

**1. What are the liberal-democratic principles enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy? Why are they important for a constitutional design? Examine.**

**Introduction**

The Constitution of India in Part IV (articles 36-51) lays down certain provisions known as Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) which though not justifiable are fundamental in the governance of the country and it is the duty of the State to apply these principles in making laws.

**Body**

As the constitutional design of the Directive Principles suggests, the underlying political ideals as contained in the Directive Principles are mainly three in nature: Socialistic ideals, liberal-democratic ideals and the Gandhian ideals.

**Liberal-democratic principles enshrined in DPSPs are:**

- **Article 44:** To secure for all citizens a uniform civil code throughout the country.
- **Article 45:** To provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.
- **Article 48:** To organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines.
- **Article 48-A:** To protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wild life.
- **Article 49:** To protect monuments, places and objects of artistic or historic interest which are declared to be of national importance.
- **Article 50:** To separate the judiciary from the executive in the public services of the State.
- **Article 51:** To promote international peace and security.

**Why are they important for a constitutional design:**

- **To establish a socio-political system:** The aim of these principles is to establish a liberal socio-political system in India and to make the state an instrument of socio-economic welfare.
- **National integration:** A common civil code will help the cause of national integration by removing contradictions based on ideologies.
- **To promote education to children:** Janani Sishu Suraksha Yojana (2005), Pade Bharat Bade Bharat, Anganwadi schools, Article 21-A, Right to Education Act 2009, etc., are some of the schemes and policies introduced by the government to promote early childhood care and education to the children.
- **To modernise agriculture:** Agriculture has been modernised by providing improved agriculture inputs, seeds, fertilisers and irrigation facilities. Various steps have been taken to organise animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines. Cow and calf slaughter have been banned in certain areas.

- **To protect the environment:** Action has been taken by the Government of India in this regard by implementing some of the acts such as Wild life (Protection) Act (1972), Forest Conservation Act (1980). Further the Water and Air Acts have been provided for the establishment of central and state pollution control boards, which are engaged in the protection and improvement of environment.
- **To promote and protect our national heritage:** Incredible India programme has been launched for this purpose. The Ancient Monument and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act have been enacted to protect the monuments and places of national importance.
- **Promotion of international peace:** India follows this principle in letter and spirit and has been following the principles of Non Alignment and Panchsheel to promote international peace and security. It is a member of SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA, SCO, etc., for these purposes. Furthermore the Indian Army has participated in 37 UN peace-keeping operations.

### Conclusion:

Directive principles are the moral precepts with an educative value and stand for the ideals of this great nation. The directives will help find the perfect way to a bright future through balanced inclusion of both individual liberty as well as public good.

## 2. Colonialism remained a significant force in India's constitutional democratisation. Do you agree? Critically examine .

### Introduction

The Preamble provides for a democratic form of government in India. It ensures people are governed by their own elected representatives and are guaranteed some basic rights and freedom known as fundamental rights.

### Body

#### Democratization as a legacy of colonialism:

- **Rule of law:** Colonial bureaucratic structures maintained order through the rule of law rather than through arbitrary authority.
- **Political representation**– Colonial government provided for limited representation through various acts like Indian Councils Act, 1909, which was extended through the constitution.
- **Franchise**– Colonial government provided limited franchise to less than 10% of the population. 1931 Karachi session of Congress thus adopted a resolution for universal adult suffrage, which ultimately found a place in our constitution.

- **Parliamentary system**– It has been a legacy of Britain and is a borrowed feature in our constitution.
- **Human capital**– Though for their own benefit, British introduced the logical learning and scientific education in Indian society.

#### **Democratization as an indigenous process:**

- **Decentralization**– India had a long tradition of village panchayats from ancient times, for example sabha and samitis in Chola period.
- **International influence**– Ideals of French revolution found space in Indian system, for example Tipu sultan setup Jacobian club in India.
- **Fundamental rights**– After years of suppression, Indians demanded fundamental rights through 1931 Congress resolution and which finally became the basic feature of our constitution.
- **Freedom struggle**– Development of democratic values was a result of prolonged suppression and denial of rights by the colonial government. It was the struggle of our moderate leaders to introduce democratic elements in the way British governed Indian society.

#### **Conclusion**

Thus, our present form of constitutional democracy is partly an inheritance from the British, and partly the result of the genius and foresight of the founding fathers of our Constitution.

**3. The constitution of India is a perfect example of a creative blending of nationalist voice and the colonial system of governance which drew on a series of legal stipulations. Elucidate.**

#### **Introduction**

The constitution of India, while being formed, was inspired and incorporated from both, the pre-existing colonial set-up and the national movement. The best provisions suitable for the diverse Indian population were amalgamated into what is now the longest written constitution.

#### **Body**

Inputs reflecting the Nationalist voice:

- Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSPs): Inspired by Gandhian philosophy; Co-operative societies, women participation and empowerment, socio-economic equality etc.,

- Fundamental Rights: Inspired by the Karachi Resolution-Article 12 to Article 35 of Part-3 of the Constitution.
- Preamble: Secularism, Socialism, Unity and Fraternity of Indians.
- Universal Adult Suffrage: Article 324 incorporated as against the limited franchise during the Colonial rule.
- Decentralization: Keeping Mahatma Gandhi's principle of 'Swarajya' in mind to strengthen grass root administration.
- Economic framework: Socialistic basis propagated by the Congress leaders.

Blend of Colonial inputs:

- Parliamentary provisions: Ordinance making power, Parliamentary practices, Annual financial statement, separation of powers between executive and legislature but interdependence between the same.
- Rule of law: Checks the arbitrariness of executive and legislature.
- Government of India Act 1935 provisions.
- Emergency provisions: Article 352, Article 356 and Article 360.
- Nature of democracy: Parliamentary form and bicameralism.
- Indian Civil Services which Sardar Vallabhai Patel envisioned to be a strong steel frame for Indian Bureaucracy.

### Conclusion

Thus a pragmatic and an inclusive constitution formed on an initial framework of governance by the British, was formed, incorporating important spheres of democratic values, rights, equality and empowerment.

### 4. The basic structure doctrine imparts totality and philosophical integrity to the Constitution. Comment.

#### Introduction

The basic structure doctrine has travelled some ways since it was first articulated by the Indian Supreme Court in the case of Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala (1973). The doctrine imposes substantive limits on constitutional amendment powers the legislature under article 368 of Indian Constitution.

**Body**

The basic structure (or doctrine) of the Constitution of India applies only to constitutional amendments, which states that the Parliament cannot destroy or alter the basic features of the Indian Constitution.

In the Kesavananda Bharati case, the Supreme Court laid down the list of features that would constitute the “basic foundation and structure” of the Constitution, which are:

- (1) The supremacy of the constitution.
- (2) Republican and democratic form of govt.
- (3) Secular character of the constitution.
- (4) Separation of power.
- (5) Federal character of the constitution.
- (6) The dignity of the individual secured by the various Fundamental Rights
- (7) The unity and the integrity of the nation;
- (8) Parliamentary System.

From the above list, it is evident that the doctrine of basic structure has the intention of preserving the original ideals envisioned by the constitution-makers, which represent the core spirit of the constitution and whose protection is required at the highest level.

The basic structure protects the constitution from the arbitrary changes which may occur at the whims and fancy of government in power. So this doctrine works as the check and balances for the constitution and gives it totality.

This doctrine protects the guiding values and philosophy of the Indian Constitution which is liberal, democratic, egalitarian, secular, and federal, open to community values, sensitive to the needs of religious and linguistic minorities as well as historically disadvantaged groups, and committed to building a common national identity.

The doctrine also protects the ideals and aspirations enshrined in the preamble, Fundamental rights and DPSP such as Justice, Liberty, Equality, socialism, secularism and democratic nature of Indian polity.

A key characteristic of the doctrine is that it is judicially developed. The judiciary deduces certain core characteristics of the constitutional order from the text, underlying philosophy, and history, and declares these to be unamendable.

**Conclusion**

The concept of basic structure as such gives coherence and durability to a Constitution for it has a certain intrinsic force in it. However, the Supreme Court is yet to define or clarify as to what constitutes the 'basic structure' of the Constitution.

**5. Under what circumstances can the central government impose President rule in a state? Are the provisions related to President rule opposed to the democratic spirit of a federal polity? Critically comment.**

**Introduction:**

The imposition of Article 356 of the Constitution of India on a State following the failure of constitutional machinery is called President's Rule in India.

Once the President's rule has been imposed in a State, the elected state government will be temporarily dissolved and the Governor, who is appointed by the government at the Centre will replace the Chief Minister as the chief executive of that State.

**Body:**

**Circumstances under which central government can impose President rule in a State:**

- The state legislature is unable to elect a leader as Chief Minister.
- The collapse of a coalition government due to disagreements, parting ways within the members.
- Serious breakdown of law and order.
- Elections postponed due to unavoidable reasons.
- Loss of majority in the state assembly.
- Shoot up of insurgency or rebellion.
- When the state government is not being carried on according to constitution i.e. break down of constitution.

**President rule opposes the democratic spirit of a federal polity:**

- Though the purpose of this article is to give more powers to the central government to preserve the unity and integrity of the nation, it has often been misused by the ruling parties at the center, who used it as a pretext to dissolve state governments ruled by political opponents. Thus, it is seen by many as a threat to the federal system.
- Article 356 gives wide powers to the central government to assert its authority over a state if civil unrest occurs and if the state government does not have the means to end it.

- Since the adoption of the Indian constitution in 1950, the central government has used this article 115 times to dissolve the elected state governments by imposing president's rule.

For example, few first instances where president rule was imposed were in Punjab in 1951, in Kerala in 1959 to dismiss the democratically elected Communist state government, in Uttarakhand in March 2016, etc.

- In the 1970s and 1980s, it was common for the central government to dismiss state governments led by opposition parties. The Indira Gandhi regime and post-emergency Janata Party were noted for this practice. President's rule was imposed 49 times between 1970 and 1980, where article 356 was used as a political tool during those times.

However, President rule does not always oppose the federal structure and is used for preserving the unity and integrity of the nation. For ex: Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's government dismissed four state governments lead by the BJP in the wake of the destruction of the Babri Masjid. In 1994, this dismissal was challenged by S.R. Bommai versus Union of India case, in which the Supreme Court upheld the dismissal of the BJP governments of all four states to protect secularism, which is part of the Constitution's basic structure.

Another instance where president rule is necessary is when no party can form a government and a political crisis arises. For ex: In Uttar Pradesh 2002 election no party had a sufficient majority and President's rule was imposed. Similarly, in Bihar 2005 election was fought by three formations but no single formation cobbled sufficient seats to take oath as government. In such a situation, the Governor recommended President's rule to the central government.

Presently the state of Jammu and Kashmir is under president rule ( after 6 months of Governor's rule) because BJP withdrew its support from Mehbooba Mufti led-coalition government, reducing it to a minority government in the state.

### **Conclusion:**

Article 356 has always been the focal point of a wider debate of the federal structure of government in Indian polity. The Sarkaria commission report on Centre-State Relations (1983) had recommended that Article 356 must be used very sparingly in extreme cases as a measure of last resort when all the other alternatives fail to prevent or rectify a breakdown of constitutional machinery in the state.

**6. Inter-state river water disputes have remained a contentious issue post independence. Can you suggest few measures to address those?**

### **Introduction**

India has about twenty major river basins running through the nation and many of these traverse more than one state. This leads to conflicts regarding the use and distribution of water posing a serious threat to India's federal polity such as Cauvery Water dispute, Mahanadi Water dispute etc.

### Body

Reasons for inter-state river water disputes becoming a contentious issue post-independence:

- **Limited water supply**– With most of the rainfall concentrated in few months, India experience a drought like situation in pre-monsoon season giving rise to river disputes.
- **Inefficient water usage**– Growing water intensive crops in dry areas, reduced use of traditional water harvesting mechanisms, free power and enhanced impetus on flood irrigation have created deficiency of water in most areas.
- **Overlapping of subjects**– Under Schedule VII, states have power with respect to use of water, however, in case of inter-state rivers, power lies with the Centre which seldom uses it, giving space for conflicts between states.
- **Political opportunism**– These disputes are a perfect rallying point for political parties to secure votes and giving fuel to regionalism as in case of Cauvery dispute.
- **Lack of concrete dispute resolution**– Under Article 262, Courts have been denied the jurisdiction over river waters, and the tribunals constituted for it have proved inefficient.

The Union Government as per article 262, has enacted two laws i.e. **River Boards Act (1956)** and **the Inter-State Water Disputes Act (1956)** for adjudication of such disputes.

Measures to address:

- Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 which has provision of Single Tribunal, timely resolution, data collection and maintenance of a data bank needs to be implemented to overcome lacunas of Inter State River Water Dispute Act, 1956.
- Bringing water into concurrent list as recommended by Mihir shah report where central water authority can be constituted to manage rivers.
- Demand management- There is a need for the basin states to reduce the demand for water by adopting cropping patterns which require less water and drip irrigation and other water-saving techniques.



- Supply augmentation- Make rainwater harvesting mandatory, use of check dams to increase ground water, creation of additional reservoir to store overflows from a healthy monsoon year to drought year.
- Urban Planning- Since urbanization has altered both quantity and quality of our water resources, it is important that proper urban and water planning are taken into consideration.
- The parliament needs to exercise its powers under Entry 56 of Union List effectively. According to National Water Policy, this can be done by setting up of river boards.
- It is not necessary to exclude Inter-State Water Disputes from the original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court under article 131 of the Constitution and that such disputes should also be made to fall within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, especially in the light of the Supreme Court's decision to adjudicate on award given by Cauvery Tribunal.
- Water disputes need to be depoliticized and not be made into emotional issues linked with regional pride.
- Inter-State Council (ISC), GST council etc. can play a useful role in facilitating dialogue and discussion towards resolving conflicts.
- One model to follow is France's system of "water parliaments," which are responsible for managing the country's rivers, and which reserve a number of seats for non-governmental and environmental organizations.

### Conclusion

With increasing population and growing stress on limited water resources, needs a multi-pronged approach, involving all stakeholders and resolving both demand and supply side issues to solve its inter-state river water disputes.

**7. Many important reforms have been stalled due to the compulsions imposed by India's federal polity. Do you agree? Substantiate your views with the help of suitable examples.**

### Introduction:

A federal government is one in which powers are divided between the national government and the regional governments by the Constitution and both operate in their respective jurisdictions independently. The Indian model of federalism is called quasi-federal system as it contains major features of both a federation and union.

### Body:

Despite having federal polity and clear demarcation of the subject there arises conflict in much legislation for reforms initiated in centre or state.

**Legislation initiated in the centre:**

There are three areas which cause hindrance in the legislative process due to the federal structure.

1. Regional parties pressurizing centre government in Lok Sabha due to answerability in their respective regions.
2. Constitutional amendment Bills passed by Lok Sabha are opposed and rejected in RS which is representative of states.
3. Some Constitutional amendment bills need ratification of half of the states.

Reforms include political, social, financial and administrative reforms. Some of the examples of reforms which are pending or being stalled due to federal polity:

1. Labour law reform.
2. Land acquisition (amendment) bills.
3. All India Judicial service.
4. Electoral reform ex. Simultaneous elections.
5. Interstate water dispute redressal which advocates for Permanent tribunal.
6. Triple talaq bills.
7. National education policy is pending because it is in concurrent list and States have their own systems.
8. Agriculture market lack uniformity. Very few states implement NAM Act as agriculture is in the state list.

**Legislation initiated in State:**

Reforms initiated in states can be stalled by centre using executive machinery as many bills are reserved by centre nominated governor for the consideration by the president.

Ex. President withheld his assent to three anti-migrant bills passed by the Manipur Assembly which are aimed at regulating the entry and stay of migrants in the state.

Moreover, due to financial distribution and tax sharing mechanism, states lack financial autonomy.

**Another side of the coin:**

This hindrance is least or absent when single party majority is there in parliament and moreover most of the states having a government of party in the centre.

Secondly, a consonance can be developed between the centre and states for the larger good and national interest. Ex: GST in the field of taxation reforms.

In the same manner, national bodies are formed with representation from states and local level. Ex. NMCG for Ganga cleaning.

Along with these, other features of India's federal polity such as Written Constitution, Supremacy of the Constitution and independent Judiciary also function as check and balance for any arbitrary action of centre and state and also avoid the misunderstandings and disagreements between the two.

### **Conclusion:**

Niti Ayog is providing new platforms for cooperative federalism for better administration and maximum governance. Both the union and states must follow principles of co-operative federalism and inculcate a spirit of mutual accommodation on matters of national and regional importance for stability and growth and development of country as a whole.

**8. Examine the challenges of local self governance in India. What role can financial devolution play in strengthening institutions of local self governance? Analyse.**

### **Introduction**

Local self-government refers to governmental jurisdictions below level of state. The 73rd and 74th constitutional amendments give recognition and protection to local self-government. The main is to achieve the Gandhian philosophy of self-sustaining organizations at grass root levels.

### **Body**

Challenges of local self-governance in India:

- Administrative problems: lack of coordination between bureaucrats and subordinates.
- Unscientific distribution of money and functions: this is due to lack of knowledge of grass root problems and their importance.
- Regionalism: absence of coordination among the locals in the name of region, religion and caste.
- Financial scarcity: Due to lack of finance and funds, the development work is affected
- Excessive state control: this leads to corruption and favouritism.

- Substandard personnel: lax attitude towards the governance.

Role of financial devolution in strengthening institutions:

- Reach the last level of beneficiaries: Due to more funds, probability of reaching the beneficiaries is more and on time.
- Formalization at grass root level: Improvement towards designing political process which implies decision making authority at lowest level of organization.
- Regional specific growth: More the decentralization, more specific growth is ensured.
- Growth and planning: To do spatial planning keeping development as goal, institutions can manage and conserve the resources according to the funds received.
- More accountability: Social audit increases transparency and accountability. This strengthens democracy.
- Specific targets: Can mobilize local support and public cooperation for the implementation of programs for sustaining and long term benefits.

Solutions for funds:

- Strengthening state finance commission, tax base and granting more powers to local bodies.
- States need to strengthen revenue of the panchayat based on state finance commission.

### Conclusion

The process of tax decentralization and principle of sharing the taxes is of paramount importance for the inclusive society. State finance commission hold the major concern in funding the local self-government

**9. Explain the ordinance making powers of the President. Don't ordinances impinge upon the principles of a parliamentary democracy? Critically comment.**

### Introduction:

Ordinances are temporary laws, which can be issued by the President when Parliament is not in session. **Article 123** of the Indian Constitution grants the President of India the power to promulgate ordinances when either of the two Houses of the Parliament are not in session.

