

Hello everyone,

Mains preparation is in the final stages. From IASbaba, we wanted to contribute important topics in this last minute preparation. We have compiled a list of topics (**GS 1, GS2, GS3**) along with 3-4 points under each topic which can be used as ready fodder for mains. Use them wisely to fetch more marks in Mains.

We are also running **Current Affairs Focus (CAF) initiative**. Here, the questions will be framed from the latest and the most relevant current affairs focusing on Mains 2019. Follow the link given below-

<https://iasbaba.com/2019/09/current-affairs-focus-caf-the-last-leg-of-your-journey-before-the-final-test/>

Best Wishes,  
Team IASbaba

### LIST OF TOPICS

1. Rural tourism
2. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (2020 200<sup>th</sup> birthday)
3. Hashtag Activism
4. Social Capital
5. Nutrient Based Subsidy
6. World Heritage Sites
7. Pokhran 1998 (20 years)
8. Modernization and Westernization
9. Carnatic and Hindustani music (birth Centenary of D.K. Pattammal)
10. Physiographic landforms that are tourist attractions
11. Local winds – Effect on Socio-economic conditions of a region
12. Ambedkar- Vision for Independent India
13. Impact of Capitalism and Patriarchy on the nature of women's work
14. Guru Nanak (550<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary)
15. Women and Cities (Delhi Metro-free access for women)
16. Social mobility in India
17. Zonal Cultural Centers
18. Language-Indian Society (Three Language Formula)
19. Lynching in India

20. Glocalization
21. Intersectional Feminism
22. Women—Opportunities gap
23. Arctic Wild Fires
24. Residential segregation in urban India
25. Disability among old people
26. Flood mitigation strategies
27. Drought mitigation
28. Landforms created by Ice (Arctic Ice melting)
29. Gas reserves across the world
30. Ocean Economic
31. Biodiversity as resource
32. Water scarcity
33. Mangroves
34. Montague reforms (100 years)
35. Art 370
36. Lateral entry
37. RTI
38. EWS reservations
39. The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill – 2019
40. UAPA Act
41. Consumer Protection Bill
42. Reservation in jobs for locals
43. Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhanYojana (PMLVMDY)
44. Upper house in states
45. 10th schedule of Indian constitution
46. Kartapur Sahib
47. Judicial accountability
48. Capital punishment
49. Financial crimes and regulatory agencies responsible
50. Central Bureau of Investigation
51. Draft National education policy
52. National registry of citizens
53. Data protection
54. Jaljivan mission
55. Ayushman Bharat
56. Right to mental health
57. Corporate social responsibility
58. Senior citizens
59. India-Iran
60. India-WTO

61. Quad grouping
62. India-EU
63. Compulsory retirement of civil servants
64. Hongkong
65. Revival of Taliban
66. Tribal Entrepreneurship summit
67. Girl child related initiatives
68. No first use policy
69. ICJ
70. India-US trade war
71. G-20
72. US-China Trade war
73. FCRA
74. India-ASEAN
75. RATS
76. Korean peninsula and US
77. Middle income trap
78. Bank consolidation
79. Differentiated banking
80. Model APMC Act
81. Behavioural economics
82. Supervisory mechanisms in India
83. One nation- one ration card
84. Economic slow down
85. Precision agriculture
86. Trends in the FMCG sector in India
87. Drought resilient farming techniques
88. Reform in the agricultural marketing system
89. Export oriented units (EOUs)
90. Food fortification
91. Circular economy
92. Advance pricing agreement
93. National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)
94. National Mineral Policy, 2019
95. NBFC crisis
96. Dairy sector
97. Insurance gap
98. Deficiencies in India's MSP regime
99. Agricultural subsidies and distorting effect
100. Mega food park scheme
101. Second generation land reforms

102. Automobile Slowdown
103. Electric Vehicles
104. GST
105. Direct Tax Code
106. Privatization
107. Commercial Coal Mining
108. E-Commerce
109. Data localisation
110. Renewable energy
111. Artificial Intelligence
112. Space
113. 5G-Technology
114. Hyperloop
115. DNA Technology
116. Block Chain Technology
117. Single Use Plastic
118. Disaster Management
119. Internal Security
120. IPR issue



**General Studies Paper-1**

**1. Rural tourism:**

- Very useful for a country like India, where almost 74% of the population resides in its 7 million villages.
- Rural Tourism models of States like Kerala (Back water Spots), Karnataka (Forest Tourism spots), Tamil Nadu (Temple Tourism of villages) etc.
- Rural life, art, culture and heritage at rural locations

**2. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar: (2020 200<sup>th</sup> birthday)**

- Key figure of the Bengal Renaissance, played huge role for the emancipation of women.
- Child marriage: He launched a powerful attack on the practice of marrying off girls aged 10 or even younger, pointing to social, ethical, and hygiene issues, and rejecting the validity of the Dharma Shastras that advocated it.
- Vocational education: He lobbied hard for opening of school for girls and even outlined suitable curriculum that not only did educate them, but also enabled them to be self-reliant through vocations like needlework.

**3. Hashtag Activism:**

- Powerful tool: Hashtag activism can be a powerful way to control a narrative regarding a common cause that has either been neglected or misrepresented by corporate media.
- Multiplier effect: There are roughly 2 billion people on Facebook and users spend an average of an hour a day on the site. Huge impact on society across globe.
- Tool for harassment: They can create a negative impact on someone's image or organisation, which might also demolish the purpose of which they are formed. Example me too movement.

**4. Social Capital:**

- Civil society– A proactive civil society can take up the cause of common people and work towards their welfare, for example HelpAge India NGO working for disadvantaged elderly of India.
- Health– A good social capital leads to reduced isolation due to urban lifestyle, improved health service delivery among people and helps improve the average mortality rates.
- Economic development– A good social capital will enhance trade relations among people and nations, thus helping in mutual economic development, for example India's trade with Bangladesh is better as compared to Pakistan due to better social capital in former case.

**5. Nutrient Based Subsidy:**

- Under it fixed amount of subsidy is decided by Government on annual basis and is provided on each grade of subsidized P&K fertilizers, except for Urea,

based on the nutrient content present in them. It was launched 2010. It is being implemented by Department of Fertilizers, under Ministry of Fertilizers.

- The government's total subsidy burden for nutrient-based fertilizers is ₹22,875.50 Crore.
- The scheme was extended to 145 million farmers.

### 6. World Heritage Sites:

- There are 37 UNESCO WHS in India, including 29 cultural, 7 natural and 1 mixed heritage.
- World Heritage Sites are sites that are listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Khangchendzonga National Park (KNP), Sikkim has been inscribed as India's first "Mixed World Heritage Site" on UNESCO World Heritage List.

### 7. Pokhran 1998 (20 years):

- Operation Shakti-1998. Operation Smiling Buddha-1974.
- The Pokhran test brought immediate international condemnation from a world that has officially scorned nuclear testing since 1996 by endorsing Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which prohibits all nuclear tests.

### 8. Modernization and Westernization:

- Modernization: involves changes not only at the institutional level but also a fundamental change at the personal level. (rational transformation of society)
- Westernization is a process of imitation of western countries by non-western countries.

### 9. Carnatic and Hindustani music: (birth Centenary of D.K. Pattammal)

- Carnatic music is a system of music associated with the southern part of Indian sub-continent.
- Hindustani music is associated with North India and is deeply influenced by Persian and Islamic music system.
- Hindustani music is raga based while Carnatic is kriti-based.
- Hindustani stresses pure notes versus the gamaka-based Carnatic ragas.

