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General Studies-I: Indian Heritage and Culture, History and Geography of the World and Society.

Indian culture will cover the salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

Q-Write a note on the contribution of ancient universities in India to art and culture of the world.

In ancient time the Indian many Indian universities were well established and had attracted students from across the world. Some of them are as follows:

Nalanda University: It was devoted to the Buddhist studies, it also trained students in astronomy, medicine, mathematics, politics, art of war etc. It had accommodation for students and professors, students from Turkey, Korea, Japan, China etc. used to study here.

Telhara University recently unearthed was also a buddhist seat of learning in Bihar...

Taxila university: It is in present day Pakistan but was a great centre of learning in ancient times, the famous book of Arthashastra by Chanakya had been written here.

Pushpagiri University: even though it has been recently excavated and yet need to be understood but it seems to be a great centre of learning those days.

Kanchi under Cholas: The capital city was filled with educational institutions and some of the great Buddhist monks have learnt here. Even the Tamil Grammar had been written at this place.

All these have not only moulded the India art and culture but spread to other parts of the world also through monks, students and travelers. The Buddhist literature Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa written in Sri Lanka is a classic example for influence in foreign land.

Salient features of Indian Society, Diversity of India.
Q-“We rightly take pride in our political freedoms but these are yet to ensure full citizenship rights to marginalised groups.” With reference to various challenges faced by the Dalit community and Dalit entrepreneurs, critically comment on the statements.

Although our constitution calls for equality of opportunity and forbids any kind of discrimination based on race, cast etc yet these are hardly realised on ground level.

Challenges faced by Dalit community –

1) Traditionally being starved of basic education
2) Most of Dalit are working in primary or secondary sector.
3) Incidence and prevalence of poverty and poor health indicators are more among them
4) Opportunity cost is more

Challenges faced by Dalit entrepreneurs-

1) Majority of businessman are upper-cast, thereby denying Dalits entry
2) Availability of angel investors amount to nil for Dalits
3) Start-up assistance in terms of technological competence, legal and financial expertise are also lacking.

Steps taken for their empowerment

-- Supporting Dalit through various social development programmes.
-- For Dalit entrepreneurs special programmes have been announced in the recent budgets.

--- A-15 = No discrimination
    --- A-17 = Abolition of untouchability
    --- Policies for reservation in Educational institute, promotion.
    --- 73rd and 74th Amendment = reservation for local level election.
    --- National commission for SC/ST/Human rights

--- Passage of Manual scavenging act 2013 with strict punishment

Suggestions

If affirmative actions cater to following needs of Dalits, it will lead to rapid development of Dalits from within:

1) Skill: It has been found that Diploma degrees are more beneficial to Dalits than Bachelors degree in getting jobs as expectations form a bachelor holding persons are much more
2) Urbanisation: Social hierarchies are rigid in rural areas. In urban areas, these are less and hence they provide a better environment for growth. In urban areas, they can also avail various govt. schemes more easily due to proximity.

3) Manufacturing: Urban areas provide ample ground for development of small and medium enterprises. Government should provide easy access to funds form Dalit in order to breed in them the culture of entrepreneurship.

Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc., geographical features and their location- changes in critical geographical features (including water bodies and ice-caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

Q) Explain how a tsunami is caused. Examine the latest technology involved in tsunami warning systems.
Tsunami is caused by following 4 factors:
1) Earthquake
2) volcano (water displacement)
3)Landslide
4) meteor

Technology for detection of tsunami
1) tide gauge
2) deep ocean assessment and reporting of tsunamis (DART) developed by NOAA
3) earthquake measurement

Organisations:
1) NOAA (National Oceanic ans atmospheric administration) (US) — International Tsunami Warning system
2) National Tsunami early warning centre (by India) for Indian Ocean formed in the wake of 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami
3) Coastal vulnerability Index (CVI) developed INCOIS (Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services) to express relative of the coast.
General Studies- II: Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations.

Parliament and State Legislatures - structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

Q-Critically comment on the functioning of Indian Parliament. Do you think the way it’s functioning is a true reflection of representative democracy? Substantiate.

Functioning of parliament

1) The number of working hours of parliament has been decreasing with each new government. That means the parliamentarians main duty of representing his electors issues in the legislature is not being done properly.
2) Frequent adjournments, walk outs, disruptions has relegated discussion and debate to a rare happening. Question hours, zero hours rarely used. Important constituency issues hence not raised.
3) Parliamentary privileges have been misused. Pepper spray incident and other such show the level our parliamentarians have degraded. Media coverage has instigated them to such behavior. A show of being representative. But means used has been wrong.
4) Partiality by speaker. Not giving adequate time and importance to the opposition. Position of speaker has been frequently politically misused. Immense powers. No judicial review. Blackout during passage of AP reorganization is a case in point. But it won’t be needed if parliamentarians behave themselves.
5) Anti defection law – Very rarely do we see individual opinion differing from party opinion. Usage of whip has completely killed parliamentarian’s individuality and their representativeness. But it has prevented party jumping and ensured stability of government.
6) Election to rajya sabha from non-resident state has increased. Even though the member has no idea about the state he got elected from. How representative is he? Need to amend the constitution to repeal it.

However, parliament is still seen as the temple of our democracy. People have become more watchful of their representatives behaviour. As democracy gets deepened, parliaments functioning is bound to improve and become more representative.

Indian Parliaments consists of the President, Council of states and House of people. Parliamentary Govt. adopted by Indian Constitutions provides for separation as well as co-ordination to govern the country.

Usually the legislature is assigned with the work of policy making, however in present times it just works as a body of denying/accepting policies made by the executive. This has reduced the value of Parliamentary Govt.
The legislature is provided with many instruments such as question-hour, zero hour, no-confidence motions, cut motions to check dictatorship of the executive and to make it accountable. These are generally used to bring out discussions on matters of public interests, and policies of Govt. However a recent report shows that the discussions on policies are reducing day by day.

Again we know that the parliament is popularly known as debate forum. According to the report it is clear that the debate forum is loosing its value. And this also leads to lack of transparency in Policies, dictatorship of executive, corruption. So people will be unaware of the activities of the Govt.

It is also held that Parliament is also accountable to the people and judiciary. However a recent SC verdict which imposed merely a moral sanction upon PM and CM not to appoint any person as minister who has criminal records. And restrained from taking any measure.

These above altogether reduces the representative democracy of the country which needs serious attention. In this situation the Judiciary and Parliament have to work together to bring the transparency in the Parliament and to increase democracy.

15th LS- 165 bills passed + 126 pending; as compared to 333 of 1st LS
many important bills thru ordinance route like FSB etc
important bills like curbing corruption, pension, insurance etc lapsed
frequent disruptions
passivity of opposition in raising relevant issues
only yes or no on executive decisions;
standard of debate n discussions down

16th LS elections still women 11% ; much lower than even Pakistan 20%; n Middle east party tickets on popularity, vote bank politics, members film-stars, sportsmen

Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Q- The National Food Security Act has still not been implemented by majority of state governments. Critically examine why.

A country where agriculture is a gamble against the monsoon, where malnutrition epitomises the dismal state of food security, the reluctance of states to implement National Food Security Act catches a lot of attention. The major causes of this reluctance can be understood by studying state and centre specific causes.

