

# IAS



# baba

One Stop Destination for UPSC Preparation

IASbaba's

# THINK & LEARN

Edition - 1

(Compilation of  
BEST ANSWERS)

[www.IASbaba.com](http://www.IASbaba.com)

**THINK AND LEARN-MAINS  
(120 MAINS QUESTIONS WITH ANSWERS)**

**GENERAL STUDIES ONE**

**Day 1) The Vijayanagara Empire is said to be the epitome of architecture in Southern India. What are the architectural traditions that inspired these architects and how did they transform these traditions? (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is not a typical Art and Culture question where by hearing some temple names and dance forms would help you. UPSC does not ask such questions these days. Instead they are concentrating on the concept, philosophy behind the art/culture/architecture in that particular era.

So, in this question, the main crux is not to just list out the salient features, but instead, we need to answer, from where the architects of the Vijayanagara Empire got inspired/enthused.

It might be shocking to believe that this question has been directly taken from wikipedia, thus, this is a fairly widely known concept, and is not just a random minute detail.

Thus, after giving a short introduction to the Vijayanagara empire, mentioning the King Krishnadevaraya, we need to change our focus on the first part – Traditions that inspired these architects. This can be done within 100 words.

Then the next part should be answered within the next 100 words – How these traditions were transformed by the architects to make their own style, mirroring the contemporary society. Since the Vijayanagara empire was constantly in war with Islamic kingdoms like Bahamani, they started introducing secular features into their own architecture.

While answering this, do mention two-three temples along with important places like Hampi etc.

**So, even our model answer would get one mark each for each point, thus, this answer would fetch around 6/10 in the examination. :)**

Ans) Vijayanagara empire, especially under King Krishnadeva Raya was a very prosperous kingdom which gave a lot of emphasis to the advancement of its culture, literature and architecture. The architecture of this Southern kingdom, present mainly around the Hampi area, consisted of not only large temples, but also other marvels like elephant sheds, city planning, aqueducts and many more.

**The main traditions that inspired these architects are -**

- a) In temple building, they followed the models laid down by the Chalukyas, Cholas and Pandyas.
- b) Like the other large kingdoms, they also spent lavishly on works of public utility, i.e. tanks, reservoirs, lakes, palaces and temples.
- c) Pre-dominantly Hindu temples, with large pillars, halls, gopurams and shikharas.

**And the architects completely transformed these traditions through -**

- a) The usage of Islamic architecture, like domes, arches and vaults. This was a new secular architecture, saliently different from the older traditions.
- b) Temples like Vitthala and Hazare Rama showed a change from the previous grandeur to simplistic and serene architecture.
- c) They also focussed on building carved monoliths within the temple, and the usage of wall paintings etc., as seen in the Virupaksha Temple.

Thus, Vijayanagar empire can rightly be called as the epitome of architectural wonder of South India.

**[Today's Top Answer for this question is by – Urvashi Saini](#)**

But, even her answer was lacking in few segments, so we are posting our review also alongwith the answer. But, she has tried to answer with the maximum number of points within the word limit, which is commendable.

The Vijayanagara empire brought such variations in south indian architectural as well as sculptural style that surpasses that previously in India.

Architects got inspired by various traditions and transformed them in following ways:-

>> They were greatly influenced by previous prospered cholas , chalukyas, hoysalas and pandyas style and produced vibrant combination of their architecture.

>> Under the constant threat of invasion, they used locally available hard granite because of its durability.

>> To meet king's ritualistic need, they switched from "vesara" or Deccan style monuments to Dravida style "Gopurams".

>> Their style had also another element of "carving and consecration" of large monoliths which was not seen in earlier centuries.

>> King also had Muslim architects in their court which enabled the harmonious exchange of architectural ideas. There are many 'arches', 'domes' and 'vaults' that show these influences.

The rich heritage of Vijayanagar empire , one of the UNESCO world heritage site, is an epitome of south indian architecture which also show example of flexibility in adaptability and combination of different kinds of architecture.

#### **Our Review to this answer -**

Hi Urvashi,

You have written it excellently, including all the important points, but what is worrisome is the structure. The question clearly asks two questions, in two different stages.

One, the traditions that inspired the architects. And two, how the architects transformed these traditions. You have indeed answered both the parts, but you have mixed them up too. Instead you should have divided your answer into two parts dealing with each question.

And yes, including names of at least two temples would have made your answer stand out. Right now it has all the required points, but the structure should have been designed a bit better.

Nevertheless, you would still get 4.5/10, solely for including all the important points.

Thank you and please do try to answer the other questions. :)

**Day 2) Compare and contrast the regimes of Himalayan and Peninsular rivers of India and examine their implications in the irrigation system of the country. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

The first part is a very fairly basic conceptual question, which can be written within hundred words, if you have done a basic reading of NCERT – Geography. The second part also is easy, but the mentioning of canal irrigation, tank irrigation and names of some dams would be enough.

So, here is a model answer, within 200 Words. We have tried to cut down on a lot of unnecessary information and points, keeping the examination environment in mind. Remember these basic points, you can easily write any answer within 7 minutes.

For a better practice, use a timer and try to write as fast as you can. This will teach you answer formulation and writing practice.

Ans) India is a land of rivers, which are mainly divided into two types based on various characteristics, like -

a) The Place of Origin – While the Himalayan rivers originate from the ice-cold glaciers adorning the high Himalayas, the Peninsular rivers are pre-dominantly rain-fed.

b) Lifetime of the River – While the Peninsular rivers get dried up during the summers due to shortage of rains, the Himalayan rivers are perennial, because even the melting of ice would produce more water.

c) The Himalayan rivers are known to bring fertile alluvial soil and deposit on its banks, thus creating very flat, fertile, agriculture plains in its watershed.

**Implications to the irrigation system -**

a) Canal systems are predominant in the Himalayan Rivers, due to the Plains and fertile soil, for example the Indira Gandhi canal.

b) Tank irrigation systems are used in the Peninsula, since the rivers are not perennial, it is prudent to store water.

c) Whereas dams are used in both types of irrigation systems, but they tend to displace a lot of people, which needs to keep in check.

These days, to have a level-playing field in both type of river-systems, inter-linking of rivers is also being considered.

[Today's Top Answer would go to – Pushkal](#), for giving a short, compact, concise answer within the word limit, including all the important points. These are the ones which can be realistically and practically can be written in the tense exam environment.

“Indian river system is mainly divided into Himalayan and Peninsular river systems having noticeable differences regarding pattern of flow, length, volume, etc. **These are:**

- 1) Himalayan Rivers (HR) are perennial while Peninsular Rivers (PR) are seasonal and depend on monsoons in summer season.
- 2) Flow of HR is antecedent while that of PR is super-imposed.
- 3) HR are larger, have wide basins, brought huge sediments while PR are smaller, narrow basin.
- 4) HR forms meanders due to large sediments while PRs don't have large catchment area, so, no shifting of course.
- 5) HR's are navigable while PR's are not navigable.

Since, HR are perennial, these are helpful for irrigation in northern region of India by increasing the ground water level, where tube well irrigation method is applied. These areas, where there are no rivers or rainfall is low, can be irrigated by constructing canals through these Perennial rivers like IG Canal in Rajasthan. But in case of PR, since these are seasonal, a major part of the south India remains dry and also, since soil of S. India is hard, mostly of igneous & meta rocks, it is difficult to build canals in these areas. So these regions mostly practice tank irrigation like regions of Andhra, Karnataka and Maharashtra.”

We shall not take those answers, which are excellent content-wise nor those answers which have included all the points, thus breaching the word limit by a huge margin.

Our Top Answers would be those, which are within 200 words, with simple English, easy to remember content, a bit generalist answer, yet which deal with a broader scope, trying to put in the maximum number of diverse points. :)

**Day 3) The French Revolution was an utter failure in regime change, but was a grand success in ideological change in the thinking of the masses. Discuss the various thinkers and the ideas behind this revolution. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

For this question, it will be prudent to explain the first statement well – Saying that the French Revolution was not able to abolish monarchy as such; in fact, it took another 70 years to bring in the ideas as laid by the Revolution, so the political factor did not change much. But what makes FR stand out is the major ideological change which it could bring in the thinking of the people. Most of the citizens were in the feudal mindset, and had no concept of equality, which was fully changed by some of the thinkers.

Then, mentioning each of the four thinkers and writing a compact one-line synopsis of his philosophy would do.

The Model Answer for this question is taken from the [Top Answer written by Santosh Venkatesh](#), and we don't think we can add any more to it.

Ans) "One of the main outcomes of the French revolution is the ideological impact it made in a global scale, including India. Ideas such as Liberty, Fraternity and Equality enshrined in the preamble of the constitution are from the French revolution

The ideologies and values for the French revolution came from the intellectual developments in France. Montesquieu spoke about separation of powers and Spirit of law. Locke and Voltaire expressed in their works the basic rights any citizen should have. Rousseau noted that Religious toleration and freedom of speech are essential. These intellectuals based their philosophies on rationalism and reasoning. These caught the imagination of the people of France who eventually became the social base for the events in French revolution such as Storming of Bastille.

But the regime change was a failure as political and economic conditions worsened .Inflation grew to epic proportions. The suspension of constitution, removal of civil liberties, the reign of terror and the beheading of the king did not reflect the ideals on which revolution was built.

Hence the success of French revolution can be based on ideals it created for future rather than its economic and political changes that followed it."

**Day 4) With great skill and masterful diplomacy and using both persuasion and pressure, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel succeeded in integrating the hundreds of princely states with the Indian Union. Discuss. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a fairly simple question. Start off with a small historical background with the Mountbatten Plan and the Indian Independence Act, 1947. Mention the three choices that the princely states got, and then explain how Sardar Patel and V.P.Menon.

Then give examples and do mention the special cases – Junagadh, Travancore, Hyderabad and Kashmir. This should be another 100 words.

Since this is a very simple question, and since this wouldn't deviate much, we see there is no need of a separate Model Answer.

So, the [Top Answer/Model Answer is written by Manis Srivastava](#) (Mainly because he included V.P.Menon into the answer, which means that he knows his history well :D)-

A) British India was divided into British India Provinces and Princely State Small & Large state ruled by Princes under control of British Supremacy. In India Independence Act, 1947 it was described that Princely State were free to join India or Pakistan dominion and it was dependent on these states rulers not upon peoples.

It was a big challenge for India to integrate these states. Sardhar Vallabhbai Patel (Home Minister) and V P Menon played a historic role in it.

1) Sardar Patel inspired them at the name of patriotism towards motherland and gave them assurance for security, communication & external affairs. Many princely state signed "Instrument of accession".

2) Junagadh, Manipur, Hyderabad, Kashmir accession was difficult one but Sardar Patel diplomacy made it possible in easy way.

a) The Junagadh issue was resolved after plebiscite.

b) The Hyderabad was integrated with help of army.

c) Manipur king signed "Instrument of accession" with assurance that internal autonomy of Manipur will be maintained.

d) Kashmir joined India with some conditions which are mentioned in Article 370.

Due to visionary idea & masterful diplomacy of Sardar Patel, Princely state became part of India and for his strong role in accession of princely state, He is known as Iron Man of India.

**Day 5) Critically analyze the condition of women in Ancient India. How was it different from the conditions in medieval and modern times? (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

The question asks for "critical analysis", so we need to give both positives and negatives throughout the ancient, medieval and modern history.

Starting with the Harappan culture, and mentioning the dancing girl figurine, through the Vedic age, the advent of Manusmriti, practices like Sati etc., till the rise of the social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy should be sufficient for this answer.

So, since this is a historical question, with not many new/varied points, IASBaba will not give the Top Answer as the Model Answer.



[Today's Top Answer goes to – Manan](#), for including all the points. Every other answer missed out on at least one point.

Ans) Though we are still to fully decipher the script of INDUS VALLEY civilization, archaeological findings like that of the MOTHER GODDESS point to the fact that women were given importance. Even in the RIGVEDIC AGE, the position of women was good. Women participated in the meetings of sabha, were considered important for the performance of rituals like yajnas etc. There have been no instances of gender segregation found relating to the RIGVEDA AGE. GAYATRI MANTRA was dedicated to the goddess of dawn.

The position of women comparatively declined in the LATER VEDIC AGE. Their presence in the rituals was no longer considered necessary. Society became increasingly male-dominated. But still their position was far better than in the medieval age. In the MEDIEVAL AGE, the position of women declined considerably. Though the practice of sati can be traced back to the ancient Gupta period, it became more frequent in the medieval age. Purdah system was in vogue. Women were not considered as able as men as is evident from the life and times of RAZIA SULTANA as well. This went on TILL modern AGE when people LIKE RAJA RAMMOHUN ROY, ISHWARCHANDRA VIDYASAGAR etc worked for the upliftment of women. Girls now started getting admission in modern schools .MAHATAMA GANDHI also worked a lot for women empowerment in his "constructive programmes" and also during the phase of struggle. WOMEN like USHA MEHTA, SAROJINI NAIDU ETC contributed immensely.

IN THE PRESENT times the position of women is improving .Women are being given equal importance as men but still there are many problems. Some households are still conservative. Problems of foeticide, infanticide, sexual harassment at work place still continue. BUT OVERALL POSITION IS IMPROVING .There HAVE BEEN MANY GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVT EFFORTS to address these issues so as to truly ACHIEVE the ideals of EQUALITY,SOCIAL JUSTICE AND LIBERTY for all as enshrined in our CONSTITUTION.

**Day 6) “Temperature, salinity and density differences in ocean water are the prime causes of ocean water circulation.” Elaborate. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a fairly simple factual question, where you need to list out the three factors – Temperature, Salinity and Density each, and explain how they cause ocean water circulation.

Brief introductions of what ocean currents are, a few examples of named currents, and a good conclusion would be more than enough.

[Today's Top/Model answer is written by – Chanakya](#), Even though the structure could have been cleaner, he is the only one who has included all the points.

Ans) The geographical location (latitude) will determine the temperature of the ocean. The rising temperature is directly proportional to the salinity. Salinity is also affected by the connectivity with the fresh water resources. Salinity is inversely proportional to the density.

Equatorial waters are less dense (as having more salinity and temperature) and the polar water are highly dense and highly dense waters tends to move towards low dense waters and the void is filled by these warm waters and dense waters will settle in the bottom.

The convergence of these cold and hot currents are creating a more fertile areas for fishing grounds, as these are creating conditions for wide continental shelves.

Some examples of these are Kuroshio and Oyashio currents of Japan, Benguela and North Atlantic drift currents etc.

The three factors are creating a balance in the global circulation of Ocean waters.

**Day 7) Compare and contrast the Indo-Islamic architecture with that of temple architecture in India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a fairly simple question, with some standard points where one compares the two distinct types of architecture. And do give some examples of both styles, and a mix of both styles too. Each about 100 words would be more than enough.

[The Top/Model answer for this question is by Subash Tadala](#) -

Ans) India is as diverse as the one which contain many architectural features, in which Indo-Islamic and traditional temple architecture triumphs. Though contrasted so much, the similar features are:

- a) Royal Patronage
- b) Existence of Interior Ornamental decorations
- c) Presence of Open courtyards
- d) Different styles in their architecture.

**The contrasting features between the both are:**

- a) Activity: Though temples mainly used for worshipping, there also involved cultural and literary works like Sangam literature evolution. In contrast, Islam architecture a part from mosques constructed tombs, gardens, Sarais where no cultural & literary activities took place, but people used to mingle.
- b) Main features: Temples are dominated by gopurams, shikaras, vimanas whereas Islam architecture can be seen with domes, arches, minars.
- c) Ornamental Features : Temples are adorned with sculptures and some mural writings, but sculptures didn't find place in Islam architecture which would have verses from Quran and some geometric features.
- d) Building Material: Sandstone, Marbles & destruction of used structures were employed for Indo-Islamic architecture where as Rock cut and stone boulders were used for Temple architecture.

Kailasha Ellora, Shore Mahabalipuram, Brihadeswara Thanjavur, Vishwanath Temple Kajoraho in temples and TajMahal, Qutub Minar, GolGumbaz of Bijapur, Juma masjid, Humayun Tomb in Islam buildings shows above contrasting features.

**Day 8) "After the World War 2, the strategy of the West towards Soviet bloc crystallised as a 'Policy of Containment". Critically analyse. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

**[Top Answer by Subhash Tadala](#) -**

Ans) Post world war2, the western countries' policies toward third world was guided by policy of containment of soviet bloc rather than appeasing them. The containment events are:

- a) Truman Doctrine: This doctrine assured to provide political, military and economic assistance to all democratic nations under threat from external or internal authoritarian forces- implicitly against soviet influence.
- b) Cuban Missile Crisis: This trail of suspicion made US to delink its relation with cuba for the last 5 decades, which was done to contain the soviet influence.
- c) Arming Militants in Afghanistan: To bail-out the soviet intrusion in Afghanistan, the west deliberately armed the local militants to stop soviet expansion.
- d) NATO- the military block formed not due to cooperation, rather due to suspicion and containing the soviet influence.
- e) Vietnam and Korean Wars: The fear of socialism influence by Russia, made the western countries to deliberately interfere in these wars though their own interests were not at stake.

In all these cases, the main proponent is containing communism rather than appeasing the third world for friendship. The 21st century demands appeasement rather than containment.

**Day 9) The freedom struggle was deeply influenced by the Press started by various National leaders, in both English and other vernacular languages. Critically examine this phenomenon and also comment on the reactions of the British on this peculiar national awakening. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This question is a mixture of both factual and conceptual part of history. In such questions, one has to concentrate more on the “phenomenon”, studied with relevant facts here and there. And if we see the directive here, it says “critically examine”, which means that we need to give some negatives about the influence of press on the masses too.

After answering those two parts of the first question, then we need to discuss about the reaction of the British (Mainly legislative ones). So, all in all, three parts, within 200 words for 10 Marks.

[Today's Top Answer is by – Nishant](#)

Ans) Be it the economic critique of British rule by Dadabhai Noaraji through ‘Voice of India’ or mass litigation by G.K Gokhale through ‘Sudharak’, emergence of ‘Indian Press’ played a pivotal role in the Nationalist Movement.

Founders of the INC were all prolific writers and used press as the chief instrument for politicization and formation of a national ideology. The press became the connecting link between the leaders and the masses. Mass-readings in remote villages became a national phenomenon. Every act of the government was subjected to criticism and dispersed through newspapers and magazines all over India.

Later, Mahatma Gandhi used the medium (through Harijan) to popularize his efforts for upliftment of the depressed class. Ironically, the press was also used to incite communal sentiments by both Hindu and Muslim extremists.

Seeing the popularity of Indian press, British government came down with a heavy hand to curb its impact. Through the Vernacular Press Act 1878, it empowered the magistrate to ban ‘vernacular’ papers spreading anti-government sentiments. In the aftermath of Swadeshi and Boycott movement, Indian Press Act 1910 was passed on similar lines as the VPA.

Despite the oppressing acts by the British, Indian Press was successful in achieving its goal with elan.

**Day 10) Landslides have become frequent hazards in the Himalayan regions. Examine the causes of these landslides and measures needed to mitigate them. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a very simple conceptual question, straight from the theory of Geography. Some of you might think why have we asked such a straight-forward question, which is unlike UPSC. Well, we wondered that a strong theoretical base is required in GS-1. And writing such questions will make your concepts rock-hard. So, at this stage we decided to ask such simple, yet, important questions every now and then.

Here, see that the question has asked for “Landslides in Himalayas”, so do examine the causes in this particular scenario. Give example of the Uttarakhand disaster too. But, the mitigation measures can be general ones with a broader perspective.

Each part for around 100 words would suffice for such a question.

[The Top Answer is written by IWRA -](#)

Ans) Landslide is an event of land dislocation from original place in a very quick time, mostly at high slopes. This leads to widespread disaster and sometimes loss of human life. In India, the Himalayan region, especially in Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh this problem is very frequent.

**Following are the major factors behind occurrence of landslides in Himalayan region:**

1. High slope: Primary reason is high slope of landform where land is loose.
2. Loss of vegetation: on the sloppy areas increases the possibility of landslides.
3. High rainfall: makes foundation weak by percolation of water beneath.
4. Earthquake: shakes the foundation and causes landslide.
5. Bombarding/blasting for development purpose: This is done for projects like dam creation, mining in nearby areas. Blasting weakens the foundation of surrounding areas and leads to landslide. Recently this problem was highlighted in Uttarakhand where after repeated warning from CAG, permission has been granted for many development projects which took such type of activities.

**Following measures are needed to control landslide:**

1. Embankment and Vegetation: Holds the ground
2. Proper drainage system: To avoid loosening of the soil beneath
3. Limited development activities: to be permitted only in limited areas and to be done after doing proper EIA.

For above activities, effective government regulation, citizen and community participation as well as co-operative corporate is needed.

**Day 11) Analyse the major differences between Carnatic and Hindustani classical music forms. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a straight-forward answer, but while listing the differences ensure that you cover a very broad perspective with wide ranging topics, Around 5-6 differences would be more than enough to get 5/6 marks.

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Anshika](#)

Ans) Prior to 13 the century there was only one music style, Post which the music system was divided into Hindustani and Carnatic, Hindustani has influence from Persian and Mughal Influence started making its place with Amir Khusro while Carnatic was popularised by Saint Purandaradasa.

Origin: Hindustani Music has its origin in several parts of north and north western India while Carnatic music originated in Karnataka region

Source: In Hindustani Music the main source is "Sangita Ratnakara " of Sarangdeva the carnatic music was popularised by Saint Purandaradasa and Carnatic Music trinity of Saint Tyagaraja, MuthuswamyDikshitar and Shyama Shastri.

Style: While carnatic music has one distinct style , Hindustani music has many different Gharanas or music style like Jaipur Gharana ,Gwalior Gharana

Ragas: Their are more Ragas in Carnatic style when compared to Hindustani Style Some of Ragas have different name in both like ShankaraBharanama in Carnatic is called Bilaval in Hindustani

Instruments: Instruments play an important role in music, Hindustani music the main accompanying instruments are tabla (a kind of preussion instruments ) , Sitar , Sarangi ( stringed instrument) ,Santoor, Clarionet etc

The accompanying instrument in Carnatic music style are Veena( stringed instrument) , Mridangam, Mandolin ,Violin, Gottuvadyam, Jalatarangam and like

Rendition : Raga, tala and Pallavi form Crux of Raga exposition in Carnatic,Raga exploration is given primary importance in Hindustani

These are some the differences between 2 well known classical music system of India.

**Day 12) Examine the role played by women in the 1857 revolt against the British. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This question is both factual and conceptual. For the facts part, you need to remember the various important women who have fought in the 1857 revolt – At least 4 women should be enough.

Then, examining their contribution and how they had an impact both on the British and the Indians would form the conceptual part.

**[The Top Answer for this question is written by Subhash Tadala -](#)**

Ans) 1857 revolt- the one which is called as first war of independence was mainly seen as a struggle led by soldiers, but women have their respective share in the revolt as follows:

- a) As Forefront Runners: This share will be taken by Rani Lakshmi Bai, Moti Bhai (to save lakshmi bai), Begum Hazrat Mahal, Rani avantibhai lodi and queen of Tulsipur who rebelled for though varied reasons stood as stiff resistance to British and had made the people to wage the struggle.
- b) As Messengers: The essential communication network was also led by common women along with men to deliver the right message that can step up the planned resistance.
- c) Inspiring others: A Bheel tribal women called Sursi, inspired his son who is a tribal leader to arm against the British though the reason may be other than the soldiers cause. This type of inspirations by women can be seen in local rulers also.
- d) Resistance by Common women: Though not in place with an army, women like Ashgari Begum, Asha Devi, and Bhagavati Devi resisted the British attempts to exploit in their local areas for which they welcomed death.

