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Infrastructure (energy, ports, roads, airports, railways)

Question) Some of major countries of Europe produce their majority of energy share from renewable or nuclear sources. Examine the reasons behind this shift and throw light on how India can emulate their policies to meet its energy demand.

Question) Write a note on issues concerning India’s Nuclear Separation Plan.

S&T developments and everyday applications & effects

Q- Write a critical note on the research and development in the pharmaceuticals sector in India.

Indigenization of technology & development of new technology

Q-In your opinion, why does India lag behind in research and development in science and technology sector? Critically examine.

Awareness in fields of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nanotech, Biotech, IPR issues

Regenerative Medicine

Q-Write a note on the administrative and legal set up of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) regime in India.

Environmental conservation

Write a critical note on the conservation efforts taken to protect elephants in India. Examine what more needs to be done to protect their numbers.

Disasters & Disaster Management

Q-What are the likely challenges faced by relief agencies and rescue workers post floods in inhabited regions. Explain the role of government in managing these challenges.

Q-Critically comment on the functioning of the National Disaster Management Authority and post-calamity relief and rehabilitation mechanism existing in India.

Role of External State & Non-State actors in creating internal security challenges

Q-Critically analyse the threat posed by non-state actors, both internal and external, to India’s internal security.
GS-1

Factors responsible for location of Industries (primary, secondary, tertiary; India, world)

Write a note on locational factors of tea industry in India. Critically comment on various issues associated with this industry.

Answer)

Conditions for Tea plantation

1. Cool climate
2. Well distributed high rainfall throughout the year
3. Hilly gentle slopes
4. High labour= weeding, manuring, plucking leaves

Location- Brahmaputra valley in Assam, Sub Himalayan Region of West Bengal(Darjeeling, Cooch Bihar, Jalpaiguri ), lower slopes of Nilgiri hills and Crdamom hills in Western ghats (Tamil Nadu).

Issues Associated

Socio-economic
1. Tea production has remained constant due to stagnant demand for last few years
2. It also faces symmetrical competition from coffee and unsymmetrical competition from soft drinks.
3. As a result the profitability has declined and labour exploitation, mostly of women, has increased.
4. Low wages, as permitted in Plantation Labour Act,1951, in exchange for basic amenities like shelter, schools, hospitals etc have shrinked to below survival wages.
5. aging plantations
6. competition with china and japan,sri lanka,Indonesia also.
7. Due to MGNREGA, non availability of labour for plantaion

Climate related
(a) Changing weather patterns poses a threat to tea industry
(b) frequent natural and man made disaster are posing a threat to the regions economy
Q-Which factors determine the location of a cement industry? Examine the reasons behind decentralisation of cement industry in the country, especially to the South and their performance.

Answer)

- India = 2nd largest cement producer in the world (1st is China).
- Three main types of cements are produced in India
- In the descending order of their total production (highest to lowest)
  1. Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC)
  2. Ordinary Portland Cement
  3. Portland Slag Cement

**Blended cement**

- Another variety of cement.
- It consumes less energy and is less emissions-intensive than ordinary Portland cement.
- Market share of blended cement in India is much higher than the US, China and Japan.

But there is a problem:

- Bureau of Indian Standards permit cement companies to mix upto 35 per cent fly ash (for production of blended cement). But most cement plants use fly ash to the extent of 20–30 per cent.
- So there is need to increase percentage of blending material.

**Factors responsible for location of cement industries**

1. **Raw material:** wide range as Gypsum, Limestone, slag, sludge, oceanic skeleton, dolomite and silica.
   Limestone continues to be prominent raw material, making localisation characteristic specified with Vindhyas and Cuddaph construct, located primarily in Madhya pradesh (upto 75 % production) (Rewa, Katni, Jabalpur, Satna, Seoni), Chattisgarh (Bhilai, Bilaspur, Raipur), Andhra pradesh (Kurnool, Cuddapah and Vishakhapatnam), Rajasthan and Gujrat.

2. **Coal** - which is found in Chottanagpur region and above states.

3. **Transportations:** easy connection via road and railways.

4. Cheap abundant labor is needed as this is labor intensive.

**Factors for decentralisation of cement industry in Soutern India:**

1. Easy availability of oceanic skeleton, seashell and coral reef.
2. Peninsula is surrounded by water, so easy transportation through ports for exports.
3. Now days cement industries are using fly ash as raw material, which is byproduct of thermal power plant. So, these days cement industries are opening in the regions near thermal power plants.
4. Blended cement, another variety of cement. It consumes less energy and is less emissions-intensive than ordinary cement.
5. Improvement in prices after a recent upward price revision
6. Improvement in capacity utilisation by smaller players
7. Strengthening of these smaller players by diversifying their markets

Performance

1. High cement handling charges.
2. India 2nd in world
3. Current scenario, performance is good, rise in stock prices.

Important Geophysical phenomena (earthquakes, tsunami, volcanoes, cyclones)

Question) What factors are attributed as the cause of recent flood in Northern Indian regions? Critically examine.
Answer)
The set of factors responsible for the recent floods in Northern Indian regions can be broken down into two categories for enhancing our understanding and 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 reinvigorating 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 can be controlled, yet managing them is possible to reduce large scale loss of life and property.

GS-2

Judiciary (structure, organisation functioning)

Q- "In India, the vast judicial energy spent on unmanageable issues is astounding." In the light of the statement, critically comment on the functioning of the Supreme Court of India.

The recent working of supreme court appears scattered, too altruistic and over burdened.