### Body:

**Ordinance making powers of the president:**

Ordinances may relate to any subject that the parliament has the power to make laws and would be having same limitations. Thus, the following limitations exist:

- When legislature is not in session: The President can only promulgate an ordinance when either of the House of Parliament is not in session.
- Immediate action is needed: The President though has the power of promulgating the ordinances but the same cannot be done unless he is satisfied that there are circumstances that require him to take immediate action. E.g., The Criminal law amendment bill, 2013 was promulgated by an ordinance due to the exigent nature of the situation.
- Parliamentary approval: After the ordinance has been passed, it is required to be approved by the parliament within six weeks of reassembling. The same will cease to operate if disapproved by either House.
- Ordinances cannot be promulgated to make any provision which the parliament would not under this constitution be competent to enact and also cannot be promulgated to amend the constitution.

**Ordinances not impinging upon parliamentary democracy:**

- The idea intended by the Constituent Assembly when the provision for ordinances was included in the Constitution was that this power is necessary when immediate action was needed. Also it meant that the powers are extraordinary so they are not to be employed in normal times.
- Governments also take the ordinance route to address matters of public concern as was the case with the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2013, which was issued in response to the protests surrounding the Delhi gang rape incident.
- Ordinances are issued by the President based on the advice of the Union Cabinet and not based on discretion.

**Ordinances impinge upon the principles of parliamentary democracy:**

- Many times ordinances are issued by the government for lack of consensus in parliament or reluctance to face the legislature. In **Krishna Kumar Singh vs. State of Bihar** SC held that the failure to place an ordinance before the legislature constitutes abuse of power and a fraud on the constitution.
- Ordinances are used by governments to pass legislation which is currently pending in parliament, as was the case with the Food Security Ordinance.

- Unnecessary or prolonged re-promulgation of Ordinances raises questions about the legislative authority of the parliament as the highest law making body. For ex: The Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2014 was re-promulgated for the third time during the term of the 15th Lok Sabha.
- It gives arbitrary power in the hands of the executive. The law is announced without any debate and discussion and hence lacks the refinement that normal legislation possesses.
- Even if the ordinance lapses or is repealed by the Legislative Assembly, the ordinance would not be void ab initio. Any legal effect caused by the ordinance in that period would continue to exist. Thus, even if the democratic institutions are to approve or disapprove of the acts later, the fact is that the undemocratic laws can affect the nature of the Indian State quite drastically.

### Conclusion:

The constitution has provided for separation of power where enacting laws is the function of the legislature. The executive must show self-restraint and use ordinance making power only as per the spirit of the constitution and not to evade legislative scrutiny and debates.

### 10. What are family courts? How do they function? Are they an effective alternate dispute resolution forum? Examine.

#### Introduction

The Family Courts Act, 1984 provides for establishment of Family Courts by the State Governments in consultation with the High Courts with a view to promote conciliation and secure speedy settlement of disputes relating to marriage and family affairs

#### Body

##### Main features:

- To take the cases dealing with family matters away from the intimidating atmosphere of regular courts and ensure that a congenial environment is set up to deal with matters such as marriage, divorce, alimony, child custody etc.
- To tackle the problem of pendency by improving the efficiency of the system, where courts are equipped with counselors and psychologists to ensure that while there may be core legal issues to be dealt with; there is also a human and psychological dimension to be dealt with in these matters.
- It is mandatory for the State Government to set up a Family Court for every area in the State comprising a city or a town whose population exceeds one million.

##### Functioning:

- **Own rules**– The Family Courts are free to evolve their own rules of procedure, which over ride the rules of procedure contemplated under the Code of Civil Procedure.
- **Conciliation**– Special emphasis is put on settling the disputes by mediation and conciliation, when the matter is solved by an agreement between both the parties, it reduces the chances of any further conflict.
- **Away from legal system**– The cases are kept away from the trappings of a formal legal system, which can be a very traumatic experience for the families and lead to personal and financial losses that can have a devastating effect on human relations as well.
- **No legal representation**– A party is not entitled to be represented by a lawyer without the express permission of the Court.
- **Appointment of experts**– Conciliators are professionals who are appointed by the Court.
- **Method**– The proceedings before the Family Court are first referred to conciliation and only when the conciliation proceedings fail to resolve the issue successfully, the matter taken up for trial by the Court.
- **Appeal**– Once a final order is passed, the aggrieved party has an option of filing an appeal before the High Court.

#### Effective alternate dispute resolution forum:

- Reduce workload on the courts and ensure speedy disposal of cases
- Provides confidentiality for family matters.
- Reverberations of a family dispute are felt in society. Their effective resolution by mediation or conciliation may provide lasting solutions for overall good.
- The Mediation Cell of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, which attempts to patch up matrimonial disputes is a successful example.

#### Issues:

- **Continuity**– No fixed tenure for counselors. For example, in the family courts at Tamil Nadu, the counselors are changed every three months. Thus, when cases stretch for a period of time which is longer than this, the aggrieved person has to adjust with new counselors and their story has to be retold several times.
- **Less power**– It doesn't explicitly empower Courts to grant injunctions to prevent domestic violence.

- **Not perceived well**– Since the Family Court has restrictive jurisdiction and does not have the power to decide issues of contempt, people do not seem to take the court as seriously as they would a magistrate or a city civil court.
- **Lack of uniformity**– Different High Courts have laid down different rules of the procedure, which is one of the reasons behind the fact that family disputes are still being heard by civil courts.
- **No legal representation**– Parties are not entitled as of right to be represented by a legal practitioner. The fact that the proceedings are conciliatory does not relieve them of the complicated legal issues which may be involved in the family dispute.

### Conclusion

Family courts have enabled to take out the burden from courts and preserve the sanctity of family as a unit. Need is to empower these further and develop the necessary infrastructure.

**11. Discuss the constitutional provisions that delve upon interstate river water disputes. Why have river water disputes been lingering for such long periods? Can there be a remedy? Suggest.**

### Introduction:

The Inter-State River Water Disputes are one of the most contiguous issues in the Indian federalism today. In extreme cases, it hampers the relationship between the different states and ultimate sufferers are the common citizen in general and farmers in particular.

### Body:

#### Constitutional provisions for River Water Dispute:

- Water is in the State List. It is Entry 17 of the list and hence, states can legislate with respect to rivers.
- Entry 56 of the Union List, however, gives the Central government the power to regulate and develop inter-state rivers and river valleys.
- Article 262 also states that the Parliament may provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution or control of the waters of, or in, any inter-State river or river valley.

As per Article 262, the Parliament has enacted the following:

- River Board Act, 1956
- Inter-State Water Dispute Act, 1956: Under this act, the government may form a tribunal



**Reasons for lingering of water disputes:**

- Extraordinary delays in constituting the tribunal: A lengthy and time-consuming process, where states are asked for mutual negotiations first and then the establishment of Water Disputes tribunal if negotiations fail.

Ex: Godavari water dispute, Cauvery Water Dispute

- Due to delay in constituting the tribunal, state governments continued to invest resources in the construction and modification of dams, thus strengthening their claims
- Delay in Reports and Decisions given by the Tribunal. For instance, Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal.
- Lack of availability of the data also causes a delay due to the survey and collection of data each time the dispute arises.
- Sub-judice Matters: Either States approach Supreme Court under Article 136 (Special Leave Petition) or private persons approach Supreme Court under Article 32 linking issue with the violation of Article 21 (Right to Life).

Ex: Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal, Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

- Appointment of the Members of the Tribunal. The composition of the tribunal is not multidisciplinary and it consists of persons only from the judiciary.

Ex: Vansadhara Water Disputes Tribunal.

- Delays in execution and implementation.
- Issues arising out of state reorganization also cause a delay as re-calculation of water distribution is required.

Ex: The state of Telangana and Godavari water.

- Differences arose over compensation and rehabilitation due to the construction of canal and power projects also causes the delay.
- Delays in the settlement and execution of the resolutions have been problems with the tribunal method of dispute resolution.
- There has been politicization of the dispute based on regional feeling and for vote bank politics.

Ex: Dispute between Tamilians and Kannadigas for Cauvery river water.

**Way forward/ remedies:**

- Enactment of pending Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017.
- Disputes Resolution Committee (DRC) should be set up for resolving any inter-state water dispute amicably and in a time bound manner.
- The decision of the bench of the tribunal should be final and binding and should have the same force as that of an order of the Supreme Court.
- A single permanent tribunal should be set up.
- Maintenance of data bank and information: A transparent data collection system at the national level for each river basin and a single agency to maintain data bank and information system should be established.
- The issues can be resolved by discussing the dispute in Inter-State Council.

### Conclusion:

Inter-state river water disputes hinder the cooperative federalism of India and provide parochial mindset making regional issues superior to national issues. We should realize that our nation is a family in which all states are its members. So disputes must be resolved by dialogue and talks and the political opportunism must be avoided.

**12. What are the forums available to address various trade related disputes? Is the regulatory environment robust enough to ensure that such disputes don't arise? Critically analyse.**

### Introduction

The dispute arises when a member/government believes another member/government is violating an agreement related to trade and commerce. Due to increased Cross border trade, investment, e-commerce there is a sheer necessary for dispute resolution mechanism.

### Body

#### Various forums to address trade related disputes:

- World trade organization (WTO): The main objective is to help producers of goods and services, exporters and importers conduct their business.
- United Nations commission on international trade law (UNCITRAL): To promote modernization and harmonization of international trade law.
- United Nations conference on trade and development (UNCTAD): It is dealing with trade, investment, and developmental issues. It formulates policies related to all aspects of trade, aid, transport, finance and technology.

- International chamber of commerce (ICC): ICC has three main activities; rule setting, dispute resolution, and policy advocacy.
- International center for settlement of investment disputes (ICSID): International arbitration institution established for legal dispute resolution and conciliation between the international investors.
- Permanent court of arbitration (PCA): This has jurisdiction of disputes based on PCA founding documents or based on bilateral and multilateral treaties.
- Regional organizations: such as G20, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, OPEC, APEC, OECD, NAFTA have protocols related to resolving trade disputes.
- Commercial courts in India: Commercial Courts Act provides for constitution of commercial courts, commercial division and commercial appellate division in high courts for adjudicating commercial/trade related disputes.
- Alternate Disputes Mechanism: ADR has been given preference to solve commercial and trade related disputes in India over the years and has also been given legislative backing. Example: Under section 442 of the Companies Act, 2013 etc.

**The regulatory environment is not robust enough to ensure the disputes do not arise:**

- If a country fails to respond to forums' plaintiff, then country can take measure to offset any harm, such as blocking imports through tariff and non-tariff barriers.
- All countries debate on their vested interests to guard their resources and welfare of their own people.
- Chance of non-consensus of multilateral agreements by member countries, this lead to prolonging of the issue.
- Lack of technical expertise to resolve the disputes especially in India's case leading to biased/unsatisfactory outcomes.
- Legal routes: The order made by these dispute forums can be challenged in judicial courts in member countries which damages the credibility of these forums in the longer run. Ex: Antrix corporation and Devas media case.
- Non-Binding: Majority of these forums' verdicts are non-binding and also these do not have any authority to implement their decisions there by eroding their significance.
- Conflicting provisions: International /regional trade agreements and member countries trade regulations/laws have conflicting provisions there by creating various complications/disputes.

- Uniformity: There is a lack of uniformity among various forums and no uniform acts to guide them. It is based on arbitration and party with better arbitrator wins.

**The regulatory environment is robust to deal with trade related disputes:**

- Can establish credibility and transparency in the market.
- Increased growth and development of the countries with mutual cooperation and trust.
- The framework goes on the principle of equitable, fast, effective and mutually acceptable decisions.
- For instance, World trade organization has membership of 164 countries, i.e. all leading countries involved in international trade. So any disputes with regards to trade can be resolved through the arbitration process under Article 25 DSU. Likewise, majority of regional and international trade forums have their own dispute resolution mechanism to deal with such cases.

**Note: The question does not specify any particular regional or nation specific forums and it is open ended. So include few India related issues and forums along with global ones.**

**Conclusion**

There are no framework that-one size fits all. Alternative dispute resolution such as arbitration, mediation, conciliation, negotiation and collaborative law can offer a means of settling disputes without resorting to commercial litigation, aiming to resolve disputes in a way that is less expensive, faster and more predictable than the adversarial litigation process.

**13. Many countries have bicameral legislatures like India. Can you make a comparison of the powers and functions of the upper house in India vis a vis the other countries having bicameral legislatures. You can take two such countries for comparison.**

**Introduction:**

In modern democracies, bicameralism is a feature adopted in pursuance of many of the objectives that were enumerated by James Madison among others in the course of the framing of the United States Constitution at the Philadelphia Convention of 1787.

**Body:**

The core rationale for having two chambers in a national legislature broadly flows from the need for checks and balances in a democratic government.

Nations with large territories and heterogeneous constituents prefer bicameralism for ensuring the adequate representation of diverse interests at the federal level.

India is not alone in having bicameral system, as of 2019, around half of the world’s national legislatures are bicameral.

- USA- US Congress is divided into Senate and House of Representatives.
- UK- House of Lords and House of Common. Indian bicameral set up was inspired from system though both have differences.
- Pakistan- It has Senate and National Assembly.
- Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Japan are other major countries with bicameral set up.

**Comparison of structure and powers of Rajya Sabha with that of Upper Houses of Australia and Germany:**

CHARACTER	INDIA(RAJYA SABHA)	AUSTRALIA (SENATE)	GERMANY (BUNDESRAT)
Numerical strength	250	76	60
Type of election and distribution	Indirectly elected and unequal representation	Directly elected and equal representation	Indirect elections based on multi-party system and unequal representation
Term	6 years 1/3rd of the members retire every two years. No dissolution	6 year terms with half the members retire every three years. Dissolution present	Staggered representation based on the term of the states. No dissolution.
Joint sitting	Yes only for bills other than money bills	Yes but not for money bills	No provision, each bill has to be passed
Veto power	No veto but can make exclusive laws on some subjects (Art.312)	No veto	Veto power for bills in concurrent list
Relative strength	Due to indirect nature of election, constitutional restrictions considered a weaker house	Due to the process of Double dissolution it is considered a relatively stronger house than the lower one	Due to unequal federal representation and veto power it is the stronger house amongst both.

Law making power	Present under article 312 (creation of all India service)	No such exclusive power	No such law making power but has power of veto on all legislative matters.
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**Conclusion:**

The basic rationale for having two parliamentary chambers is the need to avoid a concentration of power in a single body and the risk of abuse which this entails. Dividing power between two legislative chambers of broadly equal status is a safeguard against a single chamber taking extreme or excessive measures which may lack broad community support.

**14. What are some of the events and trends in the parliament that disturb you as a common citizen of India? Comment.****Introduction:**

The democratic form of government adopted by India has at its core an institution of elected legislature or the Parliament responsible for legislation. Our democracy rests on the belief of citizens that the parliament will perform this function. But of late, there has been serious of disruptions and events that has broken the ethos of parliament.

**Body:**

During the course of the years, the Parliament has seen many disrupting events and trends in its functioning putting at risk the very foundation on which our democracy is built:

- **Delay in policy making and passage of bills:** Several critical issues raised in the Parliament have seen a slow death or a delay that has affected the entire nation as a result of stalling or pending of parliamentary approval due to either political deadlock or ability to arrive at conducive solutions. Example: Passing of Triple Talaq Bill, delay in GST bill etc.
- **Protests and walk outs:** There could be issues with contending interests and conflicting objectives but the role of Parliament is to debate the issues and reach at an effective solution. But the recent frequent walkouts and protests rendered the sessions chaotic and a waste of functional days.
- **Lack of debate and discussion over key issues:** This imposes a cost on the country's productive growth. Example: Education is a key sector that warrants attention of India wants to use its demographic dividend to grow out of poverty. Though RTE law has been implemented, several surveys show poor standards of young children at reading and writing. This sector faces several challenges but is hardly deliberated on adequately.

- **Duration for which Parliament meets:** As a result of disruptions and differences between groups where party lines are sharply drawn, duration of the parliament working on an average is said to be 70 days, much lesser as compared to many other democracies around the world.
- **Unparliamentarily behavior:** Several instances of disruptions and physical violence have been witnessed. This exhibition of unruly behavior serves as a failure of smooth and worthwhile functioning, pushing citizens to lose faith in the democratic organ.
- **Absence of MPs:** Several MPs have been reported to be absent for most of the working sessions including ministers during question hours. As MPs are representatives of citizens, their absence indicates a lack of responsibility and accountability towards their promises to the citizens they represent.
- **Waste of taxpayers' money:** The budget session washout of 2018 is estimated to have cost the nation almost 200Cr based on loss of productivity and expenses of running both houses of Parliamentary with no fruitful outcomes or legislations arrived at.
- **Poor image in world media:** At a time when India, being the world's largest democracy, is being observed as a key developing nation on the global sphere, such news and records of disruptive, unproductive parliamentary functioning, tarnishes the image of India as a vibrant democracy.

The continuous decline in the standards of the Parliament is a cause for concern and the constitutional experts have suggested the following measures to improve its efficiency.

- Proper training for members of parliament in conducting the business of the house.
- Empowering the Presiding Officers of the House with additional powers to punish unruly members.
- Enforcing a code of conduct and code of ethics for members of the house.
- Making political parties more responsible for their conduct inside the Parliament.
- Setting up of coordination committees with members of ruling party and opposition for smooth conduct of the House.
- Penalizing the members including imposition of fines, suspension from session etc. for unruly members.
- While introducing reforms in Parliament, it is all the more important that the reforms should cover the political parties and government.

- Bureaucracy is to be oriented and authoritarianism of bureaucracy should be limited by forming or creating extra parliamentary agencies. The extra parliamentary agency would asset the Legislative bodies with authority and responsibility.

**Conclusion:**

Indian democracy with the Parliament at its heart needs to keep in mind its stature and relevance and evolve over the years. The parliamentary legitimacy must be maintained as citizens believe in the system as a fair, responsive and representative institution.

**15. Is our parliament truly representative in terms of gender and minority composition? Critically comment.****Introduction:**

The parliament of the largest democracy of the world is the highest legislative body of the country representing the aspirations of 1.3 billion people of India through their elected representatives.

**Body:**

Inclusion of all sections of society in parliament means better, stronger and more representative democracy that works to preserve, protect and assure the rights of people for the overall development of the nation. The parliament of India still lacks inclusive representation especially of women and minorities.

**Representation of women:**

India has had a long-serving woman prime minister and speakers of the House. Yet its record of women parliamentarians is woefully poor. Only the 15th, 16th and 17th Lok Sabha changed a previously stagnant representation of under 9% recorded by Indian women MPs since Independence.