### 10. Physiographic landforms that are tourist attractions:

- **Cliff:** An erosional landform, produced by wave action, which is either at the seaward edge of the coast or at the landward side of a wave-cut platform. Eg: White cliffs of Dover.
- **Sea arches:** A sea arch is a natural opening eroded out of a cliff face by marine processes. Eg: Azure window.
- **Blowhole:** When sea caves grow towards the land and upwards creating a vertical shaft that exposed on the surface, it results in a blowhole. Eg: Nakelele Point in Hawaii.

### 11. Local winds – Effect on Socio-economic conditions of a region

- **Buran:** it blows in central Asia and Siberia. It is a strong cold north easterly wind which reduces the temperature up to -30 degree

- **Mистра:** it blows in Rhone valley of France. It is a cold wind blowing during winters. It has adverse effects on orchards.
- **Berg:** It blows in South Africa. It blows mainly in winter due to anticyclone effects in the interiors, causing uncomfortable weather for people and damage to crops

### 12. Ambedkar- Vision for Independent India

- A "free" India would be a model democracy that redistributed power to the marginalised, and purged society of oppressive social institutions, beliefs and practices.
- Ambedkar's views on constitutional morality and parliamentary process were founded in Buddhism.
- Ambedkar's support for creating states on the basis of linguistic lines stemmed from his belief that social homogeneity would make democracy "work better."

### 13. Impact of Capitalism and Patriarchy on the nature of women's work

- Women are being pushed towards home-based work.
- In Capitalist society women engaged in home-based work are denied the status of workers.
- Considered as cheap and flexible labour.

### 14. Guru Nanak (550<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary)

- Guru Nanak was first of the ten Sikh Gurus.
- Guru Nanak founded the Sikh sacred scripture, Guru Granth Sahib.
- Development of Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district, Punjab to the international border.

### 15. Women and Cities (Delhi Metro-free access for women)

- Women's access to the economic, social and cultural life of a city has always been constrained as she could never circulate freely.
- Urban spaces do provide women, and especially migrant women, with anonymity, which allows them to escape the patriarchal holds of family and community. However, their ability to engage with the urban space is severely limited by the experience of **gendered violence**.
- Public spaces for women have traditionally been intermediate space—a space between two private spaces.

### 16. Social mobility in India

- There is higher occupational mobility among forward castes than among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- There is much greater occupational mobility in urban areas than in rural areas.
- World Bank study on intergenerational income correlation—which measures the extent to which parents' incomes are reflected in the incomes earned by their children —high in India

### 17. Zonal Cultural Centres:

- To protect, promote & preserve various forms of folk art and culture throughout the country including Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand & Odisha, the Government of India has set up seven Zonal Cultural Centres (ZCCs) with headquarters at Patiala, Nagpur, Udaipur, Prayagraj, Kolkata, Dimapur and Thanjavur.
- The North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC) which was established in November 1985 with its headquarter at Patiala, is the first Zonal Cultural Centre established in the country.

### 18. Language-Indian Society (Three Language Formula)

- Constitution of India---8<sup>th</sup> schedule---22 Languages
- Draft New Education Policy 2019- Mandatory teaching of Hindi in non-Hindi speaking states.
- Though officially there are 122 languages, Peoples Linguistic Survey of India has identified 780 languages, of which 50 are extinct in past five decades.

### 19. Lynching in India:

- Lynchings are motivated by prejudice and a need to assert dominance over an oppressed group
- The Rajasthan legislative assembly passed the Rajasthan Protection from Lynching Bill, 2019 to provide for stricter punishment for those convicted for mob lynching

### 20. Glocalization:

- Glocalization is a combination of the words "globalization" and "localization." The term is used to describe a product or service that is developed and distributed globally but is also adjusted to accommodate the user or consumer in a local market.
- Local supply chain- eg: lays source their potatoes from Indian Farmers
- Customizing to local traditions- eg: Domino's only vegetarian menu during Navratri festival in Gujarat.

### 21. Intersectional Feminism:

Intersectional feminism examines the overlapping systems of oppression and discrimination that women face, based not just on gender but on ethnicity, sexuality, economic, class, religion, creed, disability, creed, sexual orientation, age and a number of other axes.

### 22. Women—Opportunities gap:

- India rank-108 Global Gender Gap Index
- India's female Labour Force Participation Rate- 23.3% in 2017-18.
- Women Mp's in Loksabha-14.3%

### 23. Arctic Wild Fires:

- While wildfires are common at this time of year, record-breaking summer temperatures and strong winds have made this year's fires particularly bad.
- Areas affected: Eastern Russia and Alaska.



- Unlike lower-latitude wildfires, most of the carbon emissions from Arctic fires come from burned organic soil rather than burned trees and shrubs.
- When particles of smoke land on snow and ice, the ice absorbs sunlight that it would otherwise reflect, and thereby accelerate the warming in the Arctic.

### 24. Residential segregation in urban India:

- A recent longitudinal study by Singh et al (2019) using the 2001 and 2011 Census data, showed that residential segregation persisted or worsened in 60% of Indian cities.
- Using Census 2011 data in Bengaluru- there are many neighbourhoods with no SC–ST population and neighbourhoods with substantial SC/ST population denoting high segregation.

### 25. Disability among old people:

- “Higher disability rates among older people reflect an accumulation of health risks across a lifespan of disease, injury, and chronic illness”—WHO
- There is a bidirectional link between disability and poverty.
- India’s elderly population (60 years or more) is growing three times faster than the population as a whole. It is projected that the percentage of elderly will climb from 8% in 2010 to 19% in 2050.

### 26. Flood mitigation strategies:

- Planting of the tree and mangrove belts along river banks and coastlines.
- Planned settlement growth.
- Shared flood warning mechanisms.
- Recharge and rejuvenation of wetlands.
- Identification and assessment of flood-prone areas.

### 27. Drought mitigation:

- Adoption of micro-irrigation techniques
- Stringent application of water harvesting measures not only at the individual level but at community and village level too.
- Seechwal model can be implemented especially in acute water deficit areas. This model is currently being extended along the banks of the Ganga
- Wastewater recycling facilities in urban and industrial centres to allow for non-drinking uses.
- Agricultural practices should focus on more crop, per drop.
- Agro-climatic basis for crop selection.

### 28. Landforms created by Ice: (Artic Ice melting)

- Cirque: It is an amphitheatre-like valley formed by glacial erosion. Example: Circo de Gredos in Spain and Cirque de Garvanie in France.
- Horn: A horn results when glaciers erode three or more arêtes, usually forming a sharp- edged peak. Example: Flinsch Peak in Glacier National Park, Montana
- Drumlin: Drumlins and drumlin clusters are glacial landforms composed primarily of glacial till. Example: Drowned drumlin in Clew Bay, Ireland

- Hanging valley: A hanging valley is elevated above another valley, with one end open to the valley below. There may be a cliff or steep formation where they meet.

### 29. Gas reserves across the world:

- Nearly 80% of the world's total proven natural gas reserves are located in ten countries.
- Russia: Holds the largest amount of natural gas reserves in the world, accounting for about one fourth of the world's total proven gas reserves. Majorly located in Siberia, namely Yamburg, Urengoy and Medvezh'ye.
- Iran: World's second biggest natural gas reserves. More than 60% of Iran's natural gas reserves are located offshore. South Pars is the largest gas field. North Pars, Kish and Kangan are the other major natural gas fields in Iran.
- Qatar: Holds the third largest natural gas reserves in the world, accounts for around 13% of the world's reserves. Qatar is also the single largest LNG supplier in the world. A vast majority of the country's natural gas reserves are located in the giant offshore North Field.