SCATTERED
Besides basic adjudicating functions Supreme courts is mandated with additional constitutional and statutory obligations. Appellate jurisdiction just to interpret law rather than passing judgement creates duplication of efforts of judiciary at two hierarchal levels. Art 143 often utilises energy of SC due to delegation of legislative matters to court. Collegium system further reposed additional responsibility of HR management.

ALTRUISTIC
Advent of PIL and juducial activism and judicial creativity has added a burden of otherwise non existant litigations. Discovery of basic structure in Keshavanada case further broadned its moral imperatives.

OVER BURDEN
As a final appellate authority, SC is the final recourse of all litigations. With antiquated laws the case more often travels the journey to the summit. The understaffed judiciary is as a result over burdened. Cases pile up waiting for judgements. Often courts acts unmindfully by abruptly dropping the cases in between which it picked under Art 136 &137.

Judiciary is an important pillar of democracy and in need of serious overhaul. Begining with the reforms in age old laws to filling vacancies, the entire justice system needs a face lift to streamline its working.
Appointment to various Constitutional posts

In India, which and why some government posts are barred from seeking appointments to new posts post-retirement? In your opinion what other posts should be brought under this rule and why? Explain.

Ans: Indian constitution, various statutory acts and certain conventions ensure that certain apex executive post are barred from post retirement appointments in government. These include

- **CONSTITUTIONAL POST**
  - (a) CAG
  - (b) UPSC chairman from all positions and SPSC chairman from all positions except in UPSC.

- **STATUTORY POST**
  - (a) NHRC
  - (b) CVC
  - (c) CIC

- **BY CONVENTION**
  - (a) Judges of SC and HC except for those position that are allowed under law eg NHRC.

The objective behind barring such positions are
- (a) To ensure the impartiality of the office.
- (b) To maintain the integrity and democratic ethos of the office.

All government executive positions at the apex level should be barred from future public appointments while a suitable cooling off period is necessary for private careers. These include CBI director, CEC, TRAI, Cheifs of all three divisions of army, judges of SC & HC, secretaries to government and various regulators. The objective behind this barring is
- (a) To insulate their decision making from political lures.
- (b) To maintain democratic fairness in their operation.

But a complete exclusion of these repositories of wisdom from governance will be a national loss. These people have acquired expertise in their respective careers that should be utilised. For it, a culture of independent think thanks like those in China should be promoted to seek their valuable advices in governance.

Welfare Schemes (centre, states; performance, mechanisms, laws, institutions and bodies constituted for protection of vulnerable sections)
Write a note on Swachh Bharat Kosh and Swachh Vidyalaya schemes.

Swachh Bharat scheme is an initiative under “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” campaign. It aims to pay tribute to the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birthday by achieving Clean India.

The main objectives of scheme are

(a) Provide covered brick and mortar toilet to every school by 2019.
(b) Make separate toilets for girls and boys.
(c) Improve health and hygiene of students especially girls.
(d) To reduce girls dropout due to inconvenience caused by absence of toilet.
(e) To generate momentum for Swachh Bharat Mission.

To achieve this ambitious goal “Swachh Bharat Kosh” is established by Government of India. Its salient features are:

(a) Nonlapse fund.
(b) Voluntary contribution by PSU and Private sector together with budgetary allocations will form its corpus.
(c) Will be used to finance toilet buildings in schools.
(d) Will also be used to finance studies to improve design and reduce construction cost.

Open defecation is a blot on nation that highlights the prevailing inequality. All attempts should be made in a holistic manner to get rid of this disparaging practice.

Q-Has The Forest Rights Act of 2006, stalled development and economic growth of tribal regions? Critically comment if this act needs any modifications for speedy clearance of projects.

The Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers (Recognition of forest rights) Act 2006, enacted from 2008 provides legal rights to STs and forest dwellers for the first time since independence.

The rights provide are:

1) Collection of minor forest produce
2) Consent of tribal gram sabhas for approving developmental projects.
3) No selling and transfer of land etc.
This had dual effect of:
1) Uphold the rights of STs and forest dwellers for the 1st time since independence after long exploitation provided them voice, thus political empowerment.
2) Right to decide on developmental activities on their own that led to blocking of projects. Eg: Vedanta in Niyamgiri hills.

The FRA 2006 has empowered tribes on one hand and has blocked developmental activities on the other hand. But no doubt it left the choice to the local tribes to decide on their future.

The FRA 2006 doesn't need any modification as this has stopped their sufferings. Tribal gram sabhas has to be trained and empowered to choose right course of action rationally without any prejudice. In case of approval, their rehabilitation and resettlement has to be ensured properly under the Land acquisition act 2013.

Tribes are the most backward people of the nation and let them have their say in deciding their future. Any attempt to tweak these laws leads to discontent among them.

Social Sector & Social Services (health, education, human resources - issues in development, management)

Q-Should India opt for Universal health insurance coverage with subsidies for the poor? Critically discuss.
Health status in not only a vital determinant of governance and output of economy but also a moral imperative. Universal health insurance is often considered as a delivery model to improve health status. It has its own merits and demerits.

MERITS
A universal health insurance insures that the entire population is offered a proper health delivery without burdening their pockets, that often drives them to poverty. Assured payments help health sector to develop globally competitive facilities. Thus, India can emerge as the global health care centre.