The 17th Lok Sabha has the highest number of women MPs (78) elected in the 2019 polls. In comparison, the last election data shows that in 2014, 11.23 per cent of women won, and in 2019 it is around 14.58 per cent, but it is still far below the actual population of women i.e. 49%. Representation of women in Rajya Sabha is also very less with only 26 members out of 235. So, on grounds of fairness, this is an anomaly.

According to Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women report — Women in Politics 2019, India stood 149th in a 2019 list of 193 countries ranked by the percentage of elected women representatives in their national parliaments, trailing Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan and dropping three places since 2018, while the world average was 24.3% as on January 1, 2019.

**Representation of minorities:**



India is the largest democracy in the world, yet there is very little representation of all communities, given their population.

In India, religious minorities other than Muslims find better representation in the Lok Sabha. Sikhs have a representation score of 0.3 percentage points while Christians, Buddhists and Jains also have equitable representation as per their population.

According to Census 2011 estimates, Muslims in India accounts for over 14% of the country's total population. A proportionate representation of the community in the Lok Sabha, at present, would amount to at least 77 parliamentarians but the number of Muslim lawmakers in the 17th Lok Sabha is just 27.

**Various factors limit minority representation:**

- Political parties not giving tickets to minority candidates due to Communalization of politics.
- Delimitation and reservation of constituencies by Election commission: Minority tend to get fielded in seats with larger concentrations of minority voters. Some of these seats are reserved, thus limiting their demographic advantage

In contrast, Sikhs who are more concentrated mainly in Punjab tend to send the adequate number of lawmakers to Parliament in proportion to their overall population.

**Measures to address these issue:**

- Minimum 33 % quotas for women in Parliament.
- Reservation for women in political parties: Like Norway, Sweden and France, India should have an Election Commission-led effort to push for reservation for women in political parties.
- Awareness, education and role modelling that encourage women towards politics.
- Need for greater political will for more inclusivity of minority and women.
- Delimitation and reservation of constituencies to be done considering the minority population.
- De-communalization of politics is need of the hour.
- Political parties, especially Regional parties should consider representation of minorities while giving tickets.
- Ruling parties, irrespective of their composition, should work beyond the lines of gender, religion and cast.

- Existing dedicated ministries and national commissions for minorities and women should be strengthened.

### Conclusion:

There is documented evidence both at the international level and at the gram panchayat (village) level to suggest that a greater representation of women and minorities in elected office balances the process and prioritizations that elected bodies focus on. A fully representative Parliament leads to a progressive society, with equality of opportunities among all citizens for a better future of a democratic society.

**16. What are your views on the numbers of incumbent legislators having serious criminal charges against them? What measures can be taken to ensure a cleaner legislature? Suggest.**

### Introduction:

Increasing trend of criminalization of politics have disrupted constitutional ethos at the root of our democratic form of government. Criminalization of politics refers to increased participation of criminals in electoral process.

### Body

#### Views against incumbent legislators having serious criminal charges:

- The latest report by election watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms, of the 542 MPs in Lok Sabha, 179 or 33 per cent were found to have criminal cases against them. Of these, 114 or 21 per cent have been named in “serious” cases such as kidnapping, hate speech, and those of crimes against women. Also said 228 Rajya Sabha members, 51 or 22 per cent are implicated in criminal cases. Of these, 9 per cent have been charged with serious crimes. Same with MLAs, 4,083 sitting MLAs scattered across the country, 1,355 nearly a third have criminal cases pending against them
- People are agonised that money and muscle power have become the supreme power and decide the electoral outcomes.
- Person who enter public life and participate in law making should be above any kind of serious criminal allegation but with the present scenario, it might lead to situation where people might no longer have trust in the democratic system.

#### Reasons for criminalization of politics:

- Loopholes in electoral process and lack of powers to election commission of India to scrutinize and prevent criminal elements.

- Political Parties are biased towards candidates having money and muscle power because they believe that they can win elections compared to a clean candidate with no money.
- Lack of morals, values and poor ethics in Indian political setup. Also voters have accepted candidates with criminal backgrounds.
- People can be easily lured with money due to ignorance and lack of knowledge about their responsibility in the democratic setup.
- Indian laws do not ban individuals with a criminal background to contest the election and also the cases go on for years.
- Soft state: India is seen as a soft state where people do not have fear for laws and or for undergoing punishments, due to which there is no deterrence to indulge in criminal activities.

#### **Measures taken to ensure a cleaner legislature:**

##### **By election commission of India:**

- Contesting candidate will have to fill up the form provided by the Election Commission of India and he or she will have to state “in bold letters” about the criminal cases pending against the candidate.
- If a candidate is participating from the party, he/she is required to inform the party about the criminal cases pending against him/her, and that information shall be displayed in their website. Also that information should be circulated in newspapers and electronic media.

##### **By Government of India:**

- Section 8 of representation of people act (RPA), 1951 disqualifies a person convicted of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years.
- Articles 102(1)(e) and 191(1)(e) of the Constitution allow parliament to make laws for disqualification and not protection and preservation of members.

##### **By supreme court of India:**

- Judgement in public interest foundation and union of India: issues directions to the election commission and the political parties to make the disclosure of the criminal antecedents of candidate contesting election.
- Supreme court left it to parliament to “cure the malignancy “of criminalization of politics by making a law
- None of the above (NOTA) is introduced by judiciary in 2003 to reject a person.

**Conclusion**

Election commission of India, Government of India, and public at large should come together to curb the menace of criminalization of politics. Maintaining the purity of legislature by proactive steps from all stake holders is must for the welfare of the society.

**17. Examine the composition, mandate and significance of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS).****Introduction:**

Cabinet Committees are organizations, which are instrumental in reducing the workload of the Cabinet. These committees are extra-constitutional in nature and are nowhere mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment. These rules emerge out of Article 77(3) of the Constitution.

**Body:**

The Prime Minister constitutes Standing Committees of the Cabinet and sets out the specific functions assigned to them. He can add or reduce the number of committees.

**CABINET COMMITTEE ON SECURITY****Composition**

- Prime Minister (Chairman)
- Minister of Home Affairs
- Minister of External Affairs
- Minister of Finance
- Minister of Defence

**Mandate**

- To deal with all defence related issues.
- To deal with issues relating to law and order and internal security.
- To deal with policy matters concerning foreign affairs that have internal or external security implications including cases relating to agreements with other countries on security-related issues.
- To deal with economic and political issues impinging on national security.

- To review the manpower requirements relating to national security and setting up new structures to deal with security-related issues.
- To consider all cases involving capital expenditure of more than Rs.1000 crore in respect of Department of Defence Production, Department of Defence Research and Development.
- All matters relating to atomic energy.
- To consider cases of increase in the firmed up cost estimates or revised cost estimates.

### Significance

- The Cabinet Committee on security reduces the burden on Cabinet by enabling collective decisions to be taken by a smaller group of ministers.
- It is the supreme decision-making body in the government dealing with issues relating to law and order, internal security and policy matters concerning foreign affairs with internal or external security implications.

### Examples:

- India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation status granted to Pakistan following the Pulwama terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.
- CCS has approved setting up of Defence Space Research Organisation, which has been entrusted with task of creating space warfare weapon systems and technologies.
- Defence Procurement decisions such as purchasing modern aircrafts (Rafael deal), advanced warships etc.
- Reviewed the progress in operationalising of India's nuclear doctrine

### Conclusion:

The decisions taken by the Cabinet Committees are fundamental to the governance of the country and form the basis of policy formulation as also for evaluating the impact of programmes, policies, plans, projects and schemes of the Government. Therefore, it facilitates decision making at the highest level of government.

### 18. Government is the largest litigant in the courts. What measures can be taken to reduce litigations involving the government?

#### Introduction

As per various studies, almost half of all litigations in the Indian judiciary today are government litigations. This issue has been raised by the Law Commission of India in its 126th Report in 1988, the Supreme Court of India and even by the Prime Minister of India.

### Body

- Much of this government litigation is in the form of appeals where about 95 per cent of the appeals fail and are such that shouldn't have been made in the first place.
- Most cases are not where government is a compulsive litigant but where the government is a respondent. As per a Legal Policy report on the Supreme Court, only 7.4% of fresh cases filed before the court in 2014 were by the Central government.
- The writ jurisdiction vested in High Courts under Article 226 of the Constitution enables an ordinary citizen to access the highest court in her State to address grievances against any authority, including any government, for violation of any of her fundamental or other rights.
- Data for the year 2016 show that writ petitions constitute nearly 60% of all fresh cases filed before the Karnataka High Court, out of which nearly 80% of them are filed against the State Government or related agencies.

### Drawbacks:

- Government litigation crowds out the private citizen from the court system.
- It adds to the woes of already overburdened judiciary.

### Measures:

- Reduction in cases- One way of reducing the load on courts is to reduce the quantum of cases that come to the courts by strengthening the internal monitoring process, e.g. whether appeal should be made or not, dropping petty cases, etc.
- Alternate Dispute Redressal mechanism- For cases like traffic rules violation, theft and other petty crimes, to solve them without bringing them in the purview of judiciary.
- Internal dispute resolution- To reduce writ petitions filed by workers in government agencies against their management.
- Reforming quasi-judicial authorities- Appeals against orders of quasi-judicial authorities can be reduced by appointing judicially trained person or creating a separate class of judicial officers to discharge quasi-judicial functions in those authorities.

- Co-ordination and information sharing- Cases involving different departments are scattered at different places in physical files. These must be streamlined at one place for better information processing and fast tracking the litigation.
- Checks and balances for advocates- Ensuring cases are not unnecessarily extended and making sure advocates are paid on time.
- Enforcement of laws- For example, strict action against corruption cases should be taken at the government level so that there is least involvement of judiciary.
- Clarity on laws- There are a number of vague or contradictory laws, because of which whatever action is taken by Government, it is dragged into the court by one or the other. There is a need of clarity in the laws.
- Modifications in National Litigation Policy (2010)- Clarity of objectives, defining roles of different functionaries involved, setting minimum standards before taking litigation forward, accountability mechanisms and provision for penalties etc. must be taken care of.

### Benefits

- Reduces the burden on the public exchequer arising due to these cases.
- Will assist in reducing the burden of pending cases on the judiciary.
- Make the government an efficient and responsible litigant.

### Conclusion

Legal Information Management and Briefing System (LIMBS) is an excellent initiative in this regard, and must be implemented soon across all government departments to make government litigation more efficient.

**19. How far caste based pressure groups have altered the polity in India? Illustrate with the help of suitable examples.**

### Introduction:

Pressure groups are a voluntary organization of civil society that actively pursues interest and objective based policies to be discussed and implemented by the government. Caste based pressure groups arise from a particular caste and influence government policies in favor of their social and political demands.

### Body:

Caste system, being a vital inherent feature of Indian society provides a fertile and a strong foundation for pressure group activities influencing the polity of India:

- Pre-independence PGs helped in ensuring upliftment and emancipation of backward/depressed classes eventually leading to affirmative policies and introduction of reservation in education, employment, seats in parliament etc. Ex: Harijan Sevak Sangh born out of the historic Poona Pact between Dr. BR Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi.
- Legislative measures for empowerment of the lower castes: Article 17 for the abolition of untouchability, several fundamental rights and DPSPs like Article 15, Article 46, Article 335 for claims to services and posts etc.
- Creation of caste based development corporations: National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSCFDC), Dr. BR Ambedkar Development Corporation by Government of Karnataka etc.
- Political empowerment: Increasing caste based representation, participatory assertion and subsequent political steps taken. Ex: Marwari Association in Rajasthan.
- Strengthening the democratic nature and inclusive governance: With the marginalized sections' increasing participation through PG mobilization, awareness and exercise of their rights, they are encouraged into the mainstream effectively.
- Increasing self-identity/Preservation of ethos and cultural importance: Ex: Celebration of Bhima-Koregaon battle by Dalits.
- Paved way for the representation at national and regional political landscape. Ex: Political parties like BSP whose political origin is traced back to caste based PGs.

However, there have been some counter-effects by the activities of caste based PGs:

- Caste based violence: Riots and unpleasant clashes with other castes, sometimes ending in death or serious consequences. Ex: Clashes between upper castes and the Mahars on the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Bhima Koregaon.
- Fragmentation of society and enhanced caste consciousness: Creation of favor in own interests and animosity between different sections of people. Ex: Lingayat Sect in Karnataka.
- Assertions: There is revival of caste based politics in new form through caste assertions to gain political space thereby creating new wedge in society.
- Identity politics: Politicians seem to take advantage through caste appeasement and neglect the actual needs and policies required for upliftment, often agreeing to illegitimate and parochial demands. Ex: Reservation to upper and well off castes in Gujarat, Maharashtra etc. when they do not meet criteria of social or educational backward classes.

### Conclusion:



In a democratic nation like India, Pressure groups provide an informal means to meet and serve needs of different classes and sections of society. However, pursuit of illogical and unnecessary demands should not override affirmative action to ensure a vibrant and inclusive polity especially as seen in the recent elections that have shown a positive direction in the sphere of exercising voting rights by citizens of India based on growth and development rather than caste based results in many places.

**20. There have been multiple instances wherein women been able to mobilise themselves as pressure groups. Can you recall such instances? Also bring out their significance.**

### Introduction

Pressure groups are forms of organizations, which exert pressure on the political or administrative system of a country to extract benefits out of it and to advance their own interests. They pursue their interests by organizing themselves and by influencing the governmental policies.

### Body

List of pressure groups in India:

- **Gulabi gang:** Sampatlal devi started a society called the Gulabi Gang with a group of women from her village to fight various forms of social injustice. This developed into an organized women's movement with tens of thousands of members spread over several districts in Uttar Pradesh.
- **Nirbhaya vahini:** Nirbhaya Vahini is a volunteer unit of the Honour for Women National Campaign founded by Manasi Pradhan. It helps to mobilize public opinion and launch a sustained campaign for the implementation of the movement's Four-Point charter of demand such as ban on liquor trade, self-defence training for girls, special protection for women security in every district, and Fast-track court and special investigating & prosecuting wing in every district.
- **The RAHI Foundation (Recovering and Healing from Incest):** This specializes in working with adult women survivors of incest and childhood sexual abuse and offers services that are uniquely important to their recovery process located in Delhi.
- **Sabala:** This focus on the "empowerment of women", including the tribal Lambani, through enabling financial freedom, political voice, social acceptance, and educational opportunities, located in Bijapur, Karnataka.
- **Sanlaap:** Sanlaap is a developmental organization that works towards correction of social imbalances which present themselves as gender injustice and violence against women and children. The primary work is focused against trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, sexual abuse and forced prostitution located in Kolkata.

List of pressure groups in world:

- Equality Now (United States): The organization lists its primary concerns as being sexual violence, trafficking of women, female genital mutilation and discrimination in law.
- WASH United: WASH (WATER, Sanitation and Hygiene) United (Berlin): It is a non-profit organization that works to end the global sanitation and hygiene crisis by making toilets and good hygiene.
- Women for Women International (WfWI) (Washington): It is a non-profit humanitarian organization that provides practical and moral support to women survivors of war.
- Orchid project (London): Persistent cultural traditions endorse the practice of female genital cutting (FGC), which involves the removal of external female genitalia. Risky, unnecessary, and invasive, the tradition is being challenged by Orchid Project, which aims to end the practice by circulating educational information.
- Centre for reproductive rights (New York): It is a global legal advocacy organization that seeks to advance reproductive rights, such as abortion.

Significance:

- Global distribution: Pressure group operates at various levels like local, regional, national and international level. They can be non-profit and volunteer organization. Due to its global presence, they are able to mobilizing women and exerting pressure on the authority to bring about changes in areas of their interests.
- Chance to be heard: Pressure groups enable particular interests and cause to be heard and to exert influence in public decision and decision-making.
- Raising voices: They help in raising voices and bring to the public, issues affecting them. Several cases of sexual abuse, rape, acid attacks, genetic mutilation, women are being spoken about and consensus is built to fight against those across the globe.
- Rural participation: Because of these pressure groups, even rural women are coming to mainstream and asserting their rights and fighting for their due share be it equal wages, political representation at village level etc.
- Fight for Basic needs: Pressure groups led by women have been focusing more on providing basic rights like education, health, human rights as these are primary concerns.
- Women empowerment: They have played a major role in empowering women in areas like micro financing, employment, Shelter, etc.

- Diversified interests: They work on social, political, economic, environmental, cultural and humanitarian issues across the world.

### Conclusion

There is a need for women to organize themselves as pressure groups to be able to carve a niche in all sectors of the society and fight for their needs.

**21. What is the significance of the post of the Chief Economic Advisor (CEA). Has the post of CEA become a political one? Critically comment.**

### Introduction:

The Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) is a post in Government of India and is equivalent to the rank of Secretary to the Government of India. The CEA is head of Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India. The Chief economic adviser is either selected from inside the government (normally senior IAS officers) or from outside, like some professors of economics.

### Body:

#### Significance:

The key roles of India's chief economic advisor are to determine the government's overall strategy in managing the economy. The Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) advises the Government of India on matters related to finance, commerce, trade, economy. The CEA reports directly to the Minister of Finance. The CEA heads the Economic Division under the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).

The Economic Division examines domestic and international economic trends. It undertakes research studies focusing on economic policies and management of the economy. Based on the research it provides advice to the Government of India.

#### Other Functions:

- The CEA is the ex-officio cadre controlling authority of the Indian Economic Service.
- Help prepare the government's annual Economic Survey preceding the Union Budget, which provides a glimpse into its economic hits and misses.
- Study and advice about financial market risks.
- To help with advice in times of global turmoil.
- To contribute in preparing the budget.

**Office of CEA is being politicized in recent past:**

- Blame Game: Each government blames CEA of the previous government to produce overestimated data for GDP and Growth. Ex. Recent controversies over the politicisation of India's GDP data.
- Selection Procedure: The government constitutes a search committee to look for CEA. However, the Appointments Committee of Cabinet headed by Prime Minister gives the final approval for the appointment of the CEA. The earlier selection was done from UPSC.
- Selection of those economists who support the government. Ex. Current CEA Supported government on Demonetization.
- Appeasement politics: it is said that good economics is good politics. So onus comes on CEA to advise better economic policies for better politics of the government of the day.
- CEA favours government policies when in office and when he is outside they are critical of Govt. policies. Eg. Arvind Subramaniam has been critical of Indian GDP growth numbers.
- CEA is neither a constitutional office nor a statutory office. He favours govt. of the day.
- CEA has No security of tenure and its decisions are not binding on the government, so is not critical of government economic agenda.

But, the office of CEA still has its reputation intact because,

- Open Selection: Candidates from public and private academic or Financial Institution are also eligible to apply for the post of CEA.
- Selection based on academic record and talent: The last two chief economic advisors\_ Raghuram Rajan and Subramanian\_ had IMF-World Bank experience and academic background.
- The advice given by CEA is considered by government and been implemented in its economic policies or acts. Ex. SARFAESI Act, IBC Act, etc.