STATE SPECIFIC CAUSES.
(a) The onus to identify poor lie on individual states with a cap of total numbers of poor fixed
by centre. This creates a political dilemma of whom to include whom to exclude.
(b) Most of the state lacks required infrastructure for implementation.
(c) NFSA has fixed the percentage of beneficiaries that will increase will population rises.
Centre poor record in grants of its planned schemes and state petty revenues creates a dis-
favour for scheme.
(d) Few states like Chattisgarh and Tamil Nadu still run a better model than proposed by
NFSA.
(e) Some states are still sticking to the demand of inclusion of edible oil, salt etc to make it a
nutrition security program.

(F) Cost Sharing: The states are required to bear the burden of nutrition for Lactating mother,
pregnant women, malnourished child, mid day meal, aganwadi and other similar
infrastructure. It puts pressure on state to arrange fund.

CENTRE SPECIFIC CAUSES
(a) Only customary persuasion by centre as it wants to contain it own FD which may exceed
many notches due to food subsidy of NFSA.
(b) Monsoon scarcity and lack of production in kharif season has stopped goverment as any
large scale procurement may cause high food inflation in market.
(c) A new government also looks to modify NFSA in a way that it gain politically from a policy
of previous government. Thus nutrition security is under consideration.

While political fights and compromises are an everlasting process, food security can be pilloried
for it. If nation eyes to benefit from demographic dividend, food security is the first step
towards it.

In short
beneficiary identification; structural constraints like storage infrastrucutre; chances of bad harvests due
to El Nino; Poor history of Centre in granting aids to states in plnned schemes allocation; better schemes
in some states; non inclusion of other essential items for nutritional security which states demand...

Centre Problems
delayed NFSM helps in containing gov expenditure n inflated subsidy bill; unpredictable monsoons n
chances of poor harvest...so safer side is delay;
 attempts to modify the scheme in order to gain political mileage

Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the
performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the
protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.
Q-Critically discuss the health status of tribes in India. Critically examine how effective government measures have been in addressing health issues of tribes.

Health status:
1. Maternal and Infant mortality and morbidity far higher than the rest of the population.
3. High incidence of communicable diseases especially TB and Malaria.
4. Genetic diseases and susceptibilities.
5. Low life span compared to general populace.
6. Non communicable diseases on the rise.

These are due to a combination of factors:
1. Unhygienic practices like open defecation. Crowded living conditions
3. General poverty, ignorance about balanced diet and hunter-gather food baskets being replaced by grain-predominant PDS.
4. Genetic susceptibility to sickle cell anemia. Having evolved as isolated communities, genetic errors are magnified through generations by consanguineous marriages.
5. Lack of access to proper and modern health-care facilities. This lack is often not only physical but also financial and social.
6. Tribes are usually hunter gatherers who have high diversity of food source but resettlement due to mining,dams make them depend on PDS thus limiting their source of food thus prone to diseases.
7. Traditionl practices and superstitions take a huge toll by way of deaths or disabilitiy.

Govt. measures:
1. Have not been total failures. Tribes’ health considerably improved after Independence.
2. Cost-benefit analysis reflects bad upon govt.
3. Top down approaches resulted in wasteful expenditure and local resources could not be gainfully employed.
4. Govt. measures used to focus on money spent rather than outcomes created. This approach has changed with the inception of Program Monitoring Office. This would also help the cause of tribal health.

Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.
The quality of healthcare system determines one’s health.” In the context of India, critically examine what should be government’s priorities in the healthcare sector.

Answer)
Health care system =keystone of country’s wellness= important to keep demographic dividend and other population healthy and productive for the country.

It is one of the area of basic human need that still suffers from neglection. To correct this, government should give priority to four areas of health sector which are:

**MEDICAL EDUCATION**
Costly, limited number of seats, declining standards, shortage of specialised oncologists
Declining standards of medical education along with less numbers of seats are an area of vital concern. Coupled with extreme shortage of paramedical and nursing staff, mismatch between graduation and post graduation seats, it emerges as a big bloat on the capacity of our medical education.

**HEALTH DELIVERY**
It constitute the entire gamut of PHC, CHC, District hospitals and specialist centre. Shared by both public and private sector the delivery model is skewed unfavourably towards poors and rural areas.
(a) Public sector: While PHC, CHC and district hospital often bite the dust due to absence of staff and shortage of essential drugs, specialist centre are clustered in few big urban centres.
(b) Private sector: these are alien territorites charging exorbitant rates and often indulged in unethical practices with profit orientation.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**
A dismal picture appears on comparitive analysis with extreme shortage of beds, in-patient facilities, diagnostic tools and centre etc.

**EMERGING CONCERNS**
Sedentary lifestyle and M-culture clubbed together gave rise to non communicable diseases. Cardiovascular problems, heart stroke, diabetes etc. are posing new challenges.

**DRUGS**
Should be regulated and generic drugs shop should be made reachable to wide number of people.

Regulation and vigilance on the pharmaceutical industries, as at large scale adulteration is being carried on.

PMSSY, AABY, JSY etc are among plethora of schemes that are targeted to address health care challenge. There is a need of appropriate procrastination and a future oriented planning that
Question) How is kala-azar caused? Examine what measures has government taken to tackle this disease.

Answer)

Kala azar is a neglected tropical disease which is the second largest parasite killer in the world. It is caused by the bite of female sandfly which is a parasite carrier. The parasite attacks liver, spleen and immune system. If left unchecked it may be fatal.

Four states ie. Bihar, Jharkhand, Eastern U.P., and West Bengal are endemic to Kala Azar. In the absence of any vaccine and drugs for its treatment government takes a number of measures which are:

1. PREVENTIVE MEASURES
   (a) Spray of insecticide Pyrethroid to kill the larve of sand fly (As DDT has become tolerant for flys.)
   (b) IEC (information, education and communication) activities to create awareness about the causes of Kala Azar.
   (c) Declared 4 states endemic for enhancing focus.
   (d) Distribution of insect repellent in endemic areas.

2. CURATIVE MEASURES
   (a) Availability of free medicines for symptomatic treatment.
   (b) Establishment of special quarantined wards for patients.
   (c) Community drives for early detection.
   (d) Issuing guidelines about treatment to Medical professionals.
   (e) With the help of WHO, the government will provide the Ambisome injection, it cures 98% of the cases with one shot only.

3) Incentives: The ASHA worker will be given Rs. 300 for each identified case of Kalazar and Rs. 100 for community support during spreading. Every patient treated in hospital will be given Rs. 500 as compensation of daily wages for the time he spent in the hospital.

4) Government Action Points: They have decided upon time bound action plan, Survey will be conducted and doctors will be trained. DM will monitor the plan at the block and district level while CM at the state level. Health ministry has also asked states to build Pucca houses as mud houses are the breeding ground for the houseflies.
Q-What are the ramifications of open defecation? Suggest ideas to eradicate this practice in India.

Answer)

Open defecation is ignominious practice that highlights not prevailing inequality in society but also has multiple ramifications which are:
(a) Causes multiple water borne diseases like cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, Hepatitis A, typhoid and polio.
(b) Causes 14% of the total under 5 child mortality.
(c) Severe illness due water borne disease has ancillary effects like morbidity, stunted growth, malnutrition etc
(d) Absence of toilet in schools is a major cause of girl drop outs.
(e) Huge economic cost due to high out of pocket expenses for cure of diseases.
(f) Pollutes surface and ground water.
(g) Degrades aesthetic value of environment.