DEMERITS
Universal experience of a single payer based health insurance model is demotivating. It requires a higher degree of regulation. Insurers often default creating litigation that can burden already fossilized judicial system of India. It also involves huge cost that can deteriorate already debilitating financial health of nation. In India, where health delivery varies from world class to

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witch craft, chances of cheating greatly enhances. USA is a living example where the universal health insurance has created a mess.

While health can't be compromised an alternate delivery model ie universal health delivery instead of universal health insurance can be considered. Japan which adopts this model has made rapid improvement in its health status as reflected by its life expectation at birth which is highest in world.

**Question**) How and why leprosy is caused. Critically comment on its continued existence in India and on governments initiatives to tackle this disease.

**Answer)**

Leprosy is a mycobacterial disease caused by mycobacterium leper. The disease develops several years after infection with the organism
It is caused due to airborne transmission of the agent from the nasal mucosa of the infected person
Reasons for continued existence of the disease are
1) lack of awareness amongst the common citizen that the disease is curable
2) social stigma associated with it due to presence of facial and limb deformities in the disease.
3) Reluctance by the patient to get the treatment as they consider it be result of their past sins
4) Interrupted and incomplete treatment
Government has taken several initiatives to improve the situation
1. National leprosy elimination programme has been launched by the government where free MULTI DRUG THERAPY is provided. Physical and social rehabilitation of the individual in the society is done by use of surgery and proving him alternate source of employment.
2. Government has decentralized the drug distribution with involvement of NGO and local people in the diagnosis and treatment of the disease

Weaknesses of the government programme are
1. Lack of awareness about the programme
2. Focus is on the treatment and physical rehabilitation. Prevention and social and economic rehabilitation are neglected
3. Due to long incubation period between infection and the development of deformity diagnosis is difficult
4. Adequate facilities for diagnosis including the ZN stain are often misleading due to high false negatives
Government should beef up initiatives by including private hospitals and private practitioner in the programme
Question) Critically comment on India’s pension policy.

Answer)

India’s pension policy, like any other, aims to provide post retirement income to its aging population. The policy covers largely organised sector though inroads are being made in unorganised sectors also through co contributory schemes like NPS-Lite. Yet, the unpredictability plagued by high market inflation has resulted in diminishing returns.

Pension sector is handled jointly by government through EPFO and NPS, and private sector by offering multiple assets. Though a transition has been made from defined contributions and benefits to market based returns, the policy is still entangled with “overprotectionist approach”. Archaic rules and unnecessary intervention by Board members has crippled the ability of professional fund managers. Fixed tenure of asset managers and their selection based on lowest bidding further inhibits the best professional talent to enter the segment. The story is much grim in unorganised sector where poor regulation and lack of awareness has reduced pension schemes to mere tokenism.

The dismal picture is revealed by the the poor pension penetration ration that still hangs around 10%. With the passage of PFRDA and opening 49% FDI in pension sector, Indian pension policy has shown symptoms of treading towards better global practices to attract professional management. There is a need to dump the burden of antiquated law of past to unleash new energy in pension policy. Simultaneously the intrest of the aging population should be protected who constitute the most vulnerable section in present social milieu.

E-Governance (applications, models, successes, limitations, potential)

Q-Write a note on important citizen-centric e-governance initiatives of the Union government. Also suggest how latest internet technologies can be used to make it easy for citizens to access government services.

E Governance is use of ICT in providing services, information dissemination and project monitoring and evaluation. The transactions can be Government to Citizen, Citizens to Government, Govt. to Business or Business to Govt. Different Govt. to citizens initiatives taken are described below.

-To inform the citizens

Different Ministries, departments and Govt. institutions ahave come up with their websites giving information pertaining to their activites, schemes. Website of Press Information bureau makes citizens aware of the activities of the Govt..

-to increase citizen participation

Recently web portal Mygov was launched which welcomes ideas for dealing with problems
country is facing. Issues as posted by website on which citizens can give their views and solutions.

- to provide services
  Govt. has come up with different websites where one can apply for passports, PAN card, file income tax returns etc. This has reduced red tapism and middle men in these services to a great extent. IRCTC ticketing portal of Indian Railways is a winning story in providing services.

- to bring transparency
  Monitoring of application status with details of stage to which applications have reached. For ex. in securing passport once application is filed at PSKs one can always track the status on the website.

With increasing telecom and internet penetration e governance can be further expanded to decrease the hassles citizens face.

- It can set electricity bills through mails as many telecom operator do for post paid cards. However customer should be allowed to opt voluntarily. Govt.
- Healthcare system can think giving alerts regarding vaccination and medical camps being organized.
- Metro and cosmopolitan cities can come up with real time traffic maps for easing traffic conditions.
- Govt. should promote apps helping in car pooling.

These small steps would help citizens in a big way.

India and its Neighbourhood (relations)

India- Sri Lanka

Critically examine the various issues plaguing Sri Lanka post its decisive win over LTTE and their impact on its relationship with India

Answer)

The Sri Lanka win over LTTE may have reduced the internal concerns but raise the external by leaps and bound. Some of them are as follows
1) The UN Human Right Commission: The resolution have created trouble for the nation time and gain. It can create trouble for Srilanka’s integrity and put lots of sanctions for Human Rights Violation

2) Lesson Learnt and Reconciliation report, The government committee have came up with 39 recommendation for relief and rehabilitation for the northern part but UN HRC resolution blamed that the effort is not enough

3) The Northern Province have got some autonomy under 13th amendment but still there is hardly any real power and freedom given to them

It affected the India Sri Lanka relations badly,

1) Lack of India’s internal security decision lead to India sending Peace force, which caused not only heavy loss to Indian military but also life of our Prime Minister

2) China has come close to Sri Lanka due to our inconsistent foreign policy towards Sri Lanka and it is giving us geo political disadvantage

3) Tamilnadu politics have made it a huge agenda for themselves and have affected Indian external policy time and again.

