

IAS BABA



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Phase 2 - Compilation

Part 2

GS 2



1. What are the implications of the general lack of research culture in Indian universities? Do you think the regulatory space in the field of higher education needs urgent reforms to address this issue? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Question can be approached by defining or explaining the industrial revolution and then highlight how it created different rifts candidates can write different social economic and political angle to it and explain the implications of it on European society.

Introduction

Research and development (R&D) is at the core of economic growth. It leads to innovation and innovation in turn leads to economic growth. It allows scientists, technologists, and researchers to develop new methods, techniques, and knowledge points so as to enhance the quantity and quality of output with the same resources. India's research industry has issues due to poor higher education regulation and low tertiary Gross Enrolment Ratio.

Body

Problems in the Research Ecosystem in India:

- Education system is heavily exam oriented thus lacking focus on creativity, critical thinking, and open-mindedness.
- Outdated curriculum: It lacks focus on skill development and employability potential.
- Inadequate government funding: India (Public and Private) spends only 0.82% of GDP on R&D.
- Overdependence on Public Sector: Private sector spends less than 0.2% of GDP on R&D.
- Poor Research quality the quality of the research output from India is also not adequate for example much of Indian research is published in predatory journals, non-peer reviewed journals.
- Poor university-industry linkage: This leads to limited application-oriented R&D.

Implication of lack of research culture in Indian universities:

- Culture of Stigma over failure: World Economic Forum survey says that only 17% of Indian respondents stated that the so-called "cultural support pillar" was available in the country. Thus, it hinders people from taking up research and other activities which have uncertain outcomes. This has created a cultural affinity for stability and job security over risk-taking.

- No focus on application: One of the shortcomings of the Indian university system has been the focus on basic research rather than application research. That has limited its value to industry and hence the support is lacking.
- Weak linkages: India has a weak linkage between universities, institutes of higher learning, and industry. That linkage is a lot more robust in countries like the US, UK, Germany, and Israel. Most Indian universities have not been able to modify their curriculum with changing times.
- Brain Drain: Loss of top talent to other countries.
- Weak IPR: The most important issue is the weak IPR regime. Any investment in R&D pre-supposes a strong intellectual property rights (IPR) regime to protect the IPs. In most areas, R&D IPs are either too weak structurally or are very hard to enforce.
- However Indian policymakers have taken such strident anti-genetic-modification positions for instance, over Monsanto's patent rights and royalties that, even with the country's biotech sector booming, a pall of uncertainty always hangs over such research.
- India's share in the world's top 1% of cited articles peaked in 2006, A decade later, it is somewhat lower not in terms of the absolute number, but in terms of the number relative to what is expected given the overall publication number.
- There are insufficient resources and facilities, as well as limited numbers of quality faculty to advise students. Most of the research scholars are without fellowships or not getting their fellowships on time which directly or indirectly affects their research.

Reforms needed to address the issues:

- The NEP 2020 has sought to foster critical thinking and problem solving, along with social, ethical and emotional capacities and dispositions. Regulatory bodies should start to form standards and curriculum based on such ideas.
- Sustaining Quality Education: It is disheartening to find that higher education institutions have failed to protect the sanctity of their examinations. Improving this will require a decentralised approach, with universities allowed to take decisions on academic programmes, promotions, cohort size, etc.
- Establishment of NRF: The establishment of the NRF is expected to connect the academia with ministries and industries and fund research that is relevant to local needs. Funding for research needs to rise significantly, with institutions like the NRF supplementing (and not replacing) existing schemes (including those from the Ministry of Science).
- Moreover, NRF shall pose well-defined problems to the researchers, so that they can find solutions in a goal-oriented and time bound manner.
- Scaling up existing HEIs: With the goal of increasing the gross enrollment ratio (GER) from the current 27% to 50% by 2035, India needs to not only open new Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and universities but also scale-up existing HEIs.

- This massive expansion will not only require additional financial resources but also calls for a new governance model. Also, our institutions need to become multi-disciplinary in their scope and offerings and collaborate among themselves.
- Better Funding: There is an urgent need to increased funding, along with establishing dedicated funding streams for infrastructure grants/loans and financial aid. Universities can also be freed up to utilise other revenue streams such as start-up royalties and advertising.
- Creation of research ecosystem to translate research into products through incubators. For example, Israel's Tel Aviv University has its own commercial arm for commercialising research outcomes.
- Robust IPR Regime to ensure the stricter IPR regulations and better implementation of the same. Improving the Ease of doing business to attract more money in R&D.

Conclusion

Pro-active strategy with support from public and private sector is the need of the hour which would elevate India to knowledge driven society. Enabling this will require an encouraging ecosystem, with greater funding, autonomy and tolerance of universities (and activities by students/faculty). Without this, talented Indian citizens will continue to escape abroad, while policymakers lament India's brain drain.

2. What lessons can be drawn from Kerala's healthcare model? Discuss.

Approach

Student can approach question while highlighting the legacy of public healthcare in Kerala, followed by the primary health care model. Decentralised system of health care can be shown to underline the success of kerala model.

Introduction

Proper systems in Universal primary health care are crucial in India for achieving Universal Health Coverage, one of the SDGs. The experience of Kerala in transforming primary care has lessons for the country in achieving the Astana Declaration goals of primary care.

Body

Legacy of public health care

- In 1879, the erstwhile Travancore rulers made a proclamation making vaccination compulsory for public servants, prisoners and students. In 1928, a parasite survey, done in association with the Rockefeller Foundation, led to the control of hookworm and filariasis.

- This community health legacy got a further boost as the state's focus on literacy and women's education helped it attain near 100% vaccination levels and develop a culture of personal hygiene.
- The World Health Organization, in a survey held in 12 countries in 2005, found that hand-washing with soap after defecation had a prevalence of 34% in Kerala, the highest among the states/countries surveyed.
- In June 2019, Kerala topped all states on the NITI Aayog's annual health index with an overall score of 74.01, more than 2½ times that of the least-performing state, UP (28.61).

Health care model of kerala

- Though Kerala has only been investing 5% of its total state plan outlay on healthcare — which is also roughly the national average spending in the sector — its focus on healthcare at the level of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres has stood it in good stead.
- With the management of these centres in the hands of three-tier local bodies, many of these have modern diagnostic facilities and offer tele-medicine services.
- The state's private health sector, once dominated by the Church, has grown rapidly in the last two decades, mainly on the back of investment from NRIs and corporate healthcare groups. At present, Kerala has 142,924 beds in its hospitals, of which the private sector accounts for 93,042.
- While broadly sticking to the protocol set up by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Kerala put in place its rigorous surveillance network, one that had been fine-tuned to perfection during the outbreak of the Nipah virus in 2018 and 2019.

Primary health care

- The 'Aardram mission' in Kerala aims at creating "People Friendly" Health Delivery System in the state.
- The approach is need-based and aims at treating every patient with 'dignity'.
- In 2016, Kerala had, as part of the Aardram mission, attempted to re-design its primary care.
- In the revamped primary care, Kerala tried to provide the services enlisted in the Astana declaration and more, with mixed results.
- These services cannot be provided without adequate human resources.
- It is nearly impossible to provide them with the current Indian norm of one primary care team for a population of 30,000.
- So Kerala tried to reduce the target population to 10,000, but even this turned out to be too high to be effective.
- It thus suggests that providing comprehensive primary care would require at least one team for 5,000 populations.
- This would mean a six-fold increase in the cost of manpower alone.

What Kerala did to tackle problems?

- In 1996, Kerala began to decentralize public healthcare facilities and fiscal responsibilities to local self-governments by implementing the People's Campaign for Decentralized Planning in response to public distrust and national recommendations.
- For instance, new budgetary allocations gave local governments control of 35 to 40% of the state budget. Moreover, the campaign emphasized improving care and access, regardless of income level, caste, tribe, or gender, reflecting a goal of not just effective but also equitable coverage
- A three-tier system of self-governance was established, consisting of 900 panchayats (villages), 152 blocks, and 14 districts. The current healthcare system arose from local self-governments supporting the construction of sub-centers, primary health centers that support five to six sub-centers and serve a village, and community health centers
- The new system also allowed local self-governments to create hospital management committees and purchase necessary equipment.
- There are over 9,491 government and private medical institutions in the state, which have about 38000 beds for the total population, making the population to bed ratio 879—one of the highest in the country.
- According to the India State Hunger Index, in 2009, Kerala was one of the four states where hunger was only moderate. The hunger index score of Kerala was 17.66 and was second only to Punjab, the state with the lowest hunger index.
- Kerala's improved nutrition is primarily due to better healthcare access as well as greater equality in food distribution across different income groups and within families.

Conclusion

Kerala pioneered universal health care through extensive public health services. Hans Rosling also highlighted this when he said Kerala matches U.S. in health but not in economy and took the example of Washington, D.C. which is much richer but less healthy compared to Kerala. India needs to follow decentralised primary healthcare model of Kerala for more healthy outcomes.

3. To what extent can vocational training address the challenge of unemployment in India? describe the key policy measure adopted by the government to promote vocational training .

Approach

In this question candidates need to write about unemployment problem in India, and in what extent can vocational training addresses the this unemployment challenge , in second part of answer write about what are the key policy measures adopted by government to promote vocational training .

Introduction

Vocational Education can be defined as the education that is based on occupation and employment. Vocational Education is also known as career and technical education (CTE) or technical and vocational education and training (TVET). As unemployment rate in India is highest in last 45 years it is vital to address this challenge by giving thrust on vocational education. To address this challenge govt is taking many initiatives to address those issues.

Body -

The purpose of vocational education is to prepare students for future careers by gaining the necessary skills and experience. It helps students develop their skills and, thus, increases their opportunities for employment.

Problem areas of Vocational Education in India?

- There is a high dropout rate at Secondary level.
- Vertical mobility after the skills obtained is less.
- Employers mostly tend to prefer young workers with strong basic academic skills and not just vocational skills.
- Private Industry Participation is lacking.
- Lack of continuous skill up-gradation.
- Experienced and qualified teachers to train students on vocational skills are not sufficient.
- Poor quality of training most of the times is not in line with industry needs.

Why vocational training is so vital for our country

- Demographic Dividend: India has 65% of its youth in the working age group. Efficient utilization of these population would promote saving and investment rate
- Meet employer need of skills: The latest India skill Report indicates that only about 47% coming out of educational institutions are employable.
- A useful vocational education in agriculture, coupled with access to the formal economy for finance and marketing, could raise the quality of life. AGRI-UDAAN programme to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in agriculture is a step in the right direction.
- Prepare workers for a decent livelihood: this improves India's ranking in HDI
- Low-skilled and repetitive jobs are bound to be eliminated by robots and artificial intelligence under the Fourth Industrial Revolution. This scenario is forcing technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions to evolve continuously and sustainably to remain relevant in the future. World class productivity and quality
- For Make in India – It give big opportunity for MNCs to come to India
- Export of skilled workforce to aging developing countries

- The study titled 'Global Talent Crunch' highlighted that India would have a talent surplus of around 245.3 million workers by 2030 at a time when the Asia-Pacific region itself would face a talent deficit of 47 million workers.

What are the Government Initiatives in the area of vocational education?

- To stimulate and support reforms in skills development and to facilitate nationally standardized and acceptable, international comparability of qualifications, a "National Vocational Qualifications Framework" (NVQF) is being established by the Central Government. Several states have initiated vocational education programmes operated in alignment with NVQF.
- National Skill Development Corporation India (NSDC) is a one of the kinds of Public Private Partnership in India. It aims to promote skill development by catalysing creation of large, quality, for-profit vocational institutions.
- Ministry for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched the Skills Assessment Matrix for Vocational Advancement of Youth (SAMVAY) that provides seamless movement from education to skill.
- A scheme for skilling the unemployed youth in engineering skills using the facility of the technical institutions has been launched as a part of the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- Gram Tarang – Targeting tribal/naxal affected areas. Training centres created to train people in Auto CAD, advanced welding on advance machinery funded by NSDC.

Case Study

- Successful Vocational education model in Germany – 'classroom instruction plus apprentice training'
- The German system of Dual Vocational Education and Training (VET) has proven itself to be successful over the last centuries.
- It is placed to bridge the gap between the increasing need for theoretical knowledge and real world application of these skills.
- The German system encourages the direct involvement and ownership of the industry in the educational process and is in demand all over the globe – also in India.
- VET plays a vital role in India's further development, especially in the light of government's "Make in India" campaign.

Conclusion

ASER's statistics indicate that overall, only 5.3% of the age group is enrolled in a vocational course, while 60.2% of out-of-school youth are engaged in some form of work. These trends underscore the need to scale up substantive skill-building programmes. A National Vocational Policy should establish equivalence for degrees, diplomas and certifications in the vocational education sector for lateral and vertical mobility.

4. What effects did the COVID-19 pandemic have on the livelihoods of rural households? How did the government address the resulting poverty and hunger? Discuss.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about the policy of the apartheid and then elaborate it with basic information on what apartheid used to be. And then simply explain the role of Nelson Mandela in anti-apartheid movement.

