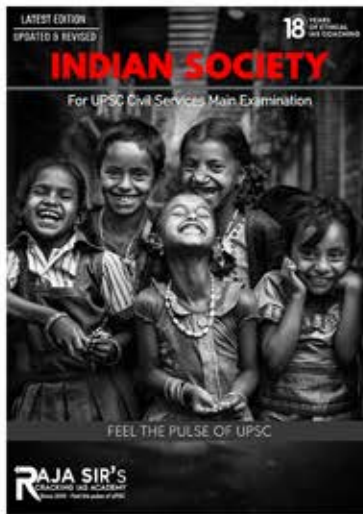


MONTHLY MAINS QUESTION

Answer Writing Practice



Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion.

The term 'sect' refers to a group of people who share common beliefs, practices, and rituals that distinguish them from other

“Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute.” Comment.

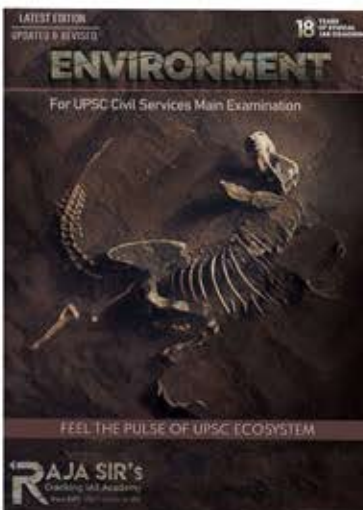
The right to movement and residence throughout India is a fundamental right of utmost significance to Indian citizens. Article 19(1)(d) of the Indian Constitution guarantees.....

Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships.

Many workplaces are adopting work-from-home (WFH) arrangements, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. Work-From-Home (WFH) is "New Normal".

'India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding

The relationship between India and Sri Lanka is more than 2,500 years old.....



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- [Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)
- [How is the growth of Tier 2 Cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption?. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)
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- [Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)
- [Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)
- [What are the forces that influence ocean currents? Describe their role in fishing industry of the world. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)
- [Describing the distribution of rubber producing countries, indicate the major environmental issues faced by them. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)
- [Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)
- [Troposphere is a very significant atmosphere layer that determines weather processes. How? \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)
- [Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)

- [Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)
- [Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India.\(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1\)](#)
- ["The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2\)](#)
- ["Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute." Comment. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2\)](#)
- [To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots?. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2\)](#)
- [Discuss the role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2\)](#)
- [Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes \(NCBC\) in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2\)](#)
- [The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2\)](#)
- [The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.\(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2\)](#)
- [Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2\)](#)
- ['India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement. \(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2\)](#)
- [Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy](#)

objectives realized by forming this new organisation? (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

- Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision?. Refer to the case laws.(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)
- Discuss the essential conditions for exercise of the legislative powers by the Governor. Discuss the legality of re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)
- "While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)
- Critically examine the procedures through which the Presidents of India and France are elected. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)
- Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)
- Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of the society. Discuss.(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)
- Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer.(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)
- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains indadequate in promoting incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological Department. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

IMD has its own colour coding system for warning and information regarding cyclones. The colour codes are used by the department to signify the intensity of the situation and the warning associated with it. These warnings are mainly a part of the preparedness program for handling a natural disaster like a cyclone. The main objective of the colour codes is to alert people of hazardous weather conditions which have the potential to damage properties and lives.

Colour-coded weather warning

- These are issued by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) for explaining the severity of the weather phenomena which has the potential to cause damage, widespread disruption or danger to life.
- These alerts are also issued during floods, depending on the amount of water rising above land/in a river as a result of torrential rainfall. Warnings are updated daily.
- The IMD uses 4 colour codes:
 - **Green (All is well):** No advisory is issued.
 - **Yellow (Be Aware):** Yellow indicates severely bad weather spanning several days. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, disrupting day-to-day activities.
 - **Orange/Amber (Be prepared):** The orange alert is issued as a warning of extremely bad weather with the potential of disruption in commute with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply.
 - **Red (Take Action):** When extremely bad weather conditions are certainly going to disrupt travel and power and have significant risks to life, the red alert is issued.

These alerts are universal and are not used exclusively for cyclones but for a range of natural calamities including floods, heavy rainfall, snowstorms and other dangerous weather events.

Examine the potential of wind energy in India and explain the reasons for their limited spatial spread. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

- As per a report by Fitch Solutions Macro Research, **India is likely to install 54.7 GW of wind capacity by 2022 against the 60 GW target set by the government.** It has also been found that the **land acquisition issues and grid bottlenecks** will lead to delays to project implementation in the wind sector.
- The country has set an ambitious target of installing **175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022**, which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.

Wind Energy Potential of India

- India was one of the early starters in wind energy compared to other nations especially developing nations. It is at the **fourth position internationally** overall wind generation capacity.
- India has **potential of about 60 GW on wind.** It is quite likely that it would go up substantially because over the time some of the old wind power stations that have very low capacity could be replaced with wind turbines which have higher capacity.
- There is **another unexplored area, which is in the oceans.** Across the world, exploration from this area, is at nascent stage. India has a bit of problem because on eastern side it has a lot of cyclones which hit the coast. Probably, it can explore **wind energy on the western side.**
 - India is a country having around 7,700 km long coastline and in all of its exclusive economic zones, it has enough opportunity to harness wind energy.
 - It is found by the National Institute for Wind Energy (based in Chennai) that western states have larger potential in terms of a stable, steady and a speedy windflow starting from **Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka to Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.**
 - In offshore wind energy sector, the Government of India has already allocated Rs. 10,000 crores as the initial seed money from clean energy fund, which is basically collected from coal cess.

Policies Related to Wind Energy in India

- Initially, the Government had the National Wind Power Policy but subsequently both the onshore and offshore wind policies were developed.

- For offshore wind energy, India has a very vibrant policy which came up in October 2015, known as **National Offshore Wind Energy Policy framework**. The objective is to develop the offshore wind energy in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) along the Indian coastline.
- **A Solar-Wind Hybrid policy was issued in May 2018**. The main objective of the policy is to provide a framework for promotion of large grid connected wind-solar photovoltaic (PV) hybrid system for optimal and efficient utilization of wind and solar resources, transmission infrastructure and land. The wind - solar PV hybrid systems will help in reducing the variability in renewable power generation and achieving better grid stability.

Problems in the Wind Energy Sector

- **For the past three years, there has been a lull in the wind power sector**. In 2016-17, India added around 5.5 GW; in 2017-18, it came down to 2 GW.
 - Initially, the growth in the wind energy sector picked up because of the incentives in generation, accelerated depreciation and taxation. **The Government has gradually taken these incentives away**.
 - The lowest bidding price in solar energy is Rs 2.23 per unit whereas in the wind energy, it is about Rs 4.50. **Investors find investment in solar energy sector more lucrative**.
- Policies related to wind energy being still in transition phase.
- The Government of India came with framework with respect to auctioning in December 2017. There is a **ceiling of tariff imposed on every auction**. Winds being region specific, **achieving the particular tariff rate becomes difficult**.
- General challenges with respect to distribution companies (discom risks), for instance, curtailment in power generation, delayed payments to energy producers etc.