Write a note on important citizen-centric e-governance initiatives of the Union government. Also suggest how latest internet technologies can be used to make it easy for citizens to access government services.

Bilateral, Regional, Global groupings Agreements (involving and/or affecting India)

India- Europe

Q-Write a note on India – Germany relationship.

Germany and India have shared traditional strong bilateral ties due to the strong commercial, cultural and strategic cooperation. Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe. A few outcomes as a part of the bilateral ties are:

- Germany helped in establishing the IIT, Madras after both govt signed agreement in 1956.
- 2008 both nations establish Indo-German Science and Technology Centre in New Delhi to promote R&D in energy, environment, and coal.
- Germany also shares cooperation in fighting terrorism and conducting military exercise.
- Indian navy and German navy conducted fr the first time following defence agreements.
- India launched seven Germany satellites into the polar orbits.
The recent visit of the German foreign minister Frank Walter Steinmeier suggests bilateral ties can be further deepened on renewable energy, infrastructure, cleaning of rivers and vocational training besides high technology and the manufacturing sector.

Green energy corridor project.

**India- ASEAN**

Q-Write a note on the significance of India’s agreement on investment and freer trade in services with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or Asean. Also examine how should India leverage this treaty for its benefit.

**Answer**

India has signed FTA in trade and investment with Asean, this treaty may bring many positive outcomes for the country. The following results expected are as follows:

1. It will further boost our service sector. Service sector contribute almost 60% of our GDP.
2. It will increase employment opportunities with increasing trade.
3. It will further give boost to tourism sector as most of the Asean Countries are follower of Buddhism and India is the birth place of religion, so these important places will attract attention and it further helps in the development of these places and their connected areas as most of them are situated in the states having poor infrastructure.
4. India is already envisioned to build Smart Cities across the country, for which it can further leverage the technical know how and expertise of Asean members such as Singapore etc.
5. Proximity with Asean member will help in stabilising the region. It will heighten India's global stature.
6. India needs support of the countries for getting UNSC membership so improvement of ties with Asean member will help in achieving the objective.
7. To firmly state its contention in global multilateral institutions like UNFCC, WTO.
8. It will help in connecting our north eastern states and thereby improving infrastructure.
9. It will help in fighting against naxalism and terrorism too.
10. It will give impetus to our medical industry and country may develop medical tourism.
11. Almost all members of Asean countries are developed except one or two, India will be immensely benefited from their experience.

**Important International institutions, agencies, for a (structure, mandate)**

**WHO**

Q-Critically evaluate the role of WHO in combating deadly epidemics

The World Health Organization is a specialised agency under United Nations that is concerned with public health.

Some of the objectives of WHO can be listed down as follows:
a. It acts as directing and co-ordinating authority on matters related to international health work.
b. Collaboration with UN, government health organizations, professional groups and others on matters relating to public health.
c. Stimulate and advance work to eradicate epidemic, endemic and other diseases.

In light of the last point it has to be noted that WHO has played a significant role in coordinating with member states in controlling of epidemic diseases such as small pox and plague. Small pox has been completely eradicated. Global Alert and Response system of WHO is dedicated to means and ways to fight epidemics.

WHO receives funding from member nations and private donors, the major contributors being the developed western countries. WHO's response mechanism to SARS, the last major pandemic was immaculate, whereas it has been facing criticism for its handling of Ebola which has been declared as an epidemic disease.

The reasons attributed are that it has not been pro-active enough in convincing western nations and private drug manufacturers to take up research and analysis of ways to mitigate ebola virus.

Private pharmaceutical firms see little value in investing time and effort into ebola as the monetary gains will be meager. Ebola being a disease which spreads through bodily contact of fluids of infected persons is not as easily spread as a disease transmitted through the air. This may also be one of the reason for limited western interest in tackling the disease.

The outbreak of Ebola in 2014 is the third such incident, the most recent one occurring in 2011. It is one of the objective of WHO to co-ordinate with member nations on ways to mitigate and prevent future outbreak of such diseases. The fact that poor sanitation facilities and healthcare systems plague countries such as Libya and Sierra Leone, the ones most effected by Ebola, points to WHO's failure in coordinating with governments of those countries.

WHO's challenge thus lies in creating systems which can overcome challenges which are result of primarily economic issues, by assigning roles and responsibilities to member nations to try to look beyond self interests.

Q- Examine the implications of large trade blocks such as Trans-Pacific Partnership, the Regional Co-operation Economic Partnership (RCEP) and Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) on India.

Emergence of the three large regional trade blocks namely TPP, TTIP and RCEP is the latest outcome of globalisation. It accrues multiple benefits while raising various concerns for India.

BENEFITS
(a) Provides unique opportunity to seamlessly integrate domestic economy with the world by upgrading trade facilitation arrangements.
(b) Reduction and harmonisation of tariff and non tariff barriers to boost domestic exports.
(c) Better utilisation of resources by outsourcing costly productions.
(d) Will allay global apprehensions regarding domestic trade regime especially IPR.

CONCERNS
(a) Indian economy will become contagion to global crises.
(b) Will put pressure to restrict welfare measures as happening with food security law.
(c) High cost incurred in upgrading trade facilitation arrangement will strain already tight fiscal position.
(d) Recent studies have highlighted the net negative effects of already concluded FTAs of India. So the apprehensions of widening trade deficit is real.