Introduction-

New research conducted by Pew Research Centre found that the Covid-19 has pushed about 32 million Indians out of the middle class and increased poverty in the country. The economic crisis was deepening as people who lost their jobs were yet to find replacements and little had been accomplished after the lockdown for the revival of livelihoods in the informal sector.

Body

Extent of poverty in India:

- According to the household consumption expenditure reported in the PLFS, 2017-18 (which replaces the employment-unemployment surveys of the NSSO) and applying State-specific poverty lines (used by the erstwhile Planning Commission in 2011 based on the Tendulkar Committee recommendations, adjusted with current price indices), about 42% or around 56 crore people can be considered as poor before the lockdown was announced.
- Another 20-crore people were within a narrow band 20% above the poverty line given the people towards the lower half of the consumption expenditure distribution

The national lockdown from 25 March 2020 has severely affected lives and livelihoods across rural India

- Certain estimates from the PLFS data extrapolated for the year 2020 suggest that about an additional 40 crore people were pushed below the poverty line due to the lockdown.
- Those who were already poor are going to suffer a further worsening in their quality of life, a phenomenon known as poverty deepening.
- Before the lockdown, around 16% of the population had per capita consumption expenditure of about a third of the poverty line, managing their daily expenses with ₹30 per day or less.
- After the lockdown this could swell to more than 62 crore (47%) people pushed to such extreme poverty.
- The rich were able to escape the pandemic's worst impact; and while the white-collar workers isolated themselves and worked from home. However, a majority of the not-so-fortunate Indians (migrant workers) lost their livelihood.

- A large section of rural residents could cushion the blow of pandemic-driven economic disruption due to foodgrain via the Public Distribution System (PDS). The urban poor's access to such ration, however, was minimal.
- Beyond income and job losses, poorer women also suffered healthwise because of the disruption in regular health services and Anganwadi centers.
- Thousands of migrants gathered at the train termini and bus stations, seeking transport to their hometowns. With the nationwide lockdown, all transport facilities were closed.
- With no work and no money, and lockdown restrictions putting a stop to public transport, thousands of migrant workers were seen walking or bicycling hundreds of kilometres (or even more than a thousand kilometres) to go back to their native villages, some with their families.
- Soaring unemployment rates, income losses and rising food costs are jeopardizing food access in developed and developing countries alike and will have long-term effects on food security.

Measures taken by government:

- Renewed focus on NREGA: The government's commitment to provide an additional Rs. 40,000 crore allocation for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for FY21 will help to spur rural demand.
- Investment in farm infrastructure: NABARD will facilitate Rs 1 lakh crore finance for funding Agriculture Infrastructure Projects at farm-gate and aggregation points like Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, Farmers Producer Organizations, Agriculture entrepreneurs, Startups, etc. Local initiative for building community infrastructure, like water harvesting, canal irrigation network, huts for community market centers etc. may generate employment opportunities.
- Opportunity for Indian agriculture to tap world markets: As the global supply chains for agricultural products remains paralyzed in global market, Indian product can make headways as Indian rural sector is not as badly affected as the North American or European rural sector.
- Self-reliant rural sector: Local production of items of local requirement, the local weavers, artisans and craftsmen may establish micro enterprises and form local community marketing cooperatives.
- Finance minister announced Rs 10,000 crore scheme for the formalization of Micro Food Enterprises (MFE). This will help nearly 2 lakh MFEs to achieve technical up-gradation to attain FSSAI food standards, build brands and marketing.
- Surplus labour: Livestock, fisheries, dairy, vegetables, fruit and food processing are more labour-intensive and high value-yielding. After many decades of neglect in research and development, lack of market access, on-off policies for exports, and market distortions, the present adversity may be a timely opportunity for this sector.

- Recently, Finance Minister informed allocation of Rs 20,000 crore for fishermen through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). This will include Rs 11,000 crore for activities in marine, inland fisheries and aquaculture while Rs. 9000 crores to be spent on developing fishing Harbours, cold chain, markets etc.

Conclusion

Hence, we can say that COVID-19 pandemic's impact differs in its scale in different sections of people. But the most affected one's are the people who belonged to the vulnerable section of rural population India. As ensuring the healthcare and providing adequate means of livelihood for all is one of the responsibilities of the government.

5. What is cryptojacking? Why should this be a concern? Explain.

Approach

Question is straight forward. Candidate can define what cryptojacking is followed by the functioning of same. In the second part, detection of cryptojacking and prevention of the same can be given.

Introduction

Cryptojacking is a type of cybercrime that involves the unauthorized use of people's devices (computers, smartphones, tablets, or even servers) by cybercriminals to mine for cryptocurrency. Like many forms of cybercrime, the motive is profit, but unlike other threats, it is designed to stay completely hidden from the victim.

Body

What is cryptojacking?

- Cryptojacking is a cyber attack wherein a computing device is hijacked and controlled by the attacker, and its resources are used to illicitly mine cryptocurrency.
- In most cases, the malicious programme is installed when the user clicks on an unsafe link, or visits an infected website — and unknowingly provides access to their Internet-connected device.

Why it is done?

- Coin mining is a legitimate, competitive process used to release new crypto coins into circulation or to verify new transactions. It involves solving complex computational problems to generate blocks of verified transactions that get added to the blockchain.

- The reward for the first miner who successfully manages to update the crypto ledger through this route is crypto coins.
- But the race to crack this 64-digit hexadecimal number code needs considerable computing power involving state-of-the-art hardware, and electrical power to keep the systems involved up and running.
- Cryptojackers co-opt devices, servers, and cloud infrastructure, and use their resources for mining. The use of 'stolen' or cryptojacked resources slashes the cost involved in mining.
- According to the SonicWall's Cyber Threat Report, the crackdown on ransomware attacks is forcing cybercriminals to look for alternative methods. Cryptojacking involves "lower risk", and promises "potentially higher payday".
- "Unlike ransomware, which announces its presence and relies heavily on communication with victims, cryptojacking can succeed without the victim ever being aware of it"

How does cryptojacking work?

- Cybercriminals hack into devices to install cryptojacking software. The software works in the background, mining for cryptocurrencies or stealing from cryptocurrency wallets. The unsuspecting victims use their devices typically, though they may notice slower performance or lags.
- Hackers have two primary ways to get a victim's device to secretly mine cryptocurrencies:
- By getting the victim to click on a malicious link in an email that loads cryptomining code on the computer
- By infecting a website or online ad with JavaScript code that auto-executes once loaded in the victim's browser.

How to detect?

- One of the key symptoms of cryptojacking is decreased performance on your computing devices. Slower systems can be the first sign to watch out for.
- Overheating Cryptojacking is a resource-intensive process that can cause computing devices to overheat. This can lead to computer damage or shorten their lifespan.
- If you see an increase in CPU usage when you are on a website with little or no media content, it could be a sign that cryptojacking scripts might be running. A good cryptojacking test is to check the central processing unit (CPU) usage of your device using the Activity Monitor or Task Manager.

How to prevent cryptojacking?

- It is also good practice to install the latest software updates and patches for operating system and all applications — especially those concerning web browsers.

- Cybercriminals are constantly modifying code and coming up with new delivery methods to embed updated scripts onto your computer system. Being proactive and staying on top of the latest cybersecurity threats can help you detect cryptojacking on network and devices and avoid other types of cybersecurity threats.
- Cryptojacking scripts are often deployed in web browsers. One can use specialized browser extensions to block cryptojackers across the web, such as minerBlock, No Coin, and Anti Miner.

Conclusion

Cryptojacking might seem like a relatively harmless crime since the only thing 'stolen' is the power of the victim's computer. But the use of computing power for this criminal purpose is done without the knowledge or consent of the victim, for the benefit of criminals who are illicitly creating currency. As a large number of infected devices generates a huge amount of cryptocurrency, cybercriminal see this as a lucrative crime.

1. Implementation with integrity is the core of good governance. Do you agree? examine the ways in which corruption affects governance.

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidate needs to write about the good governance. Candidates should explain how implementation with integrity is core Of good governance. in second part of answer write about ways in which corruption affects governance.

Introduction

Governance' is the process of decision-making and the process by which decisions are implemented, Governance can be used in several contexts such as corporate governance, international governance, national governance and local governance. As per World Bank definition of Good Governance. "The manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development.as corruption affects the governance it is vital that implementation with integrity is core of good governance.

Body

Good governance has 8 major characteristics. 'It is participatory, consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive and follows the rule of law.

- It assures that corruption is minimized, the views of minorities are taken into account and that the voices of the most vulnerable in society are heard in decision-making.
- It is also responsive to the present and future needs of society.

Initiatives for Good Governance in India-

Right to Information

- As a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), India is under an international obligation to effectively guarantee citizens the Right to Information as per Article 19 of the ICCPR.
- RTI Act, 2005 marks a significant shift in Indian democracy. It gives greater access of the citizen to the information which in turn improves the responsiveness of the government to community needs.
- The right to information, promotes openness, transparency and accountability in administration by making the government more open to public scrutiny.

E-Governance

- The National e-Governance Plan envisions to make all government services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs.
- E-Governance effectively delivers better programming and services in the era of newly emerging information and communication technologies (ICTs), which herald new opportunities for rapid social and economic transformation worldwide.
- E-Governance has a direct impact on its citizens who derive benefits through direct transactions with the services offered by the government.
- Programs launched under e-Governance: Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI), Digital India Program, MCA21 (to improve the speed and certainty in the delivery of the services of Ministry of Company Affairs), Passport Seva Kendra (PSK), online Income tax return, etc.
- Focus on 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance'.

Legal Reforms

- The Central Government has scrapped nearly 1,500 obsolete rules and laws with an aim to bring about transparency and improve efficiency.
- Reform criminal justice and procedural laws with focus on pre-institution mediation.

Ease of Doing Business

- legislation meant to improve the country's business environment and policy ecosystems (such as the Bankruptcy Code, the Goods and Services Tax or GST, and the anti-money-laundering law).
- Government has launched the 'Make in India' initiative.

Decentralization

- Centralised Planning Commission was abolished, replacing it with the think tank called the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), which would usher in an era of "cooperative federalism".
- 14th Finance Commission increased the tax devolution of the divisible pool to states from 32% to 42% for years 2015 to 2020. It provides more freedom to states to initiate schemes based on local factors.

Police Reforms

- Modernizing police forces and implementing the Model Police Act of 2015.
- Reform of the First Information Report (FIR) lodging mechanism, including introducing filing e-FIRs for minor offences.
- Launch a common nation-wide emergency number to attend to emergency security needs of citizens.

Aspirational Districts Programme

- The Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) was launched in January 2018 to transform the lives of people in the under-developed areas of the country in a time bound manner.
- Anchored in NITI Aayog, the programme is aimed at transforming 115 most backward districts with focused interventions in the field of health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water management, financial inclusion and skill development.

Good Governance Index

- The Good Governance Index Was launched on the occasion of Good Governance Day on 25 December 2019.
- The Good Governance Index is a uniform tool across States to assess the Status of Governance and impact of various interventions taken up by the State Government and Union Territories.
- The objectives of Good Governance Index are to provide quantifiable data to compare the state of governance in all states and Union Territories, enable states and Union Territories to formulate and implement suitable strategies for improving governance and shift to result oriented approaches and administration.

How corruption affects governance -

- Corruption is a major obstacle in improving the quality of governance. While human greed is obviously a driver of corruption, it is the structural incentives and poor enforcement system to punish the corrupt that have contributed to the rising curve of graft in India.

- According to the Corruption Perception Index (released by Transparency International, India's ranking is 85 in 185 countries .

Conclusion

The effective functioning of governance is the prime concern of every citizen of the country. The citizens are ready to pay the price for good services offered by the state, but what is required is a transparent, accountable and intelligible governance system absolutely free from bias and prejudices. India should also focus on developing integrity in governance, which will make the governance more ethical and corruption free.

2. Governing emerging technologies and governing through technologies are both critical in the present era. Elucidate.

Approach

Candidates can start with reference to the role of technology in governance and how recently new emerging technology are required to regulate try to interlink both and then elucidate on critical aspects of governing emerging technologies and governing with technology.

Introduction

Governance is a challenge in a country as vast, diverse, and rapidly developing as India. That's where new technologies intervene and enable large-scale transformation and help in the implementation of ambitious government plans. era of increased digitisation, after the advent of Industry 4.0, powered by new-age technologies like the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence, and Robotics matter of governing this technology is also significant task.

Body

Governance with technology:

- Striving for E-Legislature: The role of Parliament and many state legislatures, as an institution of debate, deliberation and law-making have been disrupted due to Covid-19. It is here that technology-centric solutions can ensure work continuity in law-making institutions even when meetings can't be held physically.
- For example: These online meetings of legislative bodies will help in the furtherance of debate and deliberation on important issues.
- Virtual Judiciary: It is obvious that normalcy in the judicial process will not resume in a short time, even in an early period post lockdown phase.