### 30. Ocean Economic:

- The oceans cover 71 percent of the Earth's surface and contain 97 percent of the Earth's water. Less than 1 percent of the Earth's water is fresh water, and 2-3percent is contained in glaciers and ice caps. The oceans contain 99 percent of the living space on the planet.
- The worldwide ocean economy is valued at around valued at around US\$1.5 trillion per year.
- Eighty per-cent of global trade by volume is carried by sea.
- 350 million jobs world-wide are linked to fisheries.
- By 2025 it is estimated that 34% of crude oil production will come from offshore fields.

### 31. Biodiversity as resource:

- Biodiversity underpins the health of the planet and has a direct impact on all our lives. It provides Ecosystem services. That could be water, soil formation and protection, pollution breakdown and absorption, climate stability and recovery from natural disasters.
- According to IUCN, the World Conservation Union, the monetary value of goods and services provided by ecosystems is estimated to amount to some US\$33 trillion per year.
- Biodiversity changes affect ecosystem functioning and significant disruptions of ecosystems can result in life sustaining ecosystem goods and services.

### 32. Water scarcity:

- Annual per capita water availability in India- 1545 cubic metres (2011), 1300 cubic metres (2030- Estimated by NitiAayog).
- 21 Indian cities including Delhi, Bengaluru, and Chennai will run out of groundwater by 2020 (NitiAayog CWMI Report).
- Water is a state subject.

- India is home to 16 percent of world population but has only 4% of planets fresh water.
- IPCC Report 2014 warned that around 80% of world population suffers a severe threat to its water security.

### 33. Mangroves:

- Mangroves of the World have been divided into two groups: Eastern group i.e. East Africa, India, Southeast Asia, Australia and the Western Pacific and Western group comprises of West Africa, South and North America and the Caribbean Countries.
- The most extensive area of mangroves is found in Asia, followed by Africa and South America.
- Four countries (Indonesia, Brazil, Nigeria and Australia) account for about 41 percent of all mangroves.
- The Sundarbans region is the world's largest area of mangrove forest, spanning approximately one million hectares (2.47 million acres) in India and Bangladesh.

### General Studies-Paper 2

### 34. Montague reforms: (100 years)

- Dyarchy.
- Central and provincial subjects.
- Public service commission.
- Central bicameralism.

### 35. Art 370:

- Final integration: Abrogation of Article 370 and 35A is a big milestone for the unity and integrity of India.
- Development: the scrapping of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir will ensure the development of the state by bringing in people from other regions to invest and settle down. Also return of Kashmiri Pandits who left the state after genocide.
- Violence: this move will help the center better control violence in Kashmir.
- Better operations and less casualties: politicians who were sympathetic to or subsidized by militant organizations or their handlers in Pakistan would leak operational details undermining the efficacy of such operations before.

### 36. Lateral entry:

- It brings in the best practices of the private sector into the government administration.
- It spurs competition and improves the public service delivery in the process.

- It brings in domain experts and specialists more suited to specific tasks. For e.g. Ministry of Finance has been hiring Senior Advisers in field of economics, finance etc.

### **37. RTI:**

The proposed amendments, in effect, give the union government the power to fix the tenure, salaries, and terms and conditions of service of the information commissioners (ICs), including the chief information commissioner (CIC) and the state information commissioners (SICs).

### **38. EWS reservations:**

- The economically weaker sections of citizens have largely remained excluded from attending the higher educational institutions and public employment on account of their financial incapacity to compete with the persons who are economically more privileged’.
- Articles 15(6) and 16(6) have been inserted in the Constitution, vide the Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019. This enables the State to provide the benefits of reservation on preferential basis to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) in civil posts and services in the Government of India and admission in Educational Institutions. Accordingly, the provision for 10% reservation to the EWS was implemented by the Government in January 2019.

### **39. The DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill – 2019**

- The purpose of the bill is to expand the application of DNA-based forensic technologies to support and strengthen the justice delivery system of the country.
- By providing for the mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories, the Bill seeks to ensure that the DNA test results are reliable and the data remain protected from misuse or abuse in terms of the privacy rights of our citizens.
- Bill’s provisions will enable the cross-matching between persons who have been reported missing on the one hand and unidentified dead bodies found in various parts of the country on the other, and also for establishing the identity of victims in mass disasters.
- The Bill includes provisions for the destruction of DNA samples and removal of innocent people’s DNA profiles from the database.

### **40. UAPA act:**

- The UAPA authorises the government to ban “unlawful organisations” and “terrorist organisations” (subject to judicial review), and penalises membership of such organisations. The problems begin with the definitional clause itself.

- Under vague and nebulous definitions of terror and unlawful activity, they often encompass a wide range of nonviolent political activity and suppress contrarian, dissenting ideological or political perspectives.
- They allow for detentions without a chargesheet, create strong presumptions against bail, admit in-custody confessions and tacitly sanction torture. Over the years, their victims have been many innocents, whose stories ought to bear upon the collective conscience of this nation.

### **41. Consumer protection bill:**

- The new bill will provide a better mechanism to dispose consumer complaints in a speedy manner and will help in disposal of large number of pending cases in consumer courts across the nation.
- The bill, among other things, proposes setting up of a Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers as a class. The CCPA would make interventions to prevent consumer detriment arising from unfair trade practices. The agency can also initiate class action, including enforcing recall, refund and return of products.
- The Bill also envisages simplified dispute resolution process, has provision for Mediation and e-filing of cases. The Consumer will be able to file cases in the nearest commission under the jurisdiction of which he resides.
- For the first time there will be an exclusive law dealing with Product Liability. A manufacturer or product service provider or product seller will now be responsible to compensate for injury or damage caused by defective product or deficiency in services.

### **42. Reservation in jobs for locals:**

- Andhra Pradesh becomes First State to Reserve 75% Private Jobs for Local Youths.
- According to the new law, if a company does not find the necessary skills in locals, then it will need to train them in association with the state government.
- The law is applicable to all industrial units, factories, joint ventures and PPP projects.
- Similar laws are proposed in other states like Madhya Pradesh, which cumulatively impacts the unity of India and freedom of its citizens (Article 19(1)(d), 19(1)(e),19(1)(g)).

### **43. Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhanYojana (PMLVMDY)**

- The centre's pension scheme for small traders (PMLVMDY) has been notified and being introduced on trial basis from this week
- The scheme assures a minimum monthly pension of Rs. 3,000/- month after attaining the age of 60 years

- All small shopkeepers and self-employed persons as well as the retail traders with GST turnover below Rs. 1.5 crore and age between 18-40 years
- The scheme would benefit more than 5 crore small shopkeepers and traders.

#### 44. Upper house in states:

- Parliament may by law provide for the abolition or creation of the Legislative Council of a State, if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting.
- An Upper House provides a forum for academicians and intellectuals, who are arguably not suited for the rough and tumble of electoral politics.
- At least on paper, it provides a mechanism for a more sober and considered appraisal of legislation that a State may pass.
- If there was any real benefit in having a Legislative Council, all States in the country should, and arguably would, have a second chamber.

#### 45. 10<sup>th</sup> schedule of Indian constitution:

- Aaya Ram Gaya Ram was a phrase that became popular in Indian politics after a Haryana MLA Gaya Lal changed his party thrice within the same day in 1967.
- The anti-defection law sought to prevent such political defections which may be due to reward of office or other similar considerations.
- The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985.

