

IASBABA

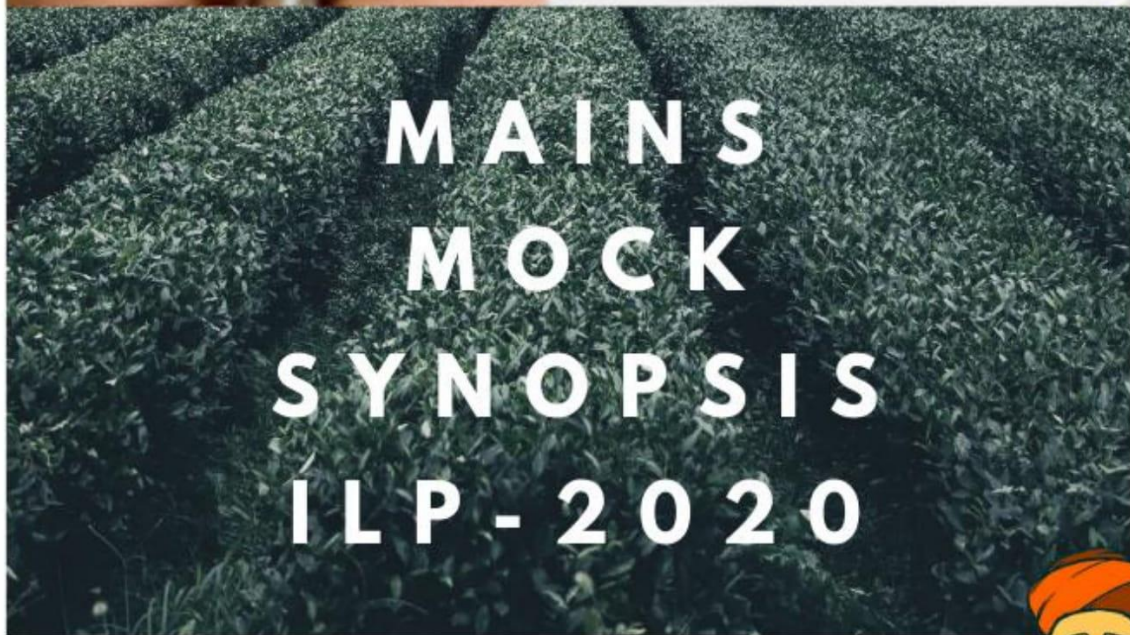
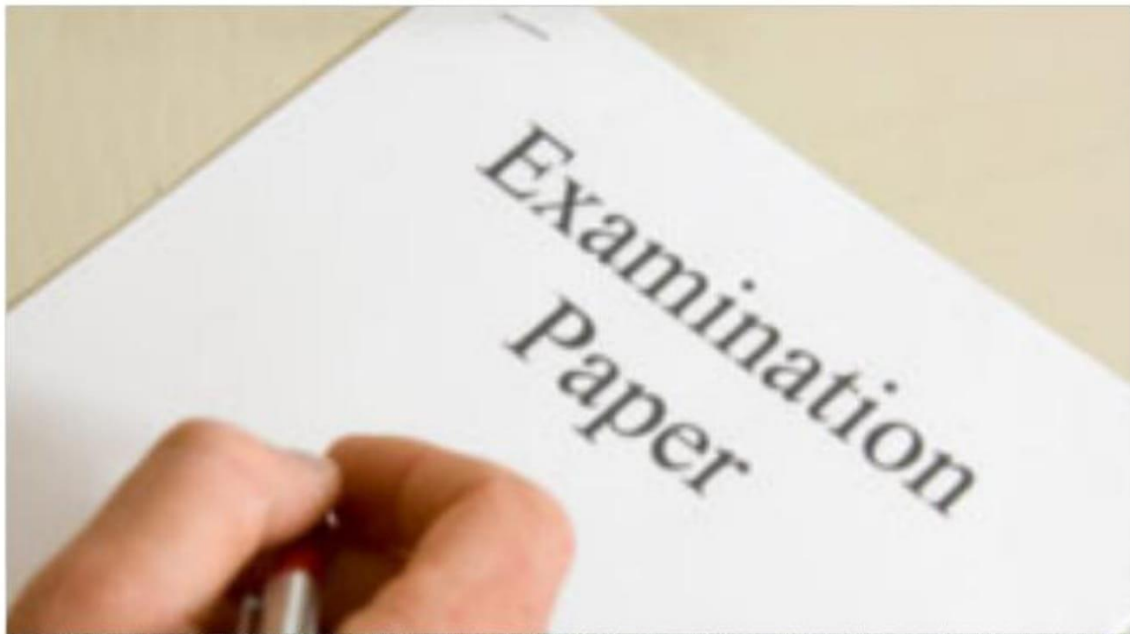


Table of Contents

1. What are the locational factors for IT startups? How do changes in demographics and economic development change the locational pattern of startups? Examine.....3

2. Examine the distribution of cotton textile industries in South Asia. Discuss the factors leading to changes in their locational pattern.....4

3. Do you think availability of raw materials as a major locational factor for industries has become less significant with time? Critically comment.....6

4. Labor as a factor for industrial location is changing most dramatically in the twenty-first century. Do you agree? Substantiate with the help of suitable examples.....8

5. What are rare earth elements? Examine their global distribution and strategic significance.....9

6. Examine the locational pattern of iron and steel industry in India. Has the distribution changed in recent years? Examine..... 10

7. What are heavy industries? How are major heavy industries located across the world including India? Discuss..... 12

8. Examine the geographical factors that give India tremendous prospect to become a hotspot of tourism industry 15

9. What are non-ferrous metals? Discuss their economic significance. How is India placed in terms of non-ferrous metals? Examine..... 17

10. Can the presence of industries in a region guarantee its overall development? Critically examine. What are the impediments that inhibit regional growth despite the presence of industries? Explain with the help of suitable examples..... 19

11. What advantages would accrue to India with the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB)? Discuss. 21

12. What changes are needed in the current urban governance architecture to address the issue of increasing instances of sexual violence against women? Suggest..... 23

13. The abrogation of Article 370 and implementation of the National Resister of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) have necessitated greater outreach towards India’s immediate neighbours. Elucidate. 24

14. The current state of economy needs urgent measures to address the decline in demand. Do you agree? Substantiate. What measures can be taken in this regard? Discuss..... 27

15. What are India’s economic and strategic imperatives to maintain close ties with Iran and Saudi Arabia both? Discuss. 29

1. What are the locational factors for IT startups? How do changes in demographics and economic development change the locational pattern of startups? Examine.

Demand of question

Students should first define what are start-ups or give some data related to IT start-ups. In body, give factors responsible for the concentration of IT companies in few regions/cities. Next, you should give analysis of changing location patterns due to economic development and changed demographics.

A startup is a company that is in the first stage of its operations, associated with high risk and often initially bankrolled by their entrepreneurial founders as they attempt to capitalize on developing a product or service for which they believe there is a demand. Due to limited revenue or high costs, most of these small-scale operations are not sustainable in the long term without additional funding from venture capitalists.

Locational factors for IT startups:

- **Venture Capitalists-** More VCs in the vicinity provide greater chances for securing funding and mentorship during the initial journey. That is why most IT startups are found in Silicon Valley (aka. the land of incubators and angel investors).
- **Talent availability-** Proximity to good colleges aids the supply of talent pool to the startups. For example, presence of colleges like Manipal and Vellore near Silicon valley of India.
- **Nearness to supporting industries-** These startups normally grow in places already having industrial agglomeration for service sector to support their activities.
- **Customer base-** With many industries in the vicinity and new businesses mushrooming up, startups get a ready client base in the agglomerations.
- **Law and order situation-** These startups must be at that place where law and order situation is in control.
- **Infrastructural facilities-** Crucial infrastructure facilities like, transport and communications, banking and insurance services, regular fuel supply, continuous supply of electricity and water, etc. are important for startups to grow.