- Therefore, it is an opportunity of the judiciary to adopt Information and communication technology, so that justice can reach everyone without any delay. Also, by adopting initiatives like e-courts judiciary may reduce the backlog of cases.
- Promoting Participative Democracy: There is an unprecedented opportunity for community collective choice, whereby citizens who are affected by a set of governing rules can help to select and frame policy, rank spending priorities, and can, in partnership with their local government representatives,
- Such Mechanism may help in strengthening Social audit. For example, citizens can directly give suggestions to the government on myGOV platform.
- Implementing Good Governance: Information Technology has ensured that a policy decision taken by the government can be quickly executed and implemented at multiple locations, across the length and breadth of the country.
- It also ensures transparency, accountability—while assuring quick and effective responsiveness of government to citizens' problems and suggestions.
- Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Government has taken much of the e-governance initiatives for effective public service delivery. Also, when combined with emerging technologies, it can help in achieving sustainable development goals.
- Elimination of Hierarchy: Technology has reduced procedural delays caused by hierarchical processes in the organisation. Computerisation and communication patterns have increased efficiency and have led to the involvement of all levels in decision-making.
- Change in Administrative Culture: Bureaucratic structures have been plagued by characteristics aptly described by Victor Thompson as 'bureau-pathology'. Efforts have been made to find ways to deal with the pathological or dysfunctional aspects of bureaucratic behaviour and to make the delivery of public services effective and efficient.

Emerging technologies are technologies whose development, practical applications, or both are still largely unrealized, such that they are figuratively emerging into prominence from a background of nonexistence or obscurity.

Governing emerging technologies:

AI:

- Massive Data Centres Needed: Achieving the abovementioned objectives, AI requires massive computational capacity, which means more power-hungry data centres and a big carbon footprint.
- Jurisdictional Issues of Data Pooling: Countries are passing stricter legislations on data security (Eg: EUGDPR) that require citizen data to be stored on servers located domestically, picking colder climates beyond their borders is becoming a difficult option.
- Without clear policies on reskilling workers, the promise of new opportunities will in fact create serious new inequalities.

- Privacy Issues: AI uses digital footprints and feeds them in their algorithm to exploit commercially without our consent.

Cryptocurrencies:

- The almost hidden nature of cryptocurrency transactions makes them easy to be the focus of illegal activities such as money laundering, tax-evasion and possibly even terror-financing.
- There is concern that cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin are not rooted in any material goods. Some research, however, has identified that the cost of producing a Bitcoin, which requires an increasingly large amount of energy, is directly related to its market price.
- If a large number of investors invest in digital coins rather than rupee-based savings like provident funds, the demand of the latter will fall.
- No Dispute Settlement Mechanisms and control of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Drones:

- Clear Modus Operandi: Responsibility and division of work should be clear as to Who (the armed forces or the civilian forces) would be responsible for such mechanisms. It is a sub-tactical threat but requires a strategic response.
- Difficult to Differentiate: Counter strategy should be so strong that it is able to differentiate between a bird and an actual drone. Also, it should give enough warning to positively identify that it is not a bird, to fire.
- Anonymous: Their anonymous nature is a big risk to know about the origin of the drone. Drone attacks can be launched from within as well.

Conclusion

Technological innovation is largely taking place beyond the purview of governments. In many cases, the rate of innovation is outpacing states' ability to keep abreast of the latest developments and their potential societal impacts. But one common thread with all emerging technologies are solutions to multifaceted problems. We will need to develop skill and human resources today to meet all these challenges in the future to aim for social and public good.

3. What are the key challenges of urban governance in India? How are emerging technologies helping in urban governance? Illustrate.**Approach**

Candidates are expected to about urban governance and then highlight challenges and simply try to give technological solution to problems especially through new emerging technology.

Introduction-

The pace and growth of urbanization in India poses enormous challenges to urban governance. Though planned urbanization is needed for the industry and services sectors and also for rural rejuvenation, the lack of empowerment of cities is constraining their ability to translate the urban development agenda into action.

Body

Challenges:

- **Irregular Elections:** Elections to urban bodies have suffered constant postponement for indefinite lengths of time. In some States, elections to urban local bodies have not been held for years, defeating the goal of decentralised governance.
- **Lack of management capacity:** Indian municipalities do not have the management capacity to either plan economic activity or execute it. The system of recruitment fails to bring in the best men. Several vacancies are not filled for years and transfers are affected at the free will of the senior bureaucrats and the government.
- **Corruption:** In these bodies' corruption, favouritism and nepotism are rampant. In the case of most of the bodies, the state government is empowered to take disciplinary action and the urban body has very little control over its personnel.
- **Urban planning:** Urban planning is done at the state government level and municipalities have little or no role in it. There is no direct responsibility for the consequences of planning as long as the municipality completes the plan. Poor planning, poor accountability, and poor governance have led to disasters.
- **Politicization of the ULB:** They are seen as mere platform for political mobilization rather than seeing them as effective tools in ensuring development.
- **Devolution of power:** Their powers are being usurped by the rising number of special purpose agency in the country. Meaningful devolution of powers in terms of functions, powers to collect taxes are still yet to be achieved.
- **Poor cost recovery of services by ULBs:** In India, user charges and service provision are seemed to be caught in vicious cycle with poor quality services leading to lack of willingness to pay for these and hence poor collection of user charges and fees.

- Improper maintenance of accounts: CAG reports on local governments point out several lacunae in preparation of municipal accounts related to lack of budget preparation, accuracy, updating and timely presentation of accounts by ULBs.
- Shortcomings of State Finance Commission: Inefficient functioning of SFCs has affected the ability of ULBs to augment financial resources. The recommendation made by SFCs are largely adhoc in nature and not based on sound public finance principles.
- Implication due to introduction of GST: Introduction of GST, has taken away critical resources of tax revenue such as octroi, local body tax, entry tax and advertisements tax for ULBs without providing for any compensation.

Technological Solutions making urban governance effective and efficient:

- Urban Master planning: One of the major issues in our urban areas is lack of proper planning which is holistic, sustainable. IT tools like GIS, Remote sensing, AI etc., can be used to make it more efficient.
- Citizen participation: IT can provide tools by creating online forums for citizen feedback, e-petitions and so on. E.g. Fund raising for rehabilitation of flood hit citizens in Chennai, citizen vigilance app to report crimes by Delhi police etc.,
- Urban security: E.g. Use of digital tools (CCTV, e-registration of police complaints etc.,) in Rajkot city under smart city mission has reduced crime rate by 18% within 6 months. Suraksha app of Bengaluru police.
- Information dissemination: Digital display boards are efficient tools for communication with the public which can be seen in major metro cities around the world. Projects like video wall, Indian Urban observatory also aim at information dissemination to the public which would help in effective communication, awareness spreading and campaigns.
- Crisis management: IT can be effectively used in all the stages of crisis management – prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. E.g. Pune has installed flood sensors in the city triggering timely warning and response mechanism, Satellite communication/ Local area network during the floods used in Kerala etc.,
- Fund utilization: e-management of funds address the issue of leakages and pilferages – corruption in the fund management. E.g. e-tendering of road projects etc.,
- Compliance: Bhopal has seen increase in property tax collection after the Revenue department underwent digitization.
- Smart resource utilization: IT can provide solutions for urban issues like water shortage, electricity shortage and so on by efficient monitoring. E.g. smart electricity grids and smart metering for electricity, water and gas. ICT applications like Intelligent LED Street Lighting and Surveillance, networking of safety and security systems (CCTVs, police, traffic, etc.).
- Sustaining social infrastructure: A GIS based heritage mapping can be done to conserve and promote the historical monuments located in cities.

- Transportation efficiency: can be increased by using IT tools which can manage the traffic congestion using technologies like AI. Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) are introduced in several cities all over the world.
- Fund Mobilization: IT provides an interface to raise public funds which can be used for urban development. E.g. issue of municipal bonds over the internet platform.

Conclusion

An Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) would help in comprehensive coverage of all aspects and planning of overall Urban governance. IT tools are a part of Good governance ensuring transparency and accountability in governance and thus make the urban governance efficient and effective.

4 Data and evidence must form the bedrock of policymaking. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidate can highlight the recent lapse in data and policymaking during the covid pandemic. In the body part, importance of data and evidence based policy making can be given while stating the challenges and way forward.

Introduction

Recently the government declared that it has no data on the number of migrants who lost their jobs, frontline health workers had lost their lives during the pandemic, etc. There have been concerns regarding the information gap growing between the state and citizens with reports of missing data.

Body

The e-Governance and penetration of the internet have made data the new talking point in Governance. The role of data and politics has long been established by thinkers like Foucault.

What is data and evidence based policy making?

- It is an idea in public policy proposing that policy decisions should be based on, or informed by, rigorously established objective evidence (data).

What are the advantages of evidence based policy making?

- Data helps in formulating programmatic policy decisions.
- Data-based decisions can help address inter and intra-district inequalities.

- Targeted resource allocations
- Improves transparency in policy making
- Greater accountability in public services
- Promotes peoples' participation in the governance

What are the challenges?

- States and their various departments collect an enormous amount of data. So, there is a need to link databases of various departments, but this is stalled by factors like Jurisdiction issues.
- Issues like household data that would vary from department to department also prevent the data linking.
- Accurate collection, measurement and interpretation of data are crucial for evidence-based policymaking.
- Standardization of data formats and procedures is important as manipulation of data can lead to abuse of data. For example,
- During the Covid crisis, some States in North India were not testing enough, and it created an impression that States in South India were unable to control the infection.
- Unvalidated data - Most of the administrative data collected by states are not validated.
- For example, the data on the flow of funds below block level that are submitted by local bodies are generally not validated.
- Manipulation of data - The data also gets misused, abused or even manipulated
- Disparity in data - Union government report on education shows that Tamil Nadu has around 27 educationally backward districts but the same report ranks Tamil Nadu 4th in educational attainment.
- There can also be issues like the consistency of data, assimilation and calculation of data. For e.g. recent data released by the Union government showed Tamil Nadu having 27 educationally backward districts. On the other hand, the same report ranks Tamil Nadu in fourth place on educational attainment. This shows that the data needs proper scrutiny.

What can be done?

- Homogenize the data sets
- Validate the data through urban local bodies and rural local bodies
- Decentralisation of data collection processes with States building their own databases can prevent data suppression and delays
- States need to invest heavily in both human and technical infrastructure
- A data protection regulation framework as recommended by Justice B.N.. Srikrishna committee has to be in place.

Conclusion

We are in a data-driven world, so the move towards data-based governance is the next natural step. Scholars like Jean Dreze and others have called for decentralized data collection systems. The systemic institutionalisation of evidence based policy making is the way forward in the fight to eradicate poverty and to improve economic performance, education, health care and social assistance for millions of people.

5. What are your views on ongoing debate over freebie politics ? substantiate your views .**Approach**

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about freebie politics . is freebie politics is beneficial to society or actually harming it in long run , candidates should give their opinion s about it and substantiate their views.

Introduction

Recently the collapse of the Sri Lankan economy has engendered a fresh debate on the state's role. The government of Sri Lanka cut taxes across the board and provided several free goods and services. Consequently, the economy collapsed and the heavily-indebted country was left with no choice but to default on its commitments. As a corollary, the issue of freebies given out by Indian states has come under the lens here. Over the years the freebies have become an integral part of the politics in India, be it for making promises in the electoral battles or providing free facilities to remain in power.

Body

Recently, the Supreme court asked the central government whether distributing irrational freebies during election campaigns is financially viable. It also referred to use the expertise of the Finance Commission in curbing the irrational poll freebies.

- According to Election Commission of India, whether such policies are financially viable or its adverse effect on the economic health of the State is a question that has to be considered and decided by the voters of the State.

What are Freebies?

- Political parties promise to offer free electricity/water supply, monthly allowance to unemployed, daily wage workers, and women as well as gadgets like laptops, smartphones, etc. in order to secure the vote of the people.
- The states have become habituated to giving freebies, be it in the form of loan waivers or free electricity, cycles, laptops, TV sets, and so on.

- Certain kinds of expenditure that are done under populist pressures or with elections in mind may be questionable.
- But given that in the last 30 years there has been rising inequality, some kind of relief to the population in the form of subsidies may not be unjustified but actually necessary for the economy to continue on its growth path.

Why there is a Need for Freebies?

Facilitates Growth: There are some examples that show that some expenditure outlays do have overall benefits such as the Public Distribution System, employment guarantee schemes, support for education and enhanced outlays for health, particularly during the pandemic.

Helps the Lesser Developed States: With the states that have a comparatively lower level of development with a larger share of the population suffering from poverty, such kinds of freebies become need/demand-based and it becomes essential to offer the people such subsidies for their own upliftment.

- **Essential for Fulfilling Expectations:** In a country like India where the states have (or don't have) a certain level of development, upon the emergence of the elections, there are expectations from the part of people which are met by such promises of freebies.
- **Helps Lesser Developed States:** The states which lack development, freebies become need/demand-based and it becomes essential to offer the people such subsidies for their own upliftment.