In this way, women role in 1857 revolt is not only comprehensive but also varied like their counterparts.

**Day 13) Critically comment on the contribution of Dr.Ambedkar to the cause of Dalit empowerment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

The pros of this question MUST contain the constitutional provisions, temple entry movement, the organization which Ambedkar had started and other important points. The cons of this question should have how his request for the communal electorates was in bad taste, his ideological conflict with Gandhiji and other smaller details.

This would be an easy question to solve if one has a basic reading of Ambedkar's life.

The Top Answer is written by - Aemmy

Ans) Dr. Ambedkar, himself a victim of caste discrimination was proponent of Dalit empowerment who envisioned a casteless and equal India.

His contribution

1. Created public opinion and raised dalit consciousness through newspapers like MookNayak and organizations like 'Bahiskrit Hitakarini Sabha'.
2. Led non-violent struggle such as Temple entry movement against dalit's denial of entry into temples, Mahad March for drawing water from public wells and tanks
3. Poona Pact: For the first time in Indian history it opened up opportunities of education and government service for them and also gave them a right to vote.
4. Supporting the cause for women's liberation from the caste-entrenched patriarchal system, he resigned from the Nehru's cabinet when it refused to pass the Hindu Code Bill.
5. He encouraged dalit to uplift themselves, get educated and change religion if need be.
6. His efforts led to incorporation of Constitutional provisions like prohibition of discrimination, equality of opportunity, abolition of untouchability, reservation in education and jobs, establishment of constitutional bodies like NCSC/NCST.

Some of his efforts can though be seen counterproductive like 'Communal Award', his ideological difference with communists and Marxists, his obstinate attitude towards casteism.

But due to his efforts, today we witness an India where oppressed classes walk around with confidence; of course many despicable acts of discrimination and violence against them still occur.

**Day 14) What are the political and economic reasons behind the persistence of gender inequality in Indian society? Comment.(200 Words, 10 Marks)**

The question asks for just factors – Political and Economic reasons. This gives us an advantage where we can concentrate wholly on these two factors, thus we can make an exhaustive list. So, dividing the answer into two parts, each with about 100 words should be more than sufficient for this question.



The Top Answer is written by – Sepoy No 1446

Gender inequality remains one of the pressing problems of India. Though the reason for this are mostly sociological, there are certain political and economical factors which contribute to gender inequality.

Political reasons:

This can be understood at two level: entry level and field level.

(1) Entry level:

(a) Women are under-represented in state legislative assemblies and Parliament (less than 15% representation). This is both cause-and-effect of Gender inequality.

(b) Money and Muscle power inherent to Indian political system has made politics a men's game and women are discouraged at the entry level itself.

(c) Failure to pass women reservation bill. This has led to (a) and (b).

(2) Field level:

(a) Lax implementation of laws: both constitutional as well as general laws. For example, the system of "Panchayat-pati" or "proxy sarpanch" defies the purpose of 33% reservation offered to women in local bodies. Similarly, laws ban female foeticide and dowry but they continue to plague our society.

(b) Political patronage: The tantrums of khap panchayat is because of political nexus and political patronage.

Economical reasons:

1. Still 1/3rd of rural families are landless. To support family women has to work on other's land which increases their vulnerability.

2. Poverty prevents young girl from attending schools and such their full potential is not developed.

3. Corporates still defy gender norms and prevent accession of women to top positions.

Most of these reasons derive their sources from social pattern of society and hence solution to the problem will need an integrated approach, targeting policy changes, policy implementation to changing mindsets of people around.

**Day 15) What is El-Nino? How is it caused and explain its significance to India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a straight-forward and a simple conceptual question. Here, we at IASBaba are trying to test your comprehensive understanding of a phenomenon and its significance, and the ability to put it all in 200 words. So, whenever you want to revise, just reading these 200 words should be sufficient.

Defining, explaining and listing down the causes of El-Nino should take around 100 words. The significance to India, both pros and cons should take another 100 words. There is always some kind of speculation about the El-Nino, both in the Economic Survey and newspapers, so it is a very important topic to understand.

**[The Top Answer written for this question is by – Santosh Venkatesh](#)**

Ans) El Nino refers to warmer than usual sea surface temperatures (SST) in the eastern tropical pacific ocean causing changes in global climatic conditions.

In a Normal year there is a strong cold Peru Current and strong trade winds .As a result warm water moves from Peruvian coast to Australia. But in an El Nino year there is a weakening of trade winds and warm waters from Australia move towards Peru .These low pressure conditions on eastern pacific (Peru) and relative High pressure conditions in Western pacific (Australia) cause a changes in global climatic conditions and rainfall pattern.

Significance for India

- i) An El Nino year could significantly weaken or delay the Indian monsoon.
- ii) Rainfed areas which are 60 % of Net sown area in India are heavily dependent on monsoon. El Nino could affect the livelihood of farmers due to crop failures.
- iii) A link between cycles of malaria and El Nino has been established recently.
- iv) IMD has indicated that output of Kharif crops such as rice may be impacted due to El-Nino. Pulses and Oil seeds may also need to be imported.
- v) RBI has shown concerns regarding El Nino's impact on Food prices and has shown caution in reducing interest rates.

Research on better Prediction models, increasing area under irrigation and Proper Maintenance of Contingency and Buffer stocks would help India tackle this phenomenon.

**Day 16) Examine the circumstances in which integration of Foreign Enclaves into the Union of India carried out.(200 Words, 10 Marks)**

The Indian sub-continent was not just divided into British Provinces and the Indian princely states on the eve of independence, but also various pockets of Portuguese and French colonies were present. So, the integration of these other foreign enclaves into the Indian Union is a totally different story.

(Answering about the Bangladeshi enclaves should not come within the scope of this answer. The exchange of Indian enclaves in Bangladesh and Bangladeshi enclaves in India is a different issue, and is out of the scope of GS-1 History, so do not get confused while writing this answer)

The structure of this answer can be divided into two parts, each dealing with the French and the Portuguese enclaves. Mentioning Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Goa, Pondichery is a must. Any more inclusion is welcome.

Well, all this should come within 200 words for a perfect answer.

[Today's Top Answer for this question is written by - Nisha](#)

Ans) After the formation of Union of India the major foreign enclaves were French and Portuguese. On gaining independence India opened negotiations with them for the transfer of territories.

French enclaves

Integration of French territories was done peacefully. After the formation Of Union of India the rising nationalism in the people and shift of French India socialist party to pro merger nationalism forced French government to sign a referendum with India. On November 1, 1954, the four enclaves karakal, mahi, yanam and puthucherry were transferred to the Indian Union and became the Union territory of Pondicherry.

Portuguese enclaves:

Portugal resisted diplomatic solutions and refused to transfer power to Union of India.

Dadra and Nagar Haveli:

Volunteers of United Front of Goans and Azad Gomantak Dal occupied Dadra and Nagar Haveli in 1954 and displaced Portuguese rule. The territories were subsequently merged into the Indian Union in 1961.

Goa, Daman and Diu:

Satyagrahas and revolts by Indian nationalists were suppressed by Portuguese government. From 1955-1961 Indian government tried to raise the issue before the international community. But Portugal resisted all overtures from India. On December 18, 1961, in Operation Vijay the Indian Army liberated Goa, Daman and Diu by force.

Portugal recognized the integration of territories into the Indian union only in 1974.

**Day 17) To what extent did the Sykes-Picot Line of international boundaries shape the history of Middle East in the post WW-I era? Discuss.**

If there is one single moment, in the history of the Middle-East crisis, that could be pin-pointed for the start of the crisis, then it is this – The Sykes-Picot Agreement. With just this one unfulfilled agreement, the Middle East boiled and the crisis hasnt stopped yet.

- a) Arabs started distrusting the West forever, after this backstab.
- b) Jews and Arab wars had their starting point here. Israel-Palestine conflict still continues to this day.
- c) The division of the whole Arab land in straight lines, without understanding the tribes, Shia, Sunni, Kurdish ethnicities etc., divided in arbitrarily. These made the Kurds not have a nation for themselves, but were distributed in all the countries, making them minorities in every nation. This has caused for intense internal fighting, which still affects the Middle East.

If this one single agreement was not made, and if it was not contradictory, then the whole of Middle East would have been a much better place. That is why, this is extremely important to understand.

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Sepoy no. 1446](#)

Ans) Skyes-Picot agreement took place in 1916 between Britain and France. It was a secret agreement to divide Arabia between these two countries with assent of Russia. The agreement was a deception to both Arabs and Jews belonging to this area.

The allied powers were getting reverses in War with the Ottoman Empire. They wanted Arabs and Jews support to win the war as well as establish their influence in the Middle East. MacMohan-Husseein correspondence promised Arabs of an independent state, while Balfour declaration accepted Jews demand of a separate homeland. These contradictory assurances became more complicated when Russia made the secret deal public after her 1917 revolution. Thus Skyes-Picot agreement never formalized.

Nonetheless it was an important event in history of Middle east. It influenced subsequent history in following ways:

1. Paris peace conference divided middle east on more or less similar lines to Skyes-Picot agreement, and made some ethnic groups such as Kurds nation less.
2. Earlier Arabs were sympathetic to Jews cause which got a dent after these secret agreements.
3. As per treaty of Sevres Britain got Israel similar to what was allocated under Skyes-Picot agreement. This conflicted zone has become sore of Middle East because of Israel-Palestine conflict.

The dynamics of Middle East changed after Skyes-Picot agreement. This agreement helped in institutionalizing Arab-Israeli mistrust and Anti-west feeling. This had led to a series of conflict in this zone since then.

**Day 18) Write a note on the contribution of Sufi tradition to the culture of India.**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Nishant](#)

Ans) Starting as a liberal reform movement within Islam, Sufism ended up making a valuable contribution to India's cultural landscape during the medieval period. It can be studied under the following broad headings:

#### Religion

1. Sufism stressed on elements such as love and devotion to God, service of humanity. These were later popularized by Bhakti Saints like Ramananda, Kabir etc. This brought man closer to God without the complex vedic-priestly philosophy and rituals.
2. Sufi sect became an integral part of Mughal rule especially under Akbar. The peaceful co-existence of different religions is a testimony to its universal appeal.
3. India's socio-religious revivalism in the 19th century drew inspiration from Sufism on ideas like monotheism, non-idolatry worship, social equality etc.
4. Sikh Religion was a direct result of Sufism.

#### Music

1. Added a unique character to the Hindustani School of Music as separate from Carnatic School
2. Amir Khusrao and Galib introduced singing styles like Khayal, Tarana and Ghazal
3. Popular for their flexibility and pace, these styles added romanticism and a poetiness to Indian Music
4. This music is used in Hindi movies in contemporary times.

Not in the grand forts or majestic temples, but among the common people is where Sufism left an indelible mark. Its impact echoes louder today than ever before.

**Day 19) Examine the importance of Tibetan Plateau in influencing the climate. Why has it been subject to intense meteorological studies in recent times? Discuss.**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Aditi](#)

Ans) Tibet is the largest and highest plateau in the world. It plays a very crucial role in initiating the monsoon circulation over the Indian subcontinent. Given its altitude and topography, Tibet gets more sunlight and becomes hotter than land at sea level.

-Due to increased land ocean temperature differences, a pressure gradient is caused and low pressure in lands (Tibet, NW India and Pakistan) attracts wind from Southern hemisphere, These wind pick up moisture from the ocean surface and finally monsoon arrives.

-Also heavy snowfall on Tibetan plateau increases surface fraction, it delays spring warming and delays summer monsoon over northern India.

-Glaciers are the source of major river system in Tibet and increase in glacier level could cause significant disruptions to the region as well as neighboring states.

The impact of climate change in Tibetan plateau region i.e. rising temperature, increase variability in precipitation and extreme weather event are likely to have socioeconomic implications. States within the region are taking steps towards building climate resilience. Researchers now have been deploying sensors to measure temperature, moisture in soil and cloud properties.

Climate change is affecting the seasonality of rainfall which affects the agriculture productivity, health, food and water security. To ensure sustained measures to prevent the socioeconomic and climatic conditions and priority must be placed on greater regional cooperation for implementing the results of researches and studies.

**Day 20) Several women leaders contributed immensely in shaping the constitution of India by participating in the debates of the Constituent Assembly of India. Discuss prominent contribution by women leaders in making constitution of India.**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Ajulkumar Pandya](#)

Ans) Role of Women in Constituent Assembly was meagre. Some 15 women out of 299 seats represented 48% (1941 Census) of female population of India in 1946

Important figures were:

Purnima Banerjee & Renuka Ray both supported Democratic Secular State, with no state religion.

Dakshayani Velayudhan: Opposed separate electorate for untouchables though she belonged to poor farmer family of low caste in Kerala.

Begum Aizaz Rasul & Rajkumari Amrit Kaur also opposed separate electorates for minorities and reservations of seats in legislative assemblies.

Hansa Mehta: Supported for uniform Civil Code

Durgabai Deshmukh: called protection of safeguarding Languages other than Hindi and English.

But, most of views and amendments of Women in Constituent Assembly were either failed to pass or were included in Directive principles of State policy, except Article 25.

Here, we can observe women's role was not limited to Gender matters only. They spoke against reservation but demanded complete political equality with men. I believe women took most progressive stand in Constituent Assembly.

**Day 21) No oil is found in Himalayas even if they are made from Marine sediments. Why is this so? Discuss the factors involved in the making of oil through natural processes.**

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Ajulkumar Pandya](#)

Ans) Crude oil is a fossil fuel that was formed from the remains of ancient marine organisms. Millions of years ago, algae and plants lived in shallow seas. After dying and sinking to the seafloor, the organic material mixed with other sediments and was buried.

The amount of pressure and the degree of heat, along with the type of biomass, determined if the material became oil or natural gas. More heat produced lighter oil. Even higher heat or biomass made predominantly of plant material produced natural gas.

Oil and Gas tended to migrate through tiny pores in the surrounding rock. They were caught under impermeable layers of rock or clay where they were trapped. These trapped deposits are where we find oil and natural gas today.

Reasons that Oil is not found in Himalayas:

1. High Tectonic activity decreases formation of source rock
2. Himalayas are formed by Continent – Continent convergence, so rocks founds are Granite or its Metamorphosed form, i.e. Gneiss.

By new geological studies scientist believe that there could be ample amount of oil and gas reserves in Lesser Himalayan basin. Though oil exploration in Himalayas has been not taken seriously, because of rough & tough terrain and biodiversity in the region.

**Day 22) Critically examine why had it become necessary to launch the Quit India Movement in difficult conditions that prevailed at that time, when the possibility of brutal repression by the British was a certainty.**

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Ajulkumar Pandya](#)

Ans) Launch of Quit India Movement was an evidence of change in perspective of Gandhi's stance for struggle for independence.

Causes:

1. Failure of Cripps mission and high expectations it had aroused resulted in utter frustration and deep disgust.



2. Gandhi thought that if British left India, Japan may not be interested in invading India.
3. The congress was convinced that another mass movement was necessary to achieve complete independence
4. The tempo which had been built by the individual satyagraha made people to organised and ready for final blow on British Raj
5. People were already restless because freedom was not yet in sight.
6. One part of Congress was convinced of weakness of the British rule and Indians were also getting International support from USA, which pressurizing Britain to give independence to India.
7. Gandhi understood that immediate and complete independence should be the only solution to end miseries of people due to war.

Organization, management and effect of QIM justified that British could no longer count on the leaders looking for moderation and compromise and realized that only excessively brutal military strength could keep India in the empire.

Thus, though violent suppression was evident, Masses made British understand that their time in India was up.

**Day 23) Critically discuss the characteristics of tropical cyclones and analyse the extent to which they differ from the temperate cyclones. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Enticer](#)

Ans) Tropical cyclones which are violent in nature basically are of oceanic origin. They are known by different names like typhoons in west pacific and south china sea, hurricanes in the Atlantic ocean, cyclones in Indian ocean.

Characteristics of tropical cyclones:

- a) They have a low pressure eye at the center with surrounding high pressure eye wall.
- b) The main source of their energy is moisture as they are driven by moisture so are very violent over oceans and as they cross the oceans to land the phenomenon known as landfall and they start losing their energy.
- c) They cause storm surges and torrential rains are caused at the eye wall where velocity reaches 250 km per hour.

The devastating nature of some of the mature cyclones makes them very dangerous for the coastal regions causing huge loss to life and property. The super cyclone of Orissa was one example.

Tropical cyclones differ from temperate cyclones in following ways:

- a) While the tropical cyclones are of ocean origin only, the temperate cyclones originate both on land and ocean.
- b) Tropical cyclones are not frontal in nature whereas temperate cyclones are frontal in nature.
- c) The area affected by tropical cyclones is small whereas temperate cyclones affect large areas.
- d) Tropical cyclones mainly flow in east to west direction but temperate cyclones flow in west to east.

**Day 24) Comment on the reasons which prompted not only the sepoys but also the civil population to rebel during the 1857 Revolt. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Arvind Singh Rathore](#)

Ans) The Revolt of 1857, although not successful, was the first struggle which almost swept away British rule. Initiated by sepoys, civil population also played a prominent role in this movement; who considered this revolt as a means to show their discontent against British rule.

Reasons:-

- a) EXPLOITATIVE AND IMPERIALISTIC NATURE OF BRITISH RULE - which was the main reason of popular discontent prevailing in the vast sections of the Indian society
- b) SOCIAL REFORMS - Reforms initiated by British such as banning of Sati, widow remarriage etc. and activities of Christian missionaries were greatly opposed by orthodox communities. They felt British are interfering with their social and cultural life
- c) INDUSTRIALISATION - With the onset of industrialization, Indian Handloom industry got ruined. Artisans, craftsmen, Traders, merchants etc. lost their means of living.
- d) TERRITORIAL EXPANSION POLICY OF BRITISH- The policies such as Doctrine of lapse, doctrine of mis-governance which were used to annex native states; deprived the rulers of their natural right who were supported by the people of their states
- e) LAND REVENUE POLICY OF BRITISH AND FAMINES - Permanent settlement; whose main motive was profit making; had immensely affected the life of peasants and was a main cause of recurring famines
- f) EDUCATIONAL REFORMS - These reforms introduced by Lord Bentinck, were seen by traditional communities as a means of westernization

g) The last but major cause was the issue of GREASED CARTRIDGES. These cartridges seal were made up of fat of beef and cow. When Indian soldiers refused to use them, they were compelled to do so. This provided the immediate trigger and led to the Mass Revolt of 1857.

**Day 25) What were the basic goals that India set to achieve soon after its independence from the British? Critically evaluate India's achievement in fulfilling these goals. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Harshit Ladva](#)

Ans) The immediate basic goals for India were to create a strong nation-State and to ensure its progress.

Economic Goals:

- \* Achieve self-sufficiency in Agriculture.
- \* Boost Industrial sector as its prime moving force.

Evaluation - Achieved agricultural sufficiency due to green revolution albeit a little late than desired. The manufacturing sector of India still limps and hence India failed miserably to achieve that goal.

Social Goals and Cultural Goals:

- \* To ensure equality among the citizens.
- \* To eradicate caste and gender divide and to ensure equal accessibility to resources.
- \* To develop a sense of nationalism and pride for India's culture and heritage.

Evaluation - These goals were ideologically achieved but a lot needs to be done to achieve them practically in a holistic sense.

Sovereign goals:

- \* To curb segregationist tendencies and achieve a strong unification of its territories.
- \* To develop a self-identity on Global platform and achieve non-aligned and a peaceful state with friendly international relations.

Evaluation: Barring a few incidents, these goals were achieved spectacularly.

Political Goals:

- \* To create a fair and just nation.
- \* To create a robust but flexible Constitution and ensure fundamental rights of its citizen.
- \* To create an institutional setup that was progressive.

Evaluation - Successfully achieved.

**Day 26) How has the Supreme Court of India defined and interpreted secularism? Critically analyse. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[Today's Top answer is written by - Nishant](#)

Ans) Secularism in India stems from the Vedas itself – Sarva Dharma Sambhava. Indian Constitution also stands for a secular state. Its guardian, the Supreme Court though has interpreted secularism differently at various points of time. Some pointers to throw light on this:

- Indian Secularism is a positive concept i.e. equal respect and protection to all religions. This is in contrast to the western concept of complete separation between state and religion.
- Secularism is implicit in Indian Constitution through Right to Religion under article 25-28 as well as article 15 and 16.
- Going a step forward, it declared secularism as a basic feature of the constitution in SR Bommai case 1994

Despite a clear stand, the Supreme Court has not gone far enough to provide an infallible definition of secularism. It turned ambivalent on the need for a Uniform Civil Code after the controversy surrounding Shah Bano verdict erupted in 1985. With rise of religious nationalism in the 90s, it failed to differentiate between Hinduism and the neo-concept of Hindutva and minority religions became too sensitive to meddle with. It intervened ineffectively in the Babri Masjid incident in 1993, ironically declaring secularism as a basic feature the very next year.

In present times also, the Supreme Court has struggled to arrest cases of forced conversion, accepting that secularism in India might be under threat.

**Day 27) On his return from South Africa, for a few years, Gandhiji did not join any political organisations or movements of the day. Critically examine why. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer to this question is written by - SDRS](#)

Ans) After the success of Satyagraha movement in South Africa when Gandhiji returned to the India he was given a warm welcome by Indian masses. He was a hero in the eyes of Public despite this he didn't join any political parties neither any political movement that were going on in the country because-

1) He didn't want to use his strategy of movement i.e Satyagraha, without knowing the ground realities in India. So he with his followers from South Africa started in a community life in Ashrams. But after the advice of G.K Gokhale he travelled all over India to know the realities of people.

2) He didn't have faith in the tactics of moderates neither in the strategy of Home rulers. He didn't want to join any movement who was not based on the principles of Satyagraha and non-violence. Along with this, he didn't want to launch a movement at the time when British government was having tough time.

3) Similarly, he didn't want to be affected by the contemporary ideologies of political parties neither wanted to impose his ideologies on them unless he convinces them that these are effective in the success of a movement. Because of this he didn't join any political parties.

When he saw the success of Satyagraha at Champaran, Kheda and Ahmedabad mill only after that he decided to launch it on the massive scale i.e at all India level.

**Day 28) Discuss the mechanism by means of which the atmosphere is able to maintain its heat-balance. Is the atmosphere getting progressively hotter, and if so, why? (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Enticer](#)

Ans) Atmosphere on earth maintains its heat budget leading to maintaining the temperature of the earth leading to survival of various life forms possible.

Mechanism for maintaining heat balance of atmosphere is as follows:

- a) Incoming solar radiation is reflected by the clouds present in upper troposphere as well as by albedo due to glaciers. These contribute about nearly 35% of the radiation reflected back.
- b) The incoming radiation which is of the short wavelength is absorbed by the atmosphere and this radiation heats the land which is again returned back to atmosphere in the form of terrestrial radiation.
- c) Heat transmission in between the atmosphere also takes place between heat excess to heat deficient region by the way of wind movements through the process of convection which is upward movement of air, advection which is horizontal movement of air in upper troposphere.