Challenges in Harnessing Offshore Wind Energy

- **Offshore entails lot of data collection** before one actually ventures into it. For instance, Germany before it started its first few projects, took eight years of time to collect the metocean data and the geological data.
- For producing wind energy from offshore, **a lot of investment is required** in developing the support infrastructure.
- Presently, Europe is the leader in offshore. The tariffs there is equivalent to what India's onshore tariff is. **Europe's offshore wind energy was supported over the years by incentives. Such a support is missing in India**.

- There is a concern that who would put money on offshore given the **production of solar energy right now being so cheap and onshore wind sector itself not as developed.**

Looking ahead

- India needs to **delink grid development with energy generation.**
- **The Government of India needs to trust the market.** It is the market which has led to low tariffs for solar as well as the wind , so imposition of ceiling leads to arbitrary curtailment of free flow of market mechanism.
 - The government has become prisoner to the proposition that prices or tariffs have to go only down. India's economic history shows that tariffs go up and down whether it is in real estate or in oil sector. In a competitive market situation when for any number of reasons, if price go up, government should learn to live with that.
- **India should first fully exploit onshore potential** and it should also utilize next few years for creating all the data that any investor would require before investing in the offshore wind energy sector.
 - Firstly, India needs to replace inefficient windmills at older sites with new windmills.
- At each stage of harnessing energy from winds, **India needs competitive private investment to drive the progress.**
- There is a **merit in developing solar and wind in a complementary manner.** From grid security perspective, as compared to solar, wind is better in monsoon and night. Also, such a system will require a lower investment.
- The way India has developed its solar energy sector, it needs to think on those lines for the wind energy sector as well.

India is well on track in achieving its paris commitments. India rather should take a challenge of being among the top five countries in the world in getting rid of fossil fuels in the energy sector. Renewable energy is absolutely free and considering wind energy in particular, India has enough opportunity to capitalize untapped potentials both in the offshore and the onshore.

**Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships.
(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)**

Many workplaces are adopting work-from-home (WFH) arrangements, especially since the COVID-19 pandemic. Work-From-Home (WFH) is "New Normal".

Positive Impacts

- **Family Bonding:** As the working member spends more time with the family. This may strengthen the parent-child relationship and Husband-Spouse relationship as well.
- **Taking Care of Elders:** The increasing registration in the Old age homes in India could see a reversing trend.
- **Healthy Habits:** Taking ample rest and eating healthy home food. Also WFH restricts bad habits such as smoking and drinking as in India such habits are not practiced at home and only outside.
- **Work Efficiency:** The calm and homely environment may improve the performance of the employees.

Negative impacts

- **Some cases of Increasing domestic Violence:** When working remotely, it becomes rather simpler for work-related problems to impact marital and family relationships.
- **Distractions:** Such as watching TVs, doing private work, taking care of the child may impact quality of the work.
- **Mental Exhaustion:** Deadlines are very rigid and also employees are attending more meetings to make sure one is accountable.

Strength Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills, Dividing responsibilities and having dedicated work space from home are the need of the hour because WFH "Work from Home" will be the "New Normal" for the future.

How is the growth of Tier 2 Cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption?. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

Since the 2010s, the overcrowding, pollution, and higher cost of living in the tier I cities have compelled the retiring people to move to these cities that offer better prospects to live. At the same time, with an increase in public investment and enhanced internet service availability, tier 2 cities have turned into lucrative spots with higher consumption enabling more people to stay back and even return from metro cities.

Rise of Middle Class in Tier 2 Cities

1. The Digital India and Startup India campaigns, the JAM trinity and Smart Cities Mission have accelerated the urban transformation of Tier 2 and 3 cities in India.
2. With ample savings and low-interest rates over the last few years, the middle class families are making the best of the opportunity and have started investing in homes in tier 2 cities at a very early stage of their professional life.
3. This is possible because of the cheap credit availability in these areas.
4. The cost of living in these cities are about 60% of the Metropolitan cities and hence are very attractive to Middle class families.
5. Moreover, the 'work from home' model amid the COVID-19 pandemic has set off a trend of reverse migration. These workers are mostly from the middle class.
6. Leading multinational firms are embracing the idea of expansion in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities due to multiple advantages of cost-effectiveness, lower land and labour costs, availability of the talent pool, and low attrition rate of the workforce.
7. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry had said recently that nearly 50% of the recognised startups in India were now from tier 2 and 3 cities. These startups had created more than seven lakh jobs.
8. Making a huge leap post-pandemic, these cities that already had a number of benefits to show, such as lower pricing, a greater variety of options, and improved infrastructure, are now promoting their proximity to urban regions, making them an attractive option for commuters who are from the middle class.

Culture of consumption in Tier 2 Cities

1. The Indian government has taken several measures to foster the growth and culture of consumption in these cities. The construction of new airports, highways, and industrial or commercial properties in tier 2 and tier 3 cities is one such endeavour. These airports are intended to increase tourism and commerce, as well as connectivity between various regions of the country.

2. The upcoming large-scale developments such as Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), Metro Neo and Metro Lite will bolster connectivity and put Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities such as Sonipat, Jaipur, Dehradun, etc. on the infrastructure map.
3. Moreover, the cost of materials and labour is lower in these cities, making them an attractive option for business owners.
4. Even in tier- II cities, the opening of malls and multiplexes, pubs, and fast food joints have exposed the younger population to these big-city charms. Starting from the delivery services by most e-commerce players and cab-hailing apps have also targeted their services to these smaller cities, which were only enjoyed so far by big-city residents.

This gradual boom in consumption led by these cities in all verticals makes them the country's actual growth engines. A combination of the rising middle class, a shift in consumption patterns and technological innovation augur well for Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities to emerge as growth engines of the Indian economy.

Read More -

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/times-special/how-the-middle-class-has-turned-cities-into-indias-growth-engine/articleshow/95865472.cms>

Given the diversities among tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category?. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

- European anthropologists, with the arrival of colonialism, applied the term "Tribe" to the people who lived in a "primitive" or "barbarous" condition in backward areas and did not know writing. Since then, the word "tribe" has become a technical and administrative term to denote the aborigines.
- The tribes in India are generally referred as "adivasis", meaning, indigenous people or original inhabitants of the country. Tribal society is often referred varyingly as "primitive society", "folk society", "simple society" and "pre- literate society".
- The tribal people are isolated in ecology, demography, economy, politics and other social behaviour from other ethnic groups. They live in various ecological and geo-climatic conditions ranging from plains and forests to hills and inaccessible

areas. Most of them are in isolation and are considered socially, economically, educationally and technologically backward.

