

1. The attitude of the contemporary political leadership towards India's participation in WWII was different than what it was during WWI. Elucidate.

WWII में भारत की भागीदारी के प्रति समकालीन राजनीतिक नेतृत्व का रवैया WWI के दौरान से अलग था। स्पष्ट करें।

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about the change in attitude of contemporary political leadership towards India's participation in WWII from the approach of WWI.

Introduction:

Indian freedom struggle passed through different phases after each World War. The First World War gave perspective to Indian leadership on politics at the world stage whereas the Second World War provided actual opportunity to contemporary political leadership to play an active role to achieve freedom with the help of prevalent situations.

Body:

Attitude of contemporary political leadership about India's participation during WWI:

In the First World War (1914-1919), Britain allied with France, Russia, USA, Italy and Japan against Germany, Austria-Hungary and Turkey. This period saw the maturing of Indian nationalism.

- Expectation of reward in response to service during emergency need of empire: All the believers in Swadeshi and swaraj it as opportunity to convince colonial leadership about Indian concerns of self government.
- Divided or weak congress at the start of WWI: Congress was not revived to its pre 1907 spirit and energy till start of WWI. Its stand on the issue of participation was pacifist rather than aggressive.
- Moderates supported the empire in the war as a matter of duty; Extremists, including Tilak who was released in June 1914, supported the war efforts in the mistaken belief that Britain would repay India's loyalty with gratitude in the form of self-government. The Home Rule Movement was the Indian response to the First World War in a less charged way.
- Nationalists believed it will provide an opportunity to boost nationalist sentiment among soldiers as they will experience the freedom of European countries and opportunity to use prisoners of war of enemy nations to plot a coup against the colonial government in India.
- The revolutionaries decided to utilise the opportunity to wage a war on British rule and liberate the country. The Indian supporters of British war efforts failed to see that the imperialist powers were fighting to safeguard their own colonies and markets. During the First World War, the Jugantar party arranged to import German arms and ammunition through sympathisers and revolutionaries abroad for 'German Plot' or the

'Zimmerman Plan'. The Jugantar party raised funds through a series of dacoities which came to be known as taxicab dacoities and boat dacoities, so as to work out the Indo-German conspiracy. During the First World War, Rash behari Bose was involved as one of the leading figures of the Ghadr Revolution.

- War was seen by Indian capitalist class as mean to benefit as supply lines of continental Europe was disturbed due to war.

Changed attitude of contemporary political leadership:

- Gandhiji at the start of the war: Gandhi, who had all sympathy for Britain in this war because of his total dislike of the fascist ideology, advocated unconditional support to the Allied powers. He made a clear distinction between the democratic nations of Western Europe and the totalitarian Nazis and fascists. He said that he was not willing to embarrass the British government during the war.
- Gandhiji after Cripps mission decided to adopt more extremist stand of launching Quit India movement and refused to formally call off movement despite of violence.
- Influence of Socialism: Rise of socialism in 1920s due to disillusion created by abrupt end of Non cooperation movement and influence of Russian revolution. Subhash Bose and other socialists, such as Acharya Narendra Dev and Jayaprakash Narayan had no sympathy for either side in the war.
- Understanding of colonial nature of rule: Contemporary political leadership understood; war was being fought by imperialists on both sides; each side wanted to protect its colonial possessions and gain more territories to colonise, so neither side should be supported by the nationalists. In fact, they thought it was the ideal time to launch a civil disobedience movement, to thus take advantage of the situation and snatch freedom from Britain.
- Middle path of Jawaharlal Nehru and insistence on Purn Swaraj i.e. complete independence: He was not ready to accept the opinion of either Gandhi or of the socialists. He was clear in his mind about the difference between democratic values and fascism. He believed that justice was on the side of Britain, France and Poland, but he also believed that Britain and France were imperialist powers. He, therefore, advocated no Indian participation till India itself was free. However, at the same time, no advantage was to be taken of Britain's difficulty by starting an immediate civil disobedience movement.

Contemporary congress leadership condemned Fascist aggression and also stressed that India could not be party to a war being fought, on the face of it, for democratic freedom, while that freedom was being denied to India.

Conclusion:

The First World War started the phase of nationwide mass movements in India, returned soldiers spread the stories of different free nations among masses, while Second World War hastened the process of India's independence with all out efforts from INA on the external front and Quit India on domestic front.

2. Examine the series of incidents and the prevalent geopolitics that led to the Indo-China war of 1962.

घटनाओं की श्रृंखला और प्रचलित भू-राजनीति की जाँच करें जिनकी वजह से 1962 का भारत-चीन युद्ध हुआ।

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about the series of incidents and the prevalent geopolitics behind the Indo-China war of 1962.

Introduction:

Recent face-off between India and China in Galwan valley has awakened the memory of 1962 war. China attacked India over multiple points across the border in 1962, leading to a month-long standoff between 10,000 to 20,000 Indian soldiers and 80,000 Chinese troops. Unprepared for the offensive, India lost nearly 4,000 soldiers in the war and suffered its most humiliating defeat.

Body:

The main cause of the war was a dispute over the sovereignty of the widely spread Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh border regions.

Series of incidents that led to Indo-China war of 1962:

- Following India's independence, British left behind a disputed legacy on 3,488km long boundary between India and then Tibet which laterally occupied by China. Dispute especially on McMahan line and Johnson line because of no mutually agreed border.
- The first sign of discord between India and China came in 1950 when China invaded Tibet. This was blatant aggression, Tibetans looked up to India for help but India's feeble protest merely antagonised the Chinese without helping the Tibetans.
- Occupation of Aksai Chin: Opportunities to negotiate a border settlement in the fifties existed, but were not seized. India entered into the Panchsheel Agreement with China in 1954, hoping to put an end to Chinese provocations but that was not to be. On the contrary, China illegally occupied the Aksai Chin and completed construction of their Western Highway through it in 1957.
- Asylum to Dalai Lama: In 1958 rebellion of Tibet led to the exodus of the Dalai Lama to India, which led to first armed clash with China occurred at Longju in the east. China perceived India is acting with both USSR and USA to destabilise Tibet.
- Forward policy: To counter continued Chinese aggression, India embarked on a policy of establishing a series of small posts all along its Northern and Eastern borders with China, to prevent further incursions. Called the 'Forward policy', most posts were not capable of giving a fight to the Chinese

and were logistically unsustainable. Coupled with this, India neglected the improvement of infrastructure in the border areas, which was to cost the country dear when the conflict started in 1962.

- By 1959-60, Chinese had made up their mind that since India was not negotiating the border issue to their satisfaction, which was basically bartering the Aksai Chin in Ladakh for Chinese acceptance of the McMahon Line in Arunachal Pradesh, they would “teach India a lesson”.