Drawbacks of Freebies

- **Macroeconomically Unstable:** Freebies undercut the basic framework of macroeconomic stability, the politics of freebies distorts expenditure priorities and outlays remain concentrated on subsidies of one kind or the other.
- **Impact on States' Fiscal Situation:** Offering freebies, ultimately, have an impact on the public exchequer and most of the states of India do not have robust financial health and often have very limited resources in terms of revenue.
- **Against Free and Fair Election:** The promise of irrational freebies from public funds before elections unduly influences the voters, disturbs the level playing field, and vitiates the purity of the poll process.
- **A Step Away from the Environment:** When the freebies are about giving free power, it would lead to overuse of natural resources and focus from renewable energy system will also get distracted.
- **Debilitating Effect on Future Manufacturing:** Freebies lower the quality and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector by detracting from efficient and competitive infrastructure that enable high-factor efficiencies in the manufacturing sector.
- **Destroys Credit Culture:** Giving away loan waivers in the form of freebies may have undesired consequences such as destroying the whole credit culture and it blurs the very basic question as to why is it that a large majority of the farming community is getting into a debt trap repeatedly.

Way Forward-

- Realizing Economic Impacts of Freebies: It is not about how cheap the freebies are but how expensive they are for the economy, life quality, and social cohesion in the long run.
- We must strive instead for a race to efficiency through laboratories of democracy and sanguine federalism where states use their authority to harness innovative ideas and solutions to common problems which other states can emulate.
- Judicious Demand-Based Freebies: India is a large country and there is still a huge set of people who are below the poverty line. It is also important to have all the people accommodated in the development plan of the country.
- The judicious and sensible offering of freebies or subsidies that can be easily accommodated in the states' budget do not do much harm and can be leveraged.
- Ideally, a proportion of state expenditure should be earmarked to ensure better overall utilisation of resources.

Conclusion

There is a need to understand the impacts of freebies from the economic sense and connect it with the taxpayer's money. It is also essential to distinguish between subsidies and freebies as subsidies are the justified and specifically targeted benefits that arise out of demands. Although every political party has a right to create subsidy ecosystems to give targeted needy people the benefits, there should not be a long-term burden on the economic health of the state or the central government.

1. Do you think democratic principles and processes strengthen governance? critically analyse.**Approach**

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about democratic principles and processes and how these processes and principles need to strengthen governance. Analyse this critically.

Introduction

Democracy as a system of Governance is supposed to allow extensive representation and inclusiveness of as many people and views as possible to feed into the functioning of a fair and just society. Democratic principles such as , the rule of law and fundamental rights lie at the heart of our societies. However, their realisation cannot be taken for granted. these principles are vital for strengthening democracy .

Body

Questions about public policy are partly normative. Policy processes should ideally reflect the values of the citizenry. Today these values are generally democratic ones. However, the new governance raises specific problems for our democratic practices.

- Democracy is usually associated with elected officials making policies, which public servants then implement.
- The public servants are answerable to the elected politicians who, in turn, are accountable to the voting public. However, the rise of markets and networks has disrupted these lines of accountability.
- In the new governance, policies are being implemented and even made by private-sector and voluntary-sector actors. There are often few lines of accountability tying these actors back to elected officials, and those few are too long to be effective.
- Besides, the complex webs of actors involved can make it almost impossible for the principal to hold any one agent responsible for a particular policy. Similar problems arise for democracy at the international level.
- States have created regulatory institutions to oversee areas of domestic policy, and the officials from these institutions increasingly meet to set up international norms, agreements, and policies governing domains such as the economy and the environment.
- There is no agreement about how to promote democracy in the new governance. To some extent, the different proposals again reflect different theories of governance in general.
- Rational choice theorists sometimes suggest markets are at least as effective as democratic institutions at ensuring popular control over outcomes. Institutionalists are more likely to concern themselves with formal and informal lines of the accountability needed to sustain representative and responsible government.
- These institutional issues merge gradually into a concern to promote diverse forums for dialogue—a concern that is common among interpretive theorists.
- It has been said that Democracy is on retreat worldwide. Many democracies in the 21st century continue to disregard the principles of democracies.
- Principles such as the freedom of the press, independence of the other public institutions of the state are often violated.
- For instance, many world leaders such as Vladimir Putin (Russia), Recep Tayyip Erdoğan (Turkey), Trump (USA) had initiated a sustained, attack on these very institutions to sustain power.
- Recently, the western academic institutions, the Freedom House (US) and the Varieties of Democracy project (Sweden) downgraded India's democratic ratings.
- However, India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar dismissed these ratings as irrelevant.

Evolution of India's Democracy :

- The first-ever institutional check on sovereign power was provided through the Glorious Revolution in England. It led to the establishment of Parliament and England shifted from absolute monarchy to Constitutional monarchy.
- Later, the French Revolution and the American revolution assured inalienable rights to its citizens.
- However, in the era of colonialism, exclusion of women, as well as racial and religious minorities continued till the 1950s.
- After the 1950s, democracy got strengthened due to the following measures.
- Institutionalization of universal suffrage elections
- Constitutional check on the powers of the government
- Independent judiciary empowered with judicial review
- Empowered press to scrutinize government actions
- Finally, after the end of the Cold War, due to the collapse of the Soviet Union, many authoritarian countries were forced to conduct elections. This led to the establishment of liberal democracy rule in most of the world's countries.

Why India's democratic ratings were downgraded?

- Both Freedom House and V-Dem multi-dimensional framework give considerable weight age to the freedom of the press and the independence of the judiciary.
- Concerns about the undermining of these institutional checks-and-balances led both institutions to reduce India's score on their index.
- Weakening democracy in India can negatively impact India's ambitions to become a full-fledged member of the Quad or the D-10. It will also undermine India's claim to become a Permanent Member of the UN security council.

What needs to be done?

- First, the Government should hear criticism rather than rejecting it outrightly. Suggestions on eroding democratic values need a thoughtful, and respectful response.
- Second, the press and the judiciary which are considered the pillars of India's Democracy, require to be independent of any executive interference.
- Third, strong democracy requires strong opposition. Without an alternative choice, the very objective of election to provide a check on arbitrary power gets defeated.

Conclusion

Democratic Values and Principles are core to India's identity. We need to safeguard India's Democracy by strengthening its pillars- the Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, and the Media. The concept of governance conveys, most importantly, a more diverse view of authority and its exercise. In the new governance, the neoliberal quest for a

minimal state and the more recent attempts to promote networks are attempts to increase the role of civil society in practices of rule.

2. Bureaucracy is not an obstacle to democracy but an inevitable complement to it. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidates can start with reference with role of bureaucracy or definition of bureaucracy. And then substantiate on how bureaucracy is complementing the democracy and how it's inevitable in contemporary times. Also highlight some points on how its obstacle to democracy in the end.

Introduction

Bureaucracy implies a system of government in which most of the decisions are taken by state officials rather than by elected representatives. So, bureaucracy is a form of government run or managed by some officers. Hence there is no denying that bureaucracy since a couple of centuries or so has been an integral part of the Government, the State the people and the way they function with each other.

Body

Bureaucracies' evolution and complementing democracy:

- With changing times, the objective of public administration also underwent a change and by the nineteenth century; an organized approach to public servants and public administration was adopted. This approach was based on an exhaustive legal framework replacing the patriarchal and hereditary function with bureaucracy.
- The advent of this new approach to public administration happened due to many reasons. The foremost being the Industrial revolution. With Industrial Revolution, the Government forayed into trade and commerce; which was followed by Imperialism, Nationalism and Internationalism which added on to the widening avenues of Government duties and responsibilities.
- The times today are again vastly different from what existed a century ago and once again the scope of public administration has also undergone a shift, it's difficult to decide whether it is paradigm or not.
- However, the increasing awareness amongst people especially in the developing countries [for e.g. The Right to Information Act or RTI act in India] and an acquired knowledge of rights, privileges and laws amongst the people of developed countries[for e.g. the debates on The Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010] have thrown new challenges for the public administrators and policy makers.

- The demand for unified national services, the conflicting interests between the various economic sections of the society and with global migration and subsequently globalization; the protection of the interests of the multi-ethnic groups of the society have kept the public administrators occupied and bureaucracy inevitable.
- The development of modern state, the growth of democratic institutions, the extension of states responsibilities into social, and economic spheres and the growing complexity of the administrative work made it essential for the growth of a professional bureaucracy.
- Bureaucrats are an army of experts and efficient public servants who are indispensable in every political system today.
- Modern governments cannot manage and run the machinery of government without the assistance of these competent officials.
- Administration matters so much because it is not enough to make policies and laws on paper. The interpretation and translation of those policies and laws into actions and carrying them out is the difficult part.
- The public administrators therefore have to play an important role in running the government as machinery. Bureaucracy has often been sneered and ridiculed at but if the administrative work is stopped, nothing really would be happening.

Inevitability of bureaucracy for democracy because of some characteristics it has:

- Impersonality: The officials are expected to carry out their duties without allowing themselves to be influenced by their personal likes and dislikes. The employee must treat all clients equally.
- Rationality: Bureaucracy represents a rational form of organisation. Decisions are taken on strict evidence and avoid any type of irrationality.
- Neutrality: Bureaucracy serves all political parties in power without being biased. It has only committed to work and duty and not to any Party ideology.
- Division of Labour: The work of the department or organisation is divided among the employees in such a way that each employee has only a certain part of the work to perform. In this way, the employee repeatedly performs certain job and becomes efficient at it.
- Hierarchy: In every bureaucracy, there is a hierarchy or chain of command, where officials at lower levels are supervised by those at higher levels. The commands or orders of superiors have to be followed by subordinates.
- Rules: Management follows a set of rules which are made known to all employees of the organisation. Rules are equally applicable to everyone and they prevent any type of arbitrariness.

Bureaucracies' also an obstacle to run democracy:

- Rigid organisational hierarchy works against efficiency. It overemphasizes superior-subordinate relationships unnecessarily which is detrimental to congenial organisational climate.

- In dealing with people, total impersonal approach cannot be adopted because people have feelings, emotions and sentiments which affect decision. Thus, people cannot work totally according to rules and prescriptions.
- Bureaucracy has been criticised because of its inefficiency and has been termed as a symbol of inefficiency.
- There are many dis-functional aspects of bureaucracy which is referred to as bureau pathology.
- Rules are normally provided for guidelines but often they become source of inefficiency because of too much emphasis on rules, their misuse, and people's apathy from rules.

Conclusion

The rise of modern welfare state and increase in its functions has been a source of big increase in the powers and role of Bureaucracy. It has, therefore, given rise to an additional need for exercising control over bureaucracy. An effective control system has become essential both for preventing the civil servants from abusing their powers as well as for ensuring their active and positive role.

3. What are the institutional measures in place to hold civil servants accountable? What are the pros and cons of these measures? Discuss.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about the accountability and then mention some institutional measures available to hold servant accountable. And also in the end highlight pros and cons of institutional measures.

Introduction-

Accountability is the obligation of civil servants to be held answerable for their behaviour and actions. This comes into play due to an ethical need or out of a legal requirement. The idea behind this concept is very rational; if one is given the authority to perform an action that has an effect on others, they must be held accountable for the impact they cause through their actions. It defines the relationship between civil servants and the people.

Body

Measures to hold civil servant accountable:

- Lokpal: In the Republic of India, a Lokpal is an anti-corruption authority or ombudsman agency that represents the public interest. It has jurisdiction over the central government to investigate charges of corruption against its public officials and other corruption-related matters.

- Lokayukta: The Indian Parliamentary Ombudsman, known as the Lokayukta, is appointed by and for each of India's State Governments. It comes into action in a state after the state legislature passes the Lokayukta Act and a person with a good reputation is nominated for the position.
- Right to Public Services legislation: It consists of statutory laws that ensure timely delivery of services for a variety of government services provided to citizens, as well as a system for disciplining errant public servants who fail to provide the service required by the statute.
- Citizen's Charter: A Citizens' Charter represents the commitment of the Organisation towards standard, quality, and time frame of service delivery, grievance redress mechanism, transparency, and accountability.
- Public Interest Litigation: Justice P. N. Bhagwati introduced public interest litigation (PIL) as a means of securing public interest and demonstrating the availability of justice to socially disadvantaged parties.
- Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS): Public Problems Redressal is one of the hallmark efforts for governance reform launched by the Indian central government by addressing the grievances of the general public.
- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC): The Central Vigilance Commission is the apex vigilance institution, independent of any executive authority, charged with overseeing all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organizations on vigilance planning, execution, review, and reform.

Pros of such measures:

- Answerability: Accountability as an answerability component to justify the action and an enforcement component that is to take action in cases where an act of omission or commission is established.
- Remedial measures: It provides for remedial measures including punishment in case of deviations from norms.
- Public confidence: Accountability helps in improving public confidence in government performance.
- Democratic governance: The accountability to the citizens is a fundamental principle of democratic governance. It is not limited to accountability to seniors in hierarchy only as part of chain of command but also the stakeholders including citizens and civil society.

Cons of accountability measures:

- Lack of awareness and knowledge and inadequate publicity, hence loss of trust among service seekers is a major limitation.
- Changes take time. Any change would take time to get accomplished. When you put an accountability training program in place, possibilities are initially you would not only be met with resistance but also failure to meet the set goals.

