
- The question is in line with the UPSC's focus on current affairs. The importance of social equality and religious tolerance has been a topic of discussion in recent years, and candidates are expected to be familiar with these issues.
- The question is analytical in nature. It requires candidates to think critically about the impact of the Bhakti movement on South Indian society.

Approach

1. What is the Bhakti movement? (25 words)
2. Explain the significance of South Indian Bhakti movement (100 words)
3. Explain its impact on the socio-cultural and religious fabric of the region (100 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- The South Indian Bhakti movement was a religious and social reform movement that originated in South India during the 7th century CE. The movement emphasized the importance of personal devotion to God (bhakti) and rejected the authority of religious intermediaries, such as priests. The Bhakti movement had a significant impact on the socio-cultural and religious fabric of South India during the medieval period.

Body:

Significance of the South Indian Bhakti movement:

- It popularized the idea of a personal relationship with God. The Bhakti movement emphasized the importance of personal devotion to God, which was a radical departure from the traditional Hindu emphasis on ritual and sacrifice. This new emphasis on personal devotion made it possible for people from all walks of life to participate in religious life.
- It promoted the use of vernacular languages in religious literature. The Bhakti movement used vernacular languages, such as Tamil and Telugu, to communicate its message to a wider audience. This helped to break down the barriers of caste and education, as people from all social groups could now understand the religious texts.
- It challenged the authority of religious intermediaries. The Bhakti movement rejected the authority of religious intermediaries, such as priests. This challenged the traditional social order, as it gave people more control over their own religious lives.
- It promoted social reform. The Bhakti movement also promoted social reform, such as the abolition of sati (widow burning) and child marriage. This helped to make society more just and equitable.
- The South Indian Bhakti movement was a major turning point in the history of Hinduism. It helped to make Hinduism more accessible to the masses and it promoted social reform. The movement's legacy can still be seen in South India today, where it continues to be an important force in religious and social life.

Impact of the Bhakti movement on the socio-cultural and religious fabric of South India:

- It led to the development of new religious literature. The Bhakti movement inspired the composition of a vast body of religious literature, including poetry, songs, and stories. This literature was written in vernacular languages, which made it accessible to a wider audience.
- It helped to spread the message of Hinduism to new areas. The Bhakti movement's emphasis on personal devotion and its use of vernacular languages made it possible for Hinduism to spread to new areas, such as the Deccan plateau and the coastal regions.

- It helped to promote social and religious harmony. The Bhakti movement's emphasis on the equality of all people helped to promote social and religious harmony. This was especially important in a region that was divided by caste and religious differences.

Conclusion:

- The Bhakti movement was a significant force for change in South India during the medieval period. It had a profound impact on the socio-cultural and religious fabric of the region. It reformed religious practices, empowered marginalized sections of society, enriched literary traditions, fostered social equality, promoted cultural integration, and influenced subsequent reform movements.

Q5. What was the significance and impact of the Wood's Despatch on the education system in India during the colonial period?

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- Understanding this historical policy and its consequences on the education system is crucial in comprehending India's colonial past, social transformation, and the roots of its modern educational institutions. Additionally, the question allows candidates to analyze the positive and negative aspects of the policy and its relevance to contemporary debates on education and access in India.

Approach

1. Introduce Wood's Despatch (25 words)
2. Explain the significance and impact of the Wood's Despatch on the education system (100 words)
3. Conclude with the limitations of Wood's Despatch (25 words)

Introduction:

- The Wood's Despatch, also known as the Despatch on Education or the Magna Carta of English Education in India, was a significant policy document issued by Sir Charles Wood, the President of the Board of Control for India, in 1854. It outlined a comprehensive plan for the development of education in India during the colonial period. The Despatch had a profound impact on the education system in India and played a crucial role in shaping its trajectory.

Body:

Here are some of the **key significances and impacts** of the Wood's Despatch:

- Introduction of a systematic education system:** The Despatch advocated for the establishment of a systematic education system in India. It emphasized the need for a clear hierarchy of educational institutions, starting from primary schools to colleges and universities. This led to the development of a structured education system that aimed to provide education at various levels.
- Promotion of vernacular education:** One of the significant aspects of the Wood's Despatch was the emphasis on vernacular education. It recognized the importance of native languages and encouraged the establishment of schools that taught in local languages. This move aimed to make education more accessible to the masses and enable them to receive education in their mother tongue.
- Establishment of universities and colleges:** The Despatch laid the foundation for the establishment of universities and colleges in India. It proposed the creation of universities in major cities and the development of affiliated colleges to provide higher education. This led to the founding of notable institutions such as the University of Calcutta, the University of Bombay, and the University of Madras.
- Rise of English as the lingua franca of India:** The Wood's Despatch also led to the rise of English as the lingua franca of India. English became the language of administration, education, and commerce, and it helped to bridge the communication gap between different parts of the country.
- Emphasis on teacher training:** The Despatch highlighted the significance of well-trained teachers in the education system. It recommended the establishment of teacher training institutions to provide quality training to educators. This focus on teacher education aimed to improve the standard of teaching and enhance

the quality of education imparted in schools and colleges.

- **Introduction of grants-in-aid system:** The Wood's Despatch advocated for the introduction of a grants-in-aid system, wherein the government would provide financial assistance to private educational institutions. This system aimed to encourage the growth of private initiatives in education and ensure a wider reach of education across different regions of India.
- **Focus on moral and character development:** The Despatch emphasized the importance of moral and character development alongside intellectual education. It promoted the inclusion of moral and ethical teachings in the curriculum to shape the character of students and instill values.
- **Influence on future educational policies:** The Wood's Despatch served as a blueprint for future educational policies in India. Many of its recommendations, such as the establishment of universities, teacher training institutions, and emphasis on vernacular education, were incorporated into subsequent policies. The Despatch's ideas and principles continued to shape the direction of education in India even after independence.
- **Establishment of vocational schools:** A number of vocational schools were established in India during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These schools offered training in a variety of trades, including carpentry, masonry, blacksmithing, and weaving.
- **The rise of female education:** The Wood's Despatch helped to raise awareness of the importance of female education, and it led to an increase in the number of girls who were attending school. For example, Bethune School, an English-medium school was founded for girls in Kolkata, West Bengal.

Conclusion:

- The Wood's Despatch had a far-reaching impact on the education system in colonial India. However, the Wood's Despatch also had some limitations. The schools that were established as a result of the Despatch were often underfunded and poorly equipped. As a result, the quality of education that was provided in these schools was often not very good. Additionally, the Despatch did not specifically address the needs of the rural poor, and as a result, many people in rural areas were not able to benefit from the vocational training that was offered.



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Q6. Critically examine the socio-economic policies followed by the British in India during the colonial period and their impact on Indian society and economy.

[15 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- The question assesses candidates' understanding of the socio-economic impact of British colonial policies on India. Analyzing these policies can provide insights into the roots of some of the contemporary socio-economic challenges in India. Understanding the socio-economic policies of the colonial period is essential for any candidate aspiring to serve in administrative roles to comprehend India's complex historical experiences and to formulate better policies for the nation's future development.

Approach

- In introduction write how socio-economic policies of British changed over time briefly (25 words)
- Explain each socio-economic policy of British briefly (100 words)
- Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- The socio-economic policies followed by the British in India during the colonial period changed over time. In the early years of British rule, the British East India Company was primarily interested in making profits, and it did not have much interest in governing India. However, as the British Empire expanded, the British government became more involved in the administration of India. In the 19th century, the British introduced a number of socio-economic policies that had a significant impact on Indian society.

Body:

Here, we will discuss the major socio-economic policies pursued by the British and their impacts:

Socio-economic policies followed by the British and their impact:

- Land Revenue Policies:** The British introduced the Permanent Settlement System in Bengal, which later extended to other regions. Under this policy, the Zamindars (landlords) were made permanent landowners, and they were responsible for collecting and paying fixed revenue to the British. This policy resulted in the Zamindari system, leading to the exploitation of peasants, increased landlessness, and widespread indebtedness among farmers. The British imposed heavy taxes on the Indian population, primarily through the land revenue system. The burden of taxation fell heavily on the peasants, resulting in increased poverty and economic distress. Additionally, the introduction of various other taxes, such as salt tax, led to further exploitation of the Indian population.
- Commercialization of Agriculture:** The British implemented policies that aimed to transform Indian agriculture into a supplier of raw materials for the British industries. The introduction of cash crops like indigo, jute, cotton, and opium led to the displacement of food crops, causing food shortages and famines. Farmers were forced to abandon subsistence farming and focus on cash crop cultivation, leading to a loss of self-sufficiency.
- Drain of Wealth:** The British extracted significant economic resources from India through the drain of wealth. They siphoned off India's wealth to Britain through policies such as high tariffs, trade monopolies, and the imposition of heavy duties on Indian goods. This economic drain severely affected India's economy, hindering its industrial and infrastructural development.
- Deindustrialization:** British policies deliberately undermined the indigenous industries in India. They imposed high tariffs on Indian goods, flooded the Indian market with cheap British manufactured products, and discouraged the development of Indian industries. This led to the decline and eventual collapse of several traditional Indian industries such as handicrafts and traditional art forms, causing widespread unemployment and economic dislocation.
- Railway and Infrastructure Development:** While the British focused on exploiting India's resources, they also initiated some infrastructure projects such as the construction of railways, roads, and ports. These projects were primarily aimed at facilitating the transportation of goods and raw materials for British trade interests.

rather than promoting overall economic development in India.

- **Education Policies:** The British introduced education policies that emphasized Western education and undermined traditional Indian systems of learning. They established English-medium schools and universities, which mainly catered to the needs of British administration. This resulted in the marginalization of indigenous knowledge and languages, creating a cultural and intellectual disconnect among the Indian population.
- **Social Impact:** The British policies had a profound social impact on Indian society. The introduction of Western education and the spread of English language created a class of Indian elites who adopted British customs and values. This led to a cultural divide between the educated elite and the masses, contributing to social inequality and an erosion of traditional social structures.
- **Social Reforms:** The British followed a number of policies on social reforms during the 19th and early 20th centuries. It has abolished Sati in 1829, passed the Widow Remarriage Act in 1856 and passed laws that made female infanticide illegal.
- **Religious Division of People:** Separate electorates were introduced for Hindus and Muslims in 1909. The British government used images of Hindu gods and goddesses on coins and stamps, which helped to reinforce the idea that Hindus and Muslims were separate communities.

Conclusion:

- The socio-economic policies pursued by the British in India during the colonial period had far-reaching impacts on Indian society and economy. These policies resulted in the exploitation of resources, deindustrialization, impoverishment of peasants, economic drain, and cultural dislocation. While some infrastructure projects were undertaken, they primarily served British interests. The consequences of these policies shaped the trajectory of Indian society and economy, leaving a lasting impact that influenced the course of development even after independence.

Q7. The viceroynalties of Lytton and Rippon prepared the soil of British India for nationalism, the former by internal measures of repression, the latter indirectly as a result of the European community's rejection of his liberal, humanitarian legislation. Examine.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- The rise of nationalism is a topic that is still relevant today. The question prompts candidates to examine the complex relationship between the colonial administration, European community, and the burgeoning nationalist movement, providing insights into the multi-dimensional aspects of India's struggle for independence. As nationalism and colonial history remain important themes in the UPSC syllabus, this question would test candidates' knowledge and analytical skills in comprehending this crucial period in Indian history.

Approach

1. Give introduction about the nature of Lytton and Rippon's administration (25 words)
2. Examine the various measures undertaken by both Lytton and Rippon and how these measures sowed seeds of nationalism (200 words)
3. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- Lord Lytton's tenure is associated with measures of repression that were aimed at consolidating British control and limiting dissent in India, whereas Lord Ripon's tenure is associated with a more liberal and humanitarian approach, which indirectly contributed to the growth of nationalist sentiments in India.

Body:

Measures undertaken by Lord Lytton (1876-80)

- **The Vernacular Press Act of 1878:** This act restricted the freedom of the Indian press. It required newspapers to submit all articles to government censors before publication.
- **The Arms Act of 1878:** This act restricted the possession of arms by Indians. It made it illegal for Indians to own or carry firearms without a license from the government.
- **The Ilbert Bill:** This bill would have allowed Indian judges to try British subjects in India. However, the bill was met with opposition from British officials and was eventually withdrawn.
- **The Afghan War of 1878-80:** This war was fought between Britain and Afghanistan. It was triggered by the refusal of the Afghan emir to accept a British envoy. The war ended with the British victory and the installation of a pro-British emir in Afghanistan.

Measures undertaken by Lord Rippon (1880-84)

- **The Indian Councils Act of 1881:** This act expanded the powers of the Indian Legislative Council and gave Indians a greater say in the making of laws.
- **The Vernacular Press Act of 1881:** This act repealed the Vernacular Press Act of 1878 and restored freedom of the press to Indians.
- **The Ilbert Bill:** This bill was reintroduced in 1883 and passed into law. It allowed Indian judges to try British subjects in India.
- **The Resolution on Local Self-Government:** This resolution called for the establishment of local self-government institutions in India.

Consequences of Lytton's measures:

- **Increased Indian nationalism:** Lytton's measures were unpopular with many Indians, who saw them as an attempt to suppress Indian nationalism. This led to an increase in Indian nationalism and helped to create the conditions for the Indian Rebellion of 1857.
- **Loss of British prestige:** Lytton's measures also damaged British prestige in India. This was because they were seen as an attempt to impose British rule on India by force. This led to a decline in British authority in India and made it more difficult for the British to govern the country.

Consequences of Rippon's measures:

- **Increased Indian participation in government:** Ripon's measures led to an increase in Indian participation in government. This was because the Indian Councils Act of 1881 expanded the powers of the Indian Legislative Council and gave Indians a greater say in the making of laws. The Ilbert Bill also allowed Indian judges to try British subjects in India, which gave Indians a greater role in the administration of justice.
- **Growth of Indian nationalism:** Ripon's measures also contributed to the growth of Indian nationalism. This was because they showed that the British were willing to give Indians a greater say in their own government. This led to an increase in Indian confidence and a belief that they could achieve self-government.
- **Increased British opposition:** Ripon's measures were also met with opposition from some British officials. This was because they believed that the measures gave Indians too much power and would weaken British rule in India. This opposition led to Ripon's resignation in 1884.

Conclusion:

- While Lord Lytton's repressive policies may have initially suppressed nationalist sentiments, they also generated discontent and resistance among the Indian population. The repeal of the Vernacular Press Act and other reforms introduced by Lord Ripon provided avenues for Indians to express their grievances and aspirations more openly, thereby indirectly fueling nationalist sentiments.
- Overall, while Lord Lytton's internal measures of repression aimed to suppress nationalism, Lord Ripon's liberal and humanitarian policies indirectly contributed to the growth of nationalist sentiments in British India. The combined impact of these two viceroalties played a role in shaping the political landscape of India and set the stage for the eventual rise of the Indian independence movement.

Q8. Discuss the significance and contributions of the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group in the Indian freedom struggle.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- Understanding the significance of organizations like the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group is essential in comprehending the diverse approaches and ideologies adopted during the struggle for independence. As UPSC often emphasizes comprehensive knowledge of India's history and freedom struggle, this question would assess candidates' ability to analyze the lesser-explored aspects of the independence movement and the role of revolutionary ideologies in shaping the course of Indian history.

Approach

1. Give introduction about Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group – their ideology, approach, formation (25 words)
2. Explain in detail the significance and contributions of the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group (200 words)
3. Conclude with any criticisms on the group and what the groups achieved (25 words)

Introduction:

- The Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group were revolutionary organizations that played a significant role in the Indian freedom struggle during the early 20th century. The Anushilan Samiti was founded in 1902 and the Yugantar group was founded in 1906 with a goal to overthrow British rule in India through a combination of armed struggle.

Body:

Here is a discussion of the significance and contributions of the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group:

Significance:

- Both the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group were inspired by revolutionary ideals and aimed to achieve independence through revolutionary propaganda, secret societies, arms training, and assassination attempts on British officials. They believed in direct action against the British government.
- The activities of the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group played a crucial role in awakening national consciousness among Indians. Through their revolutionary actions, they aimed to instill a spirit of patriotism and resistance against colonial oppression in the new generation of nationalists.
- They published and distributed revolutionary literature, including pamphlets, newspapers, and magazines, which helped in spreading the message of independence and inspiring like-minded individuals.
- The Yugantar group published a newspaper called Yugantar, which was a major source of inspiration for revolutionaries throughout India.

Contribution:

- These organizations established secret societies and cells that allowed them to operate clandestinely and coordinate their activities. This network helped in the recruitment of members, dissemination of information, and planning of revolutionary actions.
- Both the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group were involved in a number of violent attacks against British targets. In 1908, Khudiram Bose and Prafulla Chaki attempted to assassinate the British judge Douglas Kingsford. The assassination attempt failed, but Bose and Chaki were hanged for their involvement.
- They inspired and influenced other revolutionary organizations and freedom fighters, such as Bhagat Singh and Surya Sen. The revolutionary spirit and willingness to confront British authority spread, contributing to the growth of the armed resistance movement against colonial rule.
- The activities of the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group attracted the attention of the British administration, leading to a crackdown on revolutionary activities. However, their legacy lived on, inspiring future generations of freedom fighters.

Conclusion:

- The British government banned the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group. Many of the group's leaders were arrested and imprisoned. Some people argued that their use of violence was counterproductive, and that it would only alienate the British public. Others argued that the groups were too focused on individual acts of terrorism, and that they did not have a clear plan for overthrowing British rule. Despite these criticisms, the Anushilan Samiti and Yugantar group played a significant role by keeping the flame of revolution alive during a difficult period.

Q9. Robert Clive endeavored to correct the abuses in the company's civil and military services, but his reforms were temporary expedients. Analyse.

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- The question prompts candidates to analyze the broader context of British colonial rule in India, where commercial interests often overshadowed genuine administrative reforms. As UPSC aims to evaluate candidates' grasp of historical events and their implications, this question would assess candidates' ability to critically analyze the efforts made by British officials to govern and administer colonial India and their ultimate impact on the company's rule in the subcontinent.

Approach

1. Introduction Robert Clive (25 words)
2. Explain in detail Clive's reforms and their impact (100 words)
3. Conclude by mentioning how Clive's reforms helped future reforms (25 words)

Introduction:

- Robert Clive, an influential figure in British colonial history, made efforts to address the abuses within the British East India Company's civil and military services during his time in India. The British East India Company's rule in India was marked by widespread corruption, exploitation, and abuse of power within its civil and military services. Company officials often engaged in bribery, embezzlement, and extortion, leading to significant grievances among the Indian population.

Body:**Clive's Reforms:**

- He required all company servants to sign a covenant not to receive presents from Indians, and he prohibited them from engaging in private trade.
- He also increased the salaries of civil servants, in an effort to make them less dependent on bribes.
- In the military, Clive reformed the system of recruitment and training. He also introduced a new system of promotion, based on merit rather than seniority. He established a system of courts martial to discipline military personnel.
- These reforms helped to improve the quality of the company's military forces.

Limited Impact:

- Despite his intentions, Clive's reforms only provided temporary relief and failed to bring about lasting change.
- There are a number of reasons why Clive's reforms were not more lasting.
- First, the company's financial problems made it difficult to maintain high salaries for its servants.
- Second, the company's system of patronage made it difficult to discipline corrupt officials.
- Third, the company's culture of secrecy made it difficult to investigate and punish corruption.

Conclusion:

- It was only in the later years of British colonial rule that more substantial efforts were made to address the issues within the Company's civil and military services. Reforms implemented by subsequent administrations, such as the Indian Civil Service Act of 1861, aimed to professionalize the services and

improve governance. Robert Clive's reforms on military services were a significant step in the development of the East India Company's military forces. They helped to improve the quality of the company's military forces, and they laid the foundation for more lasting reforms that would be implemented in the 19th century.

Q10. Critically analyze the role of identity, historical grievances, and competing geopolitical interests in fuelling the tensions between Russia-Ukraine.

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- The question is in line with the UPSC's focus on current affairs. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine is a top news story, and candidates are expected to be able to discuss it intelligently. Understanding this issue is crucial for any aspiring diplomat or policy-maker as it involves regional stability, security concerns, and international relations.

Approach

1. Give a brief introduction about cause of Russia Ukraine conflict (25 words)
2. Explain in detail how identity, historical grievances, and competing geopolitical interests fuelled the tensions (100 words)
3. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- Russia has long seen Ukraine as part of its sphere of influence, and it has been concerned about the country's growing ties to the West. In particular, Russia has been concerned about Ukraine's possible membership in NATO, which would give the alliance a foothold on Russia's borders.

Body:

Role of identity:

- Identity plays a significant role in fuelling tensions between Russia and Ukraine. Ukraine, with its distinct language, culture, and history, has sought to assert its separate national identity since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. However, Russia considers Ukraine as part of its historical and cultural sphere of influence, leading to a clash of national narratives and a struggle for identity recognition.

Role of historical grievances:

- Historical grievances have also contributed to the tensions. Ukraine has a complex history of subjugation and occupation, including the devastating impact of the Soviet-era collectivization, the Holodomor famine, and the suppression of Ukrainian culture and language. These historical traumas have fuelled a sense of resentment and a desire for independence from Russian dominance, while Russia has often viewed Ukraine's quest for sovereignty as a challenge to its historical and strategic interests.

Role of competing geopolitical interests:

- Competing geopolitical interests further complicate the Russia-Ukraine relationship. Ukraine's strategic location as a buffer state between Russia and NATO has made it a battleground for competing spheres of influence. Russia sees Ukraine's alignment with the West as a threat to its security and interests, while Western nations view Ukraine as a potential ally and a gateway to expanding their influence in the region. This has led to a tug-of-war for Ukraine's allegiance and has intensified the geopolitical rivalry between Russia and the West.
- Moreover, energy resources, particularly natural gas, have played a significant role in the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Russia has used its control over energy supplies to exert influence and leverage over Ukraine, employing energy as both an economic and political tool. This has further exacerbated the tensions and added an economic dimension to the geopolitical dynamics between the two countries. In February 2014, Russia annexed Crimea after a disputed referendum. The referendum was held after Russian troops had already entered the peninsula, and it was widely seen as being illegitimate. The annexation was condemned by the United Nations and most countries around the world.

Conclusion:

- The current situation is fluid and it is difficult to predict how it will evolve. The struggle for geopolitical dominance and control over strategic resources has intensified the conflict. The conflict has led to increased uncertainty about the supply of oil and natural gas from Russia which caused higher energy prices in Europe. The conflict has led to disruption of trade between Ukraine and its trading partners causing a negative impact on the Ukrainian economy.

Q11. Examine the impact of the French Revolution on global political, social, and ideological developments in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, with a focus on its influence on the rise of nationalism, spread of revolutionary ideals, and transformations in power structures across different regions of the world.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- The question prompts candidates to analyze the impact of revolutionary ideas on different regions and to comprehend the interconnectedness of historical events and their relevance to contemporary geopolitical dynamics.

Approach

1. Give introduction about French Revolution (25 words)
2. Explain in detail how French Revolution influenced the rise of nationalism, spread of revolutionary ideals, and transformations in power structures (200 words)
3. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- The French Revolution was a period of radical social and political upheaval in France from 1789 to 1799. It had a profound impact on global political, social, and ideological developments. Its influence on the rise of nationalism, spread of revolutionary ideals, and transformations in power structures across different regions of the world shaped the course of history during this period.

Body:**Influence on the rise of nationalism:**

- The French Revolution sparked a wave of nationalism in various parts of the world.
- The idea of a nation as a political and cultural entity, based on shared language, history, and aspirations, gained prominence.
- The French Revolution's emphasis on popular sovereignty and the rights of citizens resonated with people in other countries who sought self-governance and freedom from oppressive monarchies.
- Nationalist movements emerged in Europe, Latin America, and other regions, leading to struggles for independence and the formation of new nation-states.
- The ideals of liberty, equality, and fraternity inspired Indian revolutionaries, who saw the revolution as a model for their own struggle against British rule. These ideals were incorporated into the Indian National Congress's (INC) early manifesto, and they continue to be important to the Indian independence movement today.

Influence on spread of revolutionary ideals:

- Furthermore, the revolutionary ideals propagated during the French Revolution spread globally, challenging existing political and social structures.
- The principles of liberty, equality, and fraternity found resonance among intellectuals, activists, and revolutionaries across the world.
- These ideals inspired social and political reforms, advocating for the rights of individuals, the abolition of slavery, and the dismantling of feudal systems.
- The French Revolution served as a catalyst for reform movements in various countries, influencing the trajectory of political thought and social transformation.

Influence on transformations in power structures:

- The overthrow of the monarchy and the establishment of a republic in France challenged the traditional hierarchical order, leading to a reconfiguration of power dynamics.
- Monarchies across Europe were threatened by the spread of revolutionary fervor and faced internal and external pressures to implement political reforms.
- The Napoleonic era that followed the French Revolution further reshaped power relations through military conquests and the imposition of French legal and administrative systems in occupied territories.
- The French Revolution also led to the introduction of a new system of representation. It also led to the end of many of the social divides that had existed in France before the revolution.
- The system of privileges, which had granted certain groups special rights and exemptions, was abolished.
- This meant that all citizens were equal before the law. The French Revolution also helped to establish the rule of law in France.
- This meant that the government was subject to the law, and that the law was applied equally to everyone.
- This was a major change from the previous system, in which the government was often arbitrary and capricious.

Conclusion:

- The French Revolution had a far-reaching impact on global political, social, and ideological developments in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. It contributed to the rise of nationalism, inspired the spread of revolutionary ideals, and brought about transformations in power structures. Its influence was felt across continents, shaping the course of history, and leaving a legacy on the struggle for political freedom, social justice, and self-determination.

Q12. Examine the role of ocean currents in shaping global climate patterns and influencing marine ecosystems.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- This question pertains to environmental science and climate change, which are crucial topics in today's world. As the UPSC aims to assess candidates' knowledge of contemporary issues and their impact on the environment, this question provides an opportunity for candidates to showcase their understanding of the interconnectedness between ocean currents, climate patterns, and marine ecosystems.

Approach

1. Give introduction about ocean currents (25 words)
2. Explain the influence of ocean currents in shaping climate patterns (100 words)
3. Also, explain their influence on marine ecosystems (100 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- Ocean currents are large-scale movements of water that circulate in the Earth's oceans, driven by a combination of factors such as wind, temperature, salinity, and the Earth's rotation. Understanding the role of ocean currents is essential for comprehending climate dynamics and maintaining the health of marine ecosystems.

Body:**Influence on global climate patterns:**

- **Heat transfer:** One of the primary contributions of ocean currents to global climate patterns is the transfer of heat from the equator towards the poles. Warm currents, such as the Gulf Stream in the Atlantic Ocean and the Kuroshio Current in the Pacific Ocean, transport heat from tropical regions to higher latitudes. This heat transfer helps regulate regional and global climate by moderating temperatures and influencing weather

patterns. For example, the warm Gulf Stream contributes to the relatively mild climate of Western Europe.

- **Distribution of moisture and precipitation:** Ocean currents also influence the distribution of moisture and precipitation. As warm currents transport heat, they also carry moisture from the ocean surface. This moisture contributes to the formation of clouds and the subsequent release of precipitation over land areas. For instance, the Peru Current and the Humboldt Current along the western coast of South America bring cool and nutrient-rich waters, leading to the upwelling of cold waters and the formation of coastal fog and rain.
- **Atmospheric circulation:** Ocean currents and atmospheric circulation are interconnected. Ocean currents affect atmospheric circulation by transporting heat and moisture around the globe. Atmospheric circulation, in turn, affects ocean currents by driving the winds that cause surface currents.

Influence on marine ecosystems:

- **Distribution of nutrients:** In addition to climate patterns, ocean currents help to distribute nutrients around the globe by transporting them from areas where they are abundant to areas where they are scarce. They affect the distribution of nutrients and plankton, which form the foundation of the marine food web. Upwelling zones, where deep, nutrient-rich waters are brought to the surface, promote the growth of phytoplankton. These microscopic plants support diverse marine life, from zooplankton to larger fish species. Upwelling regions such as the California Current and the Benguela Current are known for their rich fisheries.
- **Migration of marine species:** Ocean currents also play a vital role in the migration patterns of marine species. Some species, such as sea turtles and marine mammals, utilize ocean currents to navigate and travel long distances. They rely on the direction and speed of currents to facilitate their movements and reach breeding or feeding grounds. For instance, the East Australian Current is known for its role in the migration of humpback whales.
- **Redistribution of oxygen:** Ocean currents help to distribute oxygen throughout the ocean by mixing the water column. This happens when currents move water from one area to another. The water that is moved may be from the surface, where it is rich in oxygen, or from the deep ocean, where it is low in oxygen. When water is mixed, the oxygen from the surface water is distributed throughout the water column. This helps to ensure that there is enough oxygen available for marine life to thrive.

Conclusion:

- Global warming is impacting ocean currents in a number of ways. As the ocean warms, it expands. This can cause the currents to slow down or even change direction. As glaciers and ice sheets melt, they add fresh water to the ocean. This can also cause the currents to slow down or change direction. The impacts of global warming on ocean currents is significant on the ocean and the marine life that depend on it.

Q13. Discuss the relationship between rising sea surface temperature and precipitation, and its impact on regional and global water availability. Examine the challenges faced in adapting to changing rainfall patterns and propose strategies to enhance water resource management in the context of climate change.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- The question examines candidates' ability to analyze complex issues related to climate change impacts, water management, and propose sustainable solutions. Given the importance of climate change and its implications for water resources, this question provides an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and analytical skills in tackling environmental challenges in the context of water availability and climate change.

Approach

1. Give introduction about the relationship between rising sea surface temperature and precipitation (25 words)
2. Discuss the challenges faced in adapting to changing rainfall patterns (100 words)
3. Discuss the strategies to enhance water resource management (100 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- The relationship between increasing sea surface temperatures and precipitation is complex and can vary depending on several factors, including atmospheric circulation patterns, moisture availability, and local topography. Understanding this relationship is crucial for assessing the impact on water resources and developing effective strategies for adaptation and water resource management.

Body:

Relationship between rising sea surface temperature and precipitation:

- The impact of rising sea surface temperatures on precipitation patterns is influenced by changes in atmospheric moisture content and circulation patterns. Warmer sea surfaces lead to increased evaporation, resulting in higher moisture levels in the atmosphere. This enhanced moisture content can lead to intensified rainfall events in certain regions, potentially causing more frequent and intense storms, including tropical cyclones. For example, increased SST in the Atlantic Ocean contributes to the formation and intensification of hurricanes in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico.
- However, the relationship between sea surface temperatures and precipitation is not uniformly positive. Changes in atmospheric circulation patterns, such as shifts in the location of atmospheric pressure systems, can alter rainfall distribution. Regions that rely on specific rainfall patterns, such as monsoonal systems, may experience changes in the timing and intensity of rainfall. Some areas may experience a decrease in precipitation due to changes in atmospheric stability and moisture transport.

Impact on regional and global water availability:

- The impact of changing rainfall patterns on water availability is significant. Regions that rely on predictable seasonal rainfall patterns may face water scarcity or variability, affecting agriculture, water supply, and ecosystem health. Changing precipitation patterns can lead to shifts in river flows, affecting hydropower generation and water resource management. Coastal areas may face challenges due to changes in freshwater availability and increased salinity intrusion.

Challenges in adapting to changing rainfall patterns and enhancing water resource management:

- **Uncertainty and variability:** Climate change introduces uncertainty and increased variability in rainfall patterns, making it difficult to plan and manage water resources effectively.
- **Droughts:** Changing rainfall patterns are making droughts more common and more severe. As droughts become more common and more severe, water scarcity will become a more pressing issue.
- **Infrastructure and capacity limitations:** Many regions lack adequate infrastructure and capacity to manage changing water availability. Enhancing infrastructure for water storage, conservation, and distribution is crucial but requires significant investments.
- **Institutional and governance issues:** Effective water resource management often requires coordination among multiple stakeholders and institutions. Ensuring integrated water management and governance frameworks can be challenging due to existing institutional barriers and competing interests.
- **Socio-economic implications:** Changing rainfall patterns can disproportionately impact vulnerable communities that rely on rain-fed agriculture or have limited access to alternative water sources. Socio-economic considerations must be incorporated into adaptation strategies to address these disparities.

Strategies to enhance water resource management:

- **Integrated water management:** Implement integrated water resource management approaches that consider the entire water cycle, including water supply, demand management, wastewater recycling, and ecosystem conservation.
- **Climate-resilient infrastructure:** Develop and upgrade water infrastructure to withstand climate-related challenges, such as increased flood risks or changes in water availability. This includes building resilient dams, reservoirs, and irrigation systems.
- **Water conservation and efficiency:** Promote water conservation practices and improve water use efficiency in agriculture, industry, and domestic sectors. This includes promoting efficient irrigation techniques, water recycling, and rainwater harvesting.
- **Enhanced monitoring and data collection:** Strengthen monitoring systems and data collection on rainfall, river flows, and groundwater levels to improve understanding of changing water availability and support evidence-based decision-making.
- **Community engagement and capacity building:** Involve local communities in water resource management

and adaptation planning. Provide training and capacity-building programs to enhance their resilience to changing rainfall patterns.

Conclusion:

- Rising sea surface temperatures impact precipitation patterns and water availability globally and regionally. Adapting to changing rainfall patterns and enhancing water resource management require addressing challenges such as uncertainty, infrastructure limitations, institutional barriers, and socio-economic disparities. The Paris Climate Agreement requires countries to develop national adaptation plans that identify and address the risks of climate change to water resources. The agreement also calls for increased investment in water infrastructure and water conservation measures. By implementing the above strategies, countries can help to ensure that they have access to the water they need in the face of climate change.

Q14. Analyze the impact of excess groundwater usage on the slowing down of the Earth's rotation.

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- The question is in line with the UPSC's focus on current affairs. The issue of groundwater depletion is a growing problem in many parts of the world, and it is likely to have a significant impact on the Earth's rotation.
- The question is analytical and it requires candidates to think critically about the impact of excess groundwater usage on the Earth's rotation.

Approach

1. Give introduction about groundwater depletion and write briefly about status of groundwater extraction (25 words)
2. Explain how can excess groundwater usage slow down the Earth's rotation (50 words)
3. Discuss the impact of can excess groundwater usage on the slowing down of Earth's rotation (50 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- Excess groundwater usage can have a significant impact on the slowing down of the Earth's rotation. Groundwater depletion refers to the excessive extraction of groundwater from aquifers, leading to a decline in the water table. According to the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), global groundwater extraction increased by 56% between 1960 and 2010. This process alters the mass distribution within the Earth and consequently affects its rotational dynamics.

Body:

Relationship between groundwater depletion and the slowing down of the Earth's rotation:

- The relationship between groundwater depletion and the slowing down of the Earth's rotation can be understood through the conservation of angular momentum. Angular momentum is the product of the moment of inertia and the rotational speed. When groundwater is pumped out from underground reservoirs, it redistributes the mass from below the surface to the Earth's surface and eventually to the oceans through runoff and evaporation.
- The removal of mass from beneath the Earth's surface results in an increase in the moment of inertia, which is the resistance to rotational motion. Consequently, the Earth's rotation slows down slightly due to the conservation of angular momentum. This effect is like an ice skater extending their arms to slow down their spinning motion.
- While the impact of excess groundwater usage on the Earth's rotation is relatively small and not noticeable in everyday life, it is a significant factor when considering long-term geophysical processes. However, other factors, such as the redistribution of surface water through dams and reservoirs, melting ice caps, and tectonic movements, also influence the Earth's rotation.

Implications of slowing down of the Earth's rotation due to excess groundwater usage:

- **Changes in day length:** The Earth's rotation affects the length of a day. A slower rotation leads to a lengthening of the day, although the change is minimal. However, over long periods, these small changes can accumulate and impact timekeeping systems, astronomical calculations, and navigation.
- **Geophysical processes:** Altering the distribution of mass within the Earth can affect geophysical processes such as plate tectonics, sea level rise, and volcanic activity. These changes may have implications for regional and global geological hazards.
- **Climate patterns:** Changes in the Earth's rotation can influence climate patterns, including atmospheric circulation, wind patterns, and ocean currents. These alterations can have significant implications for regional and global weather patterns and climate variability.
- **Human activities:** A slower rotation of the Earth may have practical implications for certain human activities. For instance, it may impact the efficiency of satellite navigation systems and require periodic adjustments to maintain accuracy.

Way Forward:

- Addressing excess groundwater usage and promoting sustainable water management practices are essential to mitigate the impact on the Earth's rotation. Some strategies to achieve this include:
- **Water conservation and management:** Implementing efficient irrigation techniques, promoting water-saving practices in agriculture, industry, and households, and adopting advanced water management technologies can help reduce groundwater extraction and depletion.
- **Groundwater recharge:** Encouraging artificial groundwater recharge methods such as rainwater harvesting, wastewater recycling, and implementing water reuse projects can replenish depleted aquifers and maintain sustainable groundwater levels.
- **Integrated water resource management:** Adopting an integrated approach to water resource management that considers the entire water cycle, including surface water and groundwater, can help balance water demands and ensure sustainable usage.
- **Awareness and education:** Raising public awareness about the importance of groundwater conservation and the consequences of its overuse is crucial. Educating communities about sustainable water practices and the need for long-term water resource management can lead to behavioral changes and responsible water usage.

Conclusion:

- Excess groundwater usage can contribute to the slowing down of the Earth's rotation due to the redistribution of mass. While the impact is small, it has implications for geophysical processes, climate patterns, and human activities. Implementing strategies to address groundwater depletion and promoting sustainable water management practices are vital for mitigating these effects and ensuring long-term environmental sustainability.

Q15. Discuss the objectives and challenges of the Great Green Wall initiative.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- The question is in line with the UPSC's focus on current affairs. The Great Green Wall initiative is a high-profile project, and it is likely to be a topic of discussion in the news in the coming years. Candidates' ability to critically analyze the objectives, challenges, and potential impacts of such initiatives is crucial for addressing broader issues of environmental conservation and climate change in the context of global sustainable development goals.

Approach

1. Introduce Great Green Wall initiative (25 words)
2. Explain the objectives of the initiative (100 words)
3. Discuss the challenges used to achieve the objectives (100 words)
4. Conclude with the progress that has been under the initiative and some strategies to implement the initiative effectively (25 words)

Introduction:

- The Great Green Wall initiative is a large-scale effort aimed at combating desertification and promoting sustainable land management across the African continent. The concept of the Great Green Wall originated from the vision of creating a wall of trees and vegetation stretching across the Sahel region from west to east, spanning over 7,000 kilometers.

Body:

The **objectives** of the Great Green Wall initiative are:

- Combating desertification:** The primary goal is to halt and reverse desertification by restoring degraded land, increasing vegetation cover, and preventing the expansion of arid and semi-arid areas. The initiative seeks to create a barrier against desert encroachment, protecting fertile land and ecosystems.
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation:** The Great Green Wall aims to enhance the resilience of local communities and ecosystems to climate change impacts. By increasing vegetation cover, the initiative helps mitigate the effects of climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Biodiversity conservation:** The initiative promotes the restoration and protection of ecosystems, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity in the Sahel region. The restored vegetation acts as habitats for various plant and animal species, supporting their survival and promoting ecological balance.
- Socio-economic development:** The Great Green Wall seeks to improve the livelihoods of communities in the Sahel region by creating employment opportunities, generating income from sustainable land management practices, and enhancing food security through increased agricultural productivity.

Challenges of Great Green Wall initiative:

- Conflict:** The Sahel region is a volatile area, and conflict has often disrupted the implementation of the Great Green Wall. For example, the conflict in Mali has made it difficult to plant trees and protect existing vegetation.
- Climate change:** Climate change is making the Sahel region more arid, which makes it more difficult to grow trees and other vegetation. In addition, climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of droughts, which can damage or destroy planted trees.
- Lack of funding:** The Great Green Wall Initiative is a large and expensive project, and it has not received enough funding to be fully implemented. This has led to delays in planting trees and other activities.
- Traditional land use:** In some areas, the traditional land use practices of local communities are not compatible with the Great Green Wall Initiative. For example, some communities rely on grazing livestock, which can damage planted trees.
- Technical challenges:** There are a number of technical challenges associated with planting trees and restoring degraded land in the Sahel region. These challenges include choosing the right species of trees, managing pests and diseases, and ensuring that the trees have enough water.

Conclusion:

- Despite these challenges, the initiative has made some progress. For example, over 10 million trees have been planted, and a number of protected areas have been established. However, more needs to be done to ensure that the initiative is successful. With continued funding and support, involving the private sector, cooperation from local communities, and the development of new technologies, the initiative can help to combat desertification, improve food security, and create jobs.

Q16. Explain the processes associated with plate tectonics and their influence on the formation of different geographical features.

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- The question is in line with the UPSC's focus on current affairs. The movement of tectonic plates is a major driver of natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. Understanding the processes associated with plate tectonics can help us to predict and mitigate the effects of these natural disasters.

Approach

1. Introduce plate tectonics (25 words)
2. Explain the processes associated with plate tectonics (50 words)
3. Explain their influence on the formation of different geographical feature (50 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- Plate tectonics is the scientific theory that explains the movement and interactions of lithospheric plates on the Earth's surface. These plates are large segments of the Earth's crust and upper mantle that float on the semi-fluid asthenosphere. The processes associated with plate tectonics have a significant influence on the formation of various geographical features. Good introduction.

Body:**Processes associated with plate tectonics**

- **Divergent Plate Boundaries:** At divergent plate boundaries, plates move away from each other. This movement leads to the formation of new crust as magma rises from the mantle, creating mid-oceanic ridges or rift valleys. These features are characterized by volcanic activity and the upwelling of molten rock, resulting in the formation of new oceanic crust. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is a prime example of a divergent plate boundary.
- **Convergent Plate Boundaries:** At convergent plate boundaries, plates collide with each other. Three types of convergence occur: oceanic-oceanic, oceanic-continental, and continental-continental. In oceanic-oceanic convergence, one plate is subducted beneath the other, forming deep oceanic trenches and volcanic island arcs, such as the Mariana Trench and the Japanese Archipelago. In oceanic-continental convergence, the denser oceanic plate is subducted beneath the less dense continental plate, resulting in the formation of coastal mountain ranges, like the Andes. In continental-continental convergence, the collision of two continental plates leads to the uplift and formation of high mountain ranges, such as the Himalayas.
- **Transform Plate Boundaries:** At transform plate boundaries, plates slide past each other horizontally. This lateral movement can cause significant crustal deformation and the formation of faults. One well-known example is the San Andreas Fault in California, where the Pacific and North American plates slide past each other.
- **Hotspots:** Hotspots are areas of intense volcanic activity that occur away from plate boundaries. They are believed to result from the upwelling of mantle plumes, creating volcanic islands or seamounts. Over time, as the plate moves over the hotspot, a chain of volcanic islands is formed. The Hawaiian Islands, with the active volcano Mauna Loa, are an example of a hotspot chain.
- These processes associated with plate tectonics have **several impacts on the formation of different geographical features:**
 - a) **Mountains:** Mountains are most commonly formed at convergent boundaries, where two plates collide. When this happens, the denser plate is forced underneath the less dense plate. This process is called subduction. As the denser plate subducts, it melts and the molten rock rises back up to the surface. This molten rock then cools and forms a new crust. The collision of the two plates also causes the crust to crumple and fold, which can create mountains.
 - b) **Oceanic Trenches:** Subduction zones at convergent boundaries create deep oceanic trenches, which are among the deepest parts of the Earth's surface. The Mariana Trench in the western Pacific Ocean is the deepest known trench.
 - c) **Volcanoes:** Volcanic activity occurs at divergent boundaries, where new crust is formed, and at convergent boundaries, where subduction occurs. These processes create volcanic features such as volcanic island arcs, seamounts, and volcanic mountain ranges.
 - d) **Rift Valleys:** Divergent boundaries result in the formation of rift valleys, characterized by the pulling apart of the lithospheric plates. The East African Rift Valley is a prominent example.
 - e) **Plateaus:** The uplift of large regions of land can occur due to the collision of plates or the upwelling of mantle plumes. This uplift can result in the formation of plateaus, such as the Colorado Plateau in the

United States.

- f) **Linear Seas:** When tectonic plates move apart, they also create new oceanic crust. This new oceanic crust is initially hot and thin, and it can sink below the water level. If the new oceanic crust sinks far enough, it can form a linear sea. The Mid-Atlantic Ridge is an example of a linear sea that was formed by seafloor spreading.

Conclusion:

- The processes associated with plate tectonics, including divergent plate boundaries, convergent plate boundaries, transform plate boundaries, and hotspots, play a vital role in shaping various geographical features on Earth's surface.

Q17. Explain what is resource distribution and its significance. Discuss the challenges faced in the sustainable management of resources and propose strategies to address them. Support your answer with relevant examples.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- Resource distribution is a critical issue that is likely to become even more important in the coming years. The world's population is growing, and the demand for resources is increasing. At the same time, the environment is under increasing pressure from human activities. By understanding the challenges faced in the sustainable management of resources, we can develop strategies to ensure that everyone has access to the resources they need, while also protecting the environment for future generations.

