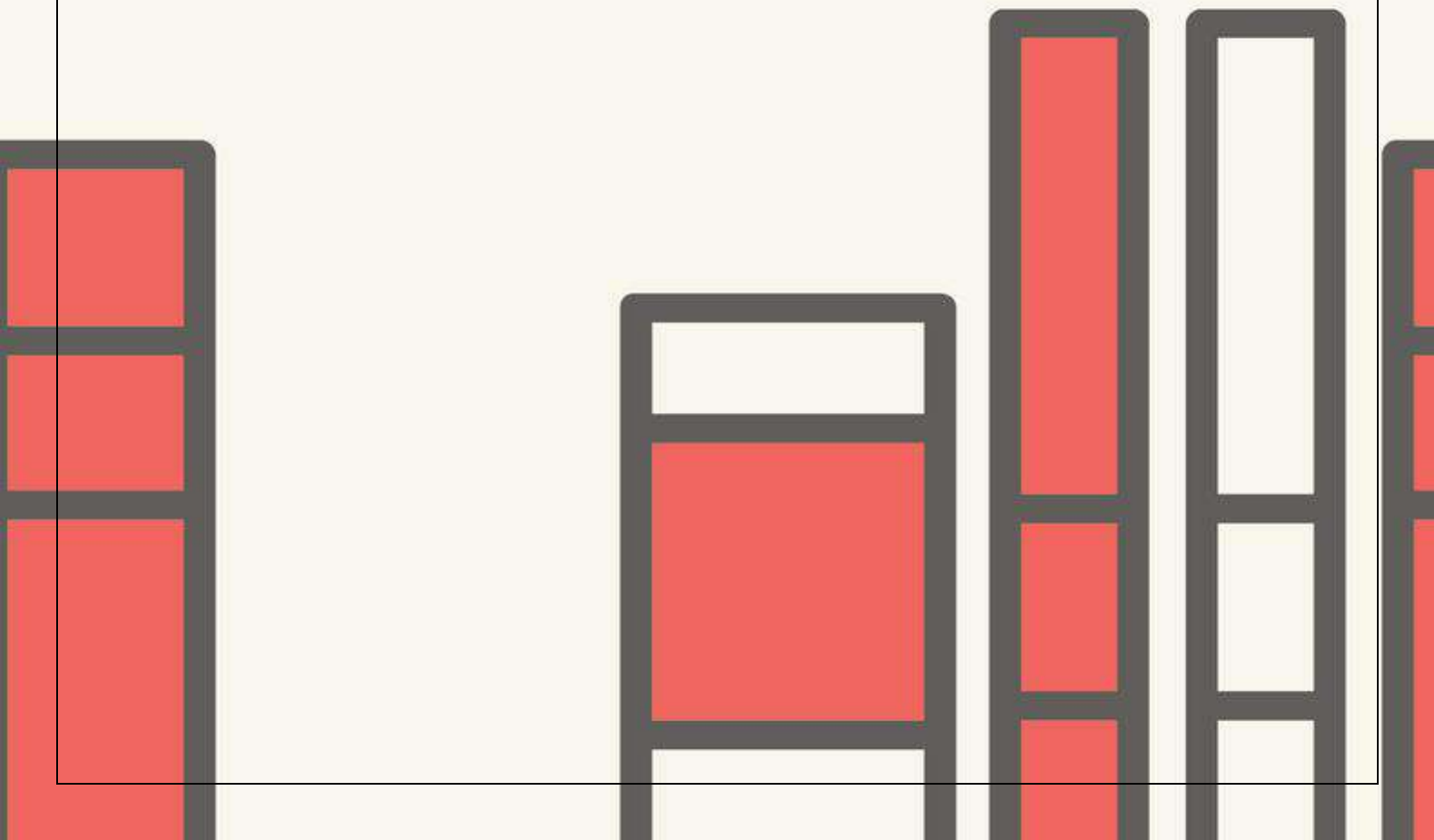




# **IASBABA'S TLP COMPILATIONS FOR MAINS 2018**

**GENERAL STUDIES - 3**



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**Q.1) What do you understand by 'formalization of economy'? Examine its benefits. Has GST led to increasing formalization of the Indian economy? Critically examine.**

**Introduction:**

According to Economic survey of India, formality can be defined in at least two senses. First, when firms are providing some kind of social security to employees. A second definition of formality is when firms are part of the tax net.

**Body:**

Benefits of Formalization of Economy:

- Growth and Development.
- Formal Credit Facility: Long term loans, Cheaper loans etc.
- Benefits from government in form of Subsidies, Tax credit, Cheap Electricity and other supports.
- Increased employment opportunity and attraction of Talent.
- Revenue for Exchequer.
- Social Infrastructure: With increased revenue government can invest more in Social infrastructure like Education, Skill Development etc.
- Regulations: There will proper regulation and strict implementation of rules for welfare of workers, Environment protection etc.
- Illegal Activities: It will reduce Black money generation, Corruption in politics, Money laundering etc.

GST has helped formalization of Economy in following ways:

- There will be now seamless flow of availability of common set of data to both the Centre and the States making Direct and Indirect Tax collections more effective.
- Tax Base Expansion: 6.6 lakh new agents, previously outside the tax net, have sought GST registration.
- Housing: Further, a segment of land and real estate transactions has also been brought into tax net. This in turn would allow for greater transparency and formalization of cement, steel and other sales which earlier tended to be outside the tax net.
- Digitalization: eliminating transactions which are not recorded earlier in the books of accounts and thus bringing those who were outside the tax net so far.

Issues with GST so far:

- Cost: Additional cost for Small Business which will eventually reduce Profit margin leading to increase in prices in longer run.

- Tax slabs: Different Tax slabs confuse illiterate and uneducated Small businesses leading to exploitation by auditors and Taxmen.
- Trust Issues: Certain business which are exempt from GST face trust issues from customers when not able to produce bills.
- Exemption: Certain products like Petroleum which has huge revenue potential is kept out of GST.
- GSTN: Glitch while filing GST and Network issue have enabled massive Tax evasion.

## **Conclusion:**

It can be a revolution in Taxation reforms and second tryst with Destiny as projected if proper steps are taken to simplify the process and address the concerns raised.

**Best Answer: Aspirant123.**

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**Q.2) Has demonetisation led to widening of India's tax base? Critically evaluate.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Demonetization refers to declaration of certain currency as no more a legal tender, i.e. those currency cease to have any value and incapable for exchange. India carried out Demonetization in November 2016, the third time after 1954 and 1978. Also worldwide demonetization has been carried out by various countries like by Europe while introducing Euro as the common currency, US killed \$500 in 1969 etc.

## **BODY**

Demonetization was not an abrupt measure, it was carried out as a continuation of the series of measures like –

- SIT
- Income declaration scheme ( 40% penalty )
- Black money imposition tax act, 2015
- Constituting Multi agency group
- Benami Transaction Bill , 2015
- DTAA with various countries

- Automatic Exchange — Switzerland
- cashless transactions
- Jan Dhan Yojana.

It was carried out due to the multiple reasons and with the hope of countering issues like –

- Drastically growing PARALLEL ECONOMY ( black money, counterfeit currency, funding for anti-social elements )
- India's cash transactions consisted of 14% in comparison to 5% of the Developed countries.
- 45% of India's output is from informal sector.
- To lead to positive rate cuts and decrease Inflation.
- To curb drug trafficking, money laundering , hawala networks, benami properties, real estate and gold volatilities.

It was perceived that Tax base increased in parallel with various other benefits out of Demonetization in the following way –

- Due to immediate inclusion of money in formal sector, i.e Banks, Insurance etc – a lot of unaccounted money came into foray.
- IT returns have increased by 1.26 crore, hence it has increased tax base.
- Suspicious accounts lead IT officials – crack down on illegal properties, which forced owners to face tax penalties.
- Direct tax collections from personal Income tax increased by 34% and corporate tax by 42%
- Economic Survey also points to increase in tax files by 10% in the last year.
- Digitalization of Economy helped in financial inclusion and increased accountability.
- As black money got converted into white, huge increase in investments could be seen.
- Operation Clean Money was launched simultaneously to find the relations of large deposits of taxes and incomes.
- It improved voluntary Direct tax compliance, i.e 26% of net increase in number of taxpayers base.
- Promotion of digital economy leads to increase in the tax to GDP growth.

However, with the various benefits of Demonetization on the tax rate, the various negatives could be seen with time, it could directly or indirectly reduce the tax base and deviate from the initial perception of Demonetization. The issues were –

- Many small and medium business enterprises saw decline in business as they faced the wrath of Cash crunch.
- Demonetization is not the most prominent reason for increase in tax base, whereas many other initiatives like GST are at the forefront.

- The amount returned to the bank has been 99% of the actual amount of Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes before demonetization.
- The demonetization through it increased digital transaction but it has not sustained and again cash to GDP ratio is increasing.
- It was found that various illegal modes were used for depositing money.e.g – Use of Jan Dhan accounts.
- Demonetization lead to decrease in production (IIP index) leading to slower growth rate and thus decrease in tax payments.

## CONCLUSION

Although Demonetization was carried out with lot of hope with tacking most of the negatives related to Indian economy considering it to be panacea for growth in the long term. However; improper planning, poor targeting and faulty implementation has brought lot of negatives to the surface. The tax base is still on the lower side, it is important for India to focus on Laffer curve by carrying out the following measures –

- First reduce income tax so that incentive to avoid tax is reduces.
- Decrease onerous & prohibitive tax rate during purchase of property.
- Reduce CGT in property.
- Morality has no place in taxation, so put in place a efficient legal revenue system in place.

Hence, Increase in tax base is a long term process and can be carried out in the long term by multi-dimensional strategy and not hoping for a “One panacea for all ” approach.

**Best Answer : JYOTI SINGH**

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**Q.3) What is ‘gainful employment’? What is its status in India? Discuss the significance of skill development to ensure gainful employment.**

## Introduction:

Gainful employment refers to an employment condition where employee receives consistent work and payment from the employer.



**Body:**

Recent Labour Bureau data suggests that just 1.5 million jobs were created against 10-15 million people entering workforce. In these times of 'jobless' economic growth, status of gainful employment looks very grim in India.

- Agriculture sector which employs around 48% of workforce provides only seasonal employment.
- Complex labour laws have hindered employability in manufacturing sector with employers hiring casual and contractual labours.
- Though service sector has grown since LPG reforms, it employs just around 25% of workforce. Service sector is mainly skewed in terms of IT and engineering graduates face problem of underemployment, lack of skills which leads to lack of employability (National employability report- just 8% can be employed in core engineering jobs).
- Prevailing informal economy involving around 80% of workforce (ILO) with issues like lack of secured work, lower wages, social security. Ex: construction sector- seasonal.

Among various reasons, mismatch between skills required and skills of workforce remains a major factor in lower job opportunities today. Realising this, Government of India has launched various initiatives under Skill India Mission like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). Skilling our vast human resource will play significant role in ensuring gainful employment in following way

- Equip people with skills to adopt to changing technology and economic needs.
- Absorb large workforce from agriculture to manufacturing sector by enhancing productivity. Ex: MSME sector.
- Help people to take up entrepreneurship. Ex: agri start up.

Apart from skilling people, there is a need to ensure education – employment policy coherence linking education institutes with industries.

**Conclusion:**

Skilled human workforce is prerequisite for India to reap benefits from its demographic dividend.

**Best Answer: Kritika Mishra**

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**Q.4) Why has double digit growth in GDP remained elusive to India? Is it a serious concern? What are its fallouts? Examine.**

**Approach:**

- Introduction
- Reasons behind
- Why it is a serious concern?
- Steps taken in recent times, Challenges
- Way ahead

**Introduction:**

India surged ahead to become the world's fastest-growing major economy in the last quarter of calendar year 2017. While the nation has the potential to hit double digit growth in GDP, it has remained elusive.

**Reasons behind:**

- Structural issue- With 68% of working population in agricultural sector, the sector contributes only 13.7% to our GDP.
- The contribution of women to India's GDP is 18 per cent, one of the lowest proportions in the world.
- Issues in manufacturing sector- low ease of doing business, red-tapism, lack of job specific skills.
- Poor investment- Private investment is at its low. Further public sector banks are facing the challenge of NPAs.

**Cause of concern:**

- It risks converting India's rich demographic dividend into demographic disaster.
- The demographic window won't last long.
- Growth less than potential results into unemployment resulting into issues like inflation, social unrest etc.
- It results into economic inequality.

**Steps taken in recent times:**

- The "Make in India" campaign.
- Skill India mission
- Introduction of the Goods and Services Tax, unifying sales tax across all Indian states.



## Challenges:

- Private investment needs to pick up significantly, but the woes in the banking sector may drag it down.
- The external economic environment has deteriorated- The global economy is increasingly looking dubious and a lot uncertain with an imminent threat of trade wars breaking out. In such a scenario, India is unlikely to achieve 20-25% exports growth, which is needed to achieve double digit growth.
- With fourth industrial revolution ongoing, automation is emerging as another major challenge.

## Way ahead:

- Service sector and manufacturing sector should be able to absorb the disguisedly unemployed in the agricultural sector.
- An effective structural reform agenda including in land, labour and financial markets is required.
- Banking sector- Its time enough competition is generated by solving the issue of NPAs in public sector banks and encouraging private banks' participation.
- Rising up in the value chain- Agro-processing industries.
- Gender empowerment- India could add \$770 billion to its GDP annually in 2025, or 18% above business-as-usual GDP by pursuing the goal of gender parity.
- To achieve GDP (gross domestic product) growth of 10 percent, India would need the service sector to grow close to 20 percent complemented by four and eight percent growth in agriculture and industrial growth,

## Conclusion:

India needs to reap the benefits of its rich demographic dividend. Reforms being taken needs to be implemented in true spirit. Further it must be ensured that the growth is sustainable and environmental concerns are taken into account.

## Best answer: Shweta

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**Q.5) Isn't fiscal deficit bad for an economy? Don't you think social sector schemes burden the exchequer? Critically analyse.**

## Synopsis:

**Fiscal Deficit:** Fiscal Deficit shows that total debt generated by the government to finance the total budget expenditure after exhausting all options for financing its expenditure. Fiscal Deficit is justified as long as the expenditures are being incurred to finance activities leading to creation of national asset.

High Fiscal deficits become a matter of worry, for, if incurred year after year, they cumulatively create a huge debt for the government.

## Let's see how it is bad for economy:

### Fallouts on economy:

**Debt Trap:** Government tries to finance the fiscal deficit by borrowings from both internal and external financial organisations, so annually governments need to repay interest on those borrowings or repay the principal amount what they have borrowed earlier.

**Inflation:** Excess expenditure of government on social sector leads to increase in money supply in an economy. These create pressure on goods and services results in high inflation.

**Foreign Dependence:** Government borrowings from foreign organisations and institutions make our economy and policies more dependent on their decisions. These made government restricts to take independent decisions on our foreign policies.

### Social sector scheme and burden on government:

- In practice, the effect of fiscal deficit on the economy depends on the expenditure pattern of government as well as the Business Cycle. For instance, running a deficit for pandering to populist demands is detrimental, while in periods of slowdown deficits are warranted to revive demand. Further, fiscal deficit when used to finance capital expenditure is beneficial in long run.
- When the government's Fiscal Deficit is large, it implies that government has to borrow heavily. This means that the demand for loans will rise in the market, causing interest rates to go up.
- In effect Debt servicing alone consumes one-third of government's earnings, followed by subsidies, pension, and defence expenditure. Further, the expenditure as a percent of GDP on core sectors such as health and education is well below other developing countries. Also, empirical evidence suggests that investing in such sectors in-fact boost national income.
- Social sector schemes may be short term burden, however in a long run it is an asset for an economy. For Example: A govt is providing scholarship or internship for graduates. After Completion of graduate, He/ She will create new employments, pay tax,

remittance and many more. It is not universal truth that social sector schemes will be an asset.

- Another example: Farmer loan waiver is against the interest of genuine farmers and nation interest in long run.
- As the public debts are social sector schemes are inviting criticism for burdening the exchequer. This notion is misplaced.

### Conclusion:

Now we can conclude that social sector schemes are not burden if it proper utilised in national interest. However, we need to take the recent experiences of Greece and a few other European countries shows that cumulative high fiscal deficits can lead countries to bankruptcy of the governments.

**Best answer: Suraj singh**

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**Q.6) Ensuring robust economic growth while reducing income inequality is one of the most pressing challenges for policymakers in India. Do you concur? Give your views. What measures can be taken to meet this objective? Suggest.**

### Introduction:

Growing income inequality has become a major problem. As per recent Oxfam report, India's top 1% of the population now holds 73% of the wealth while 67 crore citizens, comprising the country's poorest half, saw their wealth rise by just 1%.

### Body:

Ensuring robust economic growth and addressing Income inequality is the need of hour, if it is undermined then it could lead to many challenges:

- Undermines Democracy.
- Promotes Corruption.
- Crony Capitalism.
- Public policy: Could pose challenge to public policy making.
- Social unrest: It can trigger social unrest like Civil war.
- Increase in Crime.
- Rise of Fundamentalism.

Why there is income inequality:

- Lack of Skills: Recently Narayan Murthy had said that around 80% of young college graduates lacked relevant market skills.
- Gender Discrimination.
- Employment generation.
- Informalization of work force/Casualization of labor.
- Unequal Regional development: Concentration of growth and development in Western part and southern parts of Country.
- Neo-liberalism: Privatization of Economy.

Measures:

- Promote inclusive growth.
- Gender equality.
- Labor intensive sector.
- Imposing higher Tax on Super rich.
- Stringent Tax mechanism to evade Tax evasions.
- Skill Development.
- Market relevant Education.
- Increasing Pay ratio.

Government has taken certain measures to address these issues with initiatives like:

- Make in India.
- Start-up India and Stand up-India.
- National Skill Development programs.
- Deen Dayal Upadhyay Kaushal Vikas Yojana.
- Pradhan Mantri Employment Generation Program.
- MEIS and SEIS schemes.
- New National Manufacturing policy.

**Note: 1-2 lines explanation is required for all points.**

**Conclusion:**

Government has taken measures to address this and even at global level Post-Washington consensus seeks to address this issue. But unless the corporate sector also takes initiative to contribute the success will be limited.