With 640 million people defecating openly and India holding the shameful title of world leader in open defecation, urgent measure are required. These include:

-- Developing low cost toilets.
-- Availability of water for pour and flush type toilets.
-- IEC activities to create awareness about the ill effects of open defecation so as to create a demand driven Swach Bharat Abhiyan.
-- Seeking corporate participation through CSR activities or persuade them by giving tax exemptions if they make toilets in local communities and schools.
-- Opening free of cost public toilet in backward areas and where public foot fall is high like in fairs.
-- Quickly transforming all train toilets to bio digestor toilets.
- Include gram panchayat members in implementing the schemes which involves making pakka toilets both in locality and schools.
- Involvement of ASHA workers in making aware the women about the health hazards caused to her and her family as a whole bcoz it is the women who takes care health of a family.

- Show the consequences associated if open defecation continues by taking example of another locality or district or country, simultaneously also show, with the evidences, the +ve results of having toilets.
- District officials with the help of panchayat or gram sabha can give reward to the family or school which has toilets.
- Most importantly it is political will and officials who should work together and with efficiently to eradicate this social ill from our society completely.

The need to end open defecation is not only a health and economic need but also a moral imperative. Its importance is rightly reflected in our ex environment minister’s statement, “India needs more toilets than Temples”, and should be achieved without any delay.

**Steps taken by govt.**

--Nirmal Bharat Bhiyan

--Economic support to household to build toilets.

--Compulsory and separate toilet provision for boys and girls in schools under RTE

--Installments of Bio-digester toilets in Indian Trains

--Awareness campaign regarding ill affects of open Defecations.

**Q- Write a critical note on India's primary education system.**

India’s primary education system:

1. Predominantly public funded: This is a good feature. Elementary education has positive externalities.
2. Universalization is within sight: Gross Enrollment Ratio on all time high. Another good sign.
3. Predominantly imparted in mother-tongue: Children learn concepts better in mother tongue.
4. Social engineering function: cosmopolitan class-rooms helps to inculcate fraternity that transcends class, caste and color, into young minds.
5. Teachers of low quality: This is due to:
   (i) Lack of standardized qualification procedures. NET model exam to be instituted for school teachers.
   (ii) Low pay fails t attract talent.
   (iii) Lack of ‘hire-and-fire’ policy.
6. Teacher centric pedagogy: ‘Empty pot’ hypotheses of elementary education are out of date. Children are full of ideas and imagination. Education should be child centric, to channelize these creative energies.
7. Emphasis on rote learning: Evidence from around the world prove activity based learning to be superior.
8. Lack of sense of gravity: Elementary education is the most important education. Its quality and content are as important as its spread. This reality seems not to have sunk in well enough.

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India’s primary education system is based on school based classroom model that consist of: primary (class1 to class5) and upper primary (class5 to class8). The responsibility is shared both by the public and private schools. Together they share the vital responsibility of shaping the future of nation.
Primary education in India suffers from certain critical deficiencies.  
(a) It still lacks the development of regional and vernacular education model which are widely accepted as best means to develop intellectual faculty of children.  
(b) Infrastructure deficiencies ranging from black board to quality teacher is a common problem.  
(c) Top down model with curriculum designed by NCERT is followed without ground level flexibility.  
(d) Regional and political intrusions to alter syllabus based on mythical stories like one followed in Gujarat is causing great damage to scientific faculties of children.  
(e) With RTE imposing compulsory passing of students in primary schools, the education standard has degraded.  

The vital importance of the role played by primary education in national development makes it imperative that the quality of primary education should be of highest standard. There is a need to include social and moral education with extreme care of isolating it from majoritarian and religious objectives. Gender sensitisation and sex education are also important. Primary education should be linked with activity to enhance learning. Wardha scheme for basic education as proposed by Mahatama Gandhi can serve as a template for it.

Q-Examine the reasons why Indian students are choosing to study abroad? What are its implications on India.

The main reasons for Indian Student to study abroad are:
(a) Poor quality of Indian Universities: Absence of any Indian universities in top 100 global institution list reveals the dismal state of University education in India.  
(b) Limited seats: With GER increasing continuously the top institutes like IITs, IIMs, AIIMS etc are neither able to open new branches or expand the intake. This pushes students to foreign universities.  
(c) Foreign degrees are valued higher in Indian job market.  
(d) Absence of cutting edge technologies and research funds for Doctorate programme.  
(e) Expansion of education loan programmes. Thus, student’s ability to persue foreign education increases.  
(f) With exploding population in India and low level of HDI, emmigration is seen as tool to avoid pain. Foreign education is the first step towards this endeavour.  
(g) Partially funded and fully funded schemes of foreign countries to attract the pool of talent from India to enhance their quaternary sector.

IMPLICATIONS FOR INDIA
(a) Brain drain: Loss of the valuable pool of quaternary sector manpower.  
(b) Inhibits the advancement of science and technology.  
(c) Economic loss as large some of money is already spent in their education before they migrate.  
(d) The otherwise pressure to reform higher education that can be generated with their stay is
whithered.
(e) Obstacle to the promotion of India as a global education hub as we are not able to retain our own students.
(f) Students are ambassadors of Indian culture aiding in soft power diplomacy.
(g) Remittances: these students who stay abroad are source of valuable remittances.

India and its neighborhood- relations.

INDIA_PAKISTAN

Q-Critically examine the events that led to the 1965 War between India and Pakistan. Explain the role played by both the military and political class in ending the war.

The events were:

1. 1962 Sino-Indian war: Ayub Khan thought India is already rattled, and he can knock her out easily.
2. Border clash in Kutch: Pakistani Paton tanks had forced India to retreat forty miles. Khan judged Indian military by this single incident.
3. Superior Weapons: Everything in Pak armory was US made latest stuff.
4. Operation Gibraltar: First Pak attempt to foment armed rebellion in Kashmir. It failed. This necessitated a direct approach.

Ending the war: Military role:
1. Opened a second front in Punjab and reached outskirts of Lahore. Pakistan had two options. Lose its ‘first city’ or sign armistice.

Remarkable resilience: Paton tanks were decidedly superior to Indian Centurion tanks. Still we fought them off.
India had a superior navy. A blockade of Karachi port was unthinkable for Pakistan.
India successfully secured Haji Pir pass early in war. Any convoy into Kashmir from Pak side would have been shelled into smithereens.

Political role:
The diminutive Shastri was decisive. He didn’t hesitate to sanction an offensive second front. Political class buried their hatchets and stood united.

Y B Chavan was a realist. He shopped around the world in 1964 for arms and ammo. Role of international diplomats: Secretary of UNO, U. Thant brokered the peace deal.

Q-Critically examine what mechanism exist at the borders between India and Pakistan to maintain their stability.

Answer)

Many people like him have a view that our Indian army is not giving the suitable reply to the intrusions made by Pakistan army or the terrorist groups but in reality it is not that what this group thinks. Today in the era where we have no. of international bindings, international laws, pressure from other nations (like America), or pressure from civil society groups or by seeing the consequences of violences(like in Syria or Palestine) it is not viable to take the stand which involves violence against anyone.

In the case of Pakistan we have certain measures to deal with these kind of issues without causing any harm to citizens of any country like-

1. DGMO- Director General Military Operations which involves the senior level officers from both the army to discuss the issues comprehensively and get a feasible solution to deal with this sensitive issue.
2. Foreign Affairs Ministry level talks which goes into the matter deeply and resolve the issues for the long term.
3. 2-Track diplomacy where social scientists, retired officers, civil organization groups, etc are involved and discuss the matter in a more efficient way.

Though aimed at enhancing communication to allay apprehensions and confusions that may lead to large scale conflagration, these meetings have rarely served the intended purpose. Instead of discussing and devising methods for seamless integration and building confidence, these meeting are mostly occupied by claims and counter claims of border skirmishes. These meeting mostly become a forum for slinging mud over each other. The precious opportunity is wasted in blame game.