### **Conclusion:**

The office of CEA should be used for its true purpose with transparency and without being it politicized for the short term political gains. It is a must for India to become a \$5trillion economy by 2022.

**22. What are the various constitutional and statutory bodies constituted to address corruption in public life? How effective have these bodies been? Examine.**

**Introduction:**

Corruption is a form of dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted with a position of authority, often to acquire personal benefit. Corruption has its own effect on its societies which undermines democracy, Rule of law and violates human rights and allows organized crime, terrorism and threats to human security. Even national progress is seriously hampered due to corruption.

**Body:****Various bodies constituted for fighting corruption:****Statutory Bodies:**

- **Central Vigilance Commission:** Apex vigilance institution, free of control from any executive authority, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work. It is empowered to inquire into offences alleged to have been committed under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 by certain categories of public servants. Its annual report gives the details of the work done by the commission and points to systemic failures which lead to corruption in government departments..
- **Lokpal and Lokayukta:** They perform the function of an “ombudsman” and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters. Lokpal has powers of confiscation of assets, proceeds, receipts and benefits arisen or procured by means of corruption in special circumstances and power to recommend transfer or suspension of public servant connected with allegation of corruption.
- **Central Information Commission:** It is plays important role in maintaining transparency in system of governance essential for healthy democracy. Such kind of transparency check aims to curb corruption, nepotism, oppression and misuse or abuse of the authority.

**Constitutional bodies:**

- **CAG:** Comptroller and Auditor General is supreme constitutional audit authority of India. Comptroller and Auditor General is the ‘watchdog’ on each and every financial transaction of Central or State department such as railway, telecom, public sector, organizations etc.
- **Election Commission:** Supreme authority to conduct free and fair elections, prevent corrupt practices and infiltration of corruption into the representative foundation of India.

- **Supreme Court:** The Supreme Court of India is the highest judicial court and the final court of appeal under the Constitution of India, with the power of judicial review and ensure just law prevails.

#### **Effectiveness of the bodies in preventing corruption:**

- **Legal measures taken:** Prevention of Corruption Act, the Comptroller and Auditor General, the Judges (Inquiry) Act, the Lok Pal and Lok Ayukta Act 2013, Whistle Blowers Protection Act 2011, Prevention of Money /Laundering Act, Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act and most importantly the Right to Information Act. The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 was amended to empower the Income Tax authorities to attach and confiscate Benami properties. Besides, if a person is found guilty of offence of Benami transaction by the competent court, he shall be punishable with rigorous imprisonment and shall also be liable to fine. Several Benami transactions have been identified since the coming into effect of the amended law.
- **Election reforms:** Cash donations-Recent amendments have reduced the limit on the cash donation to 2000 from the earlier 20000, thus restricting the inflow of anonymous black money into the funds of political parties. Disclosure norms-As earlier mandated by SC, politicians are required to make disclosure about their financial assets, education and criminal records thus helping the voters to make an informed choice and helping clean the politics of criminals
- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) saw a dramatic drop in the total number of complaints received by it in 2017, keeping in line with the drop in actions by various government departments in cracking down on corruption.
- Many CAG reports were instrumental in unearthing major scams like 2G and coal mines.

#### **What needs to be done?**

- Various commissions such as SARC and Santhanam committee have made important and feasible recommendation to strengthen anti-corruption establishment.
- Reforms in bureaucracy: Establishing the Civil Service Board to curb the excessive political control over administration, Using the new technologies such as AI and big data to automate routine procedures in government such as issuance of certificates etc
- Electoral reforms: Barring the criminals from entering the legislatures by amending RPA and empowering ECI by giving legal force making paid news a criminal offence
- Changes in governance: Bringing Transparency of the Rules Act (TORA) as recommended by Economic survey to increase transparency and awareness about rules.

**Conclusion:**

The causes of corruption in India include excessive regulations, complicated taxes and licensing systems, opaque bureaucracy and discretionary powers, monopoly by government controlled institutions on certain goods and services, delivery, and above all lack of transparency of laws and processes. Firm and strong steps are needed to curb the menace and impose regulations to take strong, deterrent, and timely legal action against the offenders, irrespective of their political influences or money power.

**23. How important is the post of RBI Governor? Is it necessary that the RBI Governor's decisions resonate with the priorities of the government? Examine.****Introduction:**

RBI is an independent Statutory Body incorporated under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 with a Separate Board of Directors comprising Full Time Governor, Full Time Deputy Governors (4) and Directors appointed under different fields/ specialisations and the Secretary from Ministry of Finance (Ex- Officio).

**Body****Appointment of RBI Governor:**

- The Prime Minister's Office chooses the governor after consulting the finance ministry and the outgoing governor.
- No stipulations in Indian law regarding the qualification of governors, or even for those who will be nominated by the government for India's first monetary policy committee.

**Role of RBI:**

- Banker to Government.
- Right to Issue Bank note.
- Formulates Banking policy.
- Licensing Authority.
- Regulation and Management of Foreign Exchange.
- Monetary policy.
- Inflation control.

**RBI Governor's decisions should resonate with the priorities of the government:**

- **Owned by Government of India:** The Reserve Bank of India is India's central bank and is wholly owned by the Government of India.
- **Section 7 of RBI Act:** (1) The Central Government may from time to time give such directions to the Bank as it may, after consultation with the Governor of the Bank, consider necessary in the public interest. (2) Subject to any such directions, the general superintendence and direction of the affairs and business of the Bank shall be entrusted to a Central Board of Directors which may exercise all powers and do all acts and things which may be exercised or done by the Bank.
- **Legislature role:** The legislature interacts with central banks via a variety of mechanisms, such as frequent meetings and consultations.
- **Stereotyping:** Parliament has decided that since accountability rests with an elected government and not the expert official, so should powers.

Example: Monetary Policy Committee, all decisions beyond it fall within the realm of 'accountability', where the elected government has been enabled, again by law, to intervene when required. This is how it should be in any democracy.

#### **RBI Governor's decisions should not resonate with the priorities of the government:**

- **Stable policy:** The objectives of monetary policy include ensuring inflation targeting and price stability, full employment and stable economic growth. These decisions should not be biased according to vested interests.
- **Autonomy:** The autonomy of the RBI is a grey area: though it does not legally enjoy the status of an autonomous institution, it largely functions as one.
- **Banker's bank:** RBI acts as a banker for both the central as well as state governments. It sells and purchase government securities on their behalf. It also manages liquidity in the system. RBI role prevails.
- **Concerned about banking system:** RBI wants more power over regulating Public Sector Banks (PSBs). Government wants flexibility.

Examples: NPA rules, dividends, prompt corrective action framework, bad loans.

- **Conflict:** The RBI-Ministry of Finance conflict—highly public and fiercely political—saw officials from both institutions engage in a battle of turfs through official speeches, press releases, and social media statements.

#### **Conclusion**

The tussle between RBI and Government may impact the image of India as stable market; therefore, it is necessary that government should respect the mandate of RBI as Central Bank. At the same time, it must also be understood that RBI has adequate autonomy within



the mandate of the RBI Act. Therefore, both parties must talk behind closed doors resolve their differences amicably as they have done so many times in the past.

#### **24. Discuss the mandate, constitution and performance of the National Human Rights Commission.**

##### **Introduction:**

The National Human rights commission is a statutory body established under the provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. It is responsible for looking into cases of excesses which are violating human rights and to strengthen the efforts to uphold the human rights in the country.

##### **Body**

Recently Lok Sabha cleared **Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2019** which will strengthen the Human Rights Institutions of India and in perfect sync with the agreed global standards and benchmarks towards ensuring the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual in the country.

##### **Constitution of NHRC**

The Commission consists of:

- A Chairperson
- One Member who is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India
- One Member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court
- Two Members to be appointed from among persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights
- In addition, the Chairpersons of four National Commissions of ( Minorities, SC, ST, Women) serve as ex officio members.

##### **Performance of NHRC**

- NHRC has asked all state governments to report the cases of custodial deaths or rapes within 24 hours.
- It has taken the plight of undertrials in jails who are staying for several years even in petty cases due lack of financial security provision to secure bail bonds and affording lawyers etc. The horrible conditions of inmates and crimes inside prison by authorities and inmates are given attention.

- Suo moto took cognisance of deportation of Rohingya refugees –the commission was of opinion that Rohingya have a fear of persecution. Back in 1994 had taken about issue of safety of Chakma community in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It has made effort to rescue and rehabilitate bonded children, criticized the Juvenile Justice act, 2016.
- Had taken up issue of death of kids due to malnutrition in Odisha-The recommendations were accepted by state government.
- Had worked for improving the conditions of denotified tribes.
- Looking up for the sterilization tragedy of Chattisgarh among various other rights violation of women.
- Campaigning against discrimination of HIV patients.
- The NHRC has also worked against the discrimination of the LGBT community in India.
- It has conducted many public hearing on complaints of medical negligence and awarded compensations.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) chairman Justice H L Dattu said the rights watchdog needed some teeth to enforce its orders on remedial measures in cases relating to violations. He said NHRC is a **toothless tiger**.

#### **Issues with respect to NHRC:**

- Recommendations of NHRC are not binding: NHRC has had very little success in getting the victims financial compensation
- Has limited power over armed forces: Can only ask for a report from concerned department –This has handicapped NHRC with respect to involvement of violation of human rights by armed forces
- Non-compliance by the states with the directions for compensation issued by the commission
- Shortage of adequate number of trained staff to handle the growing number of complaints.
- Large expenditure on office expenses, leaving small amounts for research and rights awareness programmes.
- Private bodies are out of ambit of NHRC

- The NHRC does not have fair and equal means of representation in terms of gender, religious minority groups and disabled populations.

#### **Recommendations which can make NHRC more effective**

- The effectiveness of commissions will be greatly enhanced if their decisions are immediately made enforceable by the government.
- Can include civil society human rights activist's members for better understanding of situation at hand.
- Staff should be recruited independently rather than deputation from government.
- Should remove the barrier of not taking complaints older than a year.

#### **Conclusion**

The biggest achievement of NHRC has been to raise awareness about need to protect human rights and initiate a dialogue about the same. The journey ahead won't be easy but NHRC need to continue pushing mandate so as to fulfil expectation of people.

#### **25. What role can self help groups (SHGs) play in rural development? Examine.**

##### **Introduction:**

A self-help group (SHG) is a voluntary association of men or women in similar economic conditions. The members of the group make small savings until they have enough capital in the group to start their own lending process.

##### **Body**

##### **Role of SHG in rural development:**

- **Credit availability**– Bank credits are not easily accessible to individual poor, but by forming a SHG, there are make better prospects for bank credits. (often without collateral). Under the SHG-Bank linkage programme, many SHGs have become institutions of micro-credit.
- **Entrepreneurship**– Opportunities for self-employment through setting of micro-enterprise.
- **Skill development**– Skill development program undertaken by SHGs improves employability of members involved.
- **Rural poverty**– SHGs have become a vehicle to lift people from below poverty line, generate awareness about welfare and developmental schemes of government, monitor its implementation etc. Positive correlation between SHGs and poverty can

be inferred from the fact that southern states with high number of SHGs (71%) have average poverty rate at 9% as against nation's average of 21%.

- **Improved living standards**– As a result of increased jobs there is rise in income which enhances access to food, health services and overall rise in living standards.
- **Women empowerment**– By providing employment opportunities, financial and social security SHGs help improve the status of women and creating awareness regarding their rights and responsibilities, as pointed by the 2nd ARC report.
- **Literacy rates**– with more women participation and their enhanced status address issues such as nutrition poverty and low literacy rate.
- **Social capital**– The SHGs provide a forum in which people can meet on a regular basis and discuss various issues or concerns that the members face in their day-to-day life which acts as the basic source of social capital generation.

#### Successful examples:

- **Kudumbashree** in Kerala has helped in providing skill training and poverty eradication of women.
- They act as pressure groups for policy framing as seen in legislation- making for **prohibition in Bihar** which was the result of pressure from several women SHGs in Bihar.
- **Tamil Nadu** used SHGs to inculcate sanitation habits among the community people under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- **Haryana** government used SHGs for increasing sex ratio and making beti bachao beti
- SHGs like **SEWA, Lizzat papad** promotes entrepreneurial culture among women.
- **Andhra Pradesh** Government programme of poverty alleviation by successful integration of women by SHG formation.

#### Conclusion

SHGs have been instrumental in bringing about structural changes in the rural society and its economy. Given the multi-faceted role played by SHG in rural development, Government needs to further support SHG by handholding nascent SHGs and bringing them at par with the rest of the sections.

#### 26. Are NGOs a security concern? Critically examine.

##### Introduction:

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is a non-profit, citizen-based group that functions independently of government. NGOs, sometimes called civil societies, are organized on community, national and international levels to serve specific social or political purposes, and are cooperative and not for profit, rather than commercial, in nature.

**Body:****The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations:**

A non-governmental organization (NGOs) acts as the operational arm of the civil society and play an important role in the socio-economic transformation, thus has an important role in the development processes.

- It brings in accountability and transparency to governance and Improves government performance.
- It acts as a human rights watchdog in the society.
- NGOs act as channels for donors to provide international development funds to low-income countries or developing countries.
- They play a vital role in mobilizing public attention to societal problems and needs.
- They enhance the efficiency of the delivery of many services at the local level through the involvement of residents.
- They also improve policy monitoring and evaluation as Comptroller and auditor general (CAG) takes cognizance of reports and social audits by NGOs while preparing its reports.
- NGOs help in constructive conflict resolution. In the international arena Track II diplomacy (involving non-governmental bodies) plays a crucial role in creating an environment of trust and confidence.
- Many NGOs work to preserve and promote India's diverse culture. For example, SPIC MACAY is a society for promoting Indian classical music and culture amongst the youth.

**Security Concerns Attached:**

NGOs undoubtedly have been playing a proactive role in protecting the interests of the poor and destitute and are also essential for upholding the democratic values of the country, but there are certain security concerns attached with NGOs, such as,

- NGOs have acted as a cover for organized crime in past and are often seen as fronts for fundamentalist causes.

- Foreign-funded NGOs have been responsible for organizing agitations and scuttling development projects in India and have become detrimental to national development. Ex. NGO Green Peace International in Kudankulam Protest.
- Misappropriation of funds: Religious NGO like Zakir Naik's IRF is accused of diverting funds for terrorist activities and propagation of radicalization.
- Non-accountable, non-transparent undemocratic functioning: Only 10% of the total registered NGOs under the Societies Registration Act file annual financial statements.
- Absorber of black money: Due to tax exemption they absorb black money as donations and then use it for anti-social activities.
- Money Laundering: Corrupt or unscrupulous NGOs that receive foreign funds may serve as conduits for money laundering and a round trip of money.
- Create Hurdle in the internal security of the country. Ex. AFSPA against militants and LWE, opposed by NGO like Amnesty international for Human rights concerns.
- Political threat: International funding to NGO and Political parties manipulate election is a threat to a free and fair election and undermines democracy. It can even destabilize governments.

**Way forward:**

- Avoid tussle between the Home Ministry and Finance Ministry by bringing the regulation of NGOs under one head for better monitoring and regulating illicit and unaccounted funds.
- Put in place a regulatory mechanism to keep a watch on the financial activities of NGOs.
- The government should frame guidelines for their accreditation, how these organizations should maintain their accounts and the procedure for recovery in case they fail to submit their balance sheets.
- The government should tighten the scrutiny procedures through Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010 to ensure that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.

**Conclusion:**

The NGOs should work with enhanced accountability in collaboration with the government and society which is the need of the hour, which would further strengthen the development process in India.

**27. What are policy think tanks? Why are they significant? Illustrate.****Introduction:**

A policy think tank is an organization that gathers a group of interdisciplinary scholars to perform research around particular policies, issues or ideas. Topics addressed in think tanks can cover a wide range, including social policy, public policy, economic policy, political strategy, culture and technology

**Body:****Significance of Policy think tanks:**

- **Helps fill the gap between academia and policymaking:** Academics grind out authoritative studies, but at a snail's pace. Journalists' first drafts of history are speedy but thin. A good think-tank helps the policymaking process by publishing reports that are as rigorous as academic research and as accessible as journalism.

**Example: Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA):** Key evolution was during the debate on whether India should go nuclear. IDSA came out strongly backing the strategic choice to go nuclear, shaped larger opinion, and conveyed India's position to the global strategic community through Track 2 dialogues. IDSA's president is the Defence Minister and its annual report is tabled in parliament; and the funding is entirely by the Ministry of Defence. Serving officers of the armed forces come for a period of two years to gain a wider policy perspective.

- **Influence Policy formulations in the country:** Think tanks involve in business consulting, intelligence analysis, investigative journalism, or academic research in the social sciences and use the research to inform and influence public policy. Their target audience is therefore either policymakers in government or the broader public.

**Example: Vivekananda International Foundation:** Core activities revolve around international relations, defence, economy, governance and historical and civilisation studies. Among other activities, it has engaged deeply with Chinese and US delegations and had Track 2 exchanges. It hosted the British and French defence ministers, convened meetings with over 20 foreign ambassadors, and hosted many seminars on relations with Pakistan.

- **Neutral venue for dialogues:** Think tanks also serve as a venue for political leaders, bureaucrats and military officers to exchange views and interact with other actors: foreign counterparts, the media, academics, corporate representatives and the wider public. Having neutral venues for these kinds of interactions is particularly important given the changing roles and growing clout of some of these stakeholders in public policy formulation and implementation.

**Example: Observer Research Foundation:** It receives project-specific funding from the Ministry of External Affairs for studies on BRICS, Russia, climate and other thematic issues. It

hosts a range of Track 2 dialogues with France, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Australia, BRICS and Track 1.5 dialogues where officials from both sides are present but without a formal agenda and format. It also hosts the Indian Ocean Dialogue and Blue Economies Forum and has other projects lined up with the government. Observer Research Foundation also concluded the Raisina Dialogue, giving India a major international policy conference.

- **Delve into pressing issues and provide assessment:** Some think tanks research and spread awareness over multiple pressing issues like Environmental degradation, climate change, maritime pollution etc.

**Example: New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment (CSE):** It has been ranked the top environmental policy think tank in India and 16th in the world. CSE researches into, lobbies for and communicates the urgency of development that is both sustainable and equitable. It monitors toxic contamination of the environment and uses the results of this monitoring to advocate for improved regulation of the use of toxins in the country.

- **Promotes inclusive growth and mainstreaming of vulnerable sections:** Think tanks promote human rights and help in mainstreaming the backward and disadvantaged sections of society, helping them grow and participate in the development of the country.