Prevalent geopolitical situations behind Indo-China war of 1962:

- China wanted to show the world who is real master of Asia. It allowed India to take leadership in Bandung Conference of 1954 and maintained low profile till the completion of western highway connecting Xinxiang with Tibet.
- After the failed talks between India and China in 1960, China was quite convinced that it has to fight war with India. Success of Chinese armed forces in the long drawn civil war against Chang kai shek, Japan in Manchuria and against US forces in Korea boosted their confidence for expansion on Indian front.
- Cold War peak: China chose time to execute its intension in the month of October when Cuban Missile crisis kept super powers busy in Atlantic and for the first time created threat of cold war becoming hot. It created nuclear panic across the world.
- By 1960, relations between China and the USSR had also deteriorated to a point where their respective leaders were trading insults publicly. The reasons included USSR’s friendship with India as India had received more economic and military assistance than China. Another reason was the USSR’s neutrality in the Tibet border dispute.
- Chinese perception of India as major threat to stability of Tibet. China perceived that India might acting at the haste of United state in giving asylum to Dalai Lama.
- India was more isolated than China due to faith in Non alignment movement. India's defence capacity as compared to china was weak as we undermined Chinese threat.

Conclusion:

India and China are two growing Asian powers and hence a clash of interests is inevitable. The key is to keep it manageable and not allow it to flare up into another border war. It will be tough test for our diplomacy in the prevailing situation.

3. The government’s recent ordinance on contract farming is a win-win for farmers, buyers and even traders. Comment.

अनुबंध खेती पर सरकार का हालिया अध्यादेश किसानों, खरीदारों और यहां तक कि व्यापारियों के लिए एक जीत है। टिप्पणी करें।

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about the benefits of new contract farming ordinance to farmers, buyers and even traders along with

Introduction:

The ordinance on contract farming is part of the new legal framework for agricultural markets. It is in addition to the other two ordinances that amend the Essential Commodities Act and reduce the power of APMCs, with the aim of setting up a national market for food.

Body:

Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance Benefits:

Farmers:

- **Market access:** Framework for farmers to enter into direct contracts with those who wish to buy farm produce. So far, in most of the country, a farmer cannot directly sell his produce to consumers or food processing companies; he has to go through a licenced trader. E.g. If a certain kind of potato was needed for potato chips, or a specific variety of oranges was more suited to making juice, or a restaurant chain needed a large quantity of mushrooms or asparagus, It could get into a contract with farmers to grow that particular item and buy it later at prices already agreed upon. Farmers are no longer at the mercy of the traders.
- **Complex structure of APMCs:** Solving the problem of APMC laws Which are outdated in several states. Traders find it easy to form cartels in these markets and offer low prices to farmers. Farmers are also left to the vagaries of daily price changes. However, the ordinance states that APMC market laws will only apply in the physical space of the market, and will not govern transactions outside the market. No taxes or fees associated with any APMC can be levied on such transactions.
- **More liberty and freedom:** Farmers can lock in prices and buyers for their produce even before the harvest, and intermediaries can be assured of supply and price at the time of harvest.

Buyers:

- Reduction in intermediaries will reduce the cost of farm produce which will help common buyers to manage their monthly budget.
- Buyers like the food processing industry will get a more secure and flexible environment for procurement of raw materials directly from farmers or farmer producer organisations.
- Similar models have already benefited farmers in selling their poultry livestock and few agriculture commodities to industrial players directly.

Traders:

- **Competition to traders:** While intermediaries play an essential role in meeting supply and demand, It does not prohibit intermediaries or discourage them in any manner. It does not do away with APMCs. However,

from now on, they have to compete with other buyers to provide better services or prices.

- Expansion of storage capacity in the private sector: Since the ordinance in addition to other ordinance on the Essential Commodities Act exempts intermediaries from stock limits for contract farming, it will give comfort to large organisations to participate in contract farming. It may also encourage smaller traders to expand capacity.

The idea of contract farming is not new; some states like Punjab have attempted to encourage it through state legislation. Even today, in spite of multiple legal hurdles, the small scale of contract farming in India is playing a positive role for farmers. The agriculture ministry had released a model law to govern contract farming in 2018, but it was a little too prescriptive, the ordinance allows contract farming in any agricultural product, leaves pricing to the parties, and allows for a central e-registration of contracts.

However, the ordinance is a positive move towards freedom of contracting,

- So far, modern retail has been largely purchasing perishable produce from mandis. Since the volumes of fresh produce are still low for modern retail and it has to compete with roadside vendors, it has been reluctant to invest in backend infrastructure.
- Instead of using the regular judiciary for dispute resolution between parties, the ordinance delegates dispute resolution to the executive (sub-divisional magistrate), who will not be bound by rules of procedure. This gives the government more powers than the parties in the case. That would not happen if disputes were required to go to the judiciary.
- The ordinance also creates a window for reintroducing government interference by giving the executive powers to adjudicate disputes through suo motu cases. This violates a fundamental principle of contract law: If the parties to a contract are not complaining, third parties should not interfere in the contractual relationship.
- Violating this principle undermines the commercial relationship between the parties. If the government intervenes in contract farming agreements frequently, buyers may back out.
- Big buyers like processors, exporters, and organised retailers going to individual farmers are not a very efficient proposition. They need to create a scale, and for that, building farmer producer organisations (FPOs), based on local commodity interests, is a must. This will help ensure uniform quality, lower transaction costs, and also improve the bargaining power of farmers vis-à-vis large buyers.

The 1991 reforms saw a fundamental shift in the legal approach to industry and services. A whole host of laws of the licence, permit and inspection raj were withdrawn, and more freedom was given to the participants.

Conclusion:

Agriculture sector was long waiting for reforms. The participants in this sector still live in the old legal regime. The ordinances are a welcome step in giving freedom to farmers to sell their produce without restrictions.

4. What are your observations of the typical characteristics of the Indian society that got manifested during the COVID-19 pandemic? Discuss.

COVID-19 महामारी के दौरान परिलक्षित भारतीय समाज की विशिष्ट विशेषताओं के बारे में आपके क्या विचार हैं? चर्चा करें।

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about the typical characteristics of Indian society that got manifested in the current pandemic of COVID-19.

Introduction:

The pandemic painfully laid bare societal fault lines in Indian society. Health emergency induced sudden lockdown, migrant crisis, recession, unemployment and too many unknowns which shook the sensitivities of the human mind.