**Best Answer: Ankur.**

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**Q.7) Do you think the present GST tariff structure addresses the generally regressive nature of indirect taxes? Critically examine. (Hint: Analyse this question from the perspective of GST's success or failure in rationalising tariffs for goods and services used by the vulnerable sections i.e. poor, women, children, disabled etc)**

### Introduction

Goods and Service Tax ( GST ) is a indirect, multistage, destination based tax introduced through 101st Constitutional Amendment and it replaced /subsumed the taxes like – Excise duty, Additional excise duty, Entertainment tax , Entry tax etc as it had envisioned '**One Nation, one tax**'

### Body

All though, tax is a mandatory financial charge or any type of levy imposed on a taxpayer to fund various public expenditures. While, Indirect tax was common to all sections of the society, irrespective of ones income levels, Direct tax is based only above a particular income level. Any kind of taxation should be based on the following "**Principles of Taxation**" –

1. **Adequacy:** taxes should be just-enough to generate revenue required for provision of essential public services.
2. **Broad Basing:** taxes should be spread over as wide as possible section of the population, or sectors of economy, to minimize the individual tax burden.
3. **Compatibility:** taxes should be coordinated to ensure tax neutrality and overall objectives of good governance.
4. **Convenience:** taxes should be enforced in a manner that facilitates voluntary compliance to the maximum extent possible.

The **system of Indirect taxes in India** was regressive , reflected inefficiency and was against the principles of taxation as –

- It did not consider economic status of a person and was same to everyone.
- It was a heavy burden for the poor, who are already burdened due to their situations and facing the wrath of poverty & inflation.
- It did not abide by the Socialistic principles in Indian preamble.
- It had lot of differences across different states , leading to lot of ambiguities.

However, GST was considered to be a “**Common Panacea**” for many issues in Indian economy, it is considered to follow the principle of “**Redistributive Taxation**”, to disburden India’s poor and move towards a stronger economy. The **incomparision with the earlier Regressive Indirect taxation**, the GST introduced had the following benefits-

1. Making the basic cereals (wheat, rice), pulses, oilseeds – tax exempted under the new regime.
2. Creation of multiple slabs in GST and placing the regular products into smaller slabs. This could help in reducing the burden on common man for daily wage objects.
3. Placing of high end products like luxury cars, tobacco products, foreign trips in higher tax slabs.
4. Placing the essential commodities in the lowest tax slab.
5. The women essentials like bindi, sindoor, bangles are kept out of GST.
6. Charitable trusts, NGOs on a defined criteria is kept out of GST

Even though, GST has the above benefits – it is considered to not be a full proof solution and it is having the following obstacles in its implementation, which is not allowing it to achieve its full potential-

1. Some essential products are placed in higher tax slabs, Eg- Sanitary napkins (recently made tax exempt), cement (for construction) etc.
2. The complex procedure like e-filing, paperwork’s had introduced more burden on small traders leads to **high administrative cost, distortion cost & compliance cost**.
3. **Complicated structure**, due to **Multiple Slabs** – causing difficulty in Understanding.
4. Certain sectors like real estate, petroleum products have been kept out of the preview of GST
5. GST council may **have populist agenda** behind slabbing or de slabbing which has created confusion.
6. **Awareness** regarding the GST remains a main concern.

According to the Finance Minister, the short term effects faced in implementation of GST, is like “**Short term pains to achieve long term gains**” like-

- **Common man friendly**
- **For Trade & Industry.**
  - - Common procedure for registration, duty payment, return filling, refund taxes
    - Seamless flow of Tax Credit.
    - It will help in eliminating the Cascading Effect.
    - It would lead to “Neutralization of Taxes” - to make exports more competitive.
- **For the Economy**
  - It would lead to “Unified common market”
  - To make India a Manufacturing hub in the long run



- Boost investment and generate more employment.
- Simplified Tax Structure in the Long term.

### Conclusion

GST was considered to be the **“Bullock Cart stuck in the mud”**, the fact that it has been implemented finally is something to celebrate. It may currently have many obstacles and negative features, but **“some faulty initial features may be essential compromise to get it accepted in the first place”**. Even with the negatives, the positives definitely outweigh the regressive Indirect Tax structure, pre GST in India.

**BEST ANSWER : Shweta**

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**Q.8) Is Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) a more effective instrument in ensuring inclusive growth? Critically evaluate. Also suggest the areas/ sectors/ services wherein the DBT model can be replicated.**

### Introduction:

Direct benefit transfer(DBT) involves transfer of government benefits like subsidies directly into bank account of beneficiaries.

### Body:

Government of India has re-engineered service delivery system through DBT. DBT contributes to inclusive growth in following way

- Bring transparency in the system thus minimising delays and corruption. Ex: MGNREGA- DBT has saved labours from the exploitation of contractors.
- Ghost beneficiaries are eliminated resulting into delivery of services to the most needy. Ex: PAHAL , PDS, MGNREGA.
- Financial inclusion, bringing unserved section of society into financial net. Now with people having bank accounts, they can avail other facilities like agricultural loans.
- Cash transfers in the name of vulnerable like women, girl child are likely to improve their status in the family. Ex: NFSA- conditional cash transfer.

- Reduced structural expenditure resulting from the elimination of intermediaries, leakages helps government spend more on welfare measures.

However, DBT faces challenges like Infrastructure in remote areas- Banks, ICT; financial illiteracy, exclusion errors which limit its effectiveness.

Moreover, inclusive growth has much wider meaning. It means economic growth that creates employment opportunities and helps in reducing poverty. It means having access to essential services in health and education by the poor. It includes providing equality of opportunity, empowering people through education and skill development. Thus, DBT alone with cash transfer is unlikely to ensure inclusive growth. Equal importance should be paid on improving quality of education, health services especially in rural areas.

So far DBT is implemented in various schemes like MGNREGA, PAHAL, NSAP, Scholarships, fertilizer subsidy. Areas/sectors/services where DBT can be implemented:

- MSP- price deficiency system (NITI Aayog).
- Power distribution sector (NITI Aayog).
- Public Distribution System.

## **Conclusion:**

DBT can be one of the enabler for inclusive growth provided challenges in its implementations are addressed.

**Best answer: Sania**

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**Q.9) What is deficit financing? Why is it detrimental to the sustainability of government budget? Examine.**

## **Introduction:**

Deficit financing is the budgetary situation where expenditure is higher than the revenue. It is a practice adopted for financing the excess expenditure with outside resources. The expenditure revenue gap is financed by either printing of currency or through borrowing.

**Why deficit financing is detrimental?**

- Increase in financial burden leading to a vicious cycle.
- Decline in investment. BOP crisis.
- Deficit spending raises interest rates resulting into crowding out effect. There is a limited amount of funds available for investment, and when government competes with the private sector for a share of these funds to finance its deficit spending, it drives the cost of these funds. The increase in the interest rates causes investment to fall, and lower investment translates into lower output and lower economic growth.
- Increase in money supply due to deficit financing may result into inflation.

## Addressing fiscal deficit:

- Fiscal consolidation- The NK Singh Committee advocated fiscal deficit as the operating target to bring down public debt. For fiscal consolidation, the centre should reduce its fiscal deficit from the current 3.5% (2017) to 2.5% by 2023.
- Rationalizing expenditure- Reducing expenditure on subsidies. Increasing capital expenditure so that it has a multiplier effect on economy.
- Budgetary planning should be such that the risk of deficit financing is taken into account.

## Conclusion:

Fiscal deficits are detrimental to the sustainability of the government budget. However, deficits are not always bad. When the economy goes into recession, deficit spending through tax cuts or the purchase of goods and services by the government can stop the downward spiral and help to turn the economy back around. Thus, deficits can help stabilize the economy. Thus, a balanced approach should be adopted.

## Best answer: Rogerfederer88

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## Q.10) Critically evaluate the budgetary reforms taken by the government in the recent past.

### Synopsis:

Annual year financial statement laid out by financial minister according to article 112 one month in advance have taken many reforms to concretize the efforts to overhaul economic growth The government has decided to carry out three kinds of changes in the Union Budget:

- To advance its presentation by 27 days to February 1st.
- To do away with a separate railway budget.
- To dispense with Plan-non-Plan dichotomy in expenditure.

**Advancement of union budget:**

- The proposal for a change in the budget presentation date was first mooted by some of the government's senior most bureaucrats as part of a 'Transforming India' initiative.
- If the Budget is read in January and passed by February-March, it would enable the government to do away with a vote on account for the first three months of a financial year.
- It would also help the private sector to anticipate government procurement trends and evolve their business plans. And, civil society could deliberate on and give feedback in time for the parliamentary discussions.

**Merger of railways with general budget:**

This move is being lauded for it will be beneficial for the economy at large and there will be positive influence in the development in railways.

- Leads to better policies: Now that the Railway budget will be introduced along with the union budget, there will be less wastage of time when a new policy is to be initiated and implemented.
- Keeping them separate resulted in a lot of drawbacks and hindrances that had to be faced by the railway ministry before it could decide upon a solution.
- Our railways are running on loss. There are lesser funds for development plans and most of them are wasted in wrongful manner when there emerges a demand from the regional MLA who promised new trains and stoppages for their location during the time of election.

**Do away with plan and non-plan expenditure:**

- After abolition of planning commission there is no need for plan and non-plan expenditure as such, so it is better to do away with it.
- Removal of plan and non-plan classification of expenditure to facilitate a holistic view of allocations for sectors and ministries.
- This will help create a clear and effective link between the government's earnings, spending and outcomes
- In the earlier system, more emphasis was on planned expenditure, but now focus will be on all expenditures of the government, giving a more overall picture.

**Conclusion:**

These reforms make sense, but Budget reform has to go further, to incorporate a multi-year time horizon and shift to outcome-linked expenditure management, as had been recommended by a committee headed by C Rangarajan in 2011.

**Best Answer: tukaram pawar**

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**Q.11) Does liberalisation ensure inclusive growth? Critically examine by taking post-1991 India as a case in point.**

**Synopsis:**

The goals of the liberalisation in 1991 embarked upon were short term as well as long term. The immediate provocation was the critical fiscal situation that India faced in terms of foreign obligations as well as stagnancy in the growth of the economy. To overcome it, certain actions were taken. It also included devaluation of rupee.

Inclusive growth entails comprehensive growth, shared growth, and pro-poor growth. It lessens the fast growth rate of poverty in a country and upsurges the participation of people into the development of the country. Inclusive growth infers an impartial allocation of resources with benefits incurred to every section of the society.

**Liberalisation and inclusive growth:**

A lot of thinking was done by the government to make the organised sector moving. The organised sector, industrial sector, finance sector, trade sector- all of those were experiencing minimal growth rates. This was the background in which the liberalisation process started. It can be clubbed as

- Industrial licensing- where most products and lines were de-licenced
- Trade liberalisation- a whole lot of items in which the trade was not allowed were removed from the restricted list. Also, to facilitate freer trade, the duties on export as well as on imports were done away with. However, there was no question of India participating in any of FTAs.
- Changed attitude towards FDI- it was not a direct impact. It has happened in tranches over 20 years and continues even now.
- Financial changes- privatisation of banks
- GST, IBC etc.,

**One of the major aims of liberalisation was to create more wealth, create more jobs and shrink poverty and the gap as much as possible.**

The markets are not good masters. It leads to marginalisation of those who are at the margins. Therefore, it happened so that the growth did not pick till first 12 years i.e. till 2002.

- India had achieved 5.8% growth in 1980s and it remained average from 1991-2002 at 5.3%.
- It is only from 2003 that India had a 9% growth for four years till the global financial crisis came.
- The rate of growth dropped but again it picked up in 2010 and then again from 2011 it came down.
- Now, India is again trying to reach higher growth rates.

Due such dynamic situations, instability has increased; the gap between the rich and the poor has expanded. There are 4th largest numbers of dollar billionaires in India. This shows the rising inequality.

For example, the minimum wage in 1991 was Rs. 35 which has risen to Rs. 165.

Although it has given so many positive changes, but there are some issues which has happened after the LPG reforms.

- Jobless growth: The jobless growth could have been corrected rapidly if right policies had been adopted.
- Pre-matured deindustrialisation happened
- Indigenous people got effected too much in this place
- Environmental degradation
- Focussed on non-agricultural activities.
- Agricultural contribution in the GDP declined.
- Less structural reforms in the economy

### **Conclusion:**

We are the stage where the time has come to take the full benefits of the reforms. This will be possible when sectors like industries, finances become sustainable and deepen where sectors in which they had not reached also get the benefit of 1991 reforms.

**Best Answer: Jyothi Singh**

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**Q.12) What is the 'exit' problem' in Indian economy? Examine the recent steps taken by the government to address the same.**

### Introduction:

The Indian economy has made great strides in removing barriers to entry for firms, talent, and technology but less progress has been made in relation to exit. Thus, over the course of six decades, the Indian economy has moved from 'socialism with limited entry to "marketism" without exit', where starting a business is easier but without an Exit option.

### Body:

Steps taken by government to address Exit problem:

- Insolvency and Bankruptcy code.
- Resolution Corporation.
- Joint Lenders Forum.
- Recapitalization/Bailout.
- Restructuring of firm.
- Companies Act 2013: Outbound Merger which was not present earlier.
- Privatization.
- UDAY: For loss making Discoms.

Issues:

- - Timeline: 180-days' time period as given by IBC is very short and most of the project might end up with Debt Recovery Tribunal of NCLT.
  - The focus of steps taken by government is more on recovery of dues, than revival of the company, thus collective resolution is hit.
  - Crowding out: Every extra rupee that the government spends on the bailout of these firms by taking on their losses, it has to borrow. And for every rupee that the government borrows, there is one rupee less for the private sector to borrow.
- Specialists: Lack of insolvency specialists in our country might delay resolution.
- Opposition from Bureaucrats and opposition political parties leading to slow down in implementation of Privatization of PSU's.

**Note: Question asks for Examination of steps taken by Government Not Exit Issue in India. 1-2 lines explanation is needed in 1st part.**

### Conclusion:

Certain loopholes and issues have to be sorted out so that it doesn't affect our growth and development. For Instance, recently Rural Electrification Ltd MD has stated that optimal solution and resolution will be impossible in the given time frame and majority of power projects will ultimately land up in NCLT.

**Best Answer: No best answer.**

**Q.13) Liberalisation as an economic reform hasn't yet attained its complete shape in India. Do you agree with this assessment? Examine the areas that are still stifled by the inefficiency of the state.**

### INTRODUCTION

Liberalization refers to the process of opening markets for easy in and out movement of goods. The notion of free market in its changed form under "Washington consensus" came to India as economic liberalization. As an economic reform it was initiated in India in 1991 to tackle the 'Balance of Payment' crisis and even after 27 years, it remains to take a final shape.

### BODY

Liberalization refers to the "Rolling back of state" from the economy. This however, doesn't mean no regulations, but it is the responsibility of the Government to act as an umpire in economic sphere. It was considered to be a panacea for most of the problems with respect to Indian economy. The following issues have restricted liberalization from taking a complete shape and achieve its full growth potential –

Issues in Economic Reforms of India –

- FDI restrictions in various sectors hinder investments.
- FEMA which regulates foreign.
- Government maintains strict control even today on import and export.
- No full Capital Account convertibility.
- Stringent labor and tax norms, which are not encouraging for even domestic industrialists.
- Inefficient labor involvement leading to Disguised unemployment
- Complete Financial inclusion and income equality are distant dreams.
- Low Job Generation, it has not kept pace with economic growth.
- "Entry without Exit" – the exit problem stifles ease of doing business and closing down of loss ventures.

- Competition from foreign firms has led to wearing out of certain local firms, e.g in case of e-commerce capturing markets of local shops
- Issues in Executive – Red tapism, delay in decision making, issues of environmental clearances, corruption, crony capitalism
- Issues in Legislature -lack of political will, lack of fiscal consolidation, Political populism.
- Issues in Judiciary -lack of arbitration, huge judicial pendency, delay in justice

However, in spite of the above issues, Liberalization brought boom to many sectors like IT, Telecom sector, Airline services etc. by the following changes which act as the **Positives of Liberalization-**

- It induced competition, provided good quality in less prize.
- Services of sectors like telecom, airline drastically improved.
- FDI now allowed in almost all sectors barring very few sectors.
- Administered regime of Petroleum pricing is done away with.
- Real Estate, Entertainment sector became affordable for common man.
- India now has huge Forex Reserves
- Expansion of Indian companies worldwide – like Airtel, Bajaj, Mahindra etc.

Inspite of this certain sectors still stifle and remain inefficient, mostly to the high levels of interference by the state –

- **Railways** – under the government over the years has experienced poor service delivery & reduced profit.
- **Public Sector banks** – various scams and the issue of Non Performing assets are having a huge toll on it.
- **Education and Health** – It faces huge service delivery issues at the primary level mostly by those provided by the Government.
- **Fertilizers** –Government regulates the import, export and allocation of farmers.
- **Nuclear sector** – Very slow progress in establishment of new plants, huge delays
- **Defense production** – Defense PSU's are ineffective and slow in producing modern technology & equipments
- **Many Public sector Undertakings (PSUs)**

## CONCLUSION

Thus, Liberalization though opened up the Indian economy, it drastically evolved many sectors like IT and Telecom, helping India's economy to grow widely. However, increased government interference in various sectors to maintain the socialistic principles of Indian governance along with the executive, legislative failures coupled with corruption, red tapism etc. had led to under performance of Indian economy and lead to stiffing of various sectors due to the inefficiency of the state.

**BEST ANSWER : JOHN NASH**

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**Q.14) How do infrastructure projects strengthen a nation's geostrategic standing? Examine in the light of strategy adopted by China and India's response to it.**

### **Synopsis:**

The importance of infrastructure for sustained economic development is well recognized, along with that these projects will strengthen the nations geostrategic standing. High transaction costs arising from inadequate and inefficient infrastructure can prevent the economy from realizing its full growth potential regardless of the progress on other fronts.