Approach

- Write what does resource distribution mean (15 words)
- Explain the significance of resource distribution (35 words)
- Explain the challenges faced in sustainable management of resources (75 words)
- Explain the strategies that can be used to address the above challenges with examples (100 words)
- Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- Resource distribution plays a crucial role in human geography as it shapes patterns of economic development, social dynamics, and environmental sustainability. Resources, both natural and human-made, are distributed unevenly across the world, leading to disparities in wealth, access to basic needs, and environmental impacts. Understanding resource distribution and addressing its challenges is vital for sustainable development.

Body:

Significance of Resource Distribution:

- The significance of resource distribution lies in its influence on economic activities and human well-being. Natural resources such as minerals, fossil fuels, arable land, water, and forests are essential for various industries, agriculture, and energy production. Unequal distribution of these resources can create economic imbalances and social inequalities. For instance, countries rich in oil reserves, like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, have significantly benefited economically, while countries lacking such resources may struggle to meet their energy demands or rely on expensive imports.

Challenges in the sustainable management of resources:

- Population growth:** The world's population is growing rapidly, and this is putting a strain on natural resources. More people means more demand for food, water, energy, and other resources.
- Climate change:** Climate change is already having a significant impact on the availability of resources. For example, climate change is causing droughts in some areas and floods in others, which is making it difficult to produce food and water.

- **Economic development:** Economic development often leads to increased resource consumption. As countries develop, their citizens demand more goods and services, which requires more resources.
- **Inequity:** The benefits of economic development are not evenly distributed. The richest people in the world consume a disproportionately large share of resources, while the poorest people often have very little.

Strategies to address these challenges:

- **Efficiency:** One way to reduce resource consumption is to use resources more efficiently. This can be done by improving technology, changing behavior, and reducing waste.
- **Sustainable production:** Another way to reduce resource consumption is to produce goods and services in a sustainable way. This means using renewable resources, minimizing waste, and using energy efficiently.
- **Resilience:** It is also important to build resilience into our resource systems. This means making sure that our systems can withstand shocks and stresses, such as climate change or economic downturns.
- **Sustainable consumption:** Finally, we need to change our patterns of consumption to be more sustainable. This means consuming less, consuming more sustainably, and recycling and reusing more.
- There are many examples of sustainable resource management in practice. Use of rainwater harvesting to collect and store rainwater for use in dry seasons. Another example is the use of organic farming methods to reduce the use of chemicals and pesticides.

Conclusion:

- Resource distribution has significant implications for human geography, affecting economic development, social equity, and environmental sustainability. Challenges such as overexploitation and unequal access to resources need to be addressed through sustainable management practices, equitable resource allocation, and international cooperation. By implementing these strategies, societies can move towards a more sustainable and inclusive future.

Q18. Analyze the process of settlement and urbanization and its impact on economy and the environment. Discuss the challenges associated with rapid urbanization and propose strategies to promote sustainable urban development. Support your answer with relevant examples.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- This question addresses important issues related to urbanization, sustainable development, and environmental conservation. With rapid urbanization being a global trend, understanding its impact on society, economy, and the environment is crucial for policymakers and administrators.

Approach

1. Give introduction about settlement and urbanization (25 words)
2. Explain its impact on economy, and environment (50 words)
3. Explain the challenges faced in sustainable management of resources (75 words)
4. Explain the strategies that can be used to address the above challenges with examples (100 words)
5. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- Settlement and urbanization are interconnected processes that have profound impacts on society, economy, and the environment. The growth of settlements into urban areas brings about social transformations, economic opportunities, and environmental challenges. Analyzing these impacts and addressing the challenges associated with rapid urbanization are crucial for promoting sustainable urban development.
- The process of settlement involves the concentration of people in specific locations, often driven by economic factors or the availability of resources. As settlements grow and urbanize, their impacts on society become evident. Urban areas become centers of economic activities, offering job opportunities, access to services, and improved infrastructure. They also become melting pots of diverse cultures, fostering social interactions, and facilitating knowledge exchange.

Body:

Impact on society, economy, and the environment:

- In terms of the economy, urbanization plays a vital role.
 - Urban areas act as engines of economic growth, attracting investments, promoting entrepreneurship, and generating employment opportunities.
 - Industries, commerce, and services thrive in cities, contributing to increased productivity and higher living standards.
 - For instance, cities like Tokyo, New York, and London have become global financial centers, driving economic growth and innovation.
- The environmental impact of urbanization is significant.
 - Cities consume vast amounts of resources, including energy, water, and raw materials, contributing to pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Urban sprawl leads to the conversion of agricultural land and natural habitats, causing biodiversity loss and fragmentation of ecosystems.

Challenges with rapid urbanization:

- One of the key challenges is the strain on infrastructure and public services. As cities expand, there is a growing demand for housing, transportation, water supply, sanitation, healthcare, and education. Insufficient infrastructure and inadequate provision of services can lead to overcrowding, slums, traffic congestion, pollution, and inadequate access to basic amenities, particularly in developing countries.
- Another challenge is social inequality and exclusion. Rapid urbanization often leads to the formation of informal settlements or slums, where marginalized populations reside in substandard living conditions. Income disparities, lack of affordable housing, and limited access to services contribute to social exclusion and inequalities. This can lead to social tensions, crime rates, and a breakdown of social cohesion within urban areas.
- Cities often face challenges related to waste management and pollution control, further straining the environment.

Strategies to promote sustainable urban development:

- **Urban planning and governance:** Urban planning and governance should prioritize compact, mixed-use development, aiming to minimize sprawl and reduce the environmental footprint of cities. This involves efficient land use, promoting public transportation, and creating walkable neighborhoods.
- **Inclusive urban policies:** There is a need for inclusive urban policies that address social inequalities and ensure equitable access to housing, healthcare, education, and other basic services. Affordable housing initiatives, slum upgrading programs, and inclusive urban design can help foster social inclusion and improve living conditions for all residents.
- **Sustainable resource management practices:** Sustainable resource management practices should be adopted, focusing on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and sustainable water management. Implementing renewable energy systems, promoting recycling and waste-to-energy programs, and investing in green infrastructure can contribute to environmental sustainability in urban areas.
- **Community participation and engagement:** Involving local communities in decision-making processes, encouraging citizen participation, and promoting grassroots initiatives can foster a sense of ownership and ensure that development plans reflect the needs and aspirations of the people.
- **Development of rural areas:** Unnecessary migration and settlement in cities can be checked by developing rural areas and making employment opportunities available there.

Conclusion:

- Settlement and urbanization have significant impacts on society, economy, and the environment. Rapid urbanization poses challenges such as strain on infrastructure, social inequality, and environmental degradation. To promote sustainable urban development, strategies such as compact planning, inclusive policies, sustainable resource management, and community engagement are vital. Smart Cities Mission, National Urban Livelihoods Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation are some of the initiatives started by the government to promote sustainable urban development.

Q19. Analyze the cropping pattern in India and its implications for agricultural productivity, food security, and sustainability. Discuss the challenges faced in promoting diverse cropping patterns and propose strategies to encourage sustainable cropping practices.

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- As UPSC aims to assess candidates' knowledge of contemporary agricultural issues and their ability to propose practical solutions, this question provides an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their understanding of cropping patterns and their impact on agricultural productivity and sustainability.

Approach

- Briefly explain the cropping pattern in India (15 words)
- Also explain its implications (35 words)
- Explain the challenges faced in promoting diverse cropping patterns (50 words)
- Explain the strategies that can be used to encourage sustainable cropping practices (50 words)

Introduction:

- The cropping pattern in India is characterized by a mix of food crops, cash crops, and horticultural crops. However, there are regional variations due to diverse agro-climatic conditions and market demands. The major crops grown in India include rice, wheat, maize, pulses, oilseeds, sugarcane, cotton, and fruits and vegetables. The dominance of certain crops in specific regions is influenced by factors such as soil fertility, water availability, and historical practices.

Body:

Implications:

- The implications of the cropping pattern are significant.
- Agricultural productivity depends on the suitability of crops to the local environment, availability of inputs, and market demand.
- The choice of crops affects the income and livelihoods of farmers, as well as food availability and affordability for consumers.
- Moreover, the cropping pattern also has environmental implications, including water usage, soil health, and the risk of pests and diseases.

Challenges in promoting diverse cropping patterns:

- Historical preference for certain crops:** One of the challenges in promoting diverse cropping patterns is the historical preference for certain crops driven by market forces and government policies. In some regions, the focus on high-yielding varieties of rice and wheat has led to a neglect of other crops, resulting in reduced agrobiodiversity and increased vulnerability to pests and diseases. This mono-cropping practice can also lead to soil degradation, water scarcity, and the depletion of natural resources.
- Limited access to inputs:** Another challenge is the limited access to inputs and knowledge required for diversification. Farmers often face constraints in terms of availability and affordability of quality seeds, fertilizers, irrigation facilities, and technical support. Lack of awareness about alternative cropping options and market risks also discourages farmers from adopting diverse cropping patterns.
- Poor irrigation facilities:** Irrigation facilities are not equally distributed across the country. It is mainly concentrated in only a few regions like Punjab and Haryana.

Strategies to encourage sustainable cropping practices:

- Farmer-centric policies:** There is a need for farmer-centric policies that incentivize crop diversification. This can be achieved through targeted subsidies, improved access to credit, and insurance schemes that cover a wide range of crops. Government procurement systems and market linkages should be expanded to ensure fair prices and market access for non-traditional crops.
- Research and development:** Investment in research and development is crucial for identifying region-specific cropping patterns that are environmentally sustainable and economically viable. This includes promoting

climate-resilient crops, crop rotations, intercropping, and agroforestry practices. Research institutions and agricultural extension services should play an active role in disseminating knowledge and providing technical support to farmers.

- **Agriculture infrastructure:** Strengthening agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation facilities, storage facilities, and transportation networks, is necessary to support diverse cropping patterns. This will enhance productivity, reduce post-harvest losses, and improve market access for farmers.
- **Increasing awareness of farmers:** Raising awareness among farmers about the benefits of diverse cropping patterns and sustainable practices is essential. This can be done through capacity-building programs, farmer field schools, and knowledge-sharing platforms. Encouraging farmer-to-farmer exchanges and promoting participatory approaches will help in disseminating best practices and facilitating learning.

Conclusion:

- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme, are some of the schemes introduced by the government to encourage sustainable cropping practices. In addition to these government initiatives, there are a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that are working to promote diverse cropping patterns and sustainable cropping practices. These NGOs provide farmers with training, education, and technical assistance to help them adopt these practices.

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Q20. Examine the impact of trade liberalization on the geographical distribution of industries. Discuss how trade liberalization influences the location decisions of industries and analyze its implications for regional development.

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- The issue of trade liberalization is a major topic in current affairs. The question assesses the candidate's understanding of this issue. It encourages candidates to analyze the implications of trade liberalization for different regions, highlighting the challenges of addressing regional disparities and the need for balanced and inclusive economic policies.

Approach

1. Introduce trade liberalization (10 words)
2. Explain where industries were located historically (15 words)
3. Explain its impact on geographical distribution of industries (25 words)
4. Explain how trade liberalization influences the location decisions of industries (50 words)
5. Explain the implications of trade liberalization for regional development (50 words)

Introduction:

- Trade liberalization, characterized by the removal of trade barriers and the promotion of international trade, has a significant impact on the geographical distribution of industries. It influences the location decisions of industries by altering market dynamics, cost considerations, and competitive advantages. Analyzing this impact is essential to understand how trade liberalization shapes regional development.
- In the early days of industrialization, industries were typically located in close proximity to natural resources. However, as transportation networks developed, industries began to move to other locations, such as ports and cities. This was because these locations offered access to markets and labor. In recent years, there has been a trend towards the decentralization of industries.

Body:

Influence of trade liberalization on location:

- Trade liberalization encourages industries to consider various factors when deciding on their location. One of the primary influences is **market access**.
 - **Reduced trade barriers, such as tariffs and quotas**, enable industries to reach larger consumer markets beyond national boundaries.
 - Industries tend to locate closer to these markets to take advantage of the increased demand and access to a broader customer base.
 - For example, automobile manufacturers often establish production facilities in countries with large consumer markets to ensure proximity to potential buyers.
- Cost considerations also play a crucial role in location decisions influenced by trade liberalization.
 - Industries seek to **minimize production costs and enhance competitiveness** in the global market. Factors such as **labor costs, access to raw materials, infrastructure availability, and tax incentives** become important in determining the location.
 - Trade liberalization can facilitate **access to cheaper inputs**, such as raw materials or intermediate goods, **leading to the relocation of industries to regions with cost advantages**. For instance, textile and garment industries often relocate to countries with lower labor costs to remain competitive.
- Trade liberalization also promotes the development of competitive advantages for specific regions. Industries tend to cluster in **regions that offer specialized skills, knowledge, or resources**.
- Trade liberalization enhances the exchange of ideas, technology, and expertise across borders, leading to the concentration of industries in regions with specific strengths.
- Silicon Valley in the United States is a prime example of a region that has become a hub for technology and innovation due to trade liberalization and the presence of key industry players.

The **implications of trade liberalization on regional development** are multifaceted:

- It can stimulate economic growth and employment opportunities in regions where industries concentrate.
- The influx of investments and the development of supporting industries can lead to the creation of a robust industrial ecosystem. This can result in increased income levels, improved infrastructure, and better living standards for the local population.
- Trade liberalization can also lead to regional disparities. Industries may concentrate in already developed regions with existing infrastructure and resources, exacerbating the urban-rural divide. This can result in uneven regional development, with some regions experiencing economic stagnation or even decline.
- The concentration of industries in specific regions may also strain local resources and infrastructure, leading to environmental degradation and social challenges.
- Ghettoization can occur when a particular industry is located in a specific area. This can lead to the concentration of a particular minority group in that area, as they may be more likely to find employment in

that industry. This can then lead to a number of social and economic problems, such as poverty, crime, and poor educational outcomes.

To address these implications and ensure balanced regional development, **several strategies** can be employed:

- Governments can adopt policies that promote investment and infrastructure development in lagging regions, encouraging industrial diversification and employment generation.
- Special economic zones or industrial clusters can be established in underdeveloped regions to attract industries and create a conducive business environment.
- Targeted skill development programs and educational initiatives can help equip the local workforce with the necessary skills to participate in emerging industries.
- Proactive regional planning and coordination among regions can help distribute industries more evenly.
- By identifying each region's strengths and potential, industries can be strategically located to leverage local resources and competitive advantages. This can help prevent excessive concentration in certain regions and promote balanced regional development.

Conclusion:

- Trade liberalization significantly influences the geographical distribution of industries by impacting location decisions. Market access, cost considerations, and competitive advantages shape these decisions. Trade liberalization can lead to both positive and negative implications for regional development, with some regions benefiting from industry concentration while others may experience disparities. By implementing targeted policies, promoting investment in lagging regions, and adopting proactive regional planning, governments can ensure balanced regional development and maximize the benefits of trade liberalization.

Q21. Examine the challenges faced in inclusion of certain communities into the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category. Analyze the impact of such inclusions on social and economic indicators, cultural dynamics, and political representation.

[15Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- The inclusion of certain communities into the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category is a critical and sensitive issue with far-reaching implications on social, economic, cultural, and political aspects. Aspirants appearing for UPSC Mains must have a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and impacts of such inclusions to address the complexities involved in the process of tribal categorization and the implications for governance and policymaking in India.

Approach

1. Introduce ST category (10 words)
2. Examine the challenges faced in inclusion (65 words)
3. Explain the impact of inclusions on social and economic indicators, cultural dynamics, and political representation (150 words)
4. Conclusion (50 words)

Introduction:

- The Scheduled Tribe category is a classification under the Constitution of India, which recognizes certain marginalized communities as historically disadvantaged and provides them with specific rights and protections.

Body:

The inclusion of communities into the ST category presents certain **challenges and considerations**:

- a) **Criteria and Process:** Determining the eligibility of communities for inclusion in the ST category can be complex and contentious. There is a need for clear criteria and transparent processes to ensure fairness and avoid any misuse or dilution of the benefits.

- b) **Inequitable Distribution:** The distribution of resources and benefits among various ST communities may not always be equitable. Some communities within the ST category may continue to face marginalization and underdevelopment, requiring targeted interventions to address their specific needs.

The inclusion of communities into the ST category has implications for social and economic indicators, cultural dynamics, and political representation.

Implications for social and Economic Indicators:

- a) **Empowerment and Social Welfare:** The inclusion of communities into the ST category provides them with access to various social welfare schemes, reservations in education and employment, and protection of their cultural rights. This helps in addressing historical disadvantages, reducing social inequalities, and improving the overall well-being of these communities.
- b) **Poverty Alleviation:** Many of the communities included in the ST category are often economically marginalized and face higher poverty rates. Inclusion allows for targeted interventions and policies to uplift these communities, promote economic development, and reduce poverty levels.
- c) **Human Development:** The inclusion of communities into the ST category facilitates the provision of better healthcare, education, and infrastructure facilities in their regions. This helps in improving human development indicators and narrowing the gaps between ST communities and other sections of society.
- d) **Social Dynamics:** The inclusion of new communities in the ST category can affect the social dynamics within existing ST communities. It may lead to competition for resources and political representation, requiring effective social integration and cohesive policies.

Implications for cultural dynamics:

- a) **Preservation of Identity:** Inclusion in the ST category ensures the protection and preservation of the unique cultural identity, traditions, and practices of these communities. It helps in safeguarding their language, art, folklore, and traditional knowledge from the risk of erosion due to assimilation.
- b) **Social Cohesion:** The recognition of diverse ST communities fosters a sense of belonging and social cohesion among members of these communities. It promotes cultural diversity and strengthens the multicultural fabric of the nation.

Implications for political representation:

- a) **Reservation of Seats:** Inclusion in the ST category provides reserved seats for elected representatives in legislative bodies at various levels of government. This ensures political representation and gives a voice to the concerns and aspirations of ST communities in the decision-making process.
- b) **Empowerment and Participation:** Political representation enables ST communities to actively engage in the political process, advocate for their rights, and influence policies that affect their development and well-being.

Conclusion:

- The inclusion of certain communities into the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category in India has significant implications for the demography of the country. The criteria for inclusion into the ST category are currently based on a number of factors, including tribe-specific customs, traditions, and practices. This criteria should be reviewed and well-defined. The bureaucratic process of applying for inclusion into the ST category can be made more streamlined and efficient.

Q22. Discuss the factors contributing to reverse migration and the implications for urban-rural dynamics, employment, social integration, and regional development.

[10Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- The COVID-19 pandemic triggered a significant reverse migration phenomenon, impacting various aspects of society and governance. Aspirants appearing for UPSC Mains must understand the factors driving reverse migration and its implications on urban-rural dynamics, employment, social integration, and regional development to formulate effective policies for inclusive growth and disaster management.

Approach

1. Introduce reverse migration (25 words)
2. Explain the factors contributing to reverse migration (50 words)
3. Discuss the implications for urban-rural dynamics, employment, social integration, and regional development (50 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- The recent reverse migration trend in India, referring to the movement of people from urban areas back to their rural home towns or villages, has been influenced by various factors. This trend has significant implications for urban-rural dynamics, employment, social integration, and regional development. Fine start.

Body:**Factors contributing to reverse migration:**

- a) **Economic Distress:** Economic downturns, job losses, and reduced income opportunities in urban areas, particularly during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, have compelled many migrant workers to return to their rural homes in search of better livelihood prospects and social support systems.
- b) **Social and Emotional Factors:** The desire to be with family, cultural ties, and a sense of belonging to their native place have driven some individuals to opt for reverse migration. This is often fuelled by the challenging living conditions and social isolation experienced in urban areas.
- c) **Access to Basic Amenities:** Inadequate access to healthcare facilities, housing, sanitation, and other essential services in urban areas, especially in slums or informal settlements, has motivated people to return to rural areas where they might have better access to these amenities.

Implications for urban-rural dynamics:

- a) **Population Redistribution:** Reverse migration results in a redistribution of population from urban to rural areas, impacting the demographic composition and growth rates of both regions.
- b) **Strain on Rural Infrastructure:** The sudden influx of returning migrants can strain rural infrastructure, including housing, healthcare, education, and public services, as these areas might not be prepared to accommodate the increased population.
- c) **Changing Socio-economic Dynamics:** Reverse migration can lead to changes in the social and economic dynamics of rural areas, as returning migrants bring back new skills, experiences, and entrepreneurial ventures that can contribute to local development.

Implications for employment:

- a) **Job Creation and Livelihood Opportunities:** Reverse migration can stimulate job creation and livelihood opportunities in rural areas through the establishment of small-scale industries, agriculture-based ventures, and local service sectors.
- b) **Agricultural Sector:** The return of migrant workers to rural areas can address labor shortages in the agricultural sector, leading to increased productivity and the adoption of advanced farming practices.
- c) **Urban Unemployment:** The departure of many migrant workers from urban areas due to reverse migration can result in labor shortages and impact sectors heavily reliant on migrant labor, such as construction, manufacturing, and services.
- d) **Disguised Unemployment:** If people return to rural areas after having migrated to urban areas in search of work, they may be unable to find jobs that match their skills and abilities. This can lead them to take on jobs that are below their level of education or training, which can be disguised employment.

Implications for social integration and regional development:

- a) **Social Integration:** Reverse migration can strengthen social bonds, community networks, and cultural traditions in rural areas as individuals reintegrate into their native communities. However, it can also lead to social tensions and competition for resources.
- b) **Regional Development:** Reverse migration presents an opportunity for regional development as return migrants bring back knowledge, skills, and financial resources to contribute to local economies. It can help bridge the rural-urban development divide and promote balanced regional growth.

Conclusion:

- Reverse migration is driven by economic, social, and cultural factors. While it can provide benefits such as improved quality of life and rural development, it also poses challenges for urban-rural dynamics, employment, social integration, and regional development. Effective policies and planning are crucial to manage these implications and ensure sustainable development across both urban and rural areas.

Q23. Analyze the recent trend of individuals choosing to stay single. Discuss the factors driving this trend, its implications for family structures, social dynamics, and the well-being of individuals.

[10Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance:

- The increasing trend of individuals choosing to stay single has significant implications for society, family structures, and individual well-being. Aspirants appearing for UPSC Mains must analyze the factors driving this trend and its potential impact on social dynamics, family support systems, and the overall well-being of individuals in the context of changing societal norms and lifestyle choices.

Approach

1. Introduce the topic (25 words)
2. Explain the factors driving the trend of staying single (50 words)
3. Discuss the implications for family structures, social dynamics, and the well-being of individuals (50 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- The recent trend of people consciously opting to remain unmarried or not enter long-term committed relationships. Analyzing the factors driving this trend and its implications for family structures, social dynamics, and the well-being of individuals provides insights into its broader impact.

Body:**Factors driving the trend of staying single:**

- Changing Social Norms:** Societal attitudes towards marriage and relationships have evolved over time. Increased acceptance of diverse lifestyles, emphasis on personal freedom and individual choices, and the recognition of alternative paths to fulfillment have contributed to the trend of staying single.
- Economic Independence:** Greater economic opportunities, particularly for women, have resulted in financial independence and the ability to pursue personal and professional goals without the constraints of marriage or long-term relationships.
- Career and Personal Aspirations:** The pursuit of career advancements, personal growth, and self-fulfillment often requires undivided attention and time commitments. Many individuals prioritize their professional and personal aspirations over traditional family structures.
- Relationship Complexity:** The complexities associated with relationships, such as divorce rates, changing gender roles, and societal pressures, have made individuals more cautious about committing to long-term partnerships.

Implications for family structures and social dynamics:

- Changing Definition of Family:** The trend of staying single challenges the traditional concept of family centered around marriage and parenthood. It leads to a more diverse understanding of family structures, including chosen families, close friendships, and support networks.
- Declining Birth Rates:** The decision to stay single often correlates with lower birth rates as individuals may choose not to have children or delay parenthood. This can have demographic implications, affecting population growth and age structures.
- Social Integration and Support Systems:** The trend of staying single highlights the need for inclusive social support systems that cater to diverse familial and relational configurations. It requires society to adapt and

provide avenues for meaningful social connections, support networks, and community engagement for single individuals.

- **Impact on Gender Roles:** The trend of staying single challenges traditional gender roles and expectations. It provides opportunities for greater gender equality, as individuals are not bound by traditional roles associated with marriage and family obligations.

Impact on the well-being of individuals:

- **Autonomy and Freedom:** Staying single allows individuals to maintain a high degree of personal autonomy and freedom in decision-making, lifestyle choices, and self-expression. It offers opportunities for personal growth, self-discovery, and pursuing individual passions.
- **Social and Emotional Well-being:** The trend of staying single can foster strong social connections, friendships, and support networks, leading to enhanced social and emotional well-being.
- **Loneliness and Social Isolation:** While staying single can offer personal freedom, some individuals may experience feelings of loneliness or social isolation leading to depression. Addressing this challenge requires creating inclusive communities, support systems, and fostering meaningful relationships for single individuals.

Conclusion:

- The trend of individuals choosing to stay single is driven by changing social norms, economic independence, career aspirations, and relationship complexities. It has implications for family structures, social dynamics, and individual well-being. Embracing this trend requires society to adapt, provide inclusive support systems, and ensure the well-being of single individuals. It also opens opportunities for redefining family structures, fostering gender equality, and promoting diverse and inclusive communities.

Q24. Discuss India's recent emergence as the world's most populous country on its society and development. Analyze the challenges and opportunities associated with this demographic milestone and propose strategies to harness the potential benefits while addressing the associated concerns.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- India's recent emergence as the world's most populous country has significant implications for its society and development. Aspirants appearing for UPSC Mains must analyze the challenges and opportunities posed by this demographic milestone, including issues related to resource management, healthcare, education, employment, and urbanization. Proposing effective strategies to harness the potential benefits while addressing the associated concerns is crucial for policymakers to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth in the country.

Approach

1. Write when India has become the most populous country, try stating some figures (25 words)
2. Explain the challenges and opportunities associated with demographic milestone (100 words)
3. Discuss the strategies to harness the potential benefits (100 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- With a population of 1.4286 billion, India's recent emergence as the world's most populous country has significant implications for its society and development. While it presents both challenges and opportunities, effective strategies are needed to harness the potential benefits while addressing the associated concerns.

Body:

Challenges:

- **Basic amenities:** The sheer size of India's population poses challenges in terms of providing necessities such as food, water, healthcare, and education to all its citizens. Overpopulation can strain resources,

infrastructure, and social services, leading to issues like poverty, inequality, and inadequate social welfare.

- **Unemployment:** India faces the challenge of providing employment opportunities to its growing population. Failure to generate sufficient jobs can lead to unemployment, underemployment, and social unrest.
- **Pressure on Infrastructure:** The increasing population exerts pressure on infrastructure, including transportation, housing, and public services. Urban areas face the burden of accommodating a rapidly growing population, resulting in overcrowding, inadequate housing, and strained public amenities.
- **Environmental Impact:** With a larger population, India's natural resources face increased demand and exploitation, leading to environmental degradation, pollution, and loss of biodiversity. This poses challenges for sustainable development and exacerbates climate change concerns.
- **Increased risk of disease transmission:** Overpopulation can lead to increased contact between people, which can make it easier for diseases to spread. This is because there are more opportunities for people to come into contact with each other, and there are more people who are susceptible to infection.

Opportunities:

- **Demographic Dividend:** India's large population can be harnessed as a demographic dividend by leveraging the working-age population to drive economic growth. By providing skill development and employment opportunities, India can benefit from a productive workforce and increased consumption.
- **Market Potential:** With a massive consumer base, India's population offers opportunities for businesses and industries to expand and thrive. It can attract domestic and foreign investments, promoting economic development and entrepreneurship.
- **Innovation and Knowledge:** India's population is a vast pool of talent and innovation potential. By investing in education, research, and development, India can tap into this resource to foster technological advancements and knowledge-based industries.

Strategies:

- **Employment Generation:** Emphasize policies and initiatives to promote job creation through sectors like manufacturing, services, and entrepreneurship. Skill development programs can enhance employability and address the unemployment challenge.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Prioritize investments in infrastructure to support the growing population. Focus on improving transportation networks, affordable housing, healthcare facilities, and access to basic amenities in both urban and rural areas.
- **Education and Healthcare:** Enhance access to quality education and healthcare services. Investments in education can improve human capital, while better healthcare can address population health concerns and reduce the burden on the healthcare system.
- **Sustainable Development:** Implement measures to promote sustainable practices and environmental conservation. Encourage renewable energy adoption, efficient resource management, and awareness campaigns to tackle environmental challenges.
- **Family Planning and Women Empowerment:** Promote family planning programs and women empowerment initiatives to address the population growth rate. Education and healthcare access for women can lead to informed choices and better family planning practices.

Conclusion:

- India's emergence as the world's most populous country brings both challenges and opportunities. By implementing strategies that focus on employment generation, infrastructure development, education, healthcare, sustainable development, and family planning, India can harness the potential benefits while addressing concerns associated with its population growth. Effective policy implementation, governance, and public-private partnerships are vital to achieving sustainable development and inclusive growth for all.

Q25. How do social issues like unemployment, illiteracy, urban-rural divide, and environmental degradation impact the social fabric of Indian society? Discuss the strategies employed by the government and civil society organizations to tackle these challenges and promote sustainable social development.

[15 Marks, 250 Words]

Relevance:

- This question is highly relevant for UPSC Mains as it addresses critical social issues that significantly impact Indian society. Aspirants are expected to understand and analyze the multifaceted impact of unemployment, illiteracy, urban-rural divide, and environmental degradation on the social fabric of India. Additionally, they need to examine the various strategies implemented by the government and civil society organizations to tackle these challenges and promote sustainable social development. This question assesses the candidate's ability to comprehend complex social issues, critically analyze policy measures, and propose effective solutions for inclusive and equitable growth in the country.

Approach

1. Introduce the topic (25 words)
2. Explain the impact of unemployment, illiteracy, urban-rural divide, and environmental degradation and strategies to be followed (170 words)
3. Mention the initiatives introduced by government and CSOs in this regard (30 words)
4. Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction:

- Social issues such as unemployment, illiteracy, urban-rural divide, and environmental degradation have a profound impact on the social fabric of Indian society. These challenges create barriers to inclusive growth and hinder the overall development of the country.

Body:

Impact of unemployment, illiteracy, urban-rural divide, and environmental degradation and strategies to be followed:

Unemployment:

- **Impact-** It poses a significant challenge in India, particularly among the youth. It leads to social unrest, economic inequalities, and undermines individual well-being.
- **Initiatives-** The government has implemented various measures like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) and Skill India initiative to generate employment opportunities and enhance skills. Civil society organizations also play a crucial role by offering vocational training, entrepreneurship development programs, and promoting self-employment options.

Illiteracy:

- **Impact:** It is another pressing social issue that affects millions of Indians. It limits access to opportunities, perpetuates poverty, and hinders overall progress.
- **Initiatives:** The government has focused on expanding access to quality education through initiatives like the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and the Right to Education Act. Additionally, NGOs and community-based organizations are actively engaged in promoting education and reducing illiteracy by setting up schools, conducting awareness campaigns, and providing scholarships.

Urban-rural divide:

- **Impact:** The urban-rural divide is a persistent social issue that leads to disparities in terms of infrastructure, healthcare, education, and economic opportunities.
- **Initiatives:** The government has launched programs like the Smart Cities Mission and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) to improve urban infrastructure and bridge the gap. Civil society organizations contribute by advocating for rural development, promoting sustainable agriculture, and empowering rural communities through skill development and microfinance initiatives.

Environmental degradation:

- **Impact:** It poses a threat to the social fabric of Indian society. Issues like air and water pollution, deforestation, and climate change have wide-ranging impacts on health, livelihoods, and overall well-being.
- **Initiatives:** The government has taken initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat Mission, Clean Ganga Project, and National Clean Air Program to address environmental challenges. Civil society organizations actively participate in environmental conservation efforts through awareness campaigns, afforestation drives, and sustainable development projects.

Conclusion:

- Social issues like unemployment, illiteracy, urban-rural divide, and environmental degradation have significant implications for Indian society. The government and civil society organizations are implementing various strategies to tackle these challenges. However, concerted efforts involving policy interventions, grassroots initiatives, and public participation are required to promote sustainable social development and create a more inclusive society in India.


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ABHYUDAY

4

GS FL
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2

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25 Probable Questions On GS II Paper

(Students should note that these are model answers. Hence, they are advised to pick up important points, phrases and data as per the word limit and demand of the question.)

Q1. Government of India in recent times have repeatedly emphasized on the prospect of “ONE NATION, ONE ELECTION”. Critically analyse.

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance

- The topic was frequent in the news and has relevance because similar themes had been asked multiple times in the previous years. For eg- 2014, 2017, 2018, 2022 etc.

Why in news?

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/centres-one-nation-one-election-proposal-is-unconstitutional-aap-3718390>
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/news/now-the-time-has-come-for-one-nation-one-election-amit-shah/videoshow/97909983.cms>
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/eci-is-master-of-elections-high-court-on-one-nation-one-election-plea-101675686616013.html>
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/one-nation-one-election-a-front-to-legitimise-buying-of-mlas-by-bjp-aap/article66425183.ece>

Approach

- The introduction should clearly sum up basic information about the one nation, one election.
- Further elaborate your answer with a holistic expression of reasons behind the emphasis on the prospect of ONOE by the government. Also, mention the limitations related to it.
- Conclude the answer by giving positive feedback.

Answer:

Introduction:

- In a developing country like India, where according to **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index**, about **27.9 percent of people** live in multi-dimensional poverty situation, an election expenditure costing **50,000 crores in one single Lok Sabha election** is unsustainable as well as questionable.
- The idea of One Nation One Election** is about structuring the Indian election cycle in a manner such that elections to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies are synchronized together.
- General elections for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies are held at a gap of 5 years in India. But in addition to this; elections for the different State Assemblies are held in some states separately which put huge burden on the government exchequer.

Body:

Reasons for emphasis on the prospect of ONOE by government:

- Money and administrative expense** will be drastically cut, political parties spend a lot on elections campaigning.
 - In 1951 elections, 53 political parties contested and the expense declared was 11 crores.
 - In recent 2019 elections, 610 political parties contested and the expense as per Alternative dispute resolution (ADR) is 60,000 crores.
- Governance:** Government will have time for some constructive work because imposition of model code of conduct for such a long time is hampering developmental and welfare activities.

- **It provides the parties in power to be a lot more bandwidth** to be focused on good governance for the welfare of the people rather than to be held in the loop of constant elections.
- **Getting Rid of False Promises:** Vote bank appeasement becomes the buzz word during elections. With elections around the corner, most political parties resort to contrivances to win or devastate reputation of different parties.
- **Social Welfare Focused the Government Machinery:** One Nation One Election concept will help the Schools and universities open on time; educators to work without fear of vacation every now and then. This will have positive on the life of overall population.

Limitations of ONOE:

- **Political issues:**
 - **Large national parties** would reap the economies of scale of one large election every five years, to the disadvantage of regional parties.
 - **Issues at the centre and the state level** are often found to be a lot different from each other and hence call for a unique modus operandi at both levels.
 - It has been proposed that the **judgment of the voters is likely to get affected** if the state and national polls were to held simultaneously mainly because of the fundamental difference between national and state issues.
- **Scarcity of resources:** In India, there is a great scarcity/ limited resources and the area is quite large as well as population is vast so it would be quite difficult to control and govern all things at the same time. If both the elections will happened at same time, large number of police force is required at the same time and there are chances of riots.
- **Centralisation of power:** One Nation one election shouldn't be there as it will lead to centralization of power and decrease power of states. There will be no opposition and it can lead to monopoly of power in few hands. For the growth of a nation opposition parties are necessary to take a decision.
- **Awareness of one nation one election:** People are not aware of one nation one election policy. There is need to make people aware and to make their mind prepare for the election because in India, people are habitual in giving votes in different elections.

Way forward:

- **The Anti-defection Law/ laid down under paragraph 2(1) (b) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution** be removed as an exception to prevent stalemate in the Assembly due to Hung Parliament.
- **Sections 14 & 15 of RPA, 1951**, be amended to extend the statutory limit of 6 months for the issuance of notification of general elections to provide the flexibility to Election Commission in conducting the simultaneous elections.
- **An alternative to premature dissolution of assembly** due to no-confidence motion could be that the members while moving such an option may also put forward an option for forming an alternative government.

Conclusion

- **"One India One Election"** would be a good change if it could be carried out with the proper execution of policies and rules, taking care of the **rising need for good administrative staff and security**. Proper consultations with experts and all stakeholders are a prerequisite before moving to such polls.

Q2. Speaker of Vidhan Sabha is one of the most important offices in the state legislature. Describe the appointment process as well as the powers of the Speaker.

[10 Marks, 150 Words]

Relevance

- Important because the function and conduct of the union and state legislature have been asked. For example- Speaker, Vice President, Governor (their functions and power).

Why in the news?

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/constitution-bench-verdict-empowers-speakers-in-maharashtra-political-crisis-case-suspends-2016-judgment-on-disqualification-petitions-101683831284275.html>
<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/mumbai/speaker-disqualification-rahul-narvekar-maharashtra-sc-verdict-shiv-sena-mlas-8600416/>

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about the speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
- Mention the reasons why the speaker of Vidhan is one of the most important offices in state legislature.
- Also, describe the importance, appointment process and powers of the speaker.
- Conclude the answer by giving a positive response.

Answer:

Introduction

- The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is the **presiding authority and highest authority of state legislative assemblies** in India for carrying house proceedings. He is empowered to determine the **status of a bill submitted** to the house by the state legislators.

Constitutional provisions:

- **Article 93** of the Constitution of India provides provisions for the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.
- **Article 94** deals with the vacation and resignation of, and removal from, the offices of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
- **Article 95** provides provision of power of the Deputy Speaker or other person to perform the duties of the office of, or to act as, Speaker.
- **Under Article 178** of the Indian Constitution every Legislative Assembly of a State shall, choose one of its Members as Speaker.

Body:

Importance of Speaker:

- The Speaker is the **principal spokesman** of the House. He represents its collective voice and is its sole representative to the world.
- **Communications from the Governor** to the House are made through the Speaker.
- Similarly, communications to the Governor are made through the Speaker in the form of a formal **address after a motion** has been made and carried by the House.

Role of Speaker in Legislative Assembly:

- A speaker is responsible for presiding assembly debates and maintains order and discipline of the house during legislative session. He decides "*when a member should be called upon to speak and how long he be allowed to speak*".
- **Questions relating breach of privilege and contempt of the house** is raised by the members with consent of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker.
- It is the Speaker who **determines what matters are money matters** as these fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Legislative Assembly. If the Speaker certifies a Bill as a Money Bill, his decision is final.
- The prime responsibility of the speaker is to maintain discipline and order in the house by practicing disciplinary privileges granted by the constitution of India.

Appointment of Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

- The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly is the presiding authority and highest authority of state legislative assemblies in India for carrying house proceedings.
 - He is empowered to determine the status of a bill submitted to the house by the state legislators.
- **Elected by the members of assembly**, this post is held by two politicians for two identical roles such as "speaker" and "deputy speaker" for assembly session proceedings.

- In case one fails to attend the session due to some uncertainties such as resignation, illness or death, deputy speaker acts as a presiding officer until a new speaker is elected.
- **It is created under the Article 178** of the Constitution of India. The Indian constitution also allows all states and union territories for the appointment of a speaker.
 - The two members are elected at anytime after the state election is declared.
- In Indian political system, the time frame for the election of a speaker and deputy speaker is determined by the state legislators independently.
- The election date for the post of speaker is decided by the state governor while deputy speaker election date is specified by speaker.

Powers of Speaker:

- **To permit a member** who cannot adequately express himself in Hindi or English or the official language of the state, to address the House in his mother tongue.
- To exercise a **casting vote** in the case of an equality of votes.
- To **determine whether a Bill is a Money Bill** and to certify a Money Bill.
- **To preside over the House**, whenever he is present in the House, excepting when a resolution for his removal from office is under consideration.
- **To adjourn the House** when there is no quorum.

Conclusion

- The Speaker plays the crucial role of ensuring that the State legislature carries forward its role of legislation peacefully, maintaining harmony and taking crucial procedural decisions of the House. The Speaker is the constitutional head of the House. He is the predominant spokesperson of the House. It is in him that the responsibility of carrying the working of the House in a way befitting the place of the organization in a representative democracy is invested.
- **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**, one of the leader architects of India's freedom and a moving force at the back of its Constitution, placed the Office of the Speaker in India inside the right context when he said:
- *The Speaker represents the House. He/He represents the dignity of the House, the freedom of the House, and because the House represents the nation, in a particular way, the Speaker becomes a symbol of nation's freedom and liberty. Therefore that should be an honored position, a free position and should be occupied always by persons of outstanding ability and impartiality.*



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T&C APPLIED*

Q3. Pressure groups have a major role to play in the Indian polity but are marred with major shortcomings. Comment.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Based on previous year papers of GS II, 2013, 2017, 2021 etc.
- Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India. (2013).
- How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years? (2017)
- Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. (2021)

Approach

- In the introduction, discuss the definition of pressure groups in India.
- Further elaborate by describing the Role of pressure groups in India. Also, highlight the shortcomings related to it.
- Conclude the answer by emphasizing the present aspect of it.

Answer:

Introduction

- Pressure Groups are also named **interest groups** or **vested groups**. Generally, they exert pressure on the government or the decision-makers for the fulfilment of their own interests. Interest groups are organized groups of people who seek to **promote their specific interests**.

Example:

1. **Professional pressure groups** (FICCI, CII, Trade unions, Farmers unions, student unions, etc.)
2. **Socio-cultural pressure groups** (RSS, VHP, Jamat-e-Islami, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Tamil Sangh, etc.)
3. **Institutional pressure groups** (Police welfare association, War widow association, etc.)
4. **Anomic pressure groups** (Naxals, etc.)

Body:

Role of pressure groups:

- **Functional Representation:** Pressure groups provide a **mouthpiece for the groups** that are not adequately represented through the electoral process or by political parties.
- **Political Activities and Participation:** Pressure groups have become increasingly important agents in the political system. Pressure groups try to **exert pressure precisely by mobilising and monitoring popular support** through activities such as public petitions, marches etc.
- **Policy Formulation and Implementation:** Although pressure groups are not policymakers, they are a vital source of information and expertise for an overloaded legislature and civil service.
- **As Educators and Mentors:** Pressure groups are part of civil society and are expected to make society democratically civilized. These pressure groups, through the process of communication, **try to make people informed and empowered**.

Limitations:

- **Minority Opinion is Sometimes Over-Represented:** Another issue with pressure organizations is that they can sometimes give a minority opinion disproportionate emphasis and influence. This can be beneficial since it ensures that minorities have a voice in the legislative process, which is essential for democracy, but it can be detrimental if it overshadows the rest of the population.
- **Biased and serving political interest:** In a country like India, the tendency to politicize every issue, whether it has social, economic, cultural import, restricts the scope, working, and effectiveness of pressure groups. Instead of exerting influence on political process, the pressure groups become tools and implements to subserve political interests.

- **Lack of internal democracy:** Pressure groups have a low level of internal democracy, creating the possibility that they express the views of their leaders and not their members.
- **Offensive Opinions:** Some pressure groups espouse opinions that are offensive to the majority of people. Because they are offensive, they frequently receive disproportionate media attention, which distorts public opinion.

Conclusion

- Pressure groups are now considered as an indispensable and helpful element of the democratic process. The society has become highly complex and individuals cannot pursue their interests on their own. They need the support of other fellow beings in order to gain greater bargaining power; this gives rise to pressure groups based on common interests.
- Democratic politics has to be politics through consultation, through negotiation and some amount of bargaining is also involved. Thus, it is very essential for the government to consult these organized groups at the time of policy formulation and implementation.

Q4. What is Online Dispute Resolution? Highlight its significance and challenges.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Important aspects of governance. (Effectiveness, transparency and accountability are the core theme- Questions have been directly asked from these topics)

Why in news?

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/india-must-board-the-online-dispute-resolution-bus/article66729863.ece>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/sebi-strengthens-online-dispute-resolution-mechanism-in-securities-market/articleshow/99097189.cms>

<https://m.economictimes.com/opinion/et-commentary/how-online-dispute-resolution-can-be-a-game-changer-for-protecting-ipr-of-women-entrepreneurs/articleshow/99824112.cms>

Approach

- Define the meaning of online dispute resolution.
- Discuss the significance and challenges related to it.
- Conclude the answer on a futuristic note.

Answer:

Introduction

- Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) is the **application of information and communications** technology to the prevention, management, and resolution of disputes.' ODR shares and builds upon the foundational characteristics of **alternative dispute resolution**, or ADR, **emphasizing easier and more efficient** methods of addressing conflict.

Body:

Significance of Online Dispute Resolution:

- **Managing Time and Cost:** ODR eliminates the need to fly, (ex. need to travel long distances) and greatly reduces the cost. It facilitates better time and cost management, greater procedural versatility, and more innovative solutions.
- **Informal and Flexible:** Compared to rigid court procedures followed for ages, ODR encourages speedy resolution in a versatile and informal way.
- **Communication asynchronously:** In comparison to impulsive reactions that can often take place in real-time face-to-face mediation discussions, asynchronous Internet communications have the benefit of being edited.