Body:

Typical characteristic of Indian society during COVID-19:

- **Tradition with Modernism:** Indians decided to boost their immunity by resorting to Ayurvedic medicines widely popular in Indian homes during nationwide lockdown. The concept of physical distancing has been already rooted in traditional Indian lifestyle like greeting by Namaste. Homemade face covers and masks are also playing an important role in the fight against corona virus.
- **Theme Of Unity Is Diversity:** Despite of the the initial attempts to put blame on the minority community, hate mongering Indian media with communal agenda even when staring at a pandemic; Indian society has shown excellent examples of unity in diversity. E.g. stories of Muslim neighbours carrying Hindu cremation, Hindu family was seen arranging iftar for a Muslim boy.
- **Patriarchy:** Sadly it remains one of the major features of Indian society again reflected in the pandemic of COVID-19. With anxiety-driven domestic violence on the rise, women are suffering more than men. E.g. National Commission for Women (NCW), which receives complaints of domestic violence from across India, has recorded more than a twofold rise in gender-based violence in the national corona virus lockdown period.
- **The Society Is Largely Agrarian And Rural:** Around 60% population resides in rural India. Reverse migration of the labour class to rural areas created a threat of spread of pandemic. However, small village locality proved efficient in managing migrants from badly affected cities to quarantine and isolate.
- **Class and Caste Divide:** lockdown anywhere protects the rich and exposes the poor to human and economic challenges. The poor suffer in lost wages,

unemployment and lack of access to welfare. Almost 90 per cent of India's workforce is in the informal sector, which is hurting the most. An International Labour Organisation report suggests that COVID-19 may take about 400 million workers in India deeper into poverty. Online access being a luxury available only to some, children of the poor is lagging behind in learning as well. E.g. online video of a poor fruit seller letting migrants pick bananas from his cart. Men, women and children only picked up what they needed—just one or two bananas each. The poor still have dignity. It is the middle class that has lost it by way of our materialism.

However, it is not only about Indian society but the global phenomenon.

- Collapse of compassion: The death of one person is a tragedy; the death of one million is a statistic, a remark attributed to Joseph Stalin. And also Mother Teresa once said, "If I look at the mass, I will never act." There is a tendency to turn away from mass suffering known as the 'collapse of compassion'. When the number of victims increases, the quantum of sympathy actually decreases, so does the willingness to help. People tune down their empathy. This appears to be a survival trait programmed in our brains to protect us from being overwhelmed.
- Pandemics are both biological and social in their nature and consequences. If we ignore one at the expense of the other, we do so at our peril.

Certainly, pandemic will leave a deep scar on the Indian psyche which saw the worst scenes in mainland India after the 1947 Partition. A very sad reflection on our self-serving society of which government is just a part.

Conclusion:

Despite desperate times and uncertain future, Indian society has shown many rays of hope in voluntary initiative of some well off like Sonu Sood or Akshay Kumar and many common individuals like health, sanitation workers, bankers, pharmacists and police force which boosted trust in humanity.

5. Has diversity impeded the growth of societal solidarity and harmony in India? Critically examine.

क्या विविधता ने भारत में सामाजिक एकजुटता और सद्भाव के विकास को बाधित किया है? समालोचनात्मक जांच करें।

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about whether diversity impeded the growth of social solidarity and critical analysis of the impact of diversity on social solidarity and harmony.

Introduction:

The very idea of India is revolving around 'unity in diversity' and 'diversity in unity'. The Constitution of India binds the citizens of India into a secular, liberal and democratic value system. It guarantees equality, liberty and freedom to every citizen of the country. It should always be remembered that India is multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-lingual country. However, there are certain forces which are taking advantage of such diversity and pose a threat to the unity of the country.

Body:

Diversity and societal solidarity and harmony:

- Western societies and cultures believe that the homogeneity brings eternal peace in the society and common religion, language and race reduces the conflict.
- Differences of religious traditions, conflict upon place of worship, historical tragedies, different type of gastronomic diversity conflicting food choices often turn into disputes which led to violence. Increasing food vigilante on people put adverse impact on social solidarity.
- India being multilingual country where pride and emotional connect to language can be seen in opposition of Hindi in southern states. Regional tendencies and son of soil theories also utilise diversity to create wedge between societal solidarity and harmony.
- Unfortunately, the use of religion, caste and other such factors by the political parties to advance their political interests and capture power can create an atmosphere of hate and division among religious and caste groups.
- Ethnic differences between population of north eastern states and heartland often turn into passing racial slur or misunderstanding of lifestyle traits.
- There are various types of economic and non-economic factors which give rise to fears, anxieties and uncertainties among different communities due to policies or decisions of governance machinery. E.g. clamour for NRC.

There is need to translate the conflict and anger into peace, harmony and happiness. That would require transparency, honesty, probity and truthfulness in public life.

However, unity in diversity, tolerance and mutual respect is India's strength,

- In a multi-religious society, communal harmony is very important for citizens to lead a life free from fear, anxiety and uncertainty. Rabindranath Tagore's famous poem, 'Where the mind is without fear' from Gitanjali in which he wished to have a truly free country where every person is fearless and has a sense of self dignity.
- Teaching of every religion in the world idealises peace: From Gautama Buddha to Nanak, various religious men propagate message of harmony of human kind.
- Values of Indian freedom struggle: Mahatma Gandhi did not want any division among people based on their caste, creed, colour and religion or baseless superstitions. He firmly believed that communal harmony was essential for the freedom and growth of India. Mahatma Gandhi was convinced that masses do not want to fight, if the leaders do not.

- Constitutional framework, secular state and independent institutions help India to be vibrant democracy despite of huge and rare diversity. Impartial, objective and emancipation of all sections of society is rooted in civil services of India.
- Economic prosperity: Indian society, economy and polity have experienced multidimensional tensions and strains since independence. The country has displayed a remarkable capacity to cope with these strains. The country is still grappling with poverty, inequality, unemployment, illiteracy and malnutrition present serious challenges. Public policy interventions for the empowerment of the people for making them effective partners in development with trickle down of benefits of market driven economy has helped in societal solidarity and harmony.
- Empowering the underprivileged and marginalised people with education, skill and good health is an important means to make the people partners in growth and development.
- Increased education levels and urbanisation has brought cosmopolitan culture to Indian cities, spread of internet and technology driven globalisation has brought universal values to remote rural areas. Diversity is no longer impediment but plus point to harness multiple knowledge sources to build global peaceful human society.

Conclusion:

Eventually, it is the responsibility of the political and religious leadership, civil society, intelligentsia and the media to uphold the values of mutual respect and tolerance to stress societal solidarity and tolerance.

6. What are the most potent threats to the safety and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace? What are the recent measures taken to strengthen the security of Indian cyberspace? Examine.

भारतीय साइबर स्पेस की सुरक्षा और संप्रभुता के लिए सबसे प्रबल खतरे क्या हैं? भारतीय साइबर स्पेस की सुरक्षा को मजबूत करने के लिए हाल ही में क्या उपाय किए गए हैं? जांच करें।

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about the most potent threats to the safety and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace along with the recent measures taken to strengthen the security of Indian cyberspace.

Introduction:

Amid border tension with China, the government banned 59 Chinese apps including TikTok, WeChat, Shareit, UC Browser, etc. This was done by invoking Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, which empowers the government to block the apps

which are engaged in activities prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of the country, its defence, security of state and public order.

Body:

As the lack of digital literacy, substandard quality of devices used to access internet, import dependence, lack of skilled manpower makes Indian cyberspace vulnerable to cyber threats. The digital economy today comprises 14-15% of India's total economy, and is targeted to reach 20% by 2024. India has more than 120 recognised data centres and clouds. The average data consumption per person a year is in the range of 15-20 gigabits.