This heat distribution helps atmosphere in maintaining heat balance.

In recent time there is greater warming of atmosphere is witnessed which is mainly due to the global warming by the trapping of long wave terrestrial radiations reflected by the land by the green house gases like Carbon dioxide, water vapour, methane etc.

These GHGs are mainly emitted by the vehicles, industrial emissions leading to high level of global atmospheric warming and global climatic change harming species as well as creating food security threats.

**Day 29) Despite having negative influence on all aspects of India's national life, the British has also left behind few positive developments for India to consolidate and build a new nation-state upon these developments. Examine the positive legacy of the British and their impact on post – Independent India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

**[The Top Answer to this question is written by - Nishant](#)**

Ans) For 200 years of exploitation and oppression, the British also left behind some positive developments. Their impact can be studied under -

Economic

- A well-developed railway network across India. Immediately after independence, India could setup heavy industries because of this reason.
- Telegraph and postal system - post offices till today form the backbone of rural communications and other activities.

Political

- From Cornwallis Code in 1793 to setting up High Courts in governor presidencies, the British gave India a strong judicial system.
- Established a formal police force as separate from administration.
- Civil Services started by the British are the bedrock of Indian bureaucracy
- A Constitutional framework through Act of 1935 upon which the Constituent Assembly could build a robust Indian Constitution.

Social and Academic

- Reforms like Abolition of Sati, Widow Remarriage, and Women Education changed the face of Indian society forever.
- Introduced modern and scientific education in English medium and setup universities throughout India.

The demand for English speaking Indian labor in western countries is a testimony to the same.

- British brought Indian Culture, Arts and Architecture out of oblivion by setting up the Asiatic Society of Bengal and Archaeological Survey of India.

Above all, uniting entire India, they imparted principles of democracy and responsible governance which forms the core of our political system today.

**Day 30) Write a note on the depiction of Gautam Buddha in ancient Indian art and architecture. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Deepansh](#)

Ans) Gautama Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, has been the central figure of Indian art and architecture and is depicted in a variety of styles and forms like:

1. Formless Buddha-

- a) Testament to the Hinayana phase of Buddhism, here Buddha was not shown in a human form, but instead was symbolically depicted.
- b) Symbols like Bodhi Tree, Empty Throne, Dharma Wheel, etc. were used in caves and stupas like Ajanta cave and Sanchi stupa

2. Sculptures- Promoted during the Mahayana phase, where Buddha was revered in Human form. This style is best evinced by Gandhara and Mathura schools of art.

- a) Gandhara- seated like a yogi with features including wavy hair, characteristic protuberance, beard and large ears.
- b) Mathura- features include shaven head and face, protuberance on the forehead, right hand in abhaya mudra and halo decorated with geometrical motifs

3. Mural Paintings- Illustrations of tales from the Jataka stories, with Buddha in human form, were painted which can be seen in the Ajanta and Ellora Paintings.

With ideals of truth, renunciation and tolerance as his instruments, Buddha spread the message of love. The architectural marvels and the exotic art forms situated across the globe are evidence of the sphere of influence his teachings had.

**Day 31) Write a note on the architectural form and style of the Indus valley civilization. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Ankitha G](#)

Ans) Indus valley civilization is the 1st urban civilization in India which shows high degree of expertise in town planning, roads, sanitation.

Town planning-

Town planning was the most important aspect of the IVC. Towns were walled to protect from floods, strangers entering to the town etc.

The upper area of the town was called the citadel, which was walled and contained important buildings socio-political and economic purposes. The lower area usually consisted of regular houses of common people. Burnt bricks of particular size were used in building construction.

Architructural gems like the Great Bath in Mohenjadaro, granaries in Harappa, ship dockyard in Lothal, assembly halls show architectural expertise of Indus valley people.

Sanitation-

Every house in the Indus valley had sanitation facilities, which was in turn connected to common drainage channel. Intermittent chambers/holes were present in these drainage channels for regular cleaning.

Roads-

Roads were laid out in grid pattern, where they intersected at right angles like the modern day.

Though religious worship of nature was present, there were no temples built for them, which shows that Harappan people expertise did not spread to religious architecture.

The architecture styles are even now adopted for town planning, roads, sanitation etc which makes the Indus valley civilization pioneers in urban infrastructure and architecture.

**Day 32) Critically discuss the magnitude of water crisis in India, its causes and remedies. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Nishant](#)

Ans) Population explosion and unsustainable development have magnified the chronic water crisis in India. Despite enough annual surface flows, only a third of it can be utilized. Over 50% of India's water supply comes from groundwater. Irrigation alone accounts for 90% of this.

Major causes for this crisis are:

- Cheap electricity subsidies and inefficient irrigation practices have resulted in over-use of groundwater resources by farmers esp. in North India.
- Depleting water quality due to industrial waste disposal and fertilizer flows into water bodies
- Variable availability, concentrated during the monsoon and lack of storage capacities.
- Unsustainable urbanization marked by increased concrete paving, dwindling green cover and poor sewage systems.
- Climate change has impacted the natural freshwater replenishment rate.



Water crisis should be seen from the broad perspective of social and human development and not necessarily as an impediment to economic growth.

Some solutions suggested as follows:

- Micro-Irrigation techniques as a replacement of current practices. This also includes educating farmers towards the same to bring a behavioral change from within. Recently announced Krishi Sinchai Yojana and Soil Health Card Scheme hold much promise.
- Support to voluntary rural watershed development programs like the one in Ralegan Siddhi, Maharashtra.
- Strict regulations on industries for waste disposal and heavy fines for open dumping such as one prescribed by the National Green Tribunal in 2014.
- Augmenting natural and artificial aquifer systems. The Tamil Nadu model should be replicated across the country.

**Day 33) Was the Second World war a conflict of ideologies or a mere phase in the inevitable international conflict resulting from pursuit of international interests? (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - ACE](#)

Ans) The Second World War which involved almost all the countries is mainly due to pursuit of international interests by the great powers in which their respective ideologies were used to shore up support in their respective nations most of which are based on Ultra-nationalism like Nazism, Fascism.

After the World War One, which was touted as the "Great War to End All Wars", the victors failed to gauge the opportunity to present a more equitable world order. Instead, they went to old game of "Victor Gets All".

The Main reason for the war will be the humiliating and polarizing Versailles Treaty, which was viewed as a national shame by the Germans, which was effectively used by Adolf Hitler to further his international interests during the war.

At the other theatre, the Japanese with their "Divine Right to Rule Asia" began a assault on other countries and many other countries like Italy began their own conquests to get their share of pie in the empire building.

Atmost it was a war between, the Great Powers who already had a huge empire and the aspiring western powers who wanted to build their empire which was not taken kindly by the to be "Allied Powers".

Eventhough the Axis powers committed grave human violations, the Allied forces were not far behind themselves who treated the people in their empire as slaves.

The Great war was a war fought between the great powers to further and safeguard their own interests through which unintended consequences arose through which the world order that is now came into being.

**Day 34) “The continuity of features as well as themes from the ancient and medieval forms is evident in the present day Indian architecture “- Elucidate. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Nishant](#)

Ans) Modern Indian Architecture is a blend of ancient and medieval styles along with some novel features. A few examples in this regard:

#### Temple Style

Akshardham temple in New Delhi is a fine example of Nagara temple architecture of the Guptas and Solankis. It is built on the Panchayatana style with 4 subsidiary shrines and a main shrine in the centre. The sculpture theme is largely borrowed from Vishnupuran. Similarly, Dravidian style is easy to find in newly built temples in South India.

#### Building Style

A combination of Indo-Islamic and Victorian styles can be seen in British and later constructions. Use of marble, red sandstone, dome structure and ‘Chaar-Baagh’ style as taken from Mughal architecture is visible in building like the Supreme Court, India Gate etc. Paintings inspired from Ajanta and Ellora adorn the walls of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Lutyens Lane in Delhi is inspired from Roman architecture, marked by simple designs and linear constructions.

#### Town Planning

Indus Valley urban planning is followed not just in India but the world over. All prominent cities are based on the concept of a city center, perpendicular roads and underground sewage to name a few.

With half of Modern India yet to be built, we should take inspiration from our rich past to construct future marvels of Indian Architecture.

**Day 35) "Literacy is a powerful engine of social change in India"-Elucidate. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Anshika](#)

Ans) Literacy is an important component which helps in fostering development and improvement of living standards of a society. Literacy has proved to be an important component of social change -

1) Individual Development

A literate individual tends to have more self esteem and confidence. It is a powerful tool in inculcating humanistic values and etiquette. Most importantly an literate individual is empowered and is aware and can take various decisions for betterment of himself and society as a whole. Many literate people fought for rights of every individual for education and brought about a revolution Eg Raja Ram Mohan Roy to Gandhiji.

2) Social Change

Can be instrumental in maintaining good health, controlling reproductive behaviour, raising children in good manner. Improving literacy level is related with increased life expectancy, less child mortality, maternal mortality.

3) Political Level :

A literate person tends to be more aware about the policies of government and the effects of such policies on his / her society. It has potential for upliftment of disadvantaged and weaker section of society and help them fight for their rights. Just as how DR BR Ambedkar a highly educated individual fought for rights of his community

Literacy is very important for a nation to realising its complete potential. Hence several programs like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to Adult literacy mission are started to make society literate but it is very essential that along with making people literate, we also develop a society which is tolerant and which respects the other gender, religion and for which we need to even impart character education along with basic education.

**Day 36) Analyse the strategies adopted by the Indian National Congress in the struggle for freedom during 1875 to 1930. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Abhishek Reddy](#)

Ans) Indian National Congress underwent three different phases -

Moderate period (1885-1905)

1. Characterised by annual conferences and adopting resolutions as they believed in struggle within the system.
2. Though they understood the exploitative nature of the British, they wanted its reform but not expulsion.
3. Major contribution was revealing the exploitative nature of colonialism through different books released by Dadabhai Naoroji, M G Ranade, R C Dutt etc.
4. Overall uniformity in their objectives and methods of agitation

Extremist Period(1905-1920)

1. Their major leaders included Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai and Bipin Chandra Pal.
2. Drew inspiration from India's past, invoked the great episodes in the history of Indian people and tried to infuse national pride and self respect among them.
3. Major goal was swaraj and this they tried to secure through any extremist means.
4. Important contribution was their work in the swadeshi movement.

Gandhian period.(1920-1947)

1. Took a centrist position because he alienated neither the moderates nor extremists but tactically combined the goals of moderates with the means of extremists.
2. His major strategy adopted was of struggle-truce-struggle
3. During struggle period he adopted means such as non cooperation movement, civil disobedience movement and finally do or die movement.
4. During the truce stage he invented the constructive activity programme of untouchability , hindu muslim unity, promotion of khadi and village reconstruction to channelize the energies of the people.

**Day 37) How are coral reefs formed? Assess the impact of climate change and anthropogenic factors on coral reefs. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Draconian](#)

Ans) Coral reefs are some of the most diverse marine ecosystems in the world held together by Calcium-carbonate structures extracted by corals from sea-water Teeming with life, these economically and environmentally important ecosystems provide a home for many unique marine organisms.

Examples: The Great Barrier Reef (Australia), the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System, the Red Sea.

Often called as 'Rainforest of Oceans', they are under threat from climate change and anthropogenic factors.

Impact of climate change:

1. Ocean acidification— caused when oceans absorb immense amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) released into the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels — inhibits coral's ability to produce the calcium carbonate exoskeletons they rely on for shelter.
2. Coral Bleaching: minor changes in water temperatures drive away zooxanthellae algae on which corals depend for nutrition. So, Coral cells are rendered lifeless and it's color vanish making reef white.
3. Sea level rise - caused by melting of sea ice and thermal expansion of the oceans could also cause problems for some reefs by making them too deep to receive adequate sunlight, important for survival.

Anthropogenic Factors

1. Fishing practices: Fishing practices such as cyanide fishing, “blast fishing” with explosives and overfishing with trawlers can destroy and harm corals.
2. Chemicals from sunscreen, pollution from sewage, and herbicides and pesticides used in farms or home gardens can all wash into oceans and poison coral.
3. Coastal development and Tourism: The growth of coastal cities and towns generates a range of threats to nearby coral reefs. Also, destroyed or disturbed by dredging activities to make deep-water channels or marinas, and through the dumping of waste materials.

**Day 38) Critically comment on the depiction of women in contemporary Indian cinema. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Nishant](#)

Ans) Cinema as an art of expression has been the microcosm of collective life of the society of its time. Women characters, be it of a mother, wife, lover have been an integral if not dominant part of Indian Cinema.

The 1950's and 60s depicted women as feeble and secondary to their male counterparts. But the portrayal was invariably dignified and respectful. Few movies of that time stood out for showing strong women characters such as in Mother India.

With the advent of globalization, 1980s-90s was the period of transition in the Indian Society. Women in movies became more confident and out-going. New themes like co-ed education, love marriages and rebellion became common. Objectification of women through arousing dances began from this period.

Post 2000s, the portrayal of women oscillates between two extremes. On one end there are movies with central women characters, celebrating their potential, skills and achievements, eg. a boxer in Mary Kom , an IPS officer in Drishyam etc. At the same, the objectification and sexualization of women is nearly bordering on vulgarity. There's a Munni, Sheila ready to dance for you in skimp y clothes for the ticket price.

Cinema has a strong bearing on the youth, especially belonging to the lower income group who cannot afford other means of recreation. Thus, the linkage between increased sexual crimes and cinema shouldn't be ignored casually.

**Day 39) Critically examine the role played by Lord Mountbatten in consolidating post-Independent India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Draconian](#)

Ans) Achievements of Mountbatten Role in consolidating post-Independent India :

1. Credited with achieving transfer of power in a limited time and within limited resources through formulation of Mountbatten Plan and its implementation.
2. Highlighted the geographic compulsions that meant most of them must choose India and also religious compulsions (otherwise would be violation of 2 Nation theory) in Jodhpurs and Junagarh case.

3. He engaged in a personal dialogue with reluctant princes, such as the Nawab of Bhopal, who he asked through a confidential letter to sign the Instrument of Accession making Bhopal part of India.
4. He pointed out that the Indian subcontinent was one economic entity, and that the states would suffer most if the link were broken and difficulties that princes would face maintaining law and order .

Criticism on his role:

1. First to Draw a partition line by an unbiased man which he did through Radcliffe.
2. Criticized for advising Nehru on Kashmir issue to UN which is still unresolved.
3. Though he achieved transfer of power in record time but it happened bcoz he was granted more power (informally) than his predecessors like Wavell.
4. Lord Mountbatten has been criticized for hastening the independence process unduly and recklessly leading to vast disruption and loss of life
5. The formula for freedom with partition was already accepted before Mountbatten took charge and the idea of immediate transfer of power on the basis of grant of Dominion status was given by V.P. Menon.

Though the positive role of Mountbatten needs to be acknowledged, it must be remembered that Lord Mountbatten was an officer of British Government and was serving their interests.

**Day 40) Sangam Literature is regarded as a source of the history of kings, kingdoms and culture of the period during which it was created. Discuss (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by - Adityaka](#)

Ans) The Sangam age roughly lasted between the second century BC and fourth century AD. It owes its name to the literary councils that were held in Pandyan capital city of Madhurai, where there was an explosion in Tamil literature. Broadly speaking, there were 3 Sangams. The literature that was produced is a major source of early deep south history.

The Sangam polity consisted mainly of 3 kingdoms. The Pandyas, the Cheras and the Cholas. The Chera king Senguttuvan was their greatest king and started the Pattini cult, as referenced to in the Tamil epic Silappadigaram. The Cholas were known for their vast trade in spices and textiles. In fact, Aricamedu was a thriving port city with trade connectivity with the Roman Empire. The Chera port city of Muziris also shows evidence of Roman connections. The Sangam literature records vibrant economic activity via trade with Yavnapriya/pepper being the major export

As evidenced by the epics of Manimegalai and Silappadigaram, women played a very strong role in society. As a result of this they were worshipped. Kannagi has a temple dedicated to her that stands to this day in the Periyar Tiger reserve. The literature had secular themes as well. Some of them were dedicated to love, some to governance and polity.

All in all, the richness and vibrant nature of the literature speaks volumes of the intellectual peaks reached by the human being in that age and place.

## GENERAL STUDIES TWO

**Day 1) Unlike Rajya Sabha, which enjoys almost equal powers to that of Lok Sabha, the State Legislative Council is a mere subordinate to the Legislative Assembly. Discuss. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

Many answers have just given the salient features of both RS and LC. But that was not what the question had asked for.

The main crux of the question is that the Rajya Sabha portrays Federalism, which is one of the Basic Features of the Constitution, whereas the Legislative Council portrays nothing. That is the basic philosophy of this question. After that has been addressed, the difference in the powers, composition, duties etc., can be written alongwith the relevant Articles mentioned in the Constitution.

In such Polity Questions, where Constitutional Bodies are mentioned, one has to always write an answer with the required Articles. That would fetch the answer more marks.

Our Model answer would also get around 6/10, if we give one mark to each point. (Note that the average marks in GS Paper 2 is 60-70 out of 250)

A) Rajya Sabha, also called the Council of States, is almost equal to the Lok Sabha in the Parliament, but the same cannot be said about their corresponding Legislative Councils and Legislative Assemblies in the states, for the following reasons -

a) The Rajya Sabha has a stronger ideological role to play as the representative of the States in the Centre. Thus, this is as powerful as the Lok Sabha, which acts as the representative of the People of this country. No such strong ideological role is assigned to the Council.



b) From Article 80 of the Indian Constitution till Article 121, the powers, constitution, role, membership, duties etc., of the Rajya Sabha has been given in detail while the same cannot be said of the Legislative Council, which has been just mentioned a few times.

c) The Legislative Assembly can create or destroy the Council according to its own wishes. That is not possible with the Rajya Sabha, which is a permanent body.

d) Most of the Indian States have chosen not to have an extra body, because it does not serve much purpose, other than as a check on the laws made by the Assembly. Some of the larger states still do have a Council, mainly to satisfy the politicians who couldn't get into the Assembly.

e) The Council does not have as many powers as the Rajya Sabha. It can easily be ignored or overthrown.

Thus, the Legislative Council is termed as a mere subordinate to the Legislative Assembly.

#### [Today's Top Answer for the Question would go to – Napoleon](#)

Indian Constitution provides a bicameral Legislature, in which upper house (Rajya Sabha) is a permanent body at the centre but at state level Legislative Council creation is based on the decision of Legislative Assembly.

Differences between Rajya Sabha(RS) and Legislative Councils(LC):

1. RS can pass resolution empowering parliament to make laws on state legislature, while LC mainly used to give representation to certain special interests of states
2. RS members can participate in election of a president which doesn't appear in LC
3. RS consists of representation of states and thus reflect federal element of polity, on other hand, the issue of federal significance doesn't arise in case of LC
4. LC is heterogeneously constituted where as RS homogeneously constituted represents only the states consists of mainly elected members (Only 12 nominated out of 250)
5. LC is only a dilatory chamber which is adopted from Britain, it can at best delay a bill by 4 months (3+1)
6. Only with respect to money bills, RS and LC are on a similar footing.

In a World's biggest democracy, the position of Legislative council must be further strengthened so as to checks the hasty, defective, careless and ill considered legislation made by assembly.

**Day 2) Outline the constraints SAARC is facing to emerge as an effective regional organization. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a beautiful question which has a lot of scope in mentioning various factors, disputes and conflicts. Do try to cover a broad range of issues within 20 words per issue.

This is more of an International Relations question, than an International Bodies questions. Focus should be more on the distrust between the SAARC countries.

So, start the question describing SAARC and what intends to do. Then, give a series of points why it is not able to fulfill its objective and then conclude the answer agreeing to the question.

We have tried to write the answer within 200 words, so only the most important, easily re-collectible, generalist points are given. :)

Ans) The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a collaboration established to promote the welfare of the people of South Asia. It strives to improve peace, progress, quality of life and tries to enhance the mutual trust amongst these countries.

But, SAARC is facing a lot of constraints to emerge as an effective regional organization, due to the following factors -

- a) The South Asian countries are undergoing major financial challenges like, economic crisis, high inflation, limited market access, lack of adequate FDI, high external debt, lack of transfer of technology and existence of inequalities in financial and monetary governance systems.
- b) This has automatically led to the failure of SAARC Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA) and other such agreements.
- c) Most of the countries are inimical to each other and have a high sense of distrust, like India-Pakistan, India-Sri Lanka, Pakistan-Bangladesh etc.
- d) Water Politics – Since there are many trans-boundary rivers like Ganga, Indus, Brahmaputra, Sutlej etc., many water-sharing disputes occur between co-riparian countries.
- e) Terrorism, illicit drug trade in the Golden Crescent of Afghanistan, Religionistic fundamentalism, illegal migration, lingual attacks like LTTE-Sinhalese-Tamil disputes, etc, create havoc in the environment.

Thus, SAARC has a lot of internal contradictions and complications to be an effective regional cooperative organization.

[Today's Top Answer goes to – Subash Tadala](#)

“Despite three decades elapsed after SAARC formation, there is no significant output or at the best, we can say no outcome except for a few agreements. The constraints which stood as a road block for an effective SAARC are:

Suspicion and India: Every country suspects other for any activity and India being a big country in the grouping was suspected always for its activities.

Their Beginning: The seeds of this suspicion laid down in these countries formation with reference to Pakistan, Bangladesh and India.

Unstable political system: Unless India, every country has one or the other time political instability. Ex- Afghanistan terror, Pakistan military coup, Srilankan Tamils issue.

Feeling of Insecured: Nepal and Bhutan often being a landlocked states has a feeling that they have to depend on India. This obviously results in lack of trust.

Agreements, but no implementation: Though some agreements are made like SAFTA, but there is absence of will to implement them effectively owing to suspicion.

Finally the place itself: South Asia being located near to main maritime routes result in the international community interference in strategic matters and there by interfering in SAARC countries.”

**Day 3) Cooperative federalism is the only democratic way for the smooth functioning of Centre-State interactions. Illustrate. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This question is a very easy one, but a very tricky one too, as it has a very broad scope and much variety of points can be written from various different topics. So, if one just writes two-three points in details, he would miss out on the broader perspective.

Thus even though this question appears easy, it would fetch less marks to the majority of the candidates, as the examiner can always say that some of the important points are missing.

Anyways, we have been told that our IASBaba's Model Answer and the Top Answer written by the aspirants are very similar, so there is no point in duplication of work. We shall do the required adjustments or additions to the Top Answer, and would publish just one answer for each question.

[The Model/Top Answer for this question is written, within the 200 word-limit by – Subash Tadala](#)

“ Ans) India formation itself is a union of states unlike the “united” federal units of other countries. This itself demands a co-operation between the central and federal entities.

The way the co-operative federalism strengthens the unity fabric of India can be illustrated as follows:

**Policy Support:** Though a policy devised by the centre its success depends on the implementation by the states. Hence cooperation from the states is inevitable in this regard. NITI Aayog can be one such initiative to ensure smooth implementation.

**Finance Support:** Despite a policy support by the support by the states, the states must be infused with the required funds to bring the outcomes. 14th Finance commission recommendations to raise the net shareable income can help in this matter.