- It has been observed that those who seek information on illegal construction, alleged scams in social welfare schemes and corruption in panchayats have been brutally murdered. Commonwealth Human Initiative observed that around 90 RTI activists have been killed since 2005, 7 activists committed suicide and more than 350 have either faced assault or harassment.

Conclusion

Governments today operate in a very complex environment with stakeholders consisting of different interest groups, competing demands on limited resources and complex legal requirements, therefore a more trusted, less discretionary, resilient accountability mechanism is required that encourages responsible accountable governance.

4 Only an accountable system can enjoy credibility amongst citizens. Elucidate.

Approach

Candidate can write the definition of accountability while underlining the importance of accountability to ensure credibility. In the last part, tools of accountability can be given.

Introduction

Accountability is the acceptance of responsibility for one's own actions. It implies a willingness to be transparent, allowing others to observe and evaluate one's performance. The concept of accountability runs throughout all industries, sectors, companies, and professions.

Body

Importance of accountability for credibility

Accountability can broadly be defined as the obligation of those holding power to take responsibility and be held answerable for their behaviour and actions. Further Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

- Accountability results in answerability (the duty of an individual or organisation to answer to their decisions and actions) and punishments in case of malpractice. This as a result increases credibility of organisation.
- As the organisation is accountable and hence transparent. These two traits increases the credibility amongst the citizens.

- Clear delegation of roles and responsibilities with commensurate powers and resources. In the absence of this, delegation could end up confounding rather than strengthening accountability.
- Accountability lead to the obligation of an individual or an organisation (either in the public or the private sectors) to accept responsibility for their activities, and to disclose them in a transparent manner. This includes the responsibility for decision-making processes, money or other entrusted property.
- Social accountability have been highly valued to curb corruption with empowering citizen, especially in countries with a systematic problem of corruption and weak institutional systems. Therefore the social audits in MGNREGA and other services have made bureaucracy more accountable.
- It helps in improving the delivery of public services, measuring performance and providing incentives to achieve targets and sanctions in case of non-performance.
- It empowers citizens and aids their development through citizen-centric policies. Development through citizen-centric policies.
- Accountability is important in good governance to keep the public servants tuned to the right perspective. It ensures judicious use of public funds and resources and hence, infuses the efficiency in governance.

How accountability increases government's legitimacy?

- Vision of government: The stakeholders directly or indirectly participate in framing the vision and indicating the priorities. The schemes are framed and implemented by the government. The results of evaluation help in improving the system.
- Empowering stakeholders: At the same time, they empower the stakeholder to seek justification from the decision makers who in turn are obligated to provide necessary explanation. There are checks and balances and incentives in the system on one hand and expectations of the stakeholders to be met on the other.
- Making accountability an obligation: Accountability is essentially an obligation to give an account of the actions taken or the decisions made by the person in authority to the stakeholders who are impacted by those decisions.
- Necessitating transparency: Accountability necessitates transparency in decision making on the other it also presupposes that the accurate and reliable information and data is maintained by the government agency and is available in public domain for public scrutiny. In absence of information and facts neither the grievance of the citizens would be appreciated nor could the responsibility be imposed for acts of omission or commission.

Tools of accountability

- Accountability and the Right to Information Act-The Right to Information Act, 2005 has introduced a huge element of transparency in the decision-making in the government as well as access to information.

- Digitisation of various services to the citizens has not only facilitated faster delivery of services but also provided a clear trail of transactions for any analysis by an oversight agency.
- Checks and balances: The framers of the Indian Constitution, while adhering to the principle of separation of powers between Legislature, Judiciary and Executive also provided for appropriate checks and balances for administrative objectivity and accountability.
- Horizontal accountability: The institutions of horizontal accountability in Indian context include the institutions of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the Election Commission, the Vigilance Commission, the Central Information Commission and the Ombudsman.
- In addition, there are a large number of Regulatory bodies including SEBI, TRAI, CERC, CPCB etc. While the institution of CAG and Election Commission derive their mandate from the Constitution. others draw their mandate from the respective Acts governing them.

Conclusion

Accountability facilitates a feedback mechanism between the Government and its citizens. So the accountability to the citizens is most critical in order to ensure sustenance of public trust and credibility in the existing democratic systems.

5. Do you agree with the assertion that the higher judiciary in India needs to be more transparent and accountable? Share your views.

Approach

Candidate can define transparency and accountability as a concept and its importance in higher judiciary. In the body part, constitutional framework for accountability of judiciary can be given with a way forward to improve the transparency in the system.

Introduction

Transparency can be seen as a fundamental characteristic of modern democracies. Transparency helps to ensure the citizens' control of and participation in public matters. The term Accountability means being responsible for decisions or actions. Generally, it means being responsible to any external body. Transparency in the functioning and decision-making process is one of the crucial aspect that ensures accountability.

Body

Accountability and transparency in higher judiciary

- The Judiciary is not subjected to the same level of accountability as the Executive or the Legislative wings of the Government.

Why?

- The reason is that the principles of Judicial Independence and Accountability are sometimes regarded as fundamentally opposed to one another. Judicial independence is considered 'an essential pillar of liberty and the rule of law'.
- So if Judiciary is made accountable to the Legislature or the Executive it will impact its Independence. So special provisions have been provided to ensure judicial accountability.

Constitutional framework for accountability

- The Constitution of India provides for the removal of the judges of the Supreme Court of India and the High Courts for misbehaviour and incapacity by means of impeachment. The provisions of impeachment have been provided in the Article 124(4) (SC Judge) and Article 217(1)(b) (HC Judge) of the Constitution.
- To date, only one impeachment proceeding was initiated against a Supreme Court judge but the procedure failed. Similarly, no High Court Judge has been impeached so far.
- Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 was passed to regulate the investigation procedure and to find proof showing incapacity and misbehavior on the part of the judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts.
- Article 235 of the Constitution provides for the 'control' of the High Court over the subordinate judiciary. It provides an effective mechanism to enforce accountability of the lower judiciary.
- The Supreme Court of India adopted a Charter called the Restatement of Values of Judicial Life in 1997. It is the restatement of the pre-existing and universally accepted norms, guidelines and conventions observed by Judges.
- All the High Courts of the country have also adopted the same. The Charter contains guidelines for general behaviour of the Judges. However, it is not an instrument of judicial accountability in strictest terms.
- A resolution of the Supreme Court in December 1999 declared that an 'in-house procedure' would be adopted to take action against judges who act against accepted values of judicial life. In case of a complaint against a judge, the procedure allows the Chief Justice of that Court to set up an inquiry with a 3-judge committee. If the allegations are serious, the committee may recommend initiating proceedings for removal.

What can be done to increase the accountability and transparency?

- Parliament can enact a law that mandates Judiciary to publish an annual report. This law should clearly outline the expected content of the report and establish a clear timeline for its publication.
- In India, the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill was floated in 2010, but eventually lapsed. A new Bill on setting judicial standards is necessary.
- A permanent disciplinary committee should be set up at the central level to deal with complaints against judges. This committee should recommend

further course of action based on the seriousness of misconduct (e.g., setting up a judicial inquiry committee under the Judges Inquiry Act for major misconduct).

- The SC should clarify the extent and scope of RTI applicability to the judiciary. This will help in avoiding divergence in RTI response across the states.
- The judiciary can also be brought under the scope of Lokpal to enhance accountability as seen in countries like Sweden where judiciary comes under the scope of the ombudsman.
- A regular performance evaluation system for judges should be established. There is a mechanism of evaluation at lower judicial level. There is no performance evaluation for higher judiciary.

Conclusion

The most important challenge for the regulation of judicial accountability is that the judiciary is an independent organ and the independence of the judges cannot be done away with. Any attempt to make the Judiciary accountable to the Legislature or Executive will make it susceptible to external pressure. But accountability and transparency will induce the judges to improve efficiency and deliver quality judgements thereby ensuring justice in the society.

1. In your opinion should India intervene to resolve the ongoing political economic crisis in Sri Lanka? if so ?how ? substantiate your views .

Approach

A simple straightforward question where candidates need to write about ongoing political and economic crisis in Sri Lanka, candidates should also write about is Indian intervention in Sri Lanka will be tight or wrong ,if its right write down how it is right . candidates should give their own their views.

Introduction

Sri Lanka has a special place in Indian hearts, given the time-tested bonds, going back almost to the very beginning of recorded history in the subcontinent. Our relationship is built upon the strong foundations of a shared cultural and socio-economic heritage and extensive people-to-people interactions over millennia. however intervention in recent economical and political turmoil can raise many issues so India should just help them through aid and not actively in politically.

Body

The Sri Lankan economy has been facing a crisis owing to a serious Balance of Payments (BoP) problem. Its foreign exchange reserves are depleting rapidly and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the country to import essential consumption goods.

- The current Sri Lankan economic crisis is the product of the historical imbalances in the economic structure, the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s loan-related conditionalities and the misguided policies of authoritarian rulers.

Why is Sri Lanka Suffering from Crisis?

- Background: When Sri Lanka emerged from a 26-year long civil war in 2009, its post-war GDP growth was reasonably high at 8-9% per annum till 2012.
- However, its average GDP growth rate almost halved after 2013 as global commodity prices fell, exports slowed down and imports rose.
- Sri Lanka's budget deficits were high during the war and the global financial crisis of 2008 drained its forex reserves which led to the country borrowing a loan of \$2.6 billion from the IMF in 2009.
- It again approached the IMF in 2016 for another US\$1.5 billion loan, however the conditionalities of the IMF further deteriorated Sri Lanka's economic health.
- Recent Economic Shocks: The Easter bomb blasts of April 2019 in churches in Colombo resulting in 253 casualties, consequently, dropped the number of tourists sharply leading to a decline in foreign exchange reserves.
- The newly led government by Gotabaya Rajapaksa in 2019 promised lower tax rates and wide-ranging SoPs for farmers during their campaign.
- The quick implementation of these ill-advised promises further exacerbated the problem.
- The Covid-19 pandemic in 2020 made the bad situation worse -
- Exports of tea, rubber, spices and garments suffered.
- Tourism arrivals and revenues fell further
- Due to a rise in government expenditures, the fiscal deficit exceeded 10% in 2020-21, and the debt to GDP ratio rose from 94% in 2019 to 119% in 2021.
- Sri Lanka's Fertiliser Ban: In 2021, all fertiliser imports were completely banned and it was declared that Sri Lanka would become a 100% organic farming nation overnight.
- This overnight shift to organic fertilisers heavily impacted food production.
- Consequently, the Sri Lankan President declared an economic emergency to contain rising food prices, a depreciating currency, and rapidly depleting forex reserves.
- The lack of foreign currency, coupled with the disastrous overnight ban on chemical fertilisers and pesticides, has sent food prices soaring. Inflation is currently over 15% and is forecast to average 17.5%, pushing millions of poorer Sri Lankans to the brink.
- How has India Assisted Sri Lanka in this Crisis?
- Beginning January 2022, India has been providing crucial economic support to the island nation in the grip of a severe dollar crisis that, many fear, might lead to a sovereign default, and a severe shortage of essentials in the import-reliant country.

- The relief extended by India from the beginning of 2022 totals over USD 1.4 billion - a USD 400 currency swap, a USD 500 loan deferment and a USD 500 Line of Credit for fuel import.
- More recently, India extended a USD 1 billion short-term concessional loan to Sri Lanka to help the country as it faces an unprecedented economic crisis.

Why Helping Sri Lanka is in India's Interests?

- Crucially, any disillusionment in Sri Lanka with China eases India's effort to keep the Lankan archipelago out of China's 'string of pearls' game in the Indo-Pacific.
- It is in India's interest to contain Chinese presence and influence in this region.
- To the extent India can extend low-cost help to alleviate the hardships of Sri Lankans, it should, however it must be done with due care keeping in mind that the optics of its aid matters too.

What Can Be the Way Forward?

- Measures for Sri Lanka: The government should take measures for economic recovery of the country as soon as the shortage of certain essential commodities ends, which is expected before the start of the Sinhala-Tamil New Year (in mid-April).
- The government should also join hands with the Tamil political leadership to create a roadmap for the economic development of the war-affected northern and eastern provinces, among the areas badly hit by the current crisis.
- It would be best to raise domestic tax revenue and shrink government expenditure to limit borrowing, particularly sovereign borrowing from external sources.
- Tough measures should be taken for restructuring the administration of concessions and subsidies.
- India's Assistance: It would be completely unwise for India to let the Chinese take over expanding chunks of Sri Lankan territory. India must offer Sri Lanka financial help, policy advice and investment from Indian entrepreneurs.
- Indian businesses must build supply chains that intertwine the Indian and Sri Lankan economies in goods and services ranging from the export of tea to information technology services.
- India, rather than any other nation, should help steer Sri Lanka towards realising its potential, to reap the rewards of a stable, friendly neighbourhood.
- Preventing Illegal Refuge: The state of Tamil Nadu has already started feeling the impact of the crisis with the reported arrival of 16 persons from Sri Lanka through illegal means.
- Tamil Nadu was home to nearly three lakh refugees after the anti-Tamil pogrom of 1983.
- The authorities, both in India and Sri Lanka, should ensure that the present crisis is not used to step up smuggling activities and trafficking or whip up emotions in both countries.