These regional trade deficit are a step towards the cherished dream of open trade of WTO. India being a founder member of WTO and with substantial part of its trade with negotiating members of these blocks can neither abstain nor ignore the emerging trade blocks. Hence, it need to put an effective regulatory mechanism in place before its interest are bulldozed by these blocks.

Q-The SCO has become an influential organisation and an important factor in the emergence of a new polycentric world order. Discuss.

Answer) 

iSCO is a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation which was founded in 2001 in Shanghai by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

India is observer state.

SCO has assumed an unparalleled position in the emerging world order with the diversification of its role into multiple areas, beyond regional security, for which it was established. This include:

SECURITY
Emerging unsymmetrical threats are dealt by SCO through various mechanism like RATS for terrorism, anti drug trafficking strategy, combating extremism and collaboration and information exchange to handle cyber warfare.

ECONOMY
SCO is a collaboration between two communist state in which the capitalist economies always have interest. Their growing financial muscles further raises their stature.

POLITICS
Having two UNSC members on board, it is the strongest political forum besides UNSC for deliberation of globally sensitive political issues. With melting Arctic, these two nation are vital players in Arctic scramble and the new Trans Arctic maritime route that will open up. Together
SCO commands an unmatched advantage in the resolving middle east crises and providing humanitarian aids especially in Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine.

**ENERGY**

Russia has largest reserves of coal and natural gas. Combine it with the manufacturing strength of China, the global dynamics is bound to tilt towards them. Various pipelines supplying oil and gas to European countries pass through SCO member state. Hence SCO is the life line to their economies.

This favourable status enjoyed by SCO is bound to increase with time. India, Pakistan and Iran coveting for its membership is just a corroboration of its growing might.

Write a note on Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), Australia Group, and the Wassenaar Arrangement and their relevance to India.

**Answer**

Wassenaar Arrangement: It is a multilateral export control group for Conventional Arms and dual use goods and technology by bringing transparency, regional coordination, and through national policies to prevent destabilizing accumulation. There are 41 participating countries including former COMECON. This body is successor of Cold War era COCOM (Coordinating Committee for multilateral export group).

Missile Technology Control Regime (MCTR): The group is committed towards preventing proliferation of missile and unmanned Ariel vehicle (added later), with special focus on nuclear weapon delivery systems. There are total 34 countries who are part of it. It has helped slow and stop many ballistic missile programs.

Australia Group: It started as an informal group, later joined by European Commission, it was established after the use of chemical weapons by Iraq in 1984 to help member countries to identify those exports which can lead to spread of chemical and biological weapons. Its an Australian initiative, they maintain a list of 54 compounds, some in addition to what is prohibited by Chemicals Weapons Convention.

US had supported India’s membership to all these regimes including NSG, it will help India avail the latest technology and participate in the global security. Many countries including Russia, UK, France etc. supports India’s candidature. However, China is pursuing a strong case for Pakistan membership to NSG over India. But, the recent India’s voluntary help in Syria Chemical weapon disposal case makes India’s case even further.

Write a note on Swachh Bharat Kosh and Swachh Vidyalaya schemes.

**Answer**

Swachh Bharat scheme is an initiative under “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” campaign. It aims to pay tribute to the father of nation Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birthday by achieving Clean India.
The main objectives of scheme are
(a) Provide covered brick and mortar toilet to every school by 2019.
(b) Make separate toilets for girls and boys.
(c) Improve health and hygiene of students especially girls.
(d) To reduce girls dropout due to inconvenience caused by absence of toilet.
(e) To generate momentum for Swachh Bharat Mission.

To achieve this ambitious goal “Swachh Bharat Kosh” is established by Government of India. Its salient features are:
(a) Nonlapsable fund.
(b) Voluntary contribution by PSU and Private sector together with budgetary allocations will form its corpus.
(c) Will be used to finance toilet buildings in schools.
(d) Will also be used to finance studies to improve design and reduce construction cost.

Open defecation is a blot on nation that highlights the prevailing inequality. All attempts should be made in a holistic manner to get rid of this disparaging practice.

Other International development

Q-Write a note on the ‘Right to be Forgotten’ established by the European Union (EU)’s top court.

European Union’s top court has established a 'Right to be Forgotten' in its recent judgement. It establishes the right of citizens to claim the removal of embarrassing and irrelevant information about themselves from search and display of various search engines. This right has its own benefits and challenges.

BENEFITS
(a) Strengthen the right to privacy.
(b) Prevents irrelevant information that can misguide readers.
(c) Checks rumours and defamation through net.

CHALLENGES
(a) Will restrict right to information by selective removal of content.
(b) Concealment of information will inhibit decision making process.
It is a great challenge to search engine service providers to entertain and selectively remove contents.

Proper guidelines should be evolved to decide the contents that can be asked for removal. Till then this right should be restricted till and suscribers should be allowed to make their informed decisions on the basis of net content.

GS-3

Indian Economy (issues planning, mobilisation of resources, growth, development, employment)

Q-According to a recent report, NRI deposits are increasing in India. Examine the reasons behind this trend and throw light on NRI deposits’ importance and risks.