#### 46. Kartapur Sahib:

- The Kartarpur Corridor is a proposed border corridor between the neighbouring nations of India and Pakistan, connecting the Sikh shrines of Dera Baba Nanak Sahib (located in Punjab, India) and Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur (in Punjab, Pakistan).
- Currently under planning, the corridor is intended to allow religious devotees from India to visit the Gurdwara in Kartarpur, 4.7 kilometres (2.9 miles) from the Pakistan-India border, without a visa.
- Pakistan agreed to give year-long visa-free access for Indian pilgrims to the holy Gurdwara of Kartarpur Sahib.

#### 47. Judicial accountability:

- Slow delivery of justice and pendency in courts.
- Abnormal delays that amount to justice being doubly blind.
- Vacancies or delays in promotional appointments.
- Resourceful defendants are seen escaping culpability not necessarily on merit, but due to their ability to quickly manage judicial processes to their advantage.

- Without self-discipline and enforceable timelines, non-judicial staff are also found taking advantage of the prevailing opaqueness.

### **48. Capital punishment:**

- The unconstitutionality of death penalty was raised in the case of Bachhan Singh v State of Punjab. The Supreme Court in that case said that death penalty is constitutional but should be given only in the rarest of rare cases.
- In recent times, public outrage, the need for deterrence, and the clamor for a befitting punishment to render substantial justice have dominated the general discourse.
- Several states have passed death penalty bills for heinous crimes like Illicit liquor manufacturing i.e. Bihar, Rapes etc.

### **49. Financial crimes and regulatory agencies responsible:**

- Serious Fraud Investigation Office: The Government in the backdrop of major failure of non-banking financial institutions, phenomenon of vanishing companies, plantation companies and the recent stock market scam had decided to set up Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), a multi-disciplinary organization to investigate corporate frauds.
- Directorate of Enforcement (ED): It is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India. It is part of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- Securities and exchanges board of India: Regulator Sebi has sought powers to conduct inspection of books of accounts of listed companies for contravention of any securities law and also to take direct action against the fraudsters. Sebi has proposed a heavy penalty for altering, destroying, mutilating, concealing or falsifying records and documents or other tangible objects with intent to obstruct, impede or influence a legal investigation.

### **50. Central Bureau of Investigation:**

- CBI has had its roots as an anti-corruption wing of the British Indian government known as the Delhi Special Police Establishment.
- Due to its competence and professionalism that from such humble origins it rose to national eminence and in 1963 it became the CBI.
- It is the primary central government body responsible for policing.
- It comes under the Department of Personnel and Training which is under the PMO.
- Hence, the head of the CBI reports directly to the PMO as FBI reports directly to the President of the United States.
- CBI is not a statutory body as it was created by executive resolution.

### 51. Draft National education policy:

- First, it recommends multilingualism as the foundation of education in a country like ours, thus moving away from a pointless debate about what should be the national language. It recognises children's ability to learn several languages and the cognitive advantages of multilingual education.
- Second, like the previous policy documents, it reiterates the well-known pedagogic wisdom, supported by cognitive psychology, that the child's "home language" or "mother tongue" must be her medium of instruction. This is in sharp contrast to the cognitive barbarity of the spread of English as a medium of instruction in a setting where, more often than not, the child, the parents, as well as the teachers, are innocent of this language.
- Third, it celebrates the strength of Indian languages as carriers of modern education and the country's future. It makes a strong case for teaching of and knowledge creation in these languages. The government would do well to implement the detailed suggestions for helping the growth, preservation and vibrancy of Indian languages.
- Fourth, and conversely, it attests to the fact that the dominance of English language is due less to its intrinsic value and more because it is the language of the dominant elite. I call the prevailing situation a system of linguistic apartheid. The DNPE makes bold to say something that needed to be said: dominance of English needs to end.

### 52. National registry of citizens:

- The National register of citizens is a register containing names of all genuine Indians residing in India.
- Several states in India are demanding it on lines of Assam to weed out illegal migrants and protecting local people.
- Illegal activities like terrorism, human trafficking, drug trafficking can be checked.
- To safeguard Voting rights and properties such as land and house.

### 53. Data protection:

- Srikrishna Committee recommendations to the government for the data protection bill.
- An important judgement in 2017 in the context of data privacy is the Supreme Court of India's recognition of privacy as a fundamental right.

### 54. Jaljivan mission:

- The JalJeevan Mission's first preference will be to have single village ground water-based schemes, wherever sufficient quantity and good quality of groundwater exists.



- These schemes would be managed by the community itself through the setting up of a village water and sanitation committee, a sub-committee of the gram panchayat.
- It is, therefore, planned to include a mandatory provision under the JalJeevan Mission for the effective channeling and treatment of household waste water (known as grey water), through appropriate and low cost drainage and treatment systems.
- On the lines of the Swachh Bharat Mission, extensive information, education and communication will be needed to create a janandolan for water management.
- The ongoing Jal Shakti Abhiyan will help in creating awareness about the importance of integrating source sustainability and water reuse with the provision of household water supply

### 55. Ayushman Bharat:

- Aim: To make path-breaking interventions to address health holistically, in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems
- Objective: Prevention + Promotion (Health & Wellness)
- Full proof mechanism while allowing States to accommodate the existing schemes, keeping the flavour of Digital India intact

### 56. Right to mental health:

- As per the Mental Health Survey of India for 2015-16 which was conducted by National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, approximately 15 percent of Indian population suffers from mental health issues which require active intervention. Mental illness requires prolonged medical attention along with continuous care and support from professionals which is often a huge financial burden on families. What makes this problem more complex is the deep rooted stigma around mental health conditions.
- IRDAI, in its circular, said that insurers will have to make provisions to insure mental illness, according to the rules laid down by the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017. According to Section 21(4) of the Act, every insurer needs to make provisions for medical insurance for treatment of mental illness on the same basis as is available for treatment of physical illness. The circular stated that insurers will need to comply with these provisions with immediate effect.

### 57. Corporate social responsibility:

- Recent estimates have shown that corporates spent only 30-40% of the amount that was expected to flow in.
- A High-Level Committee CSR constituted in Sep 2018 under the chairmanship of Injeti Srinivas to review the existing framework on CSR has submitted its report

Some of its recommendations include

- CSR spends should be eligible for tax deduction under the income tax law. Currently, income tax law does not allow CSR spends as tax deductible amount.
- Allowing the carry-forward of unspent balance for a period of 3-5 years
- Aligning Schedule 7 of the Companies Act (which outlines the kinds of activities that qualify as CSR) with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Companies having CSR-prescribed amount below ₹50 lakh may be exempted from constituting a CSR Committee
- Violation of CSR compliance may be made a civil offence and shifted to the penalty regime.
- Introducing impact assessment studies for CSR obligations of ₹5 crore. Registration of implementation agencies on the Ministry of Corporate Affairs portal

### 58. Senior citizens:

- It is projected that approximately 20% of Indians (324M) will be elderly by 2050, marking a dramatic jump from the current 8%.
- 75% elderly live in rural India and 1/3rd live in poverty.
- Schemes like Varishta Pension Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, and IGNOAPS etc have to be strengthened and made aware to reach the right beneficiaries.

### 59. India-Iran:

- The strategic location of the region, acts as a Eurasian bridge connecting Asia and Europe (Especially after signing TIR Convention and Ashgabat Agreement).
- Regional security dynamics- Iran is important player for maintenance of peace in Afghanistan.
- For combating piracy and securing Sea lanes of communication (SLoC) in the Indian Ocean region.
- Iran-Baluchistan border can be used as a frontier, if Pakistan tries any misadventure in Jammu & Kashmir region.

### 60. India-WTO:

- Concern for food security.
- IPR.
- Safeguard mechanism.
- Food security.

### 61. Quad grouping:

- Maritime security.
- Diamond to counter string of pearls.
- Finance.