**Foreign Policy:** These foreign policy decisions if taken by bypassing the concerned Border States will yield nothing but unsustainability. Hence cooperation from the states and in turn support from the centre is a must to ensure success.

**All India Services:** Though not much discussed, AIS must be viewed as a support for the development of state policies than controlling the states through suspicion.

Finally in all these issues, the success depends on co-operation and mutual trust between centre and states.”

**Day 4) Write a note on the legal initiatives taken to prohibit manual scavenging in recent times. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

Even though the question specifically asks for “legal initiatives”, and there is only one recent Bill, it is prudent if we list out sociological causes, such as castes, untouchability and how people's mindset should change also.

Then, do give the salient features of the 1993 and the 2013 Bill. This much should fetch you good marks.

[The Top/Model answer is written by Subash Tadala](#), but even his answer is incomplete, but he has given more points than the rest. Do complement his answer with our points too for a complete answer –

A) Manual scavenging which is a inhuman practice, in the 21st century must be eliminated through initiatives by society and state in particular. Some of the legal initiatives are:

- a) Policy: Passing of the Prohibition of employment of Manual scavengers and their rehabilitation act, 2012 by the parliament itself.
- b) Judicial Support : In 2014, Supreme court itself gave the judgment that manual scavenging have to be ended and directed the centre & states to rehabilitate the scavengers with a focus on dalits empowerment.
- c) Technological way: Though not purely a legal one, installation of bio-digesters at public places and especially in the railways act as a directive towards the required outcome.
- e) Swachh Bharat: These scheme has a provision to construct the flush toilets and penalize the dry toilet pit construction which may act as a enhancer to limit scavengers employment

Other initiatives: The state support to form the unions like Safai Karmachari Andolan, answering the employment problems of the scheduled castes who are the main scavengers, respecting the human rights of scavengers through civil society can make societ and state sensitive to eliminate this in-human practice if not immediately, but in a near future less than five years.

**Day 5) "The conditions which necessitated the formulation and adoption of CSS don't exist anymore". Comment. Also discuss the factors that led to failure/ limited success of CSS. What modifications would you suggest for making CSS more result oriented?**

The question has been framed out of an article in LIVE mint.....The purpose of giving this question was to show you how questions can be framed out of an article and how it can be processed to frame the answer. As you would see subsequently that by merely rearranging the content of the article, a logical answer to the given question can be framed. You can adopt the same strategy while you read newspapers. This will reduce your efforts and streamline your thought process. Before you actually start reading the synopsis, go through this article:

<http://www.livemint.com/Opinion/3yGB9NCwlvxFoiCKMjo42L/Unshackling-centrally-sponsored-schemes.html>

CSS came into being in the late 1960s when India was a weak and underdeveloped economy. State governments did not have the financial resources and the expertise to run ambitious schemes. At that time, there was a rationale to these schemes: matters of national policy such as family planning and resettlement of landless agricultural labourers required the intervention of the Union government. Since then, state governments have acquired a degree of expertise and many states have formulated and successfully implemented schemes related to the social sector.

Moreover, after the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission—which gave an unprecedented share of tax revenues to the states—state governments have the resources they need to do what they want to.

Factors that led to failure of these schemes: At the core of the failures of these schemes, there are three interlinked factors.

1 One, it makes little sense for the Union government to provide goods and services that are best provided by state governments. In sectors such as agriculture, education and health, among others, knowledge of local conditions is important for the success of any scheme or project. Crafting these schemes centrally is of limited use.

2 Two, estimating the money required for the success of these projects requires a great degree of coordination with state governments. Simply asking for inputs and then allocating money on the basis of unworkable formula can't be successful.

3 Third, there is lack of proper monitoring and regular assessment of these schemes as a result of which Technology Mission on Cotton, National Bamboo Mission and host of other schemes couldn't yield expected results.

**Steps that can be taken to wrt CSS:**

4 First, a reduction in the number of centrally sponsored schemes, or CSS, has to be agreed upon.

5 Second, these schemes should to be divided into core and optional schemes. Core schemes should be backed by Parliamentary legislation. Further, core schemes should have a funding pattern of 60:40

6 Third, it is time to revisit the original rationale for launching CSS: the Union government funding and implementing schemes that reflect national priorities and goals. These are largely in areas such as the power and infrastructure sectors. Projects in these areas are capital-intensive and require coordination among a number of states, a role the Union government is capable of performing.

7 Fourth, the money saved from these schemes should be handed over to the states, in consultation with NITI Aayog and individual state governments.

[The Top Answer for this question is given by – Santosh Venkatesh](#)

Ans) Centrally sponsored schemes have their origins immediately after independence where India was weak and underdeveloped. The states had limited expertise and resources to achieve over all National objectives such as family planning and hence intervention of centre was required.

But the CSS have had limited success due to gaps at formulation and implementation stages such as

1) One size fits all approach: Each state has different socioeconomic scenario and thereby have different Priorities.

2) The Imposition of mandatory requirement on financially weaker states.

3) Limited flexibility for states in implementing these schemes

With State government having gained sufficient expertise in social sector development it is time to relook

at CSS as suggested by Chaturvedi committee on restructuring CSS.

Some measures to improve efficiency and effectiveness of CSS are

1) Reducing and categorising CSS schemes as core and optional based on national priorities

2) Consultation with states at Design, formulation and implementation stages.

3) CSS should now focus on Capital intensive sectors such as infrastructure and power where coordination among many states is required.

With NITI Aayog Focussing on cooperative federalism there is hope that states will have a greater say in the planning and formulation of CSS thereby addressing gaps in design, implementation and effectiveness of the CSS.

**Day 6) A civil servant should be politically neutral, not value neutral. S/he should be committed to the policies of the country, not to the politics of the country. Substantiate. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a GS-2 Question, and not a GS-4 question. So instead of mentioning various ethical theoretical concepts, one should concentrate more on the practical polity concepts. And the directive “substantiates” means to explain this statement, which is true, with some real-life examples.

[If it were a GS-2 question, the Top Answer would go to Nishant -](#)

Ans) The prime aim of a civil servant is to serve the diverse needs of the country in an ethical and efficient manner. He is required to be honest and thorough in his work ethics. Towards the poor and uneducated at large, he should be patient, understanding and sensitive to their problems. To a minister, he is accountable but not subservient. This requires him to be politically neutral but not necessarily value neutral.

He is required to make value judgments in his daily routine often drawing from his education, expertise and past experiences. Understanding social needs and their solutions cannot be done objectively like a science problem. For eg depending on specific needs of his/her district, the civil servant can make a value judgment and tweak the scheme to better suit the need of his district. Strict objectivity often makes a civil servant apathetic to the needs of the people which is highly undesirable.

Expert reports suggest Indian Bureaucracy suffers from this twin problem –

1. Political patronage as means to advance one's career and
2. Objectivity as a defense mechanism to escape greater responsibility and accountability

Therefore, it is imperative to put in a mechanism to allow greater freedom and risk taking by the bureaucracy, freeing them from the political cage and not reducing them into 'set-in-stone' rule abiding machines.

[If it were a GS-4 question, the Top Answer would go to IWRA -](#)

Ans) Civil services is not a post for individualistic hedonism which seeks private pleasure. Instead this is based on service to the country and in this regards expect high moral standards and values to be possessed by civil servants. It is also true that given the nature of system a bureaucrat has to work with politicians to bring the policy decision into action. Political influence is quite possible in this case which might lead to blurring the judgement of civil servants. Hence politicians and bureaucrats need to maintain a healthy relationship.

The bureaucrats have to consider the noble task they have been assigned. They are not working in Plato's ideal state which ignores individuals and emphasizes state.

They work for the welfare of the people and their action should be guided by ideals of utilitarianism. Seeking political patronage goes against the deontological obligation to duty and will only lead to degradation of their personal consciences.

The best course of action in this case is too staying politically neutral but follow the ideals of public services. This requires strong values and guiding principles to stay true to one's duty.



**Day 7) “The National Human Rights Commission is nothing more than a symposium of retired judges and bureaucrats who are unable to be as effective as they would like to be.”  
Comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

Concentrate on the directive here. Even though the statement given is negative, the directive is not “critically comment”, but “comment”. So, you need to agree with the statement giving suitable examples and explanations on how NHRC is not very effective. But, maybe give one or two suggestions/measures on how to make it more effective, but a general agreement on the statement is necessary.

[The Top/Model answer for this question is -](#)

Ans) Envisaged as a guardian of Human Right, NHRC has been a mixed bag in 22 years of its existence. It largely owes it to its inherent shortcomings namely:

**\*Structural Limitations\*:**

1. Recommendatory powers only

NHRC doesn't have the power to punish or award compensation and its recommendations are not binding on the government. For instance, NHRC recommendation of a CBI Inquiry in the recent Red Sanders Encounter was rightly rejected.

2. Composition Criteria

No requirement for a “proven record” of Human Rights Activism for the members.

**\*Operational Limitations\*:**

1. Time Limit

NHRC cannot inquire into a complaint made more than an year after the incident

2. Armed Forces kept out

Severe allegations under the AFSPA cannot be inquired upon

NHRC routinely suffers from lack of funding, under-staffing and bureaucratic red tape. Despite such systemic constraints, the body has achieved success in cases such as the strengthening of Child Labor Prohibition Act and Harassment of Women at Workplace Act 2013.

If HRC are to truly protect and promote human rights in India, changes must be made to enable them to become more effective institutions. Some suggestions:

1. Mechanism to make recommendations binding

2. Non-judicial membership not to be filled up by ex-bureaucrats

3. Separate agency with more powers to investigate into police related cases such as the Independent Police Complaints Commission in the UK.

**Day 8) The positive democratic consequences of having a highly energized pro-active citizenry far outweigh the negatives exhibited by the same. Comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[Top Answer by Aemmy -](#)

Ans) Democracy is a government of the people, for the people and by the people. Thus by its very definition, citizens (people) play major role in success and failure of democracy.

Positive consequences of pro-active citizenry

1. Control over representatives through elections.
2. Lesser role of fear and money power as people are concerned more for long term effects rather than short term gains.
3. People's involvement in policy making through discussions, debates, public forum, media, social media, etc.
4. Rights awareness, improved transparency, less corruption and higher efficiency.
5. Socio-economic Prosperity through better health and education and skill development.

Negative consequences of pro-active citizenry

1. More debate and discussions cause delay and moreover all ideas cannot be accommodated in a policy all together. And a country requiring rapid progress cannot sustain this delay caused.
2. Government might only focus on few sections of society, needed enough to remain in power while ignoring minorities.
3. Strike and bandhs affect economy adversely and encourages ill-elements of society.

There can hardly be any country not having the cons and only pros of pro-active democracy, so what a country need is to strike a right balance. As a pro-active citizen one should also be aware of this fact to make democracy successful.

**Day 9) Critically examine the strategic implications of the nuclear deal between the West and Iran on the Middle East and India's neighbourhood? Comment on India's role in the deal. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a direct question from the Current Affairs. If we read any of the recent editorials and have a basic understanding of the nuclear deal, then this would be fairly simple to write.

The division of this question would be in a total of five parts – Positive and Negative strategic implications on the Middle East, Positive and Negative implications on India's neighbourhood. And India's role in the deal(which is not much).

One must start with a good introduction to briefly explain what the nuclear deal is all about, and then give an apt conclusion too.

[Today's Top Answer is by – Deepansh](#)

A) The nuclear deal aims to ensure that the nuclear research in Iran is primarily to fulfill its energy requirements and simultaneously restricts its capacity to develop nuclear weapons.

Significance in the middle-east region:

1. With the removal economic sanctions, Iran's influence in the geopolitics of the region will increase manifold. This could fracture Israel's hegemony in the region.
2. It will impact the Saudi Arabia-Iran proxy war in Yemen, where Iran's diplomatic engagement is important.
3. Saudi Arabia's dominance in controlling oil prices will end when Iranian oil enters global oil trade.
4. Iran's cooperation will be critical to weed out terrorist groups like ISIS which will help restore stability to the region.

Implications in India's neighborhood:

1. India invested in Iran to develop the Chabahar port, which is strategically important to enter Afghanistan. Lifting of the ban could invite competition from other countries like China.
2. It would enable increased cooperation to fight emerging terror groups in Central Asia, Afghanistan and Iraq.
3. Renewed impetus to the North-South Transport Corridor.

Although India isn't directly involved in the negotiations, its vote against Iran on IAEA's resolution makes its stand clear. India should continuously work on improving ties with Iran and help achieve regional peace.

**Day 10) The replacement of the Planning Commission by the NITI Aayog, is an attempt to reinvent 'planning' in the backdrop of changed global and domestic scenarios. Critically comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a question which interlinks cooperative federalism with economic planning. And do concentrate on the directive "critically comment", which means that you need to give both positives and negatives of NITI Ayog.

[The Top Answer is written by Subhash Tadala -](#)

Ans) Re-inventing of planning process is essential to answer the contemporary situations. In that case, planning commission replacement by NITI Aayog is a re-invention in the following issues:

- a) Co-Operative federalism: The improvement of state expertise in policy making actually demands a space for states to decide the priorities which NITI governing council can provide.

- b) Bottom-Top approach Demand: The vision to decentralize the decision making by NITI actually give a space to bottom-top planning which was lied dormant in the planning commission history.
- c) Equity in debates: The curtailment of drastic powers like that given to deputy chairman of planning commission can result in healthy egalitarian debates in governing council.
- d) First consultation: NITI decides a policy after consulting states rather than design and throw upon states like in planning commission.
- e) Increased Foreign Policy Importance: Growing states nexus with foreign countries demand a voice for states to re-draft a healthy foreign policy for which NITI Aayog has the potential to do.

Though it departs from dis-advantages, it lacks clarity in the following:

- a) Rigid Governing Council: More representatives in the governing council may actually slow down the decision making.
- b) Already Existed: The similar apparatus existed before also, so it depends on the centre wish to offer states the required space.

**Day 11) Critically discuss the potential of IBSA forum, India's role in it and the need for its revival. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This answer can be divided into three parts – Positives of IBSA and its potential, Negatives of IBSA and it's potential and India's role in it.

Around 3 points under each header, with a good intro saying what IBSA is, and a good conclusion regarding India's role in enhancing IBSA would be a perfect answer.

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) IBSA was formed as a forum of India, Brazil and South Africa through Brazilia declaration in 2003 but has remained overshadowed by BRICS so far.

Potential of IBSA:

1. As a true south-south cooperation, IBSA can provide a strong voice in UNSC against arbitrary unilateral decisions of aggression over certain country.
2. All three country are located near to oceans and maritime security and co-operation can be pursued using this platform.
3. To improve trade and commerce relations
4. As a link between East and West. BRICS is being seen as Anti-West. In that case IBSA can be a bridge b/w East and West.
5. India can voice its demand for permanent seat of UNSC more vigorously using IBSA.

India is partly to be blamed for under-performance of IBSA. It is too occupied with BRICS. India needs to invest more in IBSA both strategically and financially. The next IBSA summit to be held in India is a good chance for India to re-energize the forum by taking some concrete steps.

More financial allocation, frequent high ministerial level meetings and giving importance to the joint decisions reached on forum on global matters will make IBSA visible.

Though the forum was established to pitch in for more equitable UNSC reforms, it was also intended to provide a platform for enhanced coordination on global issues, trade and commerce, cultural exchange and security matters. But the forum has so far failed to mark any big impact and is overly overshadowed by BRICS. Hence a revival is needed.

**Day 12) Critically evaluate the role played by the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence or Panchsheel principles in improving India and China's relationship. Examine if these principles are still relevant today. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

The question can be divided into five parts, one each for each principle; give a one line positive and negative for each and mentioning if it is still relevant would be more than enough.

[The Top Answer for this is written by – Gajendra Singh](#)

Ans) The Panchsheel agreement signed on 29 April, 1950 between China and India was a landmark in the ups and downs relationship. However Panchsheel principles have been partially successful to setup lucrative mutual relations.

Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty:

India was the first non-socialist bloc country to establish diplomatic relations with PRC and supported China's sovereignty on Tibet. However China stand on J&K, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor and claim over Arunachal have never been in favour.

Mutual non-aggression:

After 1962 war, BDCA and CBM have greatly contributed to non-aggression. However frequent skirmishes are always there.

Mutual non-interference in internal affairs:

India has never interfered in matters like- Tiananmen, Hong-Cong protests, Tibet problem and Xinjiang. China did same in Kargil war. However China's support to Lakhvi's release raised concerns.

Equality and mutual benefit:

China is the second largest trading partner. Both countries jointly combat- arm-smuggling, wildlife, disaster etc. However Tibetan hydro-projects caused concern for India.

Peaceful co-existence:

On the platform of AIIB, BRICS, WTO etc both are working together.

Mahatma Gandhi wanted the world as federation of friendly, interdependent nations' without domination or exploitation. Here Panchsheel is the basis. Panchsheel could act as a catalyst to better coordinate efforts, mutual understanding and tackle trans-national threats effectively.

**Day 13) Do you think Khap panchayats function within the ambit of the Constitution? If not, what measures have states taken to curb their continued functioning? Critically comment on their unconstitutional nature. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

A small introduction should be given to the Khap panchayats and their patriarchal nature. After that, if each question asked is given around 3-4 points, it would be more than sufficient.

Do not forget the directive “critically comment” on their unconstitutional nature.

[The Top Answer is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) The term "Panchayat" in traditional sense means a group of villages. 73rd constitutional amendment makes them constitutional. Khap panchayats are different. They are also a group of villages, working in north India mainly in states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Western UP but they are not a constitutional body. Their existence is more of a traditional cultural and heritage continuity.

Any organization draws concern if it is not operating as per the established norms of society. Khap Panchayats are infamous for their inhumane, insensitive decrees of honor killings, regulating and controlling girl's behaviors, mistreating women and lower castes, and for fostering an extremely male chauvinistic culture. Their working actually resonates with principles of Manu-smriti and Talibanic way of working. Due to this they have been declared illegal by honorable supreme court.

Despite their ill-effect on society these panchayats continue to exist because of political patronage. These panchayats are quite powerful. They offer a big vote bank and many politicians come from this background. This nexus makes their abolition an extremely daunting task.

There are no specific explicit laws made which ban Khap panchayat. No legal mechanism exists to regulate their working. Still the existing laws and provisions (like Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989; Criminal law (Amendment) act 2013 etc) can be used to regulate their behavior.

**Day 14) Critically comment on the relevance of Gujral Doctrine to India's foreign policy with respect to its neighbours. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

Gujral's doctrine is an important foreign policy directive, so it should be understood very well. The point of asking a “critically comment” question on such a positive policy is to ensure that the aspirants know the doctrine in and out. Even though it has already been asked in UPSC Mains once, it is highly unlikely that it will be asked again this year, but still, from a theoretical perspective, it is good to understand it.

Start off with an introduction explaining who and what Gujral doctrine is, then divide the answer into two parts, each explaining the pros and cons. Since it is not an “analysis” question, but just a “comment” question, enumerating the various important points is enough.

Then end the answer on a positive note saying how it is still relevant today. That's it.

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Anshika](#)

Gujral doctrine was envisioned by IK Gujral the foreign minister in Deve Gowda government. The 5 principles of Gujral Doctrine are

- 1) With countries like Sri Lanka, Maldives, Bhutan India will not expect reciprocation but will receive whatever is in good faith.
- 2) No South Asian country will allow its territory to be used against the interest of other nation.
- 3) The countries will not interfere in the internal matters of other countries.
- 4) Settlement of disputes through bilateral talks.
- 5) Respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

The Gujral's Doctrine was hailed as India the biggest country in SA decided to extend unilateral ties with its neighbours

The Positive Outcomes of Doctrine:

- 1) The Ganga water sharing treaty with Bangladesh: In accordance with doctrine India concluded a treaty.
- 2) Freeze of Border with PAC: India for time being froze the border dispute with China and decided to have high level talks.
- 3) People to people contact with Pakistan and confidence building measures: India extended the friendship with Pakistan and decided to promote people to people contact through tourism, trade etc

It continues to guide Indian policy even today with India working closely with its neighbours Nepal, Bangladesh in providing aid and settling border problems.

The Doctrine isn't free from criticism:

- 1) India's arch neighbour Pakistan still continues to support anti terrorist activities in India which is failure of principle 2
- 2) Sri Lanka, Nepal seems to have become more closer to China as they feel India has big brother attitude.

India needs to revisit its foreign policy strategies and take more measures to build confidence in its neighbours.

**Day 15) Critically analyze the role of ASHAs as an interface between the community and the public health system. Have they been successful in their mission? Give your views. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

Understanding ASHAs is akin to understanding the rural health system of this country. So, this is a very important question to write. Since ASHAs need an overall understanding, we have used the directive "critically analyze".

The second part of the question can be combined with the pros, and your views can be given within each point, while you 'analyze'. So, around 100 words enumerating the positives of ASHAs and another 100 words detailing their negatives, obstacles and challenges would make an excellent answer.

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Anand](#)

Ans) Accredited social health activists are the visible faces of primary health services. It is the front line functionaries that can make or break the image of an organization as they are the ones responsible for ensuring last mile service delivery.

In this context analysing the role of ASHAS -

- 1) It is clearly established in studies that success of NRHM owes largely to Asha's (States like tamilnadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh) proved it.
- 2) Infant mortality, maternal mortality, total fertility, institutional delivery, malaria , TB identification, birth certificate registration, immunization, preventive health care services , rural sanitation improved phenomenally where ever ASHAS performance is good.
- 3) Owing to their familiarity with people they are helping in optimal utilization of social capital.

Nevertheless their services are not totally free from criticism

- a) Right from the appointment level there is nepotism.
- b) Majority of the employment is taken up by educated upper caste women, some of them are uncommitted.
- c) Some of them even hesitate to visit low caste habitations, failing the basic purpose of field level monitoring.
- d) Apart from this collusion with Anganwadi workers and selling in black market of medicines, condoms, feeding cattle with protein powder (to improve milk yield) provided to children as part of ICDS are of COMMON occurrence in states like Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

So efforts should be made to infuse dynamism in primary health care delivery by

- 1) Providing adequate salaries and other remunerations.
- 2) Motivating them in realizing their importance to organizational success by seminars
- 3) Maintaining diversity in appointment.
- 4) Improved monitoring, evaluation of their activities by social audits. Ultimately our aim should be to ensure affordable, amicable, equal, accessible and quality health Care.



**Day 16) Critically analyze the "Whip" system used by the political parties in India and its various implications.**

The 'whip' system is one of the most useful and one of the most hated systems in the legislature. There have been debates on both sides, with excellent valid points to either keep it or remove it. Thus, understanding the whip system would give one a strong conceptual basis in the working of the legislature.

The introduction of this question should explain what a whip is, the various roles of a whip, and some legislative basis of the whip. Then, one should divide the rest of the answer in two parts, each dealing with pros and cons. Explaining each point with your view and its implications would suffice for this question.

Then conclude the answer with your suggestions for the better working of the whip. This would make the perfect answer, within 200 words.

[Today's Top Answer for this question is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) Whip is a mechanism used by political parties to regulate behavior of party members inside parliament. Whip issues specific guidelines to party members regarding voting on a particular bill which members have to compulsorily follow (otherwise it will lead to loss of membership as per Anti-defection law, 1985 as enshrined in 10th schedule).