Shifts observed in location patterns:

International level:

- From Silicon Valley to Chicago
- Emergence of Berlin, Tel Aviv and Munich as IT hubs

National Level:

- The monopoly of Bangalore has been taken away by centres like Hyderabad, Pune, Gurugram etc.
- Shift from Tier I cities to Tier II and Tier III cities

Changes in location factors due to changed demographics and economic development:

- **Workforce availability-** The basic requirement to establish an IT hub is skilled work force. As the developing nations are progressing in education, skilled work force is easy to find there. Other than that, the increased numbers coupled with higher education provides a readymade pool of entrepreneurs and young graduates that could be employed in the startups. One, it gives business a large size of potential workers to choose from. And, also a large enough supply of workers can help drive down the cost of acquiring them. For instance, it is cheaper to hire English speaking workers in countries like India and the Philippines compared to China simply because of the size of the worker pool with the requisite skills.
- **Footloose industry-** IT industry can be treated as a footloose industry which is not dependent on any raw material or any market. Because of global penetration of internet, a company in Bangalore can access the market around the world without any problem. Low cost in establishing an industry and cheap workforce in developing countries compared to developed ones, led to outsourcing such operations to the former.
- **Protectionist policy of developed nations-** Usually many people migrated to US and UK from developing countries to work in IT sector. To curb inflow these countries came up with protectionist policies. So it became more profitable for the companies to shift their offices in developing countries to tap the local resource there itself.
- **Weak labour laws-** With weak labour laws in developing countries, companies can make people work for longer hours and with lesser pay as compared to developed countries.
- **Government support-** Local governments are promoting FDI and inflow of money. Many countries including India are trying to increase the ease of doing business. This is also attracting many big MNCs to establish their business here. Also, at national level, NASSCOM is promoting IT investments in small tier cities.

Thus, developmental change as seen in economic growth and demography coupled with requisite government intervention has enabled the changes in location pattern of IT startups.

2. Examine the distribution of cotton textile industries in South Asia. Discuss the factors leading to changes in their locational pattern.

Demand of question

Students should first provide with the distribution pattern of cotton industries across South Asia, by listing factors responsible for the particular location. For second part, write how the location patterns are changing, like movement of industries to other locations as well as increasing concentration of such industries in South Asia.

Throughout recorded history, cotton textiles have played an important role in the social, cultural, and economic life of South Asia that constitutes countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

South Asia, one of the world's most populous areas, has several advantages in the manufacture of textiles and textile products. The production of cotton, an abundant labour force, the availability of water, proximity to emerging markets, and the availability of other raw materials and inputs have made the region an attractive place for the continued relocation of textile production to low-cost countries.

Distribution pattern:

- **Climate-** Climate exercises the most powerful influence on cotton industry. Cotton yarn cannot be spun successfully under dry conditions. The humidity of the atmosphere must be considerable; otherwise the yarn breaks constantly during the process of spinning. Thus, most of the major cotton textile production centres are located near the coast, example, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Calcutta, Howrah etc. in India.
- **Water availability-** Water is necessary for use in the condensers of the steam engines, and in the numerous washing operations of the industry. Hence industrial centres are concentrated near major rivers like, Kanpur on Ganga River, Howrah on Hooghly river, etc.
- **Power-** Cotton textile industry also requires constant and cheap sources of power. Most of the industries are located near sources of power, mainly hydroelectric.
- **Labour-** Basically, cotton textile industry is a labour-intensive industry, and south Asia provides ample and cheap labour availability across most locations.
- **Transport-** Easy means of transportation are needed as all the leading cotton mill centres cater to distant markets, for example, in India, the mills of Mumbai and Ahmedabad produce primarily for inland markets.
- **Market-** Being one of the most populous areas of the world, South Asia provides a large market for cotton produce, incentivizing industries to be developed near markets.
- Cotton mills in Pakistan are located at Lahore, Lyallpur, Multan, Karachi, Sahadra, Montgomery and Peshawar.
- Bangladesh has major textile centres in locations like Dhaka and along the coastal areas which mainly rely on imported cotton.

Changes in location factors:

- **Humidifiers-** Installation of 'humidifiers' in the cotton mills in dry areas have led to places far in the interior with dry climate, like Kanpur in India, to carry on spinning independent of climate. Only the process of humidification raises slightly the cost of production.
- **Transportation-** Improvement in transportation has led to shift in these industries in newer areas too.
- **Population pressure-** Once Mumbai was one of the main center of textile production, now due to immense population pressure, rising prices of land and labour, textile industries of Mumbai shifted to Surat, Ahmadabad and Aurangabad etc.
- **Labour-** Cheap labour availability in south Asia has made it an outsourced station for countries like China and U.S.
- **Free trade agreements-** FTA with developed countries help these countries gain zero duty access to those markets, thus even other countries route their production to developed countries via South Asia.
- **Government support-** Policies supporting growth and development of textile industries have been instrumental in making South Asia a hub of cotton manufacturing.

There has been a global shift in cotton textile industries directed towards south asia and with favourable policy environment, neighbouring countries along with India can cash in on this opportunity.

3. Do you think availability of raw materials as a major locational factor for industries has become less significant with time? Critically comment.

Demand of question

Students should first give a brief introduction, followed by factors that have made contribution of raw material insignificant in determining industrial location. Also, present the counter-argument, how for some industries it is still the major factor. Provide a brief conclusion.

Industries have affinity towards particular locations, with raw material being one of the major determinants, especially in case of weight-losing industries.

But over time this locational factor has become less significant:

- **Textile industry-** Textile industries used to be dependent on sources of supply of raw material, but with the progress in means of transportation and communication, these have become raw material independent. Also, due to other factors like immense population pressure, rising prices of land and

labour, a shift has been observed, for example, textile industries of Mumbai shifted to Surat, Ahmedabad and Aurangabad etc.

- Marine Based- Earlier marine based industries used to be located near the coast, but due to improvement in transport and cold storage facilities, the raw material as a location factor has become insignificant.
- Steel- Due to technology to make steel using scrap, these raw material based industries can now be found near market too.
- Thermal Power- Improvement in marine navigation and bilateral treaties has improved India's access to coal and few thermal power plants are now port based, e.g. Vizag. Also, due to better transportation, the plants have been coming up in hinterlands away from the source of coal, e.g. in Haryana.

Some factors governing this change are:

- Political- This includes, government policies for easy enter and exit, incentives for business houses, tax exemptions, political stability of country, government ideologies etc.
- Economic: The future growth prospects of country, availability of cheap loans, Demands for product, market accessibility, infrastructure facility like transport facilities, power, government support etc.
- Social: Availability of Human Infrastructure like skilled labor force, youth population in working age, cheap labor, Acceptability to changes etc.
- Technological: Availability of latest technology, Research and Development facility and environmental support for research, Internet of things etc.
- Environmental: Environmental clearance issues, Climate change and global warming issues, Quality of land, raw materials among others.

However, for some industries the raw materials are still a major determinant for industrial location:

- Ship building industry: Availability of steel and coastal land play important role in the location of ship building industry. In India, four major ship building centres are located at Vishakhapatnam, Kolkata, Kochi and Mumbai.
- Petrochemical industries: These are located at coastal regions. Ports help in import of crude oil and export of end products. Mumbai is the hub of the petrochemical industries. Jamnagar, Gandhinagar and Hajira in Gujarat.
- Fertilizer industry: About 70% of the plants producing nitrogenous fertilizers use naphtha as the basic raw material. Example: Gujarat-Maharashtra region fertilizer plants at Hazira, Mumbai, Trombay, Vadodara etc.

Improvement in technology and communication, along with government support has made growth of resource deficit regions also possible by removing raw material as the significant factor in determining location of industries.