Most potent threats to safety and sovereignty of Indian cyberspace:

A cyber security firm Cyfirma has warned against a potential cyber attack from hacking groups in China in retaliation for the violent clashes between armed forces in India and China. Reports of 'incident' happened in Kudankulam Nuclear power plant in last September was related to cyber security, highlights threats posed to cyberspace of India by various elements based in national and international arena.

- Threats to Critical information infrastructure: As it is essential to the functioning of a modern economy, security and other essential social services. Critical information sectors in India include Power, ICT/Communication, Finance/Banking, Transport and e-governance. A minor disruption at one point could have a rippling effect across multiple infrastructures.
- As tool of Proxy warfare: China has built strong 'cyber offense force'. Hacking groups of Pakistan and China, external intelligence agency of Pakistan has started using cyber space as tool to attack security and economic infrastructure, which might hamper India's growth trajectory. These countries are acquiring offensive capabilities by building bits of software called 'cyber weapons' to do enormous damage to the adversary's networks.
- Threat to economic security: Sectors such as healthcare, retail trade, energy and media face advance persistent threats (APTs), as the latest reports of an Israeli spyware allegedly used to spy on Indian journalists and human rights activists attest. These incidents relating to data leakage, ransom ware, ATM/credit cards denial of service, diversion of network traffic intrusion in IT systems and networks using malware are on rise.
- Threat to IT infrastructure: As India is renowned IT service provider to the rest of the world; compromise on the security of IT infrastructure will be huge risk to India's service sector.
- Advance technologies: With more inclusion of artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), data analytics, cloud computing and Internet of Things (IoT), cyberspace has become a complex domain, giving rise to threats of complex nature. Attacks on embedded systems and IoT have also registered a sharp increase of late. Such incidents are being launched from cyberspace of different international jurisdictions.

Recent measures taken to strengthen the security of Indian cyberspace:

- Regarding ban of Chinese apps: The ministry of electronics and information technology said in a statement that it has received many complaints from various sources including several reports about misuse of some mobile apps available on Android and iOS platforms for stealing and surreptitiously transmitting users' data in an unauthorised manner to servers which have locations outside India.
- The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, ministry of home affairs has also sent an exhaustive recommendation for blocking these malicious apps.
- The Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) has also received many representations from citizens regarding security of data and breach of privacy impacting upon public order issues.
- National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC) to battle cyber security threats in strategic areas such as air control, nuclear and space. It will function under the National Technical Research Organisation, a technical intelligence gathering agency controlled directly by the National Security Adviser in PMO.
- National cyber coordination centre (NCCC) to scan internet traffic coming into the country and provide real time situational awareness and alert various security agencies.
- A new Cyber and Information Security (CIS) Division has been created to tackle internet crimes such as cyber threats, child pornography and online stalking.
- Under this, Indian cyber- crime coordination centre (I4C) and Cyber Warrior Police force has also been established.
- Ministry of Defence formed Defence Cyber Agency in the realm of military cyber security. Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) to enhance the security of India's Communications and Information Infrastructure through proactive action and effective collaboration.
- CERT-fin has also been launched exclusively for financial sector. CERT-in is also operating Cyber Swachhta Kendra, a Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre.
- Government inaugurated the new body National Information Centre Computer Emergency Response Team (NIC-CERT) to prevent and predict cyber-attacks on government utilities.
- Cyber Surakshit Bharat Initiative to strengthen Cyber security ecosystem in India. It is first public private partnership of its kind and will leverage the expertise of the IT industry in cyber security.

Conclusion:

Stress on development of cutting edge technology in the field of cyber security along with capacity of skilled human resources can make Indian cyber space robust, irrespective of changing norms of cyber behaviour at global level. Priority to cyber security is no longer optional but one of the pillar of India's internal and external security.

7. Are we witnessing a major shift in the way women's participation in the armed forces is perceived? Critically examine.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about the women's participation in the armed forces. Students should also write about the positives and negatives of the issue.

Introduction:

A Supreme Court order cleared the way for the women officers for permanent commissions and equal opportunity to rise up to the level of Commanding Officer.

Body:

Following arguments highlight a major shift in the way women's participation in the armed forces is perceived:

- Increase in service period: Induction of women officers started in 1992 only for a period of five years, eventually increasing it to 10 and to 14 years in later period.
- Increase in diversity of assigned roles: Earlier, limited to Medical Services; in 2019 government decided to grant permanent commission to women in all ten branches where they are inducted for Short Service Commission (SSC) - Signals, Engineers, Army Aviation, Army Air Defence, Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Intelligence.
- The women officers are proud and essential members of the Indian armed forces and their entry was need-based and mostly not court driven.
- Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh are now part of IAF's fighter squadron.
- Navy has women as pilots and observers on-board its maritime reconnaissance aircraft, which is a combat role.
- Even Union defence minister has said that the government was committed to strengthening "stree shakti" (women power) in the military.

However, there are challenges in bringing women officers at par with their male colleagues:

- Though women officers are now allowed as pilot of fighter jets and leader of battleships but women officers in Army are not inducted in army's infantry and armoured divisions, due to fear of getting caught by enemy and torture.
- In Israel, too, women are mostly deployed in the military police and perimeter security rather than in actual combat.
- It is claimed that male troops, who are predominantly drawn from rural backgrounds, may be unwilling to "accept" a woman commander.

- Concerns are raised over physiology, motherhood and physical attributes of women officers.
- The differences in conditions of service for women officers and their men counterparts is perceived in favour as well as, against them. The women officers have concessions in physical standards during recruitment, in battle physical efficiency tests.
- Women officer appointments need extra considerations to hygiene, sensitivities and privacy issues while accommodating them. In Siachen, there are posts with only four soldiers. They sleep and share the same cramped post.
- Male officer's tenures in difficult field stations have increased, in adjusting women officers for spouse postings, child care leave.

To overcome the above mentioned pending issues and to implement SC orders following steps are needed:

- It will require a behavioural change at societal level first
- Need to revise their terms of engagement
- Certain concessions given to women officers can be withdrawn, and they can be put through the field and rough appointments with troops, to be at par with male counterparts and be accepted as 'Leaders' and not 'Appointed Officers'.
- The selection for command assignments has to merit-based irrespective of gender.
- The selection for the command should be done through officer's confidential reports and closed promotion board, common for both genders, and the names and gender of the profile should be hidden from selection board.

Conclusion:

'Gender Equality' is the societal need of the hour and applies to both female and male officers and should be ensured in the spirit of the SC judgement without compromising the operational effectiveness of the Armed Forces.

8. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for making cities self-sufficient and sustainable in terms of healthcare infrastructure and services. Elucidate.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to highlight the need and advantages of cities with self-sufficient and sustainable healthcare infrastructure and services.