Crisis as an Opportunity:

- Neither Sri Lanka nor India can afford to have strained ties. As a much larger country, the onus is on India, it needs to be extremely patient and engage Sri Lanka even more regularly and closely.
- There is also a need to step up our people-centric developmental activities while scrupulously staying clear of any interference in Colombo's domestic affairs.

Conclusion

Much more will have to be done but the opportunity created by the current circumstances should be utilised to bring Indian and Sri Lankan societies closer — a prerequisite to achieving an economic union between Sri Lanka and the southern States of India. The crisis should be used as an opportunity for New Delhi and Colombo to thrash out a solution to the Palk Bay fisheries dispute - a longstanding irritant in bilateral ties.

2. What are your views on the lack of regional trade in South Asia? What are the key impediments? Analyse.**Approach**

Candidates can start with reference to the south Asia in the introduction and then explain and share views on regional trade in south Asia. Also in the end highlight the impediments towards the regional trade in south Asia.

Introduction

South Asia is the southern region of Asia, which is defined in both geographical and ethno-cultural terms. The region consists of the countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Body

Regional trade in south Africa:

- South Asia's intra-regional trade is the lowest globally, constituting only 5% of the region's total trade. The current economic integration is just one-third of its potential with an annual estimated gap of 23 billion dollars.
- This has happened despite trade agreements such as the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), followed by the South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement, as well as the Indo-Myanmar Border Trade Agreement, the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement and the Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement.

- Both economic and non-economic factors are responsible for this situation. Factors that range from tariff and non-tariff barriers to physical connectivity to asymmetric power relations and security concerns have served as obstacles to achieve regional cooperation in South Asia.
- South Asia remains one of the least economically integrated regions in the world because of “protectionist policies, high logistics cost, lack of political will and a broader trust deficit”.

Let us analyse key impediments for low-lack of regional trade in South Asia:

- **Security concerns:** A major hindrance in this regard has been the lack of consensus on threat perceptions, since member countries disagree on the idea of threats. For instance, while cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan is a major concern for India, Pakistan has failed to address these concerns.
- **External Influence in South Asia:** Smaller neighboring countries are quite predictable in seeking to balance India's influence through closer relations with external powers, in the past this was the US at the moment it is China.
- **Territorial Issues:** Territorial disputes in South Asia remain a challenge to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the region.
- Of all interstate disputes, those over territory tend to be more likely to lead to armed conflict.
- **Inefficient Management of Global Supply Chain:** South Asia's international trade integration is lower than the global average, and it is way less integrated into global value chains compared to East Asia. The countries have abysmally low exports due to the low productivity of many countries in this region.
- **Colonial mindset:** They are still entrapped in the historical conflicts of colonial rule and the disputed environment after the departure of Colonial Masters i.e. loss of property, lives, identities and communal violence. There are always high risks that any time the efforts for cooperation can suffer due to communal and terrorist threats.
- **Fear of Indian Domination:** Another most important cause of failure of trade is that there is a fear of India's hegemonic role in the region. The political, diplomatic and economic concerns felt by the member countries in South Asia has obstructed any positive development among the member countries.
- **Unstable Financial Positions:** The south Asia member countries are financially and economically not very much developed. The weak financial position of the member countries has also created an uncertain future for this organization. This is not conducive for the economic integration of South Asia.
- **Lack of Strong Infrastructure:** South Asian countries share some common features like cheap labour, low incomes, low value added commodities and comparative advantage in the same commodities like tea and garments etc. The intraregional trade cannot be successful in such conditions where the trade and economic structure and industrial infrastructure is similar.

Way Forward

- Strengthening Existing Associations: Existing associations like South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) haven't been able to significantly advance regional cooperation here.
- Delinking domestic sentiments from the economic rationale, engaging in diplomacy to allay concerns should be the way forward for South Asian countries which do have qualms about the integration.
- Towards Self-Reliant South Asia: Self-reliance of South Asia range from offers of freer transit trade through the region, the development of supply and logistic chains, digital data interchange, single-window and digitized clearance systems, risk assessment and minimisation measures, wider use of trade lines of credit (presently abysmally low), denser connectivity, smoother cross-border inspections.
- People-to-people Connect: Priority should be given to people-to-people connections and deep cultural affinities for sustained cordiality and stability. Further, focus should be given to prompt delivery of multilateral commitments for the overall development of the region.

3. The Indian Ocean region is a key geostrategic theatre for India. Do you agree? What measures has India taken to safeguard its interests in the region? Examine.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about the IOR and then highlight the importance of IOR geostrategic wise and also write about existing measures taken by government to secure and safeguard the Interest in the IOR.

Introduction-

The Indian Ocean is the third-largest of the world's oceanic divisions, covering 70,560,000 km² (27,240,000 sq mi) (19.8% of the water on the Earth's surface). It is bounded by Asia on the north, on the west by Africa, on the east by Australia, and on the south by the Southern Ocean or, depending on definition, by Antarctica.

Body

IOR as key geostrategic theatre for India:

- Huge resources: The Indo-Asia-Pacific region is the greatest maritime-littoral space that has the largest concentration of population, resources, developing economies, congested sea lanes, and contested territorial spaces.
- Choke points: The Indian Ocean is home to many choke points, such as the Straits of Hormuz, Straits of Malacca, Lombok and the Sunda Straits. Any disruption in traffic flow through these points can have disastrous consequences.
- Muslim population: The region is home to most of the world's Muslim population as well as India, one of the world's likely "rising powers."

- Nuclear weapon states: The Indian Ocean also is home to the world's two newest nuclear weapons states, India and Pakistan, as well as Iran, which most observers believe has a robust program to acquire nuclear weapon.
- Communication: The Indian Ocean is home to important SLOCs and maritime choke points. A large volume of international long haul maritime cargo from the Persian Gulf, Africa and Europe transits through this ocean.
- IORA: Excellence for Maritime Safety and Security; and explore a regional surveillance network, including sharing of data and exchange of information on maritime transportation systems.
- Fisheries: The people of Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Maldives, and Sri Lanka get more than half of the animal protein in their diets from fish.
- Mineral resources: Indian Ocean is rising and strengthening because its littoral states possess more than 2/3 of world's oil reserves and roughly 35% of world's gas reserves, 60% of Uranium, 40% of gold and 80% of all diamond deposits. Indian Ocean is also important because of the industrial raw materials it possesses including lithium, nickel, cobalt, tin, manganese, phosphate etc
- Offshore oil: Forty per cent of the world's offshore oil production takes place in the Indian Ocean basin

Measures taken safeguard Indian Interest in IOR:

- IORA: Excellence for Maritime Safety and Security; and explore a regional surveillance network, including sharing of data and exchange of information on maritime transportation systems.
- National Committee for Strengthening Maritime and Coastal Security: It is headed by Cabinet Secretary Coordinates all matters related to Maritime and Coastal Security.
- Electronic Surveillance: National Command Control Communication and Intelligence Network (NC3I) has been launched to provide near gapless surveillance of the entire coastline and prevent the intrusion of undetected vessels, the coastal surveillance network projects consists of radar and automatic identification system.

Data Sharing:

- Sharing data on threats to commercial shipping is an important component of enhancing maritime security. In this context, India established an International Fusion Centre (IFC) for the Indian Ocean region in Gurugram in 2018.
- IFC is jointly administered by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.
- IFC serves the objective of generating Maritime Domain Awareness on safety and security issues.

SAGAR:

- Security and Growth for All in the Region is the theme of Indian Ocean Policy as outlined by Indian Prime Minister in 2015. India's approach and

vision to tackle global challenges was highlighted by Prime Minister's dynamic five 'S' vision – Samman (Respect), Samvaad (Dialogue), Sahyog (Cooperation), Shanti (Peace) and Samriddhi (Prosperity).

The pillars of SAGAR are:

- India's role as a net security provider in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- India would continue to enhance the maritime security capacities and economic resilience of friendly countries in IOR.
- A more integrated and cooperative focus on the future of the IOR, which would enhance the prospects for the sustainable development of all countries in the region.
- The primary responsibility for peace, stability and prosperity in the IOR would be on those "who live in this region".

Conclusion

China's aggressive soft power diplomacy has widely been seen as arguably the most important element in shaping the Indian Ocean strategic environment, transforming the entire region's dynamics. By providing large loans on generous repayment terms, investing in major infrastructure projects such as the building of roads, dams, ports, power plants, and railways, and offering military assistance and political support in the UN Security Council through its veto powers.

4. What are India's economic and strategic interests in ASEAN? Discuss. Do you see any common ground evolving between ASEAN and India that can lead to deeper cooperation in the future? Examine.

Approach

Candidate can write in brief about the ASEAN and its structure. In the body part, economic and strategic interests of India in ASEAN can be given. In the second part, common ground for cooperation in future and challenges can be stated.

Introduction

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises of Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. India's focus on a strengthened and multi-faceted relationship with ASEAN is an outcome of the significant changes in the world's political and economic scenario since the early 1990s and India's own march towards economic liberalisation. India's search for economic space resulted in the 'Look East Policy'. The Look East Policy has today matured into a dynamic and action oriented 'Act East Policy'.

Body

Economic and strategic interests in ASEAN

- 3 Cs—Culture, Connectivity and Commerce— will shape India's ties with the ASEAN bloc. India's trade with ASEAN stands at approx. 10.6% of India's overall trade.
- ASEAN is India's fourth largest trading partner. Bilateral trade between ASEAN and India has crossed US\$ 80 billion mark.
- Singapore has become India's investment and trading hub in the East.
- ASEAN occupies a central place in the security architecture of the Indo-Pacific region due to Maritime cooperation in terms of connectivity, safety and security.
- India's export to ASEAN stands at 11.28% of our total exports. The ASEAN-India Free Trade Area has been completed.
- India and ASEAN can collaborate to combat terror financing, cyber security threats, tax evasions and many more.
- India needs ASEAN support in achieving a rules-based regional security architecture. Partnership with ASEAN nations might help India counter the growing presence of China.
- ASEAN is seen as the most successful regional organisation next only to the EU. ASEAN India-Business Council (AIBC) was set up in 2003 to bring key private sector players from India and the ASEAN countries on a single platform.
- To develop connectivity through water, ASEAN and India are working on the Kaladan MultiModal Transit Transport Project. ASEAN-India cooperation in maritime domain is one of the key focus areas for growth and development of the Indo-Pacific region.
- Under New Delhi's 'Act East Policy', India has been increasing its engagements with the ASEAN.
- Delhi Declaration: To identify Cooperation in the Maritime Domain as the key area of cooperation under the ASEAN-India strategic partnership.

Common ground for cooperation in future

- India's relationship with ASEAN is a key pillar of our foreign policy and the foundation of our Act East Policy. The up-gradation of the relationship into a Strategic Partnership in 2012 was a natural progression to the ground covered since India became a Sectoral Partner of the ASEAN in 1992, Dialogue Partner in 1996 and Summit Level Partner in 2002.
- Political Security Cooperation: Faced with growing traditional and non-traditional challenges, politico-security cooperation is a key and an emerging pillar of our relationship.
- Rising export of terror, growing radicalization through ideology of hatred, and spread of extreme violence define the landscape of common security threats to our societies. India's partnership with ASEAN seeks to craft a response that relies on coordination, cooperation and sharing of experiences at multiple levels.

- Socio-Cultural Cooperation: India has been organizing a large number of programmes to boost People-to-People Interaction with ASEAN, such as inviting ASEAN students to India each year for the Students Exchange Programme, Special Training Course for ASEAN diplomats.
- Exchange of Parliamentarians, Participation of ASEAN students in the National Children's Science Congress, ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks, ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Lecture Series, etc.
- India has been cooperating with ASEAN by way of implementation of various projects in the fields of Agriculture, Science & Technology, Space, Environment & Climate Change, Human Resource Development, Capacity Building, New and Renewable Energy, Tourism, People-to-People contacts and Connectivity etc.
- Space Project envisaging establishment of a Tracking, Data Reception/Data Processing Station in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and upgradation of Telemetry Tracking and Command Station in Biak, Indonesia.
- India has been supporting ASEAN, especially CLMV countries under the Initiatives for ASEAN Integration, which include projects on Training of English Language for Law Enforcement Officers in CLMV countries and Training of professionals dealing with capital markets in CLMV by National Institute of Securities Management Mumbai.

Despite the efforts India is far behind in achieving the true potential in partnership

- One major reason, among many, is a lack of agreement over product standardisation between India and most other countries in Asia.
- Exporters many times complain they are not able to sell, as their products do not meet the required quality standards required in a foreign land.
- At a time when the world economy is doing well, it is ironic that India's trade deficit has widened to \$14.88 billion in December 2017 from \$10.55 billion a year earlier.
- Between 2008 and 2016, India's trade with ASEAN region has increased faster than two of its two largest trading partners, namely, European Union and the United States
- Two way trade between India and ASEAN has moved from \$65.1 billion in 2015-2016 to \$71.6 billion 2016-2017. However, this figure is meagre in comparison to China's \$452.3 billion in 2016.
- Interestingly, in spite of all non-tariff measures and higher tariffs directed against Chinese exports, the country's trade with ASEAN has flourished. Over the last 15 years, China has emerged as first or second largest trading partner with almost all Southeast Asian countries.