Infrastructure projects & networks are significant since they will create the modern arteries of Global trade, Cyber connectivity & transport in the 21st century. The nation or group controlling such routes & networks is also likely to be a dominant regional & global player as it can control & guide the flow of goods, info & people & will thus gain a decisive say in Global politics while others will become dependent on it.

India and China got independence in same decade, However China is emerging as global power and India is still developing country.

### **Strategy adopted by China in infrastructure project:**

- Infrastructure: China has highest no of dams in the world. China has developed so many ports and roads which boost their external and internal trade and connectivity. China has developed Ghost City and useless bridges for employment generation only.
- Environment: China has been continuously exploiting its natural resources (land, water, sea, forest) for her greed and economic prosperity.
- International Relation: Artificial Land in south china sea, Debt trap of Srilanka due to humbantota port, financial assistance in Pakistan for OBOR, Doklam Dispute with Bhutan, depletion of currency for export benefit and others reflect the selfish attitude of Chinese policy.
- Social prosperity: China is following the communalism hence people are not so much independence like democratic nations like land, work permit, settlement and utilization of resources. Skewed population policy with aggressive approach.

### **China's strategy:**

The most important of which is the Belt & Road initiative of China which aims at developing Road, Maritime, Digital connectivity's centering on China & expanding from Asia to Europe & parts of Africa. Connecting with Pakistan and other strategic locations to India.

### India's response:

Counter to this lies India's individual projects like Spice route, Mausam & Shared projects (with US ,Japan etc.) like SAGAR & Indo -Pacific & Asia -Africa growth corridors.



India is also involved in Bilateral & multilateral infra projects like

- Sittwe, Seychelles, Chabahar & Sabang ports,
- Gas, transport & power grids to Bangladesh.
- Infra projects in Afghanistan like salma dam, Central Asia
- Digital, Physical & Financial infra in Africa.
- Connectivity projects with SE Asia.

### Conclusion:

It endures repeating that India's choice of strategy is not stagnant and has to be based on the prevailing balance of power. If this changes, the strategy also has to change. For example, if India's power were to become roughly comparable to China's, India would not even need alliances but could balance China with its own internal resources.

**Best Answer: Tango Ism**

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**Q.15) Examine the significance of small ports and airports in India.**

**Introduction:**

To reduce pressure on bigger ports and airports, promote regional balance and utilize hidden potential of interior regions of country, government is coming with various small ports and airports.

**Body:**

Significance of small ports:

- Reduce pressure on Bigger ports: Nhava Sheva on Mumbai, Ennore on Chennai etc.
- Region specific: Having vast maritime boundaries, smaller ports on either sides can cater to specific regions.
- Product specific: Certain ports are opened to cater to certain trade like Paradip to export Iron ore, Petroleum products at Jamnagar etc.
- Tourism: Cruise tourism can be promoted.
- Transit facility: Certain ports can act as transit or hanger for ships.
- Port of Call: With expanding maritime trade via Indian ocean, small ports can act as fuel suppliers or emergency service providers etc.

Significance of Small Airports:

- Reduce pressure on Bigger airports: Like Mysuru airport on Bangalore airport, Chandigarh airport on Delhi airport etc.



- Regional connectivity: Enhance regional connectivity.
- Tourism: It will enhance tourism potential.
- Trade: It can help in infrastructure enhancement which can lead to setting up of factories in periphery. Especially Perishable products and Confectionaries.
- Regional Growth: Helps to correct regional imbalance and new opportunity especially footloose Industries away from crowded State capitals.

Issues:

- Finance.
- Usability.
- Maintenance and Efficiency.
- Pollution.
- Environmental clearance: Especially in Hilly areas and Forest areas.
- Land acquisition.
- Privatization.

**Note: 1-2 lines explanation is needed for all points.**

## Conclusion:

Government has come up with programs like UDAN, Sagarmala, Diamond Quadrilateral, Inland water ways to connect various modes of transportation with each other. Certain projects will need more time to achieve the break-even point. For now, it is very early to comment on its success.

**Best Answer: Gog.**

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**Q.16) Which category of investment model suits the highway sector the most in India? Analyse.**

## INTRODUCTION

Highway sector in India is pivotal for transportation of goods; it carries about 40% of Indian traffic. As veins and arteries keep the blood flowing in our body, similarly roads-especially highways keep the life moving in a country. According to World Bank, India needs to invest \$4.5 trillion in infrastructure by 2040; therefore, effective investment models are pivotal to keep the growth engine moving fast and strong.

## BODY

Highway sector in India has expanded rapidly in the recent past due to shift from traditional investment models to newer ones. Also, Public Private partnership has been accepted as most viable option and the new way forward, various models of PPP that have been tried so far are-

- **EPC model** – NHAI pays private players to lay roads. The private player has no role in the road's ownership, toll collection or maintenance (it is taken care of by the government). Only the engineering and technical dimensions are provided by the private players. However, it would add to the fiscal pressure in the long run.
- **BOT model** – though, private players have an active role — they build, operate and maintain the road for a specified number of years — say 10-15 years — before transferring the asset back to the government.
- **BOOT model** – It is almost similar to BOT, used generally for short projects with residual profits resting with private players.

However, there was always a need for a model, that could take care of the maximum number of negatives arising out of the rest of the models and effectively finding a solution for smooth way of investment- "**Hybrid Annuity Model**" is seen as a panacea due to the following features-

- It is a **mix of the EPC** (engineering, procurement and construction) **and BOT** (build, operate, transfer) models.
- Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) combines EPC (40 per cent) and BOT-Annuity (60 per cent).
- NHAI releases 40 per cent of the total project cost. It is given in five tranches linked to milestones. The balance 60 per cent is arranged by the developer. Here, the developer usually invests not more than 20-25 per cent of the project cost (as against 40 percent or more before), while the remaining is raised as debt.

### Advantages of using HAM over BOT & other models.

- HAM arose out of the need for better financial mechanism for road development.
- The BOT model ran into roadblocks with private players not quite forthcoming to invest.

- In BOT, the private player had to fully arrange for its finances — be it through equity contribution or debt.
- NPA-riddled banks were becoming wary of lending to these projects.
- If the compensation structure didn't involve a fixed compensation (such as annuity), developers had to take on the entire risk of low passenger traffic.
- HAM is a good trade-off, spreading the risk between developers and the Government
- In HAM the government pitches in to finance 40 per cent of the project cost — a sort of viability-gap funding
- It helps cut the overall debt and improves project returns.
- HAM is a method for slow easing of funds; this prevents the crowding out of funds by the government.
- Life cycle of the project would be a binding parameter in this model.

However, in addition to the types of methods- following steps should be taken to ensure efficient, affordable, speedy construction of quality roads-

- Efficient dispute redressal mechanism.
- Reducing the gestation period.
- Superior Engineering expertise and skills.
- Faster and easy environmental clearances.
- Easy government approval for projects.
- Effective rehabilitation of distressed people affected due to the project.
- Controlling levels of corruption and project escalation.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, for fast and sustainable economic growth, it is necessary for a country to have good roads. Hence, an effective instrumental model becomes pivotal for development. Hybrid annuity model (HAM) , thus has emerged to be the panacea for issues related to investment, successful examples of its implementation for big infrastructural projects , will definitely make it sustainable in the long run.

**Best answer: gargantuan**

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**Q.17) Examine the ways and measures to reduce vulnerability of farmers from crop and market failure.****Introduction:**

Agriculture employs around 47% of workforce. This population is highly vulnerable due to number of factors like erratic monsoon, crop failure, market failure, extreme events (floods, droughts) resulting from climate change, high indebtedness, lack of institutional credit facility and exploitation by moneylenders.

**Body:**

Crop failure occurs due to number of factors like lack of assured irrigation, poor soil, poor seed quality, unscientific farming and natural calamities.

Market failure is when farmer fails to get adequate price for his produce due to reasons like excess supply resulting from production or imports, hoarding by traders and lack of unified market.

Ways and measures to address

Crop failure:

- Requirement of assured irrigation as about 60% of net sown area comes under rain fed area. With climate change problems have further compounded. Need to focus on water conservation, rain water harvesting and watershed management with community participation. Ex: Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Her Khet Ko Pani.
- Cropping pattern as per agro-climatic zones.
- Timely and adequate supply of quality seeds.
- Effective soil management. Ex: soil health card.
- Adopting Precision farming techniques leading to precise application of inputs and efficient use of resources. Farmers must necessarily be educated about modern farming techniques and practices.
- Move towards natural farming techniques like Zero budget natural farming (ZBNF) which is based on agro-ecological principle. Ex: drought prone Rayalaseema region is seeing promising change with drought resistant farms employing ZBNF technique.

Market failure:

- Bridging information asymmetry by equipping farmers with information on future price trends thus avoiding cobweb phenomena.
- Implementation of Model APMC act.
- Effective use of special safeguard mechanism against sudden surge in imports.

- Incentives to diversify crop production thus minimising risks.
- Infrastructure creation like storage facilities post-harvest will help in preventing distress sale.
- Need for coherence between Exim policy and domestic production policy. Ex: recent slump in prices of pulses is result of increased domestic production and increased imports.
- The government-administered MSP should take into consideration the existing realities to cover the cost of production and to insulate farmers from fluctuating market conditions. Ex: considering Swaminathan committee recommendations.
- Comprehensive but affordable insurance schemes should be made available, covering farmers and crops from problems at every stage of the crop cycle. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojana is a step in right direction.
- E-NAM would create national market and help farmer receive best price.

### Conclusion:

At a time when government aims to double farmers income by 2022, achieving sustainability of agriculture is of utmost importance and for this to happen to vulnerabilities of farming community needs to be addressed.

### Best answer: Diwakar

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### Q.18) What are post harvest technologies? Examine their significance for Indian farmers.

#### Approach:

- Introduction- A brief on post-harvest technologies.
- Present status with regards to post harvest technologies in India.
- Significance for Indian farmers.
- Key issues
- Conclusion

#### Introduction:

In agriculture, postharvest handling is the stage of crop production immediately following harvest. Various stages involved are thrashing, processing, storage and packaging.

### Present status in India:

Only 2.2 % of the agricultural produce in India gets processed. In contrast, countries like USA (65%) and China (23%) are far ahead of India in reducing the wastage and enhancing the value addition and shelf life of the farm products. The losses in postharvest sector are estimated to be from 10 to 25 per cent in durables, semi-perishables and products like milk, meat, fish and eggs. The estimated losses in fruits and vegetables are higher and reached from 30 to 40 per cent.

### Significance:

- Proper harvesting increases the shelf life of produce and improves its quality. This in turn means more income for the farmers.
- Less wastage of efforts, inputs etc. Thereby affecting not only farmers' income but also resulting into environmental deterioration.
- Nicely harvested produce using post harvest technologies improves market opportunities for the produce both domestically and for export.
- It provides an opportunity to increase nutrition quality through proper processing and fortification.

### Key issues:

- Lack of sorting facilities, inappropriate packaging and inadequate storage facilities.
- Lack of cold storage facilities. Integrated cold chain and preservation infrastructure can be set up by individuals, groups of entrepreneurs, cooperative societies, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), NGOs, Central/State PSUs, etc.
- Slow transport systems.
- The presence of pesticide residues in fruits and vegetables.
- Low private sector involvement as of now. The models of contract farming can be tried in this regard.

### Conclusion:

The government is rightly focusing on improving post harvesting scenario in India with schemes like Sampada Yojana, Scheme of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture and Mega Food Park scheme. Successful implementation of these schemes will not only result in achieving the target of doubling farmers' income by 2020 but will also help bridge the rural-urban divide.

### Best answer: gargantuan

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**Q.19) Why is drylands farming significant for Indian farmers? Enumerate various ways to make drylands farming more productive and profitable.**

**Synopsis:**

Dry farming or Dry Land Farming refers to an improved system of cultivation whereby maximum amount of water is conserved by soil and water management. It involves efficient system of soil and crop management in the regions of low land and uneven distributed rainfall.

Characteristics of the dry land farming:

- Uncertain, ill-distributed and limited annual rainfall;
- Occurrence of extensive climatic hazards like drought, flood etc;
- Undulating soil surface;
- Occurrence of extensive and large holdings;
- Practice of extensive agriculture i.e. prevalence of mono cropping etc;
- Relatively large size of fields;
- Similarity in types of crops raised by almost all the farmers of a particular region;
- Very low crop yield;

**Significance of dry land farming in India:**

In India, the importance of dry-land farming is increasing year by year. With continuous growth in the size of population in India, the gap between the requirements and the supply of agricultural output is increasing gradually leading to a crisis in respect of both food and non-food crops.

Considering the present rate of development of irrigation facilities and also water potentiality of the country, it is estimated that at any point of time 50% of cropped area in India will remain under Rain fed farming system. Such vast areas as of now consume hardly 25% of total fertilizer consumption of the country. Due to poor level of management, crop productivity is also very low resulting in socio economic backwardness of the people.

Major dry farming crops are millets such as jowar, bajra, ragi; oilseeds like mustard, rapeseed and pulse crops like pigeon pea, gram and lentils. Almost 80 percent of maize, 90 percent of Bajra, approximately 95 percent of pulses and 75 percent of oilseeds are obtained from dryland agriculture.

**Measures need to be taken to make dry land farming more productive and profitable:**

Our country has fertile cultivable land and receives the highest amount of rainfall per unit area basis, anywhere in the world. However, there are some measures need to be taken to make dry farming more productive and profitable like:

- Need to grow those crops which are drought tolerant.
- India's protein security is mostly laid in the dry land farming, so need to adapt technologies from the countries like Israel which has a significant experience and expertise in the dry land farming.
- Control of weed of various types is also significant.
- As our country's 75 % area is semi-arid so the need for these two can be overemphasized, they help by By imparting knowledge regarding available resources and there use. Most importantly they promote local led development i.e. demand driven.

Success stories such as of-

- Ralegaon siddhi ,
- Hivere bajar in Maharashtra and
- Sukhomajari in Haryana is e.g. of success of dry land.

**Government initiatives to help the dry land farming to make it more profitable and productive:**

- The National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), which is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) seeks to address issues associated with climate change.
- Sub-Mission on Agroforestry under the framework of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) has been launched during 2016-17 for a period of 4 years (2016-17 to 2019-20).
- National Agroforestry Policy, 2014 has been formulated with the objective to bring coordination, convergence and synergy between various elements of agroforestry scattered in various existing Missions, programmes and schemes of the Government.
- The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched on 1st July, 2015 with the motto of 'Har Khet Ko Paani' for providing end-to end solutions in irrigation supply chain, viz. water sources, distribution network and farm level applications.
- Agriculture Contingency Plan: CRIDA, ICAR has prepared district level Agriculture Contingency Plans in collaboration with state agricultural universities using a standard template to tackle aberrant monsoon situations leading to drought and floods, extreme events adversely affecting crops, livestock and fisheries.y
- Even GOI has declared 2018 as year of millets and also proposed to declare 2019 as year of millets in FAO.

**Best Answer: December**

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**Q.20) Do you think increasing the MSPs provide a sustainable solution to address agrarian distress in India? Critically examine.**

**Introduction:**

Agrarian Distress is anxiety stemming from the failure to successfully cultivate land. Agrarian distress has led farmers to commit suicide in recent years.

**Body:**

Agrarian distress is mainly characterized by

- Over indebtedness of farmers and exploitation from money lending sources.
- Farming becoming increasingly non-remunerative: increase in cost of production, distress sale.
- Prevailing poverty and lower purchasing power of agricultural households.

The minimum support prices (MSP), one of the tools to deal with agrarian distress, are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations CACP. Recent government announced MSP of 1.5 times of production cost for farmers.

MSP helps in

- Insuring agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
- Food security.
- Also encourages higher investment and production of agriculture commodities.

However, it does not provide sustainable solution to agrarian distress as it only guarantees price for produce. What we need today is holistic approach towards the development of agriculture sector which faces number of issues like

- Rain fed nature of agriculture (over 60% of net sown area).
- Technology fatigue.

- Access, adequacy and timeliness of institutional credit.
- Lack of opportunities for assured and remunerative marketing.
- Adverse meteorological factors resulting from climate change.
- Declining per-capita agricultural landholding.
- Lower investment.

And moreover, MSP distorts cropping pattern, leads to inflation, leads to unsustainable agricultural practices and even NSSO study has pointed out that it has mostly benefited large farmers while 70% of farmers are unaware.

### Conclusion:

Apart from MSP, there is a need for increasing public spending in rural areas especially in irrigation, drainage, land development, water conservation, focus on agricultural credit and enhanced extension activities, creating farm related employments and skilling people to move them out of agriculture.

### Best answer: chandler

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**Q.21) What administrative and institutional measures can be taken to ensure food security in India? Discuss.**

### Approach:

- Introduction- Status of food security in India
- Administrative measures to ensure food security.
- Institutional measures to ensure food security.
- Steps already taken by the government.
- Conclusion

### Introduction:

Food security, both at the national and household levels, has been the focus of agricultural development in India ever since the mid-sixties. Mounting pressure from growing population, adverse threats of climate change, fragmented landholding and high input cost are posing

challenges in front of India's food security. Food security has to be examined in terms of availability, accessibility, utilization and vulnerability.

### Body

#### **Administrative measures to ensure food security:**

- Implementing universal PDS (As per Swaminathan committee recommendations). Focusing on diversification of food basket.
- Focusing on moving up the ladder in value addition chain through mechanisation, post-harvesting technologies, food fortification and agro-processing industries.
- Integrated water management- India needs to produce more crop per unit of land and water resources. Improved management of irrigation water is essential in enhancing production and productivity, food security and poverty alleviation. PMKSY thus becomes important in this regard.
- Integrated nutrient management through precision farming- Attention needs to be given to balanced use of nutrients.
- Improved technology adoption- Adoption of technologies like integrated nutrient management, integrated pest management, integrated weed management and climate smart agriculture to ensure higher production and sustainability of production base.
- Focusing on small farmers.

#### **Institutional measures to ensure food security:**

- Agricultural research education needs to be improved- Agricultural colleges and universities need to disseminate scientific knowledge and skills to the farming community and to train them to use such skills for better output.
- Improving the storage capacity of FCI.
- Restructuring APMC.
- Availing institutional credit- Regional Rural Banks and SHGs needs to be empowered further, so that they provide the farmers handholding support and capital during time of need.