- **Feasible from a financial standpoint:** It not only provides speedy resolution but also is economically viable. As the process of arbitration involves physical proceedings which are most of the times barred by the geographical limitations, traveling and being present physically is in itself have become expensive and complicated.
- **It is possible to avoid complex jurisdictional difficulties:** One of the prominent issues of geographical limitation can be avoided with the help of ODR. It further remodels the system of dispute resolution from justice administered in a courtroom to a service that can be availed anywhere.

Challenges of Online Dispute resolution:

- **Hardware concerns:** Apart from the internet-related issue, some hardware-related concerns make the ODR inaccessible to a major portion of society.
- **Awareness:** The next technological roadblock in the way of ODR is the awareness among the users. Technology and digital literacy among users are the poorest among internet users across the globe.
- **ICT Infrastructure Challenge** One of the major problem in the ODR is the fact that many of the nations including India do not have robust internet infrastructure which is the first and foremost requirement of the ODR.
 - Though, it has been the policy to focus on the internet facilities and it has been discussed continuously about considering the internet as the 'basic right' yet for the ODR procedure to take place there should be a well-developed ODR platform, legal professionals along with software to have a perfect online dispute resolution mechanism.
- **Great Economic Divide between the Developing and the Developed Nations:** Due to globalization, developing countries share the common characteristics of unequally distributed wealth the developed nations have a more potential for ODR than the developing and the underdeveloped states which causes a disparity to arise.
 - A perfect ODR system has become a science fiction fantasy for the developing and underdeveloped nations.

Conclusion

- Online Dispute Resolution has relieved the **judiciary of the burden of the cases**, but because of lack of proper infrastructure and technology, the **efficiency of the decisions** was not up to the mark. Only those people were able to take the benefit who were digitally literate and had access to suitable devices.
- With the enormous expansion of the online market, the ODR mechanism requires widespread public knowledge and training, which may be achieved through social media, education, street plays, marketing, conferences, seminars, and campaigns, among other means, at the grass-roots level. The participation of the government is also extremely significant in granting financial assistance to ODR projects and assisting in the development of technical and administrative infrastructure necessary for the establishment of an ODR process.

Q5. The Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State (DPSPs) show harmony and has a dynamic and evolving process. Discuss in the light of the various judgments of the Supreme Court.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Since 2013, FR And DPSP has been one of the most important topics of UPSC. Based on that the question has been framed.
- Eg. Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. (2017)
- Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute. " Comment. (2022)
- Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizens a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy. (2015)

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about the fundamental right and the directive principle of state and show the harmony between the both.
- Discuss the dynamic relationship between both of them by including the various judgments of Supreme Court.
- Conclude highlighting the importance of fundamental rights and DPSP.

Answer:

Introduction

- **Fundamental rights and DPSP** as cherished in the Constitution of India together comprise the human rights of an individual. The Constitution expresses fundamental rights as an idea that appeared in India in 1928. **The Motilal Committee Report of 1928** clearly shows inalienable rights derived from the Bill of Rights enshrined in the American Constitution to be given to the individual. These rights were preserved in Part III of the Indian Constitution of India.

Body:

Harmony between these two provisions

- **Interdependence of rights and duties:** The Constitution emphasizes the interdependence of rights and duties. While Fundamental Rights guarantee certain liberties to individuals, the DPSPs highlight the responsibilities of States in making welfare schemes for the citizen.
- **Reasonable Restrictions and framework for its justification:** Fundamental Rights are subject to reasonable restrictions imposed by the state in the interest of public order, morality, and the sovereignty of the nation.
- **Justiciability:** The directive principles are not-justiciable in nature, that means it cannot be enforced by any court of India and is declaratory in its nature. Whereas, the Fundamental Rights are justiciable in nature and can be enforced by any court and is mandatory for all.
- **Instrument V. Limitation:** The directive Principles are considered to be an instrument for the government and also consist of positive commands which helps in the promotion welfare of the state. Whereas, the fundamental Rights are only limited to the action of the state and also consist of negative injunctions to the state.
- **Legislative And Judicial Actions:** The Directive Principles are needed to be executed by enactment while Fundamental Rights are not needed to be carried out by enactment. The courts can't proclaim as void any law which is generally substantial on the ground that it negates any of the Directive Principles. Then again, the courts will undoubtedly pronounce as void any law that is conflicting with major rights.

The judgment of the Supreme Court on harmonization between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State (DPSPs)

- **In the case of Pathumma vs. the State of Kerala, 1978**, the Supreme Court emphasised on the purpose of DPSP is to fix some social- economic goals. The constitution aims at bringing about a combination between DPSP and Fundamental rights which is reflected in several other cases as well.
- **In Minerva Mills Case**, the Court held that the law under Article 31 (C) would be protected only if it is made to implement the directive in Article 39 (b) and (c) and not in any other DPSP. Earlier protection was given to all the DPSP but after this case, it becomes restrictions and was declared that if protection is given to all DPSP it will be declared as void and unconstitutional in nature.
- **In the Kesavanandan Bharati case (1973)**, the Supreme Court declared the above second provision of Article 31C as unconstitutional and invalid on the ground that judicial review is a basic feature of the Constitution and hence, cannot be taken away. However, the above first provision of Article 31C was held to be constitutional and valid.
- **In State of Kerala vs. N.M.Thomas, 1976**, the Supreme Court said that Fundamental rights and DPSP should be built in such a way to be with each other and every effort should be taken by the court to resolve the dispute between them.

Conclusion

- Relation between Fundamental Rights and DPSP is cohesive in nature now and is an essential part of basic

Structure of Indian constitution. Both are complementary and supplementary to each other. State should follow the guidelines enumerated in DPSP to protect Fundamental rights else they will have to face adverse consequences in next elections. Thus, the Directive Principles no longer remain merely a moral obligation of the Government.

- It can be concluded by saying that the basic feature of the constitution is to maintain harmony between fundamental rights and DPSP. They are complementary and supplementary to each other. The theme of fundamental rights must be made in light of DPSP.

Q6. The constitutional amendments play a crucial role in safeguarding the sanctity of the Constitution of India. Elaborate. Also, discuss the limitation imposed on amending the Constitution of India with suitable examples.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Direct linkage with the PYQ, ultimately becomes important for 2023 as well.
- The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution. Discuss critically. (2013)
- If an amendment bill to the Whistleblowers Act, 2011 tabled in the Parliament is passed, there may be no one left to protect." Critically evaluate. (2015)
- Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power." In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power? (2016)
- Explain the salient features of the constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough 'to remove the cascading effect of taxes and provide for common national market for goods and services'? (2017)
- Parliament's power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power." In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power? (2019)

Approach

- Give a brief description of the constitutional amendment.
- Discuss how constitutional amendments are aimed at adopting the evolving needs of the Nation.
- Further, write about the limitations imposed on the amending power of the constitution.
- Conclude by emphasizing the positive aspect of the Constitutional amendment.

Answer:

Introduction

- Amending the Constitution of India is the **process of making changes to the nation's fundamental law or supreme law**. The Constitutional amendments of India are aimed at adapting the Constitution to the evolving needs of the **nation and maintaining a balance of power** and aimed at meeting the evolving needs of the nation.

Body:

Constitutional Amendments are aimed at adapting the Constitution to the evolving needs of the nation: The process of amending the Constitution in India is outlined in Article 368.

- It requires a special majority in both houses of Parliament (a two-thirds majority of members present and voting) as well as ratification by a majority of state legislatures, or in some cases, a simple majority in a national referendum.
- Over the years, **India has undergone various social, political, and economic changes**, and constitutional amendments have been a means to address these changes and ensure that the Constitution remains relevant and effective.

- **Amendments allow for the modification, addition, or deletion** of provisions in the Constitution, enabling the government and the legislative bodies to respond to emerging challenges and meet the aspirations of the people.

Recent examples of Constitutional Amendments to meet the evolving needs of the nation

- **The 101 Constitutional Amendments:** This amendment introduced a national Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India from 1 July 2017.
- **The 102nd Amendment:** It inserted Article 338B into the Constitution. It granted constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- **The 103 Constitutional Amendment Act:** It brought in a 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society.

Limitations imposed on the amending power of the constitution of India

- Parliament is free to enact any number of constitutional amendment in any given year. Although Parliament must preserve the basic framework of the Constitution, there is no other limitation placed upon the amending power, meaning that there is no provision of the Constitution that cannot be amended.
- **In Abdul Rahiman Jamaluddin v. Vithal Arjun (AIR 1958 Bombay, 94, (1957)),** the Bombay High Court held that any attempt to amend the Constitution by a Legislature other than Parliament, and in a manner different from that provided for, will be void and inoperative.
- **The Supreme Court first struck down a constitutional amendment in 1967,** ruling in the case of **I.C. Golak Nath and Ors. vs. State of Punjab and Anr.** An amendment was struck down on the basis that it violated Article 13: "The State shall not make any law which takes away or abridges the rights conferred by [the charter of Fundamental Rights]".
 - The term "law" in this article was interpreted as including a constitutional amendment. Parliament responded by enacting the twenty-fourth Amendment of the Constitution of India which declared that **"nothing in Article 13 shall apply to any amendment of this Constitution"**.
- **The current limitation on amendments** comes from **Kesavananda Bharati vs. The State of Kerala**, where the Supreme Court ruled that amendments of the constitution must respect the "basic structure" of the constitution, and certain fundamental features of the constitution cannot be altered by amendment.
- Parliament attempted to remove this limitation by enacting the Forty-second Amendment, which declared, among other provisions, that "there shall be no limitation whatever on the constituent power of Parliament to amend ...this Constitution". However, this change was itself later declared invalid by the Supreme Court in **Minerva Mills v. Union of India**.
- **NJAC:** In 2015, the Constitution Bench of Supreme Court by a majority upheld the collegium system and struck down the NJAC.
- **97th constitutional amendment:** The Supreme Court in 2021 upheld the validity of the 97th constitutional amendment (Part IX B) that deals with issues related to the effective management of cooperative societies but struck down a part inserted by it which relates to the Constitution and working of cooperative societies.

Conclusion

- The government in many landmark cases tried to amend the constitution in order to make it easier to ensure the best for the public interest. The judiciary was absolutely against the whole idea, in later judgments we see the judges opening up to the idea of the executive being able to override certain aspects of the basic structure in order to ensure the best for the public interest. But in later on judgments, unless the judiciary was absolutely convinced that such Acts would be beneficial in ensuring greater public welfare, they were strict about amendments that violated the basic structure.

Q7. "E-governance is the key to transforming the citizen's lifestyle digitally". In light of this statement highlight the role and challenges of e-governance in the education sector of India with appropriate examples/programs.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Core theme is frequently asked in UPSC.

- E-Governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about critical importance of the 'use value' of information. Explain. 2018
- Implementation of information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Projects / Programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors and suggest measures for their effective implementation. 2019
- The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated eGovernance as an integral part of government". Discuss. 2020

Approach

- Introduce by defining the meaning of E-governance as the key to transforming the citizens' lifestyle digitally.
- Further, elaborate on the role and challenges of e-governance in the education sector of India.
- Conclude by giving some cases study and the present relevance.

Answer:

Introduction

- **E-governance, meaning 'electronic governance'** is using information and communication technologies (ICTs) (such as Wide Area Networks, the Internet, and mobile computing) at various levels of the government and the public sector and beyond, for the purpose of enhancing governance.
- **Examples: Digital India, the National Portal of India, the Prime Minister of India Portal, Aadhaar, online tax filing and payment, digital land management systems, the Common Entrance Test, and others.**

Body:

How e-governance can transform citizen's lifestyle

- **Quality of Services:** ICT helps governments to deliver services to the citizens with greater accountability, responsiveness and sensitivity. Quality of services improves, as now the people are able to get services efficiently and instantaneously.
- **Change in Administrative Culture:** With e-governance, public actions coming under public glare would certainly induce norms and values of accountability, openness, integrity, fairness, equity, responsibility and justice in the administrative culture. Rather, the administration would become efficient and responsive.
- **Transparency:** easy access to information and subsequently makes the system publicly accountable. Also as web enables free flow of information, it can be easily accessed by all without any discrimination
- **Social Development:** The access to information empowers the citizens. Informed citizenry can participate and voice their concerns, which can be accommodated in the programme/ project formulation, implementation, monitoring and service delivery.

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Role of e-governance in the education sector:

- **Empower education system:** Introduction of e-governance in education will empower the education system by providing new ways of communications between teacher to student, teacher, to their fellow teachers and between student to student.
- **E-governance can enhance and promote new methods** of delivering the desired knowledge to students and will offer new insight to organize and deliver the requisite services.
- **Cost effective technology combined with the flexibility** in learning and administration activities is essential to enhance efficiency as computers can be used for educational administrations.
- **Helps to seek and cultivate new knowledge**, to engage dynamically and fearlessly in the pursuit of truth, and to interpret old knowledge and benefits in the light of new needs and discoveries.
- **Provide the right kind of leadership in all walk of life**, to identify gifted youth and help them develop their potential to the full of cultivating physical fitness, developing the powers of the mind and cultivating right interests, attitudes and moral and intellectual values.

Challenges of e-governance in the education sector:

- **The routine educational activities were suspended in March 2020** and an online educational system was adopted due to uncertain conditions to reduce the educational loss of coming generations across the world.
- **The online system helped to continue education;** activities, however, had its side effects which hit both the students and the academia.
- **It needs to be clarified that students** were already having more online contact hours than academia however mental and physical health challenges were encountered by both parties.
- **Academia who believed** that their extended screen hours affect their health were 84% and 12% denied the effects of the online system.
- **Digital vulnerability:** Lack of adequate resources and low digital penetration. The digital systems of many schools and universities are using obsolete technology. This makes them prone to greater connectivity and security issues.

Conclusion

- The government should adopt a new system of education that is fair, robust and removes the dependency on time-tabled exams. It must focus on unleashing the creative potential and imparting greater resilience in children. In this regard, there must be a prudent implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** that aims to achieve this purpose along with this Diksha portal, e-Pathshala etc. has to be implemented judiciously.
- **Education system can fully equip our children** to meet the ever-evolving demands in today's highly-competitive environment; the education system needs to be made more efficient and effective by implementing e-governance. It is **high time our educators think** in terms of imparting what is known as **life-long education, or, more aptly, life-long self-education**. It must adopt a multi-step strategy for a more equitable and resilient educational system thereby coming closer to the realisation of **SDG -4 (Providing Quality Education)**.

Q8. Governor is considered the link between the centre and the state to strengthen cooperative federalism but has instead been a major roadblock. Critically analyse.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Important because it was in the news due to Issues in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and the recent Manipur crisis. (Also, legislative and ordinance powers of governor have been asked in previous years)
- Similar theme-based questions are-
- The concept of cooperative federalism has been increasingly emphasised in recent years. Highlight the drawbacks in the existing structure and the extent to which cooperative federalism would answer the shortcomings. 2015
- How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer. 2020

- While the national political parties in India favor centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment. 2022

Approach

- Give a brief description of the governor of India.
- Discuss its role and functions and how it governs and helps in strengthening cooperative federalism. Also, write how has proven to be a roadblock and then write way ahead.
- Conclude by giving positive feedback.

Answer:

Introduction

- The role and position of the Governor in relation to the Centre can be described as a particular phase of Centre-State relations. When India became independent the immediate need was to achieve unity in its inherent diversity. Therefore, *"the Founding Fathers, responded through a Federal structuring of the government in the country, which because of the compulsions of history and tradition had to be Centre oriented"*.
- B.R. Ambedkar**, in the Constituent Assembly, mentioned that 'the Governor has no functions still, even the Constitutional Governor, that he is, has certain duties to perform. His duties according to me, may be classified into two parts-
- One is, that he has to retain the Ministry in office.** Because the Ministry is to hold office during his pleasure, he has to see whether and when he should exercise his pleasure against the Ministry.
- The second duty which the Governor has, and must have, is to advise the Ministry**, to warn the Ministry, to suggest to the Ministry an alternative and to ask for reconsideration.

Body:

Role of Governor in strengthening cooperative federalism:

- Governor has been seen as an agent of centre in the state government because the governor is generally appointed without the consent of Chief Minister and centre government can remove governor anytime for trivial reasons as there are no sufficient safeguards provided in the constitution.
- Further governor has been provided a lot of discretionary powers** as compared to President like referring a bill to the President etc and become a major hurdle in achieving the objective of cooperative federalism.
- For the maintenance of national interests, integrity and internal security** advocates need for central supervision in form of Governor.
- Governor serves as the cord between the centre and the states. The Constitution grants the Centre of full powers as regards to the appointment of the Governor. The role of the Governor is twofold- **firstly as Head of the state and secondly as the representative of the Centre.**
- He works as the **channel of communication between the Centre and the states.** Governor holds a wide degree of discretionary powers over the functioning of the state machinery. He can have a lot of impact on the working of the state legislature during 'fair weather' as well as during the Emergency.
- As the Governor is appointed by the President**, which indirectly leads to his appointment being made by the Council of Minister, the Central Government can creep into the works of the state government by this route.
- Special responsibility** have been conferred upon by the Governor in some states in respect of autonomous regions. **For ex- 6th schedule area of Assam.**

Governor acting as a roadblock in strengthening cooperative federalism:

- Misuse of discretionary powers:** States allege that the Governor acts on behalf of the Union government for political gains.
 - For eg:** The West Bengal Assembly (June 2022) passed a Bill paving the way for making the Chief Minister the Chancellor of State Universities replacing the Governor from the position.
- Appointment by Centre:** The post has become a retirement package for politicians.
- Arbitrary removal before the expiration of their tenure:** Even after the Supreme Court Judgement in **B.P. Singhal v/s Union of India**, a fixed tenure for Governors to encourage neutrality and fairness in the discharge of their duties, is not being implemented on the ground.

- The Governor continue to remains affiliated to Political Party that appoints them. This raise question mark over neutrality of the office of the Governor.
 - For e.g., in West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand are ruled by different political parties than the Centre.

Way Forward

- **Punchhi Commission** elaborated that the governor should follow “Constitutional Conventions” in a case of a hung Assembly.
- **Bommai Case** mentioned that the discretion of the Governor does not apply to hung assembly but it emphasized floor tests in the house within 48 hours.
- **Sarkaria Commission recommended** that;
 - The governor must be an important figure.
 - He must be a distant person who has no strong political ties or has not recently participated in politics.
 - He must not be a member of the ruling party
- **The governor must be a high constitutional authority**, function within the terms of the constitution, and be a friend, philosopher, and leader of his government.

Supreme Court judgements:

- **In SR Bommai vs. Union of India (1994):** The case was concerned with the use of Article 356 and the Governor’s power to dismiss a State Government. The Supreme Court ruled that whether the State Government has the majority should be tested on the floor of the House. It shouldn’t be based on the subjective assessment of the Governor.
- **In Rameshwar Prasad vs. Union of India (2006):** The Supreme Court held the Governor’s decision to dissolve the Assembly as unconstitutional and mala fide.

Conclusion

- The **constitution does not allow the governor** to run a parallel government and does not hold him personally responsible for his actions as governor. The governor must be a high constitutional authority, function within the terms of the constitution, **and be a friend, philosopher, and leader of his government.**

Q9. The Indian diaspora has an important role in the political and economic front with respect to India. Discuss.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Important for 2023 because discussion on Indian diaspora took place recently. If any topic has global relevance then it becomes important.
- Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South-East Asian countries’ economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in South- East Asia in this context. 2017
- Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries’. Comment with examples. 2020

Why in the news?

For example- Sansad TV (The global debate: Role of Indian diaspora in India’s progress in Amrit kaal)

<https://www.economist.com/international/2023/06/12/indias-diaspora-is-bigger-and-more-influential-than-any-in-history>

Approach

- Introduced by giving some facts related to the Indian diaspora. Also, you can highlight some of the reports.
- Discuss the importance of the Indian diaspora in the political and economic front in India.
- Conclude by giving some way forward.

Answer:

Introduction

- According to **Global Migration Report 2023**, *about 3 percent of the world's population—184 million people, including 37 million refugees*—live outside their country of nationality. Some **43 percent live in low- and middle-income countries**.
- **Diasporas are symbols of a nation's pride** and represent their country internationally. The diaspora's ability to spread Indian soft power, lobby for India's national interests, and contribute economically to India's rise is now well-recognized. One of the greatest economic contributions of Indian diaspora has been in terms of remittances.

Body:

Role of Indian Diaspora in political front:

- **Freedom struggle:** Mahatma Gandhi's struggle for ending institutionalized discrimination against Indians in South Africa became an inspiring legend for enduring sentimentalism about the diaspora in modern India.
 - As the independence movement gathered momentum at home, it began to influence many Indian communities abroad.
- **Cultural extension:** Sikhs are one of the largest migrants from India to the UK, Canada and many other countries.
 - **For eg.** The spread of Yoga, Indian Spirituality, Bollywood, Indian cuisine across the world.
- **Diaspora diplomacy:** Examples are lobbying for the US-India Civilian Nuclear Agreement Bill in 2008 and their remittance inflow.
 - The recent engagement of PM Modi in Houston is a continuation of his extraordinary political investment in engaging the Indian diaspora.
- **Political influence:** Diaspora play an important role in influencing policies and politics of its host country in favour of its country of origin and also, the development of good ties and relations between both countries. It helps in lobbying their nation's interest across the globe.

Role of Indian Diaspora in Economic front:

- **Indian diaspora's contribution to the world:** Indian diaspora in the world can be divided into two major categories (apart from others who are in myriad occupations and almost in every country in the world):
- **Technological graduates:** They are the engineering and management graduates, who are in high-value jobs majorly located in, but not limited to, the western countries like US and Europe.
 - **For eg.** Sundar Pichai, Satya Nadella, Indra Nooyi, Vinod Khosla, Deepak Chopra and many others have reached the highest echelons in their respective sectors.
 - **For e.g.,** the Indian diaspora in UK is almost 1.8% of the total population of UK, but it contributes almost 6% of the total GDP of UK.
- **Manual Labour:** These comprise the comparatively lower-skilled population, which has been hired for manual labour, majorly in the Arab or West Asian countries.
- **Contribute towards global supply chains:** Self-reliant India envisions India as a contributor to the world and a part of Covid crisis has shown the perils of being dependent upon foreign sources for raw materials and intermediate products. Thus, the direction of self-reliance is towards creating alternate supply chains.
- **With focus on 'Make in India',** Indian diaspora can be facilitated to contribute to the **Indian development story by investing in the greenfield and brownfield projects**, as well as, portfolio investments in India.
- Similarly, the Indian diaspora is expected to guide the policy-makers in the field of the Artificial Intelligence-driven industry which will create high-value jobs.

Way Forward:

- To ensure that Diaspora members feel welcomed on their arrival in India and also recall warmly their visits, a friendlier reception at their point of entry; easier procedures for immigration and customs clearances that are marked by courteous service are essential.
- A Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Indian Diaspora could be constituted. It should have in it, members with an interest in Diaspora affairs.

- Focus on promoting tourism among 2nd generation PIOs, Welfare of Indian Women married to NRIs/PIOs.

Conclusion

- A Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Indian Diaspora could be constituted. It should have in it, members with an interest in Diaspora affairs. **India's foreign policy aims** to translate partnerships to benefits for key projects like *Swachh Bharat, Clean Ganga, Make In India, Digital India, and Skill India*, the diaspora has plenty of scope to contribute.

Q10. India and Nepal partnership offers enormous potential for India but is accompanied by few challenges. Discuss.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Frequently in the news. (Pakistan, Sri-Lanka, Maldives, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, China- have been asked, so Nepal becomes important)

Why in the news?

<https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/will-strive-to-take-india-nepal-ties-to-himalayan-heights-pm-modi-after-talks-with-prachanda/articleshow/100676148.cms>

https://www.business-standard.com/opinion/columns/india-nepal-relations-soar-high-123060601113_1.html

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-pragmatic-approach-for-better-india-nepal-ties/article66951544.ece>

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about the relationship between India and Nepal.
- Discuss in brief the relationship between both countries.
- Conclude by giving a way forward.

Answer:

Introduction

- Nepal shares border with 5 Indian states. The commitment to the principles of **peaceful coexistence, sovereign equality** and understanding of each other's aspirations has been the base to form foundations of bilateral relations. The two countries not only share an open border and unhindered movement of people, but they also have close bonds through marriages and familial ties, popularly known as **Roti-Beti ka Rishta**.

Body:

The potential of India- Nepal relations:

- Rivers originating in Nepal feed the perennial river systems of India in terms of **ecology and hydropower potential**.
- Many **Hindu and Buddhist religious sites** are in Nepal making it an important pilgrim site for a large number of Indians.
- India is Nepal's **largest trade partner and the largest source of foreign investments**, besides providing transit for almost the entire third-country trade of Nepal.
- India is playing a very crucial role by extending its support to Nepal in every possible manner. But some issues demand some mid-course corrections in **India's Nepal policy**.

Current relations:

- **Water relation:** Nepal and India have a long history of water relationship with lapses in cooperation in the past.
 - E.g. Sarada Agreement (1920), Kosi Agreement (1954), Gandak Agreement (1959) and Mahakali Treaty (1996).

- **Economic relations:** India is Nepal's largest trade partner and the largest source of foreign investments, about 150 Indian ventures operate in Nepal in manufacturing, services (banking, insurance, dry port, education and telecom), power sector and tourism industries.
 - E.g. Cross-border railways, Pancheshwar multipurpose project, motorable bridges over Mahakali River.
- **Cultural relation:** Both nations promote people-to-people contacts, organize cultural programmes, and conferences and seminars.
- India and Nepal have also signed three sister-city agreements for the twinning of Kathmandu-Varanasi, Lumbini-Bodhgaya and Janakpur-Ayodhya.
- **Defence relation** India has assisted the Nepalese Army (NA) in its modernization through the provision of equipment and training and cooperation in areas of disaster management.
 - E.g. the 'Indo-Nepal Battalion-level Joint Military Exercise 'SURYA KIRAN' is conducted alternately in India and in Nepal.

Concerns in Indo-Nepal relationship:

- **Nepalese claim over Indian territories:** Nepal proclaims 400 km² of Indian land in Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura as part of Nepal's territory. India and Nepal claim the same disputed territory on the respective political maps.
- **Infrastructure projects:** Inauguration of a crucial road going through Lipulekh to Kailash and Mansarovar by India for building connectivity with the Tibetan plateau has frayed the relations.
- **Anti-Indian Sentiment post alleged Blockade by India:** India has been alleged to apply blockade after the Nepalese Constituent Assembly failed to acknowledge the demands of the Terai region Madhesi.
- **Another area of concern is the expanding role of China in Nepal.** Over the years, China's policy towards Nepal has been guided by its larger strategic game plan vis-a-vis South Asia. China's behavior is not of a state that is satisfied with the status quo in Nepal.
 - From being bilateral relationship that was largely focused on the single issue of Tibet, Sino-Nepalese relations today cover an entire gamut of issues.
- **Severely questioned and criticized by large sections of Nepali society,** in particular the dual approach India took in the course of the armed conflict by supporting both the warring parties.
 - The Nepali public attitude towards the behavior of Indian rulers is by and large negative and India wants to minimize the growing anti-Indian feeling among Nepali People.
 - For eg. more than 2 crores living in Darjeeling, Assam and various other states.

Conclusion

- In the past 50 years, India and Nepal seem to have experienced all the shades that a bilateral relationship can witness—friendship, doubt, trust, concealed antagonism, open distrust, helplessness, mutual appreciation, etc. They also know that whether they like it or not, they have no choice but to live together. They have also experienced the costs of suspicions and what it is to have trust in each other. Respecting each other's sensitivities, the two countries are on the threshold of building positive, mutually beneficial relations.

Q11. FCRA has been used to silence and force NGOs into submission before the state power, thereby throttling the collective articulation of citizens' interests. Critically Analyze.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

Frequently in the news. (Relevance from PYQ and Provisions of FCRA are important)

PYQ- Examine critically the recent changes in the rules governing foreign funding of NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976.

Why in the news?

<https://theleaflet.in/why-the-inordinate-delay-in-scs-hearing-of-fcra-and-electoral-bonds-cases-is-of-concern/>
<https://www.counterview.net/2022/01/govt-of-india-using-fcra-to-criminalise.html>

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about the foreign contribution Regulation Act of 1976.
- Discuss the arbitrary use of power. Also, mention some of the challenges associated with it.
- Conclude by summarizing the answer.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 1976 seeks to regulate the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions and foreign hospitality by certain individuals and organizations. Its frequent use against NGO has been criticized sometimes as arbitrary use of the state power.

Body:

FCRA: Arbitrary use of state Power:

- **Subjugating citizen interest:** Cancellation of FCRA registration of 20,600 NGOs in the last 10 years has been seen by many as subjugating NGOs in their role as civil society and in process subjugating citizen's interest.
- **Crippling impact on NGOs functioning:** Considerable administrative delays in processing of documents as mandated in 2020 amendment act during Covid-19 impacted NGO's role in serving citizen interest when it was needed the most.
- **Administrative costs:** The act mandates only 20% of foreign funds for administrative purposes. It has led to the crisis of survival for many NGOs dependent on such sources. Moreover, the amended act requires mandatory registration.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act, 2020

- **The Act regulates the acceptance and utilization of foreign contributions by individuals, associations and companies.**
 - Foreign contribution is the donation or transfer of any currency, security or article (of beyond a specified value) by a foreign source.
- **Prohibition to accept foreign Contributions: Certain persons are prohibited to accept any foreign contribution. These include:**
 - Election candidates, editors or publishers of a newspaper, judges, government servants, members of any legislature, and political parties, among others.
- **The Union government reserves the right to cancel the FCRA registration of any NGO if it finds it to violate the Act.**
 - Registration of the NGO can be cancelled for a range of reasons. Once the registration is cancelled, it is not eligible for re-registration for three years.
 - All orders of the government can be challenged in the High Court

This can be gauged due to the following factors:

- **Filtering:** FCRA has in recent times acted against NGO which have worked against the interest of the state.
 - For E.g. IB report highlighted that 2.3% of GDP loss per annum is due to anti-development activities by foreign-funded NGOs.
- **Ensuring accountability of NGOs:** According to The Central Statistical Institute of India, until a few years back more than 3.3 million NGOs were registered in India, which in the 1990s was in nascent stages. This sharp spur demands accountability which FCRA tries to ensure from the NGOs.
- **Protect citizen's interest:** By regulating the rise of professional activists who are more accountable to their financial donors than to public interest. Thus, its strict regulation standards ensure the protection of citizens' interests.
 - For e.g. The Kudankulam Nuclear Power project protest was allegedly organized by foreign-funded NGOs.
- **Check misuse of funds:** According to the Ministry of Home Affairs report, in 2021 there were only 2% of NGOs which were registered under FCRA, whereas the estimated number of NGOs receiving foreign funding was more than 20 lakhs. This indicates a diversion of funds.

Conclusion

- There is an urgent need to recognize the developmental and advocacy role played by NGOs. At the same time, it is essential that they be monitored through a less stringent but efficient FCRA prism. Self-regulation on the lines of public media or through NGO Darpan portal of Niti Aayog should be explored more.

Q12. Judiciary has been at the forefront of the struggle for gender equality and gender Justice in India. Discuss the statement with the help of relevant case laws.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Why in the news?

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/readersblog/gender-justice-and-equality/gender-justice-and-equality-53187/#:~:text=Gender%20justice%20and%20equivalency%20have,and%20girls%20across%20the%20country.>

<https://www.livelaw.in/top-stories/same-sex-marriage-supreme-court-gender-not-a-concept-of-where-your-genitals-226631>

<https://thelogicalindian.com/gender/5-landmark-supreme-court-judgements-of-2022-for-women-in-india-39404>

Approach

- Give an introduction by including the importance of the judiciary in gender equality and gender justice in India by discussing the cases related to it.
- Suggest the steps taken by the judiciary in this regard. Also, mention the issues associated with it.
- Conclude holistically.

Answer:

Introduction

- Judiciary, with the responsibility to protect the rights of Citizens and do complete Justice, has been at the forefront of expanding and ensuring equal rights for women. The Constitution of India (**Article 14, 19 and 21**) guarantees the right of equality and freedom from sexual discrimination to Indian women.

Body:

Steps Taken by the Judiciary:

- **Safer workplace for women:** *Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997)*: Famously known as Vishaka judgement, it led to the enactment of guidelines (Vishaka guidelines) to deal with cases of Sexual Harassment of women at workplaces.
- **Equal share in family property:** *Mary Roy Vs State of Kerala (1986)*: The Supreme Court delivered a landmark judgment that granted **Syrian Christian** women the right to seek an equal share in their father's property. Further, in *Vineeta Sharma v. Rakesh Sharma (2020)* the Supreme Court held that daughters have equal coparcenary rights in **Hindu Undivided Family (HUF)** property.
- **Freedom of marriage:** *Lata Singh Vs State of Uttar Pradesh*: The Supreme Court that allowed an adult woman the right to marry or live with anyone of her choice. The court further ordered that the police initiate criminal action against people who commit violence against those who decide on inter-religious or inter-caste marriages.
- **Preventing sex-selective abortion:** *Centre for enquiry into Health and Allied themes (CEHAT) Vs Union of India* Supreme court directed the Central and State governments to enact the provisions of PNDT act immediately and banned all advertisements relating to pre-natal sex determination techniques.
- **In the case of Shah Bano Begum**, the Supreme Court of India had commanded the parliament to frame a uniform civil code concerning the liability of a Muslim husband to give maintenance to his divorced wife who is not able to maintain herself after the iddat period.
- **In the Vishakha vs. State of Rajasthan case**, the Supreme held that gender equality can be established through fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 14, Article 19, and Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and sexual harassment at a workplace is a clearcut violation of these fundamental rights.

Issues:

- **The absence of legal security** and the prevalence of unequal legal provisions in the field of family, property, personal status laws restrict women's access to legal justice.

- **Economic, social, psychological, educational factors also contribute to the restricted access of women to legal justice.** When the judicial institutions are accessed they further limit the access of women because of biases, lack of gender sensitivity, and limited capacity.
- **Lack of proper laws to address specific inequalities against women.** For example, despite having rules laid down against workplace harassment, women tend to face verbal, physical, and sexual harassment in workplaces.
- **Women do not have the proper access to information** about their rights and entitlements as well as how to seek legal remedies. Usually, they are also excluded from involving over issues external to the household such as land and business negotiations.
- **The Financial costs involved in court cases** such as the court fees and transportation expenses result in delay or failure in seeking legal redress.
- **Lack of proper judges and judicial institutions** to address gender inequalities in society. The limited capacity of judges and legal structures adds to it.
- Even High Courts have been found wanting at this front e.g.- **Kerala High Court in Sabarimala Judgement.**

Conclusion

- The judiciary has played a stellar role in ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women in a traditional patriarchal society like India. There is a need for all organs of the state to come together and work with the same zeal in this direction.

Q13. Right to Information and Right to Privacy, though seem to be contradictory, but need to co-exist in a democracy. Analyse.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- As per the latest trends in UPSC, this topic plays a vital role.

Why in the news?

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/right-to-privacy-will-prevail-over-right-to-information-in-case-of-conflict-government/article66298799.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/activists-mps-flag-rti-amendment-in-data-protection-bill/article66615112.ece>

Approach

- Begin your introduction by explaining the right to information and the right to privacy in the form of other rights.
- Discuss the contradiction between both. Also, mention why it is necessary for a democracy.
- Conclude by correlating the RTI and RTP.

Answer:

Introduction

- Rights are guarantees provided by the constitution to the citizens that limit the state's authority and ensure well-being of citizens. **Right to Information (RTI)** has been an aspect of immense grandeur right from its inception. It sought not only to provide access to information to individuals from the control of Government authorities but also promoted information **disclosure on a transparent scale**. It has predominantly ensured that the entities are answerable to the public and proved that for the effective functioning of the public authorities, efficient enforcement and disclosure mechanism is important.
- On the other hand, the **Right to Privacy (RTP)** has been held to be an implicit fundamental right within the ambit of the **Article 21 of the Constitution following the landmark Justice K. S Puttaswamy v. Union of India**.
- Both Right to Information and Right to Privacy are recognised worldwide as fundamental and basic human rights and have their own sets of origins and functions applicable.

Body:

Contradictory:

- RTI is an enabling provision while RTP is a **restricting provision**. The Right to Information Act's purpose is disclosure, and the public's right to information should prevail unless such disclosure publicizes intimate details of a highly personal nature.
 - **For eg. The Radia tapes published public issues, but not the personal life of Tata.**
- RTI brings in transparency and RTP **promotes opacity**. In **Gobind Singh v. State of Madhya Pradesh** upheld that there is a Right to Privacy under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, but it is not absolute and subject to some restrictions.
- Any government official is both a public authority and a **private individual**. Thus, conflict is **natural as enquiry** into activities of the individual might encroach upon his/her personal sphere.
- Similarly, an **enquiry in public interest** can be stonewalled in the name of **Right to Privacy**.
 - **For eg.** The government stores a lot of personal information on individuals. This ranges from income tax returns and driving licence details to census data and medical information.
- When an application is made under the RTI Act for disclosure of some information on an identifiable individual, there is a conflict between the RTI and the RTP.
- Even though Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act explicitly grants exemption from the disclosure of personal information.
 - **For example**, it comes with the caveat mentioned above, public interest may warrant the disclosure of such data to an applicant by a public authority, thereby nullifying the exemption and disregarding the RTP.

Necessary in a democracy:

- Both these rights create a **balance between transparency of the government** and autonomy of the individual. Right to information is an instrument which enables the citizen to voice their opinion in an informed manner.
- **The concept of 'Participatory democracy'** is strengthened by Right to Information. People are now able to satisfactorily exercise their rights in a better manner as they are secured by fundamental rights.
- **Right to privacy limits the state interference** in the lives of those questioning, criticizing, and speaking truth to power. This is key to any **democratic society**.
- Right to information not only **brings transparency in government projects**, without corruption but also exposes any vindictive action of the government.
- **In the current scenario, right to information is of utmost importance**. Theoretically, both the rights i.e., Right to Privacy and Right to Information are complimentary in nature and at the same time they are in conflict as well.
 - **Personal information can be denied if it infringes an individual's privacy. A good example is our medical records.**
- One commonality between both the rights is the fact that both are for preserve the fundamental rights of the citizens. **The two rights play a crucial role in upholding the dignity of every individual.**

Conclusion

- In the modern age, the Right to Privacy has become very essential given the use of social media or spy cameras. We need assurance that if anyone encroaches on our right to privacy, we will be given protection against it. One must assess whether the information he/she seeks is not infringing upon anyone's right to privacy and strictly deals with matters relating to the working of Government and in the public interest.
- Appropriate institutional structures and public interest tests must be developed to balance these rights and ensure that the protection of personal interests and the right to information work together in harmony.

Q14. Social Audit is an effective tool for promoting grass root level democracy. Highlight with the help of examples.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Frequently in News and has similarities with other topics as well, such as citizen charter, SHG and effective Governance.

Why in the news?

<https://www.ideasforindia.in/topics/governance/institutionalising-social-audits-lessons-from-meghalaya.html>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/chandigarh-news/punjab-cabinet-sub-committee-directs-social-audit-of-panchayats-by-2023-makes-videography-mandatory-for-land-bidding-101687460095084.html>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/on-campus/what-are-the-future-prospects-of-social-auditors-in-india/article66660169.ece>

Approach

- Define social audit as an effective tool for promoting the grassroots level of democracy.
- Further, elaborate the role by including examples and also highlight some of the issues related to it.
- Conclude by giving a way forward.

Answer:

Introduction

- Social Audit is a process in which details of the **resources, both financial and non-financial** used by public agencies for development initiatives, is shared with the people. It includes in-depth **scrutiny and analysis** of the working of an entity in which the public is involved vis-à-vis its social relevance.
- **For example, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the National Food Security Act (NFSA) have provisions for conducting the Social Audit.**

Body:

Effective tool for promoting Grass Root level Democracy:

- **Promotes engagement between people and public authorities** through Gram Sabha. This strengthens public trust in the government.
- **Empowers people to question** elected representatives who attend social audits on continuous basis, and not just during elections.
- **Since decisions are taken at the Gram Sabha level**, it acts as mini-parliament resulting in discussions and debates about the outcomes. Jan Sunwai model of Rajasthan has improved efficacy of NREGA and reduced payroll manipulation.
- **Ensures accountability and transparency** in the process and institutions through scrutiny and analysis. E.g.- **Social Audit by TISS exposed child abuse** in several children shelters in Bihar.
- **Leads to Capacity-building of the people through information**, education, and awareness.
- **Example: In Andhra Pradesh, more than 3200 social audits have taken place and more than 38,000 disciplinary cases brought against officials.**

Issues:

- **Non-Cooperation from Administrators:** It has been observed that in some states, the Rural Development officials are cooperative, but the officials from the line departments (**Forest, Horticulture and Sericulture**) who implement the schemes show a non-cooperative attitude during the Social Audit process, which demotivates the team members.
- **It is highly localised in nature.** It is conducted at the gram sabha level and its findings cant be generalized in nature.
- **Inadequate Staff for Social Audit:** As all the states have not properly established independent society, therefore hiring staff for the Social Audit units is a challenge in some states.
- **It has been Sproadic and adhoc in nature.** Most of the social audit depends upon the will of executive to conduct.
- **Social audits haven't resulted into penalizing the erring officer which has led to decline in interest of these audits.**

- **Documentation for the social audits do not provide consistent evidence.** Social Audit has not been made universal and remains limited to few programs only.
 - **For eg. As per Mani Shankar Aiyar committee report,** Gram Sabha meetings lack representation and is dominated by dominant caste groups.

Suggestions:

- Institutionalizing social Audit on the lines of Society for **Social Audit, Accountability and Transparency (SSAAT) by Karnataka-**
 - **For eg.** After every three rounds of the Social Audit, staff are shuffled that contributes in effective Social Audit.
- Universalizing Social Audit on the lines of **Andhra Pradesh.**
 - Conducting Monthly Review Meetings, at the district level, with District Collector and District Vigilance Officers;
 - Conducting Monthly Review Meetings with the State Vigilance Wing and District Vigilance Officers etc.
- **Training of Social Audit Team:** Capacity building of the Team members through training will ensure the effective contribution of members in conducting the Social Audit; and in verification of project sites and conducting door to door visit in compliance with the provisions of Rules.
- **Record Management:** Effective measures such as adequate staff and training of officials in record keeping and management, at all levels, will facilitate credibility of the Social Audit.
- **Enhancing level of Awareness and Knowledge of Stakeholders:** For ensuring active participation and contribution of the Stakeholders in the Social Audit process, it is utmost necessary to provide them with adequate information and knowledge to enhance their level of awareness and capacity of decision- making.

Conclusion

- These steps can help in making social audit more efficient and improving the quality of governance with direct citizen engagement. Social Audit act as a powerful tool to promote accountability, which requires dedicated political leaders, administrators and resource persons with a strong commitment to work, a pro-poor attitude and ability to work for long hours in remote areas and difficult conditions; and active people's participation.

Q15. "The differences between Centre and state are more political and less administrative or economic in nature." How far do you agree with this statement? Give arguments in favour of your opinion.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Direct theme-based question from the core topic of the syllabus.

Why in the news?

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/centre-state-friction-taking-its-toll-on-governance-509365>

<https://www.livewlaw.in/lawschool/articles/evolving-dimensions-of-federalism-in-india-centre-state-relations-constitutional-law-separation-of-powers-226151>

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/the-shifting-dynamics-of-centre-state-relationship/story-f3BoA7Y6yq0xjQgLmrmbVJ.html>

Approach

- Briefly define Cooperative federalism.
- Discuss how the differences between centre and state are more political and less administrative and economic.
- Further elaborate by adding that there are more disputes other than political dispute.
- Conclude by summarizing the answer.

Answer:

Introduction

- Indian constitution envisages cooperative federalism, where centre and state cooperate to ensure smooth governance. However, both centre and state have differed at multiple issues resulting in a conflictual relationship.

Body:

Differences are mainly political:

- Centre State differences are mainly along party lines.** State and Centre with different parties in Power, have more disputes.
 - E.g.- West Bengal, Rajasthan etc. But in Uttar Pradesh, Assam etc. where same parties are in power at centre and in states, there has been cooperation and alignment of programs.*
- Aimed at addressing their respective constituencies around elections:** Telangana government taking up cause of farmers not only in Telangana but across states.
- Dispute between Governor and chief minister:** Governors are always seeking an opportunity to run down the state government when it is in the hands of a party opposed to the party ruling at the centre.
 - For eg.** In Maharashtra, the governor recently refused to accept the election day recommended by the state government for the speaker. As a result, the assembly was unable to elect a speaker.
- Interstate River Water Disputes** are a continuing challenge to federal water governance in India. Article 262 of the Indian Constitution provides for the adjudication of interstate water disputes.
 - For eg. Mokedatu Project became the cause of conflict between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.**
- The most contemporary example of the centre-state dispute is the Disaster Management Act, 2005,** which was invoked in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Act causes discontent among states as the **Central guidelines are binding on them**, even though public health is a state matter on which the Parliament cannot legislate.