Positives of Whip system:

1 For party/coalition in power

(a) Ensures continuity and survival of government

(b) Helps in passage of a bill

(c) keeps the coalition intrinsically insulated from the dominating party and from influencing the members of coalition partners.

2. For opposition:

(a) Intact team spirit, voluntarily or involuntarily

(b) Makes ruling party anxious during money bill and no-confidence motion

Drawbacks:

(a) "Forced consensus" goes against rationality and individual conscience and converts members into a mere headcount.

(b) Sometimes some essential bills are not passed because of party politics as happened in case of women reservation bill.

(c) Develops a culture of Inhibited innovation

Current political system of India has made politics a game of numbers, compromises and sacrifices. In this scenario, whip is being increasingly used by political parties to impose their will on members. To avoid that a little bit restructuring is needed. Limiting whips only to special cases like money bills, no-confidence motion and excluding ordinary legislation from it will help in addressing these problems.

**Day 17) With respect to RTI Act 2005, discuss the composition, powers and functions of Information Commissions in India.**

Straight forward question where just enumeration of the composition, powers and functions of the ICs is enough.

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Aditi](#)

Ans) Central Information Commission was established under the Right To Information Act 2005, so it is a statutory, non constitutional and independent body.

**Composition**

A Chief information officer and not more than 10 information officer, appointed by President of India on recommendation from Prime minister, Leader of opposition and a union cabinet minister (nominated by PM).

They should be the person of eminence public life but shouldn't be the member of parliament and state legislature of any state or union territory.

**Functions**

It's the duty of the commission to receive and inquire into complaints of any person:

- Who has not been able to request information due to the non appointment of Public Information officer (PIO) by the authorities?
- Who has not got the response within specified time period?
- Who has received incomplete, false or misleading information?
- Who has been refused to provide information and any such matter of dissatisfaction?

**Powers**

- Commission has power of civil court while inquiring into complaint.
- It has access to all public records.
- It has power to secure compliance of its decision from the public authorities.

However only Official and unclassified information is available under RTI (Information of government disposal can be categorized as Top secret, secret, confidential, official, unclassified).

**Day 18) Why is there a demand for decriminalising attempt to commit suicide in India? Critically examine the merits and demerits of existing law of criminalising suicide**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Aditi](#)

Ans) The act of attempted suicide is criminalized in India under section 309 of IPC. The maximum punishment awarded is imprisonment for a year.

The Mental health care Bill 2013 which decriminalized an attempt to suicide was introduced in Rajya Sabha on August 2013 and its pending in the parliament.

There is demand for decriminalizing suicide because It is envisaged that section 309 of IPC is highly insensitive provision that require a person to die successfully or be prosecuted and can be seen as logic “If you kill yourself successfully you’ll be acquitted. If you’re unsuccessful you’ll be arrested”

Merits of Existing Law:

- State can intervene in cases of fasting unto death for a social or political cause (Like it does in Irom Sharmilla’s case that started strike a decade back in Manipur)
- Where social attempts occur with the help of stressors e.g. suicide bombers can be hooked

Demerits:

- It indicates we are not willing to give human a second chance.
- Indian Police is not very sensitive in such cases and often this lead to harassment of the victim who is in dire need of counseling.
- Treating suicide as criminal act will not stop suicide.

Decriminalizing is more sensitive and human way of dealing with the problem as compared to prosecution.

**Day 19) “The need of co-operation in the hydroelectric sector between Nepal and India has been emphasized by various stakeholders for the last five decades. However, there is very little progress to show on ground so far.” Analyze.**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Coop](#)

Ans) Nepal is endowed with abundant hydroelectric potential stemming from steep Himalayan slopes facilitating large water runoff in monsoon season. Many experts have suggested Indo-Nepalese cooperation in this sector because:

- 1) Nepal has neither technology nor finance to take up large scale hydropower projects. Nepal requires cooperation with technologically advanced countries to address its energy crises.
- 2) India, with proximity to Nepal, is the main candidate. Northern India faces power shortage and any future cooperation will benefit both countries to meet their energy demands.

Regardless of mutual benefit for both countries, no such cooperation has been realized so far because:

- 1) Foreign agreements on Nepal require approval of two-thirds majority, which isn't possible for coalition governments of Nepal.
- 2) Nepal's investment environment is poor requiring many approvals from several government agencies.
- 3) Opinion in Nepal is that India's financial power gives them more leverage to determine outcomes of any agreement, thus leading to mutual distrust between countries.
- 4) India's primary aim is to build run-of-the river hydroprojects that do not impede river flow to India. This only benefits Nepal in monsoon season.

Recent developments like new Nepalese constitution and Indian aid to Nepal after earthquake might placate some of these roadblocks paving way for mutually fruitful cooperation, considering economic development aspirations of both countries.

**Day 20) Discuss the key recommendations of the N R Madhava Menon panel on Government advertisements.**

**[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Nishant](#)**

Ans) Government advertisements (ads) projecting political leaders and their achievements have become a common affair. It is argued that such ads are printed out of taxpayer's money to gain personal mileage by the incumbent government. In this regard, the Supreme Court had set up the Madhav Menon Committee on regulation of government ads.

Key observations by the panel are:

1. Wrongly give rise to personality cult in a democracy
2. Mislead citizenry during election time
3. Politicization of development works
4. Abuse of tax money

The Committee recommends such ad should not contain:

1. Pictures of political leaders except the President and Prime Minister
2. Names, website links of any political party
3. Any derogatory remark on Opposition parties
4. Political logos/symbols/ flags etc

The panel further suggests that:

5. Content of government ads should limit to new schemes, public safety and awareness.
6. Prior to election ads regarding only job postings, law and order should be permitted.
7. Multiple ads on important birth/death anniversaries of prominent leaders should be avoided.
8. Additionally an Ombudsman may be setup to check violations of these guidelines.

Such personal glorification and image-making at public expense is a direct antithesis of democratic functioning. The Supreme Court, in a landmark judgment, has thus restrained the government from publishing the photographs of political leaders, ministers or prominent persons in government advertisements.

**Day 21) The issue of “statelessness” has risen considerably on the agenda of the United Nations, regional institutions, governments and civil society in recent times. Present a critical examination of the problem.**

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) Statelessness is the condition of not belonging to any nation. It is an involuntary as well as state perpetrated phenomena which is on rise in 21st century. The usual manifestation of statelessness comes in form of refugee problem which attracts wider attention for human rights violation.

Three categories can be identified.

I. Ethnic conflict: Majority drives minority. If state is not strong, the persecution will reach extremity and minority will be forced to leave the state for their survival. Misery awaits in the near future for all these migrants. Example of Rohingya community of Myanmar and erstwhile Tutsi tribe of Rwanda.

II. Historical legacy: Few places are being claimed by multiple actors. As a result some people do not have an internationally accepted nationhood. Example of Palestine people. In this case, people suffer from historical wrongs and not from their own state and people.

III. Controversial state boundaries: issue of enclaves between India and Bangladesh.

Category I needs immediate international attention for the gross human rights violation. United Nations and International media keeps highlighting the issue through various platforms provided. UN conventions on stateless persons (1954 and 1961) provides legal mechanism to address the issue.

Regional groups like BRICS, SAARC, ASEAN etc can be more effective here through their collective voice. NGOs and other independent human watch organisations are providing a temporary relief to these homeless people and their contribution can't be ignored.

**Day 22) Analyse with suitable examples why maintaining friendly relationship with its South Asian neighbours will be good for Indian economy.**

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) Friendly relations with South Asian neighbours become important for Indian economy in following ways:

Pakistan:

- Strained relations cause added economic cost in border patrolling and military expenditure
- Pakistan is stakeholder in projects like TAPI and IPI which are crucial for India's energy security.
- Strained relations have been cited as one of the reason behind SAARC's ineffectiveness

Afghanistan:

- Important for Hajigak iron ore mining project
- For security and stability in the region, especially after departure of US troops

Nepal:

- Sharing of Hydroelectric energy
- For controlling illegal trade and smuggling through Nepal-India porous boundary

Bhutan:

- Sharing of Hydroelectric energy
- Both Nepal and Bhutan become important with growing Chinese economic influence

Bangladesh:

- For peace and stability in north-east which will help in full development of the region
- Alternate transport route to north east (especially after land swap agreement), thus improving access and connectivity to mainland India

Srilanka:

- Issue of fishermen and possible loss to livelihood
- India is Srilanka's largest trading partner, hence need to maintain that status
- To stem off growing Chinese maritime presence

Maldives:

- important for trade routes and strategic importance

Pursuing friendly relations with these countries are also necessitated by shifting Geo-political power balance. India will need all its neighbors when the race to development becomes too complicated.

**Day 23) Discuss the initiatives taken by the government in addressing the problems of Safai Karamcharis and evaluate their successes. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Anshika](#)

Ans) Safai Karamchari are people working towards maintaining the city clean and provide a hygienic environment

But these Safai karamchari face many problems such as

- 1) They are boycotted socially and are referred to as kachrawalas
- 2) The poisonous gases emanating from waste cause many harmful diseases like Asthma and heart diseases
- 3) Low wage payment and low financial security
- 4) Protected gears are not provided which means they use their bare hands which leads to many diseases

Many initiatives were taken by government

- 1) National Commission for Safai karamchari : The main aim was to safeguard the right of safai karamchari
- 2) National Safai Karamchari Finance and Development cooperation: To empower workers and help them to work with dignity and pride
- 3) Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry latrines (Prohibition): These was established to abolish practise of manual scavenging and construction of dry latrines
- 4) National Scheme for liberation and Rehbilition of Scavengers: To provide adequate training in other identified trades for scavengers and their dependents
- 5) Valmiki Malin Awas Yojana: To provide housing to the safai karamcharis

Inspite of many schemes by government their efforts have met with limited success and the karamcharis continue to work in inhumane conditions. In order for mission of Swatch bharat to be successful, it is necessary that safai karamchari are provided with good conditions to work.

**Day 24) Examine the factors causing 'currency wars', that is, easing of monetary policy by various national banks across the world, and their impact on the world economy. Also examine India's role in it. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Coop](#)

Ans) Currency war is competitive devaluation of currency by either easing monetary policy as by USA, Japan, etc or by buying dollars as by China. Many factors have led to currency war:

- 1) Weak domestic demand: Deflation has affected many economies, leading to low domestic demand. To boost consumption, banks are easing monetary policy.
- 2) Export led growth: to counter affects of low domestic demand, countries are shifting toward export led growth. Devalued currency provide competitive pricing and higher demand.
- 3) International pressure: With few countries adopting deliberate devaluation of currency, other countries followed to prevent appreciation of their currency.

Impact on world economy:

- 1) Devalued currency has benefited many countries in improving trade surpluses. But the sum of trade balance in the world is zero, adversely affecting many countries.
- 2) Currency friction leads to trade friction, adversely affecting international cooperation



3) Deliberate devaluation implies volatile foreign exchange market, this will hamper investment.

Role of India:

India has denounced deliberate currency devaluation and hasn't followed others in currency wars, though India uses its forex reserves to stabilize the exchange rates to attract investment.

The world will be better off, if short term and risky measures like currency devaluation are avoided. Relying on fiscal policies to boost domestic demands may provide long term growth.

**Day 25) Discuss the instruments used by the Legislature to ensure executive accountability at various stages of policy implementation. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Harshit Ladva](#)

Ans) In the politico-administrative system of government in India, the Parliament (Legislature) is finely intertwined with executive where they exercise mutual control over each other.

The parliament holds the executive accountable by following means -

Procedural means -

- \* Questioning - Procedures like Question hour and Zero hour requires executive (PM+ CoM) to give satisfactory explanation to the parliament for their actions and inactions.
- \* Motions - Parliament exercises control over Executive via various motions like censure motion, no-confidence motion, Privilege motion etc.
- \* Committees - By forming joint or select committees, Parliament ensures that due scrutiny is applied to bills and acts presented by the executive.

Monetary means -

- \* Parliament has to approve budget, failure of which will pose existential crisis for government of the day.
- \* By various cut motions and token cuts, it supervises fund allocation to various departments of the executive.

Electoral means -

- \* Passing a no-confidence motion or rejecting a government bill will force the government to prove its majority on the floor of parliament.
- \* Parliament exercises control over President and Vice-president via impeachment.

Political theorists and experts believe that parliamentary control is rather ineffective to paucity of time and lack of technical expertise of Mps.

**Day 26) Lack of security of tenure for important posts in India had greatly hampered the morale and efficiency of civil service. Discuss. Suggest measures to address this issue. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[Today's Top answer is written by – L.I.](#)

Ans) Civil service in India has been subjected to the whims and fancies of politics, with unstable terms and appointments. This has led to

- Non transparency in appointments and transfers: Leads to lack of motivation for improving one's efficiency
- Using transfers as a means of incarcerating honest and efficient officials: Prevents the officials from taking bold, progressive decisions for projects and schemes
- Lack of innovation and creativity for improving their departments [and themselves] among officers
- More nexus and corruption between bureaucrats and political class, thereby leading to trust deficit among the public.

Some measures on the line of 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission:

- Wipe out vested political interference in appointment through a robust Rules of Conduct
- Civil Service Board for recommending transfers and appointments
- Transparency in appointment and transfer by making reasons known in public domain
- Fixed minimum tenure
- Safeguards from arbitrary action by government in cases of dismissal, removal etc

The civil services has been criticized mainly because of political interference which leads to inefficiency. Independence and autonomy to work in a progressive manner will ensure the progress of democracy and good governance.

**Day 27) Why does the Indian Parliament have many committees to look after its' businesses? Write a critical note on the structure and functions of any two of the important committees. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer to this question is written by - Anshika](#)

Ans) The work done by parliament are not only varied in nature but vast in volume, But the time available to parliament is limited, hence it cannot give close consideration to various legislative and other matters. A good amount of businesses is done by various parliamentary committees

The parliamentary committees are of 2 types

- 1) Adhoc : Which are created for particular purposes ie joint committees on certain bills
- 2) Standing committees: Which are used to carry day to day activities, such as business advisory committees

There are many committees under the Parliament -

- 1) Committee on Estimates: It consists of 30 members, All members are from LS and a minister cannot be a member. The main function of committee is to report on economies, efficiency, improvement of organisation or administrative reforms consistent with the policies underlying may be effected and to suggest reform for improving the efficiency and economies of organisation
- 2) Committee on Public undertakings: It consists of 22 members (15 from LS+ 7 from RS) A minister cannot be a member.

The functions are

- 1)To examine the reports and audits of Public undertakings
- 2) To examine the reports submitted by CAG on public undertakings
- 3)To examine the context of autonomy and efficiency of public undertakings

But the parliamentary committee is not free of biases as members are drawn from the ruling parties and they are inclined towards ideologies of the ruling government. For an efficient government it is necessary that advises and suggestions of all members in committee are taken into consideration.

**Day 28) India's courts are well known for huge pendency of cases. Critically discuss their magnitude, consequences of this problem and remedies to address this issue. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Anshika](#)

Ans) The reason one goes to court is to get Justice, but the lengthy procedures in court and obsolete laws have let the courts in India burdened. The number of pending cases in India are so huge that even if the court sits day in and day out it will take roughly 300 odd years to solve all pending cases.

The causes of these delays are

- 1) Lack of Judges: The number of judges in courts are extremely less and their is need to increase the number of judges
- 2) Ferocious Appeals: this has been misused by people in many cases even when their are prime facia evidence of crime
- 3) The facilities provided are disappointing: Lower court judges are payed a meagre sum also have no proper infrastructure
- 4) Investigation agency cause delay: The agencies investigating crimes are lethargic

Some of measures which can be taken to increase the efficiency of courts are

- 1) Increase in number of Judges: The number of judges need to be increased.
  - 2) Increase pay structure and facilities.
  - 3) Power to tribunals: There should be no question of appeal once a tribunal has passed its orders
  - 4) Use of technology: Digital e courts can be started for fast tracking of certain cases
  - 5) The investigating agency should be made independent so that they report only to court
- If the common man need to have his faith back in judiciary it is necessary his grievances are solved earliest because "Justice delayed is Justice denied".

**Day 29) Write a note on the Government of India's recently launched 'Mission Indradhanush' programme. Also, critically evaluate how successful have been similar programs in the past. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer to this question is written by - Anshika](#)

Ans) Mission Indradhanush was launched in 2014 to achieve complete vaccination to children who are eihter partially vaccinated or unvaccinated. Mission Indradhanush will provide protection against 7 life threatening diseases like diptheria, whooping cough, tuberculosis, tetanus, measles, polio, HepatitisB. In addition vaccines will be provided for Japanese Encyphylatis and haemophalis Influenza in selected districts of country. Vaccination against tetanus will be provided to pregnant women as well.

The aim is to achieve complete immunisation by year 2020.

Mission Indradhanush was not first programme to try for complete immunisation. Several programmes were launched before

- 1) Immunisation programme in India was introduced in 1978 as Expanded program of immunisation and was universalised in 1985 as Universal Immunisation programme. The program provided vaccine against 6 preventable diseases.
- 2) Polio irradiation Programme in 1995-96 under which National immunisation programme and an acute surviellance of flacid paralysis took place.

The UIP programme was only partially successful but Polio Eradication programme has been a success and due to coordinated efforts India has been declared polio free now.

To make Mission Indradhanush successful, the reasons for failure of UIP that is lack of awareness, lack of coldstorage to store medicines, lack of training need to be improved with proper awareness, surveillance and monitoring and cold store management facilities for vaccines need to be improved also the lessons from polio eradication drive need to be implemented here as well.

In order to make Indradhanush successful India has sort help of WHO, UNICEF and Rotary clubs.

**Day 30) Comment on the areas of cooperation between India and China. Do you agree with the view that strong trade relations would eventually make border disputes irrelevant in the future? Comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) India and China relations have matured over the decades and are now multi-dimensional. The relationship has shown resilience and is more robust compared to early 60's and 70's.

The relationship can be understood in following dimensions:

1. Cultural dimension: This is an evergreen dimension. Buddhism remains common cultural denominator to both countries. Existence of "Confucius institutes" in India shows the reciprocal exchange of cultural heritage.
2. Strategic dimension: It has transformed from outright hostility at border to a mutually restraint stalemate. Though boundary disputes remain the concern, both countries are now focusing more on outward growth of economy. China's pursuance of "One belt, one road" strategy cuts across India's "Act East" and "Look West" Policy.
3. Economic dimension: This has grown much larger in scale in recent years. Both countries are now targeting mutual trade of 100 billion USD to be achieved in near future. The partnership in BRICS bank and proposed RCEP trade block strengthens the economic relations between both.
4. Diplomatic dimensions: Platform like BRICS, and SCO provide good platform to improve relations. Issue of stapled visa is an aberration which seems subdued in recent times.

Potential of Economic relationship:

Economic relationship can be an effective alternate way for both countries to engage each other. It will result in, apart from obvious economic growth, in following:

- Improved people-to-people relations
- Commercial relations decide contour of foreign relations
- This needs a peaceful and stable border for future engagement
- Which will assist in sorting out border disputes?

Thus early border settlement needs to be expedited if both countries have to share a robust long-term economic relationship. Significance of economic relationship should be seen in that context.

**Day 31) Critically comment on the relevance of Article 370 of the Constitution of India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Aspirant](#)

Ans) Article 370 of the Indian constitution provides special provisions to state of J&K. Apart from defense, foreign relations, finance and communications, the government needs permission of State government for implementing any laws

Article 370 has been a contentious issue among India and state of J&K and experts are divided on whether it has to be revoked or it has to be continued

Political issue:

1) Article 370 has been a bone of contention between state and central government and has led to a lot of misunderstanding and distrust among each other. The state is also accused of not cooperating and allowing Anti India feelings to hamper while state accuses government of violating fundamental rights of Kashmir's and being partial towards J and K

These are basically ideological issues and have caused resentment among people. This can be avoided if there are talks among 2 levels and also developmental work is undertaken in state

2) Economic: The state of J&K has a lot of scope for development. Tourism is one of the most attractive sectors in J and K and both governments can work together to enhance potential. This will provide job opportunities to Kashmir youth.

The restriction on only people of Jammu and Kashmir purchasing land has let people of state have access to their property without any interference from migrants or workers, or

exploitation of state by industries , but this can be relaxed to allow some degree of investment as this might lead to more opportunities

3) Socio- Cultural : Lot of people of Kashmir have developed feelings of alienation from India because of the wrong impression about nation also Indians have very less idea about kashmir and its problem this can be overcome by encouraging more interaction among students .

Also establishing schools of national importance might help the people exchange the ideas amongst themselves might help in removing alienation. But before this it is necessary that Indian government gain confidence of people and understand their grievances regarding AFSA and other violations.

Article 370 has provided many rights to J&K and helped it join Indian union on its conditions. This article has not failed completely and has neither succeeded completely, so it is time for a debate is conducted on pros and cons of article and a well thought solution being brought about which will help Kashmir to be part of India development as like other states.

**Day 32) What do you understand by Delimitation of Constituencies? Examine its objectives and explain how delimitation affects the Representation of the People Act. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Kiran](#)

Ans) Delimitation of constituency is the process of redrawing of boundaries of constituencies for assembly as well as parliamentary elections this is done by the Delimitation commission, formed under Article 82 of the Indian Constitution, based on the recent census. The last delimitation was done based on 2002 census.

The main objectives of delimitation of constituencies are:

- Constitution of India calls for allocation of seats in Lok Sabha based on the population of that state. Similarly for State Legislative Assemblies.
- To accommodate for changing demographics. Based on the census, if a constituency has more number of SC/ST people, that seat may will be reserved for SC/ST.
- Constituencies are redrawn such that each constituency is almost equal. In a democracy like India, where the principle of one man one vote is upheld, it helps ensure that there is no under representation of people in the state assembly or parliament.

Delimitation of constituencies impacts Representation of People's Act 1950 in the following manner:

- It calls for revision of electoral rolls for a constituency.
- Some seats may be reserved or may even get ripped of that status.
- Section 8 of RPA calls for updating the extent of parliamentary and state constituencies.

**Day 33) “The Indian constitution has evolved through a dynamic process. It has liberally borrowed from various constitutional philosophies of the world” – Elucidate. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Jeandreze](#)

Ans) Indian Constitution has evolved through the following acts:

1858 Act:- Centralized Administration

1861 Act:- Expansion of Council

1892 Act:- Discussion on Budget

1909 Act:- Element of election introduced at Legislative Council, moving resolutions on budget

1919 Act:- Bicameralism

1935 Act:- Administrative provisions, three division of lists

1947 Independence Act:- Sovereignty of Dominion legislature.

Influence of National Movement:- Objective Resolution passed by Nehru which encapsulated the idea of sovereign republic, adult franchise, fundamental rights, power to be derived from the people.

However, after independence, the Constitution was made by borrowing from various ideologies from the world -

British Constitution:

1. First Past the Post: because Indian Population was illiterate to understand complex proportional representation
2. parliamentary form of Government: Already prevalent before independence easy to adopt as well as ensured responsibility
3. Rule of Law : Dicey's concept article 14
4. Position of Speaker and his role.
5. Law making Procedure

Irish Constitution

1. Directive Principles of State Policy

French Constitution:

Principles of Liberty, Fraternity and Equality

Canada Constituion:

Quasi Federal Form of Government



United States Constitution:

1. Fundamental Rights
2. Judicial Review
3. Independence of Judiciary.

Our Constitution is not merely a maze of rules and procedures, but a moral commitment to establish a government that will fulfill the many promises that the nationalist movement held before the people.