- Act of balancing.

### 62. India-EU:

- EU and India would emerge as strong trade partners through enforcement of BTIA.
- EU is India's largest trading partner accounting for approximately 13% of its total world trade, while India is EU's 10th largest trading partner. India is reliant on EU for machinery, nuclear reactors, optical and photo equipment, aircraft, etc.
- EU's top imports from India include mineral fuels, oil, distillation products, organic chemicals, textiles, etc. The key sectors of trade in services between the two are sea and air transport, computer and information, financial and banking services.

### 63. Compulsory retirement of civil servants:

- According to Rule 56J of fundamental rules for civil services, the government shall have absolute right to retire any government servant.
- This provision is not treated as punishment under Article 31 of Indian constitution (Supreme Court in Umedbhai Patel Vs. State of Gujarat 2003 case upheld this).

### 64. Hongkong:

- Hong Kong is situated on the southeast coast of China, Hong Kong's strategic location on the Pearl River Delta and the South China Sea has made it one of the world's most thriving and cosmopolitan cities. Hong Kong became a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of the People's Republic of China on 1 July 1997.
- The interference of the communist regime of China in the internal affairs of Hong Kong and its oppressive policies have led to various pro-democracy protests for autonomy in recent times.
- Massive protests in Hongkong have erupted against a government plan to allow extradition to mainland China. Civil unrests and severe economic clampdowns are being witnessed in the region.

### 65. Revival of Taliban:

- Taliban fighters, whom US-led forces spent billions of dollars trying to defeat, are now openly active in 70% of Afghanistan.
- Recent attacks claimed by Taliban and Islamic State group militants have killed scores in Kabul and elsewhere.
- IS is more active in Afghanistan than ever before, although it remains far less powerful than the Taliban.
- The prospect of a premature US withdrawal from Afghanistan is bad enough. Now Indian diplomacy must act fast to quell newly emergent threats to the country's fragile democracy.

### 66. Tribal Entrepreneurship summit:

- India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit was organised at Dantewada in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. The summit is part of 8th Global Entrepreneurship Summit being held in India. The event was organized by National Institute of Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in partnership with Government of USA.
- It was organised to inspire, nurture and promote the spirit of entrepreneurship in tribal youth. It aims to ensure another step towards tribal-centric sustainable and inclusive development.

### 67. Girl child related initiatives:

- Improving sex ratio– Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao Scheme, Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act are meant to prevent sex selective abortions and improve sex ratio in the country.
- Female education– Sukanya Samridhi Yojana creates a fund for the future education of the girl child and Udan for higher education of girl child.
- Child Marriage– Prohibition of Child marriage Act 2006 has been enacted to prevent marriage of girls below 18 years of age.
- Health and nutrition– Supplying iron and folic acid tablets, Kishori Shakti Yojana, POSHAN abhiyan, Mid day meal scheme have been undertaken to provide sufficient nutrition to girl child.
- Hygiene– Ujjwala sanitary napkin at minimal cost under Suidha scheme will support menstrual hygienic among girls.
- Child labour– The Child Labour(Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016 has been enacted to make sure girls are not indulged in chil labour and instead get education.
- Sexual abuse– Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 provides strict punitive action in case of sexual abuse against the child.
- Human trafficking– Ujjawala scheme to prevent, rescue and rehabilitate trafficked girl.

### 68. No first use policy:

- Need of the hour: Raising the stakes at a time of high tension with its nuclear-armed neighbour Pakistan.
- Recent changes: India revoked the special constitutional status of the part of Kashmir it controls; prompting a furious reaction from Pakistan, which, like India, claims the entire territory.
- Flexible policy: India's "no first use" commitment is neither absolute nor permanent, and implying that in a conflict, nothing would compel India to abide by it.
- Part of defence: It is an element of unpredictability in the country's military strategy.

- Matching international standards: We are already in a situation where arms control is crumbling: The U.S.'s nuclear posture review is talking about limited nuclear war once again.

### 69. ICJ:

- The ICJ is made up of 15 jurists from different countries. No two judges at any given time may be from the same country. The court's composition is static but generally includes jurists from a variety of cultures. Despite this diversity in structure, the ICJ has been criticized for favoring established powers. Under articles 3 and 9 of the ICJ Statute, the judges on the ICJ should represent "the main forms of civilization and principal legal systems of the world."
- The function of the ICJ is to resolve disputes between sovereign states. Disputes may be placed before the court by parties upon conditions prescribed by the U.N. Security Council. No state, however, may be subject to the jurisdiction of the court without the state's consent. Consent may be given by express agreement at the time the dispute is presented to the court, by prior agreement to accept the jurisdiction of the court in particular categories of cases, or by treaty provisions with respect to disputes arising from matters covered by the treaty.

### 70. India-US trade war:

- India retaliatory tariff on 29 products including apples, almonds etc. after US revoked preferential privileges.
- US accuses India of having several non-tariff barriers.
- India doesn't agree with the US on the ever greening of patents.
- US is unhappy with India's recent price controls on medical products such as stents.
- There are differences in certification of meat and dairy products. India can export meat to Japan and the EU, but not to the US, as its meat inspection system is different.
- Standards and conformity assessment testing, digital trade, healthcare, and agricultural trade.
- India's e-commerce restrictions are another source of irritation.

### 71. G-20:

- Its mandate is to "promote discussion and study and review policy issues among industrialised countries and emerging markets with a view to promoting international financial stability."
- The Group was formed with an aim of studying, reviewing, and promoting high-level discussion of policy issues pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

- The forum aims to pre-empt balance of payments problems and turmoil on financial markets by improved coordination of monetary, fiscal, and financial policies.
- The forum seeks to address issues that go beyond the responsibilities of any one organisation.

### 72. US-China Trade war:

- The conflict is seen as a significant threat to global economic growth.
- The US-China trade war has been a great source of uncertainty for financial markets over the past year.
- Uncertainty has weighed on investor confidence around the world, and has contributed to losses.
- The IMF warned a full-blown trade war would weaken the global economy.

### 73. FCRA:

- The Foreign Contribution Regulations Act or FCRA is a law enacted by Parliament to regulate foreign contribution (especially monetary donation) provided by certain individuals or associations to NGOs and others within India.
- The act, in its consolidating form, was originally passed in 1976 and majorly modified in 2010.
- The government has used the act over the years to freeze bank accounts of certain NGOs who it found were affecting India's national interest for wrong purposes.
- The Home ministry cancelled the registration of several US-based NGOs after it was found that they were diverting the money received into funding protests at Tamil Nadu's Kudankulam against a nuclear power plant, an Indo-Russian joint venture.

### 74. India-ASEAN:

- Bilateral trade increased from USD 12 billion in 2002 to 72 billion in 2012 with a cumulative annual growth rate of around 22 per cent over the preceding 10 years.
- The success of the Act East Policy will be determined by its contribution to security and economic development of Northeast India.
- India and ASEAN are active participants in the East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus), and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).
- In a rapidly evolving geo-political scenario marked by China's assertive military, political and economic rise, the AEP has imparted greater dynamism to India's ties with ASEAN.

### 75. RATS:

- The Regional Antiterrorism Structure (RATS) was established in the year 2004 at the Tashkent Summit.
- SCO-RATS is a permanent body established to bring about coordination and interaction between member states in ensuring security in the region.
- The Regional Antiterrorism Structure works on information sharing and joint counter terrorism measures between the member states. Post the Astana summit declaration of 2005, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation has emerged as a regional security organization.