4. Labor as a factor for industrial location is changing most dramatically in the twenty-first century. Do you agree? Substantiate with the help of suitable examples.

Demand of question

Students should first explain labor as a factor deciding industrial location. Then, the changes in labor as a factor must be analyzed using various dimensions. Provide a brief conclusion at the end.

Labor is the most important factor for most companies to decide their location. Its components like labor costs and productivity, labor laws and the flexibility of the labor skills affect the profitability of the business and thus make it an extremely important factor.

In 21st century, a dramatic change has been witnessed in the factor. Not that its importance has reduced but it has been accompanied by several customizations to suit the specific demands of industry.

Earlier during Fordism, labor and transport cost would together decide the industrial location. Today, however, labor has single handedly become the major factor, especially in skill-intensive industries. To minimize labor costs, some manufacturers are locating in places where prevailing wage rates are lower than in traditional industrial regions. Labor-intensive industries have been especially attracted to Least Developed Countries (LDC). For example, outsourcing of textile production from USA and China to Vietnam.

Transnational corporations have been especially aggressive in using low-cost labor in LDCs. To remain competitive in the global economy, they carefully review their production processes to identify steps that can be performed by low-paid, low-skilled workers in LDCs. Despite greater transportation cost, transnational corporations can profitably transfer some work to LDCs, given the substantial difference in wages between MDCs and LDCs. At the same time, operations that require highly skilled workers remain in factories in MDCs. This selective transfer of some jobs to LDCs is known as the new international division of labor. For example, Business Process outsourcing (BPO) in India.

On the other hand, labor mobility has also increased, especially intra-national, thus negating its effect as a factor of industrial location. This has made other factors like government policies, financial opportunities etc more important. For example, Bangalore developing as a IT hub due to favourable government policies has attracted workforce from even far off places. Also, the current trends have resulted in exploitation of labor in low-income countries due to lax labor laws, violation of rules, weak law enforcement etc.

Labor despite becoming mobile, has shown increase in its importance in determining the industrial location. Need is better labor policies that ensure growth of businesses while protecting interests of labor.

5. What are rare earth elements? Examine their global distribution and strategic significance.

Demand of question

In the Introduction define what is rare earth elements then in body first list out where all it is distributed across the world. Then mention the strategic applications of rare earth metals and link it with US-China trade war and opportunity for India in the conclusion.

Rare earth elements are not as “rare” as their name implies. These metals are very difficult to mine because it is unusual to find them in concentrations high enough for economical extraction. Because of their unique magnetic, luminescent, and electrochemical properties, these elements help make many technologies perform with reduced weight, reduced emissions, and energy consumption; or give them greater efficiency, performance, miniaturization, speed, durability, and thermal stability.

Rare earth minerals occur in the form of bastnaesite, monazite and xenotime and some other minerals. As shown in the U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries, February 2014, REE reserves worldwide total 140 million tonnes. They are distributed mainly in China (55 million tonnes), the United States (13 million tonnes), India (3.1 million tonnes), Australia (2.1 million tonnes), Brazil (2.2 million tonnes), Malaysia (30,000 tonnes), Russia, Egypt, Canada, South Africa and other countries.

Strategic significance of Rare earth metals:

- In Defence: Rare earth elements play an essential role in our national defense. The military uses night-vision goggles, precision-guided weapons, communications equipment, GPS equipment, batteries and other defense electronics. These give the United States military an enormous advantage. Rare earth metals are key ingredients for making the very hard alloys used in armored vehicles and projectiles that shatter upon impact.
- Medical Science: Portable x-ray machines, x-ray tubes, magnetic resonance imagery (MRI) contrast agents, nuclear medicine imaging, cancer treatment applications, and for genetic screening tests, medical and dental lasers.
- Technology: Lasers, optical glass, fiber optics, masers, radar detection devices, nuclear fuel rods, mercury-vapor lamps, highly reflective glass, computer memory, nuclear batteries, high temperature superconductors.

- Renewable Energy: Solar panels, Hybrid automobiles, wind turbines, next generation rechargeable batteries, biofuel catalysts.
- Electronics: Television screens, computers, cell phones, silicon chips, monitor displays, long-life rechargeable batteries, camera lenses, light emitting diodes (LEDs), compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), baggage scanners, marine propulsion systems.
- Manufacturing: High strength magnets, metal alloys, stress gauges, ceramic pigments, colorants in glassware, chemical oxidizing agent, polishing powders, plastics creation, as additives for strengthening other metals, automotive catalytic converters

Extra information:

Geo-politics:

- China which produces over 97% of the world's rare earth metals enjoys monopoly and is actively exploiting this to maintain its lead position.
- In 2012, China restricted the export of rare earth metals to Japan in response to the islands dispute. Japan which is one of the largest users of rare earth metals had to look for other suppliers at significantly higher prices.
- Excessive supply by China had led to closing of rare earth mines in USA, which were also facing environmental restrictions, less environment laws and supply of labour propelled China to leadership position.
- India has been importing rare earth metals from China, but it is also looking for other suppliers to ensure supply if China imposes any trade restrictions. In this regard it has signed a supply agreement with Mongolia.
- USA is planning to re-open its mines, for reasons of national security, as some of these minerals are used in nuclear and space applications.
- Australia and Canada are also working on opening local mines to extract these minerals.
- Many countries have complained to the WTO against China for following unfair trade practices which are detrimental to mining and trade of other countries.

Rare earth metals play a very important role in development of strategic assets for any country, and India holding the 2nd largest reserves after China has a huge opportunity in this ongoing US-China trade war period to capture the market.

6. Examine the locational pattern of iron and steel industry in India. Has the distribution changed in recent years? Examine.

Demand of question

This question is about geographical distribution of iron and steel industry. Here you need to list out the factors that affect the location of the said industry in

India and how in recent years the factors have changed due to several factors. You also need to mention the factors for change.

There several factors which play a very important role in the location of industries, some of them are the availability of raw material, land, water, labour, power, capital, transport and market. Industries are situated where some or all of these factors are easily available.

Like other industries iron and steel industry too comprises various inputs, processes and outputs. This is a feeder industry whose products are used as raw material for other industries.

Locational pattern of Iron and Steel industries in India are influenced by number of factors:

- Geographical: availability of raw materials, power resources, water, labour, markets and the transport facilities.
- Non-Geographical: Government Policies, Industrial Inertia, presence of facilities like Banking and Insurance.

The iron and steel industry uses large quantity of heavy and weight-losing raw materials, such as iron ore, coking coal and limestone. On the basis of the minimum cost of transportation, the plants can be located at three possible places, viz:

- Near the coalfields
- Near iron-ore mining areas and
- At places between coal and iron ore producing areas.

Taking these factors into account, most of the steel plants in India are located in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. All these states are rich in coal and iron ore reserves. Ex: TISCO, Durgapur steel plant.

The other raw materials like manganese, limestone, dolomite, chromite, silica, scrap iron, are needed in small quantities and can be transported easily from other places.

Before 1800 A.D. iron and steel industry was located where raw materials, power supply and running water were easily available. Later the ideal location for the industry was near coal fields and close to canals and railways. After 1950, iron and steel industry began to be located on large areas of flat land near sea ports. This is because by this time steel works had become very large and iron ore had to be imported from overseas.

Presently, due to several environmental movements and sustainable development as a concept trending in developed countries, the Iron and Steel Industries are being identified as major contributors to carbon emission and majority of them are

shutting down the plants in their country and transferring it to developing and least developed countries.

Also in India, these industries are moving towards those regions where development is yet to take place or backward like Bhilai steel plant,

Iron and steel industry remains the backbone of any industrial country and same is the case with India. With India aiming to be a super power, sustainable and continues supply of Iron and Steel is very important and with China dumping its produce across the world, government has to take proper measures protect our industries.