**Day 34) Briefly outline the merits and demerits of the Westminster model of Parliamentary democracy and the US model of Presidential System in the Indian context. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Jeandreze](#)

Ans) Indian Constitution has adopted Westminster model as it gave precedence to "responsibility" over "stability".

The Merits of Westminster model:-

1. Due to Double Membership there is harmony between legislature and executive.
2. Responsible government because of dissolution of the lower house.
3. Prevents despotism because of fusion of powers.
4. Regional representation is wide, India is multi-religious, linguistic nation this gives representation to varied groups.

Demerits of Westminster model:-

1. Unstable Government and has no continuity in government policies
2. Wide representation exists but not quality.
3. Against the principle of separation of powers

Merits of Presidential Government:-

1. Stable Government because President is elected for fixed term
2. Definite Policies and is a Government of experts.
3. Based on principle of separation of powers because President and legislators are elected separately

Demerits of Presidential Government :-

1. Conflict between legislature and executive because of single membership.
2. May lead to autocracy because of domination of President.
3. Narrow representation and a non responsible government.

India has preferred Parliamentary system as adopted from 1935 Act because of:-

1. Exposure to the system in pre - independence era
2. Preference for responsibility over stability.
3. Fear of Dominance of rulers esp in India where hero worship was prevalent on communal lines.
4. Multi ethnic population.

**Day 35) What is the difference between the system of reservation of constituencies and the system of separate electorates? Why did the constitution makers reject the latter? (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Anurag](#)

Ans) An electorate is the list of all the qualified voters in a particular constituency.

Reserved constituencies is a system where the constituencies are reserved for particular class of people may be based on gender, caste and only people belonging to the reserved class can contest from these constituencies. Here all the members of electorates vote to elect the representative.

Separate electorate is a system where the population is divided into different electorates based on factors like religion, caste. Here the member of each electorate votes only to elect representatives for their electorate. It is basically done to protect the interest of minority groups which may feel threatened and may not get fair representation in the government.

To uplift the social, economic and political conditions of the backward classes, SC, ST and women India went for reserved constituencies. Since these groups are quite vulnerable and if not given an opportunity of proper representation, may not be able to come at par with other groups. Also unlike the system of separate electorate it doesn't create minority feeling as all the voters are involved in electing their representative.

On the other hand, separate electorates polarize the electorates to its extremes. It divides the country on the basis of factors like religion as is evident from partition of India. The seed of partition was sown by the British when they introduced the system separate electorate.

**Day 36) Briefly explain the philosophy of the Indian Constitution contained in the phrase, "Justice - social, economic and political" as appearing in the Preamble. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Adityaka](#)

Ans) The concept of Justice is integral to a democratic polity. It means 'to each what he is due'.

Political Justice

It means that every person should have equal participation in the political system. Participation may mean contesting for elections as a representative or voting for a representative. In the Indian scenario this transpires into Universal Adult Franchise, reservation of constituencies for SCs and STs, reservation for women. This is mainly because they go under represented

Economic Justice

It means that there is no distinction between people when they try and participate in the economic system. The economic system follows the principles of participatory justice and that every one gets an equal opportunity to participate. To ensure economic justice the state should look at aspects such as equal pay for equal work, minimise inequalities in income, right to adequate means of livelihood. MGNREGA is a direct manifestation of the government's mandate to promote economic justice

Social Justice

Social justice ensures that there are no social imbalances within the society. Social imbalances are mainly caused when the distributive proceeds from economic participation are not equitable. Social Justice looks to remove such social imbalances. Reservations for the historically underprivileged in the sphere of public employment, reservation in both private and public educational institutions are direct manifestations of this concept

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, while incorporating these terms into the preamble, brought out the significance of economic and social justice along with political justice. While the latter ensures a democratic polity the former two ensure a democratic society.

**Day 37) Should India worry about recent geopolitical developments taking place in Afghanistan? Critically comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Kiran](#)

Ans) India and Afghanistan's relationship dates back to history. India has a lot of strategic interests in Afghanistan and is the key to fuel rich central Asia. India, traditionally not being a donor country has donated and invested around \$2bn in Afghanistan. India is the fifth largest donor in this war torn country.

But as per the recent trend, Kabul is showing more affinity towards Islamabad. Recently, the peace talks between Afghanistan and Taliban hoisted by Pakistan underscores this factor. A stable and peaceful Afghanistan is a precursor for various Indian projects like TAPI, mining of Hajigak iron ore etc. Even though the peace talk is brokered by Pakistan, it is for the greater good. But the flip side of this is India has been sidelined from the talks. This is a cause of concern for India.

Taliban who have close relationship with the ISI and military establishment of Pakistan can hamper India's interest in Afghanistan. Having a Indian establishment in Afghanistan will always be a worrying factor for Pakistan. And also, Pakistan can use Afghanistan as a backyard in case of war against India.

India should calibrate its policy towards Afghanistan to accommodate the recent changes and if needed, should open her purse more to protect our interests. India currently has invested more in education, health care etc. More possible investment can be done in the areas of energy, military etc. A stable and peaceful Afghanistan is what we should aim for.

**Day 38) Write a critical note on the nature of relationship within federal framework between Delhi state and the Union government. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Anurag](#)

Ans) The Union territory of Delhi was created for political and administrative purpose by the 7th constitutional amendment act and the State Reorganisation Act. The 69th constitutional amendment act gave special status to the Union territory of Delhi, redesignated it as National Capital Territory of Delhi and the administrator of Delhi was designated as the Lt. Governor. The act created a legislative assembly with 70 seats and a council of ministers like normal states.

But, unlike the other states, here the CM is appointed by President rather than the Governor. The CM and council of ministers hold offices during the pleasure of President. In Delhi, both Union govt and the state assembly can make all laws on matters which are listed in state list and concurrent. But Union law prevails over local laws. Further state cannot make laws with

respect to public order, police and land and only union govt. can make law in these regard. Also the Lt. governor of Delhi has more discretionary powers compared to the governors of state.

Thus Delhi doesn't follow the federal structure of other states and the union govt. is the main governing body. These had led to clashes between the local govt. and the union govt.

**Day 39) What are the goals and objectives of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms Scheme of the Government of India? Critically evaluate its performance. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms Scheme was launched in 2011 with dual objective of reducing judicial delays and enhancing judicial accountability.

The mission targets procedural reforms and structural reforms. Under this a set of initiatives have been taken.

Reforms taken:

-Judicial standards and accountability bill which will design standard operating procedures with an aim to enhance performance and ensure accountability.

-National court management system (NCMS) to look into court management. This utilizes the ICT platform.

-Proposal for All India judicial services for attracting best talents to the field and increasing the quality workforce

-Amendment in Negotiable instruments act to check cases of cheque bounce

-Utilizing the Gram Nayalayal act 2008 to set up village Nayalayals in more than 2 lakhs panchayats of country.

These measures have great potential in bringing judicial reforms. Its too early to comment on their efficacy but certain trends can be seen. No of pending cases are being dealt at faster rates, but it will take time to deal with millions of pending cases which have accrued over time. Using ICT platforms like E-court and application of NCMS has created enabling environment for handling more cases in little time. Other fronts like Gram Nayalayals remain under-utilized and political and legislative efforts can be directed here for improving the situations.

**Day 40) What legal initiatives must the states take to improve the higher education sector in the country? (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by - Samit](#)

Ans) In India, Higher Education starts after Secondary Education i.e after Class 12. Although there are enough Legal provisions to make primary education a responsibility of both State and Parents e.g RTE is applicable till Age 14, yet it is not the case for Higher Education. At a point when the population is highest ever for 15-24 age group, It becomes very important to focus on Higher Education as well. The following legal initiatives can be taken:

-- University for Research and Innovation Bill: Enables Govt to set up institutes of Higher Education of National Importance via Notification instead of Acts. This will speed up the formation of New institutions to cater to the increase in Demand.

-- Foreign Education Institution Bill: To Facilitate the entry of Foreign institutions in India =>Increase competition among Institutes.

-- Educational Tribunal Bill: To Provide legal platform to all stakeholders in dealing with Educational Disputes.

-- Accreditation for Higher Education Bill: Ensures the quality check of institutions of higher education by independent regulator.

-- National Academic Depository Bill: To Provide a common national online database for all academic awards.

-- Amendments to IIT, IIM, NIT, etc Act: To bring more autonomy, innovation.

All above mentioned bills have been in the table for 5 or more years, but there has been lack of political will to make them statutes. Even after making statutory, Implementation and sustainability of quality of institutions is more important. This will not only make Indian students competitive in the Global Level, but also it will contribute towards socio-economic development of the nation.

**GENERAL STUDIES THREE**

**Day 1) Bitcoins can never be the global currency of the future. Critically Examine. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a fairly simple question and the main focus should be on the Directive word here - "Critically Examine", which means that we need to examine both pros and cons of the given statement.

Thus, we need to start the answer by defining what Bitcoins are, how are they useful to us etc. Then write some points saying that Bitcoins do have a future role to play as the global currency. But then, mentioning the current disadvantages should make the examiner understand that the Bitcoins, in their current form cannot be called the global currency of the future.

Our model answer would get 6/10, by giving 1 mark to each unique point, alongwith an introduction and a conclusion.

Ans) Bitcoins are a virtual currency system which uses cryptographic techniques to keep the transactions safe and secure. So, it is mooted that they have the opportunity to be the next global currency, due to the following characteristics -

- a) Privacy – With bitcoins, currency can be traded without disclosing who they are. This increases anonymity and thus safety.
- b) Open to all – Anyone with an internet connection can get involved with the Bitcoin network.
- c) Decentralized – No central governmental regulatory or bank oversees all the transactions. This helps in lower transaction costs and faster trade, without any hassles.

But, even with all these advantages, Bitcoin can never become the global currency because -

- a) Due to the intense anonymity, it is a ripe ground for terrorist activities, illegal black-marketing etc, thus needs a stringent regulation.
- b) Due to very less number of Bitcoins, inflation can be very high and arbitrary.
- c) Since there is no central authority to regulate, frauds will be frequent and it might lead to economic bubbles also, thus affecting the whole global formal economy.

Thus, even though Bitcoins seem futuristic, without any regulation and transparency, it will not be accepted by the majority. Thus, in its current form, Bitcoins have very less chances of becoming the next global currency.

[Today's Top Answer would go to – VC](#)

Bitcoin is a decentralized digital cryptocurrency which uses peer to peer technology to operate with no central authority or bank regulating it. It is created digitally through the process called mining which uses computing power to solve mathematical problems through software. Bitcoins can never be the global currency of the future because of the following financial, operational, legal, customer protection and security related risks:

-As bitcoins lack intrinsic value so their value is a matter of speculation leading to huge volatility in value exposing users to potential losses.

-Digital currency like bitcoin stored in e-wallets is prone to theft and loss via hacking, malware, compromised access credentials.

-Though it has an upside in being a decentralized currency with no one central authority being able to control the monetary policy and cause meltdown, at the same time it also has a big downside also as it provides no established framework for recourse to customer problems/disputes etc.

-A potential instrument for money laundering as it has the ability to be used anonymously so it could be a haven for criminals to use bitcoins for illicit activities without being traced.

**Day 2) The evolution of SDGs from MDGs would be a critical event in the history of mankind. Discuss India's performance in MDGs and comment if India is ready to face SDGs. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a very important question this year, mainly because the MDGs will be discontinued in 2015 and the SDGs would be discussed in the Paris Summit. So, this might be a sure-shot question, either this year's Mains or the next year's Mains.

So, do try to remember one-line performance of each MDG by India and try to make a list of all the important SDGs also. The official list would not be announced till the Paris summit, which will be held in December 2015, by which the Mains Question Paper will be set.

So, the main outline for this answer would be simple. List out the performance for each MDG by India within 150 words, and try to answer positively about its readiness for the SDGs in the next 50 words.

Ans) The Millennium Development Goals are a list of 8 Goals envisaged by the UN for all the countries to achieve by 2015. Now, after the expiry of this date, the Paris Summit will decide upon the Sustainable Development Goals for its future course.



India's performance in MDGs -

a) Performed Well – Reduced poverty and hunger by half(MDG 1), Achieved control on the spread of HIV, malaria etc. (MDG 6), Improved access to adequate sanitation to eliminate open defecation; has increased forest cover and has halved the proportion of population without the access to cleaning drinking water, (MDG 7), India's international relations and expanding regional cooperation is positive. (MDG 8)

b) Not reached the Goals in – Rising inequality in poverty (MDG 1), lesser women's literacy, (MDG 3), not satisfactory enough in MMR and IMR (MDG 5)

Some of the constraints for not achieving all the MDGs are over-population, lesser economic strength, government bureaucratic apathy etc. But, India is on the right path in reaching the other goals too, especially through it's various flagship programs and an increased concentration on the UN MDGs even in the Budget, Economic Survey and Five-Year Plans.

Thus, India's first priority would be to finish reaching all the MDGs and gear itself to accomplish the futuristic SDGs as well.

[And Today's Top Answer would be by – Urvashi Saini](#)

Even though she has breached the word limit by a few words, her structure and way of presentation was good. :)

“SDGs are proposed set of 17 goals and 169 targets relating to future international development, proposed in RIO+20 conferences in 2012.

MDGs are eight international development goals that were established in following the millennium summit of UN in 2000..

India's performance on MDG's:-

>>. Goal 1

(+) Achieved target for reducing poverty and hunger by half.

(-) Divergent growth experiences & rising inequality have led to poverty becoming increasingly concentrated in poorer states.

>>. Goal 2

(-) lagging behind for achieving universal school enrollment & completion & achieving universal youth literacy by 2015.

>>. Goal 3:

(+) On track to achieve gender parity at all education levels, having achieved it primary level already.

(-) But women's literacy lag that of man, indicating women's poorer learning outcomes & opportunities.

>>. Goal 4 & 5

(+) Achieve the reduction in child mortality and improvement in maternal health.

>> Goal 6

(+) Achieved control on spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB.

>> Goal 7:

(+) Improved access to adequate sanitation to eliminate open defecation; has increased forest cover and has halved the proportion of population without the access to cleaning drinking water.

>> Goal 8

(+) India is expanding regional cooperation and partnership through 'Neighbors First' 'Act East' policies in ASEAN, SAARC, BIMSTEC, BBIN etc.

India's take on SDGs:

India's achievement on SDG will require a focus on acceleration of inclusive economic growth; guaranteed access to comprehensive services, vast investment in basic infrastructure & women's empowerment. On the top of this, the formulation of effective and responsive development policies & programs is essential to fulfill development for all. The recent "Sabka sath sabka vikas" initiatives of Government like "Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao", "Jan Dhan Yojna" etc are welcome sign of the intention of India to adopt this strategy."

**Day 3) The Economic Survey is superior to the Annual Budget in almost every single way, but the Budget is more important for the running of a democracy. Explain. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a direct explanation of the sentence, and the statement is pretty simple too. The first part should explain why ES is better and more technical than the Budget. And the second part, where it reasons why the Budget is more important because even though the ES shows the exact economic scenario without any manipulations, the Budget, on the other hand, can be manipulated however the ruling government wants.

[The Model/Top Answer for this is written by Prerna Bajaj](#) -

A) ES and the budget are two important documents which presents the financial health of the country, policies and programmes of the union govt.

Economic survey highlights the economic trends in the country and facilitates the better appreciation of the mobilisation of resources, whereas the annual financial statement(Art 112) is laid down as per the provisions of the constitution.It is not merely the statement of revenue and expenditure,it presents the macro-economic framework and fiscal policy by taking a cue from the economic survey.

Budget consists of various important bills i.e Appropriation bill which represents the demand of various ministries which directly relates to the share of allocation for various policies.

Finance bill consists of remission, alteration etc for tax which has direct impact on the pockets of the people.

Thus budget is very important for meeting the aspirations of the people and presents policies for their well being whereas economic survey is just an important technical document which guides the government in making future policies basing on past and present trends.”

**Day 4) GST is being hailed as the biggest tax reform measure since independence. Analyse the benefits that can incur to the Indian economy with its introduction. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a question which has been in the newspapers for a long time, and is fairly important. And since this question is very very broad and has a variety of points, IAS-Baba thinks that it needs to give a Model Answer to.

Do remember that even our Answer is not perfect, because no one can write all the existing points within 200 words, but we did give a try.

#### [The Model IAS-Baba Answer](#)

Ans) Goods and Services Tax (GST) is an indirect tax which is based on the principle of VAT which aims to replace all the indirect taxes on goods and services like state tax, entertainment tax etc.

**The benefits that GST can have on our economy are:**

- a) Tax Reforms: It will broaden the tax base along with increased compliance, tax evasion will be difficult. It eliminates cascading burden of multiple taxation.
- b) GDP Improvement: This will increase tax to GDP ratio of the government which dipped to as low as 10 percent in the last fiscal year.
- c) Uniformity: It will integrate indirect taxation system across the states and facilitate common market across states. It will also do away with entry tax thereby giving boost to trade between the states.
- d) Transparency: GST is expected to build a transparent and corruption free tax administration. It will give boost to entrepreneurship by reducing confusion regarding taxes, thus leading to more investment.
- e) Inflation Control: Inflation will be brought down since the prices of the goods and services will be reduced because of a uniform tax rate.
- f) Quality Improvement: It will promote specialization because total tax liability remains same irrespective of number of production-distribution stages.

All these benefits of GST make it a more desirable reform needed by the country in the immediate future. Addressing the concerns and demands of states on merit basis will be an important breakthrough in its success.

[And the Top Answer goes to Pushkal](#), for writing a very short yet compact answer. This was a very effective one -

Goods and Services Tax(GST) is an indirect tax that will subsume most of the indirect taxes. GST was first recommended by Kelkar task force in 2004. The protagonists of GST term it as the biggest tax reform after independence. The main points in their support are:

- 1) It will remove the Cascading Effect- multiple tax deduction at various points of sales- in the system.
- 2) Central Sales Tax applies only for inter-state commerce and not for inter-state transport. So, big corporates set up their warehouses in the destination state to avoid the inter-state commerce tax. Under new regime, an Integrated GST (IGST) would be imposed by center regardless of transport or commerce. This will prevent Warehousing Obsession that harms the MSMEs.
- 3) There will be a uniform tax rate.
- 4) Exports will be Zero Rated that will boost our exports.
- 5) Tax evasion will be reduced to a larger extent, fiscal deficit will be reduced, increase in GDP.

So, analyzing the above benefits, there is no doubt that GST will have a positive impact on our economy.

**Day 5) Explain the following terms along with their applications:**

**a. Mobile wallet**

**b. Near Field Communication, NFC**

a. A mobile wallet allows a person to exchange physical cash for virtual money, which is stored on the network and is accessed through mobile phones. Virtual money can be used to purchase or pay for various goods at specific merchants who accept this form of payment. Technologies enable such transactions to happen through SMS, bluetooth, through a built in bar code reader application in phones or even through direct communication between the phone and the card reader at the merchant organization. All that the mobile user would need to do is pay cash to the mobile wallet provider to load his/her phone with credit and then use the virtual money for buying things at shops that accept mobile payments.

b. Near field communication, abbreviated NFC, is a form of contactless communication between devices like smartphones or tablets. Contactless communication allows a user to wave the smartphone over a NFC compatible device to send information without needing to touch the devices together or go through multiple steps setting up a connection. NFC is becoming a popular payment and data communication method.

The technology behind NFC allows a device, known as a reader to create a radio frequency current that communicates with another NFC compatible device or a small NFC tag holding the information the reader wants. Both businesses and individuals benefit from near field communication technology. By integrating credit cards, metro tickets, and paper coupons all into one device, a customer can board a train, pay for groceries, redeem coupons or store loyalty points, and even exchange contact information all with the wave of a smartphone. Faster transaction times mean less waiting in line and happier customers. Fewer physical cards to carry around means the customer is less likely to lose one or have it stolen.

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Manish Srivastava](#)

Mobile Wallet Technology:- Customized adaption of Smart phones & mobile technology has increased rapidly. Different platforms like Android, IOS provided developers a lot of convenience to develop user friendly application. Mobile wallet is an example of it.

Mobile wallet works on Near Field Communication(NFC) Technology. In that manufacturer provides a NFC chip inside smart phones. Now when a smart phone user wants to make payment with his/her phone, he/she opens the application like Google wallet, ISIS, Softcard and tap it with enabled payment terminal.

Benefits of MWT:-

- 1) Faster Payments keep customer happy.
- 2) Handling less cash
- 3) Much secure as payment method stays with customer

Near Field Communication:- NFC is a technology to transfer data from a smart phone to any other device with help of radio communication within a short distance. RFID chips are used in NFC communication. It converts data into particular radio frequency and transmits it.

Benefits of NFC:-

- 1) Faster communication as compared to bluetooth & infrared.
- 2) It can communicate with multiple devices at a time.
- 3) Much secure
- 4) No peer to peer communication

Disadvantages:-

- 1) Short range less than 10 c.m.

**Day 6) Discuss the linkages between organized crime and terrorism and potential threats emanating from such linkages in the Indian and Global context. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This question is divided into three parts, each discussing one segment – a) Linkages between organized crime and terrorism. b) Threats to India. c) Threats to the World.

So, when one divides the structure into such three parts, it becomes very easy to answer this question, within the word limit.

[The Top Answer for this Question goes to – Velma](#), even though she/he has just given examples under the last two parts, a bit more should have been discussed regarding the potential threats.

Ans) Organized crime and terrorism are the result of ineffective form of governance. Terrorism aims for overthrowing govt, OC aims for establishing parallel govt and coexistence. Terrorism uses violent means and OC rather prefers non violent forms to achieve its means.

Linkages:

1. OC acts as suppliers of arms& ammunitions, Drugs, Human beings and money to terrorist groups.
2. Colloboration exists at international level between these two.
3. Due to misgovernance, funds reach terrorist group not only money even the essential commodities.
4. The external network organizations in some cases will be carriers of dire funds to terror groups ex Markaz dawa al Arshad to lashkar-e-toiba of kashmir

Indian contexts:

Mumbai Taj hotel bomb, growing terrorism activities in Kashmir, north east state insurgency

Global context: 9/11 WTC attack, Boko haram nigeria (captivating girls), MOSUL IN IRAQ, ISIS activities in yemen.

Growing such activities has definitely posed threat to security of nation. Diplomatic anti terrorism agreements have to be implemented to curb the menace. otherwise UNO (just like the league of nation) will be a failure with the eruption of 3rd world war.

**Day 7) Critically discuss the effects of deforestation on Indian economy. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

Concentrate on the directive again here. It is “critically discuss”. And it is about finding positives of deforestation on the “economy” and not the “environment”, so it is fairly easy to get these points. 100 words for each pros and cons should be done.

[The Top/Model answer for this question is by No one.](#) Everyone has been on a spree in opposing deforestation that no one has written the positive effects of it.

So, this is why IASBaba has decided to give a model answer for this question. [The first half is taken from the user Coutinho.](#)

Ans) Forests play a significant role in Indian economy as a large number of population especially tribal population derive their livelihood from the forests only.

Deforestation is taking place on large scale due to people still practicing slash and burn agriculture, clearing forest land for housing and industrial projects.