In the conceptualization of tribes in anthropology, three distinct but interrelated elements are intertwined.

1. Firstly, tribes in anthropology are first of all invariably seen as society. It is a society like all other societies. The characteristic of tribe as a society is related through its boundaries. At the same time, boundaries of tribes have been defined- linguistically, culturally and politically by anthropologists. Boundaries set certain limit of interaction in the legal, political, economic and social relation of its members.
 2. Secondly tribes are also seen as a type of society, a society that is different from other types of societies.
 3. Thirdly tribes are also seen, as representing a particular stage in the socio-political formation and with passage of time will move to new stage such as nation, nationality or the nationhood. Now while these three distinct aspects have gone in the making of the concept, the last two have overshadowed the first to which the tribes owe their separate and independent existence.
- In the Indian context tribes were identified and described primarily in terms of them being outside the civilization. It is common experience that groups and communities brought under the broad category of tribe do not identify themselves in terms of tribes, (except by the educated) but by their tribes' name such as the Santhals, the Oraons, the Khasis or the Garos, etc. This truth also necessitates to understand in proper perspective the notion and process of tribal transformation, Sanskritisation and Hinduisation, language factor in tribal identity, the issue of misconstruction of tribal identity, and community life of tribes.

The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process in India since the mid-nineteenth century. This process has involved the creation of new states, the merging of existing states, and the reorganization of administrative units within states.

One of the earliest examples of state reorganization in India was the creation of the province of Bengal in 1856. This was followed by the creation of other provinces, such as Bombay and Madras, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These provinces were formed by merging smaller administrative units, such as princely states and territories, into larger units.

In the post-independence period, the process of state reorganization has continued, with a focus on the creation of states based on linguistic and cultural factors. One of the most significant examples of this was the States Reorganization Act of 1956, which led to the creation of several new states, such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh, based on the principle of linguistic homogeneity.

More recently, there have been calls for the creation of new states, such as Telangana, which was created in 2014, and the proposed state of Gorkhaland in West Bengal. There have also been efforts to reorganize existing states, such as the creation of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in 2019.

Overall, the political and administrative reorganization of states and territories in India has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century, with a focus on creating states based on linguistic and cultural factors and reorganizing existing states for administrative purposes.

Reorganisation of States is a continuous and ongoing process because

1. Advantages of Reorganisation of states

- People of the region gain control over its resources and an organic model of growth can emerge to address their economic aspirations.
- Political stability that arises from better representation of people creates a conducive environment for investment in the region. Thereby encouraging regional economic development.

2. However Reorganisation of states itself is not the solution because

- New states may find themselves lacking in infrastructure (administrative and industrial), which requires time, money and effort to build. As was observed in the creation of Telangana from Andhra Pradesh.
- The stabilization of the government and administrative institutions requires time for resolution of various issues such as division of assets, funds and of the state civil services.
- Territorial issues, disputes over water sharing (e.g. Krishna water dispute between Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra), disagreements over capital (as observed in the case of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana over Hyderabad) are some other issues that can hinder the economic progress of these States and the country.

Mere creation of newer states out of the existing ones cannot guarantee faster and inclusive economic development in the region. The economic benefits from the creation of new states can only be reaped if it is followed by establishment of good governance, sustained socio-political stability and better coordination with the rest of the country. Hence reorganisation of States is a continuous and ongoing process.

Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

The Gupta and Chola periods are considered to be two of the most significant eras in Indian history, spanning over centuries and leaving an indelible mark on Indian heritage and culture. These periods were marked by numerous achievements and innovations, including art, architecture, literature, religion, and science.

The Gupta Period

The Gupta period is known as the Golden Age of India. The period saw the rise of a centralized state, with strong rulers like Chandragupta I, Samudragupta, and Chandragupta II. The period was marked by numerous achievements in various fields, including art, literature, science, and religion.

1. Art and Architecture

: The Gupta period saw the development of the Gupta style of architecture, which is characterized by its elegant and intricate designs. The most notable examples of Gupta architecture are the caves at Ajanta and Ellora. These caves are adorned with exquisite paintings and sculptures that depict various scenes from Hindu mythology.

2. Literature:

The Gupta period saw the development of several literary works in various languages, including Sanskrit, Prakrit, and Pali. The most notable literary works of the period include the plays of Kalidasa, the poetry of Bhartrihari, and the Buddhist texts of Ashvaghosha.

3. Science and Mathematics

: The most notable contribution of the period was the development of the decimal system, which is still used in modern mathematics. The period also saw the development of the concept of zero and the invention of the decimal place value system. The Gupta period was also marked by significant progress in medicine and astronomy.

The Chola Period

The Chola period is considered to be one of the most significant periods in South Indian history. The period saw the rise of the Chola dynasty, which ruled over a vast territory in South India. The Chola period was marked by numerous achievements in various fields, including art, architecture, literature, and religion.

1. Art and Architecture

: The Chola period saw the development of the Dravidian style of architecture, which is characterized by its intricate designs and richly ornamented sculptures. The most notable examples of Chola architecture are the Brihadeshwara Temple and the Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple, both of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

2. Literature

: The Chola period saw the development of several literary works in the Tamil language, including the works of the Tamil poets Thiruvalluvar and Kambar. The most notable literary work of the period is the Thirukkural, a collection of 1,330 couplets that deal with various aspects of human life.

3. Religion

: The Chola period saw significant developments in religion, particularly in the Shaivism tradition. The period saw the construction of several temples dedicated to Lord Shiva, including the Brihadeshwara Temple and the Chidambaram Temple. The period also saw the rise of the Bhakti movement, which emphasized the importance of devotion to God over rituals and ceremonies.

Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

Bull

The significance of the bull as a **symbol of fertility and strength** was widespread in India as early as the **Indus Valley Civilization (about 2000 BC)**, as well as in ancient Egypt, Greece and the Near East. There are many gods and goddesses in Hinduism.

Indian Mythology

- **Nandikeshwara or Nandideva** is the bull **vahana of Lord Shiva**.
- The bull is also a **symbol of First Jain Tirthankara Adinatha**.
- In Buddhism **'Bull' is related to the Janma (Birth)**.

Indian Art and Architecture

- **Bull** is seen **painted** in the prehistoric **rock shelters- Bhimbetka**.
- Prehistoric clay modelers are working out **terracotta bulls**.
- Several **steatite seals and sealings** with **bull figures in Indus Valley**.
- The **bull appeared on the silver punch-marked coins, on copper cast coins** in some Kusana emperors and of Skandagupta.
- **Many Emblems** of Indian history such as **Rashtrakuta, and Pallavas contain Bull**.
- **Feature of Gavaksha**: Gavaksha means bull's or cow's eye. **Found in Lomash Rishi Caves and Barabar Caves**. Early rock-cut chaitya halls use the same ogee shape for the main window needed to illuminate the interior, and often also have small relief window motifs as decoration.
- **Bull Capital of Mauryan Empire: Rampurva Bull**

Lion

Lions have been widely used in sculpture to provide a sense of majesty and awe, especially on public buildings. Lions were bold creatures and many ancient cities would have an abundance of lion sculptures to show strength in numbers as well.