Other differences between Centre and state:

Administrative Differences:

- Activism of the Office of Governor:** Recently, in West Bengal and Kerala, Governor's activism has been at the centre of discord with the centre.
- All India Services:** Disciplinary actions against AIS officers, shortfall in deputations, Centre going for changing the rules without engaging with states on the issue have been some sticking points.
- Deployment of CAPF:** Law & Order fall under state subject. But deployment of CAPFs without consulting the states is seen as interference by the states in their domain.

Economic differences:

- Loss of taxation powers due to GST:** States like Tamil Nadu have constantly been at loggerheads with the centre on the issue.
- Issues with GST:** Lack of timely transfers of states' share, extension of compensation Cess etc.
- Demand for additional grant/aid by states:** States like West Bengal, Punjab have demanded additional grants and accused the center of discrimination among states.

The disputes are less Administrative and economic in Nature because:

- The major issues in the legislative sphere related to intrusions by the Centre into State-list subjects and delays in obtaining assents for important Bills passed by the State Assemblies.
- In the financial sphere, the major issues related to increasing **centralization of powers in the Union** Government in matters like resource mobilization and allocation and other key areas of economic decision-making like Planning.
- 7th Schedule of the Constitution** is separated into three lists: the Union List, the State List, and the Concurrent List, which provide detailed information on the legislative power of the Parliament and the State Assemblies.
- Many times, the Centre deploys paramilitary forces into the States to preserve peace and order without consulting the State's Government, and occasionally even against the preferences of the relevant State.

Conclusion

- Thus, the differences are administrative and economic as well, that gets exacerbated due to political factors. The need is for both Centre and states to adhere to the respective constitutional mandates and work in the spirit of cooperative federalism. The administrative relationship between the center and the states in India has evolved during the course of colonial rule. After Independence the Constitution of India provided for a system of inter-governmental relationship both for normal times and emergencies. In normal times, the federal polity was expected to function on the principle of dual government.
- In response to the states' demands, the **Sarkaria Commission** which was set up to review the working of the federal system suggested appropriate constitutional changes but nothing substantial came out of it. But it seems that in the years to come '**consensus**' rather than '**control**' is going to be the dominant paradigm of center-state administrative relationship in the years to come.

Q16. Balancing between national security and democratic values has emerged as a new challenge for the Indian state. Discuss.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Important theme for the effective policies and development of India's interest in securing democratic values.

Why in the news?

<https://moderndiplomacy.eu/2023/02/26/rising-india-falling-states-the-new-indian-challenges/>

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/pm-modi-starts-state-visit-to-us-stronger-together-in-meeting-shared-challenges-8675977/>

Approach

- Begin introduction by writing the constitutionally mandated rights for the hallmark of democracy.
- Discuss the ideals are coming into conflict with each other in India.
- Conclude by summarizing the answer.

Answer:

Introduction

- Ensuring that citizens enjoy their **Constitutionally mandated rights is the hallmark** of a democracy while ensuring the security of life and liberty of people is the duty of state. Due to changing nature of security threats, radicalization, hostile neighborhood etc., both these ideals are coming into conflict with each other in India.

Body:

Challenges emerging in national security and democratic values in India

- **NGOs and Civil Society:** NGOs and Civil society organization supplement the state's role. But some NGOs get involved in money laundering, FCRA violations and even **support anti-state elements**.
 - **Any action against such NGOs** is projected as attack on Civil Society and decline of democracy.
- **Actions against Intellectuals:** Intellectuals guide the society but at times they start supporting and promoting anti-state propaganda and support left-wing extremism.
 - **Action against them (G N Saibaba, Sudha Bharadwaj etc.)** is claimed as persecution of critics.
- **Curbs on internet & social media surveillance:** The Supreme Court has held internet access as fundamental Right but at times to maintain law & order, curb **violence, prevent mobilization etc.** the state resorts to Internet Ban and Social media surveillance.
- **Specific Laws:** Amendments to PMLA to **designate individuals as terrorists** is important to prevent terrorists from continuing to operate with other names.
 - But critics it as **against human dignity and leads to stigmatization**.
- **Contempt of court:** **Article 129 and 215 of the Constitution** of India empowers the Supreme Court and High Court respectively to punish people for their respective contempt.

- Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.

Suggestions:

- **In case of action against civil society members** and organization, need for utmost transparency and prompt clarification in case of any doubts/ misinformation.
- **Codification of laws related to internet curbs** and surveillance with periodic audit by independent bodies.
- **Legislations aimed at tackling terrorism** and extremism need to balance with fundamental rights and human dignity.
- **Inclusivity, accountability, and transparency are essential.** Citizens must be engaged in policymaking, budgeting, and oversight of government.
- **Amendment to National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act:** It empowered the central government, with respect to a scheduled offence committed outside India, to direct the NIA to register the case and take up investigation as if such offence had taken place in India.

Conclusion

- Tackling the challenge needs cooperation between state and the society so that rights can be ensured while citizens remain secured. This generation of world leaders has the capacity to ensure far greater well-being for their people. Tools such as the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** can be transformational; fundamental principles can underpin needed reforms.

Q17. What are the functions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)? Why is there a consistent demand for reforms and expansion of UNSC?

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Direct theme-based question, important because frequently in News regarding the demand for reforms and expansion of UNSC
- PYQ- Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council.

Why in the news?

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/general-assembly-divided-over-un-reforms-says-csaba-korosi/article66451621.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/angry-with-reform-delays-india-calls-un-system-anachronistic-slams-veto-power/article66781723.ece>

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about the UNSC.
- Mention the key functions and need for UNSC reforms.
- Conclude the answer by giving a way forward.

Answer:

Introduction

- The UNSC is one of the Principal Organizations of the United Nations. It was formed in 1945 with the main aim of ensure peace and security and to prevent a World War II like situation in future. The Council has 15 Members (**5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members**). Each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

Body

Veto power of UNSC member states:

- The UN defines 'veto' as a "special voting power", which provides that "if any one of the five permanent members cast a negative vote in (UNSC), the resolution or decision would not be approved".

- However, the "veto power" is restricted to P5 member states of the UN Security Council. Non-permanent members of the UNSC do not enjoy this privilege.
- **Article 27 of the UN Charter** says each member of the UNSC shall have one vote and that decisions on "procedural matters" shall require no more than the affirmative vote of nine out of the 15 members.
- Decisions on any other matter need not only an affirmative vote of nine members but also the concurring votes of the permanent members.

Key Functions:

- **To ensure peace and security** the UNSC investigates any dispute which may lead to international friction, regulates armament, conducts peace keeping operations, imposes international sanctions and authorize military actions.
- **To investigate any dispute or situation** which might lead to international friction;
- **To recommend methods of adjusting** such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- **To formulate plans for the establishment** of a system to regulate armaments;
- **To determine the existence of a threat** to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- **To call on Members to apply economic sanctions** and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;

Other crucial functions of UNSC includes:

- **Recommending admission** of new members to UN.
- **Recommend the General Assembly** to appoint the Secretary General.
- Together with General Assembly elect the Judges of International Court of Justice.

Need for reform of UNSC:

- **Anachronistic** – The most important countries of 1940s are no more the most important – be it in terms of military power, economy, or global influence. So, UNSC membership should represent today's scenario.
- **Inequitable Geographical distribution** – Regions like Africa, South Asia are meagrely represented at UNSC whereas Europe (especially Western Europe) is overrepresented.
- **P-5 countries are themselves weapon exporting** – thus there is a conflict of interest in their role at UNSC and their economy.
- **P-5 countries are themselves involved in a number** of conflicts directly or indirectly based on their geopolitical calculations, causing instability.

Why does the Security Council need to be reformed?

- **Binding decisions:** Unlike the decisions of the General Assembly, UNSC's decisions (known as resolutions) are binding on all member states. That means it has wide ranging powers and can, if necessary, take actions – such as the imposition of sanctions – that encroach on state sovereignty.
- **Representative:** It is right and necessary that the Security Council should have these powers. It is the centre piece of the international security architecture.
 - If its resolutions are to be respected and implemented by all countries, the Council needs to have the necessary authority and legitimacy.
- **The current composition of the Security Council** reflects the geopolitical situation of 1945 and its enlargement in 1963/65 adding non-permanent seats did not significantly change this.
 - The Council's present composition is no longer representative of a world that has seen 142 new countries join the United Nations since 1945. Africa in particular does not have the representation on the Council that its current importance requires, and is therefore calling for the Council's makeup to be adapted to the new realities.
- **Stipulating a geographically balanced distribution of seats:** The Charter of the United Nations also expressly states that countries that make considerable contributions to the UN should be members of the Security Council.
- **In the absence of reform:** There is a danger that decision making processes could be shifted to other forums even though such forums do not have the binding effect and legitimacy of the Security Council. That is not in anyone's interest.

Conclusion

- Thus, there has been a consistent demand for UNSC reforms. But reforms have been elusive because there is a lack of consensus on what reforms should take place among different countries. Further, UNSC reform **requires support of 2/3rd members of UNGA and all P-5 members** of UNSC, which is difficult to achieve.
- The present **Inter-governmental negotiation (IGN)** has continued for more than a decade without any useful outcome. It's high time now that a new framework for negotiations should come which would be more democratic and inclusive.

Q18. Since independence, depressed sections have been a priority for the government. Still the welfare programmes have fallen short in achieving equity. Elucidate.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Important because similar themes have been asked previously such as ambitious projects to minimise corruption, basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas, backward communities and protection of social resources, rights of disabled persons etc.

Why in the news?

<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/fandd/issues/2018/03/bourguignon>

<https://thewire.in/economy/the-evolution-of-indias-welfare-system-2008-to-2023>

<https://www.orfonline.org/research/freebies-and-welfare-schemes/>

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about historical social and cultural disabilities.
- Mention the initiatives taken by the government.
- Further elaborate on discussing the shortcomings and challenges related to it.
- Conclude by including government schemes.

Answer:

Introduction

- Due to historical, social and cultural disabilities, depressed section have been historically discriminated against in India. India being a welfare state, has taken special initiatives to ameliorate the situation of depressed sections.
- Dalits and depressed classes are interchangeably used terms in ancient India till today. This term was used and popularized by Dr. Ambedkar. While talking about the Dalits we cannot forget to mention the name of Dr. Ambedkar since Indians all of us knows the contributions made by him to the society as well as to these sects of people.

Body:

Initiatives Taken:

Constitutional:

- **Affirmative action** in the form of reservation in educational institutions and jobs.
 - **For eg:** The major provisions enacted for the welfare of depressed class people are Article 14, Article 15, 16, 17, Article 46, part XVI, Fifth Schedule. All the above provisions are enacted for the welfare of these people.
- Institutions like NCSC, NCST etc, setup to look into their **concerns and advise the government**.
- **Reservation in elections** at all three levels to ensure their due representation.
- **Directive Principles of State Policy** also enjoins upon the state the primary responsibility of welfare of all its citizens, in effect, making it a Welfare State.
- **Various Conventions under United Nations** also provides for state support to vulnerable sections, like - **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child**.
- **5th Schedule and 6th Schedule:** to provide special self-governance rights in scheduled and Tribal Areas.

Legislative:

- **For women:** The Maternity benefit Act, 2017- It provides for paid maternity leaves of 26 weeks. The dowry Prohibition Act, Commission of Sati etc.
- **Legislation related to SC/ST:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 (PCR) and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 (PoA).
- **For Children:** Child labor prohibition and regulation act of 1986, juvenile justice act 2015 and the preconception and prenatal diagnostic techniques act 1994 etc.
- **For Senior citizens:** Maintenance of parents and senior citizen act 2007, national polity on senior citizen 2011 etc.
- **For disabled:** Rights of person with disability act 2016, the mental Healthcare Act, 2017 etc.

Policies:

- **Scholarship Schemes** - Pre-Matric Scholarship, Post-Matric Scholarship and Merit-cum-Means based Scholarship.
- **National Social Assistance Programme:** India has important schemes of non-contributory pensions for the elderly, widowed women, and disabled persons under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), administered by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- **Central and State Mental Health Authorities:** The Act established these authorities for the regulation & coordination of mental health services in India.
- **Right to make an Advance Directive:** Under this, every person can state how to be treated or not be treated for the illness during a future mental health situation.
- **Begum Hazrat Mahal National Scholarship** for meritorious girls belonging to minorities studying in Classes IX to XII.
- **Naya Savera** - Free Coaching and Allied Scheme which aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of students and candidates from minority communities where the total annual family income is less than Rs. 6 lakh.
- **Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn):** It is a skill development initiative for minorities and aims to upgrade the skills of minority youth in various modern/traditional skills.

Limitations of the initiatives:

- **Lack of awareness** about constitutional rights and legal provisions.
- **Benefits of reservations** is cornered by more well-off among the SC/STs. Thus, resulting in a divide within the community.
- **Bodies setup to look into the concerns**, have not been empowered sufficiently to act independently.
- **Poor educational and health standards** limit their capacity to take benefits of these provisions.
- **Tribal Advisory Councils and Autonomous District Councils** lack capacity to formulate legislations and govern effectively.
- **Low level of awareness and utilization about these schemes** o According to a UNFPA survey, about 70% are aware of the national old age pension scheme and the widow pension schemes and only about 18% are accessing old-age pensions.
 - o The use of Annapurna scheme, to provide food security to senior citizens, is also low.
 - o Low utilization is observed in the case of railway concessions and seat reservations for elderly in buses.
- **Inadequacy of Returns:** Schemes are often criticized for providing only minimal social security coverage.
- **Gender differentials:** Women face greater vulnerabilities and isolation in old age, however, government schemes often ignore this factor.
- **Lack of competent human resources:** There is a need of more than 10 million caregivers to address the needs of elderly population and a massive training programme to create competent human resource.

Conclusion

- Recent policy initiatives aimed at education (*Eklavya Model Residential Schools*), entrepreneurship, strengthening of local bodies, SHGs to process and market local products have potential to bridge the inequalities and make India a more equal society.

Q19. Feminization of poverty is not only a consequence of lack of income, but also of lack of opportunities due to gender biases and fixed gender roles in some societies. Elucidate.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- As per latest trend, poverty and related issues were frequently asked in the UPSC papers.
- For eg- 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022.

Why in the news?

<https://frontline.thehindu.com/news/the-latest-undp-report-reveals-biases-against-women-worldwide/article66985325.ece>

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/women-in-focus-global-initiatives-against-gender-discrimination/article66594524.ece>

Approach

- Introduced by defining the term feminization of poverty.
- Discuss the reasons and consequences behind the lack of income and opportunities due to gender biases.
- Conclude by giving some way forward.

Answer:

Introduction

- **The feminization of poverty is a change in the levels of poverty biased against women or female headed households.** More specifically, it is an increase in the difference in the levels of poverty among women and men or among female versus male and couple headed households. It can also mean an increase of the role that gender inequalities have as a determinant of poverty, which would characterize a feminization of the causes of poverty.

Body:

The causes of the Feminization of Poverty:

- **Family composition:** Dissolution of marital unions, constitution of families without these unions, higher male mortality.
- **Family organization:** Gender division of labor and consumption within the household, gender roles regulating the control over household resources.
- **Inequality in the access to public services or in their quality:** Barriers to education of girls, educational segregation by sex, lack of women specific health attention.
- **Inequality in social protection:** Contributory pensions systems reproducing previous labor market inequalities, lower access to pensions and social assistance by women, inequality in benefit concession or in benefit values in targeted policies.
- **Labor market inequalities:** Occupational segregation, intra-career mobility, differential levels of employment in paid work, wage discrimination, duration of work shifts.
 - According to UNIFEM (2000) women make up 70% of the world's 1.3 billion poor, and this figure is constantly increasing.

How it lacks income and opportunities?

- **The feminization of poverty is not only a consequence of lack of income,** but is also the result of the **deprivation of opportunities** and gender biases present in both societies and governments.
- **Women's increasing share of poverty** is related to the rising incidence of lone mother households.
- Women in poverty have **reduced access to health care services and resources.**
- **The education of women and children, especially girls, can create greater opportunities** for women to lift themselves out of poverty and increase their social position.
- **Women's jobs are more likely than men's to be forms of informal employment,** which takes place in small, unregistered enterprises and is not protected by government regulation.

- **Feminization of Poverty is a collective effect of several factors, be it access to education or lack of health facilities that are available for women.**

Way Ahead

- **Feminization of Poverty can be eradicated** by practising equity, presenting resources for the woman, practising gender equality in term of pay which has the main impact on what kind of life a woman is living.
- **Families need to be sensitized** towards gender roles and gender norms and new schemes.
- **Monetary support is provided to the parents** of the girl child under various schemes still only 3 out of 4 girls complete their secondary education, it is believed other than monetary support it's very important to explain the importance of educating girls to their parents.
- **Intervention programs and policies** that are designed for disadvantaged women sometimes do not reach the women who need them; therefore more effective ways should be used so that these policies and programs can be used effectively for the empowerment of people.

Conclusion

- To improve the living conditions and position of the women in our society, we need to look into the embedded problems of our system, and patriarchal beliefs that are instilled in our society and rectify them so that even women can have access to their democratic rights and live their lives with dignity, and are not treated as second class citizens.

Q20. Election Commission of India is established by the Indian constitution to ensure free and fair elections. What are the Constitutional safeguards to ensure its independence? Highlight the role and challenges of E.C.I. in ensuring free and fair elections in India.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Direct theme-based question and has important relevance for the upcoming year.
- Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct.
- In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India.
- To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful?

Approach

- Begin your introduction by defining the Election Commission of India (ECI) and its related articles.
- Discuss how ECI ensure free and fair elections. Also mention the constitutional safeguards.
- Further elaborate by highlighting the role and challenges associated with it.
- Suggest measures or include a way forward.
- Conclude by summarizing the answer.

Answer:

Introduction

- **Election commission of India** is a **permanent constitutional** body under **Article 324 of the Indian constitution**. The Election Commission of India supervises the **conduct of elections to the Parliament and Legislature** of every State and elections to the offices of the President and Vice-President of India.
- **In India, Article 326 of the Indian Constitution grants Universal Adult Suffrage** to every citizen that is every citizen above 18 years of age has the Right to Vote. Before 1988, every citizen above 21 years of age only could vote but after the 61st Constitutional Amendment in 1988, the voting age was reduced to 18. Now, every Indian citizen who attained the age of 18 years has the Right to Vote.

Body:**How ECI ensures free and fair elections in India:**

- **Universal Adult Franchise:** The Election Commission has also **directed that each vote has a single value**. **One Vote One Value** is the motto. This maintains the fairness in the elections.
- The Election Commission **enables media to participate in the election process** to hold transparent elections and also allows media representatives to cover polling stations and counting centres.
- **Issuing Model Code Of Conduct:** To ensure free and fair elections, the Election Commission issues a model code of conduct for the political parties and candidates before every election. The first code of conduct was published in 1971.
 - **For eg.** A notice was issued by the Election Commission to Bhartiya Janta party and **Mr. Varun Gandhi for violation of model code of conduct by offensive speech on 7th-8th March 2009 at Pilbhit, Uttar Pradesh. And advised 'self-restraint'.**
- **Limited Poll Expenses:** To stop the influence of money on the voters by the parties and candidates, Election Commission has fixed the amount of money that can be spent on campaigns by them.
- **Use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs)** : Electronic Voting Machines were first used by the Election Commission on May 19th 1982 in fifty polling stations for elections to Number 70 Parur Assembly Constituency in Kerala. By 2004 General elections, all the 543 constituencies used EVMs. This system completely overtook the Ballot paper system and ensured more fairness and transparency.

Role of the Election Commission:

- The EC enjoys **complete autonomy** and is insulated from any interference from the Executive.
- It also functions as a **quasi-judicial body** regarding matters related to elections and electoral disputes.
- Its **recommendations are binding** on the President of India. However, its decisions are subject to judicial review by High Courts and the Supreme Court acting on electoral petitions.
- **During the election process**, the entire Central and state government machinery (including paramilitary and police forces) is deemed to be on **deputation to the Commission**.

Challenges to the Functioning of Election Commission

- **Decline of Trust:** As election commission is increasingly being seen as a body more closely to the government than working independently. Position parties have accused it of going slow against certain political party.
- **Lack of Transparency in appointment:** there are no safeguards in the procedure for its own appointments. The government picks the commissioners with no consultation.
- **Arbitrary standards:** Election commission has issued gag against using army photographs in the political campaign. But, allowed certain leaders to use the army in their campaign thus discriminating against political parties.
- **Delay in cases:** Election commission is taking time to clear the cases which is leading to cause confusion and decline of trust.
- **Failing to regulate income tax raids:** The commission also failed to check the Department of Revenue, which conducted raids on members of Opposition parties, without keeping it informed.

Way forward:

- **Financial Independence:** Expenditure of the election commission must be charged on the consolidated fund of India.
- **Enhancing Power:** Election commission must be given more power to regulate the expenditure of political party. Currently, election commission can regulate individual spending but not the spending by Political party.
- **ECI must also be given more power** to deal with repeat offenders or leaders who use religion or caste in political rallies. Currently, EC can only issue the notice to such leaders.
- **Law Commission 255th Report on Electoral Reforms:** Strengthening the office of the Election Commission of India recommended Making the appointment process of the Election Commissioners and the CEC consultative.

Conclusion

- ECI must also be given **more power to deal with repeat offenders** or leaders who use religion or caste in

political rallies. Currently, EC can only issue the notice to such leaders. The Election Commission of India has been making continuous efforts ever since its establishment to ensure free and fair elections. From the first General elections held in 1951 till date the Commission has been working tirelessly hook and loop to safeguard this democratic principle and protect its purity.

Q21. What are the primary reasons for the failure of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) movement in India? Can SHGs be an instrument of social change in India?

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with previous year questions as mentioned below.
- Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples. 2021
- The emergence of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the state from developmental activities'. Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs. 2017
- "Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India". Evaluate the role of Self Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India. 2020

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about the Self-Help Group in India.
- Discuss in reasons for the failure of SHGs.
- Enlist the points for suggesting SHGs to be an instrument of social change in India.
- Conclude by giving a way forward.

Answer:

Introduction

- Self Help Groups (SHGs) are small groups of poor people. The members of an SHG face similar problems. They help each other to solve their problems. SHGs promote small savings among their members. The savings are kept with the bank. This is the common fund in the name of the SHG." In India, the SHG movement began in the 1980s, when several non-government organizations mobilised and organised poor communities in rural areas and offered them formal channels for social and financial support.
- For example: In the Financial Year 2022, against the target of 7.80 lakh SHGs, 5.43 lakh SHGs have been formed and cumulatively. Total 74.80 lakh SHGs have been formed across the country (except Delhi and Chandigarh) under DAY-NRLM.

Body:

Primary Reasons for the Failure of the SHG Movement in India:

- **Financial Management:** The three pillars of the SHG movement, government functionaries, bank personnel and SHGs, do not have the capacity for financial management. Rural credit is often viewed as a potential NPA.
- **Exclusion of the marginalized:** Members of SHG do not come necessarily from the poorest families. There are also cases of surrogate membership such as upper caste men deciding for women and lower caste members.
- **The SHG model has led to definite social empowerment** of the poor in SHGs where they are included but whether the economic gains are adequate to bring a qualitative change in their life is a matter of debate.
- **Nature of Activities:** Many of the activities undertaken by the SHGs are still based on primitive skills related mostly to primary sector enterprises. With poor value added per worker and prevalence of subsistence level wages, such activities often do not lead to any substantial increase in the income of group members.
- **Lack of expertise:** There is a lack of qualified resource personnel in the rural areas who could help in skill upgradation/acquisition of new skills by group members.
- However, the SHGs have the potential to be an instrument of social change. The SHGs can provide more

income and asset generation opportunities, enhance food and nutritional standards, and increase the leadership and organizational strength of the rural poor and other marginalized groups of society. E.g. SEVA, MYRADA, and TANWA's success.

Suggestions for making SHGs instrument of social change:

- Self-help groups (SHG) can act as a bridge between women entrepreneurs who have the will to begin an enterprise but do not have the resources to fulfil their dream, and the finances needed for it.
- SHG emerging as important micro-finance systems, SHGs work as platforms that promote solidarity among women, bringing them together on issues of health, nutrition, gender parity and gender justice.
- 2nd ARC recommended that the government should take the role of facilitator and promoter of SHGs to create a supportive environment for the SHGs.
- The SHG - Bank Linkage model with a mentor Self Help Promoter Institution deserves to be encouraged as the preferred mode for financial intermediation throughout the country.
- There is a need to educate government employees and Bank personnel regarding rural credit. Technology can be leveraged to reduce the cost of reaching out to the poorest of the poor.
- SHGs should be extended to urban and peri-urban areas.

Conclusion

- Self-help groups are exceedingly relevant today because their provision of micro-loans helps overcome regional imbalances as well as information asymmetries, thus offering a level playing field in terms of access to resources for women.

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Starts from 18th June 2023

Q22. National Human Rights Commission is a watchdog of human rights in the country. However it hasn't reached its potential due to some structural and practical limitations. Critically analyze and suggest some remedial measures.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Important because every alternate year the role and constitutional importance of NCoW, NHRC, NCBC ECI have been asked.
- Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analyzing their structural

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PREDICT THE UNPREDICTABLE

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and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures. 2021

- Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections or the society leads to problems or overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case. 2018

Why in the news?

<https://thewire.in/rights/nhrca-accrreditation-deferred-by-global-alliance-may-lose-top-level-ranking-report>

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about the National Human Rights Commission of India.
- Discuss the limitations of NHRC and also highlight the measures to be taken to reform it.
- Conclude on a positive note.

Answer:

Introduction

- **NHRC of India is established on 12th October 1993** under the provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, later amended in 2006. It is an **independent statutory body**.
- The NHRC is considered as the **watchdog of human rights in the country**, i.e. the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the international covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

Body:

Limitations of NHRC

- **NHRC does not have any means of investigation.** In majority cases, it enquires the concerned Central and State Governments to investigate the cases of the violation of Human Rights
- **It has been termed as 'India's teasing illusion'** by Soli Sorabjee (former Attorney-General of India) due to its inability to render any practical relief to the aggrieved party. The Supreme Court also called NHRC **"a toothless tiger"**.
- **NHRC could only make recommendations**, without the power to implement decisions.
- **Many times NHRC is seen as post-retirement destinations** for judges and bureaucrats with political affiliation; moreover, lack of funds also hinders its working.
- **A lot of grievances go unaddressed** because NHRC shall not investigate the complaint registered after one year of incident.
- **Too many complaints:** A common problem faced by most human rights commissions is that they are deluged with complaints.
 - **In the year 2000-2001**, the National Human Rights Commission received over 70,000 complaints. State human rights commissions too, are finding it difficult to address the increasing number of complaints.
- **State human rights commissions shall not call for information** from the national government, which means that they are completely denied the power to investigate armed forces under national control.

Measures to be taken:

- **Political representatives should be strictly limited** in their engagement as members of the NHRC so as to ensure independence.
- **There is a need for the NHRC to constitute** and maintain an independent cadre of officials that will be able to develop expertise in human rights violation investigation.
- **Political representatives should be strictly limited** in their engagement as members of the NHRC so as to ensure independence.
- **There is a need for the NHRC to constitute and maintain an independent cadre** of officials that will be able to develop expertise in human rights violation investigation.
- **The PHRA, 1993 needs to be amended** to include mandatory time frame for action taken and response formulation by the Government at the Centre and in the states on NHRC recommendations.

- **Mr. Justice M. N. Venkatachaliah stressed the need to develop healthy conventions** to guide the work of the Commissions and to enable an appropriate division of functions between the National and State Commissions.

Conclusion

- Appointments to the **NHRC need to be made from a wider pool of candidates**. The recommendations of the **GANHRI** (Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions) can be considered to relax the criteria for appointment of members from the higher judiciary. There is also a need to advertise the vacancies widely and fill them promptly without any delays.

Q23. Highlight the functions of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). As PAC is celebrating the centenary this year do you think it needs to reinvent itself?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Frequently in news also it had completed 100 years in 2021 and was asked in UPSC as well.
- Discuss the role of Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people.

2017

Why in the news?

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pac-stresses-fiscal-prudence-in-implementing-public-financial-management-system/article66262724.ece>

Approach

- Give a brief introduction to the public account committee.
- Enlist the functions associated with it.
- Discuss why PAC needs to reinvent itself.
- Conclude by giving a way forward.

Answer:

Introduction

- **The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is a committee of selected members of parliament**, constituted by the Parliament of India, for the purpose of auditing the revenue and the expenditure of the Government of India. **They check that parliament exercises over the executive stems** from the basic principle that parliament embodies the will of the people. This committee was set up first in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 and has since been in existence. **At present, it consists of 22 members (15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha).**

Body:

Functions of Public Accounts Committee:

- **To examine the appropriation accounts** and the finance accounts of the Union government and any other accounts laid before the Lok Sabha.
- **Discussion on financial discipline and principles:** One of the functions of the Committee is also to examine the questions in detail that deal with financial discipline and principles.
- **Cases involving losses, nugatory, expenditure, and financial irregularities:** All these types of cases come under the scope and examination of the Public Accounts Committee. These functions further expand the scope of the Committee to a great extent.
- **Invite public opinion** -The Committee is envisaged with the power of inviting the opinion of the public as and when required. It also has the power to invite a non-official witness if needed in case of examination.
- **Appointment of working groups, sub-committees, and the Action Taken sub-committee:** The working groups, sub-committees, and the Action Taken sub-committees can be appointed by the Public Accounts Committee for fulfilling its functions.

- To examine the accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies, the audit of which is conducted by the CAG.
- To consider the report of the CAG relating to the audit of any receipt or to examine the accounts of stores and stocks.

Why does PAC need to reinvent itself?

- The Committee's recommendations are only advisory in nature and are not binding since it is not an executive body.
- Its functions start only after the implementation of the policies or incurrence of the expenses. It cannot prevent the occurrence of an expense before the scheduled time. Its function is monitory and curative not preventive in nature.
- It does not play any role in direct administration.
- It can only find the loopholes. The ultimate and final decision-making authority is the Parliament itself.
- The Public Accounts Committee cannot examine a policy in a broader sense.

Way ahead

- **Enable wider debate on freebies:** Thus ensuring that then real essence of the welfare is reached to every citizen and there is harmony between developmental objectives and welfare.
- **Examining long term and short-term objectives:** By examining the long term and short-term goals, it can help in effective use of resources for socio-economic development.
- **Improve functioning:** To ensure healthy and fruitful discussion among the members.
- **Enhance trust of citizens:** By ensuring accountability and transparency in the process of the examination, PAC can enhance the trust among the citizens of India.

Conclusion

- PAC needs to be lauded for its effective functioning which has ensured financial accountability of the Executive. However as there has been increase in the budgetary expenditure and financial complexities have increased PAC should reinvent itself to ensure accountability and transparency.

Q24. Examine the issues associated with Inter-state water dispute and highlight the constitutional and legal provisions available.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Frequently in news due to recurring issues between states.
 - For eg- Cauvery, Krishna, Mahanadi etc.
- PYQ- Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter-state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss.

Why in the news?

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/inter-state-water-disputes-favour-none-vice-president-jagdeep-dhankhar-1159675.html>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/experts-question-timing-of-chhattisgarhs-release-of-water-into-mahanadi/article66782148.ece>

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about the interstate water dispute.
- Mention the constitutional and legal provisions available for it.
- Highlight the issues related to it.
- Conclude on a positive note.

Answer:

Introduction

- Interstate (River) Water Disputes (ISWDs) are a continuing challenge to federal water governance in India. Rooted in constitutional, historic-geographical, and institutional ambiguities, they tend to become prolonged conflicts between the states that share river basins.

Body:

Article 262 of the Indian Constitution provides for the adjudication of interstate water disputes. It makes two provisions:

- Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
- Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.

Related laws:

- **River Board Act, 1956:** The river Boards were supposed to advise on the inter-state basin to prepare development scheme and to prevent the emergence of conflicts. Till date, no river board as per above Act has been created.
- **Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956:** In case, if a particular state or states approach to Union Government for the constitution of the tribunal.

Issues associated with Interstate water dispute:

- **Institutional lacunae:** Prolonged proceedings and delays in dispute adjudication which led to a disputes of interstate river water governance in India.
 - **For eg.** Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. The Tribunal which was constituted in 1990 gave its award in 2007.
- **Lack of political will:** With the growing nexus between water and politics, the disputes have been transferred into turfs of vote bank politics. It has led to increasing defiance by states, extended litigations and subversion of resolution mechanisms.
 - **For eg, Ravi-Beas Tribunal.**
- **Inadequate appreciation** of the ecological and economic costs of such protracted conflict has constantly evaded a sustainable and holistic approach to this issue based on federal cooperation.
- **Institutional ambiguity:** Article 262 deters the highest judiciary from adjudicating interstate river water disputes but article 136 empowers the Supreme Court to hear appeals against the tribunals and also ensure implementation of the tribunal.
- **Due to India's complicated federal polity, colonial legacy, and procedural complexities** involving multiple stakeholders across governments and agencies, there is too much discretion at too many stages of the process.
- **The composition of the Tribunal is not multidisciplinary** as it consists of persons only from the judiciary. Thus, there is not much difference between the Tribunal and Supreme Court Bench.

Way Ahead

- **Institutional mechanisms for implementing tribunal awards:** The Supreme Court has to clear the questions of law about who and what kind of institutional mechanisms should be put in place for implementing tribunal awards.
- **Interstate coordination:** There is a huge vacuum with respect to institutional avenues and credible practices for interstate coordination. The solution lies in cooperation and coordination, not in conflict.
- **Conservation:** Ecological restoration and conservation of aquatic biodiversity, in addition to the balancing of water supply and demand for human use in the management objectives and outcomes of the basin plan.
- **Address River Basin issues:** The identification of key issues and risks to river basins and the strategies needed to address them in both the short and long term.
- **Consensus building:** Consensus-building, based on sustained political deliberation. An example of such a consensus-based model, in which the Centre and the states have found an amicable way to coordinate, is the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The Centre brought the states on board to negotiate the reform in the spirit of "cooperative federalism."

- **Complete De-politicisation:** Formulating an alternative to political negotiation is the only long-term and durable solution to river water conflicts, with a political will that can forge an amicable consensus for mutually agreed river-water sharing.

Conclusion

- **Federal cooperation and Institutional trust** must be developed for a positive solution, and need to focus on dispute resolution and consensus-building.
- India has 25 major river basins, with most rivers flowing across states. As river basins are shared resources, a coordinated approach between the states, with adequate involvement of the Center, is necessary for the preservation, **equitable distribution and sustainable utilization of river water**. The current condition of interstate river water governance in India warrants a new approach for cooperative federalism and interstate water governance.

Q25. In the emerging geo-political scenario, India and New Zealand relations are witnessing a transformation. Discuss?

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Important because every year, the effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India have been asked.

Why in the news?

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/02/new-zealand-resets-relationships-with-australia-and-india/>
<https://www.indiatoday.in/news-analysis/story/jacina-ardern-resigns-future-of-india-new-zealand-bilateral-relation-lies-2323707-2023-01-19>
<https://www.outlookindia.com/topic/india-new-zealand-relations>

Approach

- Give a brief description about the relationship between India and New Zealand.
- Discuss the current relations related to economic, political and diplomatic aspects.
- Also highlight the challenges between both the countries.
- Conclude by giving a way forward.

Answer:

Introduction:

- **India and New Zealand have a longstanding, friendly, and growing relationship.** Their bilateral relations were established in 1952 with their high commission in Wellington, while New Zealand has a high commission in New Delhi. India- New Zealand relations were cordial but not extensive while recently it has taken a rise due to India's impressive GDP growth.
- **India and New Zealand have a two-way trade valued at US\$1.80 billion by the end of September 2022, which makes it the 11th largest two-way trading partner.**

Body:

Current relations:

- **Diplomatic relation:** Both countries became independent in the same year and **diplomatic representation of India was established in 1950** with the opening of a Trade Commission, which was later upgraded to High Commission.
- **Economic relations:** India is NZ's **11th largest two-way trading partner** with total two-way trade valued at **US\$1.80 bn** during the year ending September 2020. Education and tourism are NZ's growth sectors with India.
 - Both sides are committed to work towards a **high-quality, comprehensive and balanced bilateral FTA**, which is being negotiated since 2010.

- **Bilateral institutional mechanisms:** Foreign Office Consultations, Bilateral Cyber Dialogue, Economic Dialogue. **NZ India Central Association, founded in 1926**, is the umbrella organisation of all Indian associations in NZ and will celebrate its centenary in a few years' time.
- **Defence relation:** Defense cooperation has **been more limited**, but there have been **joint naval exercises**, and Indian and New Zealand troops have served together in **United Nations peacekeeping missions in Kosovo and Sudan**.
- **The first Round Table Joint Meeting between India and New Zealand** with the industry and industry associations of both the countries took place today in New Delhi. Emphasized on collective efforts keeping in mind the principles of mutual benefits, proportionality, facilitating trade.

Concerns in India New-Zealand relationship:

- **Visa issue:** New Zealand's relationship with India is not in good health. **New Zealand's unwillingness to renew visas for Indian students** who had left New Zealand during the COVID-19 pandemic and called for "fairer and more sympathetic treatment".
- **Trade challenges:** Trade figures demonstrate **the difficulties New Zealand's relationship with India is facing**. While New Zealand's exports to India were approaching 2 billion New Zealand dollars annually in 2017, they have since **collapsed to under NZ\$800 million**.
- **COVID-19 Impact:** India now ranks only **15th in the list of New Zealand's biggest trading partners**. As recently as 2016, India was New Zealand's 10th biggest trading partner. For comparison, New Zealand **now sells less to India than it does to the United Arab Emirates**.
- **Limited interest:** **New Zealand's Labor Government** has shown only limited interest in nurturing the relationship with India, even allowing for COVID-19 travel disruptions.

Way forward:

- **India- New Zealand 2025: Investing in the Relationship:** This new framework sets out an outline for the New Zealand government and its agencies and partners to grow their relationship with India in the next five years. The focus would be to work closely with the Indian communities, businesses, academics, and research institutions to achieve the goals set by the framework.
- **The aim is to tap the opportunities between the two economies** under common grounds such as international law, multilateralism and shared interest in the Pacific. It is formed on the basis of the following goals:
 - **Goal 1:** A relationship built on mutual trust and advances our shared interests
 - **Goal 2:** New Zealanders have an improved capability for engaging with India
 - **Goal 3:** Goods and Services trade grows for shared prosperity
 - **Goal 4:** New Zealand's value proposition is known and understood
 - **Goal 5:** Stronger and Broader sporting and cultural connections between the two countries
 - **Goal 6:** Shared approaches bilaterally and in the international fora.

Conclusion

- New Zealand and India have shared interests in a peaceful and **prosperous Indo-Pacific region**. By fostering shared approaches bilaterally and in international fora, such as the **East Asia Summit**, we can help solve problems and contribute to the region's development and stability.
- New Zealand and India also have an interest in working together to protect democratic norms and the integrity of the rules-based international system, including through the United Nations, **World Trade Organisation, and environmental agreements**.

25 Probable Questions On GS III Paper

(Students should note that these are model answers. Hence, they are advised to pick up important points, phrases and data as per the word limit and demand of the question.)

Q1. What is the tax-to-GDP ratio? What problems does a low tax-to-GDP ratio pose for India's growth story? Give innovative suggestions to augment the tax base.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (Such as GST, Capital taxes, potential GDP etc.)

Why in the news?

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/indianexpress.com/article/business/what-to-expect-on-direct-tax-in-union-budget-2023-gdp-finance-ministry-8384813/lite/>

https://www.google.com/amp/s/m.economictimes.com/news/economy/finance/corporate-tax-to-gdp-ratio-crosses-3-in-2021-22-first-time-in-two-years/amp_articleshow/96659512.cms

Approach

- Introduce by writing the definition of Tax to GDP ratio (also include recent facts and formula).
- Give points for the problems that led to low Tax-to-GDP ratio.
- Then suggest innovative approaches to augment the tax base.
- Conclude by writing the broader significance for tax base in India's growth.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Tax-to-GDP ratio is a measure of a nation's tax revenue measured in terms of the country's GDP. It denotes the government's ability to pay for its expenditure on improving infrastructure, health, education, etc. Developed nations generally have **higher tax-to-GDP ratios** as compared to developing nations.
- This ratio is used as a measure of how well the government controls a country's economic resources. **Tax-to-GDP ratio is calculated by dividing the tax revenue of a specific time period by the GDP.**

India Tax revenue: % of GDP was reported at 7.5 % in Mar 2023. This records a decrease from the previous number of 7.8 % for Dec 2022. India Tax revenue: % of GDP data is updated quarterly, averaging 7.4 % from Jun 1997 to Mar 2023.

Body:

Problems that a low tax-to-GDP ratio poses for India's growth

- **Due to low tax, Government** has to finance its expenditure through borrowings. Lower tax revenue will force the government to borrow more.
- **Higher borrowings** will result in high interest payments and a persistent fiscal deficit.
- It makes nation **vulnerable to external shocks**, currency fluctuations etc.
- It **decreases the ability of the government** to spend on national security, infrastructure, and welfare provisions.
- It **hampers governance due to the generation** of black money and a parallel economy. Lower tax-to-GDP ratio constrains the government to spend on infrastructure and puts pressure on the government to meet its fiscal deficit targets.

Suggestions to augment the tax base:

- There is a need to check on the exemptions that are being provided in the form of Transfer pricing, **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)**, etc.
- Need for an effective dispute settlement mechanism and handling numerous litigations pending in multiple courts.
- A **simplified tax structure with optimised tax** slabs to ensure convenience of tax payment.
- There is a presence of a large **informal/unorganised** sector which should be formalised.
- **Improving tax administration and surveillance** to prevent money laundering, black money etc.
- The most important measure for improving tax to GDP ratio is **ensuring the citizens pay their taxes**. The introduction of Direct Tax Code can help in greater compliance in this regard.
- **Rationalisation of GST and moving towards a two-rate structure** can also help in increasing compliance and putting an end to tax evasion.
- **While measures to improve tax compliance and widen the tax base** will yield higher tax revenue, the importance of higher economic growth cannot be ignored.

Conclusion:

- India is more reliant **on indirect taxes (taxes on spending)** instead of direct taxes (taxes on income) compared to its peers. Since direct taxes are taxed on income, they are more progressive and hurt the poor less. But the direct tax share in India's tax collections has shrunk as overall tax revenues have fallen. A progressive tax is regarded as the pinnacle of fairness. It lessens the tax burden on the poor by increasing the tax burden on the wealthy, who can afford to pay more. Hence it is important for the developing economies like India.

Q2. The Covid-19 pandemic is exacerbating inequalities across the globe, potentially undermining economic and political stability. Examine

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (such as economic growth, economic stability due to recent phenomenon, crisis etc.)

Why in the news?

https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.business-standard.com/amp/health/endemic-is-the-new-normal-say-experts-as-daily-covid-cases-top-10-000-123041301221_1.html

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/m.thewire.in/article/economy/inequality-exacerbated-in-india-during-covid-19-bottom-50s-income-contracted-report/amp>

Approach

- Introduce by writing the inequalities in the time of COVID-19.
- Discuss the points for rising inequalities across globe due to Covid-19 in terms of economic and political stability.
- Then suggest some measures and achievements.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Access to safe, easy, and affordable credit and other financial services by the poor and vulnerable groups, disadvantaged areas and lagging sectors is recognized as a pre-condition for accelerating growth and reducing income disparities and poverty. **According to International Monetary Fund** the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is more than **3.1 million deaths and rising, 120 million people pushed into extreme poverty, and a massive global recession.**

Body:

Covid-19 pandemic is exacerbating inequalities across the globe:

- **For women across several strata**, the statistics add up to economic distress, layoffs and more precarious work in the informal sector.

- It also means a reversal of journeys from small towns to cities, from familial dependence to financial autonomy.
- **The pandemic has also exacerbated preexisting inequalities in the labor market**, largely because the ability to work remotely is highly correlated with education, and hence with pre-pandemic earnings.
 - Despite all the talk of “**essential workers**” and everyone being “**in this together**,” the stark reality is that job and income losses are likely to have hit lower-skilled and uneducated workers the hardest.
- With the burden of additional time required for childcare and **housework falling disproportionately** on women, gender inequality in earnings is particularly likely to have grown even wider.
- In response to the widespread economic collapse in March and April 2020, the **world’s key central banks further loosened monetary policy**, injecting enormous amounts of liquidity into financial markets.
- **In economic terms, the impact of the crisis is differing across regions**, at least in its initial stages. Differentiating factors include a region’s exposure to tradable sectors, its exposure to **global value chains and its specialisation, such as tourism**.

Achievements in Financial Inclusion:

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released the **Financial Inclusion Index**; the value of the index was 56.41 (FY22) as against 53.9 for FY21. This indicates that there has been increase in financial inclusion.
- **Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** as many as 37.87 crore accounts have been opened with total deposit of Rs 1.12 lakh crore.
- As per the **World Bank Global Findex Report 2017**, adult bank account holders in India increased to 80 per cent in 2017 as compared to 53 per cent in 2014 and 35 per cent in 2011.
- **Loan account per 1000 adults** with commercial banks have increased from 142.48 (2013) to 267.44 (2020).
- To provide insurance to the uninsured, **Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)** and **Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)** and **Atal Pension Yojana** have been launched.