#### **Steps taken by the government:**

- National Food Security Act, 2013
- ICDS, Mid-day meal scheme
- SABLA scheme for adolescent girls

### Conclusion:

Achieving the goal of zero hunger under SDG Goal 2 by 2030 is possible with the above mentioned steps. The focus should be on ensuring availability and accessibility of diversified food.

**Best answer: Aashiyana Sharma**

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**Q.22) Why do agri-exports from India performing well below potential? Examine. Also discuss the role of various technology missions that can make Indian agri-exports more competitive globally.**

**Synopsis:**

The government's resolve to increase the value of the country's agricultural exports to \$100 billion by 2022-23. Dalwai Committee report on doubling farmer's income and Draft Agricultural Policy both highlight the importance of boosting agricultural exports for improving the economic condition of farmers and earning more focus.

**Present scenario of agro-products exports:**

India's agricultural trade surplus recorded a more than ten-fold increase between 1991-92 and 2013-14. Three years later, the picture is vastly different. Between 2013-14 and 2016-17, agricultural exports fell by 22% while imports increased by 62%. As a result, the trade surplus has fallen by 70%.

Raising agricultural exports requires the government to unburden policy of consumer bias. A balance should be struck between meeting the needs of food-insecure consumers and income-insecure farmers.

**Role of various technologies to improve agro-products export:**

- The government must develop efficient global value chains and liberalise land lease markets across all states. It should encourage contract farming on a medium- to long-term basis.
- Exporters and processors must be encouraged to buy directly from farmer-producer organizations (FPOs), bypassing the inefficient APMCs.
- Major investments are needed at the back-end to create infrastructure for global and domestic value chains, ranging from produce aggregation to its sorting and grading, packaging, storing and linking the hinterlands to ports for export markets.

- Krishi Sampada yojana-Post harvest Technologies in refrigeration, Food Processing, values addition, disease resistance, Certification, grading & dehydration.
- Paramparagat krishi/organic farming & certification
- National mission on agri-extension technologies-skills
- Food parks scheme
- Subsidies for Mechanisation in farming, Horticulture & marine fishing technologies, cold chains & storage.
- APEDA initiatives on awareness creation on quality improvement, phytosanitary standards & market intelligence.
- Gokul mission on breeding & increasing productivity.
- Pulses research, climate smart agriculture, Arid crop research
- A well-developed food processing industry will lead to an increase in farm gate prices.
- Improvement in warehousing infrastructure would also counter inflation concerns due to seasonal factors such as poor monsoon rains.

### Conclusion:

A sustained export market requires a reliable supplier. If we have an accurate agriculture forecasting technique and better estimate of a buffer stock, we can definitely make a medium-term policy for agri exports. Thus, we require a reliable policy, based on scientific estimate of crop production, buffer stock, future projection and domestic demand. If the future projection goes wrong, an option for import should be kept open vice versa for the development of the agro-products exports in long-run.

### Best Answer: GOG

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**Q.23) Examine the bottlenecks in the supply chain of food processing industry of India. Also suggest ways to address them.**

### INTRODUCTION

Food processing industry in India is a sunrise industry, due to improving technology, reducing wastages, high levels of production and a huge market with increased consumption levels. Food processing in India consists of 9% of the GDP in manufacturing and 11% of GDP in agriculture sectors.



## BODY

In spite of various positives like huge market and ample opportunities of development of food processing industry in India, it is still under developed or not gained development up to its full potential due to the many challenges faced by the industry.

The Challenges in food processing industries can be categorized as follows-

- Farmers having poor knowledge of market needs.
- Lack of credit facilities to farmers.
- Lack of cold storage chain and cold transportation.
- Lack in availability quality of raw material.
- Difficulties in accessing finance for industries.
- Issues related to the lack of basic resources like electricity, inadequate supply of water etc.
- Poor collection facilities at various levels.
- Lack of road linkages in certain areas, leading to transportation bottlenecks
- Lack of skills technology, to process and packaging.

India is one of the largest producers of fruits, vegetables, fishery and milk, also there is a huge market due to high population and high levels of consumption, which could be addressed in the following ways-

- Improving credit access to farmers, by Jan Dhan Accounts, via issuing Kisan Credit Cards.
- Need to attract private investment, by monitoring and adjusting the FDI limits.
- Establishing more integrated processing hubs like the Food Parks.
- Providing information to the farmers about the market needs, through mediums like Kisan TVs.
- Providing skill development and vocational training for the food processing industry.
- Providing separate skills for cleaning, processing and packaging.
- Making Changes to the APMC Act.
- Increasing budget to the food processing sector, used to operationalize all 42 mega food parks

However, recently Government has increased the FDI limit in food processing industry, apart from this increasing research and development through initiatives like FARMERS FIRST, encouraging Mega food parks, increasing connectivity through Sagarmala, Bharatmala etc.

## CONCLUSION

Hence, it is possible for the food processing industry to achieve its full benefit only if the forward and backward linkages are effectively managed. A more cautious approach, increased intent, effective planning, supervision and execution would lead to the reducing the bottlenecks

and make Indian food processing self-sufficient also augmenting the brand of Indian cuisine worldwide.

**BEST ANSWER: Ankita Munshi**

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**Q.24) How can backward and forward linkages in food processing industry be beneficial for the economy? Substantiate by taking suitable examples.**

**Introduction:**

The Food Processing Industry is of enormous significance for India's development because of the vital linkages and synergies that it promotes between the two pillars of the economy, namely Industry and Agriculture.

**Body:**

Effective and seamless backward and forward linkages in food processing industry plug gaps in supply chain in terms of availability of raw material and linkages with the market. With multiplier effects economy is likely to benefit in following ways

a) Drives rural economy by increasing consumption due to increased income, essential for sustaining economic growth.

- Decrease in post-harvest wastage losses due to better technologies and improved logistics.
- Farmers are benefited by better farm gate prices and lower risks due to contract farming.
- Increase in employment generation in rural areas.
- Promotes investment in rural infrastructure-power, transport.

1. b) Exports: India has huge production base. It ranks number 1 in total food production globally. With respect to specific commodity it ranks number 1 in the production of production of milk, bananas, guavas, papayas, ginger, okra, pulses & buffalo meat.

Further, India ranks number 2 in the world in the production of green peas, potatoes, tea, tomato, sesame, inland fish production. It is the fifth largest egg producer in the world. However, India does not figure significantly in the world trade of food and food products. Food processing can provide boost to exports by

- Increasing value addition.
  - Hygiene and best practices.
  - Better compliance to food quality standards and thus expand market base.
1. c) Stabilize food prices in the economy (food inflation). Consumers will be benefited with access to larger variety of products at reasonable prices.
  2. d) Helps in diversification of crops in agriculture and gives boost to allied enterprises poultry, dairying, fishing and horticulture. This will also help meet nutritional requirement in rural areas.
  3. e) Position India as the most preferred investment destination for the agribusiness and food processing given the huge domestic market India has.

Ex: Amul – cooperative movement

- Benefited farmers through sustained income other than farming.
- Value addition to procured milk.
- Linked to market with retail outlets catering to demand of urban population.

### Conclusion:

Rising per-capita income, changing life styles and food preferences provide significant opportunities for the growth of FPI. Realising its potential and likely benefits government has come out with SAMPADA yojana.

**Best answer: John Nash**

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**Q.25) Examine the potential and challenges of processed meat export from India.**

### Approach:

- Introduction

- Potential
- Challenges
- Steps taken by the government and Way forward.
- Conclusion

### Introduction:

The main types of Meat being exported from India are Buffalo meat, sheep & goat meat, processed Meat and poultry Meat.

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) regulates export of agricultural processed food products including meat and meat products. India exports, both frozen and fresh chilled meat to more than 54 countries in the world. Major export destinations include Vietnam, Malaysia and Egypt. Buffalo meat accounts for about four fifth of the total meat exports from India.

### Potential:

India produces about 4.9 million tons of meat annually valued at US \$ 4,600 millions, and has grown @ 4.5% during the last two decades. During the last five years, this segment has been growing very fast at the rate of 27% annually.

- India accounts for more than a half of the world buffalo population and has a competitive advantage: it is cheaper.
- Meat industry has shown a tremendous change in the last one decade with the establishment of the eco-friendly fully integrated processing plants.
- Increase in the purchasing power and changing taste buds in these growing economies are a few of the growth drivers.
- There are opportunities in terms of product categories. Frozen products are particularly picking up, in both raw and processed meat. Geographically, the reach of India is also expanding in the world meat market.
- India has a very good quality meat, very natural, and some of it could be labelled 'green' or 'organic', with a good ability to trace the product.

### Challenges:

In spite of big potential of the large livestock population, meat industry in India has not taken its due share.

- Very little processing of meat (1%) for ready to eat meat products. Poor machinery for processing.
- Europe and the United States, two chief markets in terms of meat, have been setting up protective barriers.

- Political discussions around beef ban is emerging as one of the biggest challenges. Religious sentiments involved.

## **Steps taken by the government:**

- The government has introduced 'meat.net' software to facilitate issue of health certificates through the system.
- The Central Sector Scheme for Setting up/ Modernization of Abattoirs.
- Central Sector Scheme for Technology Upgradation/Modernization/ Establishment of Food Processing Industries including meat processing.
- Agricultural Export Promotion Scheme.

## **Conclusion:**

Meat processing industry has a good future. It needs proper attention by the Government and private entrepreneurs. Improving infrastructure (cold storage, abattoirs), farmers' training, ensuring health and hygiene and moving up in the ladder chain in processing will go a long way in providing the sector the required boost.

## **Best answer: N Mehta**

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## **Q.26) What are digital wallets? How do they operate? Explain.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A digital wallet refers to an electronic device or online service that allows an individual to make electronic transactions. With the advent of technology driven world and use of technology in almost all walks of life, digital wallet is one technology which could be used in everyday life in almost all the transactions. With the ease of using, multidimensionality and coming up as a solution for hindrance free transaction, they are gaining huge popularity in all walks of life, throughout the world.

### **BODY**

Technological developments have the potential to make human life hassle free, digital wallets have gained popularity due to its use in various walks of life such as-

- This can include purchasing items on-line with a computer.
- It can use a Smartphone to purchase something at a store-e.g.- with the help of Google Tez, Paytm, BHIM app etc.
- An individual's bank account can also be linked to the digital wallet. e.g. SBI online
- They might also have their driver's license, health card, loyalty card(s) and other ID documents stored on the phone. e.g – DigiLocker by Government of India.
- Nowadays, digital wallets are being made not just for basic financial transactions but to also authenticate the holder's credentials. e.g.- authenticating age in a bar or in an A certificate movie

Not only that the digital wallets are useful due to their multi-dimensionality but also due to their advantage over the traditional modes of transactions in the following ways-

- To ensure speedy instant transactions.
- To reduce the need for physical infrastructure.
- To reduce Cash to GDP ratio.
- To reduce Corruption and Money laundering.
- It will eliminate the fear of fake currency.
- To reduce the printing cost of cash and thus be environment friendly.
- To keep transactions completely transparent.
- To ensure that the benefits are directly passed to the beneficiaries & eliminate middlemen leakages.

How do Digital Wallets Operate?

We can lump the types of digital wallets into two broad categories: client-side and server-side-

- **Client Side Digital Wallets**
  - The user download and install the program and then enter all of the pertinent payment and shipping information on the Smartphone/computer.
  - The Smartphone or the computer should be connected to the Internet.
  - The digital wallet is based on the encryption software, which encrypts the digital information or order while the transaction.
- **Server Side Digital Wallets.**
  - Instead of storing data to your own [hard](#) drive, all of your wallet data is stored and maintained by Visa on the company's secure computers.
  - The client has to just visit the server digital wallets website and type his email id and password – the order is completed after that.
  - The information is already saved and the checkout time is very quick.
  - The store receives payment from whichever credit card account you choose, and you're spared the frustration of typing that information

- You're also shielded from any security risks associated with revealing your card number online.

Digital wallets in India generally ask for the One time Password (OTP) ,that is send to the registered mobile number or asks for Aadhar number or some biometric information to authenticate the transaction and make it hassle free.

However, in spite of all the advantages with respect to digital wallets , there are large number of challenges as well associated with it, such as-

- Digital frauds and cyber hacks.
- Low Digital literacy and huge digital divide existing in the country.
- Lack of uninterrupted Internet services and electricity.
- Middlemen taking advantage of the ignorance of common people.
- Hesitancy of the older generation to move out of comfort zone and learn something new.
- Feeling of being alienated due to lack of skills and sense of vulnerability due to the knowledge divide.

### CONCLUSION

Thus, due to the multidimensionality, ease of use and advantaged over the traditional sources of transactions- digital wallets is definitely the new way forward. However, it should be ensured that the use of digital wallets is catering to all sections of the society and just to a select few, it needs digital divide to reduce and insulation from cyberattacks and increase trust of end users- to reap the maximum benefits of digital wallets.

### BEST ANSWER: DIWAKAR

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**Q.27) What advantages would India's proposed manned mission to space bring to the society? Examine.**

### Introduction:



India's first Indian human mission will be launched by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) by 2022. This will be the most ambitious space programme undertaken by ISRO till date.

ISRO has developed some critical technologies required for manned mission which have been demonstrated successfully through the Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-2007), Crew module Atmospheric Re-entry Experiment (CARE-2014) and Pad Abort Test (2018).

### Body:

ISRO has so far been second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real problems of man and society. In the same way, proposed manned space mission is likely to bring following benefits to society as a whole.

- Employment generation of around 15000.
- Technological advancement will enhance India's standing in the world given only few countries have achieved this feat (USA, Russia, China).
- Inspire nation's youth to take up scientific research. Can even attract foreign talent.
- Increase foreign investment in the field leading to better infrastructure.
- Using 'space' as a tool in foreign policy and diplomacy.
- Bringing in innovative transportation systems.
- Resources to mankind: The ISRO is looking to tap Helium which is present in abundance on the Moon through its future missions which will be very useful for clean nuclear power generation.
- Technological spin-offs from the mission to have positive impact on various sectors like telecom, power.

Like any other Space missions, Gaganyaan is criticised for huge project costs (appx 10,000 crore) which diverts limited resources of Government. It is said that Government should focus on improving social indicators by spending more on welfare measures. However, it must be remembered here that Space advances will only Benefit Humanity.

### Conclusion:

At a time when several private players are entering the space field because of the potential use of human explorations to bring the best part of space to Earth. Definitely, India cannot keep quiet and must also join, as otherwise, every other country will take away the benefits.

**Best answer: Raam Ki**

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**Q.28) What is hyper loop technology? Do you think this technology is really needed in India? Critically examine.**

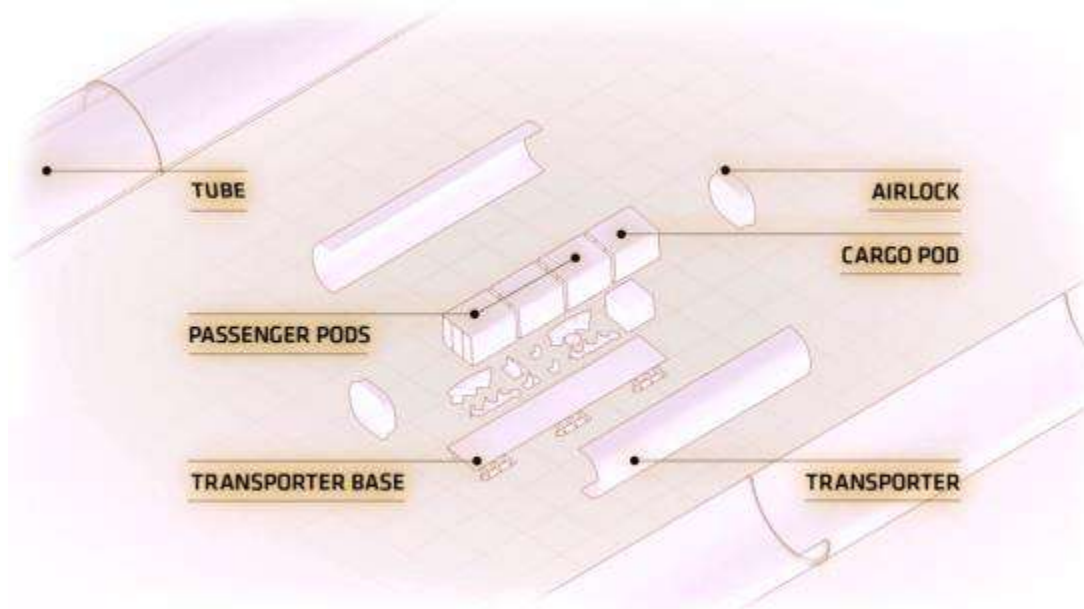
**Approach:**

- Introduction- About hyper loop technology.
- Need in India- Reason behind this criticism and Why is it needed? – Balanced criticism.
- Conclusion

**Introduction:**

Hyperloop is a new form of ground transport. It will have passengers travelling in floating pods within low-pressure tubes.

The pods are designed to float on air skis, using the same basic idea as an air hockey table, or use magnetic levitation to reduce friction. Overcoming air resistance is one of the biggest uses of energy in high speed travel. The pod would get its initial velocity from an external linear electric motor, which would accelerate it to 'high subsonic velocity' and then give it a boost every 70 miles or so; in between, the pod would coast along in near vacuum.



**Pic credits:** <http://hyperloopindia-hyperloop-india.193b.starter-ca-central-1.openshiftapps.com/assets/img/whatsNext.png>

## Benefits:

- Supporters argue that Hyperloop could be cheaper and faster than trains and car travel, and cheaper and less polluting than air travel.
- It's also potentially two or three times faster than even high-speed rail (and ten times the speed of regular rail services).
- They claim that it is quicker and cheaper to build than traditional high-speed rail; as such, Hyperloop could take the pressure off gridlocked roads, making travel between cities easier and potentially unlocking major economic benefits as a result.
- Being cheaper to build should mean these services can become profitable quickly.