Introduction:

Prime Minister of India said that the biggest lesson from the coronavirus pandemic was that it has taught people to become self-reliant. Cities which are on the front

lines of COVID-19 need a self-sufficient and sustainable healthcare infrastructure and services

Body:

Need for cities self-sufficient and sustainable healthcare infrastructure and services:

- Fear of more people falling into poverty due to job loss and out of pocket healthcare expenditure.
- As per National Health Profile–2019, there are only 0.55 beds per 1000 population.
- Residents of urban slums and informal settlements (17% of total urban population) are particularly at greater risk due to lack of infrastructure and basic services, including water, sanitation, waste collection and access to basic health care. E.g.: Dharavi corona outbreak.
- Both national and local governments are confronted with severely strained financial resources. Central government allocates only around 1.5% of GDP to healthcare.
- India not producing even 10% of the medical equipment and devices it needed at any point in time.
- Abrupt establishment of makeshift facilities like hostels, hotels, schools, stadiums, lodges etc. caused confusion and delayed mitigation efforts.
- Lack of testing kit, PPE kit, ventilator, masks manufacturing pre-outbreak of pandemic caused rush for expensive, low quality imports.
- Inadequate, corrupt and leakage prone food distribution system has caused rise in hunger and malnutrition.
- Difficulty in taking ambulance to skewed places has caused delays.

Advantages of self-sufficient and sustainable cities in terms of healthcare infrastructure and services:

- Help in sustaining ease of living by causing poverty alleviation and increase in expenditure on other essential needs like education, skills, etc.
- Curb dependency on costly imports – save revenue which can be used to encourage indigenous industries.
- Self-sufficient approach can provide quick and efficient response to pandemic situations.
- Adequate beds, personnel, equipment can motivate health workers and citizens.
- Assist cities more vulnerable, thus ushering cooperative spirit in healthcare sector.
- Inability to stop fake news, rumours causing fear and misinformation, shows lack of effective communication between people and healthcare system.
- Correct verified information will enable harmony in society, prevent conflicts and further increase coverage of healthcare measures.

Following steps need to be taken for making cities with self-sufficient and sustainable healthcare infrastructure and services:

- Allocating more revenue generation powers and autonomy to cities, more grants from Centre and states.
- Like shelter homes for natural disasters, we need to develop medically equipped shelter homes for pandemic situations and need to create awareness through mock drills for better coordination during the real crisis.
- Need to ensure Regulatory Sync-up and Synergy.
- Need to leverage technology to let users experience the best facilities in hassle free manner.
- Becoming more and more self-reliant in the area of medical devices, medical equipment and other kinds of requirements that are applicable for health care-related issues.
- Use of helicopter to rescue/evacuate serious patients for crowded urban settlements.
- Effective communication via advisories, media, social media, etc. to curb fakes news, rumours. E.g.: use of PIB for fact verification of viral videos and social media posts

Conclusion:

Thus, making cities self-sufficient and sustainable in terms of healthcare infrastructure and services will lay foundation for 'Atma Nirbhar' and healthy India which is ready to prevent and tackle future challenges especially pandemic situations like corona.

9. While going through the news items related to COVID-19, you must have come across a term called the 'R' value. What does this term signify? Explain. What would it mean if the 'R' value in a particular state is higher than its neighbour? Explain.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to define the term 'R' value and highlight its significance. Students also needs to write about impact of correlation of 'R' value between neighbouring states.

Introduction:

The R number refers to the 'effective reproduction number', it's a way of measuring an infectious disease's capacity to spread. An R value of 1 is a crucial threshold. The COVID-19 has a reproduction number of about three.

Body:

Significance of 'R' value:

- The R number signifies the average number of people that one infected person will pass the virus to.

- e.g. Measles has one of the highest numbers in town with a reproduction number of 15 in populations without immunity.
- R value helps to understand how the disease will spread and how it will impact the health of people. R of 1 and above tends towards exponential growth. An R of below 1 tends towards the end of the outbreak.
- R value also helps the government, administrative machinery and health care professionals to understand what kind of steps are needed to be taken to control the outbreak and what should be the standard operating procedure.

Implications of higher 'R' value in a particular state than its neighbour:

- A state having a greater R value than neighbouring one simply means that the rate of spread of disease is more in the state than neighbouring one.
- e.g. Consider, If Maharashtra has R value of 9 and Telangana has R value of 4, it means that a single person in Maharashtra can infect 9 other persons and so on the infection rate will multiply as these 9 infected people will interact with other persons. Whereas, in Telangana it will spread to 4 persons from one single person. So, Maharashtra will experience more wide scale disease outbreak than in Telangana.
- It also indicates how swiftly the state's administrative and health machinery responded to check the spread of diseases and what needs to be done.
- e.g. As happened in the case of New Zealand where the State machinery managed to bring down the R value below 1.

Conclusion:

As of today total 36 countries in the world declared themselves COVID-19 free based on the calculations of R value. So, the calculations with respect to R value and putting forward steps according to them seems to be imperative to flatten the curve of disease outbreak. In this way R value plays a crucial role to understand and check the outbreak of disease.

10. The outbreak and spread of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to divided opinions on the impact of globalisation. What are your views on the issue? Is the pandemic a deadly blow to globalisation? Critically comment.

COVID-19 महामारी के प्रकोप और प्रसार ने भूमंडलीकरण के प्रभाव पर विभाजित राय उत्पन्न किया है। इस मुद्दे पर आपके क्या विचार हैं? क्या महामारी वैश्वीकरण के लिए एक घातक झटका है? समालोचनात्मक टिप्पणी करें।

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about the divided opinions upon impact of globalisation along with analysis about whether pandemic of COVID-19 is deadly blow to globalisation.

Introduction

Globalization is generally recognized as the fading or complete disappearance of economic, social and cultural borders between nation- states. It is sharing of ideas, technologies, skills, goods and services, finance with other countries which defines the beneficial part of globalization. Many scholars argued that ignorance to the risks associated with globalization led to rapid spread of financial crisis, cyber threats and pandemics like COVID-19 and many counter opinions also expressed.

Body

Spread of COVID-19 and reversal of globalization:

- Process of reversal of globalization was set in motion far earlier even before the spread of corona virus and resultant pandemic of COVID-19. Corona virus worldwide spread has provided a potent weapon to use against globalization.
- The USA was already involved in a Trade war with China due to huge trade deficits with china. The Idea of increased dependence on China for goods and services and a deteriorating global health scenario has gained traction as it has been a source of many infectious diseases even before.
- There will be a focus on starting the internal economy based on consumption as the main priority of every nation in the post COVID-19 world.
- Priority of every government would be to create jobs for its own people. In a high unemployment scenario, hiring expats won't be in favour.
- Health emergency of easily contracting infectious diseases has demonized globalization. People started viewing globalization as more centered on economic objectives and profit oriented approach of capitalism rather than positive impact on lives of people in recent times.
- Vocal for Local strategy: The disruption in supply chains due to the covid-19 outbreak and the lockdown in China have had an adverse effect on several world economies. More countries are now looking at boosting domestic production capabilities to be able to absorb supply chain shocks including India.
- It is very much in line with the global phenomenon of 'protectionism' adopted by various countries. India's move can be compared with 'America first' rhetoric of United States.
- It is not clear whether this strategy will try to bring import substitution and high duty regime back. But priority to domestic goods procurement can be seen clearly in various government decisions recently.
- There is a possibility of raising import duties on a wide range of final goods and services. Some of these changes could focus on specific countries to address India's trade deficit with them. Globally, such tariffs may rise due to geopolitical considerations as the world decides to move towards globalization 2.0, which relies a lot on trade between rules-based economies. Some tariffs may also be moderately hiked to correct for an inverted duty structure and incentivize final production of goods and services in India.
- India's ability to recover from the effects of covid-19 and its economic fallout depends on the ability to protect industries.