Conclusion:

- However, covid induced lock-down, job loss, decline in economic activities leading to economic contraction have increased the inequalities. As per **Oxfam**, **during pandemic**, while poorest families underwent acute financial distress, top billionaires **became richer by 35%**. In developing countries, informality and limited fiscal space add to the difficulties. However, income support could be extended through non-contributory social security schemes or existing cash transfer programs. Support could also be offered temporarily to informal enterprises.

Q3. Explaining the objectives of land reforms in India, examine the steps taken by the government in this regard.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Important topic for UPSC. Questions have been asked from this theme in alternate years.

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief history of land reforms in India.
- Elaborate further by including the objectives of land reforms in India.
- Then examine the steps taken by government for land reforms.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- The land reforms are an integral part of the scheme of **agricultural development and rural reconstruction** since the inception of the economic planning in the country. As put in the words of **Second Five Year Plan**, the objective of land reform was to create conditions for evolving as speedily as possible the agrarian economy with high levels of efficiency and productivity and to establish an egalitarian a society and eliminate social inequalities. The same objective was repeated in **Fifth Five Year Plan Draft**.

Body:

Objectives of land reforms:

- **Rational use of Resources:** The foremost important objective of land reforms in India is to make provision for more rational use of scarce land resources. It can be done by changing the conditions of holdings, ceilings on land holdings.
- **Raising Production Level:** Another important objective of land reforms is to raise the production level of the agricultural sector by motivating the farmers to raise their output. This is possible by giving incentives.
- **Removal of Exploitation:** The removal of exploitation of poor farmers is an important objective of land reforms. This can be attained by redistributing agricultural land in favour of less privileged class of farmers and also by improving the terms and conditions for possessing land for cultivation by actual tillers and abolition of intermediaries.
- **Social Welfare:** Land reforms also aims at promoting social welfare for rural masses and also to end social injustice through equitable distribution of income. It makes arrangement for distributing land to landless cultivators by imposing ceiling on land holdings and also by acquiring ceiling surplus land.
- **Raising the Standard of Living:** Land reforms helps to raise the standard of living of the rural poor through re- distributive packages and programmes. Upliftment of economic condition of landless agricultural labourers and small and marginal farmers can be made through land reforms.

Steps taken by the government:

- **Abolition of Intermediaries:** Before the attainment of independence we had four tenancy systems in the country.
 - **Ryotwari system:** This system was introduced by Sir Thomas Munro in 1792. Under this system, the responsibility of paying land revenue to the Government was of the proprietor, who is the registered holder of the land.
 - **Mahalwari system:** It is the system, by which the land belonged to a small group of families who were usually the most powerful in their region and who were responsible for paying rent to the state.
 - **Zainindari system:** The Zamindari system was created by Lord Cornwallis who entered into "Permanent Settlement" with the landlords in 1793, with a view to increase the revenue of the East India Company. Zamindari means normally a non-cultivating landlord.
 - **Jagirdari system:** Under this system jagirs were granted to certain military commanders, ministers and courtiers who took revenue for their own support or for the military force which they were obliged to maintain.
- **Tenancy Reforms:** The state governments were forced to enact tenancy legislations in order to remove the evils of the tenancy system.
- **Ceilings on Land Holdings:** Ceilings on Land Holdings mean the fixation of maximum limit (Ceiling Limit) on the individual land holdings. Land ceiling is one of the measures to take away surplus land from those who cross the limit of land possession beyond a contain point.

- **Consolidation of Land Holdings:** It means bringing together the various small plots of land of a farmer scattered all over the village as one compact block. It is through purchase or exchange of land with others.

Conclusion:

- Land reforms, in spite of their limitations and shortcomings, did have a significant impact on Indian society and economy. But at the same time, the impact was not so significant as was expected, nor was it as much as it was in other countries, like China and Soviet Russia. However, it did result in increased democratization of Indian polity and reduction in the influence of the dominant sections of the society.

Q4. Participatory budgeting deepens democracy, builds stronger communities, and creates a more equitable distribution of public resources. In the light of this statement highlight the challenges in mainstreaming participatory budgeting in India.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (such as gender budgeting, capital revenue budget, objective and analysis of budget etc.)

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the meaning of participatory budgeting.
- Elaborate further by including the challenges in mainstreaming Participatory budgeting.
- Conclude by summarizing the answer with suggestive measures.

Answer:

Introduction:

- **Participatory Budgeting** is a process through which citizens are empowered to make real decisions on allocating the public budget. It is a democratic process in which community members decide how to spend part of a public budget. It gives people real power over real money. It allows for effective and efficient policy changes, and positively influences aspects such as government transparency scrutiny and monitoring.

Body:

Challenges in mainstreaming Participatory Budgeting

- **Political will is necessary** for the introduction and sustenance of the entire process. However there is no or minimal political will for the introduction of participatory budgeting.
- It is a complex **process and involves multiple** internal and external stakeholders.
- Not everyone is familiar with the concepts of **spending and budgeting**. Thus, the quality of the citizens' proposals tend to be unreliable.

- **Lack of a Clear Action Plan and Operational Guidelines:** A number of operational hurdles have hampered the effective implementation of Participatory Budgeting.

- For eg. Delhi's complex governance structure presents a number of challenges in like Demarcation of Mohallas,

identifying the concerned agency to implement the demands emerging from the exercise etc.

- **Shortage of Dedicated and Trained Staff:** The lack of a dedicated cadre to carry out Participatory Budgeting across various states proved to be a severe constraints.
- **Lack of attention to social inclusion** in Participatory Budgeting leads to domination of participatory processes by local elites.

Through the **73rd and 74th constitutional Amendment** act, some aspects of Participatory Budgeting were introduced in the local governments, but overall, there have not been many instances in the country. Other benefits of Participatory budgeting initiated in many states like **Pune and Kerala** has paved the way for-

- **The need to explicitly state** the whole costs of proposed projects,
- **Improved transparency** and administrative modernisation,
- **Potential usefulness** to foster targeted policies, for instance greening of cities, and/or
- **Minority group engagement** into the democratic decision-making process.

Recent Initiatives: mygov.in portal to take suggestions and feedback from people on legislative and policy agendas to increase citizen participation in governance.

Conclusion:

- In contrast to general **Budgeting, done by the techno-bureaucratic administration**, Participatory Budgeting has more potential to maximise the equity in the decision-making process and provide better policy outcomes.

Q5. How and to what extent organic farming could help in solving the problem of decreasing soil fertility In India?

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

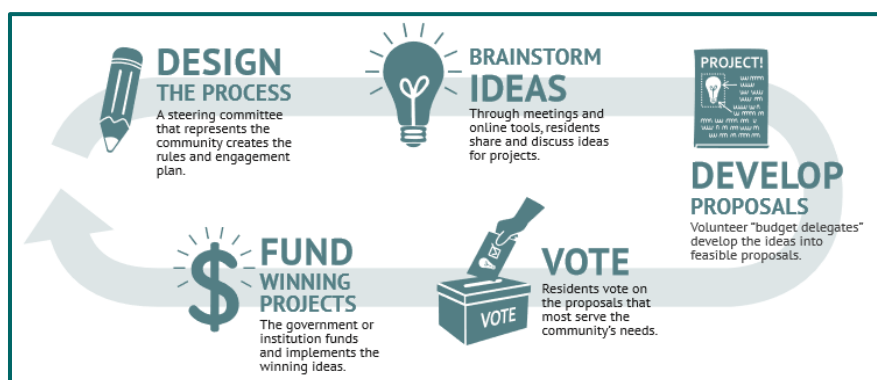
- Similarity with PYQ (Agriculture - concept, system, pattern, project are relevant themes so this becomes an important topic)

Why in the news?

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/organic-farming-in-india-gaps-and-opportunities/article67030723.ece/amp/&ved=2ahUKEwjg2dTdxqSAAxUBjVYBHSOUA0EQyM8BKAB6BAGPEAI&usg=AOvVaw0A9JLe1tZz-48Jv3Mt1RU>

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of organic farming.
- Elaborate further by including the principals of organic farming.
- Then elaborate by listing the points for how organic farming helps in solving the problem of decreasing soil fertility.
- Write challenges of organic farming in India.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

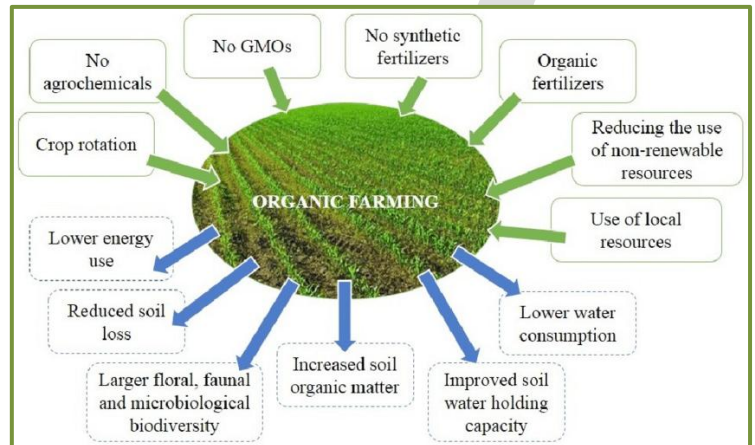
Answer:

Introduction:

- The FAO defines organic farming as a unique production management system that promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity.

There are four principles of organic farming are as follows:-

- **Principles of Health** – The health of the ecosystem, people, and communities.
- **The Principles of Ecology** – The right balance between ecosystem and environment or nature.
- **Principles of Fairness** – Good human relationships and quality of life.
- **Principles of Care** – The considerations about the environment and environment of the future.



Body:

Organic farming helping to solve problem decreasing soil fertility:

- Organic farmers seek to "build the soil" or enhance its inherent fertility by using crop rotations, animal and green manures, and cover crops.
- In **organic farming systems**, soil fertility means more than just providing plants with macro- and micronutrients.
 - **Effective fertility management considers plants, soil organic matter (SOM), and soil biology.**
- **Bare fallow:** Use of bare fallow to accumulate water and control weeds also works to enhance the soil.
 - It also maintains optimal soil pH levels Annual, biennial, or perennial herbaceous plants growth enhance soil physical condition and improved water filtration.
 - Over-addition in organic systems can occur in situations where leaching is restricted (**e.g., in greenhouses**) or after N rich cover crops or manures are applied.
 - **Crop export of nutrients is usually compensated** by farm-derived renewable resources but it is sometimes necessary to supplement organic soils with potassium, phosphate, calcium, magnesium and trace elements from external sources.
 - The hidden costs of agriculture to the environment in terms of natural resource degradation are reduced.
 - The frequent use of under-utilized species (often as rotation crops to build soil fertility) reduces erosion of agro-biodiversity, creating a healthier gene pool - the basis for future adaptation.

Challenges:

- **Reduced yield in initial years:** The Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur findings revealed that during the conversion prior the yields of organic cotton started rising from third year. This acts a hindrance in adoption.
- **High cost of organic farming:** High input cost of organic farming prevents small and marginal farmers from going for it.

- **High MRP:** It is almost obvious that due to the extreme care taken to go along with organic farming, the results would be kept at a high price.
- **Lack of awareness:** Farmers lack awareness about the benefits of organic farming and its high value in the market.
- **Disparity of Supply and Demand:** Non-perishable grains can be grown anywhere and transported to any location but this is not the case with fruits and vegetables.

Conclusion:

- Thus, these **bottlenecks should be plugged through awareness campaign** and incentivizing organic farming like in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. Organic farming is more **eco-friendly and preserve traditional knowledge of farming** which is in concurrence with goal 12 of Sustainable Development Goals.

Q6. Fisheries sector can provide opportunity to diversify the income of farmers but at the same time it needs improvement. Discuss it with respect to recent WTO agreement on fisheries subsidies.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (Farmer-related issues and India's concern is a recurring pattern in UPSC)

Why in the news?

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fisheries-sector-is-key-for-growth-of-countrys-gdp-says-union-minister/article67054327.ece/amp/&ved=2ahUKEwj66jTx6SAAxXTVmwGHRdwBh8QyM8BKAB6BAGQEAI&usg=AOvVaw3FG0Jz2noC72m2FmfHjvbl>
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Approach

- Introduce by writing facts related to fisheries sector in India.
- Elaborate further the opportunities to diversify the income of farmers.
- Then elaborate by listing the points for the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies (Agreement) at the WTO Ministerial meeting.
- Write limitations of fisheries sector and suggest measures.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

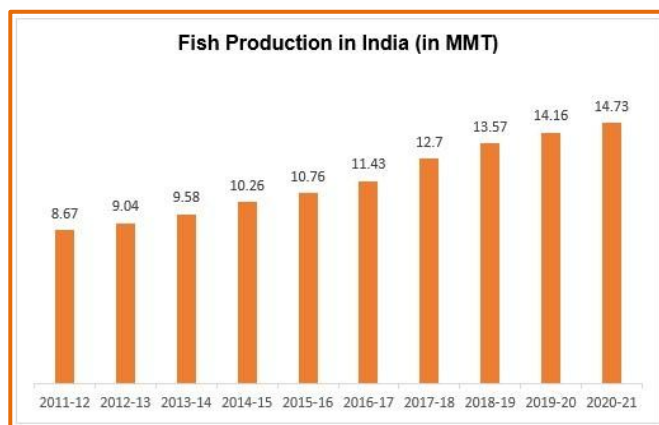
- India's fish production has grown 22-fold since independence, from 7.5 lakh tonne in 1950-51 to a record-breaking 162.48 lakh tonne in 2021-22, reflecting a growth rate of 10.34% compared to the previous year.

Inland fish production, predominantly driven by aquaculture, has witnessed an extraordinary surge. In 2000-01, inland fish production stood at 28.23 lakh tonne, which rose to 121.21 lakh tonne in 2021-22, marking a remarkable 400% increase.

Body:

Opportunity to diversify farmers' income: -

- Fisheries and aquaculture witnessed manifold rise in its production during past decades, from 5 lakh tons in 1950-51 to 161.87 lakh tonnes in FY 2021-22.
- Growth:** Fisheries sector is one of the sunrise sectors with outstanding, average annual growth of 10.87% since 2014-15 with record fish production of 145 lakh tons in FY 2020-21, showcasing its huge potential to double farmers income.
- Employment:** The sector supports the livelihood of over 28 million people especially the marginalized and vulnerable communities. Hence could act as a solution to seasonal unemployment and disguised employment in farm sector.



The WTO Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies

- To prohibit subsidies from being provided for Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and overfished stocks.
- Developing Countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to have a **transition period of two years** from the date of entry into force of this Agreement.
- The **Agreement to eliminate subsidies** granted to fishing vessels or fishing operators engaged in IUU fishing.
- No prohibition on providing subsidies** for fishing regarding overfished stocks as long as such subsidies are implemented to rebuild the stock to a biologically sustainable level.

India's concern:

- India is not a major fishery subsidy provider** unlike countries like China, the European Union (EU) and the US which provide an annual fishery subsidy of USD 7.3 billion, USD 3.8 billion and USD 3.4 billion, respectively. India provided just USD 277 million in 2018 to small fishers.
- Indian fishermen helps the community do fishing activities to support their livelihood and prohibiting such measures by a WTO agreement will **ultimately affect millions of fishers and their families** leading to poverty.
- There are around 2 lakh fishing crafts of which only 59,000 (37 per cent) are mechanised.** The estimated fisheries potential is about 4.4 million tonne and the marine capture production in 2019 was 3.8 million tonne.

Limitations of fisheries Sector:

- Unorganized sector:** The sector is dominated by small fishermen limiting the scope of scalability.
- Poor Infrastructure** – Lack of cold storage and Processing leads to an estimated 15- 20% post-harvest loss.
- Non availability of low-cost seeds and feeds technologies**, availability of credit etc. leads to little investment by poor fishing community in the sector.
- Overfishing:** This term refers to the practice of catching fish faster than they are able to reproduce. It leads to removing these prey species from the marine environment impact predators and the aquatic ecosystem.
- Oxygen depletion in pond and fish gasping for air:** A challenge that fish growers frequently experience. Fish usually begin floating and clutching on the water surface quite early in the morning. It occurs owing to a lack of dissolved oxygen in the water.
- In India, there are **no additional aqua feed-consuming species or high-value fish** that should be considered when introducing new species. For example, tilapia farming has yet to take off in the country.

Steps for improvement of the sector:

- Promote Fish cooperatives:** to reduce the limitations of small fishing farmers and fishermen.
- Training is crucial for enhancing the fishery sector:** Information on fish and fish product through online platform.
- R&D in the sector needs to improve:** More use of remote sensing technology to identify rich fishing areas.
- It should promote efforts to improve selective fishing gears** to minimize by-catches of juveniles and non-target species and to develop technologies to make economical utilization of unavoidable by-catches.

- The Fishing Sector has been instrumental in sustaining the livelihoods of millions of people in India especially for marginalized and vulnerable communities and has contributed towards encourage socio-economic development.

Conclusion:

- The implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries could facilitate sustainable utilization of fishery resources and hence to overcome constraints in facing the above-mentioned challenges. In the long term, however, there is the need to develop national and regional fishery governance to ensure rational and effective fisheries management in the region.

Q7. How is a liquid mirror telescope different from a conventional telescope? Explain the functioning of the Liquid mirror Telescope and its use in astronomy.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (such as India's achievement in the space technology, nanotechnology, missions etc. have been asked multiple times in UPSC)

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Briefly write about the liquid mirror (LMT) and conventional telescope (CT).
- Elaborate further by differentiating between the two.
- Then elaborate by listing the functions of LMT and CT and LMT applications in astronomy.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Liquid mirror telescopes are telescopes with **mirror made with reflective liquid**. The liquid and its container are rotated at a constant speed around a vertical axis, which causes the surface of the liquid to assume a paraboloidal shape that serves as the primary mirror of the telescope. **International Liquid-Mirror Telescope (ILMT)** has been set up at the Devasthal Observatory campus, Uttarakhand in collaboration with **India, Belgium, Canada, Poland, and Uzbekistan**.

Body:

| Conventional Telescope | Liquid mirror Telescope |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are made of highly polished glass mirror, either single or in combination. • They are steered to focus onto the targeted celestial object on specific night. • Observe specific stellar sources for fixed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mirrors made of reflective liquid. Most commonly Mercury. • Container containing the liquid rotates at fixed constant speed along the vertical axis. The telescope remains stationary. |

hours as per the study requirement.

- They are very **costly**.
- They are **movable and can be rotated**.

- Captures the sky's images on all nights between two **successive twilights**.
- They are **just 1%** of the cost of conventional telescope.
- It is a **stationery telescope**.

Functioning of Liquid Mirror Telescope:

- Three components of the telescope are:
 - A dish containing a reflecting liquid metal,
 - An air bearing on which the liquid mirror sits.
 - A drive system
- The optical sensors are mounted above the mirror, in a module at its focus, and the motor and bearings that turn the mirror are in the same module as the sensors. The mirror is suspended below.

LMT use in astronomy:

- Some research projects (e.g., time consuming surveys, long term photometric monitoring programs) simply cannot be envisioned with conventional telescopes but become possible with LMTs.
- Quality of the recorded observations is optimal at zenith since both the seeing and transparencies are the best there, at all times.
- It will motivate young minds from scientific and engineering backgrounds to take up challenging problems.
- The telescope is set to be used for continuous zenith monitoring within a narrow 27 arc minutes strip of sky for at least five years.

Conclusion:

- Thus, Liquid Mirror Telescopes provide affordability and continuity of observation, making it possible for a small team of astronomers to have their own large telescope working fulltime on a specific project. It helps in survey and capture any and all possible celestial objects – from stars, galaxies, supernova explosions, asteroids to space debris supplementing ongoing astronomical observations.

Q8. In tackling global warming, methane is both part of problem as well as solution. Discuss the measures taken to tackle the problems?

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (such as climate change, global warming, and related international mechanism have been asked)

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of Methane and substantiate with some data/facts/figures.
- Elaborate further by including how methane act as a solution to climate change.
- Then elaborate by listing the challenges how methane is impacting the climate change.
- Suggest measures to tackle the problems.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Methane accounts for about a fifth of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and is about **25 times as potent as carbon dioxide in trapping heat in the atmosphere**. In the last two centuries, methane concentrations in the atmosphere have more than doubled, mainly due to human-related activities.

Body:

Methane as part of solution:

- **Methane is a more efficient fuel**, producing more heat and light energy by mass than other hydrocarbon, or fossil fuel. Thus, replacing dirty coal and crude.
- **Methane's lifetime in the atmosphere** is much shorter than carbon dioxide and breaks very quickly. Thus, reducing it will have immediate effect on global warming.
- **Unlike carbon capture and storage**, many techniques to reduce methane are inexpensive.

How are methane emissions driving climate change?

- **Methane is a greenhouse gas**, which is responsible for 30 per cent of the warming since preindustrial times, second only to carbon dioxide.
 - For eg. Over a 20-year period, it is 80 times more potent at warming than carbon dioxide.
- A report by the **United Nations Environment Programme** observed that over a 20-year period, methane is 80 times more potent at warming than carbon dioxide.
- Last year, the **US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** said that the atmospheric levels of methane jumped 17 parts per billion in 2021, beating the previous record set in 2020.
- Increasing methane emissions will also lead to **increased levels of ozone depletion** and local air pollution, both of which reduces air quality and people's health.
- According to the **sixth assessment report (AR6)** of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2021)** almost half of the total net global warming since pre-industrial levels is accounted for by higher methane concentrations.

Suggestive measures to be taken:

- **Policies aiming to reduce methane emissions** will deliver benefits in terms of climate mitigation rapidly in the short term.
- Reducing methane emissions will also lead to lower levels of ozone formation and local air pollution, both of which improve air quality and people's health.
 - Continuing reductions in emissions of other greenhouse gases are also key to achieving long-term climate goals.
- **Methane emissions from the energy, agriculture and waste sectors** have decreased by 36% in the EU in the past 30 years. However, the overall reduction in emissions needs to accelerate, particularly in agriculture, to meet the **2030 and 2050 EU climate objectives**.
- **International frameworks and initiatives are also key to reducing methane emissions** and mitigating climate change globally.
 - Ambitious EU policies alone will not be sufficient to ensure that we do not exceed the 1.5°C global rise in temperature goal, as the **EU accounts for only 7% of global greenhouse gas emissions and for 4-5% of global methane emissions**.

Global Methane Pledge:

- The Global Methane Pledge, launched in 2021, aims to keep alive the 1.5 degrees Celsius goal.
- Over 100 countries have committed to reducing global methane emissions by at least 30 per cent by 2030 from 2020 levels. This reduction could eliminate over 0.2°C warming by 2050, the Pledge read.

- India, which is not a part of the Global Methane Pledge, is among the top five methane emitters globally. Most emissions can be traced back to agriculture.

Conclusion:

- The pledge provides opportunity for nations to collaborate on tackling methane emission and global warming which can be key to achieving the Paris climate goals. Raising awareness about the scale and impact of methane emissions is essential to developing effective policy.
- Ground-based measurement tools along with a growing number of satellites including Methane SAT subsidiary are making it faster and cheaper than ever to locate, measure and reduce emissions.

Q9. Our cities often suffer from deluge. What are the different factors which lead to frequent urban floods and suggest some effective measures?

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Based on the themes of urban floods, tsunami, cloud burst and vulnerability of India due to earthquakes.(PYQs)

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description along with examples for urban flooding.
- Enumerate the factors leading to frequent urban floods.
- Then elaborate by listing the challenges and suggest effective measures.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- The inundation of land or property in a built environment, especially in densely populated cities where rainfall exceeds drainage systems' capacity, is known as urban flooding. Urban floods are now a national problem in India, affecting metropolitan areas almost every year.
- For example, Bangalore (September 2022), Ahmadabad (July 2022), Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai, etc. face recurring floods impacting lives, livelihood, and economic activities.

Body:

Factors leading to frequent urban floods:

- Natural Factors:**
 - Meteorological Factors:** Heavy rainfall, cyclonic storms, and thunderstorms
 - Hydrological Factors:** presence or absence of Overbank flow channel networks, occurrence of high tides impeding the drainage in coastal cities.

- Changing monsoon pattern.
- **Anthropological Factors:**
 - **Unplanned Urban Development:** increasing concretization and encroachment into lakes and flood plains
 - **Drainage System not redesigned as per current load:** old system lacks volume and is poorly maintained e.g., Delhi still has 1976 Master plan.
 - According to NASA studies, the urban heat island effect also causes more rainfall in urban areas and cause flooding.
- **Other Factors:**
 - **Global climate change** is resulting in changed weather patterns and increased episodes of high intensity rainfall events occurring in shorter periods of time.
 - **Improper disposal of solid waste, including domestic,** commercial and industrial waste and dumping of construction debris into the drains also contributes significantly to reducing their capacities.
 - **Economic losses** due to disruption in industrial activity, supply chains etc. **Displacement of population in low lying areas** etc.

Urban floods lead to Problems like: -

- **Loss of life:** especially elderly and children.
- **Economic loss:** disruption in transport and power, infrastructure.
- **Health hazards:** Zoonotic diseases, water borne diseases like typhoid, malaria etc.
- **Environmental pollution:** pollutant like plastic end up in rivers and sea.

Some effective measures:

- **Empowering Local bodies** through devolution of powers and funds, capacity building etc. so that they can come up with local solutions.
- **Promote the ideas of Sponge Cities:** Urban planning should keep in mind the geological and hydrological cycle. Porous pavements, Bioswales & retention system.
- **Improvement of drainage system:** Proper maintenance, desilting, alternative drainage path, Control of solid waste entering the drainage systems.

Conclusion:

- The conventional 'Grey Infrastructure' should be replaced by development of blue-green infrastructure will help in the situation. Urban local bodies will continue to have a central role to play in cities' battle with extreme weather events, thus empowering them with fund, function and functionary will pave the way toward SDG-11.

Q10. National Quantum Mission will help India scale up scientific and industrial R&D and create a vibrant & innovative ecosystem in Quantum Technology. Enlist some of the key domains where quantum computing can be applied.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Important theme for UPSC (Robotics, nanotechnology, research, and quantum technology are important themes for science-based questions)

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the briefly about National Quantum Mission (NQM) and its Vision.
- Mention the applications of NQM in various sectors.
- Write significance of the mission along with examples.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- The National Quantum Mission, launched by the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India, aims to catapult efforts across the nation to engineer and utilise the delicate quantum features of photons and subatomic particles to build advanced sensors that boost the value added by these enterprises and to support sustainable development. As part of the National Quantum Mission, four thematic hubs will be established in different institutions across the country to boost research and development in the field.

Body:

Vision of National Quantum Mission (NQM):

- The new mission targets developing intermediate scale quantum computers with 50-1000 physical qubits in 8 years in various platforms like superconducting and photonic technology.
- Satellite based secure quantum communications between ground stations over a range of 2000 kilometres within India.
- Long distance secure quantum communications with other countries.
- Inter-city quantum key distribution over 2000 km as well as multi-node Quantum network with quantum memories are also some of the deliverables of the Mission.

Four thematic hubs (T-Hubs) will be set up in top academic and national research and development institutes on the domains -

- Quantum Computing,
- Quantum Communication,
- Quantum Sensing and Metrology, and
- Quantum Materials and devices.

Applications

- As technology is evolving, understanding is evolving and so are the applications.
- In the area of therapeutics, healthcare, and security the use is being realized.
- The mission will help develop magnetometers with high sensitivity in atomic systems and atomic clocks for precision timing, communications and navigation.
- It will also support design and synthesis of quantum materials such as superconductors, novel semiconductor structures and topological materials for fabrication of quantum devices.
- Single photon sources/detectors, entangled photon sources will also be developed for quantum communications, sensing and metrological applications.
- The mission would greatly benefit communication, health, financial and energy sectors as well as drug design, and space applications. It will provide a huge boost to National priorities like digital India, Make in India, Skill India and Stand-up India, Start-up India, Self-reliant India and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- Better prediction for next generation transformative technologies such as quantum computers and computing, quantum communication, quantum key distribution, encryption, crypt analysis, quantum devices, quantum sensing, quantum materials, quantum clock etc.

Significance of NQM in India

- The mission can take the **technology development ecosystem** in the country to a globally competitive level.
- India will be the seventh country to **have a dedicated quantum mission** after the US, Austria, Finland, France, Canada and China. The National Quantum Mission is going to give India a quantum jump in this arena.
- **The mission would greatly benefit communication**, health, financial and energy sectors as well as drug design, and space applications.
- **Quantum Machine Learning** can be leveraged for drug discovery and chemical simulations, Satellite placements, weather analysis and diffuse terrorist networks.
- **Quantum sensing is a precise quantum hardware** that can be used to sense earthquakes and other geological events.

Conclusion:

- Although above applications are still in preliminary stage. With time it will evolve into a better maximizing the potential of each application. Quantum Computing in a way can revolutionize many sectors and can lead to a lot of time and cost cutting.

Q11. Discuss the objectives and effects of Liberalization on various aspects of Indian economy. Also highlight some measures to be taken to improve the Indian economy.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Core theme of the syllabus. (Multiple questions have been asked based on the core theme such as Liberalised formal sector, macroeconomic stability of India, FDI and its trends)

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of liberalization in India.
- Enlist the points for objectives of Liberalization.
- Then elaborate by listing the points of impact on economy in both positive and negative aspects.
- Also mention the initiatives taken by the government in this regard.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Liberalization is the removal of restrictions on something, typically in an economic context. After Independence, the government decided to take a protective approach and closed the economy to the outside world. This was done because the new industries weren't strong enough to compete with international companies and would eventually be pushed away by them.
- The arrival of liberalization marked the end of this era. India opened its economic borders to other countries in a gradual manner by reducing restrictions. This also allowed foreign investors and the private sector to invest in domestic companies. It led to a free-market system where there were reduced restrictions and interference by the government.

Body:

Objectives of liberalization

- In order to test the competitiveness of domestic businesses, economic borders were opened.
- The imbalance of BOP had to be corrected since the imports were way more than the exports.
- It was also done to unlock the economic potential of the economy by allowing the private sector to participate in economic activities.
- Allowing multinational companies to set up their businesses in the country to boost India's economic growth.

Impact of liberalization on the economy:

POSITIVE

- **Flow of Capital** – Measures such as the removal of trade restrictions, tax reforms, etc., led to the free flow of capital in the economy. The private sector and foreign investors were able to invest with ease which led to the injection of money as well as overall capital growth in the economy.

- Since 1991, India has firmly established itself as a lucrative foreign investment destination and FDI equity inflows in India in 2019-20 (till August) stood at US\$ 19.33 billion.

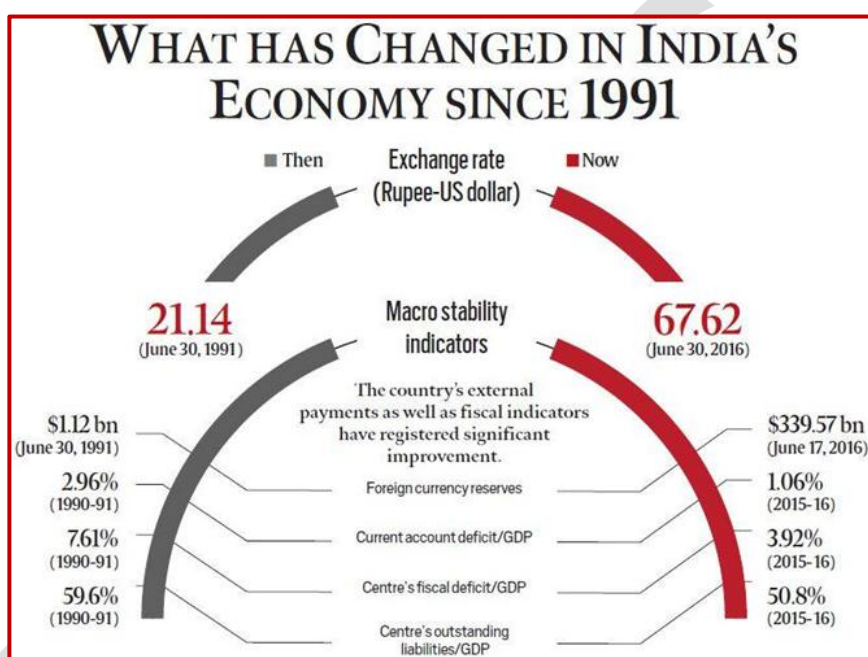
- **Investor Portfolio**

Diversification – Removing restrictions meant that investors could invest in a diverse class of assets. An increase in options attracted investors to park their money in several classes of assets, reducing their investment risk.

- **Stock Market Appreciation** – Increasing number of investors and foreign capital led to the growth of the stock market.
- **India's GDP growth rate increased.** During 1990-91 India's GDP growth rate was only 1.1% but after 1991 reforms GDP growth rate increased year by year and in 2015-16 it was estimated to be 7.5% by the IMF.
- **Per Capita income increased** due to an increase in employment. **Exports have increased** and stood at USD 26.38 billion as of October, 2019.

NEGATIVE

- **Excessive competition** – The entry of private players and international companies led to the decline of small traders as they couldn't catch up with the technological advancement that resulted from Liberalization.
- **Mergers and Acquisitions** – Big private entities could acquire a majority stake in smaller companies. This led to employees of the smaller firm losing their jobs if they couldn't upskill themselves to hold their positions.
- **Impact on environment:** Globalization has also contributed to the destruction of the environment through pollution by emissions from manufacturing plants and clearing of vegetation cover. It further acts the health of people.
- **Income inequality:** LPG policies have led to widening income gaps within the country. The higher growth rate is achieved by an economy at the expense of declining incomes of people who may be rendered redundant.
- **Low per capita income of farmers:** In 1991, agriculture provided employment to 72 percent of the population and contributed 29.02 percent of the GDP. Now the share of agriculture in the GDP has gone down drastically to 18 percent. This has resulted in a lowering the per capita income of the farmers and increasing the rural indebtedness.



Measures to be taken by the government:

- The government must focus its resources on capital investment, **for example, on physical infrastructure, skill-building, and improving public health and other social infrastructure**, as the country learns to live with the pandemic.
 - These expenses should be financed through sustained efforts toward monetization of assets and attracting investments.
- **The other area of focus must be enabling the ecosystem around job, income, and demand creation.** India is a domestic demand-driven economy and needs demand to sustainably pick up for a strong recovery.
- Since MSMEs are India's largest job creators, the **government will have to identify their pain areas**, and devise a solution that helps them become a part of **"Aatmanirbhar Bharat."**
- Government must focus on short- as well as long-term measures to **boost exports and encourage foreign direct investment in sectors** where India has a competitive advantage
- Government must be cautious of future variants and likely **adopt a calibrated response through intermittent regionalized mobility restrictions.**

Conclusion:

- While achieving the \$5 trillion economy target is a challenging task. The government is working towards it, but implementing several reforms and measures aimed at boosting economic growth and development in the country.


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Q12. What do you understand by Left Wing Extremism (LWE)? Elucidate the major factors behind the occurrence of LWE and the governmental action to root out the menace.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (direct questions have been asked from this topic in alternate years)

Why in the news?

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/violence-related-to-left-wing-extremism-down-by-76-in-2022-as-compared-to-2010-says-amit-shah/article66482957.ece/amp/&ved=2ahUKEwiDrqzNzaSAAXfTWwGHdVJC9IQyM8BKAB6BAGFEAI&usg=>

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Approach

- Introduce by giving a brief description of Left Wing Extremism (LWE).
- Elaborate further by including the major factors behind LWE.
- Then elaborate by listing the points on steps taken by the government.
- Conclude by writing the success of government in reducing LWE.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Left-wing extremism in India refers to the ongoing Maoist insurgency in parts of India, also known as Naxalism. It is a far-left radical communist movement that began in 1967 in the village of Naxalbari, West Bengal. Its aim is of overthrowing current capitalist systems and replacing them with communist or socialist societies.

The movement has since spread to several other states including Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh.

Body:

Factors behind the LWE in India:

- **The failure of land reforms** especially land redistribution after independence.
- **Socio-economic inequities**, unemployment, despair about the future.
- **Dishonest and self-serving** dominant groups
- **Political deprivation** leading to hopelessness or a sense of powerlessness.
- **Lack of title to public land** cultivated by the landless poor.
- **Governance deficit** in the remote parts of Red Corridor regions.
- **Lack of food security**– corruption in the Public Distribution System (which are often non-functional).

Steps taken by the government:

- **Review and monitoring mechanisms:** These include intelligence sharing through Multi-Agency Centre (MAC) at the Central and State levels, and Multi Agency Centre (SMAC) at the subsidiary level on a 24x7 basis.
 - For eg. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) initiated "**Operation SAMADHAN**" to tackle the Naxal problem. SAMADHAN stands for Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation and training.
- **Better inter-state coordination:** Government of India has taken a number of steps to improve inter-state coordination which includes frequent meetings and interactions between the official machinery of the bordering districts of Left Wing Extremism affected States across the country.
 - For eg. The aspirational Districts Programme.
- **Tackling the challenge of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs):** The Union Home Ministry has formulated a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on 'Issues related to Explosives/IEDs/Landmines in naxal affected areas' and the same has been circulated to the stakeholders for compliance.

| VIOLENCE INCIDENTS FROM 2019 TO 2022 | | | | | Madhya Pradesh | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|----------------|------|------|-------|--|
| | | | | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | *2022 | |
| Incidents | | | | | 5 | 16 | 19 | 20 | |
| Deaths | | | | | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | |
| Andhra Pradesh | | | | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | *2022 | |
| Incidents | | | | | 18 | 12 | 11 | 3 | |
| Deaths | | | | | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | |
| Bihar | | | | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | *2022 | |
| Incidents | | | | | 62 | 26 | 26 | 16 | |
| Deaths | | | | | 17 | 8 | 7 | 1 | |
| Chhattisgarh | | | | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | *2022 | |
| Incidents | | | | | 263 | 315 | 255 | 279 | |
| Deaths | | | | | 77 | 111 | 101 | 56 | |
| Jharkhand | | | | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | *2022 | |
| Incidents | | | | | 200 | 199 | 130 | 118 | |
| Deaths | | | | | 54 | 39 | 26 | 12 | |
| Maharashtra | | | | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | *2022 | |
| Incidents | | | | | 66 | 30 | 31 | 18 | |
| Deaths | | | | | 34 | 8 | 6 | 7 | |
| Odisha | | | | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | *2022 | |
| Incidents | | | | | 45 | 50 | 32 | 19 | |
| Deaths | | | | | 11 | 9 | 3 | 10 | |
| Telangana | | | | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | *2022 | |
| Incidents | | | | | 8 | 15 | 5 | 10 | |
| Deaths | | | | | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | |
| Kerala | | | | | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | *2022 | |
| Incidents | | | | | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | |
| Deaths | | | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |

(Till Nov 30)

- **Strengthening of air support:** State Governments and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) have been provided with enhanced air support in terms of UAVs and helicopters for anti-naxal operations, including evacuation of casualties/injured persons.
 - For eg. Operation Green Hunt

Conclusion:

- States should rationalize their surrender policy in order to bring innocent individuals caught in the trap of LWE in the mainstream. States also need to adopt a focused time-bound approach to completely eliminate LWE groups and ensure all-round development of the affected regions. The Centre and the States should make efforts in sync that are crucial in eliminating such radicalization amongst groups (like confidence-building measures, education, welfare schemes etc.)

Q13. Assam Rifle has a long history dating back to the British Era and their contributions transcends the contribution of any other militaries in India with their diverse roles. In this regard discuss the role of Assam rifles in the security of India and enumerate the challenges faced by them.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (border challenge, AFSPA act, implications of airspace etc.)

Why in the news?

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://frontline.thehindu.com/politics/assam-rifles-a-brief-history/article66949786.ece/amp/&ved=2ahUKEwjs7KOOzqSAAxXyT2wGHdPSDL04ChDIzwEoAHoECA0QA&usq=AOvVaw1aodSSpFON0a7Wu6fthv0Q>
https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://m.timesofindia.com/city/imphal/assam-rifles-the-sentinels-of-peace-in-troubled-manipur/amp_articleshow/101426549.cms&ved=2ahUKEwjs7KOOzqSAAxXyT2wGHdPSDL04ChDIzwEoAHoECAUQA&usq=AOvVaw0JOAwKyTKdnz-rQdW_ry-a

Approach

- Briefly define Assam Rifle.
- Discuss the role played by Assam rifles in the security of India.
- Then elaborate by listing the points for challenges faced by them in India.
- Suggest some measures.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Assam Rifles is **one of the six central armed police forces (CAPFs)** under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It is tasked with the maintenance of law and order in the North East along with the Indian Army and also guards the Indo-Myanmar border in the region.
- It was reorganised later as Assam Frontier Force as its role was expanded to conduct punitive operations beyond Assam borders. In 1870, existing elements were merged into three Assam Military Police Battalions, named as Lushai Hills, Lakhimpur and Naga Hills.

Body:

Contribution and Role played by Assam rifles in the security of India:

- They have gone on to **fight in two World Wars**, the **Sino-Indian war of 1962** and used as an anti-insurgency force against militant groups in the North East.
- **They operated in foreign land** as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka in 1987 (Op Pawan).

- They actively play a peacekeeping role in the North-Eastern areas of India.
- It remains the **most awarded paramilitary force in both pre- and post-independent India**. During World War I, the force was awarded seventy-six gallantry medals including seven Indian Order of Merit awards and five Indian Distinguished Service Medals for its contribution in Europe and the Middle East during the conflict.
- In World War II, after the lightning Japanese advance in 1942, the Assam Rifles fought a number of Independent actions behind enemy lines as the task of rear-area defence and rear-guard.
- During WW2 They also organised a resistance group – the Victor Force– on the Indo–Burmese border to counter the Japanese invasion and to harass the enemy line of communications.

Challenges faced by Assam Rifles in India:

- **The dual control structure:** It is the only paramilitary force with a dual control structure. While the administrative control of the force is with the MHA, its operational control is with the Indian Army, which is under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
 - For eg.: All its senior ranks, from DG to IG and sector headquarters are manned by officers from the Army.
- **Denial of same benefits as Army:** MoD has better perks and retirement benefits, which are far higher compared to CAPFs under MHA. Moreover, Army personnel also retire early, at 35, while the retirement age in CAPF is 60 years.
- **Both Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and MoD want full control:** The Ministry of Home Affairs has argued that all the border guarding forces are under the operational control of it and so Assam Rifles coming under MHA will give border guarding a comprehensive and integrated approach.
- **Stagnation in their careers and issue of lack of promotion:** CAPF officers have recently been granted non-functional financial upgradation (NFFU) to at least financially address the issue of stagnation in their careers due to lack of avenues for promotion. On the other hand, Army personnel also get one rank one pension which is not available to CAPFs.

Measures to be taken:

- **Command and Control:** The foremost decision that needs to be arrived at is the question of dual control. It is imperative that the Assam Rifles be placed under a single ministry. This will ensure that a single head will exercise powers over it and be responsible and accountable for all its tasks.
- **Additional Raisings:** The current force levels are woefully inadequate to fulfil its current mandate. With the additional problem of refugees, it has got further aggravated. A minimum of one IG headquarters along with approximately 15 units are required to boost the capability of the Assam Rifles along the border.
- **Road Infrastructure:** The construction of border roads needs to be taken up on a war footing to enable the deployment of additional forces along the border. The lack of it today, however, should not become an impediment and pre-requisite for deployment.
- **Revisit Free Movement Regime.** Welfare measures have their place in governance but they cannot override national security considerations. The FMR, initially up to 40 km on either side, was reduced to 16 km in 2010. In view of the increasing security concerns owing to the influx of refugees and smuggling of narcotics, the FMR needs to be revisited both in terms of distances and time period.
- **Officering Assam Rifles:** The force should have its own cadre with direct intake of up to 20 per cent to provide continuity in the functioning of the units and bringing a sense of ownership. Even the induction of selected SSC officers after five years in the army, in vogue during 1960s and 1970s, is a viable option.

Conclusion:

- The Assam Rifles has been recognised with more than 11,000 awards and decorations. Yet this 'federal force' has been reduced to a 'regional zone' and plagued by shortcomings. It remains on the periphery of India's national security calculus. It is time the highest **decision-making body in the government** takes cognizance of the multifarious threats existing in the Northeast, recognizes the capacity of the Assam Rifles and empowers it fully by expanding its footprint and removing the impediments in its command-and-control structures.

Q14. India's Electric Vehicle future shines bright with ambitious government targets and advancements in technology. Explain. Highlight the steps taken by government to promote Electric vehicles in India.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Developmental technology of India becomes important because questions like Umpire review system, application in medical sector, growing technologies in other sectors have been asked in previous years.

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the facts related to Electric Vehicle in India.
- Elaborate further by including the ambitious government targets for the advancement of technology in India.
- List down challenges for India.
- Then elaborate by adding the steps taken by the government of India in this regard.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- The future of electric vehicles (EVs) in India looks promising for the next few years. **India also announced that EVs will represent at least 30% of all road traffic by 2023.** Though a modest target, a 30% adoption rate will have global ripple effects, both environmentally and economically.
- The scope of the electric vehicle market is multidimensional, involving a wide array of stakeholders. **For an automotive market that's the fifth largest in the world and slated to be the third largest, it is imperative for it to pick up EV adoption at a mass level and fast.** This is how over 3,30,000 EV units were sold in 2021, registering a growth of 168 percent over 2020.