7. What are heavy industries? How are major heavy industries located across the world including India? Discuss.

Demand of question

This question is again about the locations factors of industries. In introduction, you need to explain what are heavy industries. Then the distribution of heavy industries across the world. Here you can pick 2-3 industries of your choice and explain them in detail about where they are situation along with locations in India.

Industries, which use heavy and bulky raw materials and produce products of the same category, are called heavy industries. Heavy industries include Oil, mining, shipbuilding, steel, chemicals, machinery manufacturing and others. They are very capital-intensive and often sell their products to other industries rather than to end users and consumers.

Locational pattern of heavy industries in India are influenced by number of factors

- Geographical: availability of raw materials, power resources, water, labour, markets and the transport facilities.
- Non-Geographical: Government Policies, Industrial Inertia, presence of facilities like Banking and Insurance.

Examples:

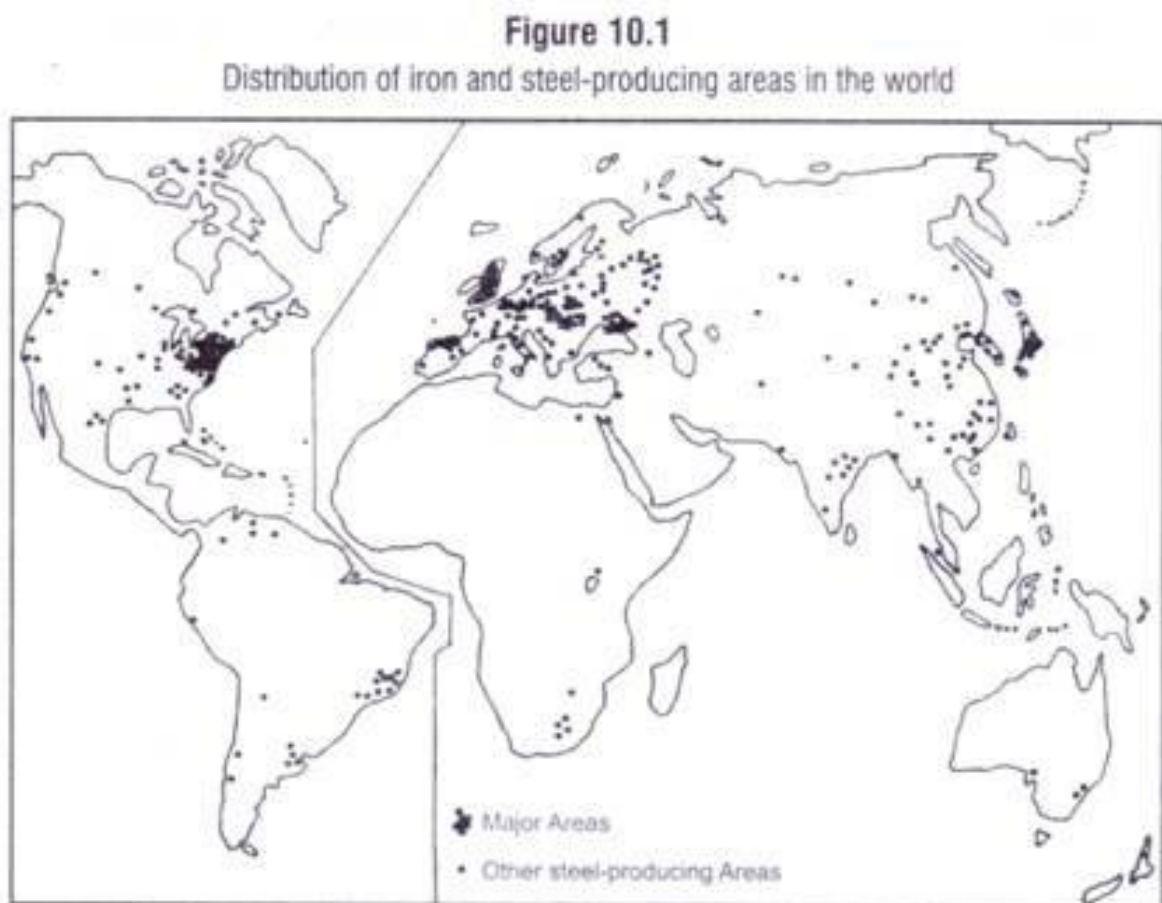
a) Iron and steel industries:

The iron and steel industry uses large quantity of heavy and weight-losing raw materials, such as iron ore, coking coal and limestone. On the basis of the minimum cost of transportation, the steel plants can be located at three possible places, viz.,

- Near the coalfields
- Near iron-ore mining areas and
- At places between coal and iron ore producing areas.

Taking these factors into account, most of the steel plants in India are located in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. All these states are rich in coal and iron ore reserves. Ex: TISCO, Durgapur steel plant.

The other raw materials like manganese, limestone, dolomite, chromite, silica, scrap iron, are needed in small quantities and can be transported easily from other places. Major Iron and Steel producing areas of the world is shown in below map:



Highest Production of Iron and Steel Industry in the world:

- China Steel Production
- Japan
- US – United States Production
- Russia
- India Steel Industry
- South Korea

- Germany
- Ukraine
- Brazil Steel Industry
- Italy

b) Ship building industry:

Availability of steel and coastal land play important role in the location of ship building industry. In India, Four major ship building centres are located at Vishakhapatnam, Kolkata, Kochi and Mumbai.

- Vishakhapatnam itself has steel industry and Kolkata is well connected with steel industries of Jharkhand and WB.
- flat/level coastal land is available.
- Rich hinterland with excellent railroad connectivity for transport of labor and ancillary components
- Indigenous demand from ONGC, for offshore platforms, drilling rigs and steel jackets and from Indian Navy and Coast guards.

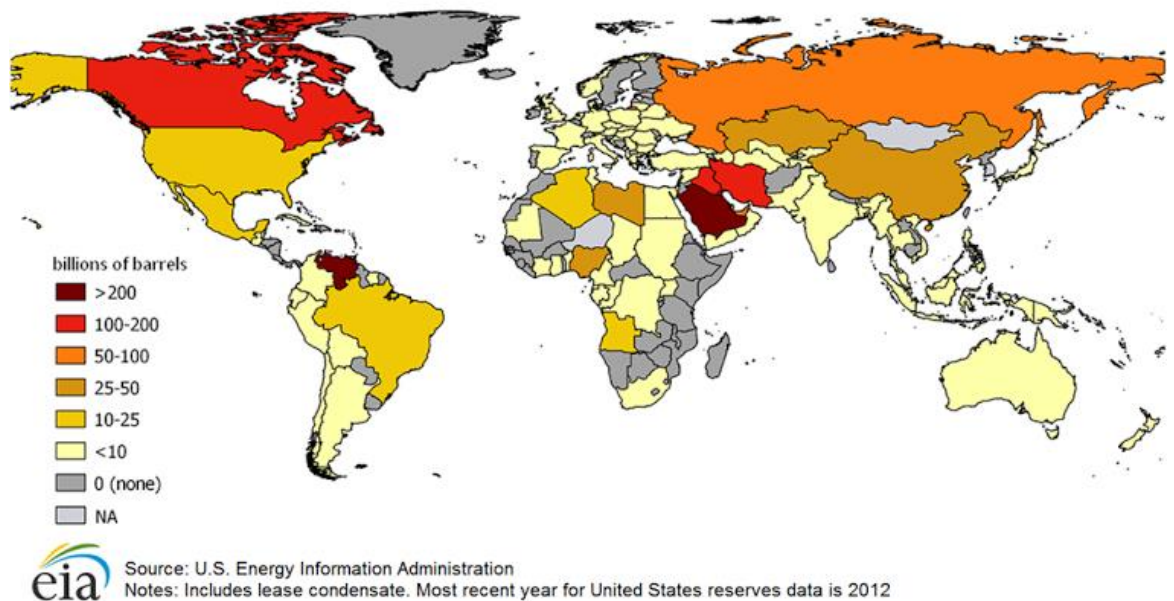
South Korea is the world's largest shipbuilder, followed by China and Japan at distant third. South Korea's "big three" shipbuilders, dominate the global market for large container ships.