- This is why it's important to promote Indian industries while making them competitive through reforms and government interventions. The move to avoid global tenders up to Rs. 200 crore is geared to incentivize companies—Indian and multinational—to set up base in India. The aim is to encourage them to invest in the country.

However, Corona virus is a global crisis, not a crisis of Globalization. Globalization makes the world safer, not more dangerous, as nations are ever more closely bound together and thus have a mutual self-interest in keeping the system afloat.

- Restriction on trans-boundary movement of people and goods can help in flatten the curve of increasing transmission of corona virus in current situations but in the long-run there will be a requirement of a more sustainable plan to handle pandemic.
- Restriction on trade of goods will avert the spreading of disease but it will adversely affect industrialization and the global supply chain market of goods.
- 'Slowbalisation' with reduced international trade will bring Global economic slowdown which can worsen the situation of the global economy. It can also impact unemployment level. Western economies too now became dependent on globalization. Restriction of mobility of goods and people will not be a sustainable plan.
- Nature of globalization has changed already; services trade can hardly be restricted. Share of services trade in terms of value added is more than 50% of total trade of the USA as per World Bank report.
- It will be not easy to build alternative domestic supply chains. Import substitution will lead to a situation of less competition, absence of choice and inefficient production of goods and services which will not be a successful political choice for governments.
- Even with the policies of protectionism, it will be not possible to restrict movement of highly skilled individuals.
- Globalization is not the formal intergovernmental agreement between two powerful nations or groups of nations. It is thousands of years of interactions between civilizations. It will be impossible to reverse the process in the more interconnected world of 21st century.

Increasing collaborative effort of multiple disciplines towards health of human beings, animals and environment at global, national and local level initiatives such as 'One health concept' must be encouraged to fight the challenge of Pandemic and its after-effects.

Conclusion

Globalization has not only led to movement of people or goods. It's about moving ideas, knowledge, information, values which can help us to fight such pandemic situations. It is helping to share best practices, telemedicine, vaccine development and rapid recovery as well.

11. Has social media led to real social empowerment? Critically examine.

क्या सोशल मीडिया ने वास्तविक सामाजिक सशक्तीकरण को जन्म दिया है? समालोचनात्मक जांच करें।

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write about whether social media has contributed to real social empowerment with substantial arguments.

Introduction:

Popular hash tag of Black lives matter on various social media sites ignited worldwide movement against racial discrimination and for demand of equality. Twitter a popular micro blogging social media site decided to affix a warning label to US President Trump's tweet about protests in US against custodial death of George Floyd, indicating that it violated the platform's rule against glorifying violence.

Body:

Social empowerment means equal status, participation and power of decision making to women, minorities and backward sections of society.

Role of social media in real social empowerment:

- Democratic movements like Arab spring started with social media's viral video brought down many unpopular rulers, recent protest over violence against coloured people highlighted importance of social media platforms in social empowerment.
- Awareness about tribal and minority rights by activists on social media. Every person with camera in mobile phone can record and make proof of wrongdoing and injustice.
- Success of #MeToo movement due to social media platforms: The #MeToo Movement in India started when Raya Sarkar, a Dalit PhD scholar compiled a list of sexual harassers. However, the movement gained traction when the Bollywood celebrity Tanushree Dutta called out Nana Patekar for sexual harassment. Several men in power have been named and shamed in the #MeToo movement such as Alok Nath, MJ Akbar and Sajid Khan.
- The #MeToo Movement, while in some respect, has given a number of women the courage to speak out about the experiences of sexual harassment, it has only extended that courage to women who had the resources to be aware of such a movement.
- As per Youth Connections for Wellbeing, an integrative review paper says, with or without physical separation (social-distancing) due to Covid-19, youth are using social media to connect and support each other. Report illuminates how teens support each other through digital media during times of stress and isolation.

- Recognising that youth experience positive social support in many online settings, which may reduce their feelings of social isolation and social anxiety, increase their social skills, and augments their offline friendships.

However, role of social media in real social empowerment is very limited,

- Women empowerment attempts to take #MeToo movement to wider sections of society remain limited. While there were initiatives such as the Dignity March, which aimed to make the rural population aware of the movement and help them raise their voices against sexual harassment, there haven't been many more such instances.
- Social media use is leading to greater vulnerability for mental health problems for youth, including harassment and bullying, sleep disruption, and exposure to idealized images that may lead to envy.
- Too little attention span of users of social media reduces possibility of any real change of attitude towards gender, caste or communal bias.
- Spread of hate and insecurity on social media has become worldwide phenomenon. Christchurch shooting live streamed by white supremacist in New Zealand or Muslim man corpse burnt on camera over allegations of love jihad by a Hindu far right in India are examples of validation to hate on social media platforms and its impact on actual; violence and death of people.
- Sense of offendedness: Polarised opinions are feeding on people's sentiments of being "offended" based on their perception of how freely the religious and ethnic minorities can practice their faith and culture. This sense of "offendedness" can often be amplified by the ease of communication on social media.
- Anonymity provided by social media sites increases the daring of rumour monger or extremist opinionated person to spread hate and insecurity.
- Lesser users might hamper revenue models of social media giants: Twitter and Facebook, in particular, are being made to account for their blind eye towards polarising fake news reports and computer 'bots' programmed to widely disseminate such articles on their platforms.
- Algorithm favours polarisation: The algorithms used by these platforms, which distort realities and create alternate ones in echo chambers of like-minded users where beliefs are perpetuated, even those that are premised on hate and lies.
- Complex nature of social media: In a socially networked world where comment is free and reactions are instant, lines between violent personal abuse and/or speech inciting violence against a community or group are becoming increasingly blurred. At times, even if intent and language are not explicitly hateful, the implications can be.

Conclusion:

Field of social media is the crossroads between technology, profit, freedom, politics, identity, power and insecurity that any effort to regulate social media will have to traverse. Social media is virtual world which is reflection of physical world; there is

need of more concrete efforts to bring social empowerment along with social media as tool.

12. How justified it is to view the issue of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) from the communal prism? Substantiate your views.