**Example: Indian Council of Social Sciences Research:** Involved in researching discrimination in the employment market, access to capital markets, and non-market institutions and schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee programme, primary health centres and the national mid-day meals programme for primary children, enabling the development of policies for social inclusion and empowerment of socially excluded groups in various areas.

#### Concerns related to Think tanks:

- Ideas coming out of think tanks, even when adopted as government policy, are rarely credited as such.
- Interference by bureaucracy.
- Lack of funding from sources other than government and skewed geographical spread.

#### Conclusion:

Policy think tanks can play a big role in advising governments on sound policy, enabling increasingly important dialogue with a variety of stakeholders, and interpreting obscure policy issues for the broader public. They can also help build expertise, and perform in-depth or specialised research that government do not have the time or capacity to do and thus should be promoted to work effectively.



**28. What role have NGOs played in protecting and promoting human rights in India? Discuss with the help of suitable examples.**

**Introduction:**

A non-governmental organization (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level.

**Body**

Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to Governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political participation through provision of information.

**NGOs played in protecting and promoting human rights in India:**

- **Human rights and protection:** Example: Amnesty International, India- works on various human rights issues throughout the country, including communal violence, access to justice, individuals at risk, gender-based violence, human rights education, business and human rights, and reducing excessive pre-trial detention.
- **Women rights and protection:** Examples: Azad Foundation- Rescue women and children from unsafe or violent environments and rehabilitate them at a safe temporary or permanent shelter, CREA- It is a Feminist human rights organization. It provides platforms to challenge oppressive norms and conduct programmes to increase self-confidence, awareness about sexuality and build leadership in women
- **Supporter of the LGBT community:** Example: Naz foundation- believes that LGBT peoples should have equal rights to social inclusion, sexual health education, and career opportunities.
- **Children rights and protection:** Example- Chetna (Childhood Enhancement through Training and Action)- NGO working towards the empowerment of street and working children in a participatory approach.
- **Health issues related:** Example: Udaan welfare foundation -The main aim of this NGO is to help the destitute, the main area of stress being women, children and senior citizens and also environmental welfare. One of their main projects is a cancer chemotherapy center.
- **Helps during disasters:** Example: GOONJ- Aims at solving the clothing problems of the downtrodden. Goonj also provides relief during Rahat floods in West Bengal, Assam and Bihar.
- **Upholds human dignity:** Example: Akshaya trust-The sole aim of this NGO is to restore human dignity. Operating in Madurai, this NGO offers rehabilitation, healthy food and care to the street destitute.

- **Protection of Jammu Kashmir people:** Example: Child Nurture And Relief Kashmir (Chinar Kashmir), Cultural Educational & Environmental Organisation are few NGOs upholding human rights in Jammu Kashmir
- **Protection of Dalit rights:** Example: National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR)- Aims to be achieving greater visibility for Dalit issues and holding the state, in the form of its criminal justice system, accountable for its alleged failures.
- **Protection of prisoner's rights:** Example: Human rights law networks (HRLN) are protecting the human rights who stay in jail.
- **Protection of tribal rights:** Example: Samata helps tribal groups address problems of land alienation, displacement, and political dis-empowerment. Its mission is to uphold the traditional, constitutional, and human rights of the tribal or adivasi people.
- **To end female genital mutilation:** Example: sahiyo- main concerns as females being victims of social norms and old traditions working to eliminate these traditions through media, proper education, collaboration with other human rights organizations and social discussions.

### Conclusion

NGOs have achieved much in single-issue campaigning, ranging from the abolition of slavery to the landmines ban and access to HIV medication. It is responsibility of each individual and government to cooperate for the welfare of all and sustainable development.

### 29. Why do developmental projects get stalled so easily in India? Critically analyse.

#### Introduction:

Development projects are key drivers for the improvement of living conditions of people. They are highly responsible for propelling India's overall development and enjoy intense focus from the Government for initiating policies that would ensure time-bound creation of sustainable development in the country.

#### Body

**The reasons for developmental projects get stalled so easily in India are:**

- Funds –
  1. Lack of funds i.e. low budget allocations or
  2. Misuse of funds or

3. Non-utilisation of funds Eg. Nirbhaya funds, National Ganga conservation project etc.,
- Informality and corruption in project delivery
  - Projects are launched without adequate ground preparation regarding the land requirement and project cost.
  - lack of performance of Government officials
  - Lack of co-operation at the state level, which is a big hurdle since land acquisition is the state's business.
  - Environmental clearance delays protest by the displaced populations and hurdles due to local politics. An IB report has accused "foreign-funded" NGOs such as Greenpeace, Cordaid, Amnesty and ActionAid of "serving as tools for foreign policy interests of western governments" by sponsoring agitations against nuclear and coal-fired power plants across the country.
  - Lack of private sector funding.

Even with such hurdles, many developmental projects are being undertaken at a swift phase in India such as

- The total national highways length increased to 122,434 km in FY18 from 92,851 km in FY14.
- Sagarmala -the port-led development project – 80 odd projects completed till now are already valued at Rs 140 billion.
- India's rank jumped to 77 in 2018 from 100 in 2017 on World Bank's Ease of doing business ranking.
- Energy deficit reduced to 0.7 per cent in FY18 from 4.2 per cent in 2014.
- The number of airports has increased to 102 in 2018, shows the success of UDAN scheme.

Other projects such as 100% electrification under Saubhagya Yojana, Bharatmala. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, etc., are contributing to the overall development of living conditions of people.

### Conclusion

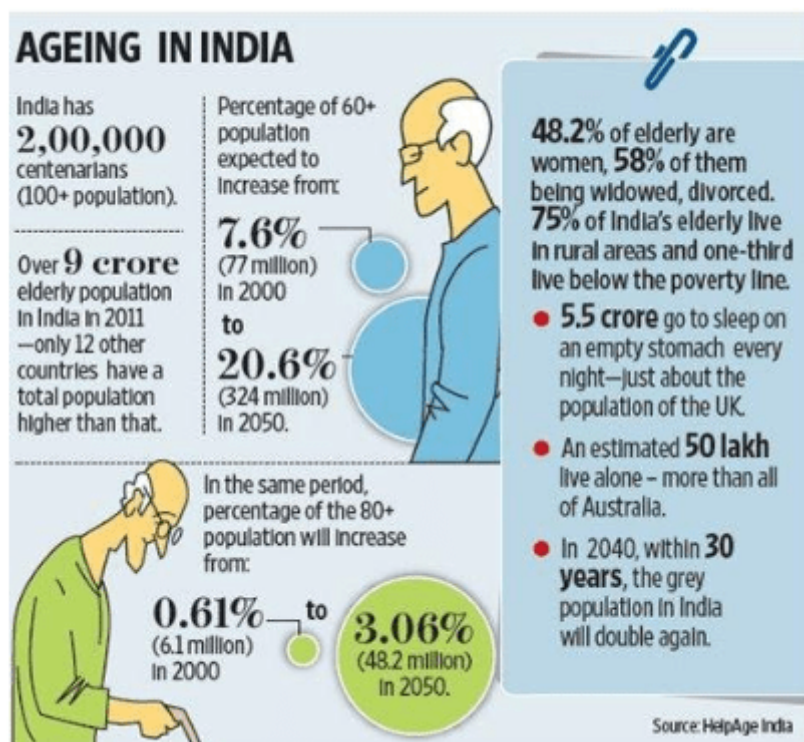
There is an urgent need to activate stalled projects in physical infrastructure, education, health etc., and improving their quality by increasing budgetary allocation and improving governance, it will go a long way in reducing poverty, improving human development, and reviving and sustaining high rates of economic growth in India.

**30. The old population will pose serious socio-economic challenges in the future. Discuss. What measures can be taken to manage those? Suggest.**

**Introduction:**

The global population of elderly (60 years and over) has constantly been increasing during the second half of the last century due to easy availability of life saving drugs, control of famines and various communicable diseases, better awareness and supply of nutrition and health facilities and comparatively better overall standard of living. During the last thirty years, this has been emerging as a significant socio-economic challenge in developing countries.

**Body:**



**Socio-Economic Challenges as a result of the old population:**

It is projected that approximately 20% of Indians (324M) will be elderly by 2050, marking a dramatic jump from the current 8%. Thus it may pose serious socio-economic challenges in future:

- **Health care expenditure:** As a result of nuclear families and disintegration of traditional systems, there is increasing number of elderly left on their own or to the care of the State. Old age also implies increasing physical, mental and psychological disabilities, imposing a high cost of healthcare on them to meet the shift in the disease patterns from communicable to non-communicable, which itself calls for re-

gearing the health-care system toward “preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative aspects of health”.

- **Need for support institutions and Social Security net:** There is also need for various types of institutions to accommodate the increasing number of elderly parents whose children have abandoned them or are unable to take care of them. Rehabilitation, community or home based disability support and end-of-life care will have to be economically funded by the State. Also, Increase in the fiscal allocation to social security schemes may impose a burden on the State.
- **Fiscal and macroeconomic stability:** Increased government spending on pension, healthcare, and social benefits programs for the elderly may hurt economic growth and overall quality of life if governments need to divert public spending from education and infrastructure investment to finance programs for the elderly.
- **Increasing vulnerability of elderly:** Indian society is undergoing rapid transformation under the impact of industrialization, urbanization, technical and technological change, education and globalization, disintegration of joint families and ever increasing influence of modernization and new life styles, the care of elderly is being neglected.
- **Feeling of loss of status, worthlessness and loneliness:** In modern society, in which improved education, rapid technical change and new forms of organization have often rendered obsolete the knowledge, experience and wisdom of older persons. This realization of neither having authority in the family, nor being needed, leaves them frustrated and depressed resulting in a deteriorated overall mind-set looming across the elderly.
- **Ethical dilemma:** Conflict between ethical obligations and affordability to support the old-age population has already caved into the young population resulting in reduced productivity, harming of personal relationships and thus disturbance in mental peace.

However, there are very enriching contributions the elderly population comes with:

- Older people have a wealth of skills and experiences and can contribute on a macro level to the workplace and financially and at a local level to their communities.
- They provide a psychological strength and behave as an emotional support system to the ever-changing, easily disturbed youthful minds.
- Help in retaining various traditional systems of living, medical home remedies and valuable wisdom to enhance our lives.

**What can be done?**

1. **Phased-in retirement:** Phased-in retirement entails a scheme whereby older workers could choose to work fewer hours yet remain longer in the labour force, including after they retire. This allows continuity in tax revenues and reduced expenditure on pensions and older workers can be valuable to organizations and younger colleagues due to their knowledge and experience;
2. **Comprehensive healthcare infrastructure:** It is of prime importance that good quality health care be made available and accessible to the elderly in an age-sensitive manner. Health services should address **preventive measures**, in addition, effective care and support is required for those elderly suffering from various diseases through primary, secondary and tertiary health care systems.
3. **Strengthen the family care:** The preferred source of support for the aged is still the family – informal system where the notion of care is embedded within a tradition of social obligations that are understood and reciprocated. The reciprocal care and support within multi-generational families of parents, grandparents and children should be encouraged. Traditional values of filial obligations can also be reinforced in school curricula and through the media.
4. **Efficient welfare policy for the old-age population:** 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.
5. **Promoting and rewarding volunteering:** Governments could promote and reward volunteering and care work among citizens and NGOs. Such unpaid activities improve the quality of the social fabric, help the well-being of those engaging in them, contribute to the economy, and reduce healthcare and welfare costs.

### Conclusion:

In the future, the success of a nation will critically depend upon its ability to address such sweeping demographic changes effectively through policies and programmes. This underutilized resource available to humanity should be integrated into the lives of communities and where they can make a substantial contribution to improving social conditions.

**31. How does poverty stifle human development? Can poverty alleviation measures address the problem of stifled human development? Critically examine.**

### Introduction:

According to World Bank, Poverty is deprivation in well-being and is multi-dimensional. It includes low incomes and inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity

### Body

**Facts:**

- According to the recent Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2019 report, between 2005-06 and 2015-16, India lifted 271 million out of poverty, significantly reducing deprivations in many of the ten indicators, particularly in “assets, cooking fuel, sanitation and nutrition”.
- According to the World Data Lab — which monitors global poverty using advanced statistical models — less than 50 million Indians may be living on less than \$1.90 a day now.

**Impact on human development:**

- **Reduced access**— It reduces access to education, healthcare facilities etc.
- **Takes away choice**— Poor cannot live life or get employed as per their choice as must work even in life threatening conditions to sustain their family e.g. death of miners in Talcher coal mine, who were working because of no alternative.
- **Increased mortality**— Lack of nutrition and healthcare results in high mortality among poor.
- **Low awareness**— Poverty reduces the time to gain knowledge and thus impacts the awareness and decision making like voting on rational basis.
- **Social life**— Poverty serves as a modern day factor for social exclusion because of class based groupings.

Various poverty alleviation measures in India are MGNREGA, National Rural Livelihood Mission, Food Security, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Ayushman Bharat Programme, PM KISAN, educational scholarships etc.

**Poverty alleviation measures can lead to human development:**

- **Improved access**— India has halved its poverty rate in the last 10 years. In absolute terms, the number of poor fell from 630 million to 360 million during this period. Thus those people now have better access to things economically
- **Improved living standard**— Through public expenditure on social consumption needs like provision of PDS for food grains, education, health and water supply, people’s living standards improve.
- **Education and health**— Programmes supplement the consumption of the poor, create employment opportunities and bring about improvements in health and education.

- **Safety nets**– Pension and insurance schemes give safety cushion to poor so that he is not risk averse always and can make better choices in life.
- **Reduced inequalities**– Provisions like housing, education and other material assets help to reduce inequalities in the society and improve community participation of poor.

**Poverty alleviation measures may not always result in human development:**

- **Poor choices**– People who have been lifted out of poverty economically may not want to invest the increased income on health and education, rather on goods like alcohol.
- **Gender inequality**– Economic upliftment does not correlate to gender equality in a patriarchal society like India.
- **Social exclusion**– Poverty is just one factor of social exclusion, others like caste, religion etc still are dominant ones.
- **Hidden hunger**– Improved economic levels do not always translate to nutritional food intake.
- **Ignorance**– Ignorance is due to several social and institutional factors and poverty alleviation alone cannot remove it.

**Conclusion**

Poverty and human development are correlated and improvement in one results in another. However, along with poverty alleviation we need social reforms to guide people towards holistic development.

**32. What are the challenges in implementing a state sponsored healthcare scheme having universal coverage? Analyse.**

**Introduction:**

The ultimate goal of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is to ensure that everyone, everywhere, should have access to essential healthcare services without facing financial hardship.

**Body:**

India's commitment towards achieving UHC is reflected in policies and institutional mechanism, which are directed towards increasing coverage and access to health services. India has taken many steps to achieve UHC such as Ayushman Bharat, but still many challenges exist such as,



- **Funds:** Cost of Providing UHC is far greater than government estimates. India's public health expenditure is amongst the lowest in the world, India currently spends a little over 1% of GDP on health. Considering public and private expenditure on health, the feasibility of UHC seems to be concerning in tandem with the current economic reality of India.
- **State Cooperation:** Health is a state subject. State cooperation is a must for UHC. With states and UTs like West Bengal and Delhi keeping themselves out of Ayushman Bharat Scheme, creates a challenge for UHC.
- **Infrastructure:** Lack of adequate infrastructure is a concern which includes proper hospital infrastructure, number of beds and diagnostic centres.
- **Professionals and Staff:** In India, the doctor-population ratio stands at just 0.62:1000 as against the WHO recommended a ratio of 1:1000. Moreover, there is lack of sufficient capacity of well-trained Nurses and other supporting staff to fulfil the high demands. Denial of qualified doctors and skilled medical personnel to serve in rural areas is also a challenge which creates a rural-urban divide in the health sector.
- **Participation of Insurance companies:** There are concerns about fair play and efficiency. Government insurance companies do not perform effectively and private insurance companies do not provide holistic coverage of diseases. Indian health insurance covers only hospitalization costs and other expenditures like clinical visits, diagnostics and medication are not covered.
- **Changing pattern of Diseases:** There is an epidemiological transition from communicable towards non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and mental illnesses.
- **Private participation:** Currently almost 70 per cent of our healthcare needs are met by the private sector. Feasibility of empanelling private healthcare in UHC is a major task to be done as private sector feel that the prices fixed by the government are far below market rate and it would be unsustainable to operate at such costs while providing high-quality outcomes.
- **Awareness and Behavior:** Most of the time people are not aware of government initiatives and schemes. Moreover, people take symptoms for granted and does not consult the doctor at the earliest and prefer taking medicine from the medical shop without prescription. Illiteracy plays a major role in it.
- **Resistance Development:** People are rapidly developing Multi-Drug Resistance in cases of Tuberculosis.

#### Way Forward:

- Strengthen both rural and urban public health infrastructure, human resource capacity and service delivery at all the three levels i.e. primary, secondary and tertiary.
- Strengthen regulatory framework such as IRDA for insurance companies.
- Raise the percentage of GDP allocated to health from 1.2% today to 2.5% by 2022.
- Inform people and spread awareness about government initiatives in the health sector.
- Incentivize medical personnel to work in rural areas.
- Private hospitals participation is a must for UHC.

**Conclusion:**

India cannot realize its demographic dividend without its citizens being healthy. UHC is expected to reduce social inequities and is also must for achieving the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) by 2030

**33. Can technological innovations be used for uplifting the poor and the marginalised? Illustrate with the help of at least 3 examples.****Introduction:**

The marginalized communities are Women, people with disabilities, lower caste, aged people, transgender, poor, the downtrodden, etc. These people are socially, economically, politically and legally ignored and excluded in Indian society.

**Body****Role of technological innovations**

- Inclusive development.
- Sustainable growth.
- Participate in nation's scientific, technological, financial, political, and social life.
- Use of technology is having cascading and multiplier effect.
- To assist marginalized communities through e-learning or tele-medicine services.
- Confidence and moral support

**Examples for technological innovation**

- **Massive open online course (MOOC)**

Purpose: It is an online course aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web.

Mechanism: Traditional course materials, such as filmed lectures, readings, and problem sets, many MOOCs provide interactive courses with user forums to support community interactions among students, professors, and teaching assistants.

- **Photo-Voltaic (PV) Integrated Micro Solar Dome (MSD)**

Purpose: Slums suffer from low lighting due to poor ventilation, as sunlight cannot enter the cramped spaces. Switching on electric lights is a necessity, even though they have to brave the heat it gives off.

Mechanism: The Micro Solar Dome takes light and passes it through a sun-tube with a thin layer of highly reflective coating on the inner wall. A shutter at the bottom of the lower dome, can close it if light isn't required. This wonderful innovation is fitted with photo-voltaic cells.

- **Old age support integrated services (OASIS)**

Purpose: To bridge the gap between the elderly and caregivers using technological solutions.