The market shares of European ship builders began to decline in the 1960s as they lost work to Japan in the same way Japan most recently lost their work to China and South Korea. Over the four years from 2007, the total number of employees in the European shipbuilding industry declined from 150,000 to 115,000. The output of the United States also underwent a similar change. Key shipbuilders in Europe are Fincantieri, Navantia, Naval Group and BAE Systems.

c) Petrochemical industries: are located at coastal regions. Ports help in import of crude oil and export of end products.

- Mumbai is the hub of the petrochemical industries.
- Jamnagar, Gandhinagar and Hajira in Gujarat.

World proved crude oil reserves in 2013



In most cases locational pattern of heavy industries depends on combination of above factors. With most factors varying in time and space, industries are unevenly distributed.

8. Examine the geographical factors that give India tremendous prospect to become a hotspot of tourism industry.

Demand of question

The question requires a detailed examination of India’s geographical locations that can become a tourist hotspot. Just a brief introduction about India in the beginning followed by the geographical features of Indian topography in the first part. Then mention the issues that affect the tourism industry in India and measures taken by the government to address it.

With 29 states, each the size of a small country, a rich history and remarkable diversity of culture, India has huge potential in tourism sector. The vast country offers myriad options: 36 world heritage sites and 103 national parks, plus the Taj Mahal in Agra, Rajasthan’s hill forts, the holy city of Varanasi, and everything else in between the mountains of the Himalayas and the beaches of Goa.

Geographical factors that can give India a tremendous prospect to become tourism hotspot:

India's topography consists of hundreds of towering peaks and flat plains, deserts as well as forest, and coastal areas as well. One can enjoy the folk music with communities of Rajasthan and can ride on hills of Uttarakhand along with the locals.

- Tribal wealth- Numerous local traditions like plays, art forms, dances etc. enhance the cultural wealth of tribal areas, making these attractive for the tourists. Ex: North Eastern India
- Natural wealth- Lush green forests in south Indian villages, sacred groves etc. make them an ideal site to promote tourism.
- Peace and serenity in the countryside can offer a relaxing experience.
- Taking advantage of 600,000 villages, each with their own cultures and heritage; eco-tourism; and cruise tourism to create unique experiences for travellers.
- Growing trend of short-break holidays, rural areas being near to cities can easily provide for great tourism destinations.
- Mountains: Mountains in North filled with snow to those filled with thick forest in Western and Eastern ghats provide unique experience to every traveller.
- Coasts: Coastal cities like Goa, Mumbai, Mangalore, Udupi attract huge tourists for its beautiful beaches from across the world.
- Rural Tourism: There are certain population who have never seen a rural household or rural life style, being a country of villages, Agri tourism, dairy tourism, vine tourism circuits can be developed as a tourist hotspot.
- Historical Landscapes: Cities of Ahmadabad, Delhi, and Mumbai etc. are full of Historic monuments and architecture. Places here make a tourist to live in that old era. It also include war memorial at Delhi, etc. Rajasthan is an important tourist destination which can provide a luxurious medieval experience at affordable prices.

Challenges:

- Hazardous road travel and a lack of affordable hotels hamper international travellers' experience, while high taxes hinder the industry's profitability.
- Tourism (specifically) is not listed in any of the three lists under schedule 7 of the constitution.
- Crime rate: There have been incidents where foreigners were the victims in various crimes ranging from purse snatching to rape/murder.
- Weak infrastructure and stretched bureaucracy.
- Climate change and anthropological interference- In some areas, tiger reserves no longer have tigers.
- Increasing competition.

Measures taken by government to promote Tourism:

- Dedicated sites- Cities are being developed under PRASAD and HRIDAY schemes to attract tourists.

- Theme based circuits- Swadesh darshan scheme, Golden triangle connecting Delhi, Jaipur and Agra help in providing a complete tourism package based on similar themes.
- Infrastructure development- Sagarmala project, UDAN initiative, smart cities, Accessible India, help in creating necessary infrastructure and connectivity.
- Reforms regarding tourism industry- Ease of doing business, startup India, tax concessions make it easier to expand the tourism sector as well as provide employment opportunity.
- Skill development- Inducing youth in hospitality sector under 'Hunar se rojgar tak' as well as improving service standards in the sector.
- Eased accessibility- E-visa, visa on arrival, relaxed norms for tourists in North-east and Andaman Islands.
- Preservation- Hamari dharohar, Adopt a Heritage will help preserve monuments.
- Expanding horizon- Emphasis on new tourism products like Adventure, Rural, Sustainable, Domestic, Culinary tourism etc.
- Use of technology- Launching of mobile app like swachh paryatan, use of social media.
- Promotion- Atithi Devo Bhava Campaign, Paryatana Parv, frequent advertisements by states help in promoting tourism.

The future of both India and especially its travel and tourism industry is bright – if it continues to focus on its opportunities and address its current limitations. The need for public private cooperation in execution and change in mindset of people is crucial.

9. What are non-ferrous metals? Discuss their economic significance. How is India placed in terms of non-ferrous metals? Examine.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about the basics of non-ferrous metals, their economic significance. It also expects students to elaborate in detail about availability, production and criticality of non-ferrous metals to India.

Introduction should explain concept of nonferrous metals.

Metals which do not contain ferrous i.e. iron in appreciable amount are known as non-ferrous metals. Important non-ferrous metals include aluminium, copper, lead, nickel, tin, titanium and zinc, and alloys such as brass along with precious, rare or exotic metals.

Non-ferrous metals:

The non-ferrous metals constitute several categories –

- Base metals such as aluminium, copper, zinc, lead, nickel, tin.
- Precious metals like silver, gold, palladium, other platinum group metals.
- Minor metals including refractory metals e.g. tungsten, molybdenum, tantalum, niobium, chromium.
- Specialty metals e.g. cobalt, germanium, indium, tellurium, antimony, and gallium.

Economic significance of non-ferrous metals:

The non-ferrous metals industry, with its far-reaching linkages across various downstream sectors, is of great economic significance.

- Non-ferrous metals are important due to various desirable properties such as, low weight e.g. aluminium, higher conductivity e.g. copper, non-magnetic property or resistance to corrosion e.g. zinc.
- It has high significance in the Indian economy and resultant from its widespread use across a number of industries of both economic and strategic significance. It forms a predictable part of economic growth as it provides basic raw-feed to a wide range of key industries including defence, engineering, electrical and electronics, infrastructure, automobile and railways.
- Some non-ferrous materials are also used in the iron and steel industries. For example, bauxite is used as flux for blast furnaces, while others such as wolframite, pyrolusite and chromite are used in making ferrous alloys.
- Growing consumption of aluminium in the automotive sector has proven to be a game-changer. The automotive industry with its need for lightweight and fuel-efficient vehicles will be the key growth driver for non-ferrous metal sector.
- Other sectors that will drive the demand include electrical applications, consumer durables, construction, packaging, transportation and aviation.
- The demand for copper in India will remain strong, driven by rapidly increasing electricity generation and consumption. Major applications of copper are in electrical sectors viz, transformers, motors, generators, switchgears, house wiring etc.
- The metal finds usage across numerous applications including but not limited electronics & communications, auto ancillaries, and consumer durables such as air conditioning, refrigeration.

Non-ferrous metals India:

- India ranks fifth in the world's reserve base of Bauxite and has approximately 5.1% of the world's total reserve. Considering the fact that India has significant aluminium ores and concentrates, its exports are higher than imports.
- India is heavily dependent on imports of copper ores and concentrates in order to fulfil 96% of the demand, while the domestic availability satisfies only about 4%.