नागरिकता संशोधन अधिनियम (सीएए) के मुद्दे को सांप्रदायिकतावाद के नजरिये से देखना कितना न्यायसंगत है? अपने विचारों की पुष्टि करें।

Demand of the question:

It expects students to write whether it is justified to view Citizenship amendment act from the communal prism or not with substantial arguments.

Introduction:

Democratic presidential nominee and former US vice president Joe Biden has expressed disappointment over the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the implementation of the NRC in Assam. It highlights misreading of India's internal policy decisions at world stage and creates threat of damaging India's soft power.

Body:

The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA) enables migrants/foreigners of six minority communities from three specified countries who have come to India because of persecution on grounds of their religion to apply for Indian citizenship. It does not amend any existing legal provision which enables any foreigner of any class, creed, religion, category, etc to apply for Indian citizenship through registration or naturalization modes. Such a foreigner has to become eligible to apply for citizenship after fulfilling the minimum legal requirements.

View of CAA-Citizenship Amendment Act through Communal prism:

- Singling out of one particular religion: Citizen Amendment act provisioned citizenship for non-Muslim persecuted illegal migrants from select Neighbourhood countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- Fear of Nationwide NRC- National registration of citizen which might make many Indians stateless due insufficient documents or else. While, people of communities mentioned in CAA might become citizen again by CAA while Muslims who could not prove citizenship might be labelled as foreigner. CAA is not creating panic, fear or anxiety alone but its execution along with nationwide NRC- National register of Citizens.
- Positive Secularism is basic feature of Indian constitution which is based on the equal treatment to all the religions from the state. Religious test to policy decisions makes it discriminatory at face value.
- 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 makes it easier for scholars to call it communal.

- The Afghans, too, have been displeased by the fact that the CAA portrays them as a country where minorities face discrimination and persecution.

Inappropriate to see through communal prism:

- The CAA does not apply to Indian citizens. They are completely unaffected by it. It seeks to grant Indian citizenship to particular foreigners who have suffered persecution on grounds of their religion in three neighbouring countries.
- During the last six years, approximately 2830 Pakistani citizens, 912 Afghani citizens, and 172 Bangladeshi citizens have been given Indian citizenship. Hundreds of them are from the majority community of these three countries. Such migrants continue to get Indian citizenship and shall also continue to get it if they fulfill the eligibility conditions already provided in the law for registration or naturalization. About 14,864 Bangladeshi nationals were also granted Indian citizenship after incorporating more than fifty enclaves of Bangladesh into Indian territory post the boundary agreement between the two countries in 2014.
- It was cleared by a 30-member Parliamentary Committee consisting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members after due process.
- 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.
- By amending the appropriate rules during 2015-16 the Govt. of India had already legalized entry as well as the stay of such foreign migrants belonging to six minority communities from these three countries who had come into India up to December 2014 because of persecution on grounds of religion. The Government of India had made such migrants also eligible for grant of Long Term Visa (LTV) to stay in India for a long time. The CAA now enables them to take Indian citizenship if they fulfill conditions/qualifications for such citizenship provided they migrated from these three countries before 31st December 2014.
- On different occasions, special provisions have been made by Govt. of India in the past also to accommodate the concerns of stay and citizenship of foreigners of Indian origin who had to flee to India. For example, Article 6 of The Constitution of India provides that a person who has migrated to India from Pakistan before 19th July 1948 shall be deemed to be an Indian citizen. Secondly, even if he has migrated on or after this date he was registered as an Indian citizen after staying for only six months in India.
- The CAA does not target any religious community from abroad. It only provides a mechanism for some migrants who may otherwise have been called "illegal" depriving them of the opportunity to apply for Indian citizenship provided they meet certain conditions.
- The Central Government will frame rules to operationalize the provisions of the CAA. No migrant from these communities will become an Indian Citizen

automatically. He will have to apply online and the competent authority would see whether he fulfills all the qualifications for registration or naturalization as an Indian citizen.

- The CAA protects the interests of the tribals and indigenous people of the North-Eastern region by excluding areas under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and areas covered by the Inner line Permit system. Such migrants living in these areas will not be able to apply for Indian citizenship. So, there is no question of any influx of foreigners swamping the indigenous population. The CAA provides a cut-off date of 31st December 2014. Such migrants are therefore already in India for the last several years.
- It is worth noting that the CAA 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.

India always maintained that nobody should interfere in internal matters of sovereign nation and Bangladesh seems to have accepted that. Majority of Arab nations maintained restraint from commenting on CAA or NRC. External Affairs minister being career diplomat along with various diplomatic missions of India explained stand of India to major powers of the world and neighbourhood repeatedly.

Conclusion:

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 be right balance between national security and humanitarian approach to deal with the complex society like India.

13. Do you think, family as a social institution, is losing its influence on the way the collective morality of a society is shaped? Discuss.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to define family as a social institution and collective morality. Students should also write about influence of family in shaping collective morality of society.

Introduction:

Social institutions are structures of society like family, education, religion, etc. that fulfil the needs of the society. They guide and shape the expected behaviour of individuals, they also help to build and sustain the society itself.

Body:

Morality is dominantly considered as the individual sense of right and wrong while, Collective Morality is collective sense of right and wrong of the group, community, etc.

Family is the basic and important social institution that has important role in influencing the individual as well as collective morality:

- Family nurtures and preserves cultural and social values
- It is major source of emotional bonding, socialization and generate the sense of right and wrong.
- Children are seen as making moral judgments according to the “social conventions” of their parents, their peers, and their society.
- It is first source of habit formation like discipline, respecting, obedience, etc.
- Family system is a single, powerful strand which for centuries, has woven the our rich, social fabric replete with diversity, into a whole.
- It provides stability to society by providing law abiding citizens.

However, due to following reasons family as a social institution seems to be losing its influence in shaping collective morality of a society:

- Increase in geographically dispersed and fragmented nuclear families erodes into emotional bonding and socialization.
- Dispersed families are exposed to diverse cultural and social values thus impact on collective traditions, ideas.
- Socio-economic and physical stress of fast paced world provide causing less time for nurturing of younger generations.
- Increasing divorce and separation rates, domestic violence, inter-generational conflicts, social problems of drug abuse, juvenile delinquency etc.
- Increasing influence of technology, internet, social media easily make diverse ideas, cultural aspect available to individuals and groups. E.g.: many Indians reacting to ‘#BlackLivesMatter’ but are ignorant about the manifestation of domestic racism, casteism.
- Family as an institution is lagging behind in keeping pace with changing values of globalized world. E.g.: Global outlook is now accepting girls as equal stakeholder but restrictive family morals are still not letting girls out.

Still, Family as a social institution is crucial in shaping collective morality of society:

- The scope of family as concept has increased, today it is not restricted to a group of individuals with blood relations. Globalization backed by technology has made whole world as great one family.