Body:

The ambitious government targets and advancements in technology of electric vehicle (EV) in India:

- To reach these ambitious targets, the Indian government has created policies and programs like the **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP)**, a broad plan to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles in India. The aim is to reduce India's dependence on crude oil.
- The Indian government has also formulated the **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme**. This plan should facilitate greater adoption rates in the coming years.
 - The Finance Minister of India has also announced a reduction in **customs duty and taxes for the 2023 budget. This will help boost the domestic production of lithium-ion batteries** that power electric vehicles.

- Many state governments like **Assam, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat** have also created attractive policies and programs to **incentivize EV manufacturing** in their respective territories.
- As a result of these strategies, **private players have begun entering the EV market**, setting the stage for the further adoption of electric vehicles in India. India's success will also have a significant, positive impact on the rest of the world.

Challenges for India:

- **Lack of Clean Energy:** Much of India's electricity is generated from burning coal. That said, relying on coal to generate power for all the EVs would defeat the purpose of reducing carbon emissions through EV adoption.
- **Underdeveloped Charging Infrastructure:** Infrastructural issues stand against India's quest for full EV adoption. EVs require different charging and maintenance infrastructure than traditional ICE vehicles because of the differences in engine and other working parts. But India's current charging infrastructure may not be enough to handle the increased demand for EVs.
- **Suboptimal Battery Technology:** An EV's driving range is limited, making it difficult for drivers to travel long distances without recharging. Besides limited charging stations, battery capacity, aerodynamic drag, and vehicle weight also compound the problem. This is because current batteries are small, and have low voltage capacities, so they aren't enough to increase EV propulsion and travel longer distances.
- **Persistent Resistance to Change:** Indian consumers are still resisting the adoption of EVs, despite their long-term economical and environmental benefits. This stems from a lack of awareness of EVs and a general reluctance to embrace new technologies, especially in rural areas.

Steps taken by government to promote Electric vehicles in India:

- **Tax exemption** of up to Rs.1,50,000 (US\$ 1,960) under section 80EEB of income tax while purchasing an EV (2W or 4W) on loan.
- **Reduction of customs duty** on nickel ore (key component of lithium-ion battery) from 5% to 0%.
- **Battery-operated vehicles will be given green license** plates and be exempted from permit requirements, announced by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH).
- A **notification advising states to waive road tax on EVs has been issued by MoRTH**, leading to a reduction in the initial costs of EVs.
- **Model Building Bylaws 2016** was amended to establish charging stations and infrastructure in private and commercial buildings by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- **The NITI Aayog has taken an initiative to provide a Model Concessionaire Agreement (MCA)** document for introducing Electric-Bus Fleet in Cities for Public Transportation on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode on Operational Expenditure (per km basis) Model rather than paying upfront capital cost.
- **Department of Science and Technology:** It has launched a grand challenge for developing the Indian Standards for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure.

Conclusion:

- Overall, the future of EVs in India looks bright, with the government's commitment to promoting the use of EVs, increasing consumer awareness and acceptance, and advancements in technology all set to drive growth in the EV market in India in 2023-2024 and beyond. **According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), global EV sales in 2021 doubled from the previous year to 16.5 million EV units sold worldwide.**

Q15, "The Food Processing Sector, often termed as a Sunrise Sector, has great potential to contribute to Indian economy, including in growth, employment generation and investment" still it faces several challenges. Explain.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Direct theme based questions have been in alternate years.

Why in the news?

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/voices/indias-food-processing-industry-in-2022-challenges-opportunities-and-the-way->

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of Food processing sector (FPS) with facts.
- Elaborate further by including the potential to contribute in economy, including in growth, employment generation and investment.
- List down the challenges associated with it.
- Then elaborate by listing the government initiatives to promote FPS.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Food Processing Sector is the **fifth-largest industry in terms of production, consumption, exports and potential growth**. During the last five years ending 2019-20, Food Processing Industries (FPI) Sector has been growing at an average Annual Growth Rate of **around 11.18 per cent**.

Body:

Potential of Food Processing Sector:

- **India's food processing sector** is one of the largest in the world and its output is expected to reach US\$ 535 billion by 2025-26.
- This sector is expected to generate **9 million jobs by 2024**.
- The Indian food industry is expanding at a **CAGR of 11% and the food processing sector** accounts for 32% of the total food industry.
- **India's food sector attracted US\$ 4.18 billion** in foreign direct investments between April 2014 and March 2020.
- **By 2030, Indian annual household consumption** is expected to triple, making India the fifth-largest consumer in the world.

Challenges faced by the Food Processing Sector:

- The national-level study conducted by Central Institute of Post-Harvest Engineering and Technology (CIPHET) estimated that nearly 4.65-5.99% of cereals are wasted, and nearly 4.58-15.88% of fruits and vegetables are wasted. Among pulses, the losses increased from an earlier estimate of 4.3-6.1% in 2010 to 6.36-8.41% in 2015.
 - Overall losses also increased in milk, meat, poultry and marine fisheries. The study also estimated that the value of the post-harvest losses is at Rs 92,651 crores.
- **There exist gaps in supply chain infrastructure** which means inadequate primary processing, storage and distribution facilities
- **Inadequate link between production and processing** due to lack of processable varieties.
- Seasonality of operations and low-capacity utilization.
- **Institutional gaps in the supply chain**, for instance, there is dependence on APMC markets.
- **Lack of focus on quality and safety standards**, and not having enough of product development and innovation.

Steps taken by government:

- **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY)** aims at developing modern food processing infrastructure. PMKSY has been envisaged as a comprehensive package which will result in creation of modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet.
- **Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme (PMFME)** aims to enhance existing individual micro-enterprises in the unorganized segment of the food processing industry.
- **Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI)** aims to boost domestic manufacturing, increase exports, while supporting food manufacturing entities with stipulated Sales and willing to make investment for expansion of processing capacity and branding abroad to incentivize emergence of strong Indian brands.
- India's agricultural and processed food products exports were up by **13% to \$ 19.69 bn in nine months of the current fiscal (2022-23)** compared to the same period last year.
- **One District One Product:** The PMFME Scheme adopts One District One Product (ODOP) approach to reap the benefit of scale in terms of procurement of inputs, availing common services and marketing of products.
- **By 2025 the Indian Food Processing market is estimated to reach \$ 535 bn** and growing at a compound annual growth rate of 15.2%. Tier-II and Tier-III cities could mirror the trend visible in metropolitan areas, by consuming more processed food in the coming years.

Conclusion:

- Food processing in India has trodden a long path of transformation, from merely a household activity to a prominent industrial sector impacting national economy, especially the rural one. This sector links unorganized farming community with formal industrial sector to advance rural economy. It is also capable of addressing critical issues of food security, food inflation, food wastage and nutritional security to the masses.

Q16. Civil society and social media play a significant role in disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Discuss.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Importance of social networks in prevention and measures. (Similarly with PYQ)

Why in the news?

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://epsnews.com/2023/05/08/social-medias-role-in-the-digital-supply-chain/&ved=2ahUKEwiCspaW0qSAAxWQcmwGHUHcCiMQxfQBKAB6BAgNEAI&usg=AOvVaw1O87ffLQdnYD63kRcMldcV>
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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of disaster management.
- Elaborate further by including the role played by social media and civil society in disaster management.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Disaster management refers to the conservation of lives and property during natural or human-made disasters. Disaster management plans, by protecting from disease and droughts. Disaster management can be of either natural disasters or man-made disasters. Disaster management is a critical organizational function

that involves planning and dynamic incident response to situations as they unfold, often in unpredictable ways.

Body:

Role played by social media in disaster management:

- **The five key characteristics of social media:** collectivity; connectedness; completeness; clarity and collaboration lend itself to be used increasingly to support crisis management functions.
- **Information dissemination:** Software tools such as online discussion platforms and news aggregators help organizations to disseminate, acquire and analyse information more efficiently and comprehensively.
- **Social media during a disaster provides up-to-the-minute news information** – road closure updates, evacuation routes, designated help areas, shelter locations, and more (hence why connecting with the right groups and people beforehand is a major advantage).
- **Example:** United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Relief Web and the IRIN news service helps in providing early warning for rapid response.
- **Officials use social media during a disaster to alert the public** where help is located and when they plan on reaching impacted areas. Any photos or videos uploaded to social media networks aid in documenting the damage of the affected areas and identifying survivors.

Role played by civil society in disaster management:

- **Resources:** Civil society organizations bring in substantial amounts of resources and expertise with them.
- **Rapid response:** The early and rapid response help create space and time for both the government and communities to seek more effective ways of responding to the multiple impacts of the disaster.
- **Vigilance:** The active involvement of civil society actors ensures better monitoring and besides allowing for constant vigilance and feedback, it ensures that good policy intentions are actually realized on the ground.

Conclusion:

- Involvement of people through social media and assistance by civil society can play a crucial role in Crisis management. It not only lessens the burden on state actors but also helps in providing help to marginalized people and brings into fore the less visible dimensions of the impacts.

Q17. Highlight the issues with India's internal and external security structure. Do you think a comprehensive National Security Strategy will resolve these issues? Explain.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (such as internal security with border states, cross border cyber attacks, multidimensional challenges and its measures etc.)

Why in the news?

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://m.economictimes.com/news/defence/national-security-strategy-must-evolve-in-line-with-changes-in-geo-political-order-cds-gen-anil-chauhan/amp_articleshow/101772531.cms&ved=2ahUKEwiv_4C106SAAxWXTGwGHSNpD6QQyM8BKAB6BAgHEAI&usg=AOvVaw2iK7wzGkUkGLMmYDnohOI0

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of issues of internal and external security of India.
- Elaborate further by including the issues of Internal and External security.
- Then elaborate by listing the points for how National Security Strategy will resolve these issues.
- Also mention the key institutions involved in internal security.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Diverse society with ethnic fault lines, hostile neighbours, terrorism, and radicalization have made internal and external security of India a daunting challenge.

Body:

Issues in India's internal security architecture:

- **Police being state subject**, lacks uniformity across the country leading to issues like effective coordination and lack of effective response.
- Intelligence agencies working for different states lack collaboration to work efficiently.
- **Politicisation of police transfers** and postings have lead to weakening the fight against state and non-state actors responsible for internal security issue.
- **Continuation of Left-wing extremism** in hinterlands and organized crime in urban areas.
- **Ethnic conflicts in North-East**, polarized society and radicalization.
- Today, the rise of social media, dark net, crypto currency has given rise to new challenges.

Issues in India's external security architecture:

- Hostile neighbours in the form of Pakistan and China with territorial dispute.
- Porous and open borders with neighbours.
- Lack of integration between external intelligence and internal intelligence agencies.
- Lack of accountability on the external intelligence agency.
- Advisory nature of National Security Council.
- **Instability in the neighbourhood** (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Myanmar etc). Such as **Khalistan issue, human trafficking and refugee inflow**.

Requirement of a comprehensive National security strategy to resolve issues:

- It shall lead to distribution of roles and responsibilities among various stake holders involved in dealing national security.
- It shall define "**Standard Operating Procedure**" in dealing situations of distress.
- It shall help in designing principles to ensure smooth coordination between state and centre in dealing issues of national security.

Key institutions involved in internal security are as follows:

- **Ministry of Home Affairs, with a budget of nearly 200,000 Cr (2023-24)** is the nodal agency for internal security. It has several departments and agencies. Special Secretary level officer is the in-charge of internal security.
- **Intelligence Bureau, set up by the British in 19th century**, is the premier agency for collecting intelligence on internal security matters. It is a highly professional and well-regarded agency. DIB is conventionally the senior most police officer in the country. He has direct access to the Minister of Home Affairs, the Prime Minister and the **National Security Advisor**.
- **Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)** is the **primary agency** responsible for collecting intelligence for national security from external sources. It shares information with other agencies as required. IB and R&AW work in coordination with each other as also with other agencies.
- **The National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)** is the nodal agency for technical Intelligence. Its inputs are used by other agencies.

Conclusion:

- Therefore, it is required that a national security strategy is the need of the hour and hence can help in creating synergy among various stakeholders of national security and help in facing adverse conditions of internal as

well as external security.

Q18. India recently launched the Chandrayaan-3, its third attempt to land on the moon. Shed some light on the significance of the study of the moon and its imperative.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Space sector has been asked multiple times. (Such as Chandrayan, James webb, India's achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology, India's plan to have its own space station etc.)

Why in the news?

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/chandrayaan-3-mission-isro-successfully-completes-fourth-orbit-raising-maneuver/amp_videoshow/101987372.cms&ved=2ahUKEwiD3sub1KSAAXSB4gKHdo0BJoQyM8BKAB6BAgMEAI&usg=AOvVaw2ZEYclVs9lDATjhLLgzLAQ

Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of Chandrayaan -3 Mission.
- Elaborate further by including the significance of the mission.
- Then write why exploring the moon is imperative?
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability** in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. It consists of Lander and Rover configuration. It will be launched by **GSLV MkIII** from SDSC, Sriharikota. The propulsion module will carry the lander and rover configuration till 100km lunar orbit. The propulsion module has Spectro-polarimetry of **HAbitable Planet Earth (SHAPE)** payload to study the spectral and polarimetric measurements of Earth from the lunar orbit.
- Lander payloads:** **Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE)** to measure the thermal conductivity and temperature; **Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA)** for measuring the seismicity around the landing site; **Langmuir Probe (LP)** to estimate the plasma density and its variations. A passive **Laser Retroreflector Array** from NASA is accommodated for lunar laser ranging studies.
- Rover payloads:** **Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS)** and **Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS)** for deriving the elemental composition in the vicinity of landing site.

According to ISRO, the Chandrayaan-3 mission has three major objectives:

- Demonstrate safe and soft landing on the surface of the Moon,
- Conduct rover operations on the Moon, and
- Conduct on-site experiments on the Lunar surface.

Significance of the mission:

- It will demonstrate India's capability of soft landing on a celestial body, with the rover.
- It will then communicate with Earth via the existing orbiter from Chandrayaan-2 and take images 100 km from Moon's orbit. The orbiter has an estimated lifespan of seven years.
- The unique exploration of Chandrayaan-3 aims at studying not just one area of the Moon but all the areas combining the exosphere, the surface as well as the sub-surface in a single mission.
- With Chandrayaan-1, ISRO achieved immense success as the 'Moon Impact Probe' by Chandrayaan-1 lunar remote sensing orbiter detected water in vapor form in trace amounts.
- With Chandrayaan-3, India aims to further the study of the lunar surface, focussing on the South Pole or dark side of the Moon that has not seen sunlight in billions of years, which is believed to have ice and vast mineral reserves.

Why exploring the Moon is imperative?

- The Moon is the closest cosmic body at which space discovery can be attempted and documented.

- Further, Moon is a **promising test bed to showcase technologies** required for deep-space missions.
- Exploring the Moon will **enhance our understanding of the celestial body** clearly, stimulating the advancement of technology, promoting global alliances and inspiring future generations of explorers and scientists.
- The Moon provides the **best linkage to Earth's early history and civilization**.
- **The exploration will offer an undisturbed historical record** of the inner Solar system environment.
- The Lunar South pole is especially interesting because the lunar surface area that remains in shadow is much larger than that at the North Pole.
 - Further, there could be a possibility of the presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it.
- In addition, the South Pole region has craters that are **cold traps and contain a fossil** record of the early Solar System.

Conclusion:

- The launch of Chandrayaan 3 is a major milestone for India's space program. It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the ISRO team, and it will help to further our understanding of the moon. Despite the setbacks of Chandrayaan-2, ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 will demonstrate India's technological progress and bold ambitions in space exploration to the world.

सार्थी
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Q19. Briefly explain how Gati Shakti will ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the coming years, with a focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (such as PPP, Investment models, infrastructure in energy, airport, transport and its development etc.)

Why in the news?

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/govt-to-share-infrastructure-data-from-gati-shakti-portal-with-industry-investors/article67054723.ece/amp/&ved=2ahUKewjsiuKX1aSAAxXLfXAKHedtCilQyM8BKAB6BAGLEAI&usg=AOvVaw3EO46ckL5Al4ULr96-Phnk>

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://m.economictimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/gati-shakti-railway-lines-road-projects-gather->

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of Gati Shakti.
- Elaborate further by including the importance of Gati Shakti in ensuring integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the coming years.
- Then elaborate by listing the points on significance of Gati Shakti.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- PM Gati Shakti is a national master plan for multi-modal connectivity that aims to provide a competitive advantage for manufacturing in India. It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 August 2021 and launched on 13 October 2021. It brings together 16 ministries and departments of the Government of India for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.

Body:

Importance of PM Gati Shakti:

- It will **provide a comprehensive and holistic view** of the existing and planned infrastructure projects across various sectors and regions, and identify critical gaps and synergies.
- It will **enable better coordination and collaboration among different ministries and departments**, as well as between the central and state governments, for the timely and cost-effective execution of projects.
- It **will leverage technology and data to monitor the progress** and performance of projects and provide transparent and accurate information to the stakeholders and the public.
- It will **link the infrastructure projects with the economic zones**, such as industrial corridors, textile clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, etc., to enhance their connectivity and competitiveness.
- It will support **the vision of achieving a \$5 trillion economy by 2024-25 and a \$20 trillion economy by 2040.**

Significance for India's economic growth and Development

- It will **enhance the ease of living and ease of doing business** in India by reducing congestion, pollution, accidents and delays in transport systems.
- It will **boost the Make in India initiative** by providing better access to markets, raw materials, skilled labour and technology for domestic industries.
- It will **foster regional integration and cooperation by connecting** India with its neighbouring countries through land, sea and air routes.
- It will **generate employment opportunities** for millions of people directly and indirectly involved in the infrastructure sector.
- It will spur **innovation and entrepreneurship** by creating an ecosystem for startups and MSMEs to flourish in various sectors.

Conclusion:

- PM Gati Shakti is not just a plan but a vision for India's future. It is a dream of creating a new India that is connected, competitive and prosperous. The portal will be a game-changer for boosting capital expenditure in connectivity and infrastructure in India, which is essential for achieving the vision of a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

Q20. The Smart Cities mission of the government of India promises to improve the quality of life in 100 cities and towns however, the mission also faces several challenges. How can these challenges be overcome to realize the full potential of the Smart Cities Mission?

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Similarity with PYQ (such as Smart Villages' in the light of PURA and RURBAN Mission)

Why in the news?

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://m.economictimes.com/news/india/centre-decides-to-extend-smart-cities-mission-deadline-till-june-2024/amp_articleshow/99915443.cms&ved=2ahUKEwjP6Kv-1aSAxU6T2wGHdJOCbwQyM8BKAB6BAgKEAI&usg=AOvVaw3dbbdr5noz_ZVsTGy8B2k
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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of Smart Cities mission.
- Elaborate further by including the challenges faced by Smart Cities mission.
- Then elaborate by listing the points on achievement of the Smart Cities mission.
- Suggest some measures to overcome the challenges.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- The Smart Cities Mission is a flagship initiative of the Government of India that aims to transform urban areas into sustainable, livable and citizen-friendly spaces by leveraging technology and innovation. The mission was launched by Prime Minister in 2015.

According to the latest data available on the Smart Cities Mission website, out of the total 7870 projects worth Rs. 1,81,045 crores identified by the 100 smart cities, 5627 projects worth Rs. 1,06,385 crores (59%) have been completed and 2243 projects worth Rs. 74,660 crores (41%) are under various stages of implementation as on 10 April 2023.

Body:

Challenges faced by Smart City Mission:

- **Design-related challenges:** The smart city concept is based on the belief that technology can solve any problem without fundamentally changing lifestyles which may be an oversimplification of reality.
- **Implementation-related challenges:** Implementation of any mission related to urban infrastructure is the biggest challenge as seen in **Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM)** nearly **54 percent** of such projects are yet to be completed even after 15 years.
- **Lack of Center-State Co-ordination:** Fruitful implementation of a project can be done only if there is a co-ordination between various government bodies.
- **Availability of facilities:** We are very much aware of the unfortunate fact that India as of now is not that equipped when it comes to skilled manpower and advanced technology requirements for developing 100 smart cities.

Achievement of the mission:

- **Creation of integrated command and control centres (ICCCs) in 69 cities** that enable real-time monitoring and management of various urban services such as traffic, water supply, sanitation, waste management, security, etc.
- **Development of smart roads, smart water systems, smart solar systems, smart waste management systems, smart parking systems, etc.** in various cities that enhance efficiency, convenience and safety for citizens.
- **Promotion of public transport, non-motorised transport and electric mobility** through initiatives such as metro rail, bus rapid transit system (BRTS), public bike sharing (PBS), e-rickshaws, e-buses, etc.
- **Establishment of social infrastructure such as smart schools, smart health centres, smart libraries, smart museums, etc.** that improve access and quality of education, health care and culture for citizens.

Measures to be taken:

- **Long-term Program:** Instead of limiting the Smart City Mission to a five-year program, it is recommended to extend it as a long-term initiative.
- **Identify Additional Projects:** To cater to the specific needs of each city, it is important to identify and undertake more projects. Many smart cities still face issues such as inadequate drainage systems, and addressing these concerns should be prioritized.
- **Study Incomplete Projects:** A thorough analysis should be conducted to understand the reasons behind the non-completion of projects in cities like **Amaravati, Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, and Shillong**.
- **Revenue Generation:** To mobilize funds effectively, there should be a focus on generating more revenue through taxation.
- **Cyber security Measures:** To safeguard smart cities, it is crucial to prioritize cyber security. This involves ensuring data security and implementing encryption techniques to protect sensitive information and prevent cyber threats.

Conclusion:

- The extension of the deadline for the Smart Cities Mission till June 2024 is expected to give new impetus and momentum to the urban transformation process in India. The mission will continue to work towards creating smart cities that are not only engines of growth but also hubs of innovation and happiness for citizens.

Q21. Indian enterprises will now be able to leverage data from the logistics infrastructure in the country to improve supply chain performance. Discuss with respect to Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) and its key components.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Important because Public Private Partnership (PPP) required in infrastructure projects have been asked multiple times.

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP).
- Elaborate further by including the key components of ULIP platform.
- Also mention the challenges associated with ULIP.
- Then elaborate by including benefits of using ULIP.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) is **a part of the National Logistics Policy (NLP)**. It was **launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on September 17, 2022**.

Body:

There are three key components which are defining the ULIP platform:

- **Integration with existing data sources of ministries:** As authorization, compliance and clearance are some of the critical activities of Logistics; the integration with data points of ministries shall enable a holistic view and interlink the handshaking points.
- **Data exchange with private players:** To enable the private players, logistics service providers, and industries to utilize the data available with ULIP and at the same time share their data with ULIP, thereby streamlining the processes to bring better efficiency through data exchange.
- **Unified document reference in the supply chain:** To enable a single digitized document reference number for all the documentation processes in a single platform.

Challenges for Unified Logistic Interface Platform (ULIP)

- **Implementing ULIP (Unified Logistics Information Platform) requires integration** with various logistics systems, such as transportation and warehouse management systems. This can be complex, as the systems may use different technologies and data formats.
- Some logistics companies may be resistant to implementing ULIP due to a **lack of understanding of the benefits of ULIP**.
- **In addition to the technical challenges**, it may also require changing the workflows and business processes to accommodate the new system.
- ULIP involves the sharing and **exchange of sensitive data between different logistics systems**, such as transportation schedules and customer information.
- Ensuring the security of this data is a **critical challenge for ULIP and the logistics industry as a whole**. This includes protecting data from unauthorized access and ensuring that data is accurate and up-to-date.

Benefits of Using ULIP:

- **Improved Efficiency:** ULIP allows logistics companies to coordinate better and optimize their operations.
- **Enhanced Customer Service:** By connecting various systems, ULIP provides real-time tracking and automated delivery updates to customers, which can help logistics companies to improve customer satisfaction.
- **Reduced Errors:** ULIP helps to standardize data across different systems, which reduces errors caused by manual data entry, missing information, or data discrepancies.
- **Prevention of Delays:** By connecting logistics systems and automating workflows, ULIP can help logistics companies identify and resolve their supply chain bottlenecks and delays.

Conclusion:

- ULIP aims to democratize the information and enable the industry stakeholder to align their interest with the government's economic development plan. Furthermore, as an eCommerce retailer, the national logistics policy and ULIP **can help businesses compete with big eCommerce giants such as Amazon, abolishing the monopoly in the market.**

Q22. Cybercrime is any criminal activity that involves a computer, networked device or a network. Discuss different types of cybercrimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Core concepts have been asked in UPSC. (Such as potential threats of Cyber attack, Cyber Dome Project, types of cyber crimes and measures required, elements of cyber security etc.)

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of Cybercrime.
- Elaborate further by including the different types of cybercrimes.
- Then elaborate by listing the points for measures required to be taken for overcoming challenges.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Cybercrime is defined as a crime where a computer is the object of the crime or is used as a tool to commit an offense. A cybercriminal may use a device to access a user's personal information, confidential business information, government information, or disable a device.

Different types of cybercrimes:

- DDoS Attacks:** These are used to make an online service unavailable and take the network down by overwhelming the site with traffic from a variety of sources
- Botnets:** Botnets are networks from compromised computers that are controlled externally by remote hackers.
- Identity Theft:** This cybercrime occurs when a criminal gains access to a user's personal information to steal funds, access confidential information, or participate in tax or health insurance fraud.
- Cyberstalking:** This kind of cybercrime involves online harassment where the user is subjected to a plethora of online messages and emails.
- Social Engineering:** Social engineering involves criminals making direct contact with you usually by phone or email.

Measures required to be taken:

- Keep social media private:** Be sure that your social networking profiles (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) are set to be private.
- Protect your storage data:** Protect your data by using encryption for your important diplomatic files such as related to financial and taxes.
- Securing your Phones:** Many people are not knowing that their mobile devices are also unsafe for malicious software, such as computer viruses and hackers.
- Protect your computer with security software:** There are many types of security software that are necessary for basic online security.
- Constitution of cyber commando force** as a part of the defence program to neutralise any cross-border cyber terrorism or cyber-attack.
- Create specialised cyber police cadres** in all State police departments.

- **Sectorial CERT and state-level CERT** would be more effective for rapid response on any cyber-attack. The state-level CERT team will need to ensure speedier incident response and coordination with national agencies.

Conclusion:

- By taking these and other measures, governments can help to create a safer online environment and reduce the incidence of cybercrimes. It is high time that we consider amendment of the existing IT Act, 2000, which is not fully synced with today's cyber threat. In addition to the IT Act, it's already delayed but high time to introduce data privacy laws.

Q23. Highlight the major causes of landslides. Mention the important components of National Landslides Risk Management Strategy.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Relevance

- Similarly with PYQ (such as disaster mitigation in the case of landslides, effects of landslides. Mention the important components of the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy etc.)

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of landslide.
- Elaborate further by including the causes of landslides.
- Then elaborate by listing the points for important components of National Landslides Risk Management Strategy.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

Introduction:

- A landslide is defined as the movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth, down a slope due to the action of gravity. Areas with steep slopes, for example, mountainous regions, are particularly susceptible to landslide hazards. Earth flow, mass movement, mudflow, rotational slip, and avalanches are all examples of landslides.

Body:

Causes of Landslides:

- **Natural causes:**
 - Earthquakes: They cause a sudden shaking of earth's crust which creates stress on materials, thus leading to landslides.
 - Heavy Rainfall: The occurrence of heavy or continuous rainfall may lead to heavy landslides in the areas of steep slopes.
- **Anthropogenic causes:**
 - Infrastructure Development: The creation of roads, railways, dams, etc. in the mountainous region can result in landslides.

- Mining: It involves removing the surface of the earth for mineral exploration, which loosens the grip of material. Further explosions are also a part of mining, which may result in landslides.
- Changes in water level of rivers, lakes and ground water
- Soil erosion
- Excessive and unregulated grazing
- Deforestation
- Dam, roads and other construction activities by humans etc.

Components of the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy:

- **Landslide Hazard Zonation:** It covers aspects of reliability and validation of landslide zoning maps in Indian scenario and proposes future plan of activities for landslide zoning.
- **Awareness Programmes:** The strategy spells out need of awareness programmes, review of past work and best practices, identification of gaps, as well as recommendations and implementation strategies.
- **Capacity Building and Training of Stakeholders:** Strategy document highlights the past work, gaps, implementation strategy, financial implications and monitoring mechanism for capacity building and training in landslides.
- **Stabilization and Mitigation of Landslide** and Creation of Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Landslide Management.
- **Preparation of Mountain Zone Regulations and Policies** - The strategy describes the formulation of land-use policies and techno legal regime, updation and enforcement of building regulations etc.

Conclusion:

- Increasing human interference with nature has led to rise in the number of natural disasters. However, the National Disaster Response Force under The Disaster Management Act, 2005 have conducted several successful rescue operations by providing aid and assistance to the affected state, including deploying, at the State's request, of Armed Forces, Central Paramilitary Forces, and such communication, air and other assets.

Q24. What do you understand by disaster management? Discuss recent measures initiated by Central Government in disaster management.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Similarly with PYQ (such as risk assessment for pre-disaster management, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, disaster management process, disaster management by the Government of India etc.)

Why in the news?

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&opi=89978449&url=https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/indias-g20-presidency-can-show-the-way-on-disaster-management-8627412/lite/&ved=2ahUKEwjT4sGb2KSAAxXza2wGHVSTBOYQyM8BKAB6BAgHEAI&usg=AOvVaw3bDroT7hK84iOMZLLqwdVg>
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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of Disaster management (DM).
- Elaborate further by including the challenges associated with DM.
- Then elaborate by listing the points for measures to be taken by Central Government.
- Summarize by including a way forward.
- Conclude by writing the futuristic approach.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Disaster leads to sudden disruption of normal life, causing severe damage to life and property. Its origin can be natural or man-made. India due to its geography and scarce resources is more vulnerable to disasters. Around 59% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of moderate to very high intensity while about 12% of its land is prone to floods and river erosion.

The Disaster Management Act of 2005 defines Disaster Management as an integrated process of planning, organizing, coordinating and implementing measures which are necessary for:

- Prevention of threat of any disaster
- Reduction of risk of any disaster or its consequences
- Readiness to deal with any disaster
- Promptness in dealing with a disaster
- Assessing the severity of the effects of any disaster
- Rescue and relief
- Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.

Body:

Challenges associated with disaster management:

- **Lack of local capacities and awareness:** There is a lack of local capacities to implement disaster risk management.
 - For instance, disaster risk management plans or risk-sensitive building codes exist but they are not enforced because of a lack of government capacity and public awareness
- **Lack of multi-space coverage:** Absence of integration of climate change factors into disaster risk management plans.
- **Lack of coordination:** Due to poor coordination between stakeholders, there is inadequate access with respect to risk assessment, monitoring, early warning, disaster response and other disaster-related activities.

Recent measures initiated by Central Government in disaster management:

- **National Disaster Management Plan:** NDMP defines the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders including Central Ministries, State governments, UT administrations, District authorities and local self-governments.
- **Disaster Resilient Infrastructure:** India presented a practical approach and roadmap with the launch of a Global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) to make the infrastructure resilient in the face of disasters.
- **Cyclone warning system:** IMD is set to launch a dynamic and impact-based cyclone warning system aiming at minimizing economic losses.
 - For eg. National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project by NDMA
- **Training exercises:** To improve existing emergency preparedness and strengthen regional response mechanisms, the field training exercises are conducted.
 - For eg. National Fire service college.

Way forward.

- **Demarcation:** A clearer demarcation of national and state-level responsibilities is needed, especially regarding risk-reduction activities.
- **Accountability mechanisms:** Accountability mechanisms need to be specified. This will ensure that departments follow disaster risk-reduction considerations in their own development planning.

Conclusion:

- Disasters retard socio-economic development and lead to diversion of scarce resources from development to rehabilitation and reconstruction. Disaster management occupies an important place in this country's policy framework as it is the poor and the under-privileged who are worst affected by disasters.

Q25. Terrorism is one of the biggest challenges to national security. Highlighting the major sources of terrorist funding, suggest some measures to curb terrorism.

(15 Marks, 250 Words)

Relevance

- Similarly with PYQ (such as scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security, role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations, measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism etc.)

Why in the news?

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Approach

- Introduce by writing the brief description of terrorism.
- Highlight factors stressing terrorism as challenge.
- Highlight the major sources of terrorist funding.
- Highlight the measures to curb terrorism.
- Conclude appropriately.

Answer:

Introduction:

- Terrorism is a criminal act that influences an audience beyond the immediate victim. The strategy of terrorist is to commit acts of violence that draws the attention of the local populace, the government, and the world to their cause. The terrorists plan their attacks to obtain the greatest publicity, choosing targets that symbolize what they oppose.

Body:

Terrorism in India, can be broadly categorized in three distinct parts:

- Cross border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir UT.
- Terrorism in the hinterland.
- Extreme violence and terrorism as an integral part of the ongoing insurgencies.

Major sources of terrorist funding:

- The global flow of funds for nefarious purposes** has three traditional channels.
 - First, **direct smuggling of cash** through international borders. **For instance, during 1990-95**, Rs. 7.30 crore was looted by terrorists to fund their activities.
 - Second, the **use of hawala networks**.
 - Third, **banking networks including SWIFT and other international channels**.
 - But now, swift technological developments in areas of **blockchain or cryptocurrencies** which transcend national boundaries and international currency systems have emerged as a new channel for financing terrorist and other illegal activities.
- Terrorist organisations also raise money through several sources** like travel agencies, money changers, real estate, retail outlets, NGOs, charitable trusts and even from state sponsors.

- **For instance, according to a UNDP report,** Pakistan's heroin industry is estimated to have a turnover of US \$ 74 billion.
- **Terrorists also derive funding from a variety of criminal activities** ranging in scale and sophistication from low-level crime to organised fraud or narcotics smuggling or illegal activities in failed states and other safe havens.
 - **For example: Arun Kumar, in his book on Black Economy in India says drug profits have been used to finance terrorism in the South, the North-East, Punjab and Kashmir.**

Terrorism as a challenge:

- **Impacts economy:** The impact of terrorism on economy is always negative. Terrorist targets productive resources that might have generated valuable goods and services.
- **Impacts tourism:** Terrorist activities impact the tourist footfalls, affecting the local economy as well as image of the country.
 - **For example: The Easter attacks in Sri Lanka have affected the tourism industry of the island nation and thus crippling its economy.**
- **Destruction of infrastructure:** Destruction of government buildings, roads etc. are one the primary impacts of terrorist activities.
 - **For example: The deadly attack on the CRPF personnel in Sukma (Chhattisgarh) is the latest example of Maoist attempt to disrupt road network.**
- **Destroys social fabric of a nation:** As the terrorist activities are ideologically linked, it tends to disrupt the social fabric of countries such as India, causing enmity among the communities.

Measures to be taken:

- **National Consensus to Deal with Terrorism:** Within the constitutional and sovereignty framework, all the political parties should rise above the vote bank politics and treat terrorism/insurgency as a threat to national security.
- **Modernization of the Police Forces:** The first instrument of the state, which comes into contact with the terrorists, is the local police. The government may consider converting some part of the existing police force into a '**Counter Terrorist Organisation**' at the state level with a separate training module.
 - Such special units should be lean and mean, highly motivated, resourceful, emotionally committed with multiple skills, fluent in more than one language, and stationed in sensitive areas for taking necessary action immediately.
- **Constitution of Special Courts:** It is proposed that in India too special courts be set up on a priority basis to expedite militancy-related cases.
 - **For eg.** Algeria constituted 'special courts' to try cases related to terrorism.
- **Establishing clear roles and responsibilities** for departments and agencies to promote long-term coordination in fragile states,
- **Providing agencies with authorities and resources** needed to carry out a preventive strategy effectively,
- **Developing a plan to mitigate the political risks** of providing security and foreign assistance to fragile states.
- **From a uniform understanding,** a unified system of checks, balances, and regulations can emerge. But we must be careful about one thing. The time is to use technology to track, trace and tackle terrorism.

Conclusion:

- In today's globalized world no country is **immune to the threat of terrorism**. Terrorism is an evolving phenomenon, with terrorist organizations continuously changing their modus operandi, thereby adding to the complexity and challenges faced by criminal justice practitioners. Hence measures must be taken to address the continuously changing operations and ways of terrorism to ensure there aren't any roadblocks to development and peace.

25 Probable Questions On GS IV Paper

(Care has been taken to ensure that each and every topic of the syllabus is covered. Further, students should note that these are model answers. Hence, they are advised to pick up important points, phrases and data as per the word limit and demand of the question.)

Q1. Discuss the limitations of laws in addressing the intricacies of human conduct in various situations. In the context of a conflict between legality and ethics, examine the guiding principles that should influence the conduct of a public administrator.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Define law or human conduct. (10 words)
- Explain the limitations of laws in addressing the intricacies of human conduct (60 words)
- Provide a context where legality and ethics are at conflict (65 words)
- Provide conclusion by stating the guiding principles that should influence the conduct of a public administrator (15 words)

Introduction

- According to Aristotle, law is "an ordinance of reason for the common good, made by him who has taken care of the community and promulgated." He emphasized the importance of laws being based on reason and serving the welfare of society.

Body

Some of the limitations are:

- **Lack of Specificity:** Laws are generally formulated in a broad and general manner to be applicable to a wide range of situations. As a result, they may not provide detailed guidance on how to act in specific and complex scenarios, leaving room for interpretation and ambiguity.
- **Changing Social Dynamics:** Societies evolve over time, and new ethical dilemmas emerge as a result. Laws often struggle to keep pace with these changes, leading to gaps where legal frameworks fail to provide clear guidance on new and emerging issues.
- **Cultural and Contextual Variations:** Laws are influenced by cultural, social, and historical contexts. Consequently, what may be deemed ethical in one culture or context may be considered unethical or illegal in another. Laws cannot address the full spectrum of cultural variations and ethical nuances. For example, in some tribal communities, individuals are accused of practicing witchcraft and subjected to physical and mental abuse, often leading to their deaths.
- **Interpretation and Subjectivity:** Laws are written in general terms and may require interpretation by judges, lawyers, and other legal authorities. However, different individuals may have different views on the application of the law to specific situations which can lead to inconsistencies and uncertainties in legal outcomes.

Guiding Principles Influencing the Conduct of a Public Administrator in a Conflict between Legality and Ethics:

When faced with a conflict between legality and ethics, public administrators should be guided by certain principles to navigate such complex situations:

- **Courage of Conviction:** Public administrators should have the moral courage to act ethically, even if it means going beyond the letter of the law. They should prioritize ethical considerations and be willing to challenge unjust or unethical laws when necessary.
- **Public Interest:** Administrators should always prioritize the best interests of the public they serve. Acting in

the public's interest may require going beyond legal obligations to ensure fairness, equity, and justice.

- **Ethical Reasoning:** Administrators should engage in ethical reasoning to critically analyse the potential consequences of their actions. They should consider the ethical implications, weigh conflicting values, and make decisions that promote the greater good.
- **Professional Codes of Conduct and code of ethics:** Public administrators often adhere to professional codes of conduct that outline ethical principles specific to their roles. These codes provide guidance and standards for ethical decision-making.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** Public administrators should demonstrate a commitment to accountability and transparency in their decision-making processes. They should be open and honest in communicating their actions and be willing to accept responsibility for the consequences of their decisions.
 - For example, Gandhi, the leader of India's nonviolent independence movement, advocated for civil disobedience as a means to challenge British rule. He believed in the importance of ethics and morality, even if it meant breaking the law. Gandhi's approach involved peaceful protests, boycotts, and acts of civil disobedience, such as the Salt March, where he and his followers illegally produced salt to challenge the British salt monopoly.

Conclusion

- While laws provide a framework for regulating human conduct, they have limitations in addressing the complexities of human behavior. In conflicts between legality and ethics, public administrators should be guided by moral courage, the public interest, ethical reasoning, and professional codes of conduct to navigate ethically challenging situations and make decisions that uphold ethical standards and serve the greater good.

Q2. Assess the significance of a society's response to immigration in reflecting the delicate balance between its values and interests. Support your answer with relevant examples and arguments.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Define values and interests in introduction (10 words)
- Explain the significance of a society's response to immigration (70 words)
- Explain how values and interests are balanced in immigration (70 words)
- Conclude by quoting recent examples as a case study and bring out the conflicts involved. (10 words)

Introduction

- Values are deeply held beliefs and principles that guide individuals or groups in making decisions, shaping their behavior, and evaluating what is desirable or morally right.

Body

- **How society's response to immigration reflects delicate balance between its values and interests**
- Progressive societies that prioritize values like inclusivity, diversity, and human rights tend to adopt welcoming immigration policies. For instance, Canada's immigration system is known for its emphasis on multiculturalism, aiming to build a diverse society that respects and celebrates various cultures. This reflects the values of equality, tolerance, and cultural pluralism.

1. National Security and Border Control:

- Concerns related to national security and border control also shape a society's response to immigration. Countries often establish stringent immigration policies to safeguard their borders and ensure national security. Enhanced border security measures implemented by the United States reflect the nation's efforts to balance its values of security and sovereignty.

2. Social Cohesion and Integration:

- A society's approach to immigration can demonstrate its commitment to social cohesion and integration. Policies and programs that facilitate the integration of immigrants into the social fabric promote harmony and unity. Sweden's initiatives, such as language programs and job training, exemplify a society's dedication to

fostering immigrant integration and social cohesion.

Balancing Values and Interests:

- Member states of international organizations or regional bodies may sometimes prioritize their national interests over humanitarian values. This can lead to policies that may seem to contradict or undermine humanitarian principles. Striking a balance between values and interests in immigration policies is a complex task. Societies face challenges in reconciling public opinion, political considerations, and economic constraints. The European Union's debates on immigration policies highlight the struggle to find a harmonious equilibrium that upholds both humanitarian values and member states' interests.

Need of adopting ethical values in immigration

- **Humanitarian Obligation:** Ethical values demand that we recognize the inherent dignity and worth of all individuals, regardless of their nationality or immigration status.
- **Fairness and Justice:** Ethical values call for fairness and justice in immigration policies. This means treating immigrants with fairness, impartiality, and respect for their human rights.
- **Mitigating Humanitarian Crises:** Ethical values guide responses to humanitarian crises, including refugee crises and forced displacement.
 - For example, the Rohingya crisis presents a complex ethical dilemma. Navigating this ethical dilemma requires finding a balance between respecting national sovereignty, upholding human rights, providing humanitarian assistance, ensuring accountability, and promoting long-term solutions for the Rohingya people. It involves engaging in dialogue, diplomatic efforts, humanitarian aid, and efforts to address the root causes of discrimination and conflict.

Conclusion

- A society's response to immigration holds significant importance as it reflects the intricate balance between its values and interests. By analysing immigration policies, one can gauge the extent to which a society embraces inclusivity, diversity, and human rights while simultaneously pursuing economic, security, and social interests. Striking the right balance is a continuous challenge for societies, requiring them to navigate complex dynamics and make decisions that align with their core values while meeting their pragmatic needs.

Q3. Discuss the significance of studying the lives and teachings of these influential figures in shaping ethical leadership, inspiring social change, and enhancing effective administration.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Define ethical leadership (10 words)
- Briefly discuss the significance of studying the lives of influential figures (20 words)
- Explain how the teachings of these figures influence different aspects of society with examples (105 words)
- Conclusion (15 words)

Introduction

- Ethical leadership refers to a style of leadership that emphasizes moral principles, integrity, and responsible decision-making. It requires the ability to make sound and morally just decisions.

Body

Significance of studying the lives of influential figures:

- Studying the lives and teachings of influential figures holds immense significance in shaping ethical leadership, inspiring social change, and enhancing effective administration. By examining their experiences and principles, valuable insights can be gained, offering valuable lessons for individuals and institutions. Real-life examples further illustrate the impact of studying these figures on various aspects of society.
- **Ethical Leadership:** Studying influential figures helps individuals understand and internalize the qualities and behaviors that define ethical leadership. By examining the lives and teachings of these figures,

individuals can gain insights into the values, principles, and practices that guide ethical decision-making, inspire trust, and promote the well-being of individuals and communities. This understanding serves as a blueprint for individuals aspiring to become ethical leaders themselves.

- **Ex. Eleanor Roosevelt's Advocacy:** Eleanor Roosevelt, as the First Lady of the United States and a human rights activist, dedicated her life to championing human rights. Her instrumental role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 showcases the impact individuals can have in shaping global standards of justice and equality.
- **Nelson Mandela's Legacy:** Nelson Mandela, through his struggle against apartheid in South Africa, exemplified the transformative power of forgiveness and reconciliation. His ability to lead with empathy and unity paved the way for a peaceful transition from a divided nation to a democratic society.

Social Change:

- Many influential figures have played pivotal roles in driving positive social change and advocating for justice, equality, and human rights. Their actions and teachings can serve as catalysts for transformative social movements and inspire individuals to stand up for what is right. By studying their lives, we can understand the strategies they employed, the challenges they faced, and the impact they made, thereby empowering us to become agents of social change in our own spheres of influence.
- Figures like Martin Luther King Jr. played a pivotal role in inspiring social change. His advocacy for civil rights and racial equality in the United States galvanized a movement that transformed the nation. His powerful speeches, such as the iconic "I Have a Dream" speech, continue to inspire activists fighting for social justice today.