In November last year, the RBI introduced a new scheme by the name concessional dollar swap window to attract FCNR (B) deposits and foreign currency borrowings. Under this scheme the banks have been offering upto 3.5% rate of interest on deposits ranging from 1 to 3 years. Owing to the attractiveness of the scheme, there has been a steady rise in the NRI deposits in India. The figure reached to US $ 71 in 2013 as compared to US $ 59 in 2012. Also the prospects of better returns through Indian banks and the emotional attachment towards the native country are other factors responsible for the spurt.

Following are the advantages of rising NRI deposits:
1. They can be used to reduce CAD especially at a time when FIIs are pulling out their money out of the market.
2. Can be relied upon at times when external assistance in total capital flow decreases.

Risks involved include:
1. Sudden withdrawal of deposits in circumstances of BoP crisis as happened in 1991. The loss of confidence in the economy and lower expected returns can compel many to withdraw their deposits.

Q-Write a note on the PEO

The Program Evaluation Office (PEO) has been started in 1952 under Planning Commission to evaluate the ongoing programs. It’s a three tier body with head office at Planning Commission, seven regional offices and eight project evaluation offices. Each office is headed by officer of the rank of director or deputy advisor. The Project Evaluation Office is held by someone of the rank of senior research officer.

Function: To evaluate the community development programs and other intensive area development schemes. Its importance and function strengthen with the extension of programs and schemes in various sectors like agriculture, fisheries, family welfare, social forestry, tribal welfare etc.
Economics of animal-rearing

Q-“Animal husbandry experts feel that the indiscriminate cross-breeding of the kind that has been going on for the past several decades is not a healthy trend.” Examine why.

Purity of breed is not only a cultural pride but also have vital bio-genetic advantages. Yet, this vital concern is discounted by the unmindful greed towards yield and productivity. As a result only 12% of our livestock population can now be classified under pure breed category.

Ushering of white revolution has brought with it a race for breed improvement to harvest better yields of milk and meat. What we forgot was the adaptability of these breed to local tropical condition. While yield does not improved dramatically, maintenance cost, food and fodder requirement increased a lot, thus offsetting benefits. It also introduced new diseases and susceptibility of these breeds towards new parasite. This demands a revival of indigenous breed to accrue following benefits:
(a) It conserves the genetic pool that contains vital genes having traits like sturdiness, disease resistance etc. These gene are vital in changing climate and global warming.
(b) Indegenous breeds contain certain advantages like high fat content and low fodder requirement.
(c) These breeds are living linkages to our cultural past and hold exotic value.
(d) The breeds are central to various genetic research to improve the quality of livestock.
(e) Its a moral and national duty to restore the integrity of local breed as enshrined in DPSP.

Infrastructure (energy, ports, roads, airports, railways)

Question) Some of major countries of Europe produce their majority of energy share from renewable or nuclear sources. Examine the reasons behind this shift and throw light on how India can emulate their policies to meet its energy demand.
Answer)

The reasons behind the electricity production of most of the European countries from renewable and nuclear energy are:
(a) Social pressure: Advocacy by civil society groups to improve environment and atmosphere to contain health hazards and improve HDI rankings.
(b) UNFCC imperatives: Listing of certain countries in Annexure I created obligations to reduce carbon footprints.
(c) Employment needs: Promoting renewable energy creates new avenues for employment.
(d) Technological advancement: it has reduced the cost, though still costlier than conventional sources, to make renewable energy generation feasible.
(e) Geographical location: these countries lie in westerly zone where wind velocity is always sufficient to generate electricity.

India’s geographical location endows it with both solar and wind energy potential, its agricultural economy offers huge biomass and tectonic history offers geothermal potential. Surrounded with two water bodies, the tidal energy potential is also huge. Assured and affordable electricity supply is vital for sustainable growth but shifting towards the renewable non-conventional sources is imperative considering the rising incidents of floods UNFCCC pressure. India thus needs to emulate European model by
(a) Collaboration and technology transfer agreements.
(b) Devising innovative tariff models like Germany’s “feed-in-tariff” model.
(c) Popularising European success to allay fear among Indian regarding nuclear energy.

Future of India depends on the energy security. With conventional energy sources already attaining saturation, renewable and nuclear energy are the only virgin pastures of energy security paradigm.

**Question**) Write a note on issues concerning India’s Nuclear Separation Plan.

**Answer**

Nuclear separation plan was one of the prerequisites of 123 nuclear agreement between India and US under which India had to separate civil and military nuclear facility and placing civil facilities under the safeguard of IAEA and signing of Additional Protocol.

Following were the importance of nuclear separation plan
1. It allowed US to conclude civil nuclear deal with India which till now was bound with Article I of Nuclear Proliferation treaty (NPT)- which prohibited it in assist nuclear weapon program.
2. It places civilian facilities under IAEA safeguard as per IAEA standard, principles and practice.
3. It instilled confidence in the NSG community that it is taking necessary step to protect export of any nuclear or any sensitive material through comprehensive export legislation and in adherence to missile technology control regime (MTCR) and nuclear supply group (NSG)
4. By keeping majority of nuclear facilities as civilian facilities India clarified that its nuclear program has major goal of providing energy security and civilian research.
5. It ensures that any nuclear cooperation is not helping nuclear weapon program.
6. It help in instilling confidence of NSG in India’s responsible Nuclear programs
7. However the deal doesn’t restrict India to restrict strategic research but it projects India’s
intention that it want to expand civil nuclear facilities.
8. This deal was corner stone in conclusion of India’s nuclear deal with France and Australia and ongoing negotiation with Japan

S&T developments and everyday applications & effects

Q-Write a critical note on the research and development in the pharmaceuticals sector in India.