## Challenges:

- Plenty of engineering challenges need to be tackled which could push the costs up. Like building the tubes strong enough to deal with the stresses of carrying the high-speed pods, finding energy and cost efficient ways to keep them operating at low pressure.
- Lots of pods will be required to achieve the same passenger numbers as more traditional rail which uses much bigger carriages.
- How these services will be funded in the first place is not clear. These services can be financed through a combination of public and private investment.

**In India:** The two MoU for a feasibility study of two routes in India, Pune-Mumbai by Virgin Hyperloop One and Amaravati- Vijayawada by Hyperloop Transportation Technologies have been signed by the respective state governments.

## Need in India:

Time and again whenever India indulges in an advanced project it faces criticism. Reasons being-

- Financial status- Given the level of poverty, hunger, condition of health facilities and education system it is said that investing huge amounts in advanced technology is a wastage.
- Also given the condition of urban transport systems like metro , city buses and local trains the need of the hour should be improving them rather than investing in hyperloop.

Despite the challenges and criticisms, India should go for Hyperloop technology:

- ISRO and the Delhi Metro are proof that India can benefit, sustain and grow from such projects. Both were ridiculed initially and their utility was questioned yet now we can't imagine life without them.
- In the Indian context, it can be used to transport goods/freight, especially ones which are perishable. Imagine, agricultural produce being shuttled/transported across states.

It could eliminate the need for / dependence on cold storages partially, as produce would be transported very easily.

- The project will generate employment and also bring in regional equality.

### Conclusion:

The technology is nascent as no hyperloop has actually been developed on a long distance. India has time to develop expertise in the field. Partnerships with companies like HTT and Virgin Hyperloop will help India decide as to how the technology can be cost effective. Also, meanwhile improving basic necessities like food, access to energy and house should be focused.

### Best answer: John Nash

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### Q.30) How do autonomous vehicles operate? What are the concerns surrounding such vehicles? Examine.

#### INTRODUCTION

Self-driving vehicles are cars or trucks in which human drivers are never required to take control to safely operate the vehicle they are also known as autonomous or “driverless” cars. Previously driver less cars were just in the realms of science fiction but they are now on the edge of becoming a reality- with lot of benefits and some concerns.

#### BODY

In the current world, transportation is one thing had has kept the world bonded together. Roads are like veins of the modern world; however, the technological advent of driver less cars has led to the following advantages vis-a-vis the traditional cars-

- Greater fuel use efficiency.
- Greater accuracy preventing collision.
- Reduced number of accidents due to human errors.
- To help and reduce the traffic congestion.
- It will improve the environmental health.
- It will save human efforts, which can be deployed at other productive places.

Autonomous vehicles is a technological innovation, due to the improvement in technological advancement -it has the following components for smooth functioning & it is operated through the mechanism given below-

- Radar sensors dotted around the car monitor the position of vehicles nearby.
- Video cameras detect traffic lights, read road signs and keep track of other vehicles, while also looking out for pedestrians and other obstacles.
- Lidar sensors help to detect the edges of roads and identify lane markings by bouncing pulses of light off the car's surroundings.
- Ultrasonic sensors in the wheels can detect the position of curbs and other vehicles when parking.
- Finally, a central computer analyses all of the data from the various sensors to manipulate the steering, acceleration and braking.

However, "Autonomous cars" does not necessarily mean complete automation, because the level of automation could vary according to different levels of functioning-

### **Layers of autonomy**

Different cars are capable of different levels of self-driving, and are often described by researchers on a scale of 0-5.

**Level 0:** All major systems are controlled by humans

**Level 1:** Certain systems, such as cruise control or automatic braking, may be controlled by the car, one at a time

**Level 2:** The car offers at least two simultaneous automated functions, like acceleration and steering, but requires humans for safe operation

**Level 3:** The car can manage all safety-critical functions under certain conditions, but the driver is expected to take over when alerted

**Level 4:** The car is fully-autonomous in some driving scenarios, though not all

**Level 5:** The car is completely capable of self-driving in every situation

In spite of the multi-dimensional benefits of automated cars, also options of different levels of automation according to the need, there are many concerns associated with automated cars, which could be explained as follows-

- Ethical concerns – It will be difficult to prove in cases of accidents, as to who is responsible for the accident- owner, manufacturer, other vehicles, technology or regulators.

- The fixation of accountability on various issues is a matter of concern.
- Extraction and availability of rare earth materials, the drive towards autonomous vehicles could lead to the depletion of rare resources.
- High expenditure with respect to the manufacturing of automated cars.
- Issues related to decision making with respect to ethical issues and during matters of crisis.
- It could be affected by cyber-attacks.
- It could take away jobs in labor intensive economies.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, even though autonomous cars looks to be the next step forward in connectivity and making fiction a reality in the coming days- the possibility of domination of machines over man and over powering human intellect can never be neglected. Thus, a cautious approach taking adequate advantage of the technology but the same time keeping the concerns of machine been given extra powers into consideration is important.

## BEST ANSWER: ANKITA MUNSHI

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## Q.31) What can be the advantages of allowing drones to be played commercially? Examine.

### Introduction:

Civil aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) announced a licensing regime for the commercial use of remotely piloted aircraft systems, that is, drones.

### Body:

With exciting and wide range of applications drones are likely to have following advantages:

- Drones offer low-cost, safe and quick aerial surveys for data collection. This is useful for industries such as power, mining, realty, oil and gas exploration, railways and highways.
- Benefit E-commerce companies in delivery of products.
- Agriculture: Drones capable of better survey and mapping can be employed in fields, precision farming- like application of fertilizers.
- During disasters: relief and rescue efforts. ex: Medical aid

- Security and monitoring: Drones could complement or replace static security cameras. Security drones might also replace or supplement foot and vehicle patrols at large commercial facilities like factories, office parks, and power plants.
- Film and photography – from recording documentary footage to capturing aerial views of breaking news stories, they're being used much more frequently by businesses and the media now.
- Can play role in urban issues like reducing traffic, air pollution.

Concerns associated with drone's usage:

- Safety and security issues.
- Illegal usage and privacy concerns.
- Replacing manpower like in product delivery.
- Ecological aspect relating to birds.

### Conclusion:

Newly released regulations address some of these concerns by restricting their operations to day time; around sensitive areas (international border, airports) and not allowing delivery of payload and food items. With drone market expected to touch \$ 1 trillion in the coming years, present regulations will encourage a vast Made in India drone industry.

### Best Answer: John Nash

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**Q.32) Do you think India's IPR regime is so liberal that it curbs innovation? Critically examine.**

### Approach:

- Introduction- Brief on India's IPR regime.
- Is it liberal enough to curb examine- Examining critically means you have write both in support of the statement and against.
- Conclusion

### Introduction:



IPRs are critical to incentivizing innovation, which, in turn, is key to sustaining economic growth and increasing living standards.

The International IP Index 2017 released by the US ranked India at a dismal 43rd position out of 45 countries.

### India's IPR regime and innovation:

While IP could accelerate innovation in certain technology sectors, it impedes innovation in others

- It advocates that publicly funded scientists and professors must compulsorily convert all of their discoveries into IP assets, much before they have even written this up and published it in reputed science journals — and that their promotions be predicated on the number of IP applications made.  
We must encourage a plurality of approaches when it comes to IP and innovation; our scientists should be free to take this call on whether or not they wish to register IP.
- The policy has taken note of our “informal” (rural) economy and the need to encourage the prolific creativity found within. However, the policy leans towards the superimposition of a formal IP framework on this marginalised sector.
- The policy recommends that the unauthorised copying of movies be criminalised. Bollywood requires some protection from pirates, but criminalising what is essentially a civil wrong (much like defamation) is not good.

### Positive factors:

- It has features like compulsory licensing (Section 3(d)) and counters evergreening of patents.
- The Policy will also ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddha and homoeopathy.
- It has included the concept of ‘utility patents’ — a model less stringent than for patents.
- It counters misappropriation of traditional knowledge: ‘Bio-piracy’ such as patenting of medicinal properties of turmeric and neem in the US – known for centuries in India – have aggravated concerns of misuse of IPR laws.
- Expedited examination, an IP exchange and the proposal to encourage Corporate Social Responsibility funds into open innovation.

### Way ahead:

- Promoting an environment of innovations in schools. The academic curricula need to be rebooted.
- A proper resolution mechanism for resolving IPR related issues.
- Strict implementation of law rather than strict provisions should be focused upon.

### Conclusion:

India's regime being aligned with international standards set by WTO promotes innovations and is not liberal. However, there are few provisions which may curb innovation. The government after discussion with other stakeholders need to re-look at those provisions.

**Best answer: No answer**

**Q.33) What are the applications of nano-tubes? Discuss.**

**Synopsis:**

Nanotechnology is the study of matter at a miniature level called the nano scale. A nano meter is equal to one billionth of a meter. Nanotechnology facilitates research on particles less than one billionth of a meter in diameter, and thus paves way to some amazing inventions and discoveries. Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) are an allotrope of carbon- they are cylindrical hollow fibres, comprised of a single sheet of pure graphite (a hexagonal lattice of carbon), having a diameter of 0.7 to 50 nanometres with lengths generally in the range of 10's of microns.

### **Application of Nanotechnology**

**Nano Medicine:** Nano medicine is the medical application of Nano technology. Nano medicine ranges from medical application of Nano materials and biological devices to nano electronic bio sensors and future biological machines.

- Drug delivery system
- Diagnosis of diseases as well as DNA structural changes
- Tissue engineering
- In sensing the biological cells (Biosensors)
- Nano robotics

**Electricals:** The electrical resistance of Nano tubes changes significantly when other molecules attach themselves to the carbon atom. Companies are using this property to develop sensors that can detect chemical vapors such as carbon monoxide or biological molecules.

**IT and electronics:** NT can be used to make tiny transistors of CNT which help in developing Nano circuits. This will lead to further miniaturization of computer making them even faster and compact the use of CNT will strongly increase the data storage density of hard disk.

**Green energy:** Light weight windmill blades made with an epoxy containing carbon Nano tubes. This increase the amount of electricity generates by each windmill.

**Heavy Industry:** Lighter and Stronger carbon NT (CNT) are of immense use to aircraft manufacturer leading to increase performance.

**Pollution:** Nano particles of iron oxide are extremely effective & binding & removing arsenic from ground water.

**Environment:** Nano filtration under NT can be helpful in waste water treatment, producing safe and clean drinking water. The extremely small size of pores enables filtration of bacteria, protozoa and other infectious agents. New antimicrobial coatings and dirt repellent plastic bags are a remarkable improvement in ensuring the safety & security of packaged foods.

**Agriculture:** The major role of NT enable devices will be the increased use of Nano sensors linked to GPS for real time monitoring Nano sensors distributed throughout the field where they can monitor soil condition, crop growth including rapid disease detection.

**Space research uses:** CNT can be used in making cost effective Nano satellites. Space craft due to use of lighten CNT becomes fuel efficient & size of equipment is reduced effectively than the existing one & thus enabling increased activity.

**Packaging & food safety:** NT will help to develop smart packaging to optimize product shelf life. Nano composite protein process could improve (food packaging by placing anti-microbial agents directly on the surface of coated film).

**Pesticide Reduction:** A cloth saturated with nano fibers slowly releases pesticides, eliminating need for additional spraying and reducing chemical leakage into the water supply.

**Cosmetics industry:** NT can be used in sun screen based cosmetics like using Nano particles of titanium oxides which impart long term stability & also protects from UV rays.

### Conclusion:

Government has recognised the importance of nano technology and came up with The Nano Mission, which has been structured in a fashion so as to achieve synergy between the national research efforts of various agencies in Nano Science and Technology and launch new programmes in a concerted fashion. International collaborative research efforts will also be made wherever required.

**Best Answer: Ankita Munshi**

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**Q.34) Can biofuels be a viable source of energy in a country like India? How do you balance India's food security imperatives with that of demands necessitated by impending energy crisis?**

**Introduction:**

Bio fuels are fuels produced through biological process from agricultural products through anaerobic process. Paving way for bio fuels usage, recently Spice jet, an airline company tested its first commercial flight using Bio Fuels.

**Body:**

Can it be viable source of energy:

- **Cost:** The bio fuels can be produced at cheaper rate than conventional fuels. There by available at cheaper price to consumers.
- **Dependence:** It will help in reducing 50% demand on traditional fuels, there by reducing our dependence on Middle east.
- **Livelihood:** It will help in increasing livelihood of Tribal and Farmers in form on constant source of income for oil seeds and products.
- **Emission:** Bio-fuel reduces particle emission which leads to better environment and achieving Sustainable developmental goals.
- **Efficiency:** There has been research which has proved that bio fuel enhances efficiency of vehicles.

Challenges:

- **Procurement:** Procurement of feeds for bio fuels is a challenge.
- **Technology:** Availability of efficient technology to produce fuels at cheaper rate is still at developmental stage.
- **Mass production:** Production at huge scale is required to reduce the cost of fuels to end consumers.
- **Food security:** There are concerns raised about the seeds production. Farmers might shift from food crops to oil crops.
- **Diversion:** Even food crops might be diverted to ethanol production, there by causing scarcity of food.

How to balance Food security need from energy needs:

- **Ban on food crop usage:** There can be ban on food crop usage for fuel production.
- **Controlled procurement:** The Raw materials needed for fuel industry can be controlled through only government approved procurement companies.

- Technology: Moving from first generation to 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation bio fuels manufacturing.
- Wastes: Production of fuels from wastes especially Urban waste, which will also reduce associated problems like Landfills, Garbage recycling etc.
- Waste lands: The production centres have to be set up only in infertile lands and waste lands which are not suitable for agriculture.

### Conclusion:

Commercial use of Bio-fuel still has a long way to go. Central government is also working on ways to use bio fuels in limited sectors like Aviation, Public transportation etc. But analysis has shown that first generation fuels have affected agriculture activity, so production has to be shifted soon to 2nd generation fuel at the earliest.

**Best Answer: No best answer**

### Q.35) Examine the changing characteristics and pattern of left wing extremism in India.

#### Introduction:

Left wing extremism also known as Naxalism can be traced backed to its origin in Naxalbari village of West Bengal state. It started as a movement to voice its concerns by landless labourers and tribals and gradually has become an internal security threat to the country.

#### Body:

Reason for expansion and spread of Left wing extremism in India:

- Imbalanced growth, socioeconomic disparities, exploitation by pvt companies, state and security agencies etc.
- Nexus with political parties and corporates.
- International players showing interests.

Changing characteristics and pattern:

- Organised crime syndicate: Ties with terrorists, separatists, mafia, human/animal traffickers, etc. so as to mobilise money and modern weapons.
- International links: They take Funds from China and Pakistan in form of cash, fake currencies, cheap arms/ammunition so as to destabilise India.
- Improvised weapons and devices: Planting improvised explosive devices into the bodies of soldiers or others who defy them.

- Technique: It has become an industry in itself through high level extortion, kidnappings, violence against villagers and common citizens etc.
- Money power: Extortion of money from rich people like contractors is common.
- Weapons: Stealing weapons from police and para military forces.
- Recruitment: By brainwashing villagers, students, Urban poor and Elites.
- Support: Recent arrest show it is no more a poor landless issue but has gained support from various quarters especially urban intelligentsia.

## Government Initiatives:

- Operation Green Hunt.
- Grey hound force.
- Prevention of Money laundering Act.
- Better equipment of CRPF.
- Infrastructure in Naxal affected areas.
- Better education facility to tribals: Ekalavya Model Residential school.

**Note: All points above need 1-2 lines explanation.**

## Conclusion:

Left wing extremism is one of the biggest internal security threat. It has killed more security personnel and civilians than by any terrorists. Government needs to move away from carrot and stick policy to a coherent approach of development and counter insurgency.

**Best Answer: No best answer.**

**Q.36) Suggest a suitable strategy to address the problem of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir.**

## INTRODUCTION

Jammu and Kashmir is considered one of the most resource rich, yet one of the most vulnerable states to violence and also one state which is the most sensitive compared to any other states in the country. The increased militancy in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, especially in the Kashmir valley is due to a combination of many factors which have increased antipathy of the people against the government and increasing the feeling of alienation. A comprehensive strategy is required to mainstream the people of J&K on the lines of others in the country.

## BODY

Reasons for militancy in Jammu and Kashmir can be categorized as follows-

- Absence of strong democratic political leadership.
- Development of the state stifled due to the frequent skirmishes between India and Pakistan.
- Jammu and Kashmir facing the brunt of resource curse.
- Gaps in Infrastructural development in terms of education, employment, health care facilities, roads etc
- Political patronage from Pakistan.
- Frequent surfacing of separatist movements.
- A sense of alienation among the population of J&K and a binding spirit.
- Quality of life being suffered due to policy paralysis.
- Accusation of the army of being hard on the citizens due to application of AFSPA.

Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, the development and quality of life indicators can't be allowed to fall any further, there is an urgent need to integrate people of Jammu and Kashmir into the mainstream by devising a suitable strategy for inclusive development of Jammu and Kashmir eradicating the factors keeping it behind in the developmental ladder and eradicating the feeling of alienation-

- Political level
  - More political will is needed from the government of Pakistan to stop militancy in the valley.
  - Indian government needs to have the will to channelize the efforts of the youth in J&K.
  - It is needed that J&K does not become a theatre for regional politics with India, Pakistan and China showcasing their power.
  - It is needed that a bold debate is started on Article 370 and Article 35A and thus, reducing the feeling of alienation.
- Economic level
  - Projects for economic development in J&K should be fasttracked.
  - Measures should be taken to tackle unemployment, promoting small scale industries of the state, promoting tourism and increasing the per capita income.
  - The economic development of J&K should be at par with the other major states of the country.
- Cultural level
  - Citizens of the state should be promoted for cultural exchanges with citizens of different states.
  - Schemes like "Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat" should be promoted.
  - The outlook citizens of other states with respect to the citizens of J&K should be changed.
  - The feeling of alienation and deprivation should be tackled with priority.
  - Various awareness programs should be launched to promote the citizens of J&K with the mainstream.
- Army level



- The army should understand that AFSPA is only to deal with the extreme situations.
- The sensitivity of the army with respect to the citizens of J&K should be increased.
- Any intention or act to misuse the AFSPA for personal benefit or to showcase power should be strongly dealt with.
- Social level
  - The measures to curb the freedom of expression should be stopped.
  - The antipathy of the citizens should be dealt with measures of good governance and tackling the problems at the grassroots rather than suppressing them further.
- Security level
  - Increasing the vigilance at the borders to counter infiltration and promote counter terrorism measures.
  - Strengthening the intelligence network across the state.
  - Ensuring that the citizens of the states do not face the brunt of being citizens of a border state and live life like citizens of any other state.