- India is self-reliant about zinc production. India's exports of zinc ores and concentrates have seen a massive decline over the last five years amid slowdown in demand from China.
- The domestic gold industry has demanded a cut in import duty on gold to 4 per cent from the current 12.5 per cent. There is no gold policy despite the fact that India is the largest consumer and importer of the precious metal.

There is urgent need to ensure existing regulations of Hazardous Waste Mgmt. Rules, Battery Management Rules, E-Waste Rules enacted by MOEF&CC, pertaining to the import and use of metal scrap are strictly implemented.

Recognition as strategic sector for non-ferrous metal industry, removal of inverted duty structure would help to become self-reliant in case of minor non-ferrous material critical for the development of Electrical vehicle industry as governments plans to shift to all vehicle fleet to electrical by 2030.

10. Can the presence of industries in a region guarantee its overall development? Critically examine. What are the impediments that inhibit regional growth despite the presence of industries? Explain with the help of suitable examples.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write the importance of industries in development of the region and as per the command write limitations of the industries in overall development of the region and impediments which restricts regional growth followed by the suitable conclusion.

Almost every major country managed to reduce poverty or sustain growth with industrialization as driving economic growth. Industrialization is an engine of economic growth because it offers economies of scale and embodies technological progress.

Role of industries in development of region:

- Investments: Acute deficiency of capital investment is the central problem of Indian economy. In large scale industries, the surplus is very high. By using external and internal economies, industry can get higher profit. These profits can be reinvested for expansion and development. So industrialization helps in capital formation.
- Urbanization: Industrialization in a particular region brings growth of transport and communication. Schools, colleges, technical institutions, banking and health facilities are established near industrial base. Rourkela was dense forest but now is ultra-modern town in Orissa. Many ancillary units have been established after setting up of big industry.

- Employment: Poverty and unemployment can be eradicated quickly through rapid industrialization. It has occurred in industrially advanced countries like Japan. The slow growth of industrial sector is responsible for widespread poverty and mass unemployment. So with fast growth of industrial sector, surplus labor from villages can be put into use in industry.
- Cluster of small scale entrepreneurs: It generates forward and backward linkages that create positive spillover effects in the economy. Growth of service sector based on industries to support new human capital.

Limitations of the industries in the overall development of the region:

- Stress on resources of the region as the increased water requirement, land requirement could limit resources for the agriculture. E.g., Farmer's opposition to Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor.
- Lack of local employment due to lower skill set of population, not always industries takes responsibility to train labor force. E.g. Development of Information technology in small clusters without diversification E.g., in Bangalore whereas northern Karnataka remain backward, similar situation in Hyderabad and rest of Telangana.
- Tax holidays offered by states to industries could avail little funds in hand of states to invest in infrastructure of the region which remain base of the development.
- Impact on ecology and environment: Side effects of water, air, noise pollution due to industrialization has led to the opposition to industries by local population. Opposition to mining projects in Niyamgiri hills of Odisha.
- Limitations of resource based industry: Despite of presence of mining industry in vidarbha region of Maharashtra, it remains economically backward due to lack of white collar jobs.

Lack of diversification of industries, age-old labour laws, unskilled human capital, side effects of industries, cultural rights of tribal population and acute infrastructure deficiency in hinterland are major impediments in the overall development despite of presence of industries.

In recent time India has been experiencing unique scenario of premature deindustrialization. This refers to a phenomenon wherein the growth of an economy's manufacturing sector begins to slow down prematurely in its path towards development.

However, there is need to focus on manufacturing industry under Make in India, to attract investments for development of labor intensive manufacturing to increase employment and optimum use of demographic dividend of India. There is need to focus on infrastructural development in the eastern India to maintain regional balance and widespread migration between states.

11. What advantages would accrue to India with the implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB)? Discuss.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write the advantages of the implementation of the National Register of citizens (NRC) with national security and Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB/CAA now) with humanitarian perspective.

Introduction should explain simple concept of exercise of NRC and prime objective of Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019.

The National register of citizens will be the exercise to update citizens register to identify illegal migrants, which was carried out in Assam to be extended soon at all India level. The CAA seeks to amend the 1955 Act and provide citizenship to persecuted minorities from three neighbouring countries — Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

The NRC is seen as an important step in addressing the problem of illegal immigration, but to what extent it would be successful remains an important question. Whereas Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and Christian refugees from these three nations who have been forced to seek shelter in India due to religious persecution in their respective countries or if they migrated to India fearing such persecution, would be granted Indian citizenship.

Advantages of NRC:

- It will lead to the identification of illegal migrants.
- It seeks to identify the refugees who have migrated to India for economic reasons and seeks to protect its own citizens and resources from aliens whose large-scale entry have deprived legitimate citizens of their rights and have also triggered demographic changes.
- Those identified illegal migrants will be barred from voting in elections. This is also an important achievement as these people will no longer be able to swing elections in favour of political parties who promise to legitimise their status.
- The publishing of the NRC will not rid India of illegal immigrants who are already here. But even if it manages to withhold their political and voting rights, it will be a significant achievement.
- It will help to limit militancy in the north eastern region as it has been seen as porous border of north east proved safe haven for transnational militants.

Advantages of CAA:

- It seeks to accommodate minorities who face religious persecution in their own nations (three specific neighbours, not the entire world) and have been forced to seek shelter in India to preserve their faith.
- It is worth noting that the CAB does not prevent Muslims from applying for Indian citizenship. Muslims facing religious persecution in their own nations may still apply for naturalized citizenship and their cases may be considered.
- It opts for positive discrimination hence may not violate Article 14 of the constitution.
- It has provided benefits of protection of tribal culture to the Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur to be added soon in Inner line permit and schedule six areas to restrict flow of illegal migrants who newly acquired citizenship.

However, Process of NRC is not error free, it puts onus on ordinary people to prove their citizenship, it creates threat of making its own citizens stateless. Looking at the vast population and poor citizenry, it is a matter of certainty that production of documentation proof will be beyond the capacity of many. (Depends on Government's Document List Requirement)

Process of NRC is also time consuming, harassing and with huge financial costs whereas it was necessary in Assam as per the provision of Assam accord of 1985. There is neither any demand nor visible impact of illegal migrant population on political rights of indigenous people.

Similarly, in case of citizenship Amendment Act 2019, singling out of particular religion despite Rohingyas (one of the most persecuted minorities in the World), Hazaras, Ahmadiyahs etc. also face persecution in those countries could make CAA discriminatory on the basis of Article 14 of Indian constitution.

It also creates confusion and unrest in minds of Indian Muslims as if they fail to produce requisite documents to prove their citizenship under proposed nationwide NRC, they will become stateless whereas all other religion could regain citizenship under CAA, 2019.

Conclusion should highlight the humanitarian principle:

Government has decided to alleviate long standing perils of minority population in the neighbouring countries due to extremism. However, on the one hand it has shown humanitarian perspective to accept refugees of minorities from the three countries on the other it created unrest in its own minority population. Intention of state should be synergized with the demands of all sections of Indian citizens.

12. What changes are needed in the current urban governance architecture to address the issue of increasing instances of sexual violence against women? Suggest.

Demand of the question:

It demands students to give multilevel suggestions with the help of global best practices, local innovations and nature of crimes to improve urban governance architecture for the avoidance of instances of sexual violence against women.

The horrific rape and murder of vet in Hyderabad, Mumbai's forever-potted the eye-popping rise in the number of rape and molestation cases are outcomes of weak urban governance.

The current weak urban governance architecture essentially refers to institutional defragmentation, whereby multiple agencies often have overlapping roles, are run by officials who are not accountable to citizens, and the absence of a single individual accountable to the polity. Cities are controlled by armies of bureaucrats and the chief minister, while the mayor has little to do.

On the other hand, the world's major cities, like London, New York, Paris, and Shanghai, are all run by powerful mayors. This makes it necessary to bring changes in the urban governance architecture to make cities safe for women.