Indian Mythology

- **Narasimha**- Avatar of Vishnu.
- Lions are also found in **Buddhism symbolism**. In Buddhism, lions are symbolic of the Bodhisattvas.
- **Yali** is a Hindu mythological creature portrayed with the head and body of a lion.
- Lion shown as **vahana of Druga**.

Indian Art and Architecture

- **Pillars of Ashoka**

- **Used in painting** throughout Indian history.
- Used in **Numismatics such as Western Chalukayas**.

The symbolism of animals is extremely important in Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist mythology. As a result, the value of animals and birds transcends their natural existence into the domain of the spiritual and reflected in architecture and arts. Animals are also revered in this country, therefore their importance in spiritual arts and Indian and tribal art forms is undeniable.

What are the forces that influence ocean currents? Describe their role in fishing industry of the world. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

Ocean currents play a crucial role in the distribution of heat, nutrients, and marine life throughout the world's oceans. These currents are driven by a variety of forces, including wind, temperature, and the Earth's rotation. Understanding these forces and how they influence ocean currents is essential to many industries, including the fishing industry.

Forces that influence ocean currents:

1. **Wind:** The wind is one of the primary forces that influence ocean currents. The wind creates surface currents, which are responsible for distributing heat and nutrients across the ocean. The wind also creates upwelling, which is the process by which deep, nutrient-rich water is brought to the surface. Upwelling is crucial to the fishing industry, as it provides an abundance of nutrients for marine life.
2. **Temperature:** Temperature is another significant force that influences ocean currents. Warm water is less dense than cold water, so it tends to rise to the surface. This creates surface currents that move warm water away from the equator and towards the poles. Cold water, on the other hand, is denser than warm water and tends to sink. This creates deep ocean currents that move cold water toward the equator.
3. **Salinity:** Salinity, or the concentration of salt in the water, is another important force that influences ocean currents. When water evaporates, it leaves behind salt, which increases the salinity of the water. This increases the water's density, causing it to sink and creating deep ocean currents. Areas of high salinity, such as the Mediterranean Sea, can also create surface currents that move water toward areas of lower salinity.

4. The Earth's rotation: The Earth's rotation also influences ocean currents. The Coriolis effect, which is caused by the rotation of the Earth, causes moving objects, including ocean currents, to appear to deflect to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere. This deflection causes ocean currents to move in a circular pattern, known as a gyre.

Role of ocean currents in the fishing industry:

Ocean currents play a crucial role in the fishing industry. The distribution of nutrients and marine life is influenced by ocean currents, which affect where fish are found and how abundant they are in different areas. Some of the most significant ways that ocean currents impact the fishing industry include:

1. Upwelling: Upwelling is the process by which deep, nutrient-rich water is brought to the surface. This process is essential to the fishing industry, as it provides an abundance of nutrients for marine life. Areas of upwelling, such as the coasts of Peru and West Africa, are known for their rich fishing grounds.
2. Migration patterns: Ocean currents also influence the migration patterns of fish. Some species of fish, such as salmon, are known to migrate long distances to reach their spawning grounds. Ocean currents can impact the timing and location of these migrations, which can affect the fishing industry's ability to catch these fish.
3. Fishing locations: Ocean currents also influence where fish are found. Areas with high nutrient concentrations, such as upwelling zones, tend to have more abundant fish populations. The Gulf Stream, for example, is known for its rich fishing grounds, particularly for tuna and swordfish.
4. Climate patterns: Ocean currents also play a role in climate patterns. The movement of warm and cold water influences regional weather patterns, which can impact the fishing industry. Changes in ocean currents can also lead to changes in water temperature, which can affect the migration patterns and abundance of fish.

Wind, temperature, salinity, and the Earth's rotation all contribute to the distribution of nutrients and marine life in the world's oceans. Upwelling, migration patterns, fishing locations, and climate patterns are all impacted by ocean currents and affect the fishing industry's ability to catch fish. Understanding these forces and their role in ocean currents is essential to the fishing industry's sustainability and success. As we continue to study and monitor these forces, we can better manage and protect our oceans' resources for future generations.

Describing the distribution of rubber producing countries, indicate the major environmental issues faced by them. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

Natural rubber contributes to deforestation, biodiversity loss, pollution, and more. But climate change and disease also threaten natural rubber producing countries.

- There are 28 countries worldwide that produce natural rubber.
- The most distinct characteristics they share is a tropical climate. Tropical climates with consistent temperatures around 25-30 degrees and rainfall of 200 cm support healthy rubber trees .
- Countries with this ideal equatorial climate that produce natural rubber are found primarily in south America ,Africa ,and southeast Asia.
- for decades Thailand has been the worlds biggest producer of rubber , growing 35% of worlds natural rubber supply in 2019 .
- The top five countries that produced the most rubber in 2019 are Thailand ,Indonesia , Vietnam ,India and china.

Environmental issues

- Deforestation-growing natural rubber is leading cause of deforestation in mainland south Asia
- Biodiversity loss . rubber is grown by deforestation of equatorial vegetation which are known for their species biodiversity .
- Climate change -deforestation of equatorial vegetation which are known as lungs of the forest will affect the carbon sequestration and this accentuated the rate of global warming
- Diseases -rubber being a monoculture plantation is highly vulnerable to pest attacks and diseases .
- Man animal conflicts -monkey human conflict in tripper because of deforestation of land for rubber plantation.
- Cases of stealing of land from indigenous communities .
- Pollution – sulphate are released from latex processing facilities (latex are extracted from rubber trees)
- a large-scale of natural rubber plantation results in environmental issues such as the Nitrous oxide (N₂O) emission which is obtained from the use of synthetic fertilizer during the cultivation process.

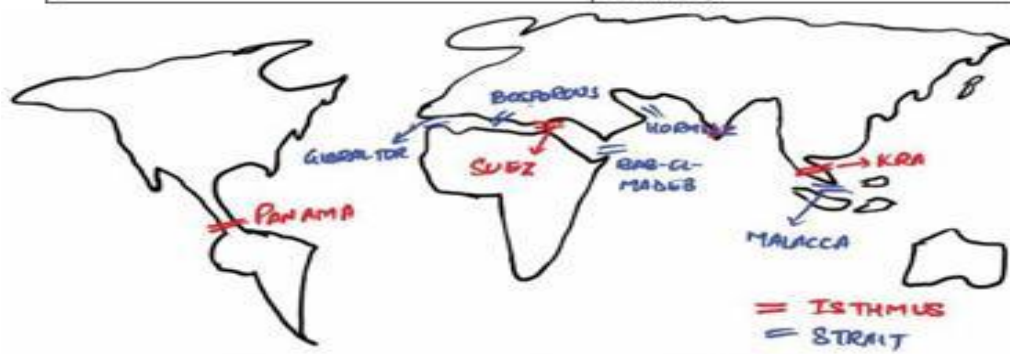
- The postulate of Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) was employed to examine the relationship between economy and environment from the natural rubber plantation in major producers using secondary data ranging from 2005 to 2018.
- Therefore, the N₂O emission in which represents environmental degradation was regressed with the value of natural rubber production as the proxy for the economy growth using a fixed effect model on the panel data regression analysis.
- Results show that there is an inverted U-shape curve from the relationship between the N₂O emissions and the value of natural rubber production. Hence, this study supports the postulate of EKC's hypothesis.
- In addition, results found that the average value of natural rubber production from major producers was not yet reached the turning point of EKC.
- Some suggestions were made in order to increase the productivity while maintaining yet reducing the emission obtained from the use of synthetic fertilizer during cultivation process.