It has a adverse effect on Indian economy in many ways-

1. It is disturbing the ecology and habitat of a region thus disturbing the wildlife and discouraging tourism.
2. It is augmenting the effect of soil erosion,landslides and floods which adversely affect agriculture and destroying the infrastructure which in turn push that area into backwardness.
3. It deprives the tribal people of their livelihood and making them poverty struck which is leading to a situation of crisis.

But, deforestation through anthropological activities has its own benefits -

1. It gives us of many forest products like timber,fruits,medicinal plants.
2. Availability of timber will boost furniture, construction and paper and pulp industries.
3. Increase in usable land, which can be used to various purposes like agriculture, development purposes, setting up cities, industries etc.

**Day 8) Discuss why the Indian Ocean is considered as critical to the future of the world and India, both economically and strategically. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[Top Answer by Coop -](#)

Ans) Indian Ocean is a region where 1/3rd of the world population in two dozen states along its rim. The global quest for energy security and rise of Asian economies have made this region very important both economically:

1. India's sizeable coastline and restricted land route options enables 70% trade through the Indian Ocean region. 2/5th of the world's oil supply and critical trade ships pass through the region.
2. The sea itself is an economic resource- from fisheries to deep sea minerals to tourism that depends on tropical islands and coral providing enormous livelihood to littoral states.

Considering the region's critical role in the global economy and abundance of mineral resources attracts many conflicts like India Sri Lanka on fisheries, this amplifies the strategic importance of the region:

1. Economic value of the cargo has stimulated various forms of predatory behaviors (pirates) in the region.
2. More than half of the world's armed conflicts are located in the region- Indo Pak maritime conflict, Indo China competing rise, US intervention in Afghanistan, Iran nuclear agreement, Islamist terrorism, etc. As a result, all major world powers have deployed their military forces in the region.

Thus, the stability in this region is very critical for the world and India, considering its substantial dependence.

**Day 9) What are the important factors that determine the location of an industry? With suitable examples, examine the factors responsible for the location and growth of automobile industry in India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

Such kind of questions are often repeated in Mains. The structure here is fairly simple to write. The first part would be to give a general list of factors, around 5-6 should be enough, with one-line description for each factor.

The second part would be to concentrate on the Indian automobile industry, by giving some examples.

[Today's Top Answer is by – Enticer](#)

A) The important factors which govern the location of industries -

1) Geographical factors:

- a) Availability of raw materials: Like Iron and steel industries are mostly located near ore rich areas
- b) Power : Energy requirement of industries are very high for production, those areas having power sources favour setting up of industry.
- c) Cheap and skilled labour availability.
- d) Climate and Terrain : Harsh climate and terrain resist setting up of industries in that region.
- e) Market: For footloose industries market plays dominant role in setting up of industries.

2) Non-Geographical factors:

- a) Government policies: A favorable government policy leads to setting up of industries in those regions.



Eg: Tata NANO setup in Gujarat due to their industry friendly policies.

b) Banking and Insurance availability: Industries require credit for setting up units, banks provide for the same.

In India automobile sector witnessed great growth, along with this they are mainly located in most urbanised centers like in North zone in Delhi-NCR areas, in western zone majorly in Maharashtra and in south in Chennai region.

The major factors which led to this growth are:

- a) High demand of automobiles due to large population with sufficient disposable income.
- b) Opening of Indian automobile sector for FDI leading to many foreign players entering this sector like Suzuki, Hyundai etc.
- c) Requirement of efficient transport system for solving the problem of commutation.
- d) Providing for strategic support to armed forces for security of borders Eg: Tata trucks.

**Day 10) Nanotechnology can be used to develop simple, effective, low-cost and environment friendly techniques of pest control. Discuss. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

Concentrate on the word - "pest control". This means that even though nanotechnology has many uses and purposes, but this answer wants only those that are useful in pest control. Other than that, it is very simple, if you get the right points.

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Gajendra Singh](#)

Ans) Pest control is big menace for the agriculture and allied industry. Last year they lead to banning of Alphonso mango and other agriculture products. Pest control methods like-chemical pesticides, herbicides do have their adverse impact on health and environment like-Bio-magnification, Eutrophication and killing of pollinators, pest-predators, agro-friendly microbes like cyanobacteria etc.

Here the Nano-technology provides effective, low cost and environmentally friendly solutions:

Nano pesticides: Nano pesticides are pheromones- natural or artificial odours - that lure insects to either trap and destroy them or disrupt their breeding. This technology can be used to control pests of crops such as cotton, pigeon pea, chickpea, tomato, Brinjal, mango, rice and others crops as well. A small use of Nano-pesticides is adequate compared to the traditional fertilizers this makes it cost effective.

Plant disease : Silver Nano particles have been found useful in 'collar root' disease in groundnut and against powdery mildew on cucumber and pumpkins too.

Nano sensors: are used to detect pathogens.

Nano fertilizers: phloem transport of Nano scale calcium oxide in ground nut using solution culture technique.

Environment friendly: Since the other options like- bio-pesticides, hot and cold treatment, irradiation of the produce, nuclear agriculture and BT modifications have their own environmental limitations. Nano –tech is most promising in this regard.

**Day 11) The initial generations of Bio-fuels have been seen as a threat to the food security of the country. Comment on these various generations and explain how do the third generation bio-fuels address these food security problems? (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

Most of the answer is given in the question itself. So this becomes a very simple answer even if you don't know the theory behind it. It says 3rd generation biofuels address the "food security" threads caused by the previous generations. That is all the clue you need to answer this question.

So, two-line description about each generation biofuel, a good intro and a short conclusion would be more than enough for this answer, within 200 words.

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Aemmy](#)

Ans) With exhausting fossil fuels and increasing oil prices and environmental problems, alternative sources of energy is a major concern today. In this regard bio-fuels provide a safe, renewable, environment friendly and efficient source of energy.

Generation of Bio-fuels

1. First Generation: Produced directly from food crops such as wheat, sugar rapeseeds, etc. for manufacturing bio-diesel, bio-ethanol, etc.
2. Second Generation: Produced from non-food crops such as wood, organic waste, food crop waste and specific biomass crops.
3. Third generation: Algae used as energy source. Culture of algae is low cost; produces more energy per acre, land and water unsuitable for food crop can be used for production , manufacturing of varied fuels such as petrol, diesel, jet fuel etc. is possible.
4. Fourth generation is aimed at creating sustainable energy as well as carbon sequestration and reducing CO2 emission.

Problem with first generation: Rise in demand for biofuels has led diversion of land and food crops to grow and produce bio-diesel leading to global increase in food prices hence a threat to food security. Carbon emission in their production is also higher causing negative net energy gain.

Solution through third generation: As we can see above third generation bio-fuels overcame these limitations, addressing the contention of fuel vs food and hence can avert the threat to food security.

**Day 12) Discuss the role of RBI in the management of Indian foreign exchange market. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a straight forward question, where mentioning explaining around 5 roles of RBI in the Forex market would suffice.

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Anshika](#)

Ans) With transition to market based economy to determine the value of Indian rupee, Foreign exchange market gained value in India, Of late with increasing integration of Indian economy with global economy the foreign exchange market has evolved as a key segment of Indian financial market.

Approach of RBI: The RBI has major role in regulating Foreign exchange market

- 1) The RBI controls the foreign currency and gold reserves of country
- 2) Ensuring smooth conduct and orderly exchange in domestic foreign currency
- 3) Regulating transactions related to external sector and facilitating development of foreign exchange market

Tools which RBI have

- 1) The RBI is responsible for implementing the Foreign Exchange management Act 1999 and it also decides the role of banks and private institution as authorized dealers of foreign exchange
- 2) Foreign Exchange department is responsible for regulation and development of market
- 3) Financial Market Department of RBI takes part in sales or purchase of currency depending on market conditions.
- 4) Department of external investment and operations: Invests in the currency and assets which are " Safe Liquid and Secure".

**Day 13) How does illegal mining in the forest region threaten biodiversity? Examine. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

The question asked here is “how”, and most of the answers have given the symptoms of illegal mining on the biodiversity. Read the question very carefully, and the directive here is “Examine”, so one should write a point on how it affects, substantiate with some facts and examine what kind of impact it has on the biodiversity. 4 such points should be more than enough.

The Top Answer is written by - Anshika

Ans) Mining of minerals is needed for man necessity for resources for energy, But illegal mining without proper environment assessment has led to many problems

- 1) Extinction of Species: many Species which are endemic to Western Ghats are in IUCN list of critically endangered species
- 2) Water pollution: Illegal mining can change course of rivers and pollute the river , The recent report on NASA speaks about the groundwater contamination in north India which is due to illegal mining
- 3) Land Degradation: Improper mining without EIA can lead to landslides which will threaten the species
- 4) Deforestation: Land mining leads to habitat loss for animals, Animals which lose habitat will venture in towns and cities which would threaten their existence

Many Committees were formed to look into the problem of illegal mining

Recently SC even banned mining in Goa, The suggestions from kasturiRangan Committee for western Ghat safeguard need to be implemented; similarly the other biodiversity hotspots a survey need to be done by eminent environmentalists and their suggestions implemented

Strict laws need to be implemented to protect the biodiversity

Some measures could be

- 1) A dedicated task force along with forest officials need to survey areas where illegal mining can take place, safeguarding such place
- 2) Use of Technology: Drone caeras can be used effectively to catch hold of illegal miners
- 3) Declaring eco sensitive areas as protected in order to let bio diversity thrive.

**Day 14) Analyse the nature of important internal security threats being faced by India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

This is a very simple and common question which is frequently asked in examinations, but it is extremely necessary to understand the various internal security threats. That is why, we decided to give such an open-ended question, so that all of you can do some basic research and understand all kinds of threats well.

And it is very easy to answer this too, just enumerate all the “internal” security threats and write two-three lines about them where you give a basic analysis.

The Top Answer for this question is written by – Nishant

India's path to development has been burdened with numerous internal security issues. Some are discussed as follows:

**North East Insurgency:**

A separatist movement since the 1950s demanding sovereign states in the NE such as Bodoland. It has proved to be a huge impediment in the integration of NE regions with the mainland. It is also a heavy burden on our paramilitary forces.

**Naxalism:**

It finds its origin in the inadequate and shoddily implemented land reforms in post-independent India. Their aim is to overthrow the State for causing them chronic poverty, underdevelopment and socio-economic marginalization

**Terrorism**

An offshoot of the Kashmir Issue, terrorism today has become the biggest nuisance threatening the whole of India. Cyber terrorism and warfare are its new forms making it more discreet and sophisticated. A huge minority population makes India extremely vulnerable to this end. News reports of ISIS recruitment in India is a case in point.

**Illegal Migration**

IB data claims over 20 million illegal migrants from Bangladesh alone and a substantial increase in numbers from African countries (eg. Nigeria) in the last decade. Their crime linkages can't be ignored.

In addition to these, there are other conflicts like:

1. Communal Violence – Godhra 2002, Muzzafarnagar 2014 etc
2. Trafficking of drugs, arms and humans.
3. Counterfeiting of currency as Indian Economy is still mostly cash-run
4. Organized crime syndicates of land, sand, wood, oil etc.

A strong political will giving primacy to national interests, seamless centre-state cooperation and innovative and integrated policy making is the way forward.

**Day 15) What are the benefits and risks of throwing open the financial sector to foreign banks in India? Explain. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

Foreign banks working in the financial sector, (banking in this case), always have pros and cons. This question is a conflict between globalization and nationalism, profit motive and inclusive development, technology advancement and local practices.

So, understanding both positives and negatives of having foreign banks in the Indian banking sector is important to understand the whole financial structure and its implications on the country as a whole.

**The Top Answer for this question is written by – Subhash Tadala**

Ans) The expansion of Indian banking system welcomes new players especially foreign banks too. The entry of foreign bank can result in both benefits and risks:

Benefits:

- a) Increased Investment flow from these banks makes cash strapped Indian finance sector to get a boost.
- b) Their entry makes the investment rates more competitive and also delivers efficient market products.
- c) FB's improved methods and their banking technology improve the overall efficiency of banking system. HSBC is the first bank to start ATM in India.
- d) FB's has a history to support foreign trade mainly. So, our trade investment can be enhanced.

The equally risks associated are:

- a) Non-Immune to global financial ups and downs. In fact, low foreign banks presence made India relatively more immune to the 2008 financial crisis.
- b) Low rural penetration can bring a distortion in the investment pattern. They had hardly any branches in rural areas.
- c) Non importance to priority sector lending. This makes much needed sectors out of credit options.
- d) Their entry may pose a risk to small domestic banks which are still nascent

Nevertheless, we have to keep in mind that they are not regional and come with a profit motive. In order to get benefits and dislodge the impacts, they must be made subsidiaries in short term and wholly owned in long term.

**Day 16) A large amount of perishable fruits and vegetables go to waste in India. While throwing light on reasons, discuss the government efforts to minimize such loss.**

This is a very standard question, which has already been asked many times in various examinations. The main points that need to be covered are APMC reforms, Mega Food Parks, Cold Chain Storages, PDS reforms, etc.

The first part of the question should deal with all the reasons that lead to the wastage of foods. This should portray a very grim picture of the current scenario. This can be covered in 100 words, with a good strong introduction showing the pathetic condition of the country.

The second part of the question should induce hope into the examiner by giving various positive governmental measures in this regard, and thus should conclude the answer on a positive note by addressing all the negatives. That would make a perfect answer.

[Today's Top Answer for this question is written by – Coop](#)

Ans) India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables after China but 40% of the produce fails to reach the consumer. The reasons behind this wastage mostly arise due to -

- 1) Infrastructure: Insufficient cold storage and refrigerated transport facilities coupled with lack of transportation infrastructure to deliver perishable goods lead to wastage
- 2) Government purchase and distribution: Wide spread corruption and mismanagement at APMCs
- 3) Middlemen have bargaining power over farmers because of farmers' little knowledge of prices; these middlemen have little incentive to spend on protecting food.
- 4) Lack of financing to improve supply chains, training and education of personnel.
- 5) Retail points are mostly small shops which have no facilities to protect food

Policymakers recognizing and to address these issues have implemented:

1. Mega food parks proposal: to improve supply chain shortcomings
2. Proposal of FDI in retail and government owned retail to reduce wastage at the final stage
3. Boosting food processing industry by several economic incentives.
4. Investments in infrastructure for convenient transportation from farm to shop, like refrigerated trucks and cold storage chains.
5. APMC reforms on the way to address middlemen shortcomings.

In India, with high rates of malnourishment, food security is a major concern. These measures if implemented correctly can reduce burden on government to increase agricultural produce.

**Day 17) What do you understand by Debentures? Differentiate debentures from shares. And explain how they are regulated in the Indian Financial Sector.**

Straight forward definition, differences and regulation measures.

[Today's Top Answer is written by - Aemmy](#)

Ans) Debts/Debentures are the borrowings by a company used for raising capital with a liability to repay the loan along with regular interests while shares offer partnership in return for capital.

Differences between debentures and shares:

1. Ownership: Debenture holders (DHs) are creditors to the company while Shareholders (SHs) are owners of the company.
2. Company Management: SHs have right to participate in company's management while DHs do not.
3. Income: DHs receive fixed interests as income while SHs receives variable company's Profit.
4. Repayment: Share capital does not need to be returned while debentures are to be returned after maturity.
5. Risk and gain: Shares are more risky but more profitable, while debentures are safe but comparatively less profitable.
6. Liquidation: DHs are given priority during liquidation while SHs is paid only after all Liabilities have been paid off.

Because each type of financing has its own appeal, companies utilize both to their best advantages.

Regulation of Indian Financial Sector

- 1) SEBI- Through registration, rules, issuance of code of conduct and guidelines to intermediaries. It also conducts inquiry and audits.
- 2) RBI- By issuing guidelines to the banks.
- 3) Companies Act: Regulates incorporation or dissolution of company, establishes responsibilities of company and its director.
- 4) FSLRC: Its recommendation on Indian Financial code, unified financial agency for integrated supervision and FSAT for hearing appeals will allow better market supervision.



**Day 18) What is Green Energy Corridor? Write a note on the energy relationship between India and Germany.**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) The green energy corridor project aims at integrating electricity generated from renewable energy sources, primarily from solar and wind power to main electric grid. This project holds special importance given India's increased emphasis on renewable energy sources. Under National solar mission India aims to reach target of 100,000 MW electricity generations by 2022.

There is also much focus on wind energy. All these sources need to be integrated to main grid. Green corridor project will facilitate distribution of electricity from renewable energy sources across entire country and will decrease burden on coal based thermal power plant. The project will be completed by PGCIL in collaboration with Germany.

Energy relationship between India and Germany

Germany is a leading producer of renewable energy and currently producing 30% of its electricity using renewable sources. It is also shutting down all its nuclear plants and will focus more on renewable energy. In that context It has lot to offer to India in matter of energy and especially in matter of renewable and clean energy.

1. Energy is one of the three areas of co-operation of Indo-German development cooperation (IGDC) agreed in 2008.
2. German Development Bank (KfW) will provide 1 billion Euro for India's green corridor project.
3. Germany provides technical and financial support to Green corridor project.

**Day 19) Critically discuss the government decision to reconstitute the National Board of Wildlife, throwing light on its implications on environment and development.**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) National Board for Wildlife is a statutory body formed under Wildlife Protection Act 1972. Its primary role is to advise government on all wild-life related matters. In this role it evaluates projects and activities affecting wildlife in and around National parks and recommends necessary action. The board is chaired by Prime minister and has a large membership consisting of Mps, Ministers, secretaries, wildlife and environmental experts, NGOs etc. The external representation ensures that decisions are not taken unilaterally.

Recently government has reconstituted the board, resulting into under-representation of NGOs and independent experts. The law mandates that total 15 external members should be there (5 NGOs and 10 independent experts). Recent re-constitution clearly defies this provision. This has been challenged by the Supreme Court and many projects that were earlier approved have been put on halt.

The Original board was a 47 member mammoth organization which resulted in inordinate delay in project approval. This goes against the current regimes' fight against red-tapism and improving ease of doing business. Delays cause distortion in development plan and hence lean NBWL is needed.

Faster file movement and project approval is important, but so is environmental and wildlife protection. By influencing decisions of board, Government would only put itself at the extremity of environment-development debate. A lean NBWL is needed, but not at the cost of sacrificing community participation. For that rightsizing is needed, not isolated downsizing of independent members.

**Day 20) What do you understand by Limited Liability Partnerships? How they are different from Joint Stock Companies and Private Limited Companies? Elucidate.**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Aditi](#)

Ans) Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) is an association of persons formed, within a view to profit, under the provision of Limited liability partnership act 2009. In LLP all partners have very limited liabilities and one partner is not responsible or liable for another person's misconduct or negligence. LLP combines the advantage of both the company and partnership into single form of organization where the registration and maintenance cost of the firm would be minimum.

#### **Advantage of LLP-**

- Separate legal entity
- Limited liability of members.
- Shares are not freely transferable.
- No mutual agency.

#### **Difference between LLP and Partnership firm-**

Under partnership firm every partner is liable jointly with all the other partners for all the acts of firm, liability of partner in LLP is limited and there is no mutual agency i.e. no partner is liable on account of unauthorized act of other partner.

### **Difference between LLP and Joint stock company**

Joint Stock Company lies in the internal governance structure of the company which is regulated by companies act 2013 whereas for an LLP it would be by a contractual agreement between partners.

Thus LLP will have more flexibility as compared to a company or partnership and lesser compliance required.

**Day 21) "Naxalism is the outcome of a number of various factors political and economical in nature." Examine.**

[Today's Top Answer is written by - Coop](#)

Ans) Naxalism is one of the gravest internal security challenge faced by India. Naxal movement was triggered by an incident of police action against tribal insurgents killing villagers at naxalbari (West Bengal) in 1967.

Although this movement was crushed in 72 days, its ideology gained support and due to various political and economical factors the movement mushroomed.

Political reasons:

- 1) Movement was influenced by Chinese communism and Maoism, uprising coincided with the formation of a government in West Bengal led by CPI (M). Thus the movement received increasing official intention and press coverage
- 2) It was an outcome of the inability of legitimate political authority in India to provide avenues to uplift deprived sections of society.
- 3) The insensitive nature of political system towards the tribals created an administrative vacuum. This vacuum is where naxals operate taking advantage of people's discontent towards the administration.

Economic reasons:

- 1) Skewed distribution of land was the trigger for the movement
- 2) Poverty, economic inequality lures the youth to naxalism.
- 3) Affected area is rich in minerals, setup of industries deprived tribals of their lands. This further marginalized them.

These reasons reinforce the inclusion of constitutional provisions promoting equality and protecting rights of tribals. Also suggest lessons for present and future governments.

**Day 22) Since the passing of the Disaster Management Act of 2005, India's disaster management system has seen a significant shift from a relief-driven response to being more proactive, with an emphasis on disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. Critically comment.**

[Today's Top Answer is written by - Coop](#)

Ans ) With Himalayas in the north, desert in the west and Indian Ocean in the south, India's 85% area is vulnerable to one or several hazards. Taking lessons from the devastation by tsunami in 2004, parliament passed disaster management act 2005 and National Disaster Management Authority was setup to minimize damage of disasters with emphasis on disaster prevention and preparedness.

India's preparedness:

- 1) Highly trained NDRF to assist and rescue operations and calamity fund to support the affected population, evident from aid in Nepal earthquake
- 2) Efficient warning system, praised by UN, which limited casualties in Hudhud and Phailin cyclones.
- 3) Awareness campaigns and decentralized response and training systems

Despite of these well placed efforts, there are shortcomings:

- 1) CAG report suggests several loopholes in NDMA functioning, with several stalled projects due to lack of resources.
- 2) Insufficient infrastructure to manage earthquakes, floods and landslides.
- 3) Improper facilities to address droughts, cyclones and other man-made disasters.
- 4) No mechanisms or drills to train people or media in case of contingencies.

Considering the country's vulnerability due to location and increased incidences of disasters due to man-made activities, current framework is not sufficient to prevent or mitigate disaster unless the shortcomings are addressed. Nevertheless, this is an appreciable step in the right direction.

**Day 23) What is Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR)? Why is it seen as a threat and what actions can be taken to counter its effects? (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[Today's Top Answer is written by – Kiran](#)

Ans) Anti Microbial Resistance is the ability of the microorganism to resist against any anti microbial drugs used against it. This is an evolutionary process. In a population of microorganisms, there will be a number of organisms, which have resistance towards the anti body. They evolve through the process of natural selection. The major reason for this is the widespread use of antibiotics. WHO in its reports says that this global threat and international community should up its ante to counter this

The threats caused by AMR are:

- Earlier common and curable disease has become life threatening, Viruses that spread Malaria, tuberculosis etc are reported to have developed AMR.
- This also results in elongation of the medication and can also delay the diagnosis.
- The economic impact of such a long medication is huge for a patient of low income groups.

The main reasons for the widespread use of antibiotics are:

- Widespread availability of antibiotics from 1950 itself.
- It is cheap and anyone can get it from medical shops without prescriptions.
- Improper use of antibiotics.

Some suggestions for countering this AMR:

- There should be a stricter regime, which controls the sale and production of antibiotics.
- Pharmacist should give antibiotics only on prescription.
- Since the current Antibiotics are less harmful for the microorganism, new and efficient antibiotics need to be developed. For this, R&D should be encouraged in this field.