Effective Administration:

- By examining the leadership styles and practices of influential figures, we can gain insights into how they effectively governed and led their organizations, communities, or nations. We can learn from their abilities to foster collaboration, build trust, and inspire collective action. Studying their administrative skills provides valuable lessons for those in leadership positions, enabling them to create positive and ethical work environments and achieve organizational goals.
- The teachings of administrative reformers like Lee Kuan Yew, the first Prime Minister of Singapore, have influenced effective governance. Lee's visionary leadership and pragmatic policies transformed Singapore from a developing country to a global hub of economic prosperity. His focus on clean governance, long-term planning, and efficient public administration set a benchmark for effective administration.

Conclusion:

- The lives and teachings of influential figures offer invaluable lessons. By studying their experiences, individuals can gain insights into the qualities and principles necessary for positive transformation.

Q4. The role of family, society, and educational institutions in inculcating values is crucial for the holistic development of individuals and the well-being of society. Examine the challenges faced by these institutions in imparting values in the modern context and suggest measures to strengthen their role in nurturing ethical and moral values in individuals.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Explain the given quote briefly (15 words)
- Explain the role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values (40 words)
- Examine the challenges faced by the given institutions and suggest measures (80 words)
- Conclusion (15 words)

Introduction

- Family, society, and educational institutions play vital roles in the inculcation of values in individuals. However, these institutions face several challenges in imparting values in the modern context. By addressing

these challenges and implementing certain measures, their role in nurturing ethical and moral values can be strengthened.

Body

Role of family in inculcating values:

- Families serve as the primary socializing agents, where individuals learn fundamental values, ethics, and norms. Through parental guidance, siblings' interactions, and family rituals, values such as respect, honesty, empathy, and responsibility can be instilled.
- Family members act as role models, demonstrating values through their behavior and interactions. Children observe and imitate their parents, guardians, and extended family members, shaping their own moral compass based on these observations.
- Open and constructive communication within families creates an environment for discussing values, moral dilemmas, and ethical decision-making. Engaging in dialogues helps individuals internalize and understand the significance of values in their personal lives.

Role of society in inculcating values:

- Social institutions, traditions, and customs reinforce values and expectations within a community. Individuals are influenced by societal expectations, encouraging them to adopt and internalize these values.
- Social interactions with peers, community members, and various social groups significantly shape individuals' values. Through socialization processes, individuals learn to navigate social relationships, develop empathy, and understand diverse perspectives, contributing to their holistic development.
- Society emphasizes the importance of collective responsibility and encourages individuals to contribute positively to the well-being of their communities. Values like civic duty, volunteerism, and social justice are often promoted to create a sense of social cohesion and address societal issues.

Role of educational institutions in inculcating values:

- Educational institutions play a crucial role in imparting formal values education. Schools and colleges can incorporate values education programs, ethical curricula, and character-building initiatives to develop students' understanding of values and their practical application.
- Teachers and educators serve as influential role models for students. By exemplifying ethical behavior and values, educators can inspire students to embrace these principles in their own lives.
- Educational institutions foster critical thinking skills and moral reasoning, enabling students to evaluate ethical dilemmas, make principled decisions, and consider the consequences of their actions. Through classroom discussions, case studies, and ethical debates, students develop their own moral compass.
- Extracurricular activities and service learning opportunities in educational institutions provide platforms for students to apply values in real-life situations. Engagement in community service and social initiatives helps foster empathy, compassion, and a sense of social responsibility.

Challenges faced:

- **Changing Family Structures:** Modern families often face the challenge of changing structures, such as single-parent households, dual-income families, and increased mobility. These factors can impact the ability of families to provide consistent moral guidance and values.
- **Influence of Technology and Media:** The widespread influence of technology and media poses a challenge in shaping values. Social media, television, and online platforms can expose individuals, especially the youth, to negative influences and distorted values.
- **Diverse Societal Influences:** Society today is characterized by diverse cultural, religious, and ideological influences. Balancing these influences while imparting universal ethical values can be challenging for educational institutions.
- **Lack of Role Models:** In the modern context, individuals may struggle to find suitable role models who embody strong ethical values. Negative media portrayals and a lack of prominent figures can hinder the development of ethical values.
- **Overemphasis on Academic Performance:** Educational institutions often prioritize academic achievement over character development and ethical education. This can undermine the cultivation of moral values in individuals.

Measures to be taken:

- **Encouraging Open Communication:** Families can overcome this challenge by fostering open communication and creating a supportive environment for discussions on ethics and values. Regular family meetings, sharing personal experiences, and instilling empathy can help in reinforcing moral values.
- **Media Literacy and Responsible Technology Use:** Educational institutions and families should promote media literacy programs to develop critical thinking skills among individuals. Encouraging responsible technology use, setting screen time limits, and teaching digital citizenship can help individuals navigate the online world with ethical awareness.
- **Cultivating Respect for Diversity:** Educational institutions should create inclusive environments that respect diversity and encourage dialogue on different perspectives. By promoting values of tolerance, respect, and empathy, institutions can help individuals appreciate diversity while upholding shared moral principles.
- **Highlighting Ethical Role Models:** Educational institutions, families, and society at large should highlight and celebrate individuals who exemplify ethical behavior. Sharing stories of inspiring leaders, reformers, and administrators who have made a positive impact can provide role models for individuals to emulate.
- **Holistic Education Approach:** Educational institutions should adopt a holistic approach to education that includes character development, moral education, and ethical reasoning alongside academic pursuits. Integrating value-based curricula, promoting service-learning activities, and involving parents in the process can reinforce the importance of ethical values.

Conclusion:

- While family, society, and educational institutions face challenges in imparting values in the modern context, measures can be taken to strengthen their role in nurturing ethical and moral values. By addressing these challenges and implementing the suggested measures, these institutions can effectively contribute to the holistic development of individuals and the well-being of society.

Q5. Assess the role of education, mentorship, and inclusive policy-making in shaping a political landscape that attracts ethically conscious individuals committed to the betterment of society.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Give a brief introduction about the role of education, mentorship, and inclusive policy-making in shaping a political landscape (25 words)
- Explain in detail how the role of education, mentorship and policy making shape political landscape so that it attracts ethically conscious individuals (100 words)
- Write how prioritizing ethical education, establishing mentorship programs, and adopting inclusive policy-making processes, nurture future leaders (25 words)

Introduction

- Education, mentorship, and inclusive policy-making play vital roles in shaping a political landscape that attracts ethically conscious individuals committed to the betterment of society. By assessing the significance of each factor, we can understand how they contribute to creating an environment that fosters ethical leadership and social progress.

Body

Education:

- Education plays a fundamental role in shaping the political landscape by equipping individuals with knowledge, critical thinking skills, and a sense of social responsibility.
- **Ethical education** within the curriculum helps **instil values such as integrity, empathy, and justice in aspiring leaders.**
- By promoting civic education, schools can nurture an understanding of democratic principles, human rights, and ethical decision-making. This cultivates a generation of politically conscious individuals who prioritize the betterment of society over personal gain.

- Countries like Finland prioritize education systems that emphasize holistic development, ethical values, and civic education. This has resulted in a political landscape populated by ethically conscious leaders committed to societal progress.

Mentorship:

- Effective mentorship programs **provide guidance, support, and inspiration to emerging political leaders.**
- Ethically conscious mentors can impart wisdom, share experiences, and model ethical behavior, nurturing a new generation of leaders committed to ethical practices.
- Mentorship fosters the development of key attributes such as integrity, transparency, and accountability in aspiring politicians, ultimately influencing the political landscape.
- **Nelson Mandela**, mentored by leaders such as Walter Sisulu, exhibited the transformative power of mentorship. Mandela's commitment to justice, reconciliation, and inclusive governance was shaped by the guidance he received, enabling him to lead South Africa's transition from apartheid to democracy.

Inclusive Policy-Making:

- Inclusive policy-making processes that incorporate diverse perspectives and engage citizens in decision-making enhance the political landscape's ethical character.
- Policies that promote transparency, accountability, and participation foster trust in the political system.
- Additionally, inclusive policies address social inequalities, uphold human rights, and prioritize the welfare of marginalized communities. Such policies attract ethically conscious individuals who recognize the importance of equitable governance and social justice.
- For example, the **New Zealand government's response to the Christchurch Mosque shootings** showcased inclusive policy-making. By actively involving affected communities, valuing diverse perspectives, and implementing gun control measures, New Zealand demonstrated its commitment to creating a political landscape that prioritizes safety, equality, and social cohesion.

Conclusion:

- Education, mentorship, and inclusive policy-making are integral in shaping a political landscape that attracts ethically conscious individuals committed to the betterment of society. By prioritizing ethical education, establishing mentorship programs, and adopting inclusive policy-making processes, societies can foster a generation of leaders driven by moral values, empathy, and a deep sense of social responsibility. This paves the way for political systems that genuinely serve the interests of the people and promote the common good.

Q6. Evaluate the role of education and awareness in promoting constructive attitudes to create a more tolerant and inclusive society.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Define constructive attitude briefly (10 words)
- Explain in detail how education and awareness can help in creating tolerant and inclusive societies (100 words)
- Briefly explain if there are any challenges to address the issue through education and awareness (25 words)
- Conclusion can end with quote or summarised way ahead (15 words)

Introduction

- A constructive attitude refers to an approach or mindset characterized by positivity, open-mindedness, and a focus on solutions and progress. It involves actively seeking ways to improve situations, relationships, or outcomes by adopting a constructive and optimistic perspective.

Body

- Education and awareness play a crucial role in promoting constructive attitudes and fostering a more tolerant and inclusive society. By imparting knowledge, promoting critical thinking, and cultivating empathy, education can shape individuals' perspectives and behaviors towards embracing diversity, respecting others'

rights, and promoting social harmony.

The role of education and awareness in achieving these goals are:

- **Developing Knowledge and Understanding:** Education equips individuals with information about different cultures, religions, and social groups. It provides a comprehensive understanding of the historical, social, and cultural contexts that contribute to the diversity within society. This knowledge helps dispel stereotypes, prejudices, and misconceptions, fostering greater acceptance and appreciation of different identities and perspectives.
- **Promoting Critical Thinking and Analytical Skills:** Education encourages critical thinking, enabling individuals to question biases, challenge stereotypes, and evaluate information objectively. It helps individuals develop the skills to analyse complex social issues and recognize the interconnectedness of diverse communities. By promoting critical thinking, education empowers individuals to challenge discriminatory attitudes and contribute to positive social change.
- **Cultivating Empathy and Respect:** Education plays a vital role in cultivating empathy, understanding, and respect for others. It teaches individuals to recognize and value human dignity, empathy towards those who face discrimination, and respect for diverse identities. By fostering empathy, education encourages individuals to adopt a more inclusive mindset, promoting tolerance, compassion, and kindness in interpersonal interactions.
- **Creating Inclusive Learning Environments:** Educational institutions have a responsibility to create inclusive and safe learning environments that promote diversity and respect. By implementing inclusive policies, adopting diverse curricula, and nurturing inclusive classroom dynamics, educational institutions can shape attitudes and behaviours of students towards tolerance, equality, and social justice.
- **Engaging in Awareness Campaigns and Initiatives:** Beyond formal education, awareness campaigns and initiatives play a crucial role in fostering tolerance and inclusivity. Media, NGOs, and community organizations can raise awareness about issues related to discrimination, prejudice, and social exclusion. These initiatives contribute to educating the broader society, challenging biases, and promoting collective action towards a more inclusive society.
- **Recognition of Differences:** Awareness helps individuals recognize that differences in culture, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and other characteristics are natural and should be respected. This recognition serves as a foundation for fostering empathy, tolerance, and acceptance of others.
- **Challenging Stereotypes and Prejudices:** Awareness challenges stereotypes, biases, and prejudices that can contribute to discrimination and exclusion. By promoting awareness, individuals gain a deeper understanding of the harmful effects of stereotypes and the importance of questioning and challenging them.
- While education and awareness are powerful tools for promoting tolerance and inclusivity, certain challenges need to be addressed:
 - a) **Access and Equity:** Ensuring equal access to quality education for all individuals, regardless of their socioeconomic background, is essential. Disparities in educational opportunities can hinder efforts to promote tolerance and inclusivity.
 - b) **Curriculum Development:** Curricula should be designed to reflect diverse perspectives, histories, and experiences. It is crucial to address bias and stereotypes that may perpetuate discrimination or exclusion.
 - c) **Teacher Training:** Educators should receive training to effectively address issues of diversity and promote inclusive practices within the classroom. This will equip them with the necessary skills to facilitate open discussions and foster inclusive attitudes among students.
 - d) **Overcoming Resistance:** In some cases, resistance to change or deeply ingrained biases may hinder the effectiveness of educational efforts. Overcoming such resistance requires a multi-faceted approach, including community engagement, advocacy, and the involvement of key stakeholders.

Conclusion

- "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela".
- Education and awareness are powerful tools in promoting constructive attitudes and creating a more tolerant and inclusive society. By imparting knowledge, promoting critical thinking, cultivating empathy, and encouraging dialogue, education can shape individuals' perspectives and behaviours. However, addressing challenges related to access, curriculum development, teacher training, and overcoming resistance is crucial to ensure the efficacy of these efforts.

Q7. The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Examine the challenges faced by leaders in upholding integrity in the face of competing interests and moral dilemmas.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Give brief introduction about integrity in leadership (25 words)
- Explain the challenges faced by leaders in upholding integrity (100 words)
- Conclude by writing way ahead (25 words)

Introduction

- Integrity is a personal trait characterized by honesty, moral uprightness, and adherence to ethical principles. It involves **consistency between one's thoughts, words, and actions**, as well as a strong sense of personal and professional values. Upholding integrity is essential for leaders to gain trust, inspire others, and make sound decisions. However, leaders often face numerous challenges in maintaining integrity when confronted with competing interests and moral dilemmas.

Body

The challenges faced by the leaders in the face of competing interest are:

Conflict of interest:

- Leaders may encounter conflicting interests among various stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, customers, and the wider community.
- Balancing these interests while upholding integrity can be challenging, as the pursuit of one interest may compromise another.
- Leaders must navigate these complexities with transparency and fairness, ensuring that their decisions prioritize ethical considerations.

Pressure to Achieve Results:

- Leaders often face immense pressure to achieve targets, meet expectations, or deliver results within a limited timeframe. In such situations, there may be temptations to compromise integrity for short-term gains.
- Upholding integrity requires leaders to resist these pressures and prioritize long-term sustainable solutions, even if they involve slower progress or require difficult decisions.

Organizational Culture and Pressures:

- The prevailing organizational culture can greatly influence a leader's ability to uphold integrity.
- In cultures that prioritize short-term gains, tolerate unethical behaviour, or lack transparency, leaders may find it difficult to maintain integrity without facing resistance or backlash.
- Leaders must work to create an ethical organizational culture that supports and reinforces integrity as a core value.

Public Scrutiny and Accountability:

- Leaders are often subjected to public scrutiny and held accountable for their actions. The fear of reputational damage or negative consequences can be a significant challenge to maintaining integrity, especially in the face of intense scrutiny.
- Leaders must demonstrate transparency, take responsibility for their decisions, and proactively address any ethical lapses to preserve integrity.

Changing Context and Moral Standards:

- The evolving nature of societal norms and moral standards can pose challenges for leaders in upholding integrity. What may have been considered acceptable in the past may be deemed unethical today.
- Leaders must stay informed about changing ethical expectations, adapt their decision-making accordingly, and demonstrate a willingness to learn and grow.

The challenges faced by the leaders in the face of moral dilemmas are:

Personal Ambition and Temptations:

- Leaders, like anyone else, may be driven by personal ambitions, desires, or temptations that can potentially compromise integrity.

- Personal gain or self-interest may conflict with ethical standards, creating challenges in upholding integrity.
- Leaders must engage in self-reflection, practice self-discipline, and align their personal values with the ethical principles they espouse.

Uncertainty and Limited Information:

- Moral dilemmas often arise in situations where there is limited information, ambiguity, or conflicting viewpoints.
- Leaders may lack complete knowledge or face uncertain outcomes, making it challenging to determine the most ethically appropriate course of action.
- Balancing the need for informed decision-making with the urgency of the situation requires careful judgment and ethical reasoning.

Accountability and Transparency:

- Upholding integrity requires leaders to be accountable for their decisions and actions. This includes taking responsibility for the consequences of their choices, admitting mistakes, and being transparent about ethical challenges faced.
- Balancing the need for transparency with considerations such as privacy, confidentiality, or legal implications can present challenges in maintaining integrity while fulfilling accountability obligations.

Conclusion

- Leaders should articulate and communicate their values and ethical expectations clearly. Leaders must lead by example, consistently demonstrating integrity and ethical behavior. They should seek ethical guidance and support from mentors, advisors, or ethical experts.

Q8. Examine the challenges faced by civil servants in developing and maintaining aptitude, and suggest measures to enhance the aptitude of civil servants for efficient and accountable governance.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Define aptitude (10 words)
- Discuss the challenges faced by civil servants in maintaining aptitude (50 words)
- Suggest measures to enhance the aptitude of civil servants. Use examples in the answer (75 words)
- Provide conclusion by quoting recent government initiatives in this direction (15 words)

Introduction

- Aptitude refers to a natural or acquired ability or talent to perform a specific task or skill. It represents an individual's potential or suitability for a particular area of work, learning, or activity.

Body

Challenges Faced by Civil Servants in Developing and Maintaining Aptitude:

- **Rapid Technological Advancements:** Civil servants often struggle to keep pace with rapid advancements in technology. For example, the integration of artificial intelligence and big data analytics in governance requires civil servants to develop new skills to harness these technologies effectively.
- **Budgetary Constraints:** Limited resources and budgetary constraints may hinder the provision of quality training and development opportunities for civil servants. Lack of funding can restrict access to workshops, seminars, and specialized courses that could enhance their aptitude.
- **Bureaucratic Red Tape:** Cumbersome bureaucratic processes can delay decision-making and hinder the implementation of innovative ideas. This bureaucratic inertia can discourage civil servants from developing and implementing new approaches to problem-solving.
- **Ethical Dilemmas:** Civil servants often face ethical dilemmas when balancing the interests of different stakeholders. For instance, a civil servant responsible for approving construction permits might face pressure from both developers seeking faster approvals and citizens concerned about environmental impact.
- **Political Interference:** Civil servants may encounter political interference in their decision-making process,

which can compromise their ability to act impartially. For example, a public servant responsible for regulatory enforcement might face pressure from political authorities to overlook violations committed by influential businesses.

Measures to Enhance the Aptitude of Civil Servants for Efficient and Accountable Governance:

- **Continuous Professional Development:** Governments can establish mandatory training programs and workshops that focus on essential skills such as data analysis, communication, and ethics. For instance, Singapore's Civil Service College provides a wide range of courses to enhance the skills and knowledge of public servants.
- **E-learning Platforms:** Developing e-learning platforms and online courses can provide civil servants with flexible and accessible learning opportunities. The Indian government's "SWAYAM" platform offers free online courses for civil servants and citizens alike.
- **Mentorship Programs:** Implementing mentorship programs where experienced civil servants guide and support their junior counterparts can foster knowledge transfer and skill development. For example, the United Kingdom's Civil Service offers mentorship programs through the Government Internal Audit Agency.
- **Creating Innovation Labs:** Governments can establish innovation labs or "sandboxes" that allow civil servants to experiment with new ideas and solutions without being restricted by bureaucratic processes. For instance, the Dubai Future Accelerators program promotes innovation within government services.
- **Strengthening Ethics Frameworks:** Governments should reinforce ethical guidelines and codes of conduct, along with mechanisms for reporting unethical behaviour. For example, New Zealand's State Services Commission provides clear guidelines on ethical behaviour for public servants.
- **Performance-Based Incentives:** Introducing performance-based incentives can motivate civil servants to enhance their aptitude. Recognition, promotions, or bonuses tied to measurable improvements in their skills and efficiency can encourage continuous learning and development.
- **Collaboration with Academia and Private Sector:** Governments can collaborate with academic institutions and the private sector to offer specialized training and exposure to cutting-edge technologies. Partnerships like the Government Technology Agency in Singapore facilitate knowledge exchange between civil servants and technology experts.

Conclusion

- Developing and maintaining aptitude among civil servants is essential for efficient and accountable governance. By addressing challenges through continuous professional development, mentorship, ethical frameworks, and collaborations, governments can create a skilled and adaptive civil service capable of effectively addressing contemporary challenges and serving the public interest. Examples from various countries demonstrate how implementing these measures can enhance the capabilities of civil servants for better governance outcomes. Recently, a civil servant comprehensive capacity development program has been launched by DoPT.

Q9. Explain the concept of emotional intelligence and its significance in personal and professional development.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Explain what is emotional intelligence and its concept in detail (65 words)
- Explain its importance in personal and professional development (65 words)
- Conclude by writing how emotional intelligence enhances personal and professional development of an individual (20 words)

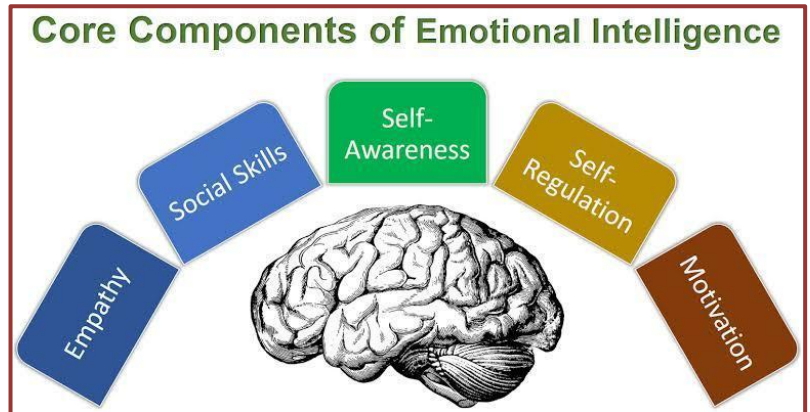
Introduction

- Daniel Goleman defines emotional intelligence as the ability to recognize, understand, manage, and express emotions effectively in oneself and in others. It involves being aware of and harnessing one's own emotions while empathizing with and influencing the emotions of others.

Body

The concept of emotional intelligence with examples:

- **Self-Awareness:** Self-awareness is the foundation of emotional intelligence. It involves understanding one's emotions, strengths, weaknesses, and values. For example, an individual with high self-awareness can recognize when they are feeling stressed, acknowledge their triggers, and take steps to manage their emotions effectively, such as practicing mindfulness or seeking support.



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- **Self-Regulation:** Self-regulation refers

to the ability to manage and control one's emotions, impulses, and behaviours. Individuals with strong

self-regulation can respond to challenging situations calmly and thoughtfully. For instance, a manager who receives negative feedback on a project can regulate their emotions, avoid becoming defensive, and instead focus on understanding and learning from the feedback to improve future performance.

- **Empathy:** Empathy is the ability to understand and share the emotions of others. It involves being able to put oneself in someone else's shoes and respond with compassion. For example, a team leader who demonstrates empathy can recognize when a team member is facing personal challenges and offer support or flexibility to help them manage their workload effectively.
- **Social Skills:** Social skills encompass the ability to communicate effectively, build relationships, and influence others positively. This includes active listening, verbal and nonverbal communication, teamwork, and conflict resolution. A leader with strong social skills can inspire and motivate their team, resolve conflicts collaboratively, and create a positive work environment that promotes productivity and innovation.

The significance of emotional intelligence in personal and professional development is as follows:

- **Improved Self-Management:** Emotional intelligence enables individuals to regulate their emotions effectively, reducing stress, improving decision-making, and promoting resilience. It allows for better self-control and adaptability in the face of challenges.
- **Enhanced Interpersonal Relationships:** Emotional intelligence fosters understanding, empathy, and effective communication, leading to stronger and more positive relationships. It facilitates collaboration, trust, and cooperation among colleagues, friends, and family members.
- **Effective Leadership:** Leaders with high emotional intelligence can inspire and motivate their teams, understand, and address the needs of their employees, and create a supportive and inclusive work environment. They can navigate conflicts constructively and build strong relationships that contribute to team success.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Emotional intelligence equips individuals with the skills to manage conflicts and difficult conversations more effectively. It promotes active listening, empathy, and understanding, enabling the resolution of conflicts in a respectful and constructive manner.
- **Personal Well-being:** Emotional intelligence contributes to personal well-being by promoting self-awareness, stress management, and healthy coping strategies. It helps individuals maintain positive mental health and build resilience in the face of challenges.

Conclusion:

- Emotional intelligence plays a vital role in personal and professional development. Enhancing emotional intelligence can be achieved through various strategies. Prioritize self-awareness by regularly reflecting on your emotions and how they influence your thoughts and actions. Develop empathy by actively listening to others, seeking to understand their perspectives, and showing compassion. Learn to manage stress effectively by employing techniques such as deep breathing, mindfulness, and healthy coping mechanisms. Focus on building positive relationships by fostering open communication, resolving conflicts constructively, and valuing others' emotions. Embrace a growth mindset by continuously learning, seeking feedback, and actively

working to improve your emotional intelligence skills.

Q10. To what extent does emotional intelligence contribute to effective leadership and decision-making? Discuss with reference to the perspectives of philosophical thinkers such as Aristotle, Daniel Goleman, and Howard Gardner.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Introduce emotional intelligence (25 words)
- Explain from the perspective of each philosophical thinker how emotional intelligence contributes to effective leadership and decision making (100 words)
- Conclude by writing how to improve one's emotional intelligence (25 words)

Introduction

- Emotional intelligence (EI) is widely recognized as a critical factor in effective leadership and decision-making. The perspectives of philosophical thinkers such as Aristotle, Daniel Goleman, and Howard Gardner shed light on the significance of emotional intelligence in these domains.

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Body

Aristotle, a Greek philosopher, emphasized the importance of virtues and character in leadership.

- He believed that effective leaders possess moral virtues, including emotional intelligence. Aristotle argued that leaders who understand and regulate their emotions can make more ethical and balanced decisions.
- He stressed the significance of self-awareness in ethical conduct and decision-making. Effective leaders need to be aware of their own emotions, strengths, weaknesses, and biases.
- Aristotle emphasized the importance of empathy and understanding others' perspectives in ethical conduct.
- He argued that leaders should be skilled in articulating their ideas, appealing to emotions, and inspiring others.
- Aristotle proposed that virtue lies between extremes. He believed that individuals should strive for moderation and balance in their emotions and behaviors.
- **Daniel Goleman**, an influential psychologist, and author, popularized the concept of emotional intelligence in modern times. He identified five key components of EI: **self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, and social skills.**

- **Self-awareness** allows leaders to recognize and understand their own emotions, strengths, and limitations which enables them to make decisions that align with their values and purpose.
- **Self-regulation** enables leaders to manage their emotions and impulses, especially in high-pressure situations. This ability allows them to remain composed, think clearly, and make rational decisions rather than being driven by impulsive or reactive responses.
- **Motivation** refers to the drive and passion to achieve goals. Leaders with high emotional intelligence are often self-motivated and can inspire and motivate others through their own enthusiasm and commitment.
- **Empathy** is a crucial component of emotional intelligence. Leaders who possess empathy can understand and relate to the emotions and perspectives of others. This understanding helps them build strong relationships, foster collaboration, and make decisions that consider the impact on various stakeholders.
- **Social skills** encompass effective communication, conflict resolution, and teamwork. Leaders with strong social skills can build rapport, inspire trust, and create a positive work environment. They can also navigate conflicts and negotiate effectively, leading to better decision-making outcomes.

Howard Gardner, a developmental psychologist, proposed the theory of multiple intelligences.

- The theory of multiple intelligences acknowledges that individuals possess different combinations and strengths of these intelligences.
- It recognizes that traditional measures of intelligence, such as IQ tests, may not fully capture the diverse range of cognitive abilities and talents that individuals possess.
- Different people can excel in different areas and demonstrate intelligence in unique ways. For example, while one person may excel in linguistic intelligence, another person may excel in musical or spatial intelligence.
- He argued that traditional notions of intelligence fail to capture the full range of human abilities.
- Gardner's perspective aligns with the concept of emotional intelligence by highlighting the importance of interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligence.
- These intelligences involve understanding oneself and others, managing emotions, and effectively communicating and collaborating with others.

Conclusion

- Emotional intelligence contributes significantly to effective leadership and decision-making. Improving emotional intelligence is a lifelong journey that involves self-reflection, practice, and intentional development. Practice putting yourself in others' shoes and try to understand their perspectives, feelings, and needs. Work on your communication and interpersonal skills. Engage in regular mindfulness practices to develop present-moment awareness and non-judgmental acceptance of your emotions. With dedication and practice, emotional intelligence can be enhanced.

Q11. Bring out what this quote means to you in the present context. "The wound is the place where the light enters you." – Rumi

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Introduce Rumi (25 words)
- Explain what wound symbolizes, light symbolizes, and what you understand from the quote in the present context(100 words)
- Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction

- Rumi was a 13th-century Persian poet, Islamic jurist, and theologian. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest mystical poets and spiritual masters in history. Rumi's poetry and teachings have had a profound influence on literature, philosophy, and spirituality, transcending cultural and religious boundaries.

Body

- In the present context, the quote from Rumi holds profound meaning and can be interpreted in the following

ways:

Embracing Vulnerability and Growth:

- The "wound" symbolizes the challenges, hardships, and struggles that we encounter in life. These wounds represent our vulnerabilities, whether they are emotional, physical, or psychological.
- By acknowledging and embracing our wounds, we create space for personal growth and transformation.
- The quote suggests that it is through these wounds that we open ourselves up to the potential for healing, learning, and personal enlightenment.

Finding Strength in Adversity:

- Adversity, pain, and suffering are inevitable aspects of human existence. Instead of resisting or avoiding these experiences, the quote encourages us to see them as opportunities for growth and resilience.
- The "light" symbolizes wisdom, insight, and self-awareness that emerges from the process of healing and overcoming our wounds.
- It suggests that our deepest wounds can become sources of strength and illumination, guiding us towards a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world.

Embracing Personal Transformation:

- The quote emphasizes that our wounds have the potential to be transformative, leading to personal growth and enlightenment.
- When we confront and heal our wounds, we gain a greater understanding of ourselves, our emotions, and our relationships.
- By allowing the light to enter through our wounds, we become more self-aware, compassionate, and empathetic individuals.
- The process of healing and growth allows us to develop resilience, inner strength, and a deeper sense of purpose.

Cultivating Mindfulness and Acceptance:

- The quote encourages us to be mindful of our wounds, rather than denying or suppressing them. By acknowledging and accepting our wounds, we create space for healing and personal growth.
- It invites us to approach our wounds with compassion, self-care, and self-acceptance.
- By embracing our wounds, we learn to navigate our challenges with greater awareness, leading to personal transformation and a more authentic existence.

Conclusion

- Rumi's quote serves as a powerful reminder to embrace our wounds and challenges, recognizing them as transformative opportunities. It encourages us to find meaning, strength, and illumination through our vulnerabilities and to approach life's difficulties with resilience, openness, and the belief that healing and growth are possible.

Q12. What does the following quotation mean to you?

"Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance." – Confucius.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Introduce Confucius (25 words)
- Explain what do you understand by the quote in various dimensions? (100 words)
- Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction

- Confucius was an influential Chinese philosopher, teacher, and political figure who lived during the 6th and 5th centuries BCE. He is widely regarded as one of the most important thinkers in Chinese history and his teachings have had a profound impact on Chinese culture, ethics, and social harmony.

Body

This quote from Confucius carries deep wisdom and can be interpreted in the following ways:

Humility and Self-awareness:

- The quote emphasizes the importance of humility and self-awareness in the pursuit of knowledge.
- True wisdom involves recognizing the limitations of our knowledge and understanding.
- It acknowledges that despite our efforts to acquire knowledge, there is always more to learn and discover.
- Understanding the extent of our ignorance humbles us, fostering a receptive mindset that is open to continual learning and growth.

Recognizing the Vastness of Knowledge:

- The quote suggests that knowledge is not merely about accumulating facts or information.
- It highlights that true knowledge encompasses an awareness of the vastness and complexity of the world.
- As we gain knowledge, we become more aware of the vastness of the unknown, prompting us to remain curious and open-minded.

Cultivating Intellectual Honesty:

- The quote encourages intellectual honesty and integrity.
- It reminds us to acknowledge and admit when we lack knowledge or understanding in a particular area.
- Recognizing our ignorance allows us to approach learning with a sense of curiosity and humility, seeking to expand our understanding rather than pretending to know everything.

Pursuit of Lifelong Learning:

- The quote emphasizes that the pursuit of knowledge is an ongoing journey.
- It encourages a mindset of continual learning and self-improvement.
- By acknowledging our ignorance, we are motivated to seek out new knowledge, ask questions, and engage in lifelong learning.

Guarding Against Arrogance and Closed-mindedness:

- The quote serves as a reminder to guard against intellectual arrogance and closed-mindedness.
- When we recognize the extent of our ignorance, we become more open to different perspectives and ideas.
- It encourages us to listen to others, value diverse viewpoints, and engage in respectful dialogue, fostering a deeper understanding of the world and promoting intellectual growth.

Conclusion

- This quotation inspires me to approach knowledge with humility and a sense of curiosity. It encourages me to continually seek new information, challenge my own assumptions, and remain open to different perspectives. It reminds me that the more I learn, the more I realize how much there is yet to discover, fostering a lifelong journey of growth and self-improvement.

Q13. Public interest is the compass that guides responsible governance and shapes a just and equitable society. Analyse the challenges faced in prioritizing the public interest and propose strategies to ensure that governance decisions align with the welfare of the broader public.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Explain what is public interest (25 words)
- Explain the challenges faced in prioritizing public interest (50 words)
- Also discuss the strategies to ensure public interest in governance (50 words)
- Conclusion with an example (25 words)

Introduction

- Public interest refers to the welfare, well-being, and collective benefit of the general public. It represents the common good and encompasses the interests, needs, and aspirations of the broader society. It serves as a guiding principle for responsible governance and plays a crucial role in shaping a just and equitable society. However, prioritizing the public interest in governance decisions can be challenging due to various factors.

Body

- Public interests focus on the well-being and welfare of the broader community rather than individual interests. They demand accountability and transparency from individuals and institutions in positions of power. Upholding public interests helps ensure that resources and opportunities are distributed fairly and equitably. They are closely linked to participatory democracy, where citizens have the right to be informed, engaged, and involved in decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Challenges in Prioritizing the Public Interest:

- Conflicting Interests:** Government decisions often involve balancing the interests of different stakeholders, including individuals, communities, businesses, and political groups. These competing interests can create challenges in identifying and prioritizing the broader public interest.
- Influence of Special Interests:** Powerful lobby groups, vested interests, and political pressures can influence governance decisions, diverting attention away from the public interest. Such influences can lead to biased decision-making and undermine the welfare of the broader public.
- Lack of Information and Awareness:** Informed decision-making requires access to accurate and comprehensive information. However, limited transparency, insufficient data, and a lack of public awareness about governance processes can hinder the prioritization of the public interest.
- Short-Termism:** The pursuit of short-term gains or political expediency may overshadow long-term considerations that are in the public interest. This can undermine sustainable development, social equity, and the well-being of future generations.
- For example, political leaders may face pressure to prioritize policies or decisions that align with popular opinion or their political party's agenda, rather than the broader public interest. Populist tendencies or partisan divisions can sometimes overshadow the objective evaluation of what truly benefits the public.

Strategies to Align Governance Decisions with the Public Interest:

- Strengthen Transparency and Accountability:** Enhance transparency in governance processes, promote open data initiatives, and ensure accountability mechanisms are in place. This allows for public scrutiny, minimizes corruption risks, and ensures that decisions are made in the best interest of the broader public. For example, **the implementation of the GST in 2017** aimed to simplify the indirect tax system and promote transparency in taxation.
- Public Participation and Consultation:** Foster inclusive decision-making processes that encourage public participation, consultation, and feedback. Engaging citizens and stakeholders in policy formulation and implementation helps ensure that governance decisions reflect the diverse needs and aspirations of the public.
- Ethical Leadership and Integrity:** Promote a culture of ethical leadership and integrity within government institutions. This involves enforcing codes of conduct, fostering a strong ethical framework, and holding public officials accountable for acting in the public interest.
- Strengthen Independent Institutions:** Empower independent institutions, such as audit agencies, ombudsman offices, and anti corruption commissions, to act as checks and balances in ensuring governance decisions align with the public interest. These institutions should have sufficient resources, autonomy, and powers to investigate and address malfeasance.
- Evidence-Based Policy Making:** Emphasize evidence-based policy making by promoting robust research, data collection, and analysis. Policy decisions should be grounded in reliable evidence, impact assessments, and expert inputs to ensure they are well-informed and in the best interest of the broader public.
- Education and Awareness:** Promote civic education and public awareness about governance processes, rights, and responsibilities. This empowers citizens to actively participate, hold governments accountable, and demand decisions that prioritize the public interest.

Conclusion

- Prioritizing the public interest in governance decisions is vital for fostering a just and equitable society. Overcoming challenges such as conflicting interests, special interest influence, information gaps, and short-termism requires a multi-faceted approach. **The Nolan Committee, officially known as the Committee on Standards in Public Life, was established in the United Kingdom in 1994**, whose primary objective was to address concerns about ethical standards in public life and to promote transparency and accountability in the conduct of public officials.

Q14. Discuss the mechanisms in place to ensure accountability in the functioning of government institutions and critically evaluate their effectiveness.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- What is accountability? (25 words)
- Explain the mechanisms in place to ensure accountability (40 words)
- Also discuss the effectiveness of these mechanisms (40 words)
- Suggest few measures to ensure more accountability (20 words)
- Conclusion (25 words)

Introduction

- Accountability refers to the obligation and responsibility of individuals, organizations, and institutions to take ownership of their actions, decisions, and performance. It involves being answerable for one's conduct and outcomes, both to oneself and to others. Mechanisms to ensure accountability in the functioning of government institutions vary across countries, but there are some common approaches.

Body

Few of these mechanisms and their effectiveness are:

- **Legal Frameworks and Regulations:** Governments establish laws, regulations, and policies that outline the expected behavior of public officials and provide a framework for accountability. For example, in India, the Prevention of Corruption Act and Right to Information Act aim to hold public officials accountable for their actions.
- **Effectiveness:** The effectiveness of legal frameworks depends on their enforcement and implementation. In some cases, weak enforcement, bureaucratic hurdles, or lack of awareness may limit their impact. However, robust, and well-implemented legal frameworks can serve as powerful tools for holding public officials accountable.
- **Independent Oversight Bodies:** Independent oversight bodies, such as ombudsman institutions, audit agencies, and anti corruption commissions, play a crucial role in monitoring government activities and investigating complaints of misconduct. These bodies act as checks and balances, ensuring accountability in the public sector.
- **Effectiveness:** The effectiveness of oversight bodies varies depending on their independence, authority, and resources. When these bodies are adequately empowered, free from political interference, and possess sufficient resources, they can effectively investigate and expose instances of wrongdoing, thereby promoting accountability.
- **Whistleblower Protection Mechanisms:** Whistleblower protection laws and bodies like Lokpal and Lokayukta which are not part of the government encourage individuals to report corruption, misconduct, or unethical practices without fear of retaliation. These mechanisms provide a safe avenue for individuals to disclose information and help uncover wrongdoing within government institutions.
- **Effectiveness:** Whistleblower protection mechanisms can be effective in promoting accountability when they offer robust legal protection, maintain the confidentiality of whistleblowers, and provide appropriate channels for reporting. However, their effectiveness depends on public trust in the process and the willingness of authorities to act upon the information provided.
- **Performance Evaluation and Reporting:** Performance evaluation systems, including performance appraisal mechanisms and regular reporting requirements, help assess the performance and conduct of public officials. These systems provide a basis for measuring accountability based on defined targets, standards, and key performance indicators.
- **Effectiveness:** The effectiveness of performance evaluation and reporting mechanisms depends on their objectivity, transparency, and the use of reliable indicators. For example, CAG's reports have been instrumental in exposing corruption and financial irregularities in the government. They have also helped to improve the efficiency of government spending.
- **Citizen Engagement and Participation:** Inclusive governance models that promote citizen engagement,

participation, and feedback can contribute to increased accountability. Mechanisms such as public consultations, social audits, and participatory budgeting empower citizens to hold government institutions accountable for their actions.

- **Effectiveness:** Citizen engagement mechanisms can enhance accountability when they are accessible, inclusive, and provide meaningful opportunities for citizens to participate. Active civil society organizations, independent media, and strong public awareness play crucial roles in ensuring the effectiveness of such mechanisms.

Measures that can be taken to ensure more accountability

- **Establishing a code of conduct for government officials:** A code of conduct would set out the standards of behavior that are expected of government officials. This would help to ensure that government officials act in a way that is ethical and transparent.
- **Creating an independent ombudsman:** An independent ombudsman would be responsible for investigating complaints of corruption and maladministration. This would provide a mechanism for the public to hold government officials accountable.
- **Providing more training for government officials:** Government officials should be provided with training on ethics and transparency. This would help to ensure that they are aware of their responsibilities and that they act in a way that is accountable to the public.

Conclusion

- The effectiveness of mechanisms to ensure accountability in government institutions depends on various factors, including their enforcement, independence, transparency, and public trust. Strengthening these mechanisms requires a comprehensive approach that includes legal reforms, institutional strengthening, and promoting a culture of integrity. When implemented effectively, these mechanisms contribute to responsible and transparent governance, fostering trust between citizens and government institutions.

Q15. Examine the ethical implications of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on international relations and peacekeeping efforts. Discuss the role of international ethics in resolving the conflict and mitigating the humanitarian crisis.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Explain the ethical implications of the conflict on international relations (65 words)
- Explain the role of international ethics in resolving conflict (40 words)
- Also discuss the role of international ethics in mitigating the humanitarian crisis (35 words)
- Conclude by providing way ahead (10 words)

Introduction

- Ethics in international relations refers to the moral principles and values that guide the behavior and decision-making of states, international organizations, and individuals in the global political arena. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has had significant ethical implications on international relations and peacekeeping efforts. The conflict, which began in 2014, has raised concerns regarding territorial integrity, sovereignty, human rights violations, and the use of force.

Body

Ethical Implications on International Relations:

- **Violation of Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty:** Russia's annexation of Crimea and its support for separatist movements in eastern Ukraine have been viewed as a violation of Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. This raises ethical questions about respecting the borders and self-determination of nations.
- **Use of Force and International Law:** The use of force by both Russia and Ukraine in the conflict raises ethical concerns regarding the principles of proportionality, distinction, and non-combatant immunity under international humanitarian law. The ethical imperative of minimizing harm to civilians and infrastructure is essential in any armed conflict.

- **Impacts on International Norms and Treaties:** The conflict has implications for international norms and treaties, such as the **United Nations Charter and the Helsinki Accords**, which emphasize respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peaceful resolution of disputes. Violations of these norms and treaties can erode the trust and adherence to the international legal framework, impacting the overall ethical fabric of international relations.

Role of International Ethics in Conflict Resolution:

- **Peaceful Negotiations and Diplomacy:** International ethics calls for the resolution of conflicts through peaceful negotiations and diplomacy. Ethical principles, such as respect for sovereignty, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, should guide diplomatic efforts to find a just and equitable solution to the conflict.
- **Mediation and Conflict Resolution Mechanisms:** International organizations, such as the United Nations and regional bodies, have a role to play in promoting ethical approaches to conflict resolution. Mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms can help facilitate dialogue, address grievances, and find mutually acceptable solutions to the conflict.
- **Humanitarian Assistance and Protection of Civilians:** International ethics places a strong emphasis on the protection of civilians and the provision of humanitarian assistance. Ethical obligations require all parties involved in the conflict to ensure the safety and well-being of civilians, allow access to humanitarian aid, and facilitate the delivery of essential services.
- **Accountability and Justice:** International ethics emphasizes the importance of accountability and justice in resolving conflicts. Holding perpetrators accountable for human rights violations and ensuring justice for victims can contribute to healing, reconciliation, and long-term peace.

Mitigating the Humanitarian Crisis:

- **Ensuring Humanitarian Access:** All parties involved in the conflict should facilitate unimpeded access for humanitarian organizations to provide essential aid and services to affected populations.
- **Protecting Civilians:** Ethical considerations demand that parties to the conflict take all necessary measures to protect civilians, including the prohibition of attacks on civilian areas and infrastructure.
- **Refugee and Displaced Persons Support:** Efforts should be made to aid and protect refugees and internally displaced persons, including access to food, shelter, healthcare, and legal support.
- **Promoting Reconciliation and Reconstruction:** Post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction efforts should focus on addressing grievances, promoting intercommunal dialogue, and rebuilding infrastructure to restore normalcy and foster long-term stability.

Conclusion

- Upholding international ethics is crucial in resolving conflicts and mitigating the humanitarian crisis. The role of international ethics lies in promoting peaceful negotiations, protecting human rights, providing humanitarian assistance, ensuring accountability, and fostering reconciliation. Efforts should be made at both the national and international levels to address the ethical dimensions of the conflict and work towards a just and equitable resolution.