Ans: Drugs are essential component of Health delivery system. With exploding population, their dismal health status and ongoing drug war between generic and non-generic drug manufacturers the need for genuine R&D in pharmaceutical was never felt like today. Despite this, the R&D in pharmaceutical is entangled with multiple obstructions like:
(a) Ecosystem: Few research personnel and absence of sound research facilities is a persistent problem of pharmaceutical industry. It drives them towards USA.
(b) Red tapism: Multilayered approval, bureaucratic apathy and stringent control measure delay the approval by upto 1yr, while the same approvals take just 28 days in USA.
(c) Impractical rules: Rules related to drug trails like videographing of trails lack practical applicability for eg contraceptive trails often suffer due to this.
(d) Pricing: Price is a motivator for invention. With a lot of drugs in essential list inventors often restrict themself due to cost benefit analysis.
(e) Overseas attraction: Especially in USA where supporting ecosystem and absence of generic drugs to challenge the monopoly of drug manufacturers, coupled with subsidies have great attractive force.

Identifying this trend India has placed a Science and Technology policy that lays a road map for R&D by increasing private participation and increasing global share in publication. This will hopefully correct the disadvantage towards the pharmaceutical industry.
Indigenization of technology & development of new technology

Q-In your opinion, why does India lag behind in research and development in science and technology sector? Critically examine.

India's near absence in the field of R&D in science and technology despite remarkable historical achievements and some noble prizes can be explained by the absence of required education ecosystem. This includes:
(a) Base effect: poverty and illiteracy of parents makes education a secondary priority.
(b) Elementary education: it lays the foundation of student's future. Poor quality of teaching, political appointments to fill reservation criteria absence of infrastructure degrades the quality of education. With RTE in place all students are promoted to next class despite their skills making mockery of the basic objective of education.
(c) Education philosophy: India still promotes rote learning as displayed by the apex selection organisation UPSC in its PT exam. Thus innovative and intellectual faculties of students are inhibited from development.
(d) Gross enrolment ration: Still hangs around 30%. R&D HR mostly consist of middle class that faces a perennial problem of poverty. Thus their interest in research is secondary and as a measure to earn scholarships to support family.
(e) Research atmosphere: subordination, harassment and servitude of research scholars by their guides without remedial measure stop many bright students to join research.
(f) Lack of attraction: Research centre are located away from universities thus they fail to act as incubation centres and charm bright students.
(g) Political intrusion: interference by UGC as in DU 4 year course severely restricts innovation in education sector.
(h) Job security: the number of jobs, their remuneration and opening in government sectors are unattractive.
(i) Motivators: programs like INSPIRE to generate a grass root level momentum to pursue science is piecemeal.
(j) Private collaboration: financial and technical muscles of private sectors are missing with token representation by few like TIFR.
(k) Overseas attraction: whatever talent we are producing migrate overseas due to better opportunities there.

The future is going to be dominated by countries excelling in quaternary sector. While Science and technology policy and declaring 2010-2020 as decade of innovation, are well in place, a real
momentum can be generated by removing grass root level obstacles and reforming education sector with requisite job opportunities.

**Awareness in fields of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nanotech, Biotech, IPR issues**

**Regenerative Medicine**

Stimulate body's own heal mechanism to functionally repair the damaged tissues. replaces traditional methods of chemical intake of drugs...
AMD (age related Macular Degeneration) adult cells --> reprogrammed --> iPS --> can be used for ReG Med
replace tissue /organ functional lost due to age,disease,damage or congenital defects solve problem of shortage of organs understanding of stem cell therapy reduce health care costs

applications:- organ transplants ; retina replacements; strokes;diabetes; cerebral palsy; molecular bio +engineering

Regenerative medicine are used to create living, functional tissues to repair or replace tissue or organ function lost due to age, disease, damage, or congenital defects. Regenerative medicine includes therapies which may involve the use of stem cells.

Regenerative medicine creates the possibility of growing tissues and organs in the laboratory and to safely implant them when the body cannot heal itself.

Applications-
Regenerative medicine regenerates organ’s cells from the patient’s own tissue or cells. So this new field of research would potentially solve the problem of the shortage of organs available for donation, and the problem of organ transplant rejection.

It will also help in understanding how stem cells work and how diseases develop. It will help in the process of developing new treatments. Also it is hoped that scientists might be able to construct small body parts by tissue engineering in the laboratory, for example the cornea in the eye.
These therapies have the potential to treat numerous diseases and conditions, such as diabetes, spinal cord injuries and cardiovascular disease, resulting from damaged or failing tissues. In addition, regenerative medicine will help in combating rising health care costs.

Q-Write a note on the administrative and legal set up of Intellectual Property Right (IPR) regime in India.

In a highly globalised scenario of trade facilitation between countries, it's of utmost importance for countries to protect its own intellectual property rights. Recognizing this, India ratified the TRIPS and setup IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) at all levels.

1. Administrative Level

2. Copyright Office
3. Department of Information Technology deals with matters of outlay of design of integrated circuit.
4. Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Authority deals with all policies relating to plant varieties.

Legal Setup

There has been numerous legislations that have been passed which complement with the various administrative level. Some of the prominent ones include

1. Trademarks Act (1999)
3. Patents Act
4. Indian copyright Act (1957)
Semiconductor Integrated Circuit Layout Designs Act (2001)

Environmental conservation

Write a critical note on the conservation efforts taken to protect elephants in India. Examine what more needs to be done to protect their numbers.