- Reform the 74th Constitutional Amendment to empower city governments, bolster the metropolitan system of government, and move to a system of a directly elected mayor.
- Make the office of the mayor politically relevant to create a culture of meritocracy and performance. Build world-class institutions to catalyze capacity at scale for which revitalizes the role of the State Finance Commissions to bolster municipal finances.
- Set up the regulatory architecture required to facilitate efficient and effective urban services delivery.
- Deepen citizen engagement in cities to drive change across localities.
- There is need to imbibe principles of safety governance in the city administration with focus on regulation, enforcement, resilience and engagement.

Attempts at forging more gender-sensitive policies and strategies have begun at different levels of government since Delhi gang rape case of 2012.

Use of technology in urban governance:

- Panic buttons in mobile, GPS tracking in cabs and CCTVs at public places were implemented with seriousness.
- Use of Social media by Police machinery has increased.

- Smart Cities initiative included agenda of making cities safer for women was step closer to gender sensitive governance.

However, at social level, technology-based initiatives for women's safety offer a vision of negative liberty, in the process promoting notions of 'safety' instead of nurturing empowerment.

'Nirbhaya fund' started in 2015 has been allocated 3000 crore for victim compensation, installing GPS systems and video cameras in public transport, among other schemes. A big percentage of this money is still unspent and so can be directed towards policies that aim at empowerment.

Conclusion should refer to sustainable development goals or behavioral change of society to make cities gender neutral.

Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goal 11 focuses on making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. There is need to create mindset and spaces where women do not have to restrict their own movements in the public sphere, rights equal to men, must be protected if India's cities are to truly shine.

13. The abrogation of Article 370 and implementation of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Bill (CAB) have necessitated greater outreach towards India's immediate neighbours. Elucidate.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to thoroughly describe need of greater outreach to immediate neighbours on issues mentioned in question and also mention number of steps taken and need to be taken.

Introduction should establish link with the steps of government and relationship of neighbourhood with it.

Indian subcontinent being one geographical unit has witnessed shared history for long period of time. Partition of India in 1947 left out many issues for the future generations. Recent fallout is visible in steps of Indian government to abrogate Article 370 of the constitution, passage of Citizen Amendment bill, 2019 and plans of National Register of citizens across India. India's immediate neighbourhood might face repercussions of these decisions though at face value, internal issues of India.

India's imperative to have cordial relations with the neighbours:

- India being the responsible regional power in the south Asia should reach out to neighbourhood countries on the decisions that might raise doubts and confusion in minds of them.
- India follow policy of 'neighbourhood first' and principle of non-reciprocity with respect to neighbourhood countries, which highlight desire of India to maintain peaceful and friendly relations with neighbourhood countries.

Abrogation of article 370, which was part of Indian constitution and removal of which possibly further strengthened the process of national integration, while Citizen amendment bill provisioned citizenship for non-Muslim persecuted illegal migrants from select Neighbourhood countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, while National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise in Assam has isolated many people who could not provide proof of Indian citizenship accused as Bangladeshi illegal migrants, same NRC procedure could be extended to whole nation.

- Pakistan considers itself major stakeholder in Jammu and Kashmir as it controls partial territory of original Jammu and Kashmir state. UN resolution indeed demand status quo in the disputed region. However, India's its own stand to abrogate sovereign India's constitutional provision is none of Pakistan's concern. China also inhibits certain portions of Aksai china and shaksgam valley, took initiative to raise Kashmir issue in informal meetings of UNSC.
- On the issue of abrogation of article 370, Indian outreach might not be helpful as both India and Pakistan continuously trying to isolate each other in international platforms.
- Arguably all-time high India-Bangladesh cooperation can be impacted with continued demonization of Bangladeshi citizens and Indian politician's repeated vows to send back people left out of NRC to their respected countries pointed towards Bangladesh.
- Bangladesh has shown consistency in calling NRC and CAA (Citizenship amendment act) as internal matters of India however concerns of Bangladesh are clearly visible with the statement of ambassador as, "would rather swim in the ocean and reach Italy instead of coming to India."
- The Afghans, too, have been displeased by the fact that the CAA portrays them as a country where minorities face discrimination and persecution. He emphasized that Afghanistan has gone through four decades of war. All the people of Afghanistan have been the victims of this war, all ethnicities, irrespective of who they are.
- Kabul's treatment of the Sikh community, noting that seats had been reserved for them in the Afghan parliament and that there was even a representative of the Sikh community in the Presidential palace.

However, there is need to reach out to these countries and need to clear their doubts, confusion and reservations with open mind.

- Ignorance of neighbourhood concerns can create rift in the relationship with India which might push them into the china's area of influence.
- To counter China's increasing footprint in the South Asia with Belt and Road initiative and in the larger security architecture of Indian Ocean, India cannot afford to lose its friendly neighbours.
- India cannot afford to antagonize Bangladesh as it played important role to break backbone of northeaster insurgency, which may further revive considering the opposition of people of Assam.
- Muslim majority nations might apply quid Provo quo in similar fashion to exclude Hindus in citizenship grant. E.g., Indonesia, Malaysia which are also part of act east policy.

India's initiatives to alleviate fears of neighbours:

- India should continue efforts to break the all-weather friendship of Pakistan and China which is poised to further deepen with CPEC.
- India has no official treaty with Bangladesh in relation to the NRC or cross-border illegal immigration. Bangladesh has always maintained that the NRC is an "not a bilateral issue between the two countries" underscores Bangladesh's resolve to not accept even one single illegal migrant that India may want to deport.
- India can proactively declare its plan about the future of illegal migrants to bring clarity.
- Posturing of singling out one community in policy of citizenship might hurt India's credibility as great nation.

Steps to be taken:

- India should convey Afghanistan that there is no intention to hurt pride of Afghanistan.
- Bangladesh should also get the right message that they are not treated equivalent to Pakistan by India and there will be no pressure on them to accept illegal migrants identified by them.
- There should be time bound plan to fulfill synergy of aspirations of differences in India with respect to citizenship.

India being a great nation has both civilizational duties along with pragmatic national security imperatives. There should not be violation of constitutional principles in deciding the fate of citizenship. State cannot simply give up humanitarian approach to deal with persecuted communities. There should right balanced between national security and humanitarian approach to deal with the complex society like India.

14. The current state of economy needs urgent measures to address the decline in demand. Do you agree? Substantiate. What measures can be taken in this regard? Discuss.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about the gravity of issue which is decline in demand and necessity of urgent measures. Student should write measures taken by government if any and suggest further measures to avert decline in demand.

Students can write introduction with the criticality of consumer demand in the growth of Indian economy or simply begin with the data which highlight urgency of issue.

Indian economic growth is driven by domestic consumer demand unlike china's export led growth. Domestic consumer demand helped Indian economy to sustain growth rate despite of global headwinds like trade war, low commodity prices and protectionism. Decline in demand could cost India grave consequences.

Or

As data from the National Statistical Office show, private consumption expenditure, which contributes more than half the gross domestic product and is the mainstay of demand, has decelerated so sharply that at 3.1%, the expansion is at an 18-quarter low.

Need of urgent measures to address decline in demand: The absence of demand pervades almost every key sector from consumer durables to biscuits and housing. As the RBI had pointed, consumer confidence has worsened appreciably, with 63.8% of respondents in its July survey expecting discretionary spending to stay at the same level or decrease one year ahead. In June 2018, only 37.3% of those surveyed held such a downbeat view.

- Inflation pegged at 4% of CPI by RBI has meant retarding growth as fallout. Low inflation extracts costs in the form of lower nominal growth (growth measured in current prices) that could crimp tax receipts and in turn lead to cuts in government spending and cuts in salary as inflation linked increments did not see growth. It made earners more wary of non-essential purchases.
- Unemployment rate is at 6.1% in 2017-18, around 45 year high according to CSO. It has created lull in consumer demand. A lack of jobs or even where jobs are available like in the new or digitally enabled "gig" economy.
- Drought in three out of last five years has created agricultural distress led to reduction in rural demand.
- Piled up nonperforming assets led to credit crunch and liquidity crisis created after demonetization not recovered fully.