### 76. Korean peninsula and US:

- Participation of N Korea in winter Olympics.
- Singapore summit- Conference between USA and North Korea in Singapore led to Inter-Korea declaration. Though the declaration was not VCID (Verifiable, Comprehensive, Irreversible and Denuclearization).
- Panmunjom summit- Between N and S Korea. The Panmunjom declaration seeks to remove both social and economic sanctions on N Korea upon its complete de-nuclearisation.
- Agreement toward de-nuclearisation- Kim Jong has for the first time agreed on de-nuclearisation and has started destroying the nuclear armaments.

### General Studies-Paper 3

### 77. Middle income trap:

- India is a low middle-income country with a GNI per capita of around \$2,000.
- Causes: Backlash against globalization, Thwarted Structural Transformation, Human Capital Regression, Climate change-induced Agricultural Stress, fall in private consumption
- Measures: Transitioning from diversification to specialization in production, shifting to productivity-led growth, Opportunities for professional talent, Decentralized economic management, Sustaining macroeconomic stability.

### 78. Bank consolidation:

- Narasimham committee of 1991, P J Nayak committee in 2014 suggest for mergers of banks.
- Reserve Bank of India expects the gross NPA ratio for state-owned banks to rise to 16.3% by March 2019 from 15.6% in March 2018.
- Merger will lead to a bigger capital base and higher liquidity which will help in meeting the norms under BASEL III.
- RBI has approved framework for proposals to amalgamate PSBs through an Alternative Mechanism (AM)

### 79. Differentiated banking:

- It is a system refers to the system of different licenses for different sub components of the banking sector such as Limited Banking License, Commercial Banking License.
- Two types-payment banks and small finance banks.
- Differential banks will give rise to a varied type of investors with different risk-taking abilities and thus better finance the projects.

### 80. Model APMC Act:

- Functions of the Authority include (i) levying and collecting facilitation fees, (ii) disposing appeals related to disputes under the draft Model Act, and (iii) publicising contract farming.
- Disputes between a producer and a buyer, they can: (i) reach a mutually acceptable solution through negotiation or conciliation, (ii) refer the dispute to a dispute settlement officer designated by the state government, and (iii) appeal to the Contract Farming (Promotion and Facilitation) Authority (to be established in each state) in case they are not satisfied by the decision of the dispute settlement officer.
- Recommendations: (i) allowing direct sale of produce by farmers, (ii) removing fruits and vegetables out of the ambit of APMCs, and (iii) setting-up of farmer-consumer markets, (iv) electronic trading, and (v) joining electronic National Agricultural Market for the sale of produce.

### 81. Behavioural economics:

- The Economic Survey 2019 has drawn on Nobel Laureate Richard Thaler's Behavioural Economics Theory. Example: swacch bharrath abhiyan, Ujjwala scheme, which sought to move from incandescent to LED bulbs to promote energy efficiency.
- It provides the necessary tools and principles to not only understand how norms affect behaviour, but also to utilize these norms to effect behavioural change.
- The Survey said "nudge policies gently steer people towards desirable behaviour while preserving their liberty to choose" and the government was planning to go ahead with the programmes to usher social change.

### 82. Supervisory mechanisms in India:

- The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) published a report identifying and comparing a range of regulatory and supervisory cyber-resilience practices observed in banks across jurisdictions.
- The Chakraborty Committee describes the supervisory system overhauled on to a new risk-based supervision (RBS).
- They dealt with the need to connect SWIFT transactions to the core banking database, which was another layer at which the scam could have been spotted, but the fundamental problem was lack of enforcement of SWIFT password protection.

### 83. One nation- one ration card:



- Aim: 'End to End Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) Operations'
- Four states are implementing: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- Already, 77% % of the ration shops across the country have PoS machines and more than 85% of people covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) have their cards linked to Aadhaar.

### 84. Economic slow down:

- Rating agency Crisil forecast to 6.9% for 2019-20.
- Reasons: Demonetisation dealt a severe blow to consumption, leading to a vicious cycle of job loss and lower income, IL&FS crisis triggered the Non Banking Financial Companies' (NBFC), tight monetary and fiscal policies, less income for farmers.
- Slow private consumption: seven out of 16 key segments such as, auto production, Coal India Limited's (CIL's) output, thermal electricity generation, non-oil exports, port cargo traffic, rail freight, passengers carried by domestic airlines, as well as ATF and diesel consumption, contracted in the last one year.

### 85. Precision agriculture:

- Precision Agriculture is a concept which needs implementation through ICTs, Wireless Sensor Networks, Geospatial methods and automated positioning systems.
- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has formulated a project entitled "SENSAGRI: SENSOR based Smart AGRiculture".
- KISAN+ (Crop Insurance using Space technology geo-informatics); the programme envisages use of high resolution remote sensing data (from Indian and International Satellites) for improving crop yield.

### 86. Trends in the FMCG sector in India:

- Fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) are the 4th largest sector in the Indian economy.
- India's contribution to global consumption is expected to get double to 5.8 % by 2020 due various factors such as increasing disposable income, higher demand especially rural areas, etc.
- Self Help groups are another important group in food processing, regulatory regime is most needed to these groups.

### 87. Drought resilient farming techniques:

- Failed monsoon in recent years. The North-East monsoon, also known as 'post-monsoon rainfall' (October-December) that provides 10-20% of India's rainfall, was deficient by 44% in 2018.
- About 6% of the land area of the country is currently in the Exceptionally Dry category, which is nearly four times the 1.6% area at the same time last year.
- Techniques: bunding, strip cropping, mulching, intertillage, inter-cropping, drought tolerant crops

### 88. Reform in the agricultural marketing system:

- Govt schemes: Electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Model Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing Act, 2017, Model Contract Farming and Services Act, 2018, Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana
- Agriculture export policy, 2018 which aims to double agriculture exports from \$30 billion to \$ 60 billion by 2022.

### 89. Export oriented units (EOUs):

- The main objectives of the EOU scheme are to increase exports, earn foreign exchange to the country, transfer of latest technologies stimulate direct foreign investment and to generate additional employment.
- The Export Oriented Units (EOUs) is complementary to the SEZ scheme.
- Formal FIPB approval as per sectoral guidelines is required. Section 10B of Income Tax Act, 1961 allows relief from Income Tax burden for a period of 10 consecutive assessment years.

### 90. Food fortification:

- Nearly 70% of people in India consume less than half of their recommended dietary allowance (RDA) of micronutrients.
- FSSAI operationalized the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 for fortifying staples namely Wheat Flour and Rice (with Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid), Milk and Edible Oil (with Vitamins A and D) and Double Fortified Salt (with Iodine and Iron) to reduce the high burden of micronutrient malnutrition in India.
- Schemes: Eat Right India movement, The Safe and Nutritious Food (SNF) Initiative, The Eat Healthy Campaign.

### 91. Circular economy:

- It is an economic system aimed at eliminating waste and the continual use of resources. Circular systems employ recycling, reuse remanufacturing and refurbishment to create a closed system, minimising the use of resource input and the creation of waste.
- Circular economy has the potential to generate 1.4 crore jobs in the next 5-7 years & create lakhs of new entrepreneurs.
- 'Circular Economy Symposium 2019' organised by FICCI, Amitabh Kant said that resource circularity and sustainable development are the need of the hour to implement the circular economy.

### 92. Advance pricing agreement:

- An advance pricing agreement (APA) is an ahead-of-time agreement between a taxpayer and a tax authority on an appropriate transfer pricing methodology (TPM) for a set of transactions at issue over a fixed period of time.
- The total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT in the year 2018-19 stands at 52, which includes 11 BAPAs. The total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT as of now stands at 271, which inter alia includes 31 BAPAs.