Answer)
Elephants play a central role in Indian religious and cultural heritage. India is a home to between 50 and 60% of all of Asia’s wild elephants and about 20% of the domesticated elephants. Unfortunately, population of elephants are going down due to illegal poaching for ivory, habitat destruction and inefficiency of conservation efforts.

Ministry of Environment and forest launched project elephant in 1992 to provide financial and technical support of wildlife management efforts by states. It also seeks to address the issues of human-elephant conflict and welfare of domesticated elephants. The Project is being implemented in 13 States / UTs. Project Elephant has also established the MIKE (Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants) programme of CITES.

Govt. declared elephant as our national heritage animal. It has been doing many efforts to raise awareness about conservation of elephants. It includes “Gajah to Prajah” and ‘Haathi mere Saathi’ program.

What needs to be done?
(a) Establish NECA at the earliest.
(b) Avoid line projects like railways through elephant corridors.
(c) Issue instruction like slowing train speed, blowing horns etc to pilots.
(d) GPS aided tracking of movement to prevent any accidents during migration.
(e) Wild life authorities should routinely check poaching.
(f) Issue guidelines regarding safe upkeep of domesticated animals.
(g) Prevent human habitation from developing in corridors to avoid man animal conflicts.

Earth is an abode that equally belongs to all its residents. Human greed should not deny this right to elephants.

Disasters & Disaster Management

Q-What are the likely challenges faced by relief agencies and rescue workers post floods in inhabited regions. Explain the role of government in managing these challenges.

Some of challenges faced by the relief agencies and rescue workers post floods in inhabited regions are as follows
1) Shortage of medicines like Anti Venom, Anti Malaria, Rabies Vaccines etc.
2) Fear of epidemics due to carcasses of dead animals decomposing in open
3) Rehabilitation, providing shelter with amenities and building houses for the homeless
4) Finding the missing persons in the submerged areas
5) Handling the anger and grief of the aggrieved people

Government can play an important role in managing the situation in the following ways:
1) Providing medicines or passing orders to the Pharma companies to bridge the gap on priority
2) Releasing funds and other materials including food supply to provide and rehabilitation
3) Providing enough rescue/ relief manpower and infrastructure
4) Bringing back the life on track by building the damaged roads and other infrastructure
5) Providing relief packages to the suffering families to enable them to restart their life

**Q-Critically comment on the functioning of the National Disaster Management Authority and post-calamity relief and rehabilitation mechanism existing in India**

NDMA was established in aftermath of 2004 tsunami and entrusted with the job of pre and post disaster management. Its repeated failure causing widespread losses demands an appraisal of its basic functions.

**PRE DISASTER FUNCTIONS**
NDMA is responsible with "Preparedness and Mitigation planning". A national disaster management plan, the most basic requirement of preparedness, is not made till date. Mitigation, on the other hand suffers from absence of an alternate communication system like ITEWC and poor risk assessment. The problem compounds as the risk assessment responsibility is shared with multiple agencies like CWC in case of floods and IMD in case of droughts. This highlights the mess in preparedness and mitigation planning.

**POST DISASTER FUNCTIONS**
Relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction are essential post disaster functions. Out of this NDMA is responsible for relief measure. NDMA relies on SDMA and battalions provided by various security forces, for relief measures. Thus, the relief operations are at the mercy of other agencies and hence suffers from lack of coordination and duplication of efforts making the whole process a mess. Poor NDMA infrastructure further aggravates the problem.

Rehabilitation is done by state. Paucity of funds and insufficient central funds increases the gravity of disaster. As a result people lay stranded for long duration.

Failure of NDMA does not obviate the need of a central agency. But it definitely highlights the pressing need to bring professionalism in NDMA. Fixing accountability and enhancing capacity should go hand in hand if natural hazards are to be restricted from becoming disaster.
Role of External State & Non-State actors in creating internal security challenges

Q-Critically analyse the threat posed by non-state actors, both internal and external, to India’s internal security.

Ans: Post world war II direct confrontation has lost ground to indirect confrontation. These unsymmetrical challenges posed by non-state actors are posing a great security challenge to India.

INTERNAL NONSTATE ACTORS
(a) Extremist/Rightwingers: These include religious fanatics and chauvinist who espouse anti-semitic feeling and propogate hatred and intolerance challenging the atmosphere of peace and tranquility.
(b) Regionalist: The son of soil is the latest poison to India’s nationhood. It disparage others through violent confrontation to stake their claims.
(c) Smugglers/Speculators/Hawala dealers: This brand of anti national elements unsatiable greeds destroys the domestic economy.
(d) Secessionist: Fractions in J&K, Khalsa, NE insurgents and naxals pose a constant threat of balkanisation of the nation.

EXTERNAL ACTORS
(a) Jehadist/Terrorist: This brand of nonstate actors have a great appeal among youth. Crossing national boundaries they spread a cycle of extreme violence like done by Al Qaida and ISIS.
(b) Drug trafficker: Punjab, the most productive belt is now facing a potent threat from drug peddlers who have broken the moral fibre and demographic strength of nation.
(c) Cyber warfare: Enemy nations often hire hackers to pose credible challenge to critical infrastructure of nation. The security of entire nation is thus at stake.
(d) Smugglers: bringing counterfiet curency and other goods create market speculation destroying the economy.

With WMD stockpiled in the armoury of every nations the chances of direct confrontations are negligible. The challenges posed will be by these non-state actors funded by enemy state. The ability of nation to restrict them will be a major determinant.