- Our solidarity and sensitivities are not limited to blood relatives, neighbours; today they cut-across borders. E.g.: #BlackLivesMatter is now a global movement and has initiated discussions on domestic issues also thus, shaping progressive collective morality of future.
- Healthy competition among countries to eliminate social evils for harmonious future. E.g.: In India, Enrolment of girls has increased at par with boys, job opportunities are increasing.
- Even environment is being increasingly seen as part of family – encouraging ecological values and ethos in society.

Conclusion:

Covid-19 pandemic has generated a sense of global consciousness which is similar to 'Vasudeva Kutumbakam' principle of India which expects whole world to fight and come out of this crisis as one global healthy family and pass on this collective wisdom to coming generations.

14. Should educational institutions be mandated to impart traditional knowledge in the field of medicine, astronomy and general science? Critically comment.**Demand of the question:**

It expects students to write about importance of traditional knowledge. Students should also write about both aspects of whether to mandate imparting of traditional knowledge in educational institutions or not.

Introduction:

On 21st June, world celebrated 'Yoga Day'; yoga is part of India's traditional knowledge about medicine and life. India has a very rich and diverse treasure of traditional knowledge; though India intends to share it with the world there are concerns over little or no efforts to pass this knowledge to future generations of India.

Body:

Mandating educational institutions to impart traditional knowledge has following benefits:

- Help students realize the richness of traditional knowledge and generate curiosity about its real life applications. E.g.: Charak Samita in Medicine, Aryabhhattiya on astronomy and mathematics, etc.
- Make traditional knowledge sustainable which not only benefits current generation but also the future generation by passing on time tested wisdom.
- Benefits student's intellect and mental peace as Indian traditional knowledge is mixture of material and spiritual world.

- Knowing true essence of traditional knowledge will boost confidence of Indian students. Currently, there is a feeling of inferiority about traditional knowledge which cascades into India's approach in global affairs.
- It will encourage innovation and research, boost startups based on traditional knowledge.
- Help in fulfilling constitutional duty of Indians with scientific temper
- It will help in updating traditional knowledge with the latest studies in science and make it more relevant. E.g.: Quantum physics, gravitational waves, etc.
- Assist in devising environmental friendly agricultural techniques. Compost, green manure, neem coated urea, etc.
- The importance given to environment in traditional knowledge will help in conservation and achieving climate mitigation goals. It will bring students close to nature and generate appreciation and awareness.

However, there are few concerns in imparting traditional knowledge via educational institutions:

- Including traditional knowledge in curriculum without proper evaluation will harm progress of traditional knowledge and students.
- Rigid religious motives in imparting traditional knowledge will cause divide in society and rob society of true benefit from traditional knowledge.
- Forcing ill-prepared syllabus on students will discourage students in continuing with traditional subjects.
- There should not be undue conflict between traditional and upcoming latest knowledge, any rational conflict should be resolved scientifically.
- It should also accommodate scientific knowledge of tribes.

Government of India has taken steps to promote traditional knowledge:

- AYUSH Ministry to encourage and initiate scientific studies in India's ancient medical practices. India was able to convince world about efficacy of yoga via empirical evidence.
- Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is a pioneering Indian initiative to prevent exploitation and to protect Indian traditional knowledge from wrongful patents.

Conclusion:

Thus, need to conserve and pass on traditional knowledge to coming generations and the world at large so that India emerges as 'Atma Nirbhar' and 'Jagat Guru'.

15. What are your views on the recent decision by the government to ban Chinese apps? Is it mere symbolism? Substantiate your views.

Demand of the question:

It expects students to express their views on the recent decision by the government to ban Chinese apps. The question also demands from students to analyse the decision in the light of symbolism with substantiation.

Introduction:

In view of the emergent nature of threats, Government of India banned 59 Chinese apps under section 69A of the Information Technology Act in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order.

Body:

The move comes as an exercise of coercive diplomacy with China amid the tense standoff in Ladakh which caused martyrdom of 20 Indian soldiers and huge public resentment by Indian masses.

The banning of Chinese apps can be called a strategic move or 'digital strike' because:

- It could serve as a warning to China and its bigger government controlled businesses in India
- It rallies masses of India against the provocation and shows a united front against aggressor nation to hold them accountable for their misadventures
- The Ministry of Information and Technology (Meity) claimed reports and complaints on misuse of some mobile apps, breach of privacy and data theft.
- The move aims to enable data security and safeguarding the privacy of 130 crore Indians.
- The apps can be used to monitor movements of Indian troops and stealing of strategic information.
- The ban aligns with a strong public demand to take strict action against Apps that harm India's sovereignty as well as the privacy of our citizens.
- Hurt Chinese apps customer base and revenue, e.g.: TikTok app has over 100 million active users in the India (30% of their global customers)
- The Indian app market is growing in quantity and quality. Internet costs here are one of the lowest in the world, and consumers number over 800 million. This may encourage Indian alternatives in the app space
- The move is in-line with 'Atma Nirbhar' and 'Vocal for Local' initiative.
- A ban on physical goods would have also adversely affected India's business and economy while hardly making a dent on China's. The move is thus being seen as one that could be more effective.
- Huge data generated will help India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiatives and Digital India prospects.
- It will help diffuse tensions peacefully without escalating the issues between nuclear capable rivals.

However, this move looks mere symbolism because:

- Resolving complex border issues will need efficient diplomacy and better preparedness in border region. App ban cannot replace these crucial necessities.
- India's trade deficit with China is around \$52 billion, mere app ban cannot bridge the deficit gap.
- It will hamper income source of many Indians as most of these platforms have Indian creators and offices in India. Thus it also hurts common Indians.
- Without clear cut policy Indian app developers cannot fill the void created by the ban.
- India's high dependence on procured weapons need urgent indigenisation of military equipment.
- Reactionary approach and long neglect of basic border infrastructure cannot be covered with app ban.
- Need of sustained demand for Indian goods will require effective preference change of citizens.
- The inefficiencies in Indian market like inverted duty structure, complex procedures-approvals, etc. that prevents Indian goods from being competitive with Chinese goods need more than just app bans.

Government has taken steps to sustain the intent behind app ban:

- 'Look East' to 'Act East Policy' by improving relations with ASEAN and countries like South Korea and Japan.
- 20 lakh crore package with substantial benefits to MSMEs.
- 'Quad initiative' - India, Japan, Australia and the US to cooperate economically, militarily and strategically for free, open, prosperous and inclusive Indo-Pacific region that serves the long-term interests of all countries in the region and of the world at large
- Modernizing India's Armed Forces Power: Efficient and speedy procurements e.g.: Raffale, Mig-21, Apache Helicopters; Focus on technology sharing and encouraging Indigenous production of military equipment e.g.: Tejas, Brahmos.
- Rallying likeminded nations against China at global forums like G7, United Nations, etc.

Conclusion:

So, app ban though seems symbolic in nature but the intent behind the ban to deal with unilateral provocation strongly sends a strong message to rivals and global community about India's determination to safeguard its sovereignty and its preference to peaceful means to resolve conflicts.