The best way to ensure more responsible production of natural rubber is to grow trees for rubber production on low quality degraded land instead of clearing high quality natural forests to plant them.

Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

Strait is a navigable waterway that connects two large water bodies, while Isthmus is a thin strip of land that connects two larger areas of land.

Straits	Isthmus
<p>An isthmus is a narrow strip of land that connects two larger landmasses and separates two bodies of water. Isthmuses have been strategic locations for centuries. They are natural sites for ports and canals linking terrestrial and aquatic trade routes. Isthmuses are also key sites for communications and cultural exchange, as well as military outposts.</p>	<p>A strait is a narrow body of water that connects two larger bodies of water. It may be formed by a fracture in an isthmus, a narrow body of land that connects two bodies of water. Tectonic shifts can lead to straits like this. One strait that was formed by tectonic activity is the Strait of Gibraltar, the only link between the Mediterranean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. If fractures in an isthmus are created by human activity, the straits are usually called canals.</p>
<p>Example: The Isthmus of Panama in Panama links the continents of North and South America, and separates the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.</p>	<p>Example: The Suez Canal. A strait can also be formed by a body of water overflowing land that has subsided or has been eroded. The Bosphorus, which links the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea, was formed this way.</p>



Importance of control over Isthmuses and Straits

- Control over straits and Isthmuses by a country helps it to establish good control over the connected sea and shipping lanes of the region.
- It helps in exploring the wealth that lies beneath the sea in the form of minerals, oil and gas.
- Countries with control over straits impose heavy charges on foreign ships passing through the straits.

- It also helps to exploit the marine commercial activities like aquaculture
- Isthmuses are key sites for communications and cultural exchange, as well as military outposts.

These factors make Isthmuses and Straits strategically as well as economically of great importance.

Examples of Isthmuses

- Isthmus of Panama is the narrow strip of land that lies between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. This strait is of great economic importance and links North and South America.
- Isthmus of Suez is a strip of land that lies between the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. It connects the continents of Africa and Asia together.

Examples of Straits

- Strait of Hormuz- It is a stretch of water between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman that provides sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean in the region. About 20 percent of the world petroleum traded via sea route is transported through this strait. This makes the strait of great economic and strategic importance to Middle East countries. Control over the Strait of Hormuz by countries has remained a controversial subject. However, currently, Iran and Oman share territorial rights over the same.
- Strait of Malacca- It is a narrow stretch of water between the Malay Peninsula and Indonesian island of Sumatra. It is the main shipping channel between the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean that connects the Asian economies via sea route. Nearly, 60000 to 94,000 merchant ships, oil and gas cargos sail annually through this strait.

Troposphere is a very significant atmosphere layer that determines weather processes. How? (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

The troposphere is the region within the atmosphere between the earth's surface and the tropopause that is centred at an altitude of about 8-15 kilometres. This region is characterized by **decreasing temperature with increasing altitude**.

Importance of troposphere to life on earth

- The study of the troposphere is very important because we breathe the air in this layer of air.

- The troposphere contains about 85% of the atmosphere's total mass. Tropospheric processes, such as the water or hydrologic cycle (the formation of clouds and rain) and the greenhouse effect, have a great influence on meteorology and the climate.
- The chemical composition determines the air quality. Certain components, even if they are only present in small amounts, may harm health and vegetation.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance to understand how the activities of humans influence the troposphere.

The troposphere has a direct contact with the Earth's surface

The troposphere has a direct contact with the Earth's surface. It is therefore very sensitive to processes occurring at this level, like:

- evaporation of oceans
- photosynthesis in plants
- respiration of living creatures
- human activities

Temperature decrease with altitude in troposphere

The troposphere differs from the stratosphere by the usually more rapid mixing of tropospheric air. One says that the troposphere is "turbulent". This turbulence is partly connected to the "thermal profile" of the troposphere: the temperature decreases with the altitude, at an average of 6°C per kilometre.

This phenomenon favours the fast convection of air from the lowest layers to higher altitudes in the troposphere. This convection goes hand in hand with the formation of clouds, the so-called convective clouds.

Troposphere is protected from hard UV radiation

Furthermore, the troposphere is protected from the hard ultraviolet radiation of the Sun by the higher layers of the atmosphere, namely by the stratospheric ozone layer. Because of this protection, many molecules are more stable in the troposphere than elsewhere in the atmosphere. This protection makes life possible on Earth.

Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

The term 'sect' refers to a group of people who share common beliefs, practices, and rituals that distinguish them from other groups. In Indian society, the concept of the sect has a significant role in shaping the social, cultural, and religious landscape. It is essential to analyze the salience of 'sect' in Indian society, vis-a-vis caste, region, and religion, to understand the dynamics of the social structure and its impact on individual and collective identity.

The Role of Sects in Indian Society:

- Sects in Indian society are primarily organized around religious beliefs and practices. The Indian subcontinent has a diverse range of religious sects, including Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism, and Islam, among others. These sects are further divided into sub-sects, each with its own distinct beliefs and practices. For instance, in Hinduism, there are several sects, including Shaivism, Vaishnavism, Shaktism, Smartism, and others. Each sect has its own set of beliefs and practices, including the worship of specific deities, observance of specific rituals, and adherence to specific codes of conduct.
- The salience of 'sect' in Indian society is closely intertwined with other social categories, such as caste, region, and religion. For instance, in Hinduism, caste and sect are closely linked, with each caste group having its own religious practices and beliefs. Similarly, in Islam, there are different sects, such as Sunni and Shia, each with its own set of beliefs and practices. Religion and region are also closely linked, with certain regions being associated with specific religious traditions. For instance, North India is primarily associated with Hinduism, while the South is associated with Hinduism, Islam, and Christianity.