Mechanism: Healthcare monitoring devices developed by OASIS come in the form of sensors and radar equipment that "monitor falls, heart rates, motion and pressure integrated to a 'complete sleep monitoring system' with an Android App which can be monitored remotely.

- **Assistive cars**

Purpose: Designed and built a mechanism that can be easily installed under a car's driving seat, making it disabled-friendly.

Mechanism: The original seat, along with its track and reclining motion, remains intact. The seat is removed, the mechanism is installed, and the seat is put back. So, there is no modification made in the car's structure or core functioning, except that it now becomes disabled-friendly.

- **Suraksha application in mobile**

Purpose: Designed to protect the modern Indian woman

Mechanism: It will help women in distress alert police for help, as it is linked to the police control room and patrolling vehicles in the city. Karnataka government has also made available 200+ cars patrolling cities for the safety of women and empowerment. Through this app, the person in distress has to hold the phone in front of the attacker so that the

camera can record a 10-second video. An alarm will be sent to the control room along with the video.

- **Real-time text to Braille converter**

Purpose: A letter-to-letter Braille converter that prints the recognised letter in the Braille cell.

Mechanism: The product consists of a small cuboid which can be held with three fingers (thumb, index, and middle) and get placed on a printed text. The user has to slide the cuboid on the text to read it.

**Other important technological innovations:**

- Gaming for the specially challenged people
- System for detection of adulteration in milk (KSHEER-SCANEER)
- KrishiShakti, an Indigenous Diesel Engine Tractor for small land Holdings
- Anaerobic Digester to convert Household Organic Kitchen Waste to Biogas: Interventions for 'Swachh Bharat
- Earthquake Warning System

**Conclusion**

CSIR, IIT, IISc, national innovation foundation, Atal tinkering labs, Atal incubation centres, department of science and technology are making consistent efforts to uplift the marginalized people for the aim of sustainable development.

**34. Lack as well as excess of accountability can affect governance? Do you agree? Analyse.**

**Introduction:**

Accountability can broadly be defined as the obligation of those holding power to take responsibility and be held answerable for their behaviour, actions and responsibility. Accountability is important in evaluating the on-going effectiveness of public officials and government and to ensure better governance.

**Body:**

Accountability ensures actions and decisions taken by public officials are subject to oversight to guarantee that government initiatives meet their stated objectives and respond to the needs of the community they are meant to be benefiting, thereby contributing to better governance.

**Importance of Accountability:**

- Accountability ensures the rule of law and respect for institutions
- It ensures commitment to promises, manifestos and citizen's charters.
- It empowers citizens and aids their development.
- It reduces corruption and builds trust among the governors and the governed.

**Lack of Accountability will lead to:**

- Inefficiency and corruption at the level of delivery of public programs.
- Transgression of decision-making capacity by officers and arbitrary decision making of the government.
- Rising of issues like conflicts of interests, partisanship.
- Reduced professionalism and dedication.
- Dispute arousal among different government bodies or officials as none will be ready to take responsibility for decision or action taken.
- Government officials will be demoralized as there will be no accountability of good work done by them. Moreover, the senior official can claim credit of that work done.
- Misallocation of funds and wastage of resources.

**Excessive Accountability will lead to:**

- According to ARC, Accountability might act as a deterrent. The fear of consequences might lead to inactivity of government officials.
- Promote red-tapism and consume more time for decision making and service delivery.
- Backchannel mechanism may develop – corruption, informal gratification.
- Excessive Accountability curbs the free will, which ultimately reduces innovation and creativity in public service delivery.

**Conclusion:**

Overall, accountability isn't the silver bullet to ensure efficient and good governance. It must also be paired with some level of discretion to allow the system to reap all the positive impacts of accountability while avoiding the negative ones. Thus only we can ensure good governance. RTI Act is a good step in this direction.

**35. How is the government leveraging ICT to deliver its services faster and without leakages? Illustrate with the help of suitable examples.**

**Introduction:**

While Governance relates to safeguarding the legal rights of all citizens, an equally important aspect is concerned with ensuring equitable access to public services and the benefits of economic growth to all. Governance basically associated with carrying out the functions and achieving the results through the utilization of ICT (Information and Communications Technology) is E-governance.

**Body:**

**Benefits of leveraging ICT in governance:**

- **Transparency:** Use of ICT makes governing process transparent. All the information of the Government would be made available on the internet. The citizens can see the information whenever they want to see.
- **Accountability:** Once the governing process is made transparent the Government is automatically made accountable.
- **Improved Customer Service:** E-Government allows redeploying resources from back-end processing to the front line of customer service.
- **Data management:** ICT provides efficient storing and retrieval of data, instantaneous transmission of information, processing information and data faster than the earlier manual systems.
- **Decision making:** Speeding up governmental processes, taking decisions expeditiously and judiciously, increasing transparency and enforcing accountability. It also helps in increasing the reach of government – both geographically and demographically.

**Various initiatives by government to leverage ICT are:**

**Government to Citizen (G2C) Initiatives:**

- **Computerization of Land Records:** In collaboration with NIC. Ensuring that landowners get computerized copies of ownership, crop and tenancy and updated copies of Records of Rights (RoRs) on demand.
- **Bhoomi Project:** Online delivery of Land Records. Self-sustainable e-Governance project for the computerized delivery of 20 million rural land records to 6.7 million farmers through 177 Government-owned kiosks in the State of Karnataka.

- **E-Seva (Andhra Pradesh):** The highlight of the E-Seva project is that all the services are delivered online to consumers /citizens by connecting them to the respective government departments and providing online information at the point of service delivery.

**Government to Business (G2B) Initiatives:**

- **MCA 21:** By the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The project aims at providing easy and secure online access to all registry related services provided by the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs to corporate and other stakeholders at any time and in a manner that best suits them.

**Central government initiatives:**

- **Immigration, Visa and Foreigner's Registration & Tracking (IVFRT):** India has emerged as a key tourist destination, besides being a major business and service hub. Immigration Check Post is the first point of contact that generates public and popular perception about the country, thus necessitating a state of the art system for prompt and user-friendly services.
- **Public Distribution System:** Computerization of the PDS is envisaged as an end-to-end project covering key functional areas such as supply chain management including allocation and utilization reporting, storage and movement of food grains, grievance redressal and transparency portal, digitization of beneficiary database, Fair Price Shop automation, etc.
- **E-Courts:** A clear objective – to re-engineer processes and enhance judicial productivity both qualitatively and quantitatively to make the justice delivery system affordable, accessible, cost effective, transparent and accountable.
- **Direct Cash transfer:** To facilitate disbursements of Government entitlements like NREGA, Social Security pension, Handicapped Old Age Pension etc. of any Central or State Government bodies, using Aadhaar and authentication thereof as supported by UIDAI.
- **E-Kranti scheme:** This is project for linking the internet with remote villages in the country. This scheme will broaden the reach of internet services to the rural areas in the country.
- **Digital India Programme:** The Digital India would ensure that Government services are available to citizens electronically. It would also bring in public accountability through mandated delivery of government's services electronically; a Unique ID and e-Pramaan based on authentic and standard based interoperable and integrated government applications and data basis.

**[NAM, Shagun portal, AirSewa portal, E-pashuhaat, DigiLocker system etc are other examples of service delivery through ICT.]**

**Conclusion:**

Slow pace of project completion, red-tape and resistance from the side of government employees and citizens too are some challenges to be addressed for the successful implementation of an ICT enabled governance. The concept of e-governance and m-governance has evolved in Indian scenario, and can be leveraged to build a robust governance system if ensured with the right approaches.

**36. The NITI Aayog has altered the philosophy and meaning of planning for development. Do you agree? Critically comment.****Introduction:**

The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. It has replaced the erstwhile Planning Commission established in 1950. NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.

**Body****Uniqueness of NITI Aayog:**

- **Bottom-up approach:** NITI Aayog policy making is shaped by bottom-up approach rather than top-down approach followed by Planning Commission.
- **Co-operative federalism:** NITI Aayog has fostered co-operative federalism through structured support initiatives and mechanisms through states.
- **Competitive federalism:** NITI Aayog has put the onus of making states an attractive investment destination and timely implementation of implementing projects on the Chief Ministers, thus promoting competitive federalism among the states.
- **Customized approach:** NIT aayog engaged in outcome-based monitoring with states in sectors such as healthcare, education and water supply. It is now mooted the idea of ranking each state based on health, education and water index, and identifying "champion states".
- **Target specific:** approach of measuring and monitoring progress through ranking and encouraging competition among states is akin to the approach adopted in promoting ease of doing business reforms. Example: composite water management index.
- **Fund allocation:** Moving of fund allocation responsibilities to the ministry of finance, it has been empowered with the allocation of funds to central ministries, apart from overseeing fund flow from the Centre to the states.

**NITI Aayog is old wine in new bottle:**



- **Difficulty in implementation:** Capacity constraints, inadequate resources, lack of incentives to perform, no disincentives for non-performance, absence of policy and regulatory clarity among others.
- **Practical vs theory:** NITI Aayog has written a couple of policy papers on issues that involve the Centre and states; it's unclear how effective it has been in changing policy.
- **Customized approaches are difficult:** Differ with sector, geography and demography
- **Statistics and data:** Data plays a key role in identifying causes and designing solutions. Agencies grappling with implementation should not be burdened with additional responsibilities of data collection and analysis.

### Conclusion

It is high time that NITI Aayog realizes that it needs to metamorphose into an organization which can transform implementation of policy reforms in the country. It should be in a position to garner available independent expertise and capacity to objectively analyse specific governance or development challenges in a non-partisan manner, and design and implement solutions at different levels of governance

**37. What are the impediments that affect quick decision making in the government? Analyse the root cause of this conundrum. Can you suggest some measures to expedite decision making?**

### Introduction:

“Governance” means: the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented (or not implemented). So, in order to deliver Good Governance to people, Quick decision making is an essential factor to be considered.

### Body

#### Impediments that affect quick decision making in the government:

##### Lack of Data

- Information plays vital role in decision making. A decision is made in the interest of self, organisation or society. For this the effect of a decision on various stakeholders must be known to optimise the benefit and for the decision to have integrity and be objective and inclusive.
- Eg. Hydro power project in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh got clearance initially but was cancelled later. The environment assessment did not consider the impact of the project on the vulnerable black-necked crane as the bird was not mentioned in people biodiversity register of the region

**Issue of finance:**

- Decision can't be made in free hand, if there is a insufficiency of funds. Even if there are sufficient funds, either there is a delay in their release or misuse of funds.

**Bureaucracy**

- Bureaucracy in India suffer from issues like Red tapism, corruption and **lethargy** which delay the decision making process.

**Accountability**

- Accountability might act as a **deterrent**, as acknowledged by ARC reports. The fear of consequences might lead to **inactivity** from decision makers.

**Participative governance**

- Conflicting aspirations and demands of various section of society.
- Delay in arriving at a consensus due to engrained difference among various community and failure of government to arrive at a compromise.

**Legislations:**

- Many have raised the concern that Government laws like **RTI** stifles decision making as it makes the officials stay cautious and averse to take risk. It prevents bureaucrats from taking bold decisions because of the fear of getting questioned and public criticism. This results in policy paralysis.

**Others:**

- Pressure groups like tribal NGOs opposing projects
- Insufficient Devolution of powers Eg. Panchayats
- Political interests of various parties and individuals, litigations and stays, resources scarcity and population pressure are some of the other reasons which also leads to delays.

**Measures to expedite decision making:**

- As recommended by ARC reports, measures like :
  1. **Rewards** and **prizes** should be instated
  2. Performance reviews to be conducted and their use in deciding promotions etc.
- Govt initiative like mygov.in and **PRAGATi** portal should be extensively used.

- Usage of **Big Data** in Decision making saves lot of time and cost,
- Fixing **timeline** of projects e.g Bogibeel bridge in Assam
- Strengthen the Panchayati Raj bodies especially Gramsabha to ensure equitable and inclusive growth.
- Encouraging the **Single window system** of approvals helps in streamlining the decisions and projects and cuts time.
- Promoting Social audits and EIA.
- Cutting red tapism and codification of procedures can help in enhancing accountability in decision making.
- Even though RTI does results into cautiousness. Officials should see it less as a fear factor and more as a motivating factor.

### Conclusion

India needs to accelerate its development. For which Faster decision making is going to be crucial for the socio-economic upliftment of people and in providing Good governance.

**38. Even though the formation of BIMSTEC was a diplomatic masterstroke, the grouping hasn't lived up to its true potential. Analyse.**

### Introduction:

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional grouping of seven countries i.e. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand that lie in the littoral and adjacent regions of the Bay of Bengal. It came into existence on June 6, 1997, through the **Bangkok Declaration**.



### Body

The BIMSTEC region is home to around **1.5 billion people** which constitute around 22% of the global population with a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of 3.5 trillion economy.

BIMSTEC= SAARC- (Pakistan, Maldives and Afghanistan) + (Thailand and Myanmar)

#### **Why BIMSTEC was a diplomatic masterstroke:**

- Stagnation of SAARC limited both, the scope of India's growing economic aspirations as well as the role it could play in improving regional governance.
- At the 18th SAARC Summit in Kathmandu, in 2014, India proposed **the SAARC Motor Vehicles Agreement**. However, this could not progress due to resistance from Pakistan.
- This compelled Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN) to sign the **BBIN Motor Vehicles Agreement in 2015**.
- Pakistan also opted out of the ambitious **SAARC Satellite project** proposed by India, leading to a change in its name to the South Asia Satellite.
- Series of terrorist attacks on Indian defence establishments in **Uri and Pathankot**.
- There is a tendency in some quarters to see India's interests in BIMSTEC as part of its strategy to isolate Pakistan and position BIMSTEC as an alternative to SAARC. The above instances suggest otherwise.
- The main motivation for India to push BIMSTEC is thus not Pakistan; rather, it is in the country's interest to ensure that the region does not lag behind and that an unstable neighbourhood does not drag its growth.
- India's desire to link South Asia to the economically dynamic Southeast Asia is also part of this strategy.
- The rationale behind making the BIMSTEC mechanism work is to reassure South Asia that the region can work together to achieve common goals with India playing its due role.

#### **Role and working of BIMSTEC:**

- BIMSTEC enjoys good **Regional Co-operation** than SAARC which faced obstacles in the area of security cooperation. Example: cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan.
- The member countries have generally cordial relationships, something patently missing among the SAARC countries.

- The region has countries with the fastest-growing economies in the world. The combined GDP in the region is around US\$3 trillion and will likely grow further.

### A few challenges

There are challenges for India from both within and outside, because of which BIMSTEC hasn't achieved its full potential :

- Unsettled borders, refugee issues and ethnic tension among BIMSTEC member countries.
- Region **lacks physical connectivity**. The tri-lateral highway connecting India-Myanmar-Thailand hasn't been started yet.
- Overcoming weaknesses like **project implementation** in other countries as compared to China.
- **Infrequency of the BIMSTEC summits**, the highest decision-making body of the organisation. In its 20 years of existence, the BIMSTEC summit has taken place only thrice.
- Another issue would be for India to counter the impression that BIMSTEC is an **India-dominated bloc**, a problem that it faced for a long time in SAARC
- Good relations between India & Pakistan will benefit both the countries. This would also mean Pakistan military losing its relevance.
- **Lack of political will** has also limited the prospects of BIMSTEC. Countries like Thailand and Myanmar focus more on groups like ASEAN.
- Growth of **intra-regional investment** is negligible. The delay in the adoption of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a framework that was agreed upon in 2004, fuels doubts about BIMSTEC's efficacy.

### Way forward

- India will have to carefully navigate the emerging regional geopolitics, as many of the elements that made SAARC hostage to political rivalry and turned it into a defunct mechanism can re-emerge in BIMSTEC.
- Today, most of the smaller neighbours are more willing to engage so as to benefit from India's economic rise. Nonetheless, for internal political reasons, the same issue may re-emerge and pose hurdles in the progress of BIMSTEC.
- India needs to show sensitivity to the concerns of smaller neighbours.
- Leverage BIMSTEC as a bridge linking South and Southeast Asia.

- Learning from ASEAN and prioritizing economic connectivity, which is the prerequisite for regional integration.
- Enhancing cooperation in disaster management, terrorism, maritime security and transnational crime.
- The members need to work collectively towards making BIMSTEC a stronger, more effective and result-oriented organisation for achieving a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal Region.

### Conclusion

The future of BIMSTEC stands in strong technical and economic cooperation. The focus and synergies in one direction will allow the group objectives to be fulfilled. If all countries work to focus, it will be at advantage to all countries and that should be the way forward

**39. Where does Iran feature in India's economic and geo-strategic puzzle? What has India done to deepen cooperation and further trust with Iran? Discuss.**

### Introduction:

Iran is a Middle East nation, which can be called as regional power on account of its strategic location, resources and historical importance.

### Body

#### Economic Significance

- Iran is India's third largest oil supplier (making 15% of total oil imports), its rich surplus energy resources makes it a potential partner for resource deficit India.
- India securing berths in Chabahar port will help in improving trade between India, Afghanistan and Central Asia. (Zaranj-Delaram Highway)
- At Chabahar Free Trade Zone (FTZ) India will setup plants in sectors such as fertilizers, petrochemicals and metallurgy. This will ensure India's energy security as well as increase economic activity among country.
- Iran is a big market for India for India's agro-products, software services, automobiles etc. These can be leveraged further.
- India has been discussing for exploitation of Farzad B gas field.
- The International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC) that passes through Iran can provide India connectivity to Central Asia and Europe.



### Geo-Strategic Significance

- 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.

### Measures/Initiatives taken by India

- Agreement on crude payment mechanism that allows for payment in Rupees and this will further enhance trade between both the nations.
- Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on Income. It will avoid burden of double taxation between two countries in order to promote flow of investment and services.

- MoU has been signed on exemption from Visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic Passports.
- MoU has been signed for establishment of an expert group on trade remedy measures to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest. (Trade remedial measures such as anti-dumping, countervailing duty etc)
- Cooperation in field of Health and medicine and traditional systems of medicine.
- MoU on Postal Cooperation includes exchange of experience, knowledge and technology in e-commerce and logistics services, cooperation on philately, feasibility studies on using air and surface transit capacities of both countries.
- Lease contract for Shahid Behesti Port. (Phase 1 of Chabahar during interim period)

### Conclusion

However, there are concerns plaguing due to USA withdrawal from JCPOA and CAATSA act. India must be vocal in its support of the French and German positions on the JCPOA, and should seek waiver from American sanctions. India must effectively utilize the opportunity of playing arbitrator role and emerge as a global power.