It is right to say that these type of mechanisms have not been able to serve the purpose fully but these are the only mechanisms which, if followed by both the countries having faith on each other and in a progressive manner, can resolve the border intrusion issues (and other also) permanently.
Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India’s interests

INDIA-AUSTRALIA

Q- Discuss the nature of India – Australia relationship.
India – Australia relationship are the emerging reality of the new geopolitical order in Indo-Pacific region. This relationship has witnessed rapid strides in the new millenium.

The contour of this bilateral relationship extend over multiple domains like:

(a) Economic relationship: Rapid rise in trade and economic activities is the most significant feature of this bilateral relationship. However trade balance favours Australia due to its natural resources and education. There is trade deficit for India which is coupled with low FDI inflows from Australia. On the flipside Indian’s like Adani group are engaged in development of its natural resources.

(b) Political relationship: Shift in economic and strategic weight of Indo-Pacific has open new avenues for convergence. We have a joint navy exercise agreement, shared interest in US engagement in the region and collaborate at G-20 platform.

(c) Social relationship: Vast tourism, people to people contact and Indian diaspora symbolises our social relationship. But the racist attacks on Indians, occuring in Australis, bloats this relationship.

(d) Strategic relationship: while Australia supports India’s candidature in expanded UNSC, it acted as a game spoiler in NSG waivers extended to India.

NEW AVENUES
The emerging areas of cooperation include:
(a) Skill development in which Australia is a leader.
(b) CECA completion to give boost to bilateral trade.
(c) Civil nuclear cooperation deal to enhance India’s energy security.
(d) Infrastructure development to rope in investible funds of Australia.
(e) Agriculture and live stock development together with cutting edge technology of Australia in food processing and supply chain.

INDIA-EAST ASIA

Q- “The India-Japan comprehensive economic partnership agreement (Cepa) remains stuck over the issue of giving Indian drug companies more access to the Japanese pharmaceutical market.” Elaborate.
Answer)

Pharmaceuticals, forming an important component of India-Japan CEPA, have entered a stalemate. Inclusion of this sector in CEPA is important for India because of the following reasons:
(a) India has huge trade deficit with Japan – post CEPA. Pharmaceuticals provide an opportunity to fill this deficit substantially.
(b) India’s generic drug industry is flourishing and is in dire need of new markets.
(c) Existing agreement provide only National treatment to manufacturers who open production units in Japan.
(d) Absence of Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) discriminate both pharmaceutical and medical manpower exports to Japan.
(e) Japan drug regulator has created high non tariff barriers disfavouring entry of Indian drug manufacturers.

CONCERNS OF JAPAN:
(a) India’s generic drug industry is a threat to global pharmaceutical giants due to it low cost production and capacity.
(b) Media and USA prograted IPR concerns especially after invoking compulsory licence and declining renewal of patent to two MNCs.
(c) Japan is negotiating TPP agreement that demands unreasonably high IPR regulations, so it is delaying pharmaceutical inclusion in CEPA.
(d) Domestic pressure from local manufacturers.

India needs to allay Japanese apprehensions about Indian IPR regime by highlighting its complaince with WTO regulations and independent judicial method to decide on CL unlike USA that adopts whimful executive methods. These confidence building measure and an integrity pact by Indian drug manufacturers will surely remove this stumbling block to CEPA.

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CEPA  signed 2011; tariff zero ( but for drug manufactured in Japan n not on exports);
IT ; technology;investment ; GMP etc

but problems
India's forte pharma export; export  non tariff barrier not removed; trade deficit skewed in japan's favour; MRA not signed by Japan which gives mutual recog to professional degrees, standards in medicine; impediment to export; TPPA (stricter rules IPR etc) signing probability of Japan hence lingering the CEPA drug export ...

India's generic drugs seen as threat by Japan;
Q-Examine why an agreement on civil nuclear cooperation between India and Japan is yet to materialize. Also explain the benefits for India if the deal materializes.

The deal is still in pipe-line because:
1. Japan experienced the disaster of ‘little boy’ and ‘fat man’. Hence, their standards on nukes are sky-high. India doesn’t meet those standards. For example, India is a non-signatory of CTBT and NPT.
2. Fukushima: The disaster dampened the Jap confidence in their technology and Indian enthusiasm in the same.
3. Jap supplies tech, not fuel. India can have the same from elsewhere, with fewer rider clauses.
4. India’s nuclear liability law implicates the tech supplier.
5. The reaction of China to increased amity between Jap and India would be hostile.
6. Procedural delay: Sensitive issues like nukes naturally have cumbersome procedures.

Benefits for India:
1. Despite Fukushima, fact remains that Jap Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor tech is the best of the lot. India will get that. PHWR is the pen-ultimate step to Fast Breeder Reactors, the ‘holy grail’ of Indian nuclear program.
2. Japan has stringent conditions to deal in nuclear stuff. Their commencement of nuclear trade with India would be the highest legitimization we can get in global nuclear market.
3. China has an outstanding debt of 200% its GDP. Its collapse is imminent and such collapse is bound to have security implications. It is therefore better to team up with Japan in every possible field.
4. Will buttress India’s energy security.

Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India’s interests, Indian diaspora.

Q- It is said that at present countries are waging different types of wars on different fronts. Examine the nature and cause of these wars.

The term “War ” is not only as old as homo sapience, but also as evolving as human beings . Now its not confined to territory but expanded to include other domains like air ,sea,space,and cyberspace .In the words of 18th century German strategist“ war is continuation of policy by different means.” Different types of war is going on every where in the World promoting insecurity and uncertainty.

There are various forms of war like
1) Creed or religious war is oldest known form of war .Various Jihadist groups have been formed through out the world .Recent barbaric acts committed by ISIS in Iraq , Boko haram in nigeria .Indian Mujahiddin in Indian subcontinent .They are known for promoting hatred against other religions. They are provided funds assistance by various Muslim countries to rage war in various non – Muslim countries
2) Second form of war is Clan war, which involves various ethnic groups fighting against other ethnic groups. Recently it is visible in Ukraine where hefty war is going on between Russian ethnic groups and Ukrainian ethnic groups. This is very common in African countries and in India where various tribal ethnic fighting and accusing other ethnic groups of migration and disturbing socio-economic condition.

3) Third form is Culture, till 90’s western countries were influencing cultures of eastern countries due colonization and economic and scientific superiority now which has ceased to exist. Various countries like Indian China Japan Russia has been rising rapidly in all spheres and in mood of asserting their culture and policy.

4) Climate change is the latest addition due to unsustainable use of resources by man kind has led to the scarcity of resources and disturbed the ecological balance which is affecting our climate phenomena like drought floods forest fire global warming resulting in serious competition among various countries for resources.

5) The last is Currency Wars – Global Economic Crisis of 2008 forced the emerging countries to look for alternative and more stable economic policy and institution which could result in end of dominance of dollar and American policy. Establishment of New Development Bank in recently concluded BRICS which is very unlikely to link Dollar as its currency is latest in the series.

Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

Q-Critically examine why India is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and explain the importance of civil nuclear deals that India has signed with few countries.

India has been following “No First Use” Policy since nuclear tests in Pokhran in 1998. Despite this, it has refused to be a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty on following grounds:
1. NOT UNIVERSAL - India wants a Global No-First Use Agreement and convention on prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, without which NPT tilts in favour of Western superpowers
2. DISCRIMINATORY - NPT divides the world into Nuclear “haves” and “have-nots”. It does not impose any stringent requirements of disarmament on Nuclear powers.
3. SECURITY ISSUES – India has long-standing boundary disputes with both China and Pakistan. While China is a nuclear “have”, Pakistan has still not signed NPT. In this scenario nuclear disarmament will negatively impact Indian Security.