Social Identity:

- The concept of the sect has a significant impact on social identity in Indian society. Individuals' identification with a particular sect often determines their social status and the social groups they belong. In the Hindu caste system, one's sect determines their caste, which, in turn, determines their occupation, social status, and access to resources. Similarly, in Islam, the sect one belongs to can have a significant impact on their social status and the social groups to which one belongs to.
- The concept of the sect also impacts individual and collective identity formation. Individuals often identify themselves based on their sect, which shapes their

religious beliefs, practices, and values. This, in turn, impacts their social interactions and relationships, as they tend to associate with individuals from the same sect. The concept of the sect also shapes collective identity formation, as individuals from the same sect often come together to form social and religious organizations that promote their shared beliefs and practices.

Inter-Group Relations:

- The concept of the sect also plays a significant role in inter-group relations in Indian society. Sects often compete for resources and influence, leading to conflict and tensions between different sects. For instance, in Hinduism, there have been historical tensions between Shaivites and Vaishnavites, as both sects venerate different deities and have different beliefs and practices. Similarly, in Islam, there have been tensions between Sunni and Shia sects, as they have different beliefs and practices.
- However, sects can also facilitate inter-group cooperation and solidarity. Individuals from the same sect often come together to support each other in times of need and form social and religious organizations that promote their shared beliefs and practices. Sects can also facilitate inter-group dialogue and cooperation, as individuals from different sects come together to share their beliefs and practices and learn from each other.

Sects are hence closely intertwined with other social categories, such as caste, region, and religion, and impact individual and collective identity formation, social status, and inter-group relations. While sects can lead to conflicts and tensions, they can also facilitate inter-group cooperation and dialogue. Therefore, understanding the dynamics of sects in Indian society is essential for promoting social cohesion, inter-group understanding, and harmony.

Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

India is a pluralistic country with multiple religions, languages, and cultures. The idea of secularism has been an integral part of the Indian ethos since its inception. India's Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion to all citizens, and the government is expected to remain neutral in matters of religion. However, the concept of secularism in India is different from the Western notion of secularism. In India, tolerance, assimilation, and pluralism are considered to be the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism.

- **Tolerance:** Tolerance is the first and foremost element of Indian secularism. It is the ability to respect and accept differences among people of different religions, cultures, and beliefs. Tolerance allows people to live together harmoniously without fear of persecution or discrimination. It is not just about accepting different beliefs but also acknowledging and embracing the diversity of Indian society. Tolerance is the cornerstone of the Indian Constitution, and it is enshrined in the Preamble, which declares India to be a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic.
- **Assimilation:** Assimilation is the second element of Indian secularism. It is the process by which people of different cultures, religions, and beliefs come together to form a common national identity. India's history is full of examples of assimilation, where people of different cultures and religions have come together to form a distinct Indian identity. One of the best examples of assimilation is Indian cuisine, which is a blend of various regional cuisines. Indian music, dance, and literature are also the result of assimilation, where different cultures have come together to create a unique Indian identity.
- **Pluralism:** Pluralism is the third element of Indian secularism. It is the recognition and acceptance of diversity within society. India is a country with multiple religions, languages, and cultures. Pluralism recognizes and respects this diversity and provides equal opportunities to all communities. The Indian Constitution provides for the protection of minority communities, and it ensures that they have equal rights and opportunities. Pluralism is not just about accepting diversity, but it is also about celebrating it.

The role of tolerance, assimilation, and pluralism in Indian secularism:

- Tolerance, assimilation, and pluralism have played a significant role in the making of Indian secularism. The Indian Constitution guarantees freedom of religion to all citizens, and the government is expected to remain neutral in matters of religion. The concept of secularism in India is different from the Western notion of secularism, where religion is kept separate from the state. In India, secularism is about acknowledging and respecting the diversity of Indian society.
- Tolerance has played a significant role in maintaining communal harmony in India. Indian society is diverse, with multiple religions and cultures coexisting peacefully. Tolerance has allowed people of different religions to live together harmoniously without fear of persecution or discrimination.
- Assimilation has helped in creating a distinct Indian identity. Indian cuisine, music, dance, and literature are all the result of assimilation, where people of different cultures have come together to create a unique Indian identity. Assimilation has helped in creating a sense of belongingness among people of different cultures and religions.
- Pluralism has played a significant role in providing equal opportunities to all communities. The Indian Constitution provides for the protection of minority communities, and it ensures that they have equal rights and opportunities. Pluralism has helped in recognizing and respecting the diversity within society and has played a significant role in the making of Indian secularism.

The diversity of India's religions, languages, and cultures is a strength that has been fostered through these elements, allowing for peaceful coexistence and a unique national identity. The Indian Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion and equal opportunities for all communities, while also ensuring the protection of minority communities. The concept of Indian secularism is distinct from the Western notion of secularism, and it is rooted in the idea of acknowledging and respecting diversity. Tolerance, assimilation, and pluralism continue to be essential elements in the making of Indian secularism, promoting communal harmony and providing a sense of belongingness to all communities.

Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India.(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 1)

Globalization and technology are reshaping India's geography by transforming flows of resources, goods and people. While enabling access to resources and markets worldwide, these forces also disrupt local ecologies, economies and communities dependent on them in the face of scarcity. An understanding of this relationship is vital to navigate India's development sustainably.

- Changing patterns of resource use: Imports and exports linked to global supply chains as well as technology-aided extraction have intensified use of land, water and minerals, causing overuse and pollution. Examples are groundwater depletion for export crops, pollution from mining of rare minerals used in tech, land degradation from SEZs. Despite scarcity, inefficient resource use continues due to lack of safeguards.
- Uneven spread of benefits: Global cities and tech hubs attract high-skilled jobs, investments in infrastructure and amenities through global networks. However, this concentrates incomes, wealth and access in already developed regions, excluding others from new economic possibilities. This uneven geography exacerbates inequity and marginalization.
- Threats to local livelihoods and culture: Globalized production, trade in commodities and adoption of technologies often displace traditional occupations and lifestyles by degrading the resources they rely on or changing demand for certain skills. This disrupts local economies, cultural diversity and indigenous knowledge systems.
- Examples: Peri-urban landscapes in India are under stress from industrialization for export goods and tech parks. Coastal aquifers are depleted to produce rice, cotton and shrimp for global markets. Adivasi lands are taken for mining rare earths used in tech. Handloom livelihoods suffer from global brands and ecommerce.

Globalization and technology provide new opportunities but also disrupt India's local geographies by straining natural resources, benefitting some regions over others and undermining traditional livelihoods. Balancing global flows with sustainability, equity and community requires policy interventions to regulate resource use, redistribute gains of globalization, and support localized economies. A globally-engaged but locally-rooted development model is key to India's prosperity.

"The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

The process of constitutionalizing environmental issues involves linking them to the infringement of the fundamental rights of individuals or communities, or the failure of the government to uphold its responsibility to implement directive principles aimed at addressing environmental concerns, in order to bring a sense of significance and urgency to these issues.