Q16. Discuss the ethical considerations involved in international funding and development assistance. Propose strategies to enhance ethical practices and governance mechanisms in international funding for achieving equitable and inclusive development.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Define ethical considerations (10 words)
- Explain the ethical considerations involved in international funding and development assistance (75 words)
- Give strategies to enhance ethical practices and governance mechanisms (65 words)
- Conclude by providing way ahead (10 words)

Introduction

- Ethical considerations refer to the moral principles and values that guide decision-making and behavior in various contexts. They play a crucial role in international funding and development assistance. When providing financial support to countries or organizations, it is essential to uphold principles of fairness, transparency, accountability, and sustainability.

Body

Ethical Considerations in International Funding and Development Assistance:

- **Fairness and Equity:** International funding should prioritize fairness and equity, ensuring that resources are allocated based on the needs and priorities of recipient countries. This requires considering factors such as poverty levels, social inequality, and the marginalized and vulnerable populations within a country.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Transparency is vital to build trust and ensure accountability in the use of funds. Donors and recipients should have clear mechanisms for reporting and monitoring the utilization of resources. This includes disclosing information on funding sources, project selection, implementation progress, and results achieved.
- **Sustainability and Long-Term Impact:** Ethical funding practices focus on promoting sustainable development that benefits present and future generations. Funding should prioritize projects that have long-term positive impacts, considering environmental, social, and economic sustainability. This includes investing in renewable energy, conservation efforts, education, healthcare, and infrastructure development.
- **Local Ownership and Participation:** Ethical practices involve engaging local communities and stakeholders in the decision-making process. Funding mechanisms should ensure the active participation of local communities, civil society organizations, and marginalized groups. This promotes empowerment, inclusivity, and the creation of locally-driven solutions.
- **Cultural Sensitivity and Contextual Understanding:** Ethical considerations involve cultural sensitivity and understanding the local context in international funding and development assistance. Donors and aid organizations should respect cultural diversity, avoid imposing values or practices that may undermine local customs, and tailor interventions to the specific needs and aspirations of the communities they serve.

Strategies to Enhance Ethical Practices and Governance Mechanisms:

- Strengthen the **transparency and accountability of international funding mechanisms**. This includes requiring clear and transparent reporting on how funds are being used, as well as providing opportunities for meaningful public participation in decision-making.
- Promote the **participation of women and marginalized groups** in the design, implementation, and monitoring of international development projects. This will help to ensure that these groups benefit from development efforts and that their voices are heard.
- Adopt a **rights-based approach** to international development. This means ensuring that all people have the same rights and opportunities, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, disability, or social status.
- Support the development of strong and independent national institutions that can uphold ethical standards and promote good governance. This includes institutions such as **anti-corruption commissions, ombudspersons, and human rights commissions**.
- Invest in education and training to raise awareness of ethical standards and good governance practices. This will help to create a culture of ethics and accountability in the public and private sectors.

Conclusion

- Prioritizing fairness, transparency, accountability, sustainability, and inclusivity contributes to achieving equitable and inclusive development outcomes. By strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing monitoring and evaluation systems, promoting partnerships, engaging in dialogue, building capacity, and promoting ethical investment principles, we can enhance ethical practices and governance mechanisms in international funding, fostering sustainable development and addressing global challenges effectively.

Q17. Examine the challenges faced in upholding probity in the public sector, including corruption, nepotism, and conflicts of interest.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Explain what is probity (25 words)
- Discuss the challenges faced in upholding probity (100 words)
- Conclude by briefly explaining the measures that can be taken to address these challenges (25 words)
- Conclusion (10 words)

Introduction

- Probity refers to the quality of having strong moral principles and integrity, particularly in the context of professional conduct and public life. It encompasses honesty, transparency, accountability, and adherence to ethical standards in one's actions and behavior. Upholding probity in the public sector, which includes maintaining integrity, transparency, and ethical conduct, can be challenging due to various factors such as corruption, nepotism, and conflicts of interest.

Body

The challenges faced in upholding probity are:

- **Corruption:** Corruption poses a significant challenge to probity in the public sector. It involves the misuse of public resources, bribery, embezzlement, and unethical practices for personal gain. Corruption undermines trust in public institutions, hampers the efficient delivery of public services, and perpetuates inequality and poverty.
- **Nepotism and Favouritism:** Nepotism refers to the unfair preference given to family members or close acquaintances in public sector appointments or decision-making processes. This undermines meritocracy and can lead to the recruitment of unqualified or incompetent individuals. Nepotism erodes public trust and negatively impacts the efficiency and effectiveness of public institutions.
- **Conflicts of Interest:** Conflicts of interest occur when public officials have personal or financial interests that may influence their decision-making, compromising the impartiality and integrity of their actions. Conflicts of interest can lead to biased decision-making, favoritism towards specific individuals or organizations, and the misuse of public resources for personal gain.
- **Lack of Accountability and Oversight:** Weak accountability mechanisms and inadequate oversight contribute to challenges in upholding probity. Insufficient checks and balances, limited transparency, and ineffective enforcement of laws and regulations create an environment where corrupt practices can thrive and go unchecked.
- **Institutional Culture and Ethical Leadership:** The culture within public institutions plays a crucial role in upholding probity. In some cases, an organizational culture that tolerates or even encourages unethical behavior can hinder efforts to maintain integrity. Lack of ethical leadership and role models within the public sector can further exacerbate these challenges.
- **Whistleblower Protection:** Fear of reprisal or lack of adequate protection for whistleblowers who expose wrongdoing can discourage individuals from coming forward with information about corruption or unethical practices. This lack of protection undermines efforts to address probity issues effectively.

Conclusion

- Addressing these challenges and upholding probity in the public sector requires concerted efforts and comprehensive strategies. It involves strengthening legal and regulatory frameworks, promoting transparency and accountability, cultivating a culture of integrity, building capacity and awareness, implementation of **2nd ARC recommendations**, and fostering international cooperation. Efforts to combat corruption, nepotism, and conflicts of interest should be comprehensive, sustained, and involve the active participation of all stakeholders, including government, civil society, and the private sector.

Q18. Examine the concept of virtue ethics and its relevance in contemporary ethical decision-making. Discuss the challenges and benefits of applying virtue ethics in public administration, and provide examples to support your arguments.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Explain what is virtue ethics (25 words)
- Also explain its relevance in contemporary ethical decision-making (50 words)
- Analyse the challenges and benefits of applying virtue ethics by giving examples (65 words)
- Conclusion (10 words)

Introduction

- Virtue ethics is a philosophical approach that emphasizes the development of virtuous character traits to guide ethical decision-making. It focuses on the moral character of individuals and highlights the importance of cultivating virtues such as honesty, fairness, compassion, and integrity. In contemporary ethical decision-making, virtue ethics offers a valuable framework for navigating complex moral dilemmas and promoting ethical behavior.

Body

Relevance of Virtue Ethics in Contemporary Ethical Decision-Making:

- **Emphasis on Character Development:** Virtue ethics places significant importance on the development of moral character. In contemporary society, where ethical challenges are complex and multifaceted, focusing on personal virtues can provide individuals with a strong foundation for ethical decision-making.
- **Holistic Approach to Ethics:** Unlike other ethical theories that focus on rules or consequences, virtue ethics takes a holistic approach. It considers the context, intentions, and character of individuals when evaluating ethical choices. This approach allows for a more nuanced understanding of moral dilemmas and encourages individuals to consider long-term consequences and the impact of their actions on others.
- **Promotion of Ethical Leadership:** Virtue ethics emphasizes the cultivation of virtues in leaders. Ethical leaders who embody virtues such as integrity, fairness, and empathy can inspire and influence others to act ethically. In contemporary society, where ethical leadership is crucial, virtue ethics provides a framework for developing leaders who prioritize the common good and act as moral exemplars.
- **Long-Term Perspective:** Virtue ethics takes a long-term perspective, focusing on the development of enduring virtues rather than immediate outcomes. It recognizes that ethical decision-making is not about short-term gains but about character development and moral growth over time.
- **Relationship-Centered Ethics:** Virtue ethics recognizes the significance of relationships and the impact they have on ethical decision-making. It emphasizes virtues such as honesty, empathy, and fairness in interpersonal interactions. By focusing on developing virtuous character traits, individuals can build and maintain healthy, respectful, and ethical relationships.

Challenges of Applying Virtue Ethics in Public Administration:

- **Subjectivity and Interpretation:** One of the challenges of virtue ethics in public administration is the subjective nature of virtues and their interpretation. Different individuals may have different understandings of virtues, leading to potential conflicts and inconsistencies in decision-making. For example, one administrator may prioritize the virtue of justice, while another may emphasize the virtue of compassion. This subjectivity can create challenges in achieving consensus and consistency in ethical decision-making.
- **Balancing Conflicting Virtues:** Virtue ethics emphasizes the cultivation of multiple virtues, such as integrity, fairness, and empathy. However, public administrators often face situations where these virtues come into conflict. Balancing and prioritizing virtues can be challenging and require careful deliberation. For instance, a public administrator may need to balance the virtue of honesty with the virtue of loyalty when faced with a situation where disclosing certain information could harm a colleague or jeopardize organizational trust.
- **Ethical Pluralism and Stakeholder Interests:** Public administration involves serving diverse stakeholders with different values, interests, and expectations. This presents challenges in determining which virtues to prioritize when there are conflicting stakeholder perspectives. For example, a public administrator may face a

dilemma between the virtue of transparency and the virtue of confidentiality when dealing with sensitive information that affects various stakeholders.

Benefits of Applying Virtue Ethics in Public Administration:

- **Fostering Ethical Organizational Culture:** Applying virtue ethics in public administration can help foster an ethical organizational culture. When public administrators exhibit virtues such as honesty, fairness, and accountability, it sets a positive example for employees and promotes a culture of ethical behavior throughout the organization.
- **Promoting Public Trust:** Virtuous behavior in public administration, such as transparency, integrity, and respect for citizens' rights, builds public trust. When public administrators consistently demonstrate virtuous conduct, it enhances the credibility and legitimacy of government institutions and fosters citizen confidence in the decision-making process.
- **Guiding Ethical Decision-Making in Complex Situations:** Virtue ethics provides a framework for navigating complex ethical dilemmas in public administration. By considering the virtues and character traits relevant to a particular situation, public administrators can make more informed and ethically sound decisions that prioritize the common good.
 - For example, a public administrator who values integrity and transparency may implement policies that ensure open access to information, accountability in decision-making processes, and avoidance of conflicts of interest.

Conclusion

- Applying virtue ethics in public administration can bring numerous benefits such as ethical leadership, a long-term perspective, the promotion of the public good, and the cultivation of trust and positive relationships. However, challenges arise due to subjectivity, balancing conflicting virtues, and navigating ethical pluralism. Addressing these challenges requires ongoing reflection, ethical education, and the development of shared values to ensure a consistent and virtuous approach to decision-making in public administration.

Q19. Analyse the challenges faced in implementing Citizen's Charters effectively and suggest measures to enhance their implementation for improving public service delivery and accountability.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Explain what is citizen's charter (25 words)
- Explain the challenges faced in implementing Citizen's Charters (50 words)
- Also suggest measures to enhance charter's implementation (65 words)
- Conclusion (10 words)

Introduction

- A Citizen's Charter is a document that outlines the rights, entitlements, and expectations of citizens in their interactions with government departments and any other public or private organisations. It sets standards for the quality and delivery of public services and establishes a framework for ensuring accountability and transparency in governance. It is a public commitment to quality, transparency, and accountability.

Body

Implementing Citizen's Charters effectively can be challenging due to various factors. **Some of the key challenges include:**

- **Lack of Awareness and Participation:** One of the major challenges is the limited awareness and participation of citizens in the implementation of Citizen's Charters. Many citizens may be unaware of their rights and the standards of services they are entitled to, making it difficult to hold public service providers accountable.
- **Resistance to Change:** Implementing Citizen's Charters often requires changes in the existing bureaucratic culture and mindset. Resistance to change from within the public administration can hinder the effective

implementation of the Charters and the necessary reforms.

- **Capacity Constraints:** Public service providers may lack the necessary resources, infrastructure, and skills to meet the standards set in the Citizen's Charters. Limited capacity and outdated systems can hinder the delivery of quality services and impact the implementation process.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are essential for assessing the performance and compliance of public service providers with the standards outlined in the Citizen's Charters. However, establishing robust monitoring and evaluation systems can be a challenge, leading to a lack of accountability and difficulty in identifying areas of improvement.
- **Political Interference and Corruption:** Political interference and corruption can undermine the effective implementation of Citizen's Charters. When political interests take precedence over public service delivery, it becomes challenging to ensure transparency, fairness, and accountability in the system.

To enhance the implementation of Citizen's Charters and improve public service delivery and accountability, the following measures can be adopted:

- **Awareness and Education Campaigns:** Conducting widespread awareness campaigns to educate citizens about their rights, entitlements, and the standards of services outlined in the Citizen's Charters. Empowering citizens with information will enable them to hold public service providers accountable.
- **Strengthening Institutional Capacity:** Investing in capacity building initiatives to equip public service providers with the necessary skills, resources, and infrastructure to meet the standards set in the Citizen's Charters. Training programs, technology adoption, and performance management systems can enhance their capacity to deliver quality services.
- **Transparent and Participatory Processes:** Engaging citizens in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of Citizen's Charters. Involving stakeholders in decision-making processes, seeking feedback, and conducting regular public consultations can enhance transparency and accountability.
- **Robust Monitoring and Evaluation Mechanisms:** Establishing effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the performance of public service providers and track progress in meeting the standards outlined in the Citizen's Charters. Regular evaluations and reporting can identify gaps, facilitate corrective actions, and ensure accountability.
- **Addressing Corruption and Political Interference:** Implementing anti-corruption measures and creating a conducive environment that minimizes political interference in public service delivery. Strengthening accountability mechanisms and promoting a culture of integrity can help combat corruption and enhance the effectiveness of Citizen's Charters.
- **Continuous Review and Improvement:** Regularly reviewing and updating the Citizen's Charters based on feedback, changing needs, and emerging challenges. Continuous improvement and learning from best practices can contribute to the effective implementation of the Charters.

Conclusion

- Implementing Citizen's Charters effectively faces challenges such as lack of awareness, resistance to change, capacity constraints, monitoring and evaluation issues, and political interference. By adopting measures such as awareness campaigns, capacity building, transparent processes, robust monitoring, and addressing corruption, the implementation of Citizen's Charters can be enhanced, leading to improved public service delivery and accountability.

Q20. Critically analyse the role of a code of ethics in shaping the behavior and decision-making of public servants.

(10 Marks, 150 Words)

Approach

- Explain what is a code of ethics (25 words)
- Explain the role of ethics in shaping the behavior and decision-making of public servants (100 words)
- Conclude by providing way ahead (25 words)

Introduction

- A code of ethics is a set of principles, values, and standards that guide the behavior and decision-making of individuals within a particular profession, organization, or field. It serves as a framework to promote ethical conduct, integrity, and professionalism in carrying out duties and responsibilities.

Body

It plays a crucial role in shaping the behavior and decision-making of public servants in the following ways:

- Providing Guidance:** A code of ethics outlines the principles, values, and standards of conduct expected from public servants. It serves as a guide to help them navigate ethical dilemmas and make decisions that align with the principles of integrity, accountability, fairness, and transparency.
- Setting Expectations:** A code of ethics sets clear expectations for the behavior and professionalism of public servants. It establishes a standard of conduct that fosters public trust and confidence in the integrity and competence of the public sector.
- Promoting Ethical Culture:** A well-defined code of ethics promotes an ethical culture within public institutions. It creates a shared understanding of ethical expectations and encourages a collective commitment to upholding high standards of integrity and professionalism.
- Upholding Public Interest:** A code of ethics emphasizes the primacy of the public interest. It reminds public servants of their duty to act in the best interest of the public, ensuring that their decisions and actions prioritize the welfare of citizens and the greater good.
- Preventing Misconduct and Corruption:** A robust code of ethics acts as a deterrent against misconduct, corruption, and unethical behaviour. It provides a framework for identifying and addressing conflicts of interest, promoting transparency, and holding public servants accountable for their actions.
- Enhancing Accountability:** A code of ethics strengthens accountability mechanisms by providing a basis for evaluating the conduct and performance of public servants. It enables the establishment of mechanisms for reporting violations, conducting investigations, and imposing appropriate disciplinary measures.

Limitations of code of ethics:

- They can be too general. Codes of ethics are often written in general terms, which can make it difficult to apply them to specific situations.
- They can be outdated. Codes of ethics need to be updated regularly to reflect changes in the ethical landscape.
- They can be ignored. Even if a code of ethics is well-written and up-to-date, it can be ignored by individuals or organizations.
- They can be difficult to enforce. There may be no clear consequences for violating a code of ethics, which can make it difficult to enforce.

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Conclusion

- While a code of ethics plays a significant role in shaping the behavior and decision-making of public servants, its effectiveness depends on various factors. The code of ethics should be written in clear and concise language that is easy for everyone to understand. It should be updated regularly to reflect changes in the ethical landscape. Employees should be trained on the code of ethics so that they understand the expectations and how to apply them in their work. The organization should create a culture of ethics where ethical behavior is valued and rewarded.

Q21. Rajesh, a Senior Manager at an esteemed multinational company, was facing a challenging situation. The company was going through a tough phase, with declining sales and increasing pressure from stakeholders to improve financial performance. Rajesh's division, which had been a key revenue generator in the past, was struggling to secure new contracts and projects.

During a crucial board meeting, the Managing Director expressed deep concern over the division's underperformance and emphasized the need to secure a major government contract. Rajesh knew that landing such a contract could turn the tables for the company and secure his position, as well as those of his team members. The pressure on him to deliver results and meet targets was mounting, both professionally and personally.

Amidst this challenging scenario, Rajesh received a call from his childhood friend, Ankit, who worked for a competitor company. Ankit informed Rajesh about a confidential upcoming tender from the Ministry of Defence that their competitor was preparing to bid on. He offered Rajesh detailed information about the tender, including their bid strategy and pricing. Ankit proposed a secret alliance between the two companies, where Rajesh could use this inside information to outbid their competitor and secure the lucrative contract. Rajesh was caught in a moral dilemma.

- Analyse the ethical dimensions of this case study.
- What are the options available? Analyse.
- Also discuss the course of action to be followed.

(20 Marks, 250 Words)

Approach

- Write the summary of the case briefly
- Analyse the ethical dimensions of the case
- Write the options available and analyse each option by writing merits and demerits of each
- Write the course of action that has to be followed by Rajesh
- Conclude by writing the values that have to be upheld by Rajesh

Introduction

- Rajesh is working in a company which is going through a tough phase financially. The company is in need of a contract which could help it regain its position. Rajesh is under pressure to meet the targets. During this time, his friend Ankit proposed a secret alliance between the company in which he is working and Rajesh's company. Rajesh is in an ethical dilemma.

Body

(a) Ethical Dimensions:

- Integrity and Honesty:** Rajesh must consider the principles of integrity and honesty in his decision-making process. He is aware that accepting Ankit's proposal would involve betraying his company's trust and engaging in unfair competition, which goes against these ethical principles.
- Fair Competition:** Rajesh needs to consider the ethical implications of using inside information to gain an

unfair advantage in the bidding process. Unfair competition can harm the reputation of both companies involved and undermine the trust of stakeholders.

- **Loyalty and Professional Obligations:** As a Senior Manager, Rajesh has a duty of loyalty towards his employer. He must prioritize the interests of his company and adhere to legal and professional obligations, including maintaining confidentiality and avoiding conflicts of interest.
- **Organizational Culture and Values:** Rajesh should reflect on the values and ethical culture of his company. Engaging in unethical behavior contradicts the values of integrity, fairness, and ethical conduct that are expected in most reputable organizations. Upholding these values is essential for fostering a positive work environment and maintaining the trust of stakeholders.

(b) Options Available:

(1) Reject the Proposal

Merits:

- Rejecting the proposal demonstrates a commitment to ethical values such as integrity, honesty, and fair competition.
- Rajesh protects the reputation and integrity of his company. It sends a strong message that the company values ethical conduct and operates with transparency and fairness.
- It helps build trust among stakeholders, including clients, employees, and investors. This can lead to long-term credibility and sustainable relationships with key stakeholders.

Demerits:

- Rejecting the proposal may result in short-term setbacks, such as losing the opportunity to secure the government contract and meet financial targets.
- It might strain Rajesh's personal relationship with Ankit, who made the unethical proposal. Rajesh's company may face a competitive disadvantage against rival companies that engage in unethical practices.
- This could affect market share, financial performance, and the overall competitiveness of the company in the short term.

(2) Report the situation

Merits:

- It demonstrates a commitment to ethical values, including integrity, transparency, and accountability.
- It helps mitigate potential risks associated with unethical practices.
- By exposing the wrongdoing, it allows the company to take corrective actions, implement preventive measures, and avoid potential legal and reputational consequences.
- It fosters an environment where employees are encouraged to act ethically and are protected from potential retaliation.

Demerits:

- Rajesh might face backlash, including potential retaliation from those involved in the unethical practices.
- It may strain relationships with colleagues and superiors who are involved in unethical activities.
- It may expose the company to reputational risks, particularly if the matter becomes public or affects the trust and confidence of stakeholders, such as clients, investors, or the general public.
- It does not guarantee immediate resolution or a favourable outcome.

Seek legal and ethical advice

Merits:

- Seeking legal and ethical advice allows Rajesh to receive expert counsel from professionals who specialize in the field.
- Legal and ethical advisors can offer an objective perspective on the situation, considering various ethical theories, principles, and standards.
- Rajesh can assess the risks associated with different choices and develop strategies to mitigate them. This can include understanding potential legal liabilities, reputational risks, and adverse consequences for the company and himself.

Demerits:

- Seeking legal and ethical advice can be time-consuming and costly, especially if Rajesh engages external consultants or legal professionals.
- There is no guarantee of a favourable outcome.
- Different legal and ethical advisors may provide different opinions and recommendations based on their perspectives and interpretations of the situation.
- Rajesh may need to reconcile conflicting advice and make a judgment based on his own understanding.

(c) Course of Action:

- The most ethical course of action for Rajesh would be to reject Ankit's proposal and uphold the principles of integrity and fairness. By prioritizing his professional obligations and the long-term reputation of his company, Rajesh demonstrates ethical leadership.
- He should also consider reporting the situation to his superiors, providing them with all the necessary details for further investigation and action.
- Rajesh should focus on exploring legitimate strategies to improve the company's performance and secure the government contract. This may involve leveraging his expertise, engaging with the team to brainstorm innovative ideas, and collaborating with other departments or external partners to enhance the company's competitiveness.

Conclusion

- Ethical decision-making requires courage and a willingness to prioritize ethical values over short-term gains. Rajesh can demonstrate his commitment to ethical conduct, uphold the principles of fairness and integrity, and contribute to the long-term success and reputation of his company by following the above course of action.

Q22. A pharmaceutical company, known for its ethical practices and high-quality products, developed a new drug to treat a life-threatening disease. After conducting extensive research and clinical trials, the company obtained all the necessary approvals from regulatory authorities for both domestic and international markets. The company marketed the drug internationally and received positive feedback from patients and healthcare professionals.

Encouraged by the success, the company decided to launch the drug in the domestic market as well. They obtained approval from the national drug regulatory authority, highlighting the drug's efficacy and safety profile. The company heavily promoted the drug, targeting patients suffering from the disease. However, a few months after the domestic launch, reports started emerging about adverse reactions and severe side effects among some patients who had been prescribed the drug. Concerns were raised regarding the drug's safety and potential risks to patients. A thorough investigation revealed that the company had withheld critical information about certain side effects and risks associated with the drug during the approval process.

Further scrutiny revealed that the company had manipulated data from clinical trials to downplay potential risks and exaggerate the drug's benefits. The company had compromised ethical standards and violated regulatory requirements to expedite the drug's approval and maximize profits. As a result, several patients suffered significant harm, and public trust in the company and its products was severely damaged.

(a) What action do you visualize should be taken by the competent authority against the pharma company for withholding the critical information about certain side effects and for manipulating data of clinical trials?

(b) What course of action is available with the pharma company to resolve the crisis it is facing?

(15 Marks, 200 Words)

Approach

- Introduce the case briefly
- Explain the action that has to be taken by competent authority
- Explain the course of action to be followed with reasons
- Conclusion

Introduction

- A pharma company heavily promoted and launched a drug targeting patients suffering from a disease. The usage of the drug caused severe side effects among some patients. Investigations revealed that the company had manipulated data from clinical trials to downplay potential risks and exaggerate the drug's benefits.

Body

- (a) The competent authority should take prompt and decisive action against the pharmaceutical company for its unethical practices, which have put patients' lives at risk and undermined public trust in the company. The following actions should be considered:
- **Imposing Regulatory Penalties:** The competent authority should levy appropriate fines and penalties on the company for violating regulatory requirements. These penalties should be significant enough to serve as a deterrent and reflect the seriousness of the misconduct.
 - **Revoking Approval and Withdrawing the Drug:** Given the gravity of the situation, the competent authority should consider revoking the approval granted to the drug and ordering its immediate withdrawal from the market. This step is necessary to prevent further harm to patients and to signal the authority's commitment to upholding public health and safety.
 - **Legal Consequences:** Article 47 of the Constitution highlights the importance of public health and the state's duty to protect citizens from the harmful effects of drugs and intoxicating substances. The competent authority should initiate legal proceedings against the company under Drugs and Cosmetics Act for its fraudulent actions, including withholding critical information and manipulating clinical trial data. The company should be held accountable through appropriate legal channels to ensure justice is served and to deter similar misconduct in the future.

By taking these actions, the competent authority can send a strong message that unethical practices will not be tolerated in the pharmaceutical industry, safeguard public health, and restore confidence in the regulatory system.

- (b) The pharmaceutical company should focus on mitigating the harm caused, rebuilding trust, and implementing corrective measures.
- The company should initiate an immediate recall of the drug from the market to prevent further harm to patients.
 - Simultaneously, the company should take prompt corrective measures to address the safety concerns, such as conducting a thorough investigation, rectifying the issues, and ensuring the product meets all safety standards so that it can try to win trust in the market again.
 - The company should establish a compensation mechanism for patients who have been adversely affected by the drug. This can include providing financial support for medical treatment, rehabilitation, or any other necessary assistance. Demonstrating a commitment to addressing the harm caused and supporting affected individuals is essential.

Conclusion

- It is essential for the competent authority and the pharma company to work together to ensure that appropriate actions are taken to address the misconduct, protect patient safety, and restore public trust in the company's ethical practices and products.

Q23. Avinash Singh, a senior civil servant, is currently serving as the District Magistrate in a region heavily affected by an ongoing drought. The district's

agricultural sector has been severely impacted, leading to a significant decline in crop production and widespread distress among farmers.

To address the situation, the state government announces a relief package of 100 crore rupees to provide financial assistance to the affected farmers. Avinash is assigned the responsibility of overseeing the implementation and disbursement of the relief funds.

As Avinash delves into the process, he discovers widespread corruption and mismanagement within the district administration. Several local officials and influential individuals are siphoning off funds meant for the farmers, leaving them in dire straits. Avinash also finds evidence of collusion between certain officials and powerful local politicians who are diverting a significant portion of the relief funds for personal gains.

Avinash faces a moral dilemma. On one hand, he is aware of the urgent need to address the suffering of the drought-affected farmers and ensure that they receive the relief they deserve. On the other hand, acting against the corrupt officials and influential individuals poses a significant risk to his own career and personal safety. The local politicians are known for their strong connections and can influence Avinash's transfer or even harm him physically.

- Analyse the ethical dimensions of this case study.
- What options are available to Avinash? Evaluate the merits and demerits of each option and suggest a course of action for Avinash.

(20 Marks, 250 Words)

Approach

- Write briefly about the case
- Analyse the ethical dimensions from all perspectives
- See the options available to Avinash for this case and analyse each option with merits and demerits
- Suggest the best course of action for Avinash
- Conclusion by writing the values that have to be upheld by Avinash

Introduction

- In the above case study, the state government announces a relief package of 100 crore rupees to assist affected farmers financially. Avinash who is responsible for managing the funds discovers widespread corruption and mismanagement within the district administration. The local politicians pose a threat to Avinash.

Body

(a) The ethical dimensions of this case study are

- Duty to Serve the Public Interest:** Avinash, as a senior civil servant, has a duty to serve the public interest and ensure the welfare of the drought-affected farmers. It is his responsibility to oversee the implementation of the relief funds and ensure that they reach the intended beneficiaries.
- Integrity and Honesty:** Avinash is faced with widespread corruption and misappropriation of relief funds. Upholding integrity and honesty is essential in this situation.
- Accountability and Responsibility:** As the District Magistrate, Avinash is accountable for the efficient and effective use of public resources. He has a responsibility to take appropriate action against corrupt officials and influential individuals who are diverting relief funds. Avinash must act in a manner that promotes transparency, accountability, and good governance.
- Courage and Whistle blowing:** Exposing corruption and challenging powerful individuals require courage. Avinash must consider the potential risks to his career and personal safety but should prioritize doing what is ethically right. Whistle blowing may be necessary to bring attention to the corruption and seek appropriate action from higher authorities or anti-corruption agencies.
- Balancing Personal and Professional Interests:** Avinash must carefully balance his personal interests, such as

career progression and personal safety, with his professional responsibilities to serve the public interest and protect the welfare of the farmers.

- **Legal and Regulatory Compliance:** Avinash must consider the legal and regulatory frameworks that govern his actions. He should work within the existing legal structures to expose corruption and take appropriate action against those involved.

(b) Options available to Avinash:

1. **Confront and expose the corruption:** Avinash can gather evidence of the corruption and bring it to the attention of higher authorities, such as the state government or anti-corruption agencies. This option upholds the principles of integrity and accountability.

Merits:

- Exposing corruption can lead to necessary action being taken against the corrupt officials, ensuring that relief funds reach the deserving farmers.
- It sends a strong message that corruption will not be tolerated and can help deter future misconduct.

Demerits:

- Avinash may face backlash from the corrupt officials and influential individuals, potentially endangering his personal safety and career.
- The process of investigation and legal proceedings can be time-consuming, delaying immediate relief for the farmers.

2. **Work within the system to mitigate corruption:** Avinash can adopt a more cautious approach and try to work within the existing framework to minimize corruption. He can closely monitor the implementation of relief funds, strengthen oversight mechanisms, and take strict action against any officials involved in malpractice.

Merits:

- This approach allows Avinash to maintain a balance between fulfilling his duty and minimizing personal risks.
- It can help in preventing further misappropriation of funds and ensure some relief reaches the affected farmers.

Demerits:

- Working within a corrupt system may not completely eradicate the problem and could be seen as compromising ethical principles.
- It might be challenging to identify and act against all individuals involved in corruption without sufficient support from higher authorities.

3. **Seek external support:** Avinash can seek support from external organizations, such as NGOs, media outlets, or whistleblower protection agencies. By bringing public attention to the corruption, he can garner support and create pressure for necessary action.

Merits:

- External support can provide additional protection for Avinash and increase the likelihood of the corruption being addressed.
- It can help in raising public awareness about the issue and mobilizing public opinion against corruption.

Demerits:

- Relying on external support can be unpredictable and may not guarantee immediate resolution.
- Avinash may still face risks and challenges, particularly if powerful individuals try to suppress the information or discredit him.

Course of action for Avinash:

Given the gravity of the situation and the need to provide immediate relief to the drought-affected farmers, Avinash should consider a combination of options.

- Avinash should discreetly gather as much evidence as possible to support his findings of corruption and mismanagement. This evidence should include financial records, witness statements, and any other relevant information that can substantiate his claims.
- He should report his findings to higher authorities in the state government, such as the Chief Secretary or the Anti-Corruption Bureau. He should provide them with a comprehensive report detailing the extent of

corruption, the individuals involved, and the evidence he has collected. This will help ensure that action can be taken at a higher level.

- Avinash should formally request personal protection from the state government, citing the potential risks to his safety due to the involvement of influential individuals. It is essential to emphasize the need for his safety to carry out his duties effectively.
- If Avinash feels that there is a lack of action or response from the state government, he may consider discreetly sharing the information with select media outlets or independent investigative journalists who have a reputation for handling sensitive issues. This step should be taken only after careful consideration of potential consequences and with the aim of putting pressure on authorities to address the corruption.
- Avinash should regularly monitor the progress of actions taken by higher authorities and follow up on the investigation. By staying involved and persistent, he can help ensure that the corrupt individuals are held accountable and that the relief funds are eventually disbursed to the affected farmers.

Conclusion

- Avinash should demonstrate courage and resilience in the face of adversity, striving to bring justice and relief to those in need. He should be guided by his commitment to upholding integrity and serving the welfare of the drought-affected farmers.

Q24. You are the District Magistrate of a small town known for its historical significance and tourism potential. The town has a renowned archaeological site that attracts many tourists every year. The local administration is responsible for the preservation and maintenance of the site to ensure its historical integrity and tourism revenue.

Recently, you received a proposal from a prominent real estate developer who wishes to construct a luxury resort near the archaeological site. The developer promises significant investment in the town, job creation, and economic growth. However, the proposed location for the resort is near the archaeological site, raising concerns about potential damage to the historical heritage and the environment.

The real estate developer has strong political connections and has approached you personally, offering substantial financial incentives and support for your future political career if you approve the project. They argue that the resort will boost tourism, generate revenue, and create employment opportunities, benefiting the local community.

On the other hand, several local historians, environmentalists, and concerned citizens have expressed their vehement opposition to the project. They argue that the construction of a luxury resort near the archaeological site will not only compromise the historical integrity of the town but also harm the environment, including the flora and fauna in the area. They stress the importance of preserving the cultural heritage and protecting the town's natural resources for future generations.

- Analyse the ethical dimensions of this case study.
- What options are available to you as the District Magistrate?
- Suggest a course of action that you would take as the District Magistrate.

(15 Marks, 200 Words)

Approach

- Write briefly about the case in introduction
- Analyse the ethical dimensions from all perspectives
- See the options available to you for this case and analyse each option with merits and demerits
- Suggest the course of action you would follow
- Conclusion by writing the values that you would uphold

Introduction

- The above case is of a real estate developer who plans to construct a luxury resort in an archaeological site. He has strong political connections and argues that the resort will generate employment opportunities to the local community. But historians and environmentalists oppose the project concerned about the historical integrity of the town and the harm to the environment.

Body

(a) Ethical Dimensions:

- Preservation of historical integrity:** The archaeological site holds historical significance, and preserving its integrity is important for honoring the town's heritage and maintaining cultural identity.
- Environmental protection:** Constructing a luxury resort near the archaeological site raises concerns about the disruption of local ecosystems, endangering flora and fauna, and contributes to pollution.
- Public interest and welfare:** While the resort may bring economic benefits, such as job creation and increased tourism revenue, there will be long-term negative impacts on heritage, environment, and quality of life for residents.
- Transparency and accountability:** As a District Magistrate, maintaining transparency and accountability in decision-making processes is crucial. Any perception of favoritism or corruption in approving the project could erode public trust and damage the reputation of the administration.
- Intergenerational equity:** Considering the interests and rights of future generations is a key ethical consideration. The decision to approve or reject the project should take into account the long-term consequences for future inhabitants, ensuring that their ability to appreciate and benefit from the historical site and natural environment is not compromised.

(b) Options Available:

| Option Available | Merits | Demerits |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| Approve the Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential economic growth and job creation in the local community. Increased tourism revenue, which could benefit local businesses. Support from the real estate developer, including financial incentives and promises of future political career advancement. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compromise of the historical integrity of the archaeological site. Potential harm to the environment, including disruption of local ecosystems and negative impacts on flora and fauna. Potential loss of trust and credibility from the public due to perceived favoritism or corruption. |
| Reject the project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preservation of the historical integrity of the archaeological site Protection of the local environment and its flora and fauna. Upholding transparency and accountability in decision-making. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential loss of short-term economic benefits, including job creation and tourism revenue. Potential backlash from the real estate developer and their political connections, which may affect your future career prospects. |
| Seek a Compromise | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore possibilities for a scaled-down or redesigned resort that maintains a respectful distance from the archaeological site. Engage in a dialogue with the real estate developer and stakeholders to find a solution that balances economic interests with the preservation of historical and environmental values. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding a compromise may not fully satisfy either side, leading to ongoing conflicts and challenges. It may be difficult to negotiate a solution that satisfies all stakeholders involved. |

(c) Course of Action:

- Considering the ethical dimensions and the available options, the best course of action would be to **seek a compromise that safeguards both the cultural heritage and the environment** while addressing the economic concerns of the local community.
- This involves organizing meetings and discussions with stakeholders, including the real estate developer, historians, environmentalists, local politicians, and citizens. Encourage an open and transparent dialogue to understand their concerns and perspectives.
- Conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment and feasibility study to evaluate the potential effects of the resort on the archaeological site and the environment. Ensure that the assessment is conducted by an independent and reputable agency.
- Work with the real estate developer to identify an alternative location for the resort that minimizes the impact on the archaeological site and the environment. Consider factors such as distance, accessibility, and potential economic benefits for the local community.
- Develop and enforce strict regulations and guidelines for the construction and operation of the resort to ensure the protection of the cultural heritage and the environment. Monitor the project closely to ensure compliance with these regulations.
- Conduct public awareness campaigns to educate the community about the importance of preserving the cultural heritage and protecting the environment. Foster a sense of ownership and responsibility among the citizens towards their town's historical and natural assets.

Conclusion

- By following this course of action, I can demonstrate transparency, accountability, and a commitment to balancing economic development with the preservation of cultural heritage and environmental sustainability. Upholding integrity and avoiding conflicts of interest is an important ethical principle.

Q25. You are a senior police officer in charge of a district known for its lush forests and wildlife sanctuaries. The region attracts many tourists and nature enthusiasts, making it a significant source of revenue for the local economy. The forests are also home to several endangered species.

Recently, you received reports and evidence from environmental activists and local villagers that some influential individuals and business groups have been involved in illegal activities, including illegal logging, poaching, and encroachment on forest land. These activities are posing a significant threat to the environment and endangering wildlife.

You decide to take immediate action to curb these illegal activities and protect the environment. You form a special task force comprising forest officials, police personnel, and environmental experts to conduct thorough investigations and raids to apprehend the culprits.

As the investigations progress, you encounter strong resistance from some powerful individuals and business owners involved in the illegal activities. They try to bribe and intimidate your team members to halt the investigations and turn a blind eye to the ongoing destruction of the forests and wildlife.

On the other hand, local communities and environmental NGOs wholeheartedly support your efforts and demand strict action against the offenders. They believe that protecting the environment is essential for the region's sustainable development and the well-being of the local communities.

Amidst mounting pressure from both sides, you must make a difficult decision. The illegal activities are causing irreparable damage to the environment and endangering the unique biodiversity of the region. However, taking strict action against the

powerful offenders could expose you and your team to threats and harassment.

- Analyse the ethical dimensions of this case study
- Explore the available options. Evaluate the merits and demerits of each option.
- Suggest a course of action for the police officer.
- In the above scenario, what type of training would you suggest for police officers posted to such districts where poaching, and encroachment on forest land are rampant?

(20 marks, 250 words)

Approach

- Write briefly about the case in introduction
- Analyse the ethical dimensions from all perspectives
- See the options available to you for this case and analyse each option with merits and demerits
- Suggest the course of action you would follow
- Suggest the type of training police officers should to be given to tackle the problems related to wildlife
- Conclusion by writing way ahead

Introduction

- The above case study is of a police officer who receives reports that influential people are involved in illegal activities such as poaching, and encroachment on forest land. The police officer and his team are being bribed by the offenders and asked to halt the investigation.


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Body

(a) The case study presents several **ethical dimensions** that need to be considered:

- Poaching and encroachment on forest land are detrimental to the ecosystem and threaten the survival of various species. Upholding environmental ethics involves prioritizing the long-term well-being of the natural environment over short-term economic gains or personal interests.
- As a police officer, there is a duty to enforce the law and maintain order in society. This includes addressing illegal activities such as poaching and encroachment. Upholding professional ethics involves acting with integrity, impartiality, and fairness, regardless of external pressures or personal relationships.
- The case study highlights the potential impact of strict enforcement on the livelihoods of local communities. Balancing the need for conservation with the socio-economic well-being of these communities is an ethical

challenge. It requires considering the rights and needs of marginalized groups and finding ways to address poverty and unemployment while ensuring environmental protection.

- Ethical conduct requires transparency in decision-making processes, enforcement actions, and resource allocation. Maintaining accountability helps build trust between law enforcement agencies, local communities, and other stakeholders. It ensures that actions are fair, consistent, and free from corruption.
- In addressing the case study, it is important to respect the human rights of all individuals involved, including the local communities, poachers, and encroachers. Respecting human rights includes fair treatment, due process, and avoiding any actions that may lead to discrimination or harm.
- Ethical considerations involve engaging with various stakeholders, such as local communities, NGOs, and conservation organizations. Collaboration allows for a more holistic approach to addressing environmental challenges, leveraging collective knowledge, resources, and expertise.

(b) Available options, and their merits and demerits:

| Option Available | Merits | Demerits |
|--|--|--|
| Proceed with the investigations and arrests | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upholding the law and protecting the environment from illegal activities. • Demonstrating a commitment to justice and the well-being of local communities. • Gaining the support and trust of local communities and environmental NGOs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facing resistance, intimidation, and potential threats from powerful individuals and business groups. • Possible harm to the personal safety of your team members. • Risk of retaliation and interference with the investigations. |
| Halt the investigations and turn a blind eye to the illegal activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would protect the senior police officer and their team from threats and harassment. • It would be less costly and time-consuming than continuing the investigations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would protect the senior police officer and their team from threats and harassment. • It would be less costly and time-consuming than continuing the investigations. |
| Work with the local communities and environmental NGOs to find a compromise solution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would allow the senior police officer to protect the environment and wildlife while also minimizing the risks to themselves and their team. • It would build trust and cooperation between the senior police officer, the local communities, and environmental NGOs. • It could lead to a more sustainable solution that addresses the root causes of the illegal activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It could be difficult to find a compromise solution that satisfies all parties involved. • It could be seen as a sign of weakness by the offenders, encouraging them to continue the illegal activities. |

(c) Course of Action:

- Considering the ethical dimensions and available options, a balanced approach is recommended. The police officer should prioritize law enforcement and environmental protection while considering the socio-economic

realities of the local communities.

- First ensure the safety and well-being of my team members by implementing strict internal protocols, including maintaining regular communication, providing necessary training, and enhancing security arrangements.
- Hunting, killing, capturing, trapping, trading, and transporting of wild animals is prohibited under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Continuing with thorough investigations and gathering substantial evidence against the individuals and business groups involved in illegal activities will ensure punishment to them.
- Approach The Forest Department and State Wildlife Board of the respective state as they are responsible for the protection of forests and wildlife. Collaborating with them can provide additional resources and expertise to tackle the situation effectively.
- Utilize the power of the media to highlight the importance of environmental protection and raise public awareness about the consequences of such crimes. Generating public support and public opinion can act as a deterrent against intimidation and harassment.
- Once sufficient evidence is gathered, proceed with filing formal charges against the offenders. Laws such as The Indian Forest Act, The Wildlife (Protection) Act, The Environment (Protection) Act, will help punish the people involved in the crimes.
- Keep local communities and environmental NGOs informed about the progress of the investigations, assuring them of your commitment to protecting the environment and addressing their concerns.

(d) In the scenario described, where poaching and encroachment on forest land are rampant, it is crucial to provide police officers with specialized training to effectively address these issues.

- **Training on environmental laws:** Police officers should receive comprehensive training on relevant national and international wildlife and environmental laws, including acts related to wildlife protection, forest conservation, and biodiversity preservation. This training should cover the legal framework, enforcement procedures, and penalties for offenses.
- **Training on different wildlife species:** Officers should be trained in identifying different wildlife species, their habitats, and behaviour patterns. This knowledge will help them in recognizing illegal activities such as poaching and trafficking of endangered species.
- **Training on wildlife crime scene investigation:** Training in crime scene investigation techniques specific to wildlife crimes is essential. Officers should learn how to collect and preserve evidence, analyse crime scenes, and collaborate with forensic experts to build strong cases against offenders.
- **Training in patrolling:** Specialized training in patrolling techniques, including the use of modern technology such as drones and thermal imaging, can greatly enhance the effectiveness of anti-poaching operations. Officers should also learn surveillance methods to gather intelligence and identify illegal activities.
- **Skills in community engagement:** Developing skills in community engagement and building trust with local communities is crucial for effective wildlife protection. Training should focus on fostering positive relationships, gathering information, and promoting community participation in conservation efforts.
- **Collaboration and networking:** Officers should be trained on the importance of collaboration and networking with other relevant agencies such as forest departments, wildlife conservation organizations, and intelligence agencies. This training should emphasize the value of sharing information and coordinating efforts to combat wildlife crimes.
- **Reinforce ethical conduct:** Training should reinforce ethical conduct, professionalism, and the importance of maintaining integrity in dealing with wildlife crimes. Officers should understand the ethical dimensions of wildlife conservation and the potential conflicts of interest they may encounter.

Conclusion

- Continuous training and capacity building programs should also be conducted to keep officers updated with the latest trends and techniques in combating wildlife crimes. It is also important to educate the general public about the importance of wildlife and environment protection.