India has signed civil nuclear cooperation Agreement with Australia, US, UK, South Korea, France, Canada, among other countries. The major benefits expected are:
1. Ensuring long-term supply of nuclear materials
2. It will improve India’s standing in world forum as a responsible nuclear state
3. It will help decrease India’s reliance on conventional sources of energy, by increasing its nuclear energy base
4. It will help bolster India’s relations with countries like Australia and open venues for further
Lacking its own natural reserves in nuclear materials, these treaties are essential for India to be able to develop itself by making better use of nuclear resources, while keeping its stand on treaties like NPT and CTBT intact.

United Nations

Q- Write a note on a recent blueprint produced by the United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

Answer)
As the time is approaching for the culmination of MDG, UNOWG has started working on a new set of Sustainable Development Goals. Excited with the achievements of MDG, UNOWG has put a blueprint of SDG in public domain. It consist of more ambitious target of older schemes while some new goals are added. Thus the list inflates to 17 objectives and 169 specific target from the previous 8 goals.
The SDG will replace the MDG post-2015. They are based on the philosophy that sustainable growth is imperative for equitable development and long-term survival of mankind.

Some of the proposed SDG are:
1. Elimination of absolute poverty by 2030.
2. Provision of safe drinking water and sanitation for all
3. Further reduction in IMR and MMR.

Some new additions like
4. Goals of food security
5. Life long learning opportunity for all
6. Universal social protection
7. Sustainable pattern of production and consumption and
8. Generation of full & dignified employment

These reflect a significant reorientation from MDG, in the following respects.
1. More ambitious targets.
2. A gradual shift of focus from measurable general variables of quantity to specific variables of quality. Objective quantification of these may prove tricky, though.
3. Increased representation of demands of emerging economies one one hand
4. On the other hand, a possible loop hole to rein in emerging markets by circumventing Common But Differentiated Responsibilities framework. Above point 7, is a case in point.
WTO

Q- “India should continue with its stand at the WTO to demand a permanent solution to the issue of public stockholding before the protocol on trade facilitation is signed.” Do you support this argument? Substantiate.

Answer)
India should continue with its stand in WTO because
1) Food security is the most important priority and need of our country. Can’t oversee it for any other benefits.
2) Developed countries would benefit immensely for the trade facilitation agreement. So, India’s stand has considerable pressure and incentive for them to solve.
3) There are several developing countries concerned with the agreement. India has come out in the open. Rest may follow. A chance for India to lead. Improves our global image.
4) TFA would anyway require us to spend on our infrastructure and technology. Benefits from it would come but in the long run. Hence, not a priority issue for us. Can put it at risk for food security.
5) Cost benefit analysis suggests India continue. As a permanent solution would have immense benefits for India.
6) Also if India could garner massive support from other developing countries. Could bargain harder and get better deals.

However, if India has to achieve what it is looking for it also has to look to garnering support from other countries. Only that way can India put more pressure. An opportunity for India to lead at a global stage. Success here would mean a step closer to being a super power.

WHO

Q-According to a WHO report, India recorded the highest number of suicides in Southeast Asia in 2012. Examine the nature of these suicides, government’s policy on it and implications of suicide on society.

Answer)
According to a WHO report, India recorded the highest number of suicides in Southeast Asia in 2012. Examine the nature of these suicides, government’s policy on it and implications of suicide on society.

Ans: According to the WHO report, India recorded the highest number of suicides in SE Asia. Suicide is the second leading cause of death in the 15-29 age group. The report also cites the nature and practices adopted by victims to attempt suicide.
1) These are mostly prevalent in low- and middle-income countries,
2) Use of Pesticide was rampant in Rural India. Hanging and use of firearms are also present.
3) In 2012 it was found out that, family problems and illness, Drug addiction, love affairs, bankruptcy or sudden change in economic status, poverty and dowry dispute were the causes of suicides.

GOVT. POLICY:
1) Reducing social isolation, preventing social disintegration, and treating mental disorders were adopted by Govt.
2) Many Schemes, policies are targeted to mitigate poverty.

JUDICIARY STAND:
Recently SC held that Suicide attempters should be given care and protection by repealing Earlier Provision to punish them. As they are already sufferers of some kind of abuse they need to given protection.

IMPLICATIONS:
1) Disruptions in society.
2) Moral sentiments of people get disturbed importantly family members and children.
3) This may also cause political disruption due to debate between political parties.
4) Economy gets disturbed due to loss of human resource.

In this regard Govt. policy need to be more vigilant and global coordination is required to combat suicides.


Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources, growth, development and employment.

Q-It is said that now India is witnessing Brain Gain. Examine the reasons behind this trend and explain its advantages.

Reasons behind brain gain are
1) Increase in research facilities here. Mostly in the corporate sector. Especially the pharma sector.
2) Indian students prefer higher studies abroad. Companies which hire them, if they have an Indian subsidiary or an office here, transfer them to India, because of easier adaptability. As
many companies have opened up offices here, this has increased.
3) Employment opportunities for skilled workforce has increased especially in the field of biotechnology and Pharmaceuticals. Most Indian educated students not upto the required standard, due to poor higher education facilities here. Hence Indians abroad filling the vacuum.
4) A desire among some to give back to their country. Hence, opening up startups or industries.
5) Indian diversity, it’s geography, history provides immense research scope unlike any other country.
6) Government policies to “make in India ” are having positive affects.

Advantages
1) Best managerial practices are transferred to India.
2) Technological know-how and latest techniques transferred.
3) More companies, more production, more growth.
4) Increases competition among educated. Will put pressure on government to improve educational facilities here.
5) May prevent the Brain drain.

Trade now has entered into the knowledge sector. It is necessary that we have a surplus here to make India a knowledge economy.

**Question**

Write a note on India’s White Revolution – its origin, growth, success and importance to India’s economy.

The world’s largest integrated dairy development program that started with the initiative of Sardar Patel in Anand of Gujarat, eventually became the harbinger of the White revolution, ushering widespread socio-economic benefits.

Success of Anand experiment led to the establishment of National Dairy Development Board that launched ‘Operation White Flood’ in 1970. It established a three tier cooperative federation with village collection centres at bottom, district processing units at middle level and state cooperative federation at top. The project was implemented in three phases:

(a) Phase I- linked India’s 18 premier milksheds with consumers in metropolitan cities. Thus, mother dairies were established in 4 metros.
(b) Phase II- expanded milk sheds to include almost all milksheds.
(c) Phase III- focused on infrastructure development, R&D in livestock and fodder & breed improvement.

As a result the milk production revolutionised. With 120 million tonnes of milk and milk products and per capita availabilty touching 300g/day, India emerged as the world largest milk producer.
IMPORTANCE
It ushered widespread socio economic benefits that are
(a) Raised standard of living and income of villagers.
(b) Improved village infrastructure.
(c) Women empowerment.
(d) Livelihood and nutrition security to landless labourers.
(e) Connected consumers with producer and abolished chain of middle men.

Though, the achievements have no parallel in world yet, it leaves no room for complacency. Breed quality, productivity, more than 80% milk production in informal sector etc poses a formidable challenge. Hence the time is opportune for the launch of second white revolution.

Q-Write a note on Basel-III framework for banks.