**40. Examine the evolution of India's stand in the WTO negotiations. What are the challenges being faced by India from the WTO members? Discuss.**

### Introduction:

India has been a WTO member since 1 January 1995 and a member of GATT since 8 July 1948. The Doha Round (2001) proffers a new approach to international trade in a pro development manner and sought to work around the issues that address the concerns of the developing countries in three areas (the "three pillars"): domestic support, market access, and export subsidies and related issues

### Body

#### Evolution of India's stand in WTO negotiations:

- **Concern for food security:** During the negotiations for WTO Agreement on Agriculture in 2001, India raised concerns over food security and flexibility that developing nations must have when it comes to providing subsidies to key farm inputs. Seventeen years have passed since then and countries like India are still waiting for a permanent solution on food security and public stock holding to arrive at the WTO.
- **Concern for rural development:** India's stance on agriculture at the WTO has always been somewhat defensive. It has maintained its demand for flexibilities to carry out



with its measures of support for agriculture and rural development and therefore be exempt from any reduction commitments on these counts.

- **Safeguard mechanism:** India demanded that developed countries must bring down their bound tariff rates, and suggested the creation of a separate safeguard mechanism, along the lines of SSG, for food security in developing countries.
- **Developed countries:** India continued to emphasize on food security as a prime Non Trade Concern and wanted that any measures adopted for its poverty alleviation programmes, food security and other social objectives, be exempt from any reduction commitments, while it demanded that developed countries should cut back their domestic farm support below the de minimis levels
- **IPR:** To extend protection under 'geographical indication' (GI) beyond wine and spirit, to other products and demanded restrictions on misappropriation of biological and genetic resources and traditional knowledge.
- **Service sector:** By December 2005 had realised its potential gain from service trade liberalisation and took an aggressive stance. Noticeable shift in India's stance at the WTO, but entirely within a neorealist framework driven by domestic imperatives.
- **One sided narrative:** India concern over "a one-sided narrative" being advanced by major developed countries, especially the US that disregards "issues of importance and concern to developing countries. This erodes the core principles of consensus-based decision making, non-discrimination and Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT)

#### Challenges faced by India from the WTO members:

- **Many countries supported:** A large majority of countries endorsed a joint proposal by India, South Africa, and seven other countries for reforming the World Trade Organization, in the face of existential threats to the survival of multilateral trading system.
- **USA:** The United States severely opposed the joint proposal saying it will unravel the Uruguay Round agreements that established the WTO.
- **Norway:** Other industrialized countries, particularly Norway, supported the joint initiative saying it offers a way-forward for strengthening the WTO in the face of a sustained assault on multilateral trading system.

#### Decline in role of WTO and rise of regional arrangements:

WTO was established to assure rule based global trade and commerce. But recent developments prove the weakening of WTO. India's demand such as finalisation and implementation of Doha Developments, and a agreement for free services in line with FTA (Free trade agreement), etc.

## Conclusion

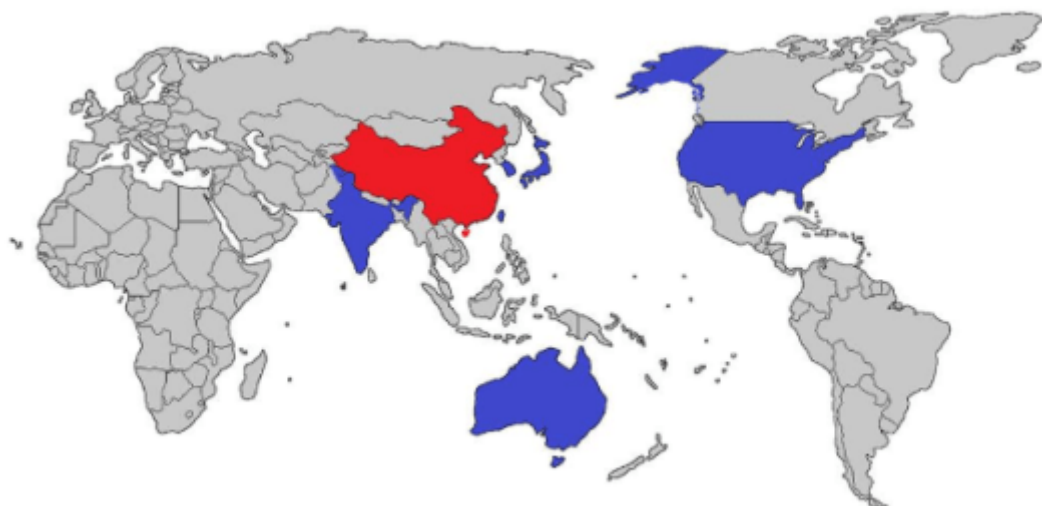
India emphasizes on the Marrakesh Agreement, establishing the WTO recognizes that international trade is not an end in itself, but a means of contributing to certain objectives including ensuring that developing countries and LDCs secure a share in international trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development.”

**41. The quadrilateral posturing by India, the US, Japan and Australia in the Indo-Pacific is critical to counter the aggression of China in the region. Comment.**

## Introduction:

Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) is the strategic dialogue between four countries viz. India, United States, Japan and Australia. It was originally initiated in 2007 but later disbanded with withdrawal of Australia. It has been recently revived and is being viewed as response to increased Chinese economic and military power.

## Body



## Role of QUAD in countering the aggression of China:

- Free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region serves the long-term interests of all countries in the region and of the world at large.

## Maritime security:

- Sea lines of communications, Maritime security, and international order based on law and rules has a common interest of India, USA, Japan and Australia in the Indo-pacific region. The idea is to bring likeminded to achieve common objective and enhancing synergy.
- Tackle common challenges of **terrorism and proliferation**.

- While the notion of alliance as known in cold war context is perhaps not valid, there is some kind of correspondence between India and US about what kind of international order they would like to see, particularly with respect to Respect for law, Customary norms.

**Finance:**

- Japan has fostered and promoted infrastructure in the Indo-Pacific region. India and Sri Lanka have benefited from Japanese investments and hence there is prosperity building. But never Japan has tried to influence its equity in those infrastructure. So, the investments made by it were never considered as a leverage to gain over the sovereignty of the country or area.
- Malabar exercise conducted during doklam standoff which shows Japan's reflection of distinctive type of maritime empathy.

**A diamond to counter pearls:**

- The Chinese are talking about the string of pearls. China is now in Myanmar, Srilanka, Bangladesh, Gwadar and Djibouti which completes the string of pearls.
- Now there is a 'diamond' which comprises of USA, Japan, Australia and India. These countries can be loosely called as concert of democracies. China is not among them.
- This is more of a partnership where there would be certain emphasis on connectivity after all India and japan are now connecting on Africa corridor. So beyond a traditional military alliance to a kind of flexi partnership which can be brought together if an exigency arises.
- Japan is conscious of presence of china in South China Sea and east Sea of Japan. Australia is concerned about certain specific Chinese initiatives specific Australia.

**Focus on security :**

- There is a paucity of security institutions in Asia. There is ASEAN and focus on economic aspect but Asia lacks a security aspect of multilateral institutions.
- In terms of security, there is always about reacting because if you pro-act in security, then you become unnecessarily assertive. So countries pro-act for peace, development and partnership. But for security, there is reaction. China has reacted in nine dash line but was proactive in South China Sea.
- China feels the present situation as situationally, positionally and intellectually a challenging moment. Yet, as right now US is withdrawing from cold war institutions and china would like to occupy top position.

**India's Presence:**

- China has been expanding in South China Sea (and says it has its exclusive economic zone there) which has tremendous strategic importance. 1/3rd of the world's shipping passes through it. It contains lucrative fisheries and huge oil and gas reserves are believed to present beneath its seabed. Patrols have to be done to counter China in this region which is trying to reach further to Indian Ocean region like Sri Lankan coast now.
- It will be good for India to have a forward presence in regions like Vietnamese coasts. US is also being expected to take a more aggressive stance against China in SCS.
- India has taken its own stand in recent past against Chinese aggression. In Doklam issue, it took security issues of land to a third nation Bhutan. It had first taken a stand against China's OBOR project and also took up security issues in Indian Ocean.

#### **Act of Balance:**

- All the countries of the Quadrilateral have major interests in China economically (being their major trade partner) and yet have major security concerns about China. So, there is a need to keep a balance between controlling Chinese rising aggression and, keeping trade relations with China in parallel diplomatically.

#### **India should be independent**

- India and USA cannot have convergence as it can be only militarily possible. India has its own relation with Iran and North Korea. Yes, they can be partners for security maintenance but cannot be military alliance. Till now exercises are going on and after a while, India and US can look forward to joint operations in naval engagement.
- India needs to have its own unique voice. India should safeguard its interest first and then forge partnerships. India has to go out and meet anyone which is going to help in nation building. India has to build its own strength. The security environment around India has never been conducive and threats to security have been persistent for half century. India should have the contradictory kind of tenure wherein when it comes to common issues, India can support and when it comes to sovereignty issues, India can defend.

#### **Conclusion**

Hence, India has to explain its foreign policy to its domestic audience as well as international audience saying that it has many layers when it comes to handling relations with Japan, China, USA and Russia and what is India's position when it comes to restructuring international institutions of governance like UN, UNCLOS. The foreign policy has to be multi-directional which will reflect India's national interest first and not tow anyone's line.

**42. With much of the developed world adopting an inward looking economic policy, there are challenges to India's economic diplomacy that need immediate attention. Elucidate.**

**Introduction:**

According to the Economic Survey, the world is facing Hyper globalization repudiation in which western countries have reached its political capacities for globalization. There is a rising tendency of protectionism across the world, especially the developed countries like US, Japan, China, UK and EU.

**Body:**

Backtracking from trade liberalization is not new. Global Trade Alert (GTA) data reveals a significant reversal in trade liberalization since the global financial crisis of 2008, and especially since 2011.

In an inward-looking economic policy, protecting domestic industries against the foreign competition through tariffs, subsidies, import quotas, or other restrictions or handicaps placed on the imports of foreign competitors. The objective of trade protectionism is to protect a nation's vital economic interests such as its key industries, commodities, and employment of workers.

Concerns about global trade hostilities getting prolonged have escalated lately in the context of the recent measures taken by the US. The Donald Trump administration has imposed tariff hikes on steel and aluminium, triggering retaliatory actions by China.

**A challenge to India's economic:**

Inward looking policies of the developed world and protectionism are such that the developing countries like India have a reason for considerable concern about the state of commercial policy.

- Reduced export of IT services to the US due to the H1B visa issue.
- Curb on fruit and vegetable exports to Europe due to Sanitary and phytosanitary reasons.
- The dominance of developed nations in international platforms such as WTO and UN.
- An environment of restrictive global trade has an adverse impact on profit growth of Indian companies. Higher import tariffs can have a negative impact on earnings, by increasing the cost of inputs.
- Openness will lead to a drop in sales growth of Indian companies. While trade openness benefits Indian companies, reduction in import tariff hurts them on the demand front because of competition from imports.
- There has been increasing pressure on India to cut tariffs and dilute export incentives.

**Way Forward:**

- Increase in tariff rate to improve the performance of selected sectors.
- Use ASEAN and BIMSTEC like regional platforms to negotiate with developed countries.
- Advocate for a more democratic process of WTO.
- With massive trade surpluses in India's favour, it should offer greater market access to the neighbourhood by reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers.
- Before opening up its markets to the outside world, India should go for a controlled manner bilateral free trade arrangements and give Indian industry time and space to compete in markets around the world in the coming years.
- India, with the world's single largest cohort of young workers, should be a major beneficiary of ageing populations in industrialized nations. For India, securing international worker mobility is an important objective since domestic opportunities alone might not fully optimize India's workforce, and remittances from expatriate workers are a major source of much needed foreign exchange.
- With increasing protectionist trends and appetite for overarching trade deals getting lower, traditional trade negotiations might need to be replaced with specific bilateral solutions; which will be product and country-specific.

**Conclusion:**

Inward looking policies did generate some short term benefits, such as the protection of infant and declining industries; job creation; increased income and preserving traditional ways of life. However, the consensus is that the challenges of globalisation require a more outward-looking approach.

**43. What are India's stakes in Africa? How is India seen and perceived by the member of the African Union? Discuss.****Introduction:**

Africa is now being tipped as the global economic growth engine of the coming decades. Its vast natural wealth and favourable demographic profile are expected to turn the continent as a whole into a growth engine that is expected to run faster than any of the world's current economic powerhouses, including China, Brazil and India.

**Body**



#### India's stakes in Africa:

- With faster growth trajectory for India and need for energy and other resources, Africa remains a crucial source of natural resources. Ex: crude oil and gas has emerged as Africa's leading export to India, diversifying sources of supply from middle-east.

#### Just not resources:

- India is not solely resource driven in African engagement. It is about financial services, telecom, hospitals and education. The 50% of all global FDI in Africa is into services and not resources any more. Resources is big. But it is now a major service economy and that is what India is competing in as India is service driven economy.

#### Market:

- For developing new markets. Most African countries will be “middle income” by 2025 providing huge trade and investments opportunities as well as market for Indian exports.

**Geo-political:**

- Africa remains vital for India’s emergence as a global actor in the international institutional arena. Ex: In reforming existing global governance structures like U.N. Security Council (UNSC), and shape the emerging global regimes related to food, energy, climate, water, cyber security, and use of outer space for development purposes.

**To counter China:**

- Increasing Chinese presence (military base at Djibouti) and signs of Chinese neo-colonialism.

**Growth:**

- To achieve sustained economic growth over long term at a time when western economies show signs of saturation and increasing protectionism in global trade.

**Terrorism:**

- International terrorism has been on the rise in North Africa in recent years. While India is not directly affected by the localized terrorist organizations in Africa, the troubling links between Somali and other groups with militant groups in the Afghanistan and Pakistan region could significantly threaten India’s future security.

**Security:**

- Secure freedom of navigation in sea lines of communication protecting India’s international trade moving by sea.

**India as perceived by African union members:**

- India has a “**comparative advantage**” over China in building connectivity projects and trade corridors in Africa due to its compatibility and proximity to the continent.
- India is seen as a friendly nation, helping the Continent in need with developmental initiatives such as Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), **Asia-Africa Growth corridor**, and Pan Africa e-network etc., aimed at building institutional and human capacity as well as enabling skills and knowledge transfer.



- Indian engagement lays emphasis on the long term: enhancing Africa's productive capacities, diversifying skills and knowledge, and investing in small and medium sized enterprises.
- On the other hand, China's approach is more traditional: resource-extraction, infrastructure development and elite-level wealth creation.
- Some of the countries like **Sudan** gave India share in oil field which was controlled largely by China because they didn't want China to have 100% share in oil field.
- **Nigeria** also did the same which wanted that all of their resources should not be controlled by one country.
- President of Zambia ran on a wildly anti-china platform with increased Chinese investment and labourers, giving no jobs to locals.
- The beneficiary is Vedanta which was allowed to take copper industry to the point that Vedanta is slated to be 26% of Zambia's entire GDP.
- India has benefited and the bulk of work done in Africa is running on its own scheme.
- At the core of this is the rise of Indian private sector investment along with large number of state owned enterprises, PSUs investing, especially in oil and gas industry.
- India has extended Line of Credit worth millions of dollars in varied areas to the African countries.
- The term '**Indo-Pacific**' is a recognition of India's pivotal role in establishing trading regimes and rules-based maritime freedom of navigation, and noted that Africa "counts" on India to play a very important part strategically and politically for the same India is a "pivot" in the Indo-Pacific region and it has "played a critical role in creating a conducive maritime regime" for a rules-based freedom of navigation.

So, finally The African countries see India as a emerging global power and as a country which can counter china's Dominance in the continent. At the same time They look India as potential source of investment, grants and a major strategic partner in the Indian ocean region.

### Conclusion

Hence, it is critical for India to view Africa not just as a destination for short-term returns but as a partner for medium and long-term economic growth.

**44. How are regional trading blocs affecting world trade? Will it have any impact on India? How is India planning to cope up? Discuss.**

### Introduction:

A trade bloc is a preferential trade agreement between a range of nations, aimed at significantly reducing or removing trade barriers within the member states. Regional trade blocs are formed by neighbouring countries or countries that are in close proximity to each other.

### Body

#### Regional trading blocs affecting world trade

- Favouritism can be observed by the Trading Blocs upon its member countries. The tariffs and quotas that are been fixed are only in light of benefiting the trade to the member countries. The regional trade bloc members follow Regionalism against World Trade Organization.
- Increased interdependence on economic performance in other countries in trading block. If Eurozone goes into recession, it will affect all countries in the Eurozone. However, this is almost inevitable even if countries are not formally in a trading block due to a close relationship between trade cycles in different countries.
- When a trading bloc transforms into a political union, the sovereignty of the member countries is being lost.
- Greater Bargaining power for such groupings if they put up collective on multilateral platforms such as WTO.
- The non-member countries are provided access to the RTB member countries, only after charging the taxes. Concessions are provided only to the member countries.
- Regional trading blocs, regardless of their expansion properties with reference to intra-regional trade, almost necessarily encompass some form of trade diversion with regard to the point that lower-cost producers who not belong to the regional trading bloc are discriminated against, thus debilitating the efficient global allocation of resources and ultimately reducing the global welfare.
- Regional trade blocs that lower the prudence of states nations to pursue trade liberalisation with non-members are likely to turn into barriers to multilateralism. For example, if China has already been successful in finding a market partner in the United States, it would develop little interest for a free trade arrangement with the United States. But its less thriving rival, India, would be keen to sign a bilateral trade agreement with the United States and hence capture China's share of the United States market; not by making a better or less costly product, but by obtaining special treatment under the United States trade law. Once India obtains its special privilege, it would not have interested in less interest in attending WTO meetings and signing multilateral free trade agreements that would instead eliminate those privileges.
- Members of the trading bloc may not realise additional economics of scale from global trade liberalisation, which often offers only meek opening of international

markets. Regional trading blocs, which often offer more widespread trade liberalisation, may enable local firms to achieve adequate production and hence deplete scale economies.