On the lines of these measures of solution, the government of India has come up with various schemes specially designed for J&K – like UDAAN, Nai Manzil for skill development of the youth of Jammu and Kashmir- more such schemes must be introduced and propagated to get the maximum benefit and integrate people to the maximum.

## CONCLUSION

Therefore, the problem with respect to J&K is a sensitive problem- the emotions of the people should always be taken into account. Force and Violence will only increase the levels of antipathy. Hence, a combined approach is needed with intensive integration programs, with strong political will, the use of civil society, proper diagnosis and applying the right solution at the right time.

## BEST ANSWER: Gargantuan

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**Q.37) What is religious indoctrination? How does it affect the youth and what challenges does it pose to the security of India**

**Introduction:**

Religious indoctrination is a process where person is forced to think and act on the basis of ideology of particular religion.

**Body:**

Traditionally young, unemployed, vulnerable people were drawn into the net of religious indoctrination. Today we have instances of even educated youth falling prey to such methods due to modern means of communication. Isolation, fear, anxiety, insecurity and real or perceived deprivations make youth vulnerable which are exploited by religious fundamentalists for social and political gains.

It causes changes in their value system:

- Growing intolerance – parochial interests and hatred against others.
- Attracted towards wrong means like violence to protect their religion. This makes them to take up arms and ammunitions leading to religious militancy.
- Loss of human values. Join terror groups to create violence against humans.

Thus, growing extremism of religious militants as a result of religious indoctrination is against secular, progressive and democratic ideals and is likely to cause following security challenges:

- Human security. Ex: incidents of lynching, lone wolf attacks.
- Affects communal harmony, disrupts peace in the society leading to law and order problem. Ex: cow-vigilantism, conversion movements, Gujarat riots.
- Secessionist tendencies on religious lines taking violent form. Ex: Khalistan movement, J&K.
- Growth of terrorism having international linkages. Ex: incidents of youth joining ISIS.

**Conclusion:**

Today, religious fundamentalism and religious indoctrination poses greatest threat to the peace and development of society and nation. Government should adopt multipronged approach like equitable development (minorities, poor population), strengthening education system (moral values, teaching essence of different religions), creation and broadening access to employment opportunities, modern and well equipped security and intelligence agencies and push for international coordination (proposed CCIT).

**Best answer: Kamal**

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**Q.38) What do you understand by the strategy of 'bleeding India through thousand cuts'? What can be the best way to counter it? Suggest.**

**Approach:**

- Introduction- The policy of bleeding India through thousand cuts.
- Contours of the policy
- How can India counter it?
- Conclusion

**Introduction:**

India and Pakistan have been in a state of covert and overt aggression against each other since their partition in 1947. Pakistan has been following a policy of a "thousand cuts," against India. At the root of this policy of Pakistan, is its military and the ISI, who do not want improved relations with India. Forging good relations with India militates against the rationale for Pakistan to have such a large military.

**Contours of the policy:**

- Fueling separatism and militancy in India, mainly Kashmir. Religious animosities between various groups in India is encouraged by Pakistan.
- Promoting terrorism in India.
- Cross border smuggling, drug menace and fake currency to destabilize the economy.

**Countering it:**

- Economic cooperation- Improving economic relations with the country will increase Pakistan's dependency on India. This would make the country more responsible against ill-founded policies.
- Increasing vigilance across border, deploying more forces. Intelligence sharing
- India needs to change its policy towards Kashmiris. Socio-economic development of border areas, generating jobs and building of infrastructure is much required.
- Pressure from global forums - Finalisation of UN Convention to Counter Terrorism. This convention will not distinguish between 'bad' and 'good' terrorism. Boycott of Pakistan from global forums. Platforms like SCO should be leveraged to iron out the issues.
- Apart from above, bilateral dialogues should continue. Focusing on people-to-people relations.

### Conclusion:

If Pakistan persists with the policy of, a “thousand cuts,” against India, the relations will remain strained. It is time for India to make it clear to Pakistan that terrorism and treaties cannot go hand in hand.

### Best answer: John Nash

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### Q.39) What challenges do external non-state actors pose to India’s internal security? Discuss.

#### Synopsis:

India has been facing challenges on the front of internal security since independence from various state and non-state actors. Politico-social and economic sphere of sovereign state has been controlled by the popular elected government. But peace and security can be disturbed by some external and non-state actor, through various means and ways.

**Non-state actors:** Non-state actors are individuals or organizations that have powerful economic, political or social power and are able to influence at a national and sometimes international level but do not belong to or allied themselves to any particular country or state. They include NGOs, MNCs, religious outfits, Drug Cartels, Mafias, terrorist groups etc. they may work in tandem for the peace, stability and development of a country or they may work against the State.

#### Challenges posed by them for the Indian internal security:

- **Insurgency:** North-East suffers from violent movements based upon ethnic identities leading to clashes. China is alleged to support such acts e.g. ULFA members of Assam was given shelter by China.
- **Terrorism:** Pakistan has been a major exporter of terrorism to India. Non-state actors like terrorist groups (eg Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad) are a continuous threat.
- **Naxalism:** Left wing extremism affects states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- **Drug smuggling:** Inter and Intra state trafficking takes place, through golden crescent and golden triangle routes. Drug from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran has affected Punjab.

- **Human-trafficking:** while child and women trafficking takes place via Bangladesh and Nepal.
- **Counterfeit currency:** Especially from Pakistan. It corrodes economy from inside, by facilitating black money and money laundering activities as well as funding terrorism, which itself creates a demand for fake currency, thereby creating a positive feedback loop.
- **Communalism:** Propagandas are run and funded by enemy country and other non-state actors to destabilize India by damaging the socio-religious fabric and ensure riots.
- **Cyber Security:** Recent cyber-attacks by Legion, ATM skimming are examples. Pakistani hackers often hack government websites.

### Conclusion:

Both state and non-state factors from outside have created problems in our internal security framework. Hence while it is imperative to guard our borders and strengthen our diplomacy, on the other hand, we need to check the various non-state actors who come in hidden forms.

### Best answer: Mahismiti

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### Q.40) How do social media platforms pose a threat to communal harmony and social order in India? Discuss.

#### Introduction:

Social Media which is the proudly portrayed as fastest means of communication in present technology driven communication space has also become a menace to society especially in terms of Law and order.

#### Body:

How Social media pose threat to communal harmony and social order:

- Fake news: They spread fake news inciting the crowd to create law and order situation.  
Ex: In a communally sensitive society, fake news about one community guy being assaulted by another community.

- Mobilize Crowd: It is the fastest form of communication, where huge crowds can be gathered in shortest time. Ex: Just with one posting in local community group, large crowd can be mobilized.
- Hate speech: Hate speeches are spread through communal media to incite a violence.
- Riots: With fake information, it can lead to riots between two religious groups or community groups.
- Lynching: Fake messages has created many lynching in north eastern parts of country. Ex: Two men were lynched to death after being mistaken for child lifters in Assam.
- Flash Mob: Social media has given rise to new phenomena known as flash mob where within span of minutes, a mob can be gathered. Ex: A software engineer was lynched in Bidar by strong crowd of 2000 within no span of time.

Measures to tackle this phenomena:

- Controlling fake news: Social Media platforms have to filter spread of fake news.
- Punishment: Severe punishment to be awarded for creating and spreading fake news.
- Proactive groups: Local police can be a part of social media group to constantly check and monitor spread of news.
- Initiatives: Initiatives should be taken to fact check news and pulls down fake news's.

Government initiatives:

- Responsibility: The government has issued directives to social media companies heads to take up issue seriously and fix responsibility.
- New features: News features have been included in WhatsApp groups after I&B ministry directives like Forwarding limited to just 5 groups, note mentioning the news as forwarded etc.
- IPC and CrPC: They are initiatives to insert clauses in Indian Penal code and Code of Criminal procedure.
- Officials: Central government has issued directives to appoint officers at district level to gather intelligence and closely monitor social media contents.

## **Conclusion:**

Closely monitoring social media content is a good initiative but there has been protest by some quarters that it should not come at the cost of invasion of our privacy and tool for state surveillance.

**Best Answer: Invincible.**

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## **Q.41) Examine in detail the threats emerging in the cyber ecosystem of India.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Cyber Security is a complex issue is a complex issue that cuts across multiple domains and calls for multi-dimensional, multi layered initiatives and responses. The entire Cyber Ecosystem comprising of almost any use of information and technology is susceptible to cyber threat. In the age of Information Technology which is now used in every walk of life, cyber security is very important to keep the trust intact. According to NASCOM about- 2/3rd of Indian Internet is becoming victim of a cyber threat in the digitalized world.

### **BODY**

Cyber Ecosystem consists of the following components –

- - Use of Information and technology for various e-governance projects.
  - Use of Social media – for personal use, use by companies and even government departments.
  - Use of ICT for various types of monetary transaction- like use of online banking, use of online transactions via- Paytm, BHIM app etc.
  - E-services and use of Information and Technology for effective delivery of goods.

The emerging threats in the cyber ecosystem can be categorized as follows-

- Economic threat-
  - Issues like hacking online banking accounts, hacking Paytm accounts, forge transfers etc.
- Defense and Security threat
  - Issues related to hacking of hacking government websites, hacking important documentation with respect to the army.
  - Classified documents of National and international importance being hacked.
  - Hacking of E-mail accounts of personal holding important places in defense.
- Political threat.
  - Political parties using social media for false propaganda.
  - They are using social media as a tool to shape narrative of the people.
  - Focusing on Fake news and news that sell & paying less heed to issues of actual importance.
- Threats related to Terrorism.

- Terrorist organizations have started using social media to a large scale to propagate their ideology.
- Organization's like the ISIS use social media to recruit youngsters.
- Hatred is being propagated by circulating the same message again and again.
- Terrorist organizations have become technologically very advanced, they have also started hacking important government websites to rope in classified information.

Threats are also seen in various technological aspects of the Cyber Ecosystem, the threats can be propagated by-

- Over Hardware- by impregnating ICs and chip-sets for spying.
- Over Software- various virus, malware, Trojan software and worm attacks being a regular issue. eg – WannaCry, Petya.
- Cyber Warfare being used by nations as a tool for War- eg. STUXNET by USA over Iran.
- Crypto Jacking – certain systems are hacked to carry out Bitcoin mining.

Use of Information and technology has changed human life in every possible way; right from drastically reducing the information asymmetry, empowering the voiceless, making the information reach people at distant places within minutes, to make transactions online and thus reducing the monetary transactions to being practically able to track every step of our lives. However, if Cyber Threat strike in any possible way, the trust of citizens gets breached to a large extent, it brings in hesitancy in using ICT in addition to the threats mentioned above. Thus, it is necessary to tackle the issue related to Cyber Security in the Cyber Ecosystem of India in every possible way, such as-

- By Strengthening Cyber Infrastructure
- By Training personal to tackle cyber threats.
- By spreading awareness about the do's and don'ts for a normal user.
- By ensuring encryption of critical data.
- Proactive functioning of CERT-in.
- Ensuring inter departmental coordination

### CONCLUSION

Thus, to ensure that use of Information and Technology is a boon to mankind in true sense, it is necessary to get rid of various threats which are emerging out of cyber threats. Almost all countries around the globe, especially India on account of its large cyber space, and huge digital divide and a large population which is very nascent stage in learning to take advantage of ICT, needs to step up its cyber defense to reap maximum advantage of Information and Technology.

**BEST ANSWER: JOHN NASH**



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**Q.42) What are the privacy concerns being raised over Aadhar UID? Are they reasonable? Critically evaluate.**

## **Introduction:**

Aadhaar is a 12 digit individual identification number which will serve as a proof of identity and address, anywhere in India. Its objective is to provide social security benefits by plugging the leakages, thus, ensuring transparency and good governance.

## **Body:**

Aadhaar now being linked to everything under the sun — bank records, financial statements, income tax returns, phone numbers and even competitive examinations, there are various privacy concerns being raised like

- Data protection given the involvement of private entities.
- Loss of personal integrity: the discomfort from information about our lives being available to people or institutions with whom we do not wish to share it.
- Vulnerability to identity fraud, even identity theft. Ex: like Fingerprint impressions can be easily reproduced.
- Tool for profiling and surveillance that may affect civil liberties of people. Ex: self-censorship, curb dissent.
- creation of a 'personal data economy', which will monetise information about people's personal life ahead of creating adequate digital and legal literacy and safeguards around these issues.

In today's digital world, it is argued that these concerns are 'reasonable' by citing:

- Growing instances of hacking and data leakages. Some 3.24 million records were stolen, lost or exposed in India in 2017, according to Breach Level Index study by digital security firm Gemalto. This number has increased by a whopping 783% over the previous year.
- Lower financial and digital literacy especially among rural masses.

- The collection and storage of Aadhaar number by various private entities. Ex: Telecom players for issuing SIM cards
- The safeguards in the Aadhaar Act are weak. Further, the implementation of the law is even worse.

However, various concerns are addressed through steps like

- Creation of a “virtual ID” which can be used in lieu of the 12-digit Aadhaar number at the time of authentication for any service.
- The UIDAI has also limited access to stored personal information and mandated the use of unique tokens through which authenticating agencies can access required data.
- Concept of ‘limited KYC’ under which it will only provide need-based or limited details of a user to an authorised agency that is providing a particular service.

### Conclusion:

UN Report on World Social Situation, 2016 described Aadhaar as a developmental tool with “tremendous potential to foster inclusion by giving all people, including the poorest and most marginalized, an official identity” and a wonderful “critical step in enabling fairer access of the people to government benefits and services”, thereby enhancing social and economic distributive justice leaving no one behind. Given such benefits, Government should take adequate measures (data protection law, strengthen Aadhaar act, strengthen cyber infrastructure) to address concerns and thus win confidence of the people.

**Best Answer: Jayesh Mohite**

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**Q.43) What is ‘end to end encryption’? How does it protect data? Explain with the help of suitable examples**

### Approach:

- Introduction- Brief explanation of ‘end to end’ encryption
- How does it protect data?
- Advantages

- Conclusion

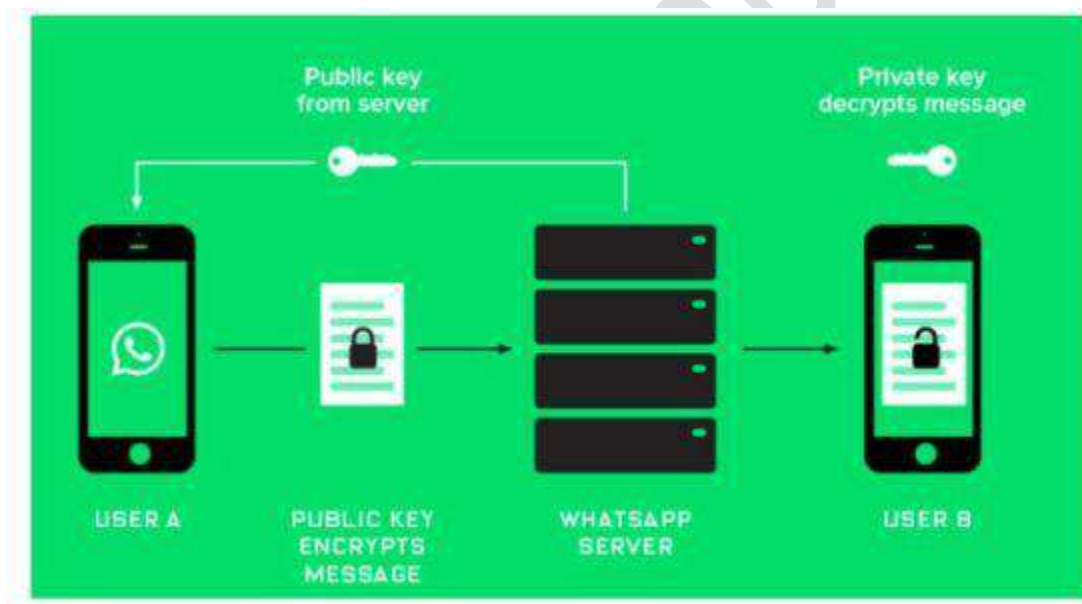
### Introduction:

End-to-end encryption (E2EE) is a system of communication where only the communicating users can read the messages.

In principle, it prevents potential eavesdroppers – including telecom providers, Internet providers, and even the provider of the communication service – from being able to access the cryptographic keys needed to decrypt the conversation. End-to-end encryption is intended to prevent data being read or secretly modified, other than by the true sender and recipient(s). The messages are encrypted by the sender but the third party does not have a means to decrypt them, and stores them encrypted. The recipient retrieves the encrypted data and decrypts it themselves.

### How it works?

Below is a flow chart depicting encryption in WhatsApp.



### Pros of end-to-end encryption:

- **Secures privacy**
- **It keeps your data safe from hacks.** E2EE means fewer parties have access to your unencrypted data. Even if hackers compromise the servers where data is stored (e.g. Yahoo mail hack), they cannot decrypt data because they do not possess the decryption keys.

- No government spies: There have been many cases when suspects were dragged into controversies that did not have anything to do with the original case.
- Connecting people better : People talk more freely with others when they are sure that their conversation will remain to themselves while if you are aware that some random person could be eavesdropping on your conversation, it will most likely be a little fabricated, making it less real.
- Shared network : With more and more people resorting to save money by sharing data over a single hotspot, end-to-end encryption prevents shared content from falling into wrong hands.

**Cons of end-to-end encryption:**

- Misuse of technology: Freedom beyond the limits of laws are going to be a problem if no one is on the other end to keep a track on illegal activities that could be advertised or propagated through internet.
- Law and order overlooked : When government would not be able to access information that is suspected or needs to be dug out there will be questions of law and order being overlooked at the face of confidentiality of users.
- Terrorists, people with sick mind games etc will take advantage of the technology without fearing law.