Few Judicial pronouncement that led to constitutionalisation of environmental problems are:

- *Dehradun Quarrying Case*: Right to live in a health environment as part of Article 21 was first recognised.
- *MC Mehta Case*: The Supreme Court introduced the “polluters pay principle” or the principle of absolute liability, making hazardous industries responsible for any environmental damage caused by their activities.
- *PA Jacob vs Superintendent of Police Kottayam*: Freedom of speech under Article 19(1)(a) does not include freedom to use loudspeakers and hence, loudspeakers can be controlled under Article 19(1) of the constitution.
- *Cooverjee B. Bharucha vs Excise Commissioner, Ajmer, 1954*: Courts can impose reasonable restriction right to trade (Article 19(1)(g) and occupation to protect environment.
- *Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum case*: Precautionary Principle and Polluter Pays Principles are essential features of sustainable development.
- The Supreme Court, in the case of *Subhash Kumar vs. State of Bihar (1991)*, recognized the right to a pollution-free environment as a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution, thus giving it constitutional validity.
- The Supreme Court established the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) to prevent the misuse of funds raised for afforestation, which led to the enactment of the *CAMPA Act 2016*, securing the citizens’ right to compensatory afforestation.

As the protector of fundamental rights, the Supreme Court has effectively utilized legal provisions and judicial rulings to safeguard citizens’ right to a dignified life by recognizing the right to a clean environment as a fundamental right.

**“Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute.” Comment.
(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)**

- The right to movement and residence throughout India is a fundamental right of utmost significance to Indian citizens.
- Article 19(1)(d) of the Indian Constitution guarantees the freedom of movement within the country to every citizen and shareholders of a company, but not to foreigners or legal entities such as corporations. The right to movement encompasses both internal and external dimensions, but Article 19(1)(d) only protects the former.
- Restrictions on this freedom can only be imposed on two grounds – public interest and the protection of the interests of Scheduled Tribes – as stated in Article 19(5) of the constitution.
- Indian citizens also have the right to reside and settle in any part of the country, as enshrined in Article 19(1)(e). However, this right is also subject to reasonable restrictions.
- Despite these fundamental rights, certain limitations have been imposed to protect the interests of Scheduled Tribes in India, as outlined in the Fifth and Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which regulate the transfer and allotment of land in these areas.
- Additionally, in the case of *State of Uttar Pradesh v. Kaushaliya* (1963), the Supreme Court held that the right of movement of prostitutes may be restricted on the grounds of public health and morals.
- Thus, while these rights enhance the mobility of Indian citizens, they are not absolute and are subject to certain restrictions to maintain a balance between freedom and the interests of the people.

To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots?. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

The **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments** of the Indian Constitution established a third tier of government at the grassroots level, creating legal provisions for local self-rule through Panchayati Raj and Municipalities. **Article 40** of the Indian Constitution directs States to organize Village Panchayats and empower them with the ability to function as units of self-government.

Achievement of Decentralisation of Power

- **Local Decision-Making:** Local people have the opportunity to participate in decision-making on issues at the local level.
- **Women's Representation:** The reservation of 33% for women has increased their voice and representation in democracy.
- **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan:** The tireless work of local bodies has led to India achieving open-defecation free status in 2019.
- **Literacy Campaign:** Arati Devi, a sarpanch in a village in Ganjam district in Odisha, is credited with launching a literacy campaign for women and reviving traditional folk art in Ganjam.
- **Self-Help Groups:** Meena Behen, a sarpanch from a village in Gujarat, has worked to cultivate leadership skills in self-help groups (SHGs).

Some Issues with the Decentralisation of Power

- **Financial Constraints:** Local bodies have limited powers to levy taxes and cesses, leading to inadequate finances.
- **Inefficient Distribution of Functions:** The functions of Panchayats and Panchayat Samitis often overlap, causing confusion and duplication of efforts.
- **Absence of Coordination:** There is a lack of coordination between government officials and local representatives.
- **Limited Functions:** The responsibilities of providing basic services such as education, health, sanitation, and water supply remain primarily with the State Governments.

To enable local bodies and Panchayats to have a greater impact on human capital initiatives, they require **sufficient financial resources as well as clear functions and qualified personnel**. The level of autonomy in governance provided to the 5th and 6th Schedule States should be extended to all states.

Discuss the role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

The position of Vice-President of India is considered the second highest constitutional office after the President. The **Constitution of India addresses the office of the Vice-President in Part V, Articles 63-71.**

Role of the Vice-Presidents of India as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

- The **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha presides over the meetings of the House** and ensures that the proceedings are conducted in accordance with relevant constitutional provisions and conventions.
- **Communications to the President are made through the Chairman**, and he also communicates the decisions of the House to the concerned authorities.
- The **Chairman is empowered to adjourn or suspend the sitting of the House** in the absence of quorum.
- The **Chairman does not take part in the deliberations** of the House, except in the discharge of his duties as the Presiding Officer.
- When a Bill is passed by the Houses and is in possession of the Rajya Sabha, the Chairman authenticates the Bill before presenting it to the President for assent.
- The **Chairman exercises only a casting vote** in the case of equality of votes.
- The **Chairman is the custodian and guardian of the rights and privileges of the House** and its members.
- The **Chairman determines the question of disqualification of a member** of the Rajya Sabha on the ground of defection.
- The Secretariat of Rajya Sabha functions under the control and direction of the Chairman of the House.

The Vice-President of India holds a dual role as both the second-in-command of the Executive branch and as the Presiding Officer of the Upper House of Parliament.

Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

The NCBC, originally a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, was granted constitutional status by the 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 2018.

Various transformations that have happened in the new NCBC

- The National Commission on Backward Classes (NCBC) was **previously a statutory body, deriving its powers from laws made by Parliament**. However, after the **102nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 2018**, the NCBC has been granted constitutional status, thereby deriving its powers and authorities directly from the Indian Constitution.
- With the insertion of **Article 338B by the 102nd CAA**, the NCBC is now empowered to examine complaints and implement welfare measures, which was lacking in its previous form.
- The **102nd CAA also introduced a new Article 342A**, which brings in greater transparency as it mandates the concurrence of Parliament for any amendment to the list of backward classes.
- The new NCBC's **focus has shifted from reservation to the development of backward classes and the inclusion of grievance redressal measures**.

Nevertheless, certain issues remain unresolved, such as the **non-binding nature of the NCBC's recommendations** and its **lack of authority to determine the definition of backwardness**.

As such, the NCBC is a crucial commission for promoting social advancement. It ought to adopt a **gender-sensitive approach**, and its policies should be implemented without succumbing to vote bank politics.

The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

PM Gati-Shakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development. The approach is driven by **7 engines, namely: Railways, Roads, Ports, Waterways, Airports, Mass Transport, Logistics Infrastructure.**

This strategy is **energized by the utilization of clean energy and the collaborative efforts of the Central Government, state governments, and private sector**, resulting in significant job creation and entrepreneurial opportunities for everyone.