Basel III is a global regulatory standard on risk management agreed upon by the members of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS). It was introduced in 2010. Risk management here includes capital adequacy, stress testing and market liquidity risk. Aims of the BASEL III supervisions:
1) Improve the banking sector’s ability to absorb the shocks arising out of financial and economic stress
2) Improve risk management and governance
3) Strengthen transparency of banks

3 pillars of BASEL III:
1) Minimum regulatory capital requirements based on Risk weighted Assets (RWAs)
2) Supervisory review Process : there should be internal audits within the banks
3) Market Discipline : increasing transparency

Major features of BASEL III:
1) Better Capital Quality : this implies capital with better loss-absorbing capacity
2) Capital Conservation Buffer : Banks will be required to hold a buffer capital of 2.5% of their reserves
3) Countercyclical Buffer: this has been introduced to increase capital requirements in good times and decrease the same in bad times. This will encourage lending at tough times
4) Minimum Common Equity and Tier I capital requirements: the minimum requirement for common equity has been raised to 2% to 4.5% of total risk-weighted assets. Tier I capital requirements has also been increased from 4% to 6%
5) Leverage Ratio: It is the ratio of capital to the total non-risk assets. This has to be 3% of the Tier – I capital by January, 2018
6) Liquidity Ratios: a new Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) and Net Stable Funding Ratio (NSFR) are to be introduced in 2015 and 2018 respectively.

Effects on Indian Banks:
1) Basel III norms are implemented by RBI from time to time.
2) Indian Banks will be required to raise Rs. 6 lakh Crores in external capital by 2020.
3) Expansion of capital to this extent will affect the return on the equity of the banks, specially PSU banks.
Q-Why were banks nationalised in India in 1969? What were the consequences? Explain.

Banking has a social goal, besides the obvious economic goal. This is financial inclusion. For that banks should serve rural areas and lend to some ‘priority sectors’ (ex: Agriculture, MSME) at the cost of a reduction in profit. The Commercial Banks were not doing this, hence they were nationalized.

The consequences were:
1. Growth of ‘priority sectors’ and rural banking. Latter directly resulted in financial inclusion.
2. As a result, Savings Rate went up. So interests rate came down and investment went up. The GDP growth jumped by 2%.
3. PSB became loss making institutions. But the re-capitalization was less costly compared to global experience.
4. Financial inclusion, as expected, resulted in rise in demand-liabilities. This means the ‘spread’ of interest rate increased and PSB had low cost funds to lend.
5. PSB were the embankment that protected Indian economy from the flood waters of 2008 recession.
6. Nationalization dampened the possibility of growing a responsible credit-culture.

Negatives
• The expansion of branches increased overhead administrative costs along with growing NPAs resulted in negative net worth of many banks.
• Banks are directed as per government wish and their free will to do business got severely hampered
• It caused throw away loans and loan mela under political influences
• It was very tough for these banks to recover bad loans

Over all the bank nationalization had done their job and with changing time there was need to liberalize which India did time to time.

Q-Examine how petroleum products are priced in India. Also throw light on the controversy surrounding these pricings.

Currently the retail selling prices of only 3 products i.e. Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Subsidized Domestic LPG are regulated by the Government and Sold at Administered price.

The prices of all other petroleum products including Petrol have been made market determined.

Refinery Gate price (RGP) is the price at which product is sold from refinery to marketing division of OMCs.

The RGP of Diesel is currently based on Trade Parity Price (TPP) consisting 80% of Import Parity Price (IPP) and 20% of Export Parity Price (EPP). The RGP of PDS kerosene and
Domestic LPG is based on IPP. This is based on the concept that if supply exceeds demand, the domestic price would be governed by EPP and if the demand exceeds supply, the domestic price would be governed by IPP.

Like this 80: 20 formula, there are other method for determining price like pricing on Cost+ basis, Price linked to Singapore price, Pricing linked to crude oil price + product crack, means there is no single or unique formula which can be said to represent the correct method for domestic prices in India that would not be distortionary with attendant ill-effect for the economy. This is the main cause of controversy over which formula to decide upon.

Best course of action would be free the market from govt control as soon as possible and as far as Subsidy to poor is concerned that should be provided to Direct Cash benefit scheme.

Major crops cropping patterns in various parts of the country, different types of irrigation and irrigation systems storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce and issues and related constraints; e-technology in the aid of farmers

Q-“A revolution in rice production can occur by producing better seeds or through better cultivation methods. The combination can deliver fantastic results.” In the light of the statement, explain how better seeds can be produced and better cultivation methods can be adopted.

Better seeds can be produced by
1) Genetic modification – through genetic modification, desired traits can be induced into the seeds. Genomes of certain seeds have also been decoded like rice. This makes it even more simpler. Flood resistant, drought resistant, pest, weed resistant. Better nutrient carrying potential like the ‘golden rice’ variety.
2) Hybridisation and vegetative propagation – different sub species are hybridised to produce new seeds with desired traits of the intermixing seeds. Does not guarantee 100% like the GM variety.

Better cultivation methods include
1) Water management – Rain water harvesting, drip or sprinkler or basin irrigation depending on the soil type and crop.
2) Organic farming – use of biological fertilisers like blue green algae, nostoc, Cyanobacteria etc. Bio pesticides made from neem plant and others.
3) conservative tillage for better ploughing technique
4) Use of manure, mulching – To use waste produced for productive purpose and also improves soil conditions.
5) Climate resistant cropping – Cropping with climatic conditions in mind. Drought resistant
crops such as Bajra, Maize in low rainfall regions.
6) Innovative methods such as green house farming can be adopted.
7) Efficient water use in the over irrigated regions of Punjab, Haryana.

Better seeds and better cultivation are the components for our second green revolution. By adopting Eco friendly techniques we can create an ever-green revolution. For this, a change in farmers mindset and attitude is required.

Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and minimum support prices; Public Distribution System- objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping; issues of buffer stocks and food security; Technology missions; economics of animal-rearing.

Q- Should the existing in-kind PDS system be replaced with a cash transfer system? Examine why.

Replacement of the existing in-kind PDS system with cash transfer system has both benefits and flaws.

BENEFITS
(a) Plug the leakages and pilferage of the existing PDS system
(b) Reduce the subsidy burden.
(c) Better targeting of subsidies.
(d) Inclusion and exclusion errors will be reduced.
(e) Resolve the producer subsidy issue of WTO.
(f) Enable the development of food market necessary for crop diversification.
(g) Give choice and freedom to people to choose their diet rather than forced to eat wheat and rice.

FLAWS
(a) Food market are still not developed in remote areas. Thus transporation cost to procure food from nearest market will be an additional burden.
(b) Various survey highlight the dismal state of nutrition in India. Thus food security can be privatised as government intervention are necessary.
(c) Banking penetration ration is too poor to implement cash transfer scheme.
(d) Diversion of subsidy to unproductive uses like alcohol, gambling etc.
(e) Increase the vulnerability of women as primary responsibilty of feeding lie on them.
(f) Loss of a developed PDS system will increase India’s vulnerability in Food security.

Thus the decision to opt for cash or kind based food security should be graded based on the vulnerability of the people, banking penetration and development of agriculture market.
Q-Explain the role of Food Corporation of India (FCI) in ensuring food security and examine proposed and needed reforms in the structure and functioning of FCI.

Role of FCI in ensuring food security:
1. It procures, stores and releases food grains for PDS.
2. It stores surplus grains in a ‘bumper’ crop. This helps to tide over crop-failures.
3. It guards farmers against glut in the market. It is the main vehicle of MSP program.
4. It maintains buffer stocks for the country.