**Conclusion:**

End-to-end encryption is in line with the right to free speech and the right to life (Article 19 and 21). It provides much needed privacy. Thus, it is necessary to ensure that there is no backdoor where the data can be decrypted by other parties.

**Best answer: Aishwarya Singh**

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**Q.44) Could demonetisation make a dent to black money in India? Critically examine.****Synopsis:**

On 8 November 2016, the Government of India announced the demonetisation of all Rs.500 and Rs.1000 banknotes of the Mahatma Gandhi Series. The government claimed that the action

would curtail the shadow economy and crack down on the use of illicit and counterfeit cash to fund illegal activity and terrorism.

According to the Reserve Bank of India's annual report for 2017-18, 99.3% of the demonetised notes have been returned to the central bank. One of the primary aims of demonetisation is to extinguishing hoards of ill-gotten currency notes, by seeing the data we can say that it has failed to do so.

### **Does Demonetization make a dent to flow of black money:**

The total reduction in black money was much smaller than what might have been envisaged. To the extent that it was possible to exchange money legally, individuals did so. After that it was done illegally.

- Those who could not exchange money, they legally found money changers. Individuals with bank accounts, including Jan Dhan accounts, and companies showing cash accrual from sales came into business.
- Introduction of 2k denomination notes is another criticism, when we have demonetised 1000 and 500 rupee notes, logically to curb the black money the denomination should be smaller than what we have demonetised.
- The number of counterfeit notes or fake notes detected during the exercise is only minuscule, just about 7.6 lakh pieces, as compared with 6.3 lakh pieces in the year ahead.
- Some of the studies suggest that demonetisation policy, which likely wiped at least 1% from the country's GDP and cost at least 1.5m jobs, failed to wipe significant hordes of unaccounted wealth from the Indian economy.

If we see from the above reasons it is hard to say it has tackled the flowing of black money at large.

**However, some of the benefits of demonetisation as per the government estimates are as follows:**

**Tax on black money:** Demonetization offered three options for black money holders:

- Declare their income, deposit it and pay tax rate with penalty.
- Continue to hide and suffer 100% tax rate.
- Launder their money.

**Tax compliance:**

- Demonetization has shown state's resolve to crack down on black money.

- Social condemnation: Since this action has commanded support amongst the population, demonetisation shows that black money will no longer be tolerated by the wider public.

**Impact on Real estate sector:**

- Demonetization can have profound impact on real estate prices as black money was used evade taxes on property sale and have resulted into inflated prices.

**Conclusion:**

Although there are some hiccups in the implementation and miscalculations regarding demonetisation can be seen. But if we see at larger picture, on positive side there are some benefits like Awareness against black money and consciousness about legal and punitive measures is an intangible positive effect of this demonetisation. It will change the mind-set of the people to keep away from black income. This shakeup of Indian society will be a big outcome though it may not be measurable.

**Best Answer: No best answer.**

**Q.45) What is the National REDD+ strategy? What are its objectives? Explain.**

**Introduction:**

The REDD+ Strategy guided by the National REDD+ Policy is designed to address critical gaps in the capacity and institutional framework towards creating REDD+ Readiness in the country. The strategy seeks to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and also developing a roadmap for enhancement of forest carbon stocks and achieving sustainable management of forests through REDD+ actions.

**Body:**

Objectives of National REDD+ policy:

- To create REDD+ architecture at National and Sub-National levels to support REDD+ actions.
- To develop an appropriate REDD+ strategy and implementation frameworks at a nested level to represent the diversity of forests in the country.
- To manage the forests for a bouquet of ecosystem services, including but not limited to biodiversity, that are flowing to local communities from the forests and not for carbon services only.

- To safeguard the rights and interests of local communities including improvement of their livelihood.
- To encourage and incentivize local communities for their role in conservation by transferring the financial benefits accrued on account of REDD+ to them based on their performance, as is reflected in monitoring, including small scale projects at JFMC/ EDC level.
- To strengthen coordination among sectors and stakeholders having direct and indirect impacts on land use and forestry.
- To lay emphasis on achieving various thematic elements of SMF by addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, afforestation of degraded areas, protection measures, etc. while implementing the REDD+ programmes.
- To improve and enhance supply of forest products and ecological and environmental services of the forests for comprehensively benefitting the society leading to increased growing stock and the stored carbon in the forest.
- To develop appropriate mechanism for channelizing REDD+ funding and transferring the accrued financial benefits to the communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.
- To provide adequate technical and financial resources to implement various phases and action plan of REDD+.

**Note: The objectives are taken from Environment Ministry website. Exact content is not possible but your answer should explain and cover the basic features.**

### **Conclusion:**

The Strategy builds upon existing national circumstances which have been updated in line with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, Green India Mission and India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC.

### **Best Answer: John Nash.**

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**Q.46) Examine the factors behind the stressed ecosystems of the coastal zones in India. What steps have been taken to address it? Discuss.**

### **Introduction:**

India's coastal zone is endowed with abundant coastal and marine ecosystems that include a wide range of mangroves, coral reefs, sea grasses, salt marshes, mud flats, estuaries, lagoons, and unique marine and coastal flora and fauna.

**Body:**

Coastal ecosystems also contribute to the national economy by providing employment opportunities like in fisheries. In spite of their significance, India's coastal areas have not received adequate protection and are under stress.

- About 34% of India's mangroves were destroyed during 1950-2000.
- Almost all coral areas are threatened.
- Marine fish stocks are declining and several species of ornamental fish and sea cucumbers are fast disappearing.

Various causes for such a situation are

- Natural: natural catastrophic events like cyclones, tsunamis which lead to destruction of coastal biodiversity.
- Anthropogenic: sedimentation from developmental activities, eutrophication from sewage and agriculture, pollution from industrial sources, physical impact of maritime activities- dredging and destructive fishing practices, introduction of invasive species, unregulated tourism, oil spills and climate change.

Measures taken:

- Under the National Coastal Management Programme, Ministry of Environment, Government of India is implementing a Reengineered Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2011 to ensure livelihood security to fishing and other local communities, to conserve and protect coastal stretches and to promote development based on scientific principles.
- Notification on Island Protection Zone is also being implemented for similar purposes for the islands of Andaman & Nicobar and the Lakshadweep.
- Implementation of World Bank Assisted Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project.
- Marine protected areas.

**Conclusion:**

Degradation and depletion of coastal ecosystem will impact the livelihood, health and well-being of the coastal population, affecting in turn prospects for India's sustained economic growth. There is a need for integrated development planning balancing development with the protection of vulnerable ecosystems.

**Best answer: Sumit Bishnoi**



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**Q.47) What are 'elephant corridors'? Why are they important? What have kept them under stress? Examine.**

### INTRODUCTION

Elephant herds are known to migrate across 350-500 sq. km. annually. Elephant corridors are narrow strips of land that connect two large habitats. There are around 1950 elephants left in India, more than 40 elephants lose their lives every year. Recently, there were incidences of Elephants being killed by train accidents, in all this scenario-the elephant corridors become very important for effective migration of elephants.

### BODY

'Right of Passage'- a study published by the Wildlife Trust of India in collaboration with Project Elephant and the U.K.-based NGO Elephant Family, identifies and records details pertaining to 101 elephant corridors across India. Of these 101 corridors, 28 are located in south India, 25 in central India, 23 in northeastern India, 14 in northern West Bengal and 11 in northwestern India. Almost 70% of the 101 corridors are regularly used, 25% are occasionally used, and 6% rarely.

The corridors are important because

- It reduces man and animal conflict.
- It would ensure not restricted mobility of elephants.
- It would help in monitoring of elephants if they are wounded or sick
- It ensures safe mobility in times of emergencies like Forest Fires etc.
- They help in enhancing the gene pool diversity.
- It would be helpful in monitoring of elephants, if they are sick or under any kind of stress.
- It would help in effective migration and then leading to increase of population through interbreeding.

However, in spite of such pivotal role of "Elephant Corridors", and Elephant being an "Endangered" animal, but also an umbrella species- the elephant corridors are under "Stress" due to –

- Human intervention in the corridors- construction of resorts.
- No effective monitoring throughout the year.
- No precautions taken to reduce elephant deaths by man-elephant conflict.
- Construction of highways without proper planning.
- Elephants facing attrition due to deforestation.
- Elephant's deaths due to electrocution, by coming in contact with electricity grids.
- Lack of proper guidelines and norms or non-implementation of norms mentioned by Wildlife authorities.
- Lack of coordination between various departments, like – the Railways and forest department.
- Less technological monitoring equipment like the -high technology camera.

The steps, that can be undertaken to reduce the stress that is surrounded around the “Elephant corridors” can be as follows-

- Acquiring of lands from the land owners, near the corridors by the Government.
- Government ensuring the safe passage of elephants by any fulfilling any infrastructural demands.
- Corridor must be fenced adequately with bushes.
- Encouraging the private players to contribute by – Corporate Social responsibility.
- The measures suggested by the Supreme court to be undertaken- like removing illegal resorts around the elephant corridors.
- Huge awareness drives to be undertaken by the Government, to ensure that people are sensitive about the importance of elephant and cooperate in their survival.
- Attaching a religious angle to their survival, like- the association with Lord Ganesha.
- Effectively making use of the E8 forum.

Some of the steps taken in this context for elephant on domestic front are-

- The Gaj Yatra, run in collaboration with Project Elephant, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, and the International Fund for Animal Welfare, is a national celebration of this magnificent and ancient Indian being. It brings art, literature, science and innovation together to highlight the plight of elephants and point to solutions that would afford them their Right of Passage.
- **Project Elephant** was launched in 1992 by the Government of India Ministry of Environment and Forests to provide financial and technical support of wildlife management efforts by states for their free ranging populations of wild Asian Elephants.
- West Bengal government + Rapid Response Force (RRP) plan = response team that would be equipped with forest official, personnel with animal rescue training and equipment
- “Airavat”, initiative- to reducing Man-Elephant conflict.
- Radio collar and technological devices for real-time monitoring in Assam and west Bengal elephant corridors.

**CONCLUSION**

Elephants being one of the most important “Umbrella Species”, their conservation are very instrumental in maintaining the ecological balance, maintaining the food web and also to make sure the effective conservation of several other species. Therefore, it is important to conserve elephants; also India being home for more than 50% elephants of the world have a special responsibility in this regard.

**BEST ANSWER – Mahismati**

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**Q .48) What should be the standard operating procedure (SOP) for addressing the outbreak of epidemics?**

**Synopsis:****Standard operating procedure:**

A standard operating procedure (SOP) is a set of step-by-step instructions compiled by an organization to help workers carry out complex routine operations. SOPs aim to achieve efficiency, quality output and uniformity of performance, while reducing miscommunication and failure to comply with industry regulations.

**Epidemics:**

An epidemic occurs when an infectious disease spreads rapidly to many people. For example, in 2003, the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic took the lives of nearly 800 people worldwide.

**Outbreak of a disease:**

A disease outbreak happens when a disease occurs in greater numbers than expected in a community or region or during a season. An outbreak may occur in one community or even extend to several countries. It can last from days to years. Sometimes a single case of a contagious disease is considered an outbreak. This may be true if it is an unknown disease, is new to a community, or has been absent from a population for a long time. If you observe what

you think might be a disease outbreak, report it right away to your health care provider or public health department.

**EARLY WARNING SYSTEM:**

- This procedure is to ensure that events with the potential to pose a serious public health risk are rapidly and consistently identified.
- This will create awareness among the public through media and other ways.

**RAPID RISK ASSESSMENT OF EPIDEMICS:**

- Review the initial information provided in the list of events within 24 hours of receipt and carry out a rapid risk assessment using established criteria to determine whether the event is, or has the potential to become, a serious public health risk.
- The systematic rapid risk assessment of triaged events detected through event-based surveillance and those reported through official channels

**ACTIVATING PUBLIC HEALTH EVENT RESPONSE:**

- The purpose of this procedure is to support countries by strengthening their immediate capacities for a timely and effective public health response in the context of the IHR to mitigate the impact of the outbreak.
- Should take the samples from the people and need to start research as it will help in future response for preventive purpose, can also develop vaccines according to the need.

**PROGRESS NEED TO BE EVALUATED TIME TO TIME:**

- The officials need to meet once in three months to review progress made in their operations against the epidemics and make appropriate corrective measures as per their observations.
- Take the help of experts in the like AIMS in India as well as if needed some from other countries who has expertise in that area.
- Medical camps and availability of medicines should be prioritised according to the need.

**Conclusion:**

The methods, policies and procedures for preventing and controlling infectious disease outbreaks and other acute public health events develop and change over time. In order to ensure that these SOPs keep pace with such changes, they are being published electronically with references and links to other procedures and guidelines for those requiring more details. Users of the SOPs are encouraged to share the lessons learned during the application of the procedures for possible incorporation into future revisions of the document. Finally, while the SOPs reflect usual practice, there will be circumstances from time to time that may require an

adaptive response based on the professional judgement of the response staff and decision makers.

**Best Answer: John Nash**

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**Q.49) What are industrial disasters? How can they be prevented in India? Discuss.**

**Introduction:**

Disaster caused by Industrial corporations which causes great damage to men and material either due to negligence, accident or incompetency.

**Body:**

Types of Industrial Disasters:

- Chemical Disaster: Bhopal Gas tragedy.
- Nuclear: Chernobyl plant.
- Biological.
- Fire related: Jaipur oil depot explosion.

How can they be prevented:

1. Internal:

- Quality products and control: First and foremost, usage of quality products will reduce the occurrence and effect of disaster to maximum extent.
- Safety systems: Installation of safety system in place.
- Inspection and Maintenance: Proper and timely inspections and maintenance.
- Training of workers: Proper training of workers before handling equipment's.
- Supervision: Proper supervision of work undertaken and quality reviews.
- Strict protocols: Strict protocols and standard operating procedures to be followed under all circumstances.
- Stringent norms: Proper norms and stringent punishment in case of mishandling of equipment's or damages caused during production process.

- Emergency planning: Disaster is a next step of accident, so proper training to deal with any accidents and emergency situations.

## 2. External:

- Plant location: Location of plant away from disaster prone areas like High coastal waves, Earthquake prone areas, Landslides etc.
- Layout planning: Proper planning and design of plant layout to deal with any contingencies.
- Government control: Proper inspections and stringent norms for setting up industries based on topography should be in place.

**Note: More points can be added to both parts.**

### Conclusion:

Major incidents when left uncontrolled will lead to disaster, if proper preventive and mitigative plans are in place then majority of them can be limited to accidents with low effects.

**Best Answer: Rajat\_**

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**Q.50) Discuss the various strategies to mitigate the effects of tropical cyclones.**

### INTRODUCTION

A localized, very intense low-pressure wind system, forming over tropical oceans and with winds of hurricane force is called as Tropical Cyclone. Every year, India and countries of the Tropical belt undergo huge fatality in terms of men and money due to the harmful effects of Tropical Cyclones.

### BODY

Tropical Cyclones are characterized by low-pressure center, a closed low-level atmospheric circulation, strong winds, a spiral arrangement of thunderstorms that produce heavy rains, thus naturally it is bound to cause large number of casualties. However, over the years and with experience and advent of technology, various strategies are developed to mitigate the effects

of Tropical Cyclones. In the recent times several cyclones like Cyclone Vardah, Cyclone Hudhud, Cyclone Ronu have affected India and caused widespread devastation.

The Devastation that is caused due to the Cyclone includes-

- Large scale devastation of infrastructure.
- Huge loss of men and material.
- Disruption of electricity polls and Internet connections.
- Large scale flooding on railway tracks and roads etc.

Therefore, it is necessary that not only a corrective action is taken, but a preventive solution is also focused on –

- Cyclone resistant coastal infrastructure- Housing, offices in the coastal areas be built in a manner to mitigate the harmful effects.
- Cyclone shelters must be built in the short term, if evacuating large number of people isn't feasible.
- Installing Early Warning system: Installing system with Doppler mechanism, RADAR's to track the course of the cyclone and take preventive measures.
- Not disturbing the Mangrove ecosystems of the coastal areas, as mangroves act as a natural buffer to cyclones, tsunamis etc.
- Putting in place a mechanism in order to rescue the most vulnerable sections like women, children etc at the earliest.
- Better inter departmental coordination between different agencies.

But, in the long term- there is a need of a proper strategy, to mitigate the effects of tropical cyclones and move above just firefighting approach-

- Planning and implementing -a comprehensive disaster management policy with a long term approach to tackle the effects of tropical cyclones.
- Increase people's knowledge about the emergency warning signals and alert notifications used in community.
- Stopping haphazard development, and allowing development only with the help of proper permissions.
- Complying by the Sendai framework of Disaster risk management at global and regional level for comprehensive disaster risk management.
- Land use – must be planned scientifically, so that the resident areas are far from the coastal areas & whatever, the residential area is -it can be easily evacuated.
- Focus on long term capacity building of people.
- Keeping, in place a system which ensures faster information dissemination.
- Keeping in place an effective health care system.
- Insurance needs to be given by the government for people and also to cyclone resistant structures.

**CONCLUSION**

Thus, a continuous learning is always necessary to fight the necessary evil. It is vital, therefore, that the learning's from each event are shared nationally, and the capacity of officials and communities to manage disasters built continuously so that we are able to mitigate the effects of cyclones and keep the negative effects to the minimum.

**BEST ANSWER: JOHN NASH**

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**Q.51) Do you think there exist a correlation in unemployment and terrorism? Critically examine.**

**Body**

Terrorism can be defined as the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives. Unemployment is the phenomenon where a person willing to work is unable to find work. There is a “symbiotic relation” between jobs and growth of Terrorism according to many studies.

- Joblessness forces urban youth into “waithood.” Frustrated by the perpetual delay in opportunity or hope, they become candidates for violence and terrorism.
- Ehrlich (1973) found that employment opportunities can be regarded as a corresponding indicator of income opportunities available in the labour market. So when unemployment rate raises, the income earning opportunities in the legal sectors diminishes and causing unemployed individuals to involve in unlawful activities like terrorism.
- Harrison (2006) found that parents may support their children to become a terrorist if the future of children is doubtful because of high unemployment and discriminations.
- The Global Terrorism Index 2015, explains the conditions that foster terrorism differ between more and less developed countries.

a) In the West, socio-economic factors such as youth unemployment and drug crime correlate with terrorism.



b) In non-OECD countries, terrorism shows stronger associations with ongoing conflict, corruption and violence E.g: Bosnia, Nigeria.