- Sectors included: contract manufacturing, provision of software development services, back office engineering support service, provision of back office (ITeS) support services, provision of marketing support services, payment of royalty for use of technology and brand, trading, payment of interest

### 93. National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA):

- Recommend accounting and auditing policies and standards to be adopted by companies for approval by the Central Government;
- Monitor and enforce compliance with accounting standards and auditing standards.
- Oversee the quality of service of the professions associated with ensuring compliance with such standards and suggest measures for improvement in the quality of service;
- Perform such other functions and duties as may be necessary or incidental to the aforesaid functions and duties.

### 94. National Mineral Policy, 2019:

- The aim of National Mineral Policy 2019 is to have a more effective, meaningful and implementable policy that brings in further transparency, better regulation and enforcement, balanced social and economic growth as well as sustainable mining practices.
- Provisions: introduction of Right of First Refusal for RP/PL holders, encouragement of merger and acquisition of mining entities.
- The 2019 Policy proposes to grant status of industry to mining activity to boost financing of mining for private sector and for acquisitions of mineral assets in other countries by private sector.

### 95. NBFC crisis:

- Issue: liquidity crunch, harms economic growth, cascading effect on consumption
- ILFS crisis: NBFC crisis were visible in the second half of 2018 when the Mumbai-based Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS), a three decade old lending giant, which claims to have helped finance projects worth \$25 billion (Rs1.75 lakh crore) across the country, ran out of money

### 96. Dairy sector:

- It provides employment to about 8.8 % of the population in India. India has vast livestock resources. Livestock sector contributes 4.11% GDP and 25.6% of total Agriculture GDP.
- Schemes: rashtriya gokul mission (RGM), National Kamdhenu Breeding Centre (NKBC) , RGM Award, EshuHaat, National Awards, Embryo Transfer Technology.

### 97. Insurance gap:

- India has the second largest insurance gap in the world of USD 27 billion (in absolute terms) after China, where the underinsurance or insurance gap is over USD 76 billion.
- Insurance gap- The total value of assets not covered by an insurance policy is one of the highest in the world, standing at 1% of the GDP as per Lloyd's report.
- Insurance penetration- Total value of premium underwritten in a year in case of non-life insurance is rising on the back of government schemes to 0.9% of GDP.

### 98. Deficiencies in India's MSP regime:

- Though fixed for 23 crops, in practice, the remaining 20 agro commodities do not derive any benefit.
- Challenges relating to information dissemination: NSSO study has pointed out that it has mostly benefited large farmers while 70% of farmers remain unaware about MSP.
- The small and marginal farmers can be provided with some exemption in Fair Average Quality (FAQ) norms to provide them with a source of income.

### 99. Agricultural subsidies and distorting effect:

- Subsidies directed by the United States government, particularly to corn farmers, can have a spill over affect in developing countries like India.
- Rationalizing subsidies: The recent steps like Rythu Bandhu scheme of Telangana and KALIA scheme of Odisha in this regard are good measures.
- While the developing countries like India and China are not in an affordable position to breach the de-minimus level of Aggregate measures of support(AMS), developed countries like US provides subsidies exceeding 50% in some products such as Canola, cotton, sugar and more than 200% for wool.

### 100. Mega food park scheme:

- The government has sanctioned 42 MFPs to be set up in the country. Out of this 14 are operational.
- Each MFP on being fully operational will also benefit about 25000 farmers.
- SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the Ministry like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, etc

### 101. Second generation land reforms:

- These are aimed at reorganizing state and collective farms into family-size units and introducing market-oriented land systems. It is broadly about leaving resource allocation and production decisions to market forces rather than to the government institutions.
- Appropriate land compensation- The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 is meant to provide owners with rightful compensation.

- Land leasing- Model Agricultural Land Leasing Act, 2016 can help in this regard. Contract farming- Draft Model Contract Farming Act, 2018 has been released to strengthen rules and regulations regarding this.

### 102. Automobile Slowdown:

- Come April 2020, India will upgrade to BS-VI norms. As a result, vehicle prices are estimated to jump 13-30 per cent (1-2 per cent per annum over previous decade) due to safety, insurance and emission related compliance costs.
- Automobile sector accounts for up to 14% of India's total GST collections.
- Automobile sales in India witnessed its sharpest decline in nearly 19 years in July, 2019 dropping 18.71 per cent, rendering almost 15,000 workers jobless over the first quarter of 2019.
- Sales downturn is due to several factors like high GST rates, farm distress, stagnant wages and liquidity constraints

### 103. Electric Vehicles:

- FAME –II Scheme - part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan – emphasis is on the electrification of Public transportation.
- The NitiAayog aims to make three-wheelers to be fully electric by 2023 and two-wheelers with an engine capacity less than 150 cc to be converted to electric by 2025
- Union Ministry of Mines has set up joint venture company namely KhanijBidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) to ensure a consistent supply of critical and strategic minerals (including lithium & cobalt necessary for e-vehicle batteries)

### 104. GST:

- Completion of two years of GST – monthly average of GST revenue during 2018-19 is Rs 98,114 crore, 9.2 per cent higher than the previous fiscal.
- National Anti-Profiteering authority – tenure extended by another two years till 2021
- NAAP was constituted under CGST Act, 2017 to ensure that the reduction in rate of tax or the benefit of input tax credit is passed on to the recipient by way of commensurate reduction in prices

### 105. Direct Tax Code:

- Task force headed by Akhilesh Ranjan to reform Direct taxes – recommended reduction of corporate tax to 25%, simplifying Income Tax Act (presently more than 700 sections); Doing away with Dividend distribution tax and faceless tax administration
- The number of taxpayers under Direct Taxes for Assessment Year (AY) 2016-17 were 6.92 crore and for Assessment Year 2017-18, it increased to 7.41 crore.

- The Direct-Tax GDP ratio for the FY 2017-18 is 5.98%.

### 106. Privatization:

- Centre sets ₹1.05 trillion disinvestment target for 2019-20
- Privatization of Air India - airline had a net debt of ₹58,351.93 crore at the end of March 2019,
- Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express to be the first train to be operated by private players

### 107. Commercial Coal Mining:

- Opened for private sector in December 2018, earlier coal mine auctions were done for captive usage
- State-owned Coal India and Singareni Collieries Company together accounted for 91.6 per cent of the total coal produced in the country during FY2017-18.
- India's coal import increased by 8.8 per cent to 233.56 million tonnes in 2018-19

### 108. E-Commerce:

- The Indian e-commerce market is expected to grow to US\$ 200 billion by 2026 from US\$ 38.5 billion as of 2017.
- News of Walmart-Flipkart deal
- A draft National e-Commerce policy has been prepared- FDI only in marketplace model; Indian control over data; Curbs on Chinese ecommerce exports; No separate regulator for ecommerce sector; E-consumer courts to be developed

### 109. Data localisation:

- The cost per gigabyte of storage has fallen from 61050 Rs in 1981 to less than 3.82 Rs today
- Telangana government's Samagra Vedika initiative - links 25 existing government data sets using a common identifier - shows potential benefits of integrating data sets
- Justice Srikrishna Committee - Individual Consent: Data Protection Authority, Local Data Storage
- The Supreme Court in its Puttaswamy judgment, 2017 declared privacy a fundamental right.