Way forward

- First, as cost of production is lower in Laos, Cambodia, and Myanmar, it means that Indian firms can gain significantly by investing in these countries.
- Investing in these regions meant a bigger market for Indian firms. ASEAN region has a combined GDP of \$2.7 trillion.

- Indian firms can evade protectionist measures targeted against their exports if they start exporting from ASEAN region.
- Investing in these regions will also ease out some of India's energy requirements, enabling the Indian to access cheaper foreign energy (oil and power) and minerals from Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam.
- Participating in the South-east Asian production network will allow India to increase its manufacturing base besides creating jobs for its young population.
- Also we need to open dialogue with ASEAN countries to modify the terms of Regional Comprehensive Economic Framework in such a way that it should not harm India's economy much, as India stood away from RCEP citing this reason.

Conclusion

Improved trade ties with the ASEAN nations would mean a counter to China's presence in the region and economic growth and development for India. ASEAN occupies a centralised position in the rules-based security architecture in the Indo-Pacific, which is vital for India since most of its trade is dependent on maritime security. Collaboration with the ASEAN nations is necessary to counter insurgency in the Northeast, combat terrorism, tax evasions etc.

5. What should India's stand be on the issue of China's aggressive posturing against Taiwan? Do you think the policy of strategic ambiguity suits India's interests? Critically examine.

Approach

Candidate can describe India's stand on Taiwan in brief while tracing the relations. In the second part, a way ahead can be given for India. In the end, appropriate conclusion can be stated.

Introduction

India, which was one of the first non-communist countries to recognise Mao's PRC in 1950, has also stuck by the One-China Policy. However, for New Delhi, the One-China Policy doesn't just govern Taiwan but also Tibet. While India doesn't recognise Taiwan or any Tibetan authority as independent of China, there has been a clamour for India to revisit its stance over China's continuing aggression at Indian borders.

Introduction

India's stand on Taiwan

- China's One-China Policy: China views Taiwan as a breakaway province that will one day unite with it. Beijing has not ruled out the possible use of force to

reunify the self-ruled island with the mainland. It routinely protests any foreign dignitaries' visits to Taiwan, insisting that all countries follow the One-China Policy.

- 2010: Over the years, meetings between leaders of India and China routinely reaffirmed the One-China Policy, However, India stopped doing so in 2010 after then Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit.
- But India declined to reaffirm the policy after Beijing issued "stapled visas" instead of normal visas to Jammu and Kashmir residents travelling to China.
- 2014: When Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014, he invited Taiwanese Ambassador Chung-Kwang Tien and Lobsang Sangay, the president of Central Tibetan Administration to his swearing-in ceremony.
- 2020: BJP's Meenakshi Lekhi and Rahul Kaswan attended the swearing-in of Taiwan president Tsai Ing-wen through virtual mode.
- India's relations with China strained after the Galwan clashes in 2020, and New Delhi picked Gourangalal Das – then joint secretary (Americas) in the Ministry of External Affairs – as the ambassador to Taipei.
- Indian Government facilitates and promotes interactions in areas of trade, investment and tourism, culture and education, and people-to-people exchanges. India has one office in Taipei for diplomatic functions. The India-Taipei Association (ITA) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in New Delhi were both established in 1995.

Relations with Taiwan

- The bilateral relations between India and Taiwan have improved since the 1990s, despite both nations not maintaining official diplomatic relations.
- Commercial ties -Both governments have launched efforts to significantly expand bilateral trade and investment, especially in the fields of information technology (IT), energy, telecommunications and electronics.
- Cultural exchanges- Buddhism is the most widely practiced religion in Taiwan, usually alongside elements of Daoism, and Bollywood films have in recent years gained a reasonably popular following, along with other aspects of Indian culture such as yoga, cuisine and Indian dance.
- Trade- Taiwan's relations with India have increased in breadth spanning trade, research and academia, as well as depth trade ties, which amounted to \$7.5 billion in 2019, up from \$1 billion in 2000.

What can be way ahead?

- With India facing its own problems with China on the LAC, there have been suggestions that it should review its One China Policy.
- It has in any case long stopped reiterating this officially — and use not just the Tibet card, but also develops more robust relations with Taiwan to send a message to China.
- India and Taiwan currently maintain "trade and cultural exchange" offices in each other's capitals.

- New Southbound Policy (NSP): Often lauded as the Tsai administration's flagship foreign policy initiative, the NSP expands the scope of countries covered in the Go South Policy.
- Through the policy, Taiwan has extended engagement with Australia, New Zealand, India, and its five South Asian neighbours.
- Long-term approach: Given that India-China relations are not likely to witness a return to normalcy in the near future, India should consider adopting a bold, comprehensive and long-term approach to engage Taiwan.
- QUAD provides a platform for India along with other members to talk about Taiwan.
- Any eventuality in the Cross-Strait will have an impact on India as well. India should separate bilateral equations from regional issues.

Conclusion

The most important lesson for policymakers in New Delhi is the importance of articulating red lines and sovereign positions in an unambiguous manner. New Delhi needs to unambiguously highlight the threat from China and the sources of such a threat. India's current policy of 'strategic ambiguity' amounts to poor messaging, and confusing to its own people as well as the larger international community, and is therefore counterproductive.

1. What is your opinion regarding the need for a coherent refugee policy in India? Is it possible for India to balance its domestic interests with international conventions in this regard? Analyse in the light of recent developments.

Approach

In this question candidates need to write about refugee crisis in India and is there need for coherent refugee policy in India. Also explain is it possible for India to balance its domestic interests with international conventions in this regard. Candidates need to analyse this issue in recent developments.

Introduction

Historically, India has witnessed an inflow of refugees from many neighboring countries. The refugee issue poses a problem for the state as it puts an economic burden, may trigger demographic changes in the long term, and poses security risks as well. Hence India needs a coherent refugee policy for refugees and needs to balance its domestic and international conventions.

Body

India is a largest receiver of refugees among south Asian nations yet it does not have a comprehensive policy towards refugee and asylum seekers and decisions are taken with the help of legislation's like The Passport Act, The India Foreigner Act etc. on case to case basis.

- In absence of single comprehensive policy towards refugee & asylum seekers and not a signatory of 1951 UN Refugee Convention, SC has extended the Right to life & liberty (A21) to refugees and historically refugees are well treated in India.
- There are many instances in history starting from arrival of Tibetans with Dalai Lama in 1959, Bangladeshi refugee influx on large scale, Tamil Sri-Lankan refugees and many minority group people seeking refugee in India from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

India's Refugee Policy-

- India lacks specific legislation to address the problem of refugees, in spite of their increasing inflow.
- The Foreigners Act, 1946, fails to address the peculiar problems faced by refugees as a class. It also gives unbridled power to the Central government to deport any foreign citizen.
- Further, the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) strikingly excludes Muslims from its purview and seeks to provide citizenship only to Hindu, Christian, Jain, Parsi, Sikh, and Buddhist immigrants persecuted in Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.
- Moreover, India is not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, the key legal documents pertaining to refugee protection.
- In spite of not being a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, India has had a stellar record on the issue of refugee protection. India has a moral tradition for assimilating foreign people and culture.
- Further, the constitution of India also respects the life, liberty, and dignity of human beings.
- The Supreme Court in the National Human Rights Commission vs. State of Arunachal Pradesh (1996) held that "while all rights are available to citizens, persons including foreign citizens are entitled to the right to equality and the right to life, among others."

India's Argument for Not Signing the 1951 Refugee Convention-

- The definition of refugees in the 1951 convention only pertains to the violation of civil and political rights, but not economic rights, of individuals.
- For instance, a person, under the definition of the convention, could be considered if he/she is deprived of political rights, but not if he/she is deprived of economic rights.
- If the violation of economic rights were to be included in the definition of a refugee, it would clearly pose a major burden on the developed world.
- On the other hand, this argument, if used in the South Asian context, could be a problematic proposition for India too.

Challenges Associated With India's Refugee Policy-

- Refugees vs. Immigrants: In the recent past, many people from neighboring countries tend to illegally immigrate to India, not because of state persecution but in search of better economic opportunities in India.

- While the reality is that much of the debate in the country is about illegal immigrants, not refugees, the two categories tend to get bunched together.
- Due to this, policies and remedies to deal with these issues suffer from a lack of clarity as well as policy utility.
- Ambiguity in the Framework: The main reason why our policies towards illegal immigrants and refugees are confused is that as per Indian law, both categories of people are viewed as one and the same and are covered under the Foreigners Act, 1946.
- Ad-hocism: The absence of such a legal framework also leads to policy ambiguity whereby India's refugee policy is guided primarily by ad hocism.
- Ad hoc measures enable the government in office to pick and choose 'what kind' of refugees it wants to admit for whatever political or geopolitical reasons.
- This results in a discriminatory action, which tends to be a violation of human rights.
- Discriminatory CAA: The Government of India has passed the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). CAA envisages providing citizenship to people who are religious minorities in India's neighborhood and persecuted by the state.
- However, CAA is not the answer to the refugee problem primarily because of its deeply discriminatory nature, as it doesn't include a particular religion under its ambit.
- Further, many political analysts have dubbed the CAA as an act of refugee avoidance, not refugee protection.

Suggestions to solve the Refugee Problem-

- Firstly, India should put forward its constructive arguments in the upcoming UNSC meeting related to the Myanmar coup. A proposal to impose global sanctions on Myanmar can be considered here.
- Further, there is a need to formulate a comprehensive refugee policy that would provide greater clarity in differentiating between a refugee/illegal migrant.
- A National Immigration Commission can be appointed to frame a National Migration Policy and a National Refugee Policy for India.
- Thirdly, the government has to strengthen the Foreigners Act 1946 and also sign bilateral agreements with neighbourhood countries regarding deportation.
- Fourthly, the states must cooperate with the centre on the refugee problem. As law and order is a state list while international relations come under the Union list.
- Fifthly, the states should follow the MHA guidelines of 2018 to identify illegal immigrants. The MHA recommendations include,
 - Restrictions of Illegal Migrants specific locations as per provisions of law
 - Capturing their biographic and biometric particulars
 - Cancellation of fake Indian documents
 - Initiating legal proceedings including deportation proceedings as per provisions of law

Conclusion

In spite of not being a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, India has been one of the largest recipients of refugees in the world. However, if India had domestic legislation regarding refugees, it could have deterred any oppressive government in the neighborhood to persecute their population and make them flee to India. The people demanding refuge are in a vulnerable situation and see a last ray of hope in an inclusive and tolerant country. Considering this, there should be an intake of refugees but not at the cost of the native population. So, It is high time for India to define a clear-cut refugee policy.

2. The energy needs of India are at the core of its geostrategic plans. Do you agree? On this front, what are the major challenges facing India? Analyse.

Approach

Candidates can start with reference to India's increasing energy needs and then highlight how geostrategic strength are important for energy security. Also refer to the challenges associated to such geostrategic plans faced by India highlight some recent crisis.

Introduction

India imports 80 percent of its oil needs and is the third largest oil consumer in the entire world. It is aiming to become leading global economic power which will fuel energy needs for providing infrastructure, provisioning of basic necessities, developing human skill, employment generation and manufacturing abilities. In such situation India's geostrategic plans will have important role for ensuring energy security.

Body

- The shifting of energy source from coal supplies to oil supplies has led to the Middle East becoming an essential epicentre of global geopolitics and to oil becoming a vital issue for national security.
- Crude rallied in the backdrop of hurricane Ida impacting US Gulf Coast production and a fall in US inventories. This comes at a time when global oil demand is rising.
- Underinvestment in the global oil and gas sector could lead to tighter supplies at a time when demand is set to recover.
- Whilst that might be beneficial to oil producers in the short term, it also means significant costs to the global economy which is in nobody's long-term interest.
- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies still have a cap on oil production, while a lack of investment has limited output from the group's top two African producers.

- Many important events like the Kyoto Protocol signing & Paris Agreement marked the critical steps forward in global efforts to respond to the challenge of global warming.
- The global concern for more than half a century oil and natural gas have been at the heart of the geopolitics of energy. However, the over-dependence on oil & gas has brought the global issue of global warming into the forefront.

Challenges faced by India:

- Creation of storage infrastructure: To overcome the variable nature of renewable sources of energy, it is vital to invest in affordable batteries of large capacity. This would require adequate commitment from the government side to inspire confidence in the private sector.
- Lack of skilled manpower and poorly developed infrastructure for developing conventional and unconventional energy.
- India lacks transportation infrastructure for making energy accessible e.g. pipelines can be a useful way to boost the total supply of gas in the country. Gas will play a major role in Indian energy mix because it can be used effectively in several demand sectors.
- Funding: As already stated, renewable energy requires setting up large projects to harness the economies of scale. This requires a large initial investment, which can be a deterrent at the beginning of the project.
- Integration with the Main Grid: Integrating the renewables with the main grid is the area India needs to work upon. To accelerate the uptake of renewables, storage and battery solutions is needed in large quantities.