Proposed reforms:

FCI to be unbundled into three separate agencies for procurement, storage and release: This would make the involved bureaucracy bulkier. It may not necessarily result in increased efficiency.
FCI’s size to be reduced, and procurement limited: Now, Buffer stocks are at three times the norm. A reduction is indicated. Storage costs and food inflation will come down.
To devolve more powers to states and to prune FCI into a professional body that merely co-ordinates activities in food sector. States are in charge of procurement already. Warehousing Corporation stores the grain. PDS is a charge of states. So this suggestion is practicable and will improve efficiency by cutting red-tape and redundancy.

It should be noted that MSP reforms should go hand in hand with FCI reforms. They are two sides of the same coin.

Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.

Question) Energy efficiency is crucial in ensuring energy security. What is energy efficiency? Examine what measures has government taken to ensure energy efficiency in the country.

Answer)
Efficiency in technical terms which stands for output per unit input. Energy efficiency is the amount of work done per unit energy consumed.

Increased dependence of daily activities on electricity supply, a prime source of all energy, makes it imperative to secure its supply. Energy efficiency is one such initiative that aims at energy security.

Government has a dedicated mission under National Action Plan for Climate Change called National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency to address the vital area of energy efficiency. Under NMEEE government undertakes a number of activities which are:

**INDUSTRIAL SECTOR SCHEMES**
(a) Perform achieve and trade(PAT) and Super efficient equipment program. 
PAT:- allow industries to achieve higher efficiency and trade saved units on market platform.
SEEP:- star certificate are provided by BEE to manufactured equipments like fridge, washing machines based on their efficiency ratings. Fuzy logic based intelligent machines are also promoted.

**INFRASTRUCTURE**

Green building ratings, mandatory norms of solar power generation for commercial buildings and promotion of Day Light Saving Scheme for office hours and building designs to reduce energy consumption like Indra Paryavaran Bhavan are among multiple initiatives for increasing efficiency. To avoid AT&C losses a dedicated programme R-APDRP is also there.

**DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION**

Aims at switching people to less energy consumption equipments through schemes like Bachat Lamp yojana, tax rebates in LEDs, and IEC activities like switching off PC and Laptops when not in use to avoid ghost consumption, switching off lights and fans etc promote energy efficiency.

Government has recently launched two more schemes:” Design Guidelines for Energy- Efficient Multi-Storey Residential Buildings” and “Star Ratings” for diesel gensets and hospital buildings as a part of continuing approach to energy efficiency.

Energy efficiency is a essential to energy security. Continous R&D activities and awareness among people with suitable incentive based model to switch is the only solution to achieve the goals of energy efficiency.

**Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, biotechnology and issues relating to intellectual property rights.**

**Q-Discuss how internet is governed at present. What are the reforms needed in internet governance?**

Internet governance has two components – governance of real assets and governance of virtual assets. The real assets are the infrastructures like underwater fibre-optic cables, servers and national networks. They are governed by respective national governments and international treaties.

The virtual assets are the Websites. A website is meaningful only if it can be accessed. To be accessed, it needs a name. This name is supplied by ICANN through its Domain Name System monopoly. ICANN was established by US Department of Commerce. There are no independent directors in ICANN. So, all virtual assets on internet are governed by US government. The 2 main resources of internet control are root zone servers and DNA server. ICANN controls both and is governed by US law.

Issue with internet governance
1) All important database and servers located in US.
2) All countries use the same internet but is monopolised by US.
3) issues of intellectual property – there are concerns and confusion over allocation policies for IP address and domain names.
4) Consumer rights – absence of global standards for consumer rights.
5) Insufficient progress towards multilingualism. Increasing developing countries connectivity costs.

Reforms needed are
1) India has proposed a UN committee on Internet related policies (CIRP) accountable to the general assembly to govern internet.
2) Oversight over ICANNs working.
3) Promoting regional languages. Especially beneficial for countries like India.
4) Multiple DNS servers to be installed in different locations instead of concentrating in US.

Indian IT companies are heavily dependent on internet. Thus, a neutral governance structure is vital for our economic interest. Also, increase in US surveillance over internet will affect our national security. In all consideration removing the monopoly of US over internet is necessary and India should and can lead in this process.

Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

Q-Critically comment on India’s drought management policy. Suggest improvements.

Drought is the most common theme in Indian Agriculture. With immediate to long term consequences, drought effect the economic, political and social life of the country. India adopts a drought management policy to handle this crisis. It involves forecasting, preparedness and mitigation strategies.

FORECASTING
IMD is assigned with the job of forecasting the amount of rainfall and make predictions of droughts. Monsoon is still a mystery, therefore the predictions lacks accuracy. As a result agriculture becomes a tragedy.

PREPAREDNESS
An interconnected network of ICAR, extension centres, government advisories, kisan call centres etc are entrusted with the job of preparedness. Lack of coordination and absence of good workers is a common problem that reduces their effectiveness. Customary wisdom and obduracy of farmers in switching to drought prone crop further aggravates this.
MITIGATION
It involves immediate relief measures like loan waivers, food security through PDS distribution, livelihood security through MGNREGA etc. Long term strategy include research in genetic crops and dedicated programs like ICRA, NWM etc. But adhocism, absence of a strategy and continuation of irrational subsidies in power supply, fertilisers and seeds reduces the impact of mitigation efforts.

Drought management strategy needs an overhaul. Certain improvements that are imperative are:
(a) More research on monsoon to increase its predictability.
(b) Establishing an interconnected network of extension centres with ground workers to pass information properly to farmers.
(c) Research in genetic crops together with mass IEC activities to reduce fear about them.
(d) Development of efficient irrigation techniques to reduce water requirement.
(e) Shifting the peoples from agriculture to secondary sector to reduce its impact.
(f) Populist doling should be checked so that drought mitigation efforts are impactful.

Q) Write a note on ‘Project Nirmalya’ by SWaCH.

Answer)
Swach is a waste-picker’s cooperative formed in 2008. It runs the Project Nirmalya under which it assigns 100 waste picker’s in Pune’s 17 immersion ghats. Its main aim is to keep the rivers pollution free by preventing people from dumping Nirmalya(flowers offerings to Lord ganesha) into local rivers like Indrayani and Mula-Mutha rivers, at time of “visarjan”.
SwaCh has signed an MoU with Pune Municipal Corporation for receiving basic amenities like soaps, raincoats, etc. to help during this cleaning but it has remained a lip service until now. It relies on help given by corporates to do its job properly.
The initiative has been effective in following areas:
1. It promotes sense of environment responsibility to people
2. It has given back the waste collectors their dignity
3. It has diverted both bio degradable and non-biodegradable waste from rivers
The model followed by Project Nirmalya while helping the socially downtrodden sections also improves the concern for environment in households as well as committees. This is an easily replicable model and should be followed in other cities and during other festivals.

Question ) Examine the relevance of important ecology and environment related laws that are in use today in India. Examine if these laws need to be reviewed and amended.

Answer)
The various ecology and environmental related acts, their relevance are as follows:
1) Environment Protection Act 1986: Implementation after Bhopal Gas Tragedy. They focused on protection and improvement of human environment, living beings, plants and property. Highly relevant in the industrialised era

2) Forest Conservation Act, 1980: Conserve forest from illegal falling and depletion. With the quest to increase the total forest cover its importance increase manifold

3) Wildlife Protection Act: Create schedules of protected plants, animals species from hunting and harvesting. Need to be in syn with IUCN list and other biodiversity conservation efforts

4) Water (Prevention and control of pollution) Act, 1974; Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981: To control and prevent air and water pollution through Central and State Pollution Control Boards.