### 110. Renewable energy:

- India recently conducted two auctions for wind/solar hybrid projects
- India has added 65-70GW of wind and solar capacity so far, with wind and solar contributing 9.5% of generated energy in May 2019

- The share of renewables in Total generation has increased from 6% in 2014-15 to 10% in 2018-19.
- India – 18% of world population uses 6% of world's primary energy
- SDG 7- Affordable and Clean energy

### 111. Artificial Intelligence:

- The global AI market was valued at USD 16.06 billion in 2017 and is expected to reach USD 190.61 billion by 2025, at a CAGR of 36.62% during the forecast period
- India to implement Faceless Tax administration using Artificial Intelligence
- National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence (AI) – Discussion paper released by NITI Aayog- The Strategy is termed #AIForAll in line with Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas
- National centre for AI announced in Interim Budget 2019-20

### 112. Space:

- Space Activities Bill - provides for establishment of a regulatory mechanism for the purpose of authorization and licensing of space activities as well as provision on liability for damages
- India's Chandrayaan-2 mission included orbiter, lander and rover – unsuccessful landing on South Pole of Moon
- Gaganyaan – To send three Indians to Space by 2022 – using GSLV MKIII launch vehicle
- ISRO has already developed some critical technologies like re-entry mission capability, crew escape system, crew module configuration, thermal protection system, deceleration and floatation system, sub-systems of life support system etc. required for this programme.

### 113. 5G-Technology:

- 5G is expected to provide Internet connections that are least 40 times faster than 4G LTE. 5G technology may use a variety of spectrum bands, including millimeter wave (mmWave) radio spectrum, which can carry very large amounts of data a short distance.
- India's 5G spectrum sale postponed to early 2020 due to lack of 5G spectrum: India's defence and space departments have together sought 125MHz out of the 300MHz marked for 5G services (under the 3.3-3.6GHz band) shrinking available space for commercial usage
- 5G Technology – US ban on Huawei

### 114. Hyperloop:

- Hyperloop could see passengers travelling at over 1100 kmph in floating pod which races along inside giant low-pressure tubes, either above or below ground
- Hyperloop –Maharashtra has approved world's first Hyperloop project between Pune to Mumbai

### 115. DNA Technology:

- In India, the current market of approved recombinant therapeutics has been estimated to be about Rs. 5357 million, 3.2% of the total pharmaceutical market of Rs.165 billion in the country.
- DNA technology Bill was introduced in Parliament

### 116. Block Chain Technology:

- Investments in blockchain-based companies and startups have witnessed a massive surge, globally touching over \$20 billion, across an array of industries, technologies and use cases.
- Coffee Board Activates Blockchain Based Marketplace in India

### 117. Single Use Plastic:

- Around the world, one million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute, while up to 5 trillion single-use plastic bags are used worldwide every year.
- More than 99% of plastics are produced from chemicals derived from oil, natural gas and coal — all of which are dirty, non-renewable resources.
- Single-Use Plastic: United Nation has bestowed PM Modi with 'Champions of Earth' award for his commitment to drive out all single-use plastic items in India by 2022
- Single Use Plastic also mentioned during PM Modi's 2019 Independence Speech

### 118. Disaster Management:

- Disasters claimed economic losses worth \$80 billion in India between 1998-2017: UN report
- In order to fight the menace of desertification, India, for the first time, will host UNCCD
- Established in 1994, UNCCD is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- India's cyclone Fani preparedness applauded at WHO
- Floods in Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra

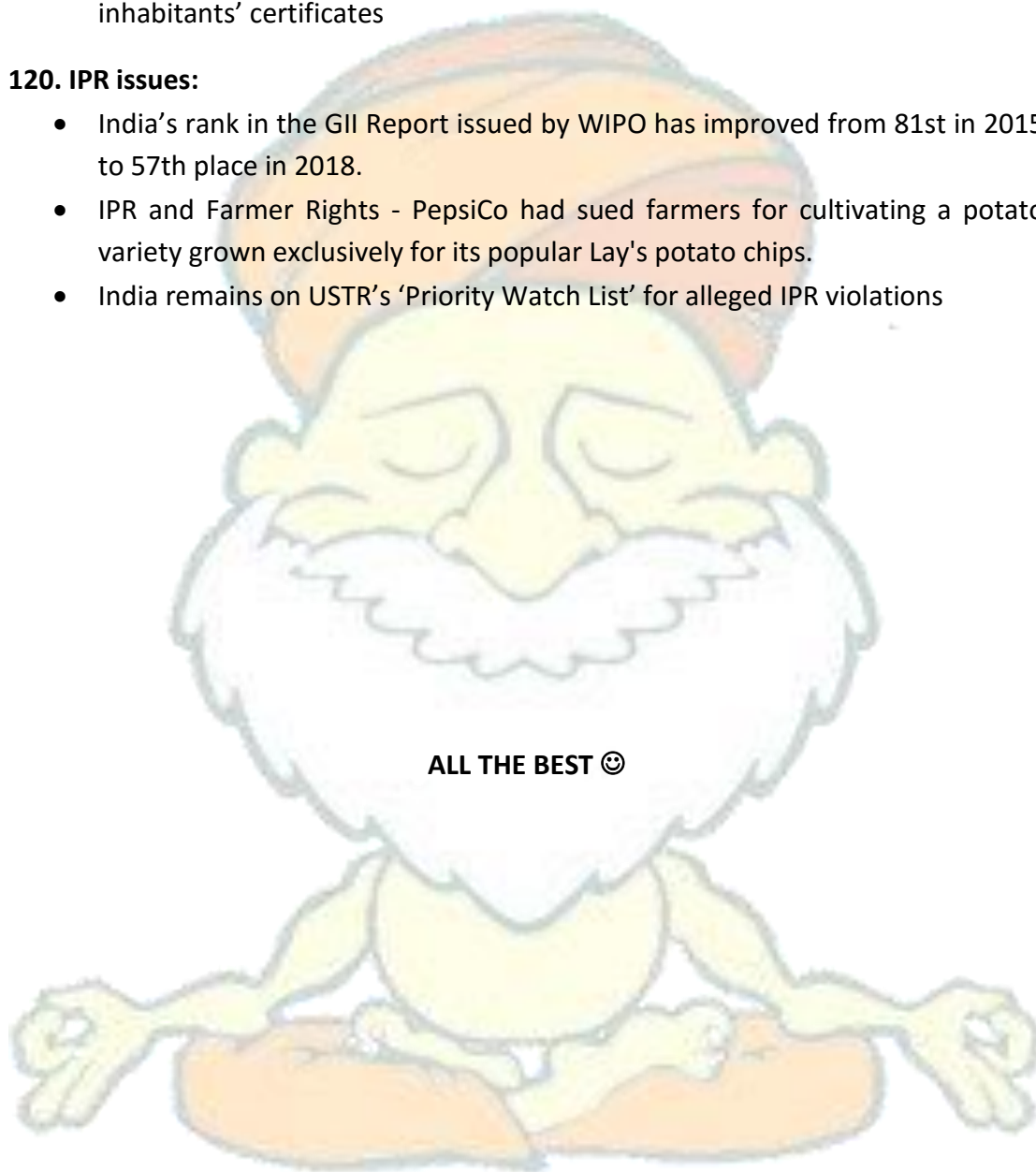


**119. Internal Security:**

- Naxalism - number of violence-affected districts was reduced to 60 by 2018
- Abrogation of Article 370 and its impact on Naga Peace process
- NRC in Assam and its impact on North-Eastern India;
- Nagaland government has decided to set up a Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) with the aim of preventing fake indigenous inhabitants' certificates

**120. IPR issues:**

- India's rank in the GII Report issued by WIPO has improved from 81st in 2015 to 57th place in 2018.
- IPR and Farmer Rights - PepsiCo had sued farmers for cultivating a potato variety grown exclusively for its popular Lay's potato chips.
- India remains on USTR's 'Priority Watch List' for alleged IPR violations



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