However, Alan Krueger, a leading economist at Princeton, suggested that any correlation between poverty, education and terrorism is complicated and probably weak. He also stated that “terrorism is result of political conditions and long standing feelings of indignity and frustration”.

E.g. Osama bin Laden is a case in point. He belonged to a rich family and went on to study at a University before he joined Al-Qaeda.

Other factors that lead to terrorism are also very substantive than unemployment like religious fundamentalism, radicalization, perceived western imperialism, resurgence of ethnic nationalism.

E.g. Example of an educated Pune Engineer joining ISIS.

**Best Answer: Mahishmati**

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**Q.52) How serious is the issue of Kashmiri Militancy? How does it undermines India's integrity? Discuss**

**Introduction:**

In recent times, there has been a dangerous trend seen in militants of Kashmir. Highest number of youths have joined the militant ranks since 2010 and there has been a new trend setting by abduction of kith and kin of police personals which is causing serious concerns in establishments.

**Body:**

How serious is issue of Militancy in Kashmir:

- Radicalisation: High number of youths are getting radicalised and joining militant groups.

- Shut down: Increased number of protests and bandhs leading to shut down of valley called by separatist's groups who are supporting militant outfits.
- Education: Due to shut down, the education of youths and children are getting spoiled.
- Killings: There has huge number of casualties in militant ranks and Armed personals of state in recent times.
- Infrastructure: Vital installations and infrastructure of state is being destroyed either due to blowing up by militants or during raids and fire exchanges.
- Economy: Due to shut down and disturbance, the tourist fall has reduced there by reducing the revenue to state and business to locals.

How does it undermine India's integrity:

- Increase in Separatist tendency.
- Support for independence by people from outside the region.
- Increased demand for secession from other regions.
- Activism in name of Human rights, Identity crisis etc.
- Lack of development resulting in Backwardness of state in social infrastructure.
- Internal security issues: Organised crime, Drug Mafia, Inflow of fake currencies etc.
- Increase in Radicalisation of youths especially.
- Interference by International institutions resulting in sovereignty issues.

**Way forward:**

- Infrastructure.
- Education.
- Kashmiriyat, Insaniyat, Jamhuriyat.
- Stringent laws to deal with Militancy.
- Carrot and stick policy.

**Note: 1-2 lines explanation is needed for all points.**

**Best Answer: Gargantum**

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**Q.53) How do activities of foreign intelligence agencies undermine India's internal security?****Examine.****INTRODUCTION**

India is a country which has proved its mettle around the world by its strong economy, strong defence infrastructure and has increased its bargaining power by being a nuclear power. Due to its Geo Political, Geo Strategic and economic importance; different Foreign Intelligence agencies keep a track on Indian activities. India's Internal Security is under threat due to a constant vigil and the balance of power dynamics in the region.

**BODY**

In times of Nuclear World, the focus is more on deterrence than offense- Intelligence is like "The New Oil" in the defence arena. The most famous Intelligence agencies of the world, which has an eye on Indian security scenario are-

- The Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan
- The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of United States of America.
- Ministry of State Security (MSS) of China
- Mossad of Israel
- The Federal Security Service of Russia and so on.

The examples in the past wherein different Foreign Intelligence agencies have interfered with Indian Internal security, either directly in causing attacks, carry out incidences which could lead to disruption of peace in a particular region or hide a particular intelligence which they had received, which if shared with India could have averted a particular attack, are as follows-

- Kashmir crisis – The ISI has been accused and repeated evidence which have shown about the ISI's involvement in incidences leading to instability & violence in Kashmir valley, mostly by sheltering and promoting infiltrators.
- North East Insurgency: Agencies like the Chinese MSS, have often been accused of supporting agencies like ULFA in Assam, NSCN (K) in Nagaland, also insurgency in Manipur, etc.
- CIA's soft stand on terror outfits – The Central Intelligence agency of United States of America, has been accused of being soft on terror outfits like Haqqani network, etc. They have differentiated between Good Terrorism and Bad Terrorism on subjective points. However, the outfits that are benign to USA have been malignant to India's security.

Broadly, these agencies affect Indian security on these grounds-

- Collecting clandestine information related to the border areas.

- They tamper the information related to trade.
- Tempering the information related to defense needs, like the CIA collected information on the defense needs to India.
- Many intelligence agencies have started using advance technologies like Artificial intelligence, use of satellites, use of various types of drones etc.
- They have started to using NGOs to spread their purpose, in the disguise of global morality.
- They have carried out the incidents of Cyber Espionage.eg- the incidents of Government websites getting hacked- like those of various Universities, various governmental departments is a common scene.
- They create sleeper cells, which can be activated based on their needs only.
- They have promoted counterfeit currency, money laundering and hawala systems to promote Terrorism.

It is necessary, that India steps up its measures and create a mechanism in order to tackle these agencies, for this it is important that India makes use of these agencies for its benefit and not becomes a victim of their anti-India intentions, this can be done by the following methods-

- Stepping up India's Intelligence agencies by strengthening the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).
- Regulating foreign aid in sensitive areas.
- Keeping a strict vigil on NGOs with malafide intentions.
- Stepping up the financial assistance and capacity building of Intelligence agencies.
- Strengthen the borders.
- Keeping a strict vigil on various sensitive spots in India
- Identifies suspicious people on Social Media.

## CONCLUSION

Thus, it is important that India identifies the roles of different Intelligence agencies, steps up its defense, strengthens itself technologically and give due diligence to Intelligence and research and hence, keeping the threats to internal security by various intelligence agencies at bay.

## BEST ANSWER: Gunther

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**Q.54) “Bleeding India through the thousand cuts” has been the strategy of our neighbours to undermine the India’s integrity and security. In this regard critically evaluate the response of the Indian government. Shouldn’t India play a more proactive role in Baluchistan?**

**Approach:**

- Introduction- The policy of bleeding India through thousand cuts.
- How it has been the strategy of our neighbors- Contours of the policy.
- India’s response- Baluchistan angle.
- How can India counter it?
- Conclusion

**Introduction:**

India and its neighbors mainly Pakistan and China have been in a state of covert and overt aggression against each other. These two neighbors have been following a policy of a “thousand cuts,” against India. Pakistan lacks ability to beat India in conventional warfare. Thus, the strategy of proxy war through jihadists while keeping the main resources safe, sound and gearing up for main war.

**Contours of the policy:**

- Fueling separatism and militancy in India, mainly Kashmir. Religious animosities between various groups in India is encouraged by both China and Pakistan.
- Promoting terrorism in India- It is alleged that China provides arms and weaponries to separatist groups in India especially those in North-East.
- Cross border smuggling, drug menace and fake currency to destabilize the economy.
- Doklam standoff, CPEC passing through India’s territory etc.

**India’s reaction:**

- Not holding formal talks until Pakistan stops using terrorism as an instrument of state policy against India.
- Retaining the right of retaliation against those elements and locations along the Line of Control (LoC) that are complicit in perpetrating cross border terrorism- as seen after the attack on Indian army base in Uri.
- India has made a concerted attempt to expose Pakistan’s complicity in employing terrorism as state policy. For instance, the Delhi declaration with 10 ASEAN countries issued in January 2018 mentioned the “cross border movement of terrorists” in an obvious reference to Pakistan. Earlier, the 2017 BRICS statement included the LeT and JeM as terrorist groups of concern. These efforts were supplemented by Pakistan’s inability to rein in terrorist groups, which have preached the message of hate, collected funds and undertaken strikes with impunity from within Pakistan. This was recently

acknowledged by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an independent regulatory body which guides anti-money laundering (AML) and countering terrorist finance (CFT) procedures.

### **Shouldn't India play a more proactive role in Baluchistan?**

India in August 2018 said Pakistan should stop “state repression” and “gross violation of human rights” in Balochistan. Balochistan is one of the four provinces of Pakistan. It is the largest province in the country, covering 44 percent of the total area. Most of the inhabitants are Baloch; other communities include Pashtuns and Brahuis. Its location is extremely strategic as the province shares borders with Punjab, Sindh, FATA, as well as Afghanistan and Iran. Pakistan's economy has been largely powered by ageing gasfields in Balochistan and today it has begun importing natural gas because even the low-level Baloch insurgency of the past decade has stalled attempts to explore for new gasfields. The economic corridor could become at least financially wounded if India plays its cards with care. The way Pakistan has been interfering in Kashmir, the same can be done by India in Balochistan.

### **Other ways of countering the policy:**

- Economic cooperation- Improving economic relations with the country will increase Pakistan's dependency on India. This would make the country more responsible against ill-founded policies.
- Increasing vigilance across border, deploying more forces. Intelligence sharing
- India needs to change its policy towards Kashmiris. Socio-economic development of border areas, generating jobs and building of infrastructure is much required.
- Pressure from global forums- Finalisation of UN Convention to Counter Terrorism. This convention will not distinguish between ‘bad’ and ‘good’ terrorism. Boycott of Pakistan from global forums. Platforms like SCO (which has both China and Pakistan as members) should be leveraged to iron out the issues.
- Apart from above, bilateral dialogues should continue. Focusing on people-to-people relations.

### **Conclusion:**

If Pakistan and China persist with the policy of, a “thousand cuts,” against India, the relations will remain strained. It is time for India to make it clear to Pakistan that terrorism and treaties cannot go hand in hand. The conflict with neighboring countries is like a cancerous growth, a malignant organism growing unchecked. Hostile state-sponsored propaganda on both sides must end. The road to peace has narrowed but remains open.

### **Best answer: No answer**

**Q.55) What do you understand by narco-terrorism? Explain. What challenges does it pose to India's internal security? Examine.**

**Introduction:**

Punjab has recently sought special category status on grounds of being victim of Pakistan's narco-terrorism. Narco-Terrorism is a new form of terrorism using illegal drugs in trade.

**Body:**

- Narcotic trafficking, started as an organised cross border crime has now emerged as a threat to Indian states because of its alliance with terrorist groups.
- The Golden Crescent is the largest producer of illicit opium. Afghanistan and Pakistan alone shared nearly 6000 metric tons of the total illicit production.
- It is a matter of serious concern to India, because these drugs are the major source for funding Pak-sponsored terrorism in this country. And also because India is the only licit supplier of opium to the international pharmaceutical industry, which generates huge revenue from export.
- The economy of Pak-Afghan frontier is dependent on the production of poppy and cannabis. The drug money is being floated in an unorganised but systematic manner into the Indian money market thereby damaging financial institutions.
- The illicit drug trafficking from Afghanistan and Pakistan threatens both polity and economy of India.

**Challenges:**

- Drug menace: It has gripped several border states irrespective of gender, caste and religion.
- Law and Order problem: Increase in law and order problem due to drug consumption and affect effects.
- Crime: Increase in crime rate to make quick money for drugs purchase.
- Proxy war: Use of drugs as silent weapon by Pakistan to wag proxy war against India.
- Trafficking: Increase in Trafficking of women and Children from border states.
- Fake currency: Inflow of fake Indian currencies notes.
- Radicalisation: The drug's and money is used to brainwash youths and radicalise them posing threat to Internal security.
- Terrorism: Money earned is used to fund militancy in Kashmir and other border states.

**Way forward:**

- Strengthening of Criminal Laws.
- More power to Narcotics Control Bureau.
- Increase in man power and technology to detect drugs usage.

- Rehabilitation.
- Border security.
- Political will and commitment.
- Awareness about drug usage and its after effects.

**Note: Explanation of 1-2 lines are needed for all points.**

**Best Answer: No best answer.**

**Q.56) Imagine a scenario in which there is an intel that few terrorists might be trying to cross the maritime boundary of India to bring some chemical weapons into India. In this scenario, which security agencies will be active and what role would they play? Discuss.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

India being a peninsular country is blessed with a long coastline of 7516 km. Maritime boundary of a country will consist of territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone, open sea etc. Although India's coastline has always been a blessing for India, yet it has also been a easy penetration corridor for terrorists, like during the 26/11 attacks on Taj Hotel in Mumbai. Hence, it becomes pivotal for India to effectively guard its waters for effective National Security.

### **BODY**

The multiple challenges associated with coastal security are-

- - The coastal borders are not demarcated properly.
  - The problem of cross border infiltration.
  - The issue related to illegal migration.
  - The issue related to smuggling and other kinds of criminal activity
  - Use of Sea and off shore islands for criminal activities

India has established various agencies at various levels to protect its maritime boundaries. So a scenario in which there is an Intel that few terrorists might be trying to cross the maritime boundary of India to bring some chemical weapons into India, they would come across the following agencies-

- The Indian Navy
  - It is entrusted with the overall responsibility of maritime security, including coastal security and maritime security.
  - It also carries out anti-piracy operations.



- Indian Navy also carries out, multiple Naval Exercises with navies of different countries.
- It acts like a Net security provider to many nations in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The State Marine Police
  - It is responsible for patrolling the inner layer of the coastline, but mostly its mandate is only in the territorial waters.
  - It is generally responsible for coordinating with customs, CISF etc
- Indian Coast Guard
  - The Indian Coast Guard is a multi-mission organization, conducting round-the-year real-life operations at sea. Despite being relatively small, it has a wide range of task capabilities for both surface and air operations.
- Marine Commando Force: It is the anti-terrorism force of the Indian Navy.

However, even if these agencies carry out different operations-right from surveillance measures, detecting the presence of chemical weapons, having advance warfare systems to neutralize the incoming enemy targets, providing well trained manpower for counter terrorist activities etc; but there will still be certain issues with respect to this like-

- The main issue is generally related to lack of intra departmental coordination.
- Lack of resources with the forces.
- The financial assistance being restricted.
- The issue related to right to access different parts of the oceans.

## CONCLUSION

Therefore, various steps are taken in order to strengthen the all-time Maritime Security of India. Technological process, like the launch of NAVIC satellite are further enhanced the coastal security. Hence, a strict vigil with grit, determination and also leaving fulfilling all the pre requisite required for the coastal security is pivotal for India's security.

## BEST ANSWER: DIWAKAR

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**Q.57) What challenges do India's North-Eastern borders face in terms of border management and security? Discuss.**

### Introduction:

The management of India's international border along its North Eastern States has remained a crucial and complex issue. In an age of increasing interdependence, threats from unconventional sources pose a greater challenge to the country's security.

### Body:

Travel along India's borders with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan highlights the porous nature of these borders, which pass through difficult terrain of forest, rivers and mountains and make the task of guarding all the more challenging. These borders provide easy points of ingress and egress. This has created problems like

- Militant outfits in most of the North Eastern States and their ability to indulge in hit and run operations across borders.
- Drugs, with their origin in Southeast Asian countries (Golden triangle), invariably find their way into the region from Myanmar, through states like Mizoram and Manipur.
- Illegal immigration affecting demography of North Eastern states. Ex: Migrants issue in Assam.

The security situation in the North Eastern States also remained complex because of diverse demands of ethnic groups and various militant outfits. Ex: ULFA, NDFB – Assam, ATTF – Tripura.

- There are often clashes between different groups disturbing peace and tranquillity in the region.
- Limited success or failure of ethnic groups to secure autonomy have transformed them into insurgent groups transforming north eastern part into potent platform for waging war against nation state.

Central government has supplemented efforts of the State Governments for curbing the illegal and unlawful activities of militant/insurgent groups of North Eastern States through various measures

- Banning the Unlawful Associations operating in NE Region under the Unlawful Activities.
- Declaring areas/states as 'disturbed areas' and thus bringing them under AFSPA.
- Central Government has been pursuing a policy of talks/negotiations with such groups which are ready to lay down arms and seek solutions for their problems peacefully within constitution of India. Ex: framework agreement with NSCN-IM.
- Counter insurgency operations.

### Conclusion:

Since India's international borders in the North East present mix of both friendly and unfriendly neighbours, a far greater effort needs to be put into the entire strategy of border management and security concerns.

**Best answer: No best answer**

**Q.58) Examine the increasing symbiotic relationship between organised crime cartels and terrorist groups.**

**Introduction:**

Crime and terrorism are critical issues for security officials and investigators all around the world. Earlier, the problems of organized crime and terrorism were considered as separate phenomena but after horrific incident of September 11th attacks, researchers have started linking these two as terrorized occurrences.

Activities of terrorists and organised criminals frequently reinforce each other, where

- Terrorists engage either directly or indirectly in organised crime activities such as trafficking, smuggling, extortion, kidnapping for ransom and the illicit trade of natural resources, for financial and/or material benefits. Such benefits contribute to undermining state security, stability and social and economic development, which in turn create or maintain the conditions for organised criminal groups to flourish.
- On the other side, organised crime groups may employ terrorist tactics, including the strategic use of violence, to enable their objectives.

**Examples-**

- In the Northeast, extortion is the fundamental basis for funding all forms of terrorism. In addition to this, kidnapping has been used extensively for spreading terror and raising funds. Human trafficking, drug trafficking and gun running are some of the other criminal activities that have been common in these areas.
- In J&K, counterfeit currency has been a major source of funding terrorism.
- In the Maoist terror movements, extortion is a common phenomenon.
- The Indian Mujahideen has also resorted to crime to raise funds. This includes robberies, kidnappings, etc.
- There are also a number of insurgent groups which over a period of time have morphed into crime syndicates. What began as an ideological movement is now merely a means of generating profit. This is especially the case with insurgent groups in Northeast India.

**Going forward:**

- Awareness of the growing symbiotic relationship between organized criminal groups, terror and fraud.
- A renewed emphasis on “following the money” trails in all of their varied forms.
- Increased communication between government and industry.
- Data and analytics as force multipliers. We must do a better job of using new analytical tools to proactively connect the dots and thwart fraudulent activity.

**Conclusion:**

The evolving relationship between terrorism and crime poses significant challenges to the international community. The relationship is that of symbiosis and convergence, in which it has become increasingly difficult to draw a meaningful distinction. Solving the issue thus needs global collaboration.

**Best answer: Diwakar**

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