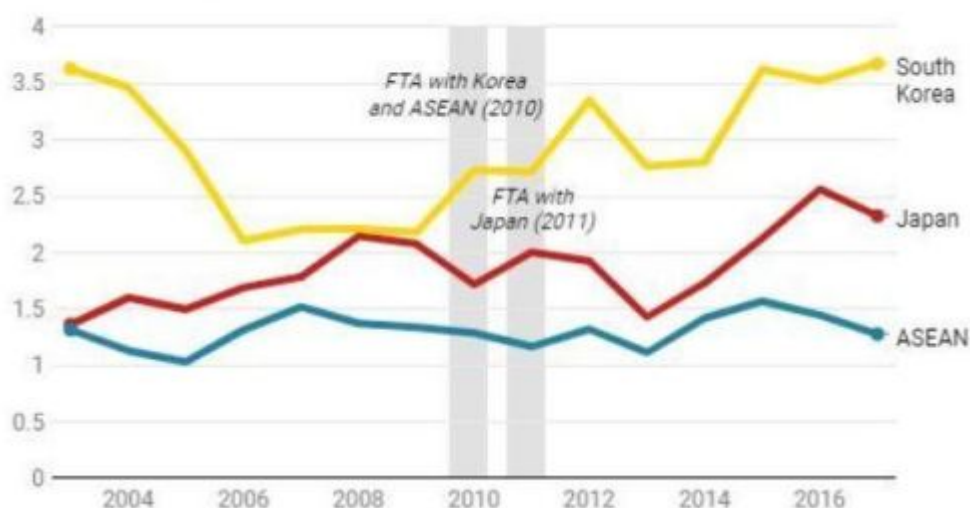
- Member state of a trade bloc may want to devote the resources they have to creating robust regional connections rather than investing them in international talks.

However, there are some positive aspects too, Regional Trading bloc act as building blocks to liberalization of global economy. As, regional blocs may attain more economic integration than do multilateral talks because of greater harmony of interests and less complicated negotiating procedures.

### Regional Trading Bloc Impact on India

- India's existing agreements with South Korea, Japan and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) are often deemed to have benefited the partner countries at India's expense. The import-export ratio with these countries deteriorated in the years following the implementation of the trade agreements. Even as partner countries have benefited, Indian exports to these regions have remained lacklustre.

India's import-export ratio\* with other countries



- India's inability to gain market share in these regions may be partly explained by its lack of competitiveness in exports. Unless India removes the structural bottlenecks hurting its exports, it is unlikely to make big gains in the world market.
- Government think tank NITI Aayog, in a note on free trade agreements (FTAs) and their costs for India, has argued that the country needs to rethink joining the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) as it will be disastrous to provide more market access to China, which is a key player in the grouping.

**India's planning**

- At RCEP, FTA being negotiated even in services, it will add to the advantage for India where they have a comparative advantage over other nations, especially in the context of Information Technology related services, healthcare services and educational services.
- Make in India Program that aided with the Export Policy can help in reducing the trade deficit with the regional blocs.
- Some of the sectors that have been identified as potential sources of India's export growth impulses under RCEP to the tune of approximately \$200 billion. Exports include processed food, gems and jewellery, metal manufactures, refined petroleum, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, leather goods; textiles and clothing, automobiles and parts, electrical machinery, and parts of aircraft and spacecraft, etc.

**Conclusion**

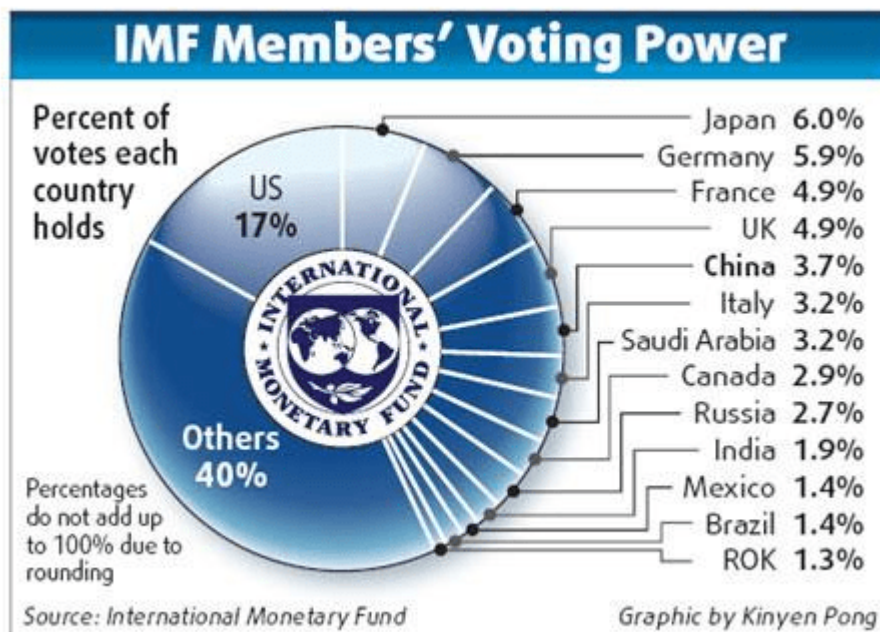
The focus needs to be on where India can promote its exports, it does not necessarily mean entering into regional trade agreements. India needs to be careful in weighing each trade deal on its own merit. When it comes to free trade agreements, no deal may be better than a bad deal. RCEP negotiations especially with China need to be properly pondered upon and planned.

**45. The constitution and voting rights in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) doesn't reflect contemporary global economic reality. Comment. What sort of reforms are needed to address this problem. Suggest.**

**Introduction:**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was conceived at the Bretton Woods Conference mainly to help members during the Balance of Payment (BoP) crisis and to stabilize the currency exchange rates of countries, and giving practical/technical help to members by helping in framing economic or financial policies etc.

**Body:**



**Given its unequal voting power mechanism and quota parameters IMF doesn't always serve the interests of poor & developing countries:**

- The flaw lies in the voting process and the weights assigned to countries based on their quotas. Unlike the General Assembly of the United Nations, or the World Trade Organisation, where each country has one vote, decision-making at the IMF was designed to reflect the position of each member country in the global economy.
- It is almost impossible to make any reform in the current quota system as more than 85% of total votes are required to make it happen. The 85% votes does not mean 85% countries but countries which have 85% of voting power and only USA has voting share of around 17% and G7 collectively own >40% while India and Russia have barely 2.5% each. BRICS, G20 and emerging market economies are against this scheme especially after Subprime crisis and declined economic strength of USA & G7.
- Currently in Executive board, 5 out of 24 directors are permanently decided by five largest quota holders. Applying these weights to all policy decisions and in the selection of a suitable head to lead the institution, representing 187 member countries, make the decision-making process totally biased against most of the countries.
- The 2008 and 2010 reforms have no doubt resulted in redistribution of weights in favour of emerging market group, including countries such as China and India, but, this has not altered the dominant position of the US and European countries in decision making.

**Reforms needed to address this problem:**

- **Voting rules:** At least for a handful of crucial decisions, a double majority of quotas and countries could be required, thus ensuring that those decisions affecting key aspects of the institution command unquestionable support.
- **Participative decision making:** The dynamic of decision-making has to be changed to decisively increase the input of developing and emerging economies.
- **Quota reforms:** Recently, the International Monetary Fund has made country quota reforms agreed by the G20 in 2010 a reality. Under this emerging and developing economies gained more influence in the governance architecture of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- **Affirmative facility for borrowing:** Borrowing capacity and raising fund resources must be determined through current economic positions and performance of member countries rather than on fixed norms.

If implemented, about 6 percent of quota shares will shift to emerging market countries. As a result, quota shares of traditionally strong economies such as the United States, Saudi Arabia and European countries will be diminished.

### Conclusion:

The IMF could turn irrelevant unless it reforms to keep up with rival global institutions and reflects contemporary global economic reality. With its core resources increased, IMF will be able to better respond to the ongoing financial crisis.

### 46. Should India's diaspora be made an important stakeholder in India's internal political processes? Critically comment.

#### Introduction:

The Diaspora encompasses a group of people who can either trace their origins to India or who are Indian citizens living abroad, either temporarily or permanently. Indian diaspora of 31.2 million is a very large and vibrant people spread almost all over the world.

15th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas convention described diaspora as India's brand ambassadors and said they were the symbols of the country's capabilities. The theme of PBD 2019 is "Role of Indian Diaspora in building a New India."

#### Body:

India's diaspora be made an important stakeholder in India's internal political processes because they can act as a crucial force in the development and will have immense contributions in building new India such as,

- **Investments:** Indian diaspora are a major source of Direct Foreign Investment and have invested hugely in the Indian industry and infrastructure to encourage its

economic growth. They can resolve the economic crisis by making investments in India.

- **Remittances:** They have been a source of large inflows of remittances, which has been helping balance the current account and increase our foreign reserve substantially. Remittances amount to a whopping 3.4 per cent of India's GDP. According to the World Bank, the Indian diaspora is going to be the largest earner of remittances in the world in the next few years.
- **Expertise:** The Indian Diaspora has played an important role in the field of Science & Technology. They bring technical and domain expertise to domestic startups and often act as angel investors. Diaspora Indian faculty abroad volunteer time and resources to help faculty on Indian campuses improve the quality of education. Ex. Dr Raghuram Rajan at the RBI.
- **Soft power:** Indian diaspora is an important part of India's "soft diplomacy". They have become a major political power in countries like Canada, Fiji, Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago etc. It helps in developing good political relations with these nations. For example, Indian diaspora played a critical in the fructification of the Indo-US Nuclear deal.
- **Resource for the development:** It serves as an important 'bridge' to access knowledge, expertise, resources and markets for the development of the country of origin with the rest of the world. Ex. About one-third of the engineers in Silicon Valley are of Indian descent, while 7 per cent of the Valley's high-tech firms are led by Indian CEOs. They can help the Indian IT industry to flourish.
- **Disaster relief:** Successful diaspora groups are among the largest contributors to the CMDRF. They are invaluable in mobilising resources, talent, and knowledge which will be integral in rebuilding the State. For example, in Kerala, the migrant community and diaspora moved swiftly to organise an Internet-driven response.
- **Tourism:** The Diaspora makes a significant contribution to the growth of tourism in India. PIOs make frequent visits to their home state or to visit their relatives. Know India Program (KIP) is a good initiative in this direction for promoting tourism among 2nd generation PIOs.
- **NGOs:** Diaspora has come forward with several non-governmental organizations in India helping in array of welfare, developmental, educational, environmental and social projects.

There is a Negative side too.

- Remittances are not always used for beneficial purposes. For instance, India faced problems due to foreign funding for extremist movements like the Khalistan movement and Naxalism.

- Some NGOs established by diaspora used for money laundering and black money parking.

### Conclusion:

It is being said that “The sun on Indian diaspora never sets”. The future holds a great place for India to bank upon its diaspora for economic development and geographical influence. The diaspora of India is rich and diverse and can help in developing India and hence a sustainable, symbiotic and mutually rewarding engagement with them is needed.

**47. What is G-7? Who are the members of this grouping? How do decisions taken by the members of the G-7 affect the world in general? Examine.**

### Introduction:

The Group of Seven (G7) is a group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries, with the seven largest IMF-described advanced economies in the world, represent 58% of the global net wealth (\$317 trillion).

### Body

#### Decisions taken by G-7 members affect the world:

- **Huge wealth:** The Group of Seven (G7) is an informal bloc of industrialised democracies. Its current members make up nearly 50 percent of the world economy, and represent more than 58 percent of net global wealth.
- **Trio power:** Because economic power, military and political power, the G7 forum has also become a place for prominent international crises or disputes to be discussed or resolved.
- **Multiplier effects:** Power gives the G-7 great influence on the policies, programs, and decisions of the UN Security Council, World Trade Organization (WTO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
- **Helps developing countries:** Attempting to answer globalization’s critics, G-7 helps poor countries reduce their debt burden and increase their access to better education, health care, and information technology.
- **Flexibility in decisions:** The G7 takes no mandatory decisions, and the meeting is billed as an opportunity to allow leaders to exchange ideas in key issues. A leaders’ declaration at the end of summit is not binding in nature.

### Criticism:



- **Lack of implementation:** G7 countries have failed to implement many of the recommendations of past summits, notably those recently committing the U.S. and other wealthy nations to debt relief, reductions of carbon emissions, conflict prevention, and reform of the international financial architecture
- **No longer influential:** The G7 is no longer as influential as it once was because they exclude important emerging powers. Without China and other emerging global powers, the group lacks relevance.
- **G20 prevails:** Many analysts also believe the power and prestige of the G20, a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors from nineteen of the world's largest countries as well as the EU, has surpassed that of the G7.
- **New economic dynamics:** Emerging powers including Brazil, China, India, Mexico, and South Africa, whose absence from the G7 was often noted, all belong to the G20.

### Conclusion

The major purpose of the G-7 is to discuss, and sometimes act in concert to help resolve, global problems, with a special focus on economic issues. The group has discussed financial crises, monetary systems, and major world crises such as oil shortages. G-7 promotes collective decision-making, but critics note that it often lacks follow-through and excludes important emerging powers.

**48. What are some of the longest pending and most pressing reforms in the United Nations (UN)? Is UN losing its significance? Critically comment.**

### Introduction:

UNO is an intergovernmental organization which was made to replace the ineffective League of Nations in 1945 so as to avoid another world war. But during cold war, USA and USSR often paralysed the organization and it intervened only in conflicts not related to cold war thereby not fulfilling its mandate of peacekeeping in world.

### Body

Although it did help in decolonization process. Even in post-cold war era it failed in its mission as seen in Somalia and Rwanda crisis. Several organs of UNO like UNESCO and UNICEF faced charges of corruption due to which several countries withdrew their funding. So due to above issues and also due to dynamically changing polarity of world and other emerging humanitarian, environmental crisis it certainly need some reforms.

### Structural reforms

- **Expansion of UNSC:** The composition no longer reflects global geopolitical realities. Indeed, the Western Europe and Other Group (WEOG) now accounts for three of the

five permanent members (France, the United Kingdom, and the US). That leaves only one permanent position for the Eastern European Group (Russia), one for the Asia-Pacific Group (China), and none for Africa or Latin America.

- The rotating seats on the Security Council do not adequately restore regional balance. Even with two of the ten rotating Security Council seats, the Asia-Pacific region is still massively under-represented. The Asia-Pacific region accounts for roughly 55% of the world's population and 44% of its annual income but has just 20% (three out of 15) of the seats on the Security Council.
- Asia's inadequate representation poses a serious threat to the UN's legitimacy, which will only increase as the world's most dynamic and populous region
- Do away with **Veto** power.
- **UN Secretariat Transparency reform:** Make the UN administration (usually called the UN Secretariat or "the bureaucracy") more transparent, more accountable, and more efficient, including direct election of the Secretary-General by the people.
- Efficiency and transparency watchdog to remove corruption issues. – Funding should not be voluntary and must be based on CBDR principle.

#### Functional reforms

- Decisions should be as far as possible based on consensus.
- Organizations like NATO should be avoided and be replaced by UNO forces in conflicts.
- UN secretary general should not be a rubber stamp and need more powers.

#### Is UN losing its significance

- Failure to ensure World Peace (Inability to stop devastating war in Syria, The Iraq invasion, the Libyan toppling, etc. happened in violation of UN protocol, and with little consequences, North Korea)
- Changing world order (Emergence of global south and **G4** UNSC bid), not reflected in a UN based on PostWW2 geopolitics (thwarted by leading powers).
- Most of the debate revolves around the stale questions of new permanent members of the security council or restrictions on the use of the veto. Both are desirable but neither will happen soon – or fix the deeper problem.
- Alternate institutions have emerged dealing with most of UN functions (G2's role in eco recovery, **G8's** role in global politics, etc.) that make its relevance questionable.

- The basic problem is that the council's founding premise of a world ordered by states no longer holds. Conflicts involving **Boko Haram or Islamic state** originate from particular local circumstances but often have regional and global reach and consequence. Designed to prevent and arbitrate state-to-state conflict, the council has failed to adapt to an entirely different world.
- **New challenges** have emerged (Cyber Security, Global commons, Climate Change) that the UN lacks the institutional expertise to deal with.
- The secretariat is subjected to **micro-management** by member states through various committees of the general assembly

**However, the need for a UN is acute as:**

- The only credible, respected and truly global organization.
- A forum to engage in debates and discussions to resolve global issues
- The only way to ensure global(near) consensus on critical issues(E.g. UNFCCC)
- Continues to be relevant to Global security and Human rights (UNCHR role, UNPKF, etc.)
- The only way to deal with rogue or belligerent nations, without escalation fears(Sanctions against Iran, Russia, North Korea).

### **Conclusion**

The UN thus continues to be relevant even today, and any talks of its replacement, especially minus a viable alternative, are only immature.

### **49. What is 'twitter diplomacy'? How is it changing the conventional wisdom? Discuss.**

#### **Introduction:**

Twitter diplomacy, also "Twiplomacy" or "hashtag diplomacy", is the use of social network and microblogging website, Twitter, by heads of state, leaders of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), and their diplomats to conduct diplomatic outreach and public diplomacy.

#### **Body:**

Twitter has taken on diverse and occasional roles in diplomatic communications, from cordial announcements of bi-lateral cooperation to terse exchanges and diplomatic jabs, as well as more casual posts.

More than 90% of the 193 nations registered at the United Nations had established government Twitter accounts. Among the world leaders, Barack Obama has the highest

number of twitter followers, followed by Donald Trump. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi is third in the List.

Few Examples of Twiplomacy include by our Late Ex- MEA Smt. Sushma Swaraj, also called as Supermom of the state, used her twitter handle on countless occasions to evacuate Indians trapped in dangerous conditions abroad, rescue Indian hostages, provide emergency consular services, coordinate humanitarian aid following natural disasters, issue passports etc. She is worlds most followed female leader on Twitter.

### Changes

- The Communications earlier used to be only between the leaders of engaging nations, but now through Twiplomacy, leaders are reaching out to citizens of other nations too. Ex- Benjamin Netanyahu wishing Indians on Diwali.
- Earlier, Rivalries between nations were not displayed publically. But today leaders are not hesitant to share such thoughts through twitter. Ex- Trumps tweets on Iran, 2014 #UnitedforUkraine tweets from USA & Russia.
- Leaders are earning goodwill through twitter diplomacy. Ex- Quick response from Indian Railways to troubled travellers, has earned praises for Minister and the Organization. Similarly Late Sushma Swaraj earned massive respect from all across the globe.
- It is also being used to peddle fake news and run false propaganda. Ex- Recent Pakistan's official armed forces spokesperson tweets about human rights violation in Kashmir.
- It has also been used by countries to ease tensions. Ex- Iran and US engagement via the microblogging platform in the lead up to the historic Iran and P5+1 nuclear deal in 2015, which saw sanctions against Iran lifted in exchange for a drawing down of its nuclear program.
- Countries are expressing their support to other nation's decisions/views. Ex-France supporting India's Kashmir policy as internal affairs.
- Countries are coming together for common global causes. Ex- #plasticpollution by countries to spread awareness.
- Diplomats are showing respect to other nation's culture and values. Ex-Israel Diplomats twitter posts highlighting their Holi celebrations.

### Conclusion:

Ultimately, Twiplomacy will continue to unfold through time-honoured practices of engagement between states. However, dismissing the role of social media as an

engagement tool, particularly Twitter, means potential openings for transformative change might well pass before they can be acted upon.