Need for the Government and the Private sector coordination

- The goal is to **improve the quality and efficiency** of services offered, which will result in better outcomes for the people.
- **Exchange of knowledge** and skills between individuals, teams, and organizations helps to enhance managerial abilities and lead to better decision-making.
- **Driving investments and financing** will allow for more capital to be available, which can be utilized to drive economic growth and development.
- The **mobilization of additional resources** will help to fund and support various activities such as infrastructure projects, education, healthcare, etc.
- **Encouraging innovation and technology** development will drive growth and create new opportunities for entrepreneurs and businesses.
- **Optimal utilization of government** investments and infrastructure is necessary to ensure that resources are used efficiently and effectively.
- **Cost-effectiveness and competitiveness** are critical for businesses to thrive and be successful in a competitive market.
- **Addressing structural and environmental issues** is essential to ensure sustainable development and long-term economic growth.
- **Promoting coordination, collaboration, and cooperative development** will encourage collective action and help to build stronger partnerships between individuals, organizations, and governments.

Looking forward

- **Strengthening the feasibility mapping** of the project is necessary to ensure that the project can be implemented successfully and achieve its objectives.

- **Viability gap funds** are public funds that can be used to support infrastructure projects that are not financially viable on their own. Using these funds can help to ensure that the project is financially sustainable.
- **Prudent fiscal reporting and risk allocation** monitoring are crucial to ensure that all stakeholders understand the financial implications and risks involved in the project.
- **Redesigning the PPP model** can help to improve its effectiveness and efficiency, making it a more viable option for infrastructure development. This can lead to increased private sector participation and better outcomes for the public.

The **National Infrastructure Pipeline projects** related to the seven engines will be synchronized with the PM Gati-Shakti framework, enabling the incorporation of digital technology in Indian infrastructure and enhancing project execution and efficiency.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

The **Right to Persons with Disability Act** was implemented on April 19, 2017, to enforce the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, thereby shifting the emphasis from the medical model to the social or human rights model of disability, which focuses on society rather than the individual.

Challenges Associated with RPD Act, 2016

- Despite the Accessible India Campaign, most buildings in India remain inaccessible to people with disabilities due to **lax implementation**. Many reserved positions remain vacant.
- People with disabilities face challenges in accessing **healthcare, education, and employment** opportunities due to a lack of awareness, care, and accessible facilities. They also have lower employment rates than others.
- People with **disabilities face discrimination** and a dual burden of stigma and a lack of understanding of their rights, which hinders their ability to achieve their goals.
- People with disabilities face obstacles in **political participation** due to the lack of real-time data, barriers to voting, and limited opportunities for involvement in party politics.

Need for Sensitisation

- To reduce institutional obstacles and follow judicial decisions.
- To efficiently and promptly implement government schemes and initiatives.
- People should show empathy towards people with disabilities, and institutions should focus on providing them with livelihood opportunities.
- Upholding inherent dignity, individual autonomy, and freedom of choice.
- Ensuring non-discrimination, accessibility, and equal opportunities for all.
- Valuing differences and accepting people with disabilities as part of humanity.

Looking forward

- **Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR)** approach and promoting social awareness.
- **Raising public awareness** and understanding of disability to change attitudes.
- **Collaborating with states** and conducting proper scrutiny and tracking of allocated funds.

Although the government and judiciary have embraced a rights-based approach to disability, effective implementation of the Act would necessitate consistent monitoring to ensure that its provisions are being fully and faithfully carried out.

Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

With the aim of promoting transparency and accountability, the government has implemented the direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme as part of its welfare programs. The concept of the DBT scheme was recommended by the Nandan Nilekani committee in 2011. By transferring subsidies directly into beneficiaries' accounts, the DBT can reduce instances of duplicate payments, fraud, and leakage. **Examples of DBT schemes include PM KISAN YOJANA, MGNREGA Scheme, and PAHAL YOJANA.**

In the field of Government delivery system, DBT is a progressive step in many ways such as-

- DBT prevents fraud by eliminating duplicate beneficiaries.
- It enables targeted delivery and reduces payment delays.
- DBT eliminates intermediaries or middlemen, reducing opportunities for corruption and exploitation of poor beneficiaries.

- DBT facilitates the speedy flow of targeted funds and services, thus fulfilling the positive aspirations of the citizen charter.

Although **DBT is a positive development in the government's delivery system, there are some limitations that require attention.** Some of limitations are as follows-

- The lack of access to banking services excludes many beneficiaries from DBT.
- DBT cannot reach its full potential due to the lack of financial literacy among the masses.
- Mismatches between Aadhaar card data and biometric data create issues in the service delivery system.
- Networking issues in remote and rural areas can cause delays in service delivery.

Looking forward

- A **strong technical infrastructure** and capacity building is necessary.
- **Collaboration and coordination** among government departments is crucial for efficient service delivery.
- **Financial literacy awareness programs** should be implemented to maximize the potential of DBT.
- A **single window redressal platform** should be established to address issues related to direct benefit transfers.

'India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

The relationship between India and Sri Lanka is more than 2,500 years old. Both countries have a legacy of intellectual, cultural, religious and linguistic interaction. In recent years, the relationship has been marked by close contacts at all levels. Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena has said that India is the biggest friend of the island nation in times of crisis. Sri Lanka declared bankruptcy last year and defaulted on its \$51 billion foreign loans for the first time since independence from Britain in 1948. India has played a significant role in aiding the island nation over the last year to tide over the economic crisis.

Sri Lanka facing economic crisis:

1. External shocks and official incompetence are to blame. For Instance, Sri Lankan Government's faulty policy of introducing organic farming overnight by banning

the import of chemical fertilisers in 2021 severely impacted agricultural production.

2. Inflation is running at more than 50%.
3. The country doesn't have enough fuel for essential services like buses, trains and medical vehicles.
4. It doesn't have enough foreign currency to import more.
5. Schools have closed, and people have been asked to work from home to help conserve supplies.

Role of India in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka

1. India's bilateral assistance to Sri Lanka to deal with the economic crisis can be divided into two broad categories:
 - 1) assistance to meet the immediate requirements and
 - 2) assisting Sri Lanka in its effort to revive the sectors which got affected due to the global pandemic and foreign reserves crisis.
2. To meet the immediate requirements, the Government of India has provided food, health and energy security packages as well as foreign reserves support amounting to more than US\$ 3.5 billion including a concessional loan of US\$ 1 billion to the Government of Sri Lanka.
3. A Line of Credit (LOC) of US\$ 500 million for financing purchase of petroleum product such as diesel, petrol and aviation fuel.
4. In order to support the dwindling foreign reserves, India has extended a currency swap facility of US\$ 400 million under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework 2019-22.
5. Furthermore, a large consignment of drugs and medical supplies was gifted to various hospitals in Sri Lanka responding to the urgent requirement for drugs.
6. India has committed to assist Sri Lanka in its effort to revive the tourism sector. The establishment of the air bubble arrangement between India and Sri