External Challenges:

- India's fragile energy security is under severe pressure from its rising dependence on imported oil, regulatory uncertainty, international monopolies and opaque natural gas pricing policies
- India seeks to achieve its energy security through multiple partners e.g. Indo-USA nuclear deal, Oil import from Middle East etc. However, in recent times due to conflict among India's energy partners e.g. USA and Iran; India had to reduce oil import from Iran.
- In wake of its difficult geographic location in South-Asia, India faces strategic challenge to meet its energy needs.
- China's One Belt One Road initiative can give China definitive advantage if any conflict ensues between countries, by disturbing India's access to energy.
- Failure to get onboard all interested parties in IPI (Iran-Pakistan-India) gas pipeline and TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India) gas pipeline for assured supply of natural gas.
- Supply of Rare-Earth Mineral: The rapid development of wind and solar energy, together with that of electric cars, raises concerns about the security of supply of the minerals needed to manufacture them.
- The dominance of China in the supply of these rare minerals and current geopolitical tension between US & China could trigger a case like the 'cobalt crisis' of 1978.

Conclusion

A well planned road map is needed, for which NITI Aayog is coming up with Energy Vision 2035 to achieve India's clean energy goals. Diversified energy mix is what India needs to focus on, no doubt solar and wind have a lot of potential, Hydrogen would be a game changer in Indian energy transition space. India should be working on areas like investment in infrastructure, capacity building and better integration in the near and immediate future.

3. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan have requested financial assistance from the IMF in order to alleviate the domestic economic crisis. In this regard, comment on the political economy of an IMF bailout for a country. Is it possible that a crisis similar to that in Sri Lanka could occur in India as well? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidates are expected to write about the recent crisis and emerging economic problems which made few countries to opt IMF bailout. Define bailout and explain the political economy situation in such countries. Also comparing the situation examine why such problems will not emerge in India and also suggest some measures to avoid future crisis.

Introduction-

After the collapse of the Sri Lankan economy, attention has turned to the state of affairs in other South Asian countries such as Pakistan and Bangladesh. All three countries have either curtailed imports or are planning to do so, to salvage their fast-depleting foreign exchange reserves and avoid a Lanka-like forex crisis.

Body

IMF bailout:

- Bailout is a general term for extending financial support to a company or a country facing a potential bankruptcy threat. It can take the form of loans, cash, bonds, or stock purchases.
- IMF's 13th bailout package for Pakistan in the last three decades. While Pakistan's economy typically witnesses a boom-bust cycle, over the last 10 years, its need for financial support from the IMF has coincided with the completion of a particular government's term.
- This happened because the majority of countries had military rulers which got elected on the basis of populist economic commitments
- Populist economic policies: Policies that are Good politics but Bad economics.
- Clearly, these countries are marred with poor fiscal prudence and economic mismanagement.

- India was also bailed out by IMF, but India not only repaid IMF loans very soon but went on to become one of the fastest growing economies.
- Bailouts are therefore not insurance against economic crisis, they are just like a painkiller, its effectiveness depends on certain factors influencing macro-economic fundamentals.
- Political stability and quality of governance are very important for continuity in economic policy.
- Rule of law continues to be the central pillar for implementation of any public policy.
- Also, there should be no mismatch between the IMF loan and conditions of structural adjustment imposed on the crisis-ridden economy.
- As the IMF bailout package is short-term in nature, but the structural adjustment is a long-term commitment.

Lankan crisis:

- Sri Lankan economy has been facing a crisis owing to a serious Balance of Payments (BoP) problem. Its foreign exchange reserves are depleting rapidly and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the country to import essential consumption goods.
- The Sri Lankan rupee has lost more than 80% of its value, food costs have skyrocketed by over 50% and tourism- one of the country's main revenue sources has significantly diminished due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lanka type economic crisis in India:

- According to the Reserve Bank of India's data, at the end of March 2022, India's external debt was placed at \$ 620.7 billion, recording an increase of \$ 47.1 billion over its level in end-March 2021.
- As per a recent RBI report, five Indian states have been flagged as highly debt-ridden states. India should manage its debt-to-GDP ratio to avoid defaulting.
- Both retail inflation and food inflation in India, though high and beyond RBI's acceptable levels, are much better than in its crisis-stricken neighbourhood.
- With about \$600 billion of foreign exchange reserves, India is in a fairly comfortable situation right now. India's \$600 billion forex reserves are sufficient to fund the country's import bills for the next 12 months at least.
- The second indicator of economic strength is the current account deficit (CAD). India's CAD widened to \$23 billion in the third quarter ended December 2021 (Q3FY22), forming 2.7 per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) and reflecting a rise in overseas trade.
- India, as a country is also dealing with a set of unique economic problems that need to be dealt with carefully in order to avoid any future crisis.

Way forward

- Firstly, India has a reserve oil storage of 74 days, but this needs to be increased keeping in mind the ongoing fuel crisis around the world created due to the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Secondly, India seems to be on the brink of a power crisis with the ongoing coal shortage at a time when the country is dependent on fossil fuels for more than 60 per cent of electricity generation.
- Third, the Indian rupee has depreciated 5.9 per cent in 2022, which will further result in decreasing forex reserves, which have already plunged to the lowest ever value in the past 15 months.
- Fourth, Indian inflation soared to 7.79 per cent in April 2022, which should be avoided at all costs, as seen in Sri Lanka, where angry protestors raided government institutions to express outrage over increasing prices.
- Lastly, industrial production should be increased in tune with the government's plan to produce goods worth \$1 trillion by 2025, and at the same time exports should be increased to earn sufficient forex reserves to deal with debt liabilities and the ever-increasing cost of imports due to unstable global atmosphere around fuel and food.

4. Do you think deglobalisation can affect India's economic interests? If yes, how? Explain.

Approach

Candidate can define de-globalisation in the beginning followed by the effects of it on India's economic interests. A detailed analysis of effects on Indian economy can be given along with the global scenario.

Introduction

De-globalisation is the process of diminishing interdependence and integration between nations around the world. It is characterised by decline in economic trade and investment between countries. This decline reflects that economies become less integrated with the rest of the world economies with rise in tendencies of protectionism.

Body

Effect of de-globalisation on India's interests

- Developing nations like India, China and Japan have grown rapidly over the last few decades. The economic power has been shifting from the West to these Asian Nations. Thus, developed nations have started turning inward in order to put a check on the rise of other powers.

- Although western nations have benefitted immensely from globalisation by expanding the reach of their economy and by the acquisition of talented individuals, public support towards it has been waning fast.
- Developed nations think they have more to lose than to gain. The people of these nations are worried about the consequences of globalisation like loss of employment, increased migration and crimes etc.
- De-globalisation will lead to reduction in the rate of economic growth of India. It will lead to protectionism with reduced cooperation among countries that will hurt Indian trade and exports. In the successive monetary policies in 2018-19, RBI has observed that protectionism poses a challenge to India's growth rate, because it affects the demand of Indian exports, especially in the textile, pharmaceutical, gems-jewellery and service sector.
- Competition: De-globalisation will lead to reduction in competition and rise in general prices of the goods and services. For example, Brexit will give rise to higher tariffs and quotas that will have an impact on British business as well as on the rest of the world leading to price rise.
- It will destroy employment opportunities because as it will prevent outflow of skilled people due to protectionist measures like visa regulations. This will impact their employability and remittance to the nation.
- It may lead to increased import costs due to lesser choice and options and manufacturers and producers would have to pay more for equipment, commodities, and intermediate products from foreign markets.
- It will lead to decrease in standards of living as it will impact exports and economic growth impacting welfare of poor and their standard of lives. It may further lead to rise in conflicts economically and politically.
- Flow of Capital: Cross-border financial flows have been reduced due to uncertainty in the global policy making and increased protectionism by Advance economies.
- Labour Market Loss: The major hurdle faced by the advanced economies is the death of relatively low skilled sectors like textile and the support economies that grew around it. There are varying estimates of the job losses caused by cheaper imports from China and other emerging economies.
- Growing Inequality: The slow pace of technological change in advanced economies had resulted in the stagnation of blue collar incomes which seems to be the major cause of rising inequality in the AEs.
- These tendencies limit technological advancement of the world as a whole and of developing countries in particular. Limited knowledge sharing, lack of flow of technology to developing countries limit advancement in science.
- Due to lack of coordination among various nations, security around the world along with India would impact. It will not only increase economic risks, but would provide an opportunity for terrorists to carry out violence due to lack of coordination among various law enforcement agencies.
- A less coordinating world means impact on agricultural exports and Indian farmers. Indian farmers would face double whammy of environment change and de-globalisation.

- It will impact economic development in India and would hurt the welfare of Indian farmers.

Conclusion

De-globalisation erodes the advances made by globalisation. Integrated world economy as a one family enables not just free flow of goods and services but also free flow of people, ideas, cultures and strengthens the spirit of humanity. Beyond economy it hampers the speed of our new evolution in global direction. Rise of hatred, intolerance, racism and suspicion are the result of our narrow outlook. We have to embrace the spirit of globalisation minimizing its ill effects.

5. As a member of both the Quad and I2U2 groups, India occupies a strategic sweet spot. Do you agree? Substantiate your views.

Approach

Candidate can define I2U2 and quad along with the importance of strategic alignment with these for India. Strategic importance of India in these groupings can be established with the way forward.

Introduction

I2U2 is the new grouping formed by four nations- India, Israel, UAE, and the US. It was given the name International Forum for Economic Cooperation. It is focused on expanding economic and political cooperation in the Middle East and Asia, including through trade, combating climate change, energy cooperation, and coordination on other vital shared interests. The four-nation framework would foster support and cooperation in various domains like infrastructure, technology and maritime security.

Body

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) or QUAD Group is an informal strategic forum comprising India, Japan, Australia and the United States of America.

India in strategic spot

- Until now, India's West Asian policies have largely insisted on keeping its bilateral relationships separate from each other.
- This is the first step to bring those relationships with UAE and Israel together and merge them.
- Advantage from Abraham Accords: India will get advantage of the Abraham Accords to deepen engagement with Israel without risking its ties with the UAE and the other Arab states.

- India is a massive consumer market. It's a frontline producer of high-tech and highly sought-after goods as well that will attract investors from West Asia.
- Thrust to Geopolitical Presence: I2U2 will boost India's geopolitical presence especially in West Asia and India will strategically and economically establish itself as a World player.
- Indian communities in West Asia have a significant impact upon the Indian economy, through inward remittances. Further cooperation with West Asian countries through I2U2 will enhance inward remittance.
- India, as a mistress of the Indian Ocean, holds the responsibility to act as the net security provider in the Indian Ocean region. India along with likeminded countries needs to counter China's String of Pearls strategy and 'debt-trap' diplomacy.
- Act East policy: the Quad group strengthens and supplement India's Act East policy.
- Looking at the challenges on the continental sphere, India must start giving importance to the maritime sphere which is far more important to China compared to opportunistic land grab attempts in the Himalayas. Joining Quad will strengthen India's position in the maritime sphere Vis-à-vis China.
- China's spending on defence (\$261 b) is more than the collective spending of India (\$71.1 b), Japan (\$ 47.6 b), Australia (\$25.9 b). entering quad provides India necessary thrust.
- The Indo-pacific system, as muted by Quad is not clear. British empire never managed to combine the Indo and the Pacific into a unitary system It would be difficult to align the combined vision of the grouping with that of their individual visions regarding Indo-Pacific.

Way forward

- The I2U2 is a win-win proposition for all the countries concerned. India needs to play a more active role as far as cooperation with West Asia is concerned.
- India must navigate this area which is full of landmines, very cautiously because the fundamental interests of India: energy security, food security, workers, trade, investment and maritime security lie in this region.
- In the wake of recent aggression, India would require to be more aggressive diplomatically, therefore rather than involving in the Russia-India-China trilateral, India should look for reliable partnerships to deal with China.
- In west asia, two countries, specifically, need to be reassured that this new arrangement is not aimed at them: Iran and Egypt.
- For India, Iran is important in relation to the present context of Afghanistan. India must deal with the challenges both diplomatically and strategically in this region.
- Egypt has friendly relations with all the four countries in this alliance but it must be reassured that it will not be impacted economically or politically.
- With I2U2 and quad, India is in strategic sweet spot in the indo-pacific to deal with the rising challenges of west asia and east asia. India can play an active role in mitigating the challenges posed by instability.

Conclusion

India has moved beyond non-alignment towards an issue-based alliance with no formal agreements. Therefore, joining Quad will be in line with the present foreign policies of the government. In I2U2 There are challenges in dealing with the complications of the West Asian region. Balancing the rival countries diplomatically and strategically in order to maintain friendly relations with each other can be done through mutual cooperation among the four countries.