**Day 24) In order to reach 100 GW from the current 3GW solar energy, the solar sector has to match ambition with speed, scale and skill. Examine the factors that determine this and how can the government improve them. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Dark Matter](#) (We have modified the answer to commit to the word limit)

Ans) Factors that determine our ambitious goal of achieving 100 GW:

1. Domestic industry: Much of present solar energy needs are being catered through imports of solar cells and technology. To reduce this dependence domestic industry need to be encouraged.
2. Availability of capital: As solar industry requires huge space and even huge capital. Easy availability of credit determines the success of this goal.
3. State policies: States should play major role and they should accord importance to enact proper legislations to support this industry
4. Renewable purchase obligations: Even though RPOs are devised distribution companies are not following them
5. Awareness among citizens: Citizens need to be made aware regarding benefits of solar energy and its sustainability and it is necessary to encourage off grid systems

The Government can improve in following aspects to achieve this goal:

1. Reforms in Electricity Act: Separate renewable energy legislation is needed and problems of off grid installations need to be tackled effectively.
2. Encourage R&D institutes: Promote institutional setup and research centers to build human resources and encourage innovations in this industry
3. Rationalization of tariffs of thermal plants: Thermal plants energy is preferred due to lower prices and they need to be rationalized
4. Grid connections: Improve grid connections and devise feed in tariff mechanism like in Germany

Regional partnerships with neighboring countries can play effective roles and also the government needs to create an ecosystem where people, industries encourage solar systems citing present global warming dangers.

**Day 25) Should India rejoice at the recent IMF forecast where it predicted that India's economic growth rate would be higher than that of China. Critically comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – SDRS](#)

Ans) Recently IMF has predicted that India's economic growth rate would be higher than that of China, If this happens this will be beneficial for India because-

- a. It will attract more foreign investment toward India as compared to the China. This will further boost the growth.
- b. India's rating in the world may improve and thus Indian companies may have external commercial borrowing at lower interest rate.
- c. India's stock market will further boom.
- d. This will also ensure that Indian investor will invest higher in India as compared to the other countries thus giving impetus to the economy.
- e. Programs like "Make in India" will also get the further boost.

But despite these there are many things which is not encouraging-

- a. This growth is mainly due to the service sector and thus our manufacturing sector is still lagging far behind the china.
- b. Our growth is less effective as compared to that of China. Still there is wide spread poverty which is shown by the SECC.
- c. Further foreign investment will also be mostly in service sector which generates very few jobs thus our future growth may also be Jobless growth.

Thus, the government should take the above forecast as an compliment and should try to reform its labor laws, reduce Red Tape and provide more infrastructure so that in future our growth may be more sustainable and inclusive.

**Day 26) Critically discuss why and examine the concerns raised by the inhabitants of the Sunderban region regarding the growing number of Tigers in their forests. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[Today's Top answer is written by - Enticer](#)

Ans) As per the State of Forest report 2014, there has been increase in the population of tiger reported, which is maximum in the West Bengal. This is good for India's fauna population and biodiversity.

But this increase has raised the concern of the inhabitants of the Sunderbans, following are the major problems faced by them due to increase in the number of tigers in their forests:

- a) Population increase of tigers has led to increase in human-animal conflict in forests.
- b) Livelihood issues created as inhabitants are unable to go to forest to collect basic necessities like timber and other forest produce.
- c) Due to shrinkage of habitation, sometimes tigers enter into human habitation attacking the people living there.

The threat posed by increase in tiger population in Sundarbans need to be addressed immediately by following measures:

- a) There is a need to adopt ex-situ tiger conservation techniques by shifting them from their original habitats to zoological parks and other big tiger reserves.
- b) Locals must be provided proper training to respond in case of human animal conflicts.
- c) More forest guards must be deputed in Sundarban regions along with relaxation in rules of anti-poaching, in case it is urgently require the killing of any tiger if it is posing threat.

**Day 27) Highlight the important features of the Nuclear Liability Act while throwing light on the grounds on which it was criticised both domestically and by foreign suppliers. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer to this question is written by - Nishant](#)

Ans) The Nuclear Liability Act came out of the 123 Agreement between India and US in 2005 which granted exemptions to India for nuclear commerce without being party to any nuclear regime. The deal paved the way for sale of uranium fuel and reactor designs to India.

Passed in 2010, the Act has been criticized by parties on both ends. Domestically, the nuclear deal (and the Act) has been denounced for being non-viable, overpriced and unsafe thus totally against the interests of Indian people. The liability amount at 1500 crore is too low to cover any damages. It is seen in the backdrop of Bhopal Gas Tragedy and much recent Fukushima disaster in Japan which has led to countries abandoning their nuclear programs.



The suppliers group on the other hand is not impressed with the shared liability clause in the Act as well as making suppliers subject to other Indian laws for any loss and damage. The Act, thus far has proved to be an impediment in bringing any tangible benefits to any party.

While the practical value of deal can be questioned, it's symbolic importance in regards to improved India-US relations cannot be ignored. A direct outcome of the deal is India's inclusion in the mainstream of global geopolitics and enhanced status at world fora such as WTO, UNFCCC.

**Day 28) 'Man must realize the importance of maximizing agricultural production without destroying the ecological basis on which our entire food production systems rests.' Explain with examples. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) Food security remains one of the pressing problem of the contemporary world. With a population of more than 7 billion, there is much pressure on limited natural resources to provide for everyone. Not all the measures adopted to enhance agricultural productivity are ecologically compatible.

Measures which had badly affected environment and ecology:

- Use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and fungicides; causes land and water pollution. The application of DDT led to mass extinction of vultures.
- Process of Bio-magnification, further makes these chemicals dangerous for human beings.
- Building Dams and canals for irrigation; which leads to dislocation of communities, submergence of villages, silting problems and hampers natural flow path of rivers?
- Application of Genetically modified crops; long term sustainability not proven. It might also lead to extinction of traditional crops which otherwise are suitable for local conditions.
- Green revolution in Punjab and Haryana also led to heavy land degradation. Water table in the region has declined to threatening levels due to excessive use of ground water for irrigation purpose.

Above problems make it imperative to choose the corrective measures for long term solution. Organic farming, soil analysis and scientific crop selection, rain water harvesting, farmer awareness, use of ICT technology, crop diversification, crop switching are some of the measures in this direction. These will require government support, both domestic and at international level to bring the effective change.

**Day 29) Critically analyse the trend of institutional subsidy in agricultural sector and its effect on farmers and farming in India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

**The Top Answer to this question is written by - Enticer**

Ans) For growth in agricultural production Indian government has provided institutional subsidies, their positive impact are as follows:

- a) Fertilizer subsidy: This subsidy helps farmers in procuring NPK fertilizers at affordable cost which is used to increase productivity of land.
- b) Power subsidy: It is being provided so that electricity will be available at subsidized cost so that farmers can use borewells, tubewells for irrigation and carrying out other mechanized farm activities.
- c) Minimum support price: This helps farmer in gaining adequate amount for their harvest even if the market prices are low for the crop. Government bears the extra cost.
- d) Credit and financing: Being a priority sector they get loans at cheap rates. NABARD plays an active role in agricultural financing.

These approaches ensured food security and helped in increasing farm incomes and improvement in socio-economic status of farmers.

But this has also led to some problems like subsidies are mainly benefiting the rich farmers and they are growing with rising inequality between rich and the deprived farmers.

Overuse of chemical fertilisers and underground water for irrigation has led to degradation of land and water.

Subsidies are also prone to not reaching the intended beneficiaries leading to subsidy leakages.

Direct subsidy transfer has been adopted to prevent leakage and there is a need to prevent overuse of chemical fertilizers and promoting organic fertilizers by providing subsidy in that.

**Day 30) Analyse the twin objectives of the Indian defence industry. Do you think policies advocated and implemented so far have done justice to these twin objectives? Comment. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

**The Top Answer for this question is written by – Sepoy No. 1446**

Ans) Defence is a critical subject matter for any country and its vital for a country to be self-sufficient in defence matters in order to achieve a secure, safe and strong position. Indian defence industry is still far from that position. It still imports more than 50% of its weapons from foreign countries, like US, Israel, Russia and Europe.

To alter this situation it has set two objectives for its defense policy:

1. Self-reliance:Trusting indigenous technology
2. Self-sufficiency:To reduce dependence on foreign weapon suppliers

Two impediments are visible in achieving above objectives

1. Institutional failures: We didn't had the right technology, but at the same time, our focus had been more on import of weapons itself, rather than on transfer of technology.

2. Supplier resistance: India took course corrective wrt first problem and introduced FDI in defence in 2001 and Defence offset policy in 2005 .The latter requires suppliers to invest at least 30 per cent of the contract value in country. This was aimed to spur domestic manufacturing.But the results so far have not been so positive. Offset policy has been cited one of the reasons for delayed defense deals as suppliers are often resistant to comply with this norm.

Above challenges can be dealt by introducing "buy and make" and "transfer of technology" provision in contract under new Make in India campaign. This is the direction Indian defence industry should move towards.

**Day 31) Critically evaluate the intention behind and the success of setting up of more Special Economic Zones in India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Jeanedreze](#)

Ans) Special Economic Z ones in India, under the SEZ Act 2005 were created with the following objectives in mind:-

1. Increasing exports and encouraging investment from both domestic and international fundings.
2. Dedicated areas for massive employment generation along with growth led development.
3. Protection of Indian Industries, though FDI etc was encouraged.
4. Transfer of Technology, improvement of skills and reducing import dependence.

However, unlike China, the SEZs in India are numerous (exceeding 500+) and small in size. In China the SEZs are large and also limited in number. Therefore China is able to achieve economies of scale. Also, China being an export orientated economy benefits from such ventures. The purpose of setting SEZs in China was manufacturing. However, In India, Services sector has been given precedence over manufacturing eg IT parks in Noida, Chandigarh etc.

**Lacuanae that SEZs are facing in India.**

1. Multiple regulations through channels like Environment Ministry, Labour Ministry etc
2. Ease of Doing Business has fared India badly this is discouraging for International Market.
3. International implications eg European Crisis etc have discouraged investments.
4. Services Sector is skilled job, therefore SEZs have not been able to produce jobs in large numbers as expected initially.
5. Small sized SEZs make the projects unviable.
6. Lack of resources-Electricity, land etc makes SEZ out of reach for many.
7. lack of Infrastructure eg Development of Ports discourage exports
8. Forest Rights Act, Land Acquisition Acts have not been in sync with Industry needs

The Government has initiated Labor reforms by providing Shram Suvidha portal, Make in India project, Jal Marg etc can go a long way in making SEZs a success.

**Day 32) What do you understand by both partial and full Capital Account Convertibility (CAA)? Based on this examination, critically suggest whether India should go for full CAA or partial. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – L.I.](#)

Ans) CAC is the convertibility factor of domestic financial assets into foreign financial assets and vice versa for Capital Accounts transactions.

- Partial CAC: It has specified limits. E.g RBI restrictions under FEMA Act
- Full CAC: It has minimum limits or none.

At present, India has partial CAC. FEMA has imposed restrictions on FDI, FII, External commercial borrowings [ECB], foreign investments for individuals under Liberalised Remittance Scheme etc.

Full CAC is being advocated for the prime reason of attracting more foreign capital inflow by relaxing FDI, FII, ECB which in turn can spur investments, economic growth and employment opportunities. With increase in investments, this may also control inflation due to increase in supply.

However, as per International Monetary Fund, no definite correlation has been established between high economic growth and high FDI, FII. Critics have also pointed out that relaxing ECB would lead to exchange rate volatility. The East Asian Crisis '97 also showed that high FOREX reserves does not necessarily ensure stable exchange rate.

In this regard, Tarapore Committee fixed some pre-conditions for full CAC such as fiscal deficit, inflation, FOREX reserves, Cash reserve ratio, Non performing assets for which India has still not fulfilled most criteria. Until then, India may not be overdue for full CAC.

Today we have two Top Answers for this question, as we were not able to decide which one was the better one. The Other Top Answer is written by – Kiran

Ans) Capital Account Convertibility(CAC) is the ability to transact local financial asset to foreign financial asset, based on market determined exchange rate. In other words, it allows for exchange of local currency into foreign and vice versa without any restrictions.

Two type of CAC's:

- 1) Partial CAC: This puts a cap on the foreign asset owned by local individuals/institutions and vice versa.
- 2) Full CAC: There is no such cap on the asset that can be acquired.

The advantages of CAC:

- It allows for 100 % FDI, FII in the country. This leads to increased inflow of foreign capital.
- FDI's boost competition in domestic market and can increase local production.
- Greater incentive for NRI's to remit money through foreign exchange. This also makes the illegal money exchanges like Hawala less attractive.
- It leads to free flow of goods, trade and capital across the globe.

This also comes with certain disadvantages, they are:

- If CAC is not managed well, it can lead to depreciation of the currency, and make it shaky. This result in the loss of confidence of the investors in the currency.
- As market determined exchange rate are higher than official exchange rate, this can affect the import price of goods and services.

Tapore committee appointed to look into this matter by RBI, has suggested some preconditions like, reducing fiscal deficit to 3.5 % of GDP, fixing an annual inflation target to 3-5 %. Unless these conditions are met, India should not go for full CAC.

**Day 33) “It is therefore not very surprising that India in spite of being the leading milk-producing nation in the world is a minor player in the world market” – in the backdrop of this situation, analyse the factors which hamper the prospects of dairy sector in India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Enticer](#)

Ans) India has emerged as the leading milk producing nation after introduction of various programs like Operation Flood, Cooperative milk selling outlets like Amul, thus supplementing farm incomes which majorly suffered from seasonal crop failures, in world market its contribution is less

Major factors hurting dairy sector are as follows:

1) Production level factors:

a) Majority of milk producers are in unorganized sector thus leading to their less competency with organized sector players.

b) Low yielding variety of cattles in India and less technical know how to increase the yield.

c) Lack of credit support to for animal husbandry.

2) Supply Chain and Storage level factors:

a) Involvement of many intermediaries in supply chain thus reducing proper delivery of dairy products for exports and in between exchange adulteration of milk products.

b) Major supply of dairy products is for domestic consumption within country.

c) Lack for proper infrastructure for storage and further processing of dairy products.

3) International level factors:

a) Substandard quality of dairy products as compared to those of other countries thus reducing the viability of Indian Dairy products in international markets.

b) Adoption of protectionist policies by other countries to promote their own dairy products.

Indian government has steps like Intensive Dairy Development Scheme and National Dairy Plan for improving dairy production in quality and quantity, improving institutional and structural deficiencies and for export viability in international markets.

**Day 34) Identify the sectors in science and technology development where India has made remarkable strides in indigenisation and has made footprints in the global arena. Illustrate. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – Sepoy No. 1446](#)

Ans) Science and technology forms backbone of any country's development process. Keeping that in mind, many premier educational institutes, research centers, schools of excellence and foreign collaboration were formed just after independence. This helped India in making her footprint in few sectors and created potential in few others:

Sectors of excellence:

1. Software industry: Information technology and consultancy based services had led to a service led economy. No doubt this has got a truly global acceptance.
2. Space sector: Since launching of Aryabhata in 1975 India has come a long way. Now ISRO is capable of launching satellites of other countries. New launch vehicles like GSLV and PSLV have increased success ratio in satellite launching. Projects like Magalyaan, Chandrayan-I, Chandryan-II, SAARC satellite and GAGAN navigation system truly represent the excellence that we have achieved today.
3. Generic drugs: Known for its mass production and lower cost.
4. Medical tourism: India is famous for offering quality medical services with less cost burden.
5. Defence Nuclear technology: Confirmed by Pokharan tests

Potential areas:

1. Academics: Absence of Indian universities in top 200 global ranking is worrisome. Quality R&D project, innovative academic curricula and less of plagiarism is needed.
2. Solar technology: Still to reach the peak level. National solar mission will assist in this.
3. Defence setor: limited indigenisation has been achieved.
4. Civil Nuclear technology.

**Day 35) What are the major problems affecting the banking sector in India subsequent to liberalisation of Indian economy? (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by – L.I.](#)

Ans) Banking sector in India has evolved through establishment of RBI, Nationalization, setting up Regional Rural Banks, Narasimham Committee (1 and 2), Bank Licences etc.

Major Problems:

- Public sector banks: Politicisation of appointments and role in delivering humongous schemes leading to stressed assets affecting profitability and performance
- SLR and CRR conundrum: Banks hardly earn any returns and are left with less money for lending.
- Priority Sector Lending: No regional targets. As such, loans preferably goes to better developed states as creditors are more likely to repay. Leads to regional imbalance in financial inclusion.
- Regional Rural Banks: Fewer shares to build capital coupled with debt waiver schemes by government leading to huge non-performing assets. Amendment bill seeks to address this.
- Bank Mitras: Low commissions leading to malpractices in charging additional illegal fees. Also according to RBI survey, almost 50% of them are untraceable
- Low positive interest rates: A hindrance to investments and savings
- Lack of proper database to check credit worthiness in rural areas hampers loan availability.

Overall the high proportion of non-performing assets are chief indicators for reforms. The banking sector is still evolving and needs autonomy for improving risk management practices, asset quality and recapitalization.

**Day 36) Examine the role of digital evidence in unraveling cyber crimes, with suitable examples. Explain how it is recognized in the legal mechanism in India. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Aspirant](#)

Ans) Digital evidence or electronic evidence is any probative information which is permissible in any court of law

The characteristics of Digital evidence are -

- 1) They can be easily manipulated, time sensitive
- 2) They can transcend national borders with speed



Digital Forensics is used to find evidence regarding a crime and decipher electronic information. Digital Evidence has been permissible in many cases of fraud, adultery.

An AP court granted divorce to women after she was able to prove her husband's illegal behavior with help of twitter and face book updates. A criminal who committed burglary had updated his status on face book and he could be traced through his IP address. The challenging face of crime and increasing digitization of world has necessitated need for taking digital evidence into consideration.

The information technology act 2000 has been enacted to provide legal recognition to transactions carried out in electronic format. The same enactment has also provided changes in Indian Penal Code 1861, Indian Evidence Act 1872, Banker's Book Evidence Act 1891 and RBI Act 1934. Income Tax Amendment Act 1961 was amended thrice and definition of document was amended to include electronic document.

With changing era and new ways of committing crimes.

Digital evidence has certain limitations that they can be tampered easily and it might become difficult to find what information has been changed and hence evidence gained has to be scrutinized properly.

**Day 37) Examine why using non-sterilised syringes is dangerous to our health and also examine the latest developments in finding alternatives to syringes. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Enticer](#)

Ans) Syringes are used for administering medicines and taking blood samples; with this purpose they harbour various viruses and disease causing pathogens when injected into the patient's body.

Risks involved with the usage of non-sterilised syringes are like getting infected with the HIV, if the syringe was used to inject any AIDS patient, the blood diseases like Hepatitis as happened in the 1980s, hundreds of thousands of Egyptians received a series of 12-16 injections to treat a debilitating water-borne disease called schistosomiasis. The treatments were delivered with needles that contained the Hepatitis C virus (HCV) with no cure.

Health workers are more vulnerable as they use to administer to patient these syringes, if needle of syringe gets injected to them; they get affected with patient's disease.

Latest developments in finding alternatives to syringes are :

- a) Use of Pen devices for checking diabetes etc in which skin is punctured and blood sample is collected and analyzed by device.
- b) Needle Free injectors using liquid stream for puncturing and injection is administered.
- c) Administering medicines through oral drops like Polio drops.
- d) Use of capsules which can be used for both testing as well as administering medicine.

**Day 38) Write a critical note on the problems and prospects of India's major sea-ports. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - Kiran](#)

Ans) India has a vast coastline serviced by 12 major ports and around 200 intermediary and minor ports. Yet, these ports are not attractive or successful as those in china.

**Some of the problems faced by these ports are:**

---- 1) Hinterland Connectivity

----- Connectivity from the major ports to various parts through rail, road, etc are very poor. This calls for improvement in connectives. Land Acquisition through the new Land Acquisition act can solve this issue.

---- 2) Tariff rates

----- Tariffs of each terminal in ports are determined by Tariff Authority of Major Ports(TAMP). They set the rates according to the time period of establishment of terminal. This leads to lack of competition and hence make less attractive. BK Chaturvedi committee appointed to look into this matter has suggested that ports set the tariff as determined by market forces.

---- 3) Turnaround Time

---- Indian ports notoriously have a huge turn around time compared to Chinese ports.

---- 4) Fewer number of terminals

---- Number of terminals in each part of the port is lesser. This leads to bottleneck in the port and thereby increasing the turnaround time.

Various steps like modernization of ports, privatization, easing of the regulatory frameworks need to be taken to improve the condition of ports and thereby countering Chinese competition. As most of the export/import happens through ports its imperative that we develop the ports to full capacity.

**Day 39) Critically comment on how the Rafale fighters deal with France would affect the Make in India campaign, defence indigenisation process and security of the country. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this question is written by - ACE](#)

Ans) The Rafale Deal was conceived due to the aging of the IAF's workhorses Mig- 21 and Mig- 27 and the delay of its replacement LCA Tejas.

So to counter the falling squadron strength of the IAF, the Indian Government Floated the MRCA Global tender and Rafale from France was selected for the deal.

The Deal in "MAKE IN INDIA";

With a mandatory 50% defense offset clause already in place, the deal would have resulted in huge boost to the Indian Manufacturing sector in way of Joint ventures, huge investments, technical skilling, upscaling in manufacturing processes and would have acted as a ladder for the defence manufacturing industry which is a win-win situation.

The Deal in "Defence Indigenization Process":

France has supposedly promised a full technological transfer on concluding the deal since it is not bound by ITAR regulations like other countries, Transfer of AESA radar technology and the source code of the softwares used and have even offered in developing the GTX-kaveri engine. Still, with the deal cancelled now no one could conclude if all the above would have happened, if happened it would have been a major fillip to the country's indigenization process.

The Deal in "Security of the Country":

With only 34 of the needed 42 squadrons, the deal would have given a major fillip to the security of the nation until the indigenous Tejas becomes operational and with its sibling platform Mirage already proving its mettle in Kargil, It would have given a moral uplift for the forces.

But with the deal revoked and undergone major changes, we can only speculate on the effects of the original deal.

**Day 40) It is said that most industrial projects in India, which are either stalled or cancelled, is due to land acquisition problem in India. Do you agree with this assessment? Critically examine. (200 Words, 10 Marks)**

[The Top Answer for this Question is written by – L.I.](#)

Ans) As per the Economic Survey 2014-15, there are around 800 stalled projects both in private and public sectors. Reasons for which have been due to lack of demands, funds and fuel, overleveraged firms, environmental clearances, land acquisition problems.

As regards the land acquisition, it has been a tussle between the companies, internal politics and the land owners/farmers. The Land Acquisition Act of 2013 never actually came into play nor did the Ordinances do any justice. The amendment act has been criticized for its exclusion of the Consent clause and Social Impact Assessment mainly, which was again restored recently by the Government.

Interestingly, it has been found that stalled projects due to land acquisition accounts for around 8% of the total projects only, out of which most projects are concentrated in cities for buildings like malls, golf courses, resorts etc. although, this does not mean lesser implication on rural populace. Nevertheless, it is the economy in general and other combination of factors that have led to stalled projects.

Only with the final formulation of the Land Act and its implementation, it can be observed how well it enhances investments and carry forward the projects smoothly.