- The overall FMCG market by volume declined 1% in 2018 compared with a 7.5% rise a year ago. More health conscious choices of consumer along with more premium brand selection in consumer durables remained challenge to domestic consumer market.
- Automobile sales continued to plunge, posting their worst drop since the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) started collating wholesale vehicle sales data in 1997-98.

Measures taken by government:

- Considering the importance of domestic consumer demand government took various steps like, 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) under the automatic route in Electronics Systems Design & Manufacturing sector.
- FDI into single brand retail has been increased from 51 per cent to 100 per cent and also planning to hike FDI limit in multi-brand retail to 51 per cent.
- The government's latest decision to cut baseline corporate tax rates is certainly a good move, aimed at incentivizing and spurring sluggish capital investment by businesses.

Measures for revival of demand:

Consumer sentiment is a key ingredient affecting consumption and it is vital for policy makers to address weakness in consumer sentiment through a mix of measures in the economic realm, both monetary and fiscal, as well as ensuring a congenial socio-political climate that enhances the 'feel-good' factor.

- On the monetary side, ensuring lower borrowing costs as well as adequate availability of credit are crucial to helping create an enabling environment for consumers to consider taking out loans to fund their purchases.
- Targeted tax breaks or non-tax sops that incentivize consumption is one option and the U.S. 'cash for clunkers' or Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS) programme of 2009, which provided economic incentives to U.S. residents to purchase a new, more fuel-efficient vehicle.
- Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme needs to be reinvigorated by ensuring timely and adequate funding and the fixing of appropriate wage levels. As studies have shown, in its first five years, the scheme gave a big fillip to rural incomes and consumption in the hinterland.
- Stimulus package can spur demand though it may violate fiscal deficit target and might increase inflation.

In the conclusion, students could connect decline in demand with global slowdown or solution based approach to revive demand in the long run.

Intensifying global slowdown with an escalating trade-cum-currency conflict is prompting fears of a global recession. An appropriate policy measure that not only helps reinvigorate demand but also ensure that such a revival is robust, across-the-board and enduring is need of the time.

Or

To unlock the potential of opportunities to continue growth of domestic consumer demand and to ensure equitable growth, the critical challenges that need to be addressed are skills development and employment for the future workforce, socio-economic inclusion of rural India and healthy and sustainable future.

15. What are India's economic and strategic imperatives to maintain close ties with Iran and Saudi Arabia both? Discuss.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about the compulsions of India to have friendship with both Iran and Saudi-Arabia. It demands elaboration on the economic and strategic significance of the both countries.

Introduction should mention underlying principle of Indian foreign policy towards west Asia or the historic significance and closed ties with both countries.

India's policies toward Iran and Saudi Arabia are partially determined by the latter's utility in furthering Delhi's greatest policy objectives to rise to great power status through the use of diplomatic influence and soft power, to expand military power beyond its region, and to develop its economy. This translates to both economic and strategic interests.

Economic and strategic imperatives of India with Iran:

As the United States becomes an increasingly significant partner to India; it is necessary that policymakers better understand which factors and strategies shape India's approach to foreign policy, and more specifically, the issues that shape its relationship with Iran.

India's economic interests in Iran center on energy and connectivity to the Central Asian region. Iran also remains significant to India's objective of alleviating energy poverty.

- Indian exports included petroleum and its products, organic and inorganic chemicals, fertilizers, plastic, edible fruit and nuts, glass, pearls, and precious and semiprecious stones.
- Import of crude oil remained critical factor for India despite of sanctions, It remained 3rd largest crude oil supplier to India in 2018-19, for almost 11% of Indian needs.
- Development of Chabahar port would strengthen India's oil trade with Iran by lowering transportation costs, and would establish greater connectivity in the long-term, facilitating more comprehensive trade.
- Chabahar provides an opportunity for India to get linked to the International North-South Transport Corridor, allowing it further access not only to Central Asia but also to Russia and Europe.

- Gas and oil exploration in Iran provide opportunity for Indian firms like ONGC as it played critical role in exploration of Farzad-B gas field.

Iran has the potential to play an important role in India's overarching strategic goal of expanding its power beyond its immediate neighborhood and rising to great power status.

- Iran can provide India access to Central Asia and Afghanistan without having to traverse China or Pakistan.
- Indian presence or strategic influence in Central Asia would help deny Pakistan strategic depth and allow Delhi to compete with China's growing regional presence.
- Port Chabahar has the potential to advance India's geopolitical interests, enable Delhi to monitor Pakistan, increasing its ability to launch subversive operations against its rival. Additionally, in the event of conflict-blocking the Strait of Hormuz, Chabahar would provide India direct access to Iranian energy.
- To combat extremist militant groups based in Pakistan and efforts for counter terrorism.
- In return of service to Russian made military equipments,

Economic and strategic imperatives of India with Saudi Arabia:

PM Modi delivered a keynote address at the high-profile Future Investment Initiative Summit, 2nd visit in three years to Riyadh highlights economic significance of India-Saudi ties.

- Dependence of Energy: Saudi Arabia has traditionally been India's top oil source, but it was dethroned by Iraq in couple of years. It will be an important partner for India's energy needs, as Iran remains under sanctions.
- To boost exports, India can provide critical technological, communication cooperation to Saudi Arabia as it is trying to move away from oil and looking for new investment and economic opportunities in technology and infrastructure. Here, India offers a huge market with its growing middle class.
- Remittances of labors: India remains the highest recipient of remittances as World Bank data last year, more than 3 million Indian expatriates live in Saudi Arabia. Security and welfare of Indian Diaspora abroad remains major concern.
- India's trade ties with Saudi Arabia have been growing and the relationship is no longer merely a buyer-seller one. Reliance Industries' decision to sell a 20% stake in its oil-to-chemicals business to Saudi Aramco at an enterprise value of \$75 billion made it one of the biggest foreign direct investment deals in the country.
- Strategic fuel reserves with the help of Saudi investment.

As Delhi continues to increase strategic ties with states such as Saudi Arabia

- Saudi Arabia promised to share more intelligence to boost counterterrorism cooperation with India.

- Saudi led-OIC has virtually done nothing to objections raised by Pakistan on Kashmir issue. Unlike Turkey and Malaysia, Saudi Arabia has taken a positive approach vis-a-vis India and has cautioned Pakistan against escalating the crisis.

Imperatives of balancing act of India: Delhi will be mindful of Saudi and Iranian sensitivities when dealing with either of these states.

- Tehran-Riyadh ties are at historic low. This may have implications for India's ability to continue its friend-to-all approach.
- Riyadh has elevated its rivalry with Tehran as a defining feature of its relations with other states. This has led to divisions within the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), such as the blockade against Qatar.
- India's naval diplomacy and stronger ties with the Gulf should not be perceived as a threat to Iran.
- It is important not to get sucked into the Saudi-Iran game. India has never taken a strong position on these conflicts. Involvement in intra-regional conflicts would only be of strategic benefit when India becomes a top-tier power.
- By taking sides, Indian involvement in intra-Muslim sectarian conflicts could undermine harmony amongst Muslims in India.

Conclusion should focus on solution based futuristic direction for relation between India and countries of Iran and Saudi Arabia.

India must see Saudi Arabia as a vital partner, particularly in energy and defence, and simultaneously see Iran as a gateway to Central Asia. The effort should be for New Delhi to strike the right balance in its relations with the two nations. Over the last decade, India has augmented political engagement, security agreements, and defense cooperation with both nations.

Copyright © by IASbaba

All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of IASbaba.