5) Air Pollution Act, 1981.

These laws need a fresh look due the below reasons

1) Pursuing cases against the polluting agencies have proved ineffective due to over burdening of courts

2) Poor understanding of laws

3) Lack of infrastructure facilities to implement the provisions

4) Jurisdictions conflicts and lack of coordination

5) Need of separate environment courts(though NGT is there)

6) Imposing fines on the culprits without failure

7) Focus required on compliance monitoring and performance management systems are required

Analysis

Legal framework for ecology and environment protection in our country has not been framed comprehensively and holistically. There is no integration and synergy between various laws. Legal landscape is fragmented.

Idealistic and top down laws are framed and a lot of diversions and exemptions are given when it comes to implementation. you can give example of recent tweaking of forest conservation act 1980 and FRA and recent thrust on faster environmental clearances by relaxing rules.

Q- What are Climate-Smart Villages? Explain in detail.

Answer)
Climate-smart villages are a part of a project by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research programme on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security that aims to improve farmers’ income and resilience to climate risks.

Villages are selected based on the climate risk profile for collaborative intervention of researchers, local partners, farmers and policy makers to enhance productivity, increase income, achieve climate resilience and enable climate mitigation. A tailor made basket of services like smart technology, climate information services, adaptation services etc are provided to reduce the vulnerability of farmers.

Benefits
(a) Restore farmers faith in agriculture.
(b) Pace setting models for climate resilient agriculture.
(c) Helps to develop climate resilient agriculture.
(d) Testing of long term adaptation plan.
(e) Development of low emission agriculture.
(f) Also focuses on gender equity by involving women in participative decision making.

The Climate-smart villages are beginning of process to link technology and knowledge with farms. Its success is vital for long term sustainability of the agriculture.

Q-What is e-waste? Explain its health hazards.

Sources
These include cells, mobile phones, computers, also includes display units such as LCD, CRT, LED, memory units such as DRAM or SRAM, processors such as CPU, GPU or APU chips and so on.

Pollutants/wastes
mainly materials like arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, nickel and plastic, brominated fluid retardants
--phenomena in the modern era of mechanised and digitised world especially in sprawling urban settlements.
--e-waste are the most hazardous among all urban waste.

The hazards include:
HEALTH HAZARD
(a) Accumulation and Bio magnification of lithium, mercury etc, causes carcinogenic diseases
like minimata.
(b) Respiration == respiratory diseases and lung cancer.
(c) Direct consumption = by stray animals= death.
(d) Surface water and ground water is polluted = water borne diseases.
(e) e-waste of nano dimensions can enter the plants during nutrient intake. They accumulate and enter the food chain ultimately effecting human health.
(f) Mutagenic effect of e-waste are still researched but cant be denied.

Environmental damages

-- urban lanscape is continously loosing its asthetical value
--E-waste are not easily biodegradable.
-- cannot be reduced by burning them down as they release toxic gases upon burning.
--e-waste like batteries can lead to explosion if not treated properly
-- their entry into food chain and subsequently results into bio-accumulation

STEPS

--Basel convention on transboundary movement of hazardous waste and their disposal.

-- Recently environment Minister has announced to enact a buyback policy for electronics good to deal with e waste and making it mandatory for the manufacturing companies to buy back used electronic items and ensures its proper disposal.

-- extended warranty by manufacturers, reverse vending machines are also some of the method which can be employed to deal with the issue.

--most importantly it is awareness on part of citizen.

Disaster and disaster management.

Question) What factors are attributed as the cause of recent flood in Northern Indian regions? Critically examine.

The set of factors responsible for the recent floods in Northern Indian regions can be broken down into two categories for enhancing our understanding amd providing remedial measure. These are

NATURAL CAUSE
(a) Northern regions are prone to cloud burst due to their topography.
(b) Himalays act as barriers to monsoon thus prolonging its stay and intensity in the region.
(c) The two monsoon limbs: Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal limb, meets over northern plain reinvegorating the monsoon intensity.

MAN MADE CAUSES.
(a) Climate change and global warming increasing the vagaries of monsoon.
(b) Deforestation, sacrificing and mining activities along mountains increasing the sediment load of river.
(c) Unregulated occupancy on flood banks.
(d) Failure/ absence of municipal planning.

While natural factors and unpredictability has a relationship with monsoon since time immemorial, it is the anthropogenic interference in natural cycle that has escalated floods. Insatiable desire, mining, deforestation, construction etc have violated the integrity of the pristine ecology. Failure of government to control occupancy sites and deterioration by exploding tourism further increases the vulnerability. In plain it is the failure of municipal planning, clogged drainage and absence of recycle and STP that have resulted in flash flooding even on moderate showers.

To restrict the fury of floods restoring channel integrity is the first step that should be integrated with afforestation activities and controlling occupancy through local participation. Though floods cant be controlled, yet managing them is possible to reduce large scale loss of life and property.

Security challenges and their management in border areas; linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

Q-Critically comment on India’s counter-terrorism policy.
At present, there is no such national counter terrorism policy. Measures to counter terrorism are scattered and the several agencies, each having a separate function.

The IB is responsible for collecting, analysing information and providing intelligence and alerts to different departments. However, some states have their own intelligence bodies. There is very little coordination. A national intelligence grid which has been proposed has to be implemented urgently.

The CBI investigates economic cases mostly, the ED related to money laundering. The NIA investigates terrorist cases. But, the present terrorist threat is complex. Investigation should cover the source of their finance, material, resources etc. hence a need for a coordinated approach.
Law and order is in the state list. They are responsible for protecting the citizens. But, their technical, financial and intelligence expertise is not sufficient to deal with terrorism. Hence, a more responsible approach from them is needed. The National counter terrorism council which was proposed has to be implemented. The NCTC should adopt the best practices across the world to counter terrorism.

Terrorism assumes significance in the wake of Al-Qaeda forming a sub continent wing. Hence, a coordinated, focused, dedicated and cutting edge approach to terrorism to nip it in the bud is imperative.

**Q-**Explain the importance of indigenisation of military hardware and examine what steps the government has taken in this regard.

Indigenisation of military hardware is imperative to security of the nation. Unlike other products that can be purchased from open market depending on cost efficiencies, military hardware purchases have limitation. Access during turbulent times like kargil war, technological uniqueness, access to same defence market by our enemies etc are among multiple factor that determine defence procurement decisions.

The need of indigenisation of military hardware originate because of multiple benefits which are:

(a) Reduces dependence of foreign defence market providing strategic autonomy.
(b) Technology development and evolution of domestic defence industry & market.
(c) Refuces CAD.
(d) Autonomy in security decision making.
(e) Reduces vulnerability due to similar defence equipments and knowhow with our enemies.

Indigenisation importance emerged as one of the prime concerns in our security decision making with establishment of Kelkar committee. Till now government has taken multiple steps in this direction which are:

(a) A proper defence procurement policy emphasising on domestic procurement.
(b) Technology development fund to indigenise new generation technology.
(c) Strategic defence production fund available with DRDO to increase production.
(d) Collaboration, co-production and technology transfer are key ingredients of all new contracts in defence procurement.

As a result indigenisation that began with Brahmos has expanded to all three services. We are producing Arjun tanks, UAVs, missiles etc. Reverse procurement of detector suits by USA from DRDO is just an starting of the indigenisation journey which still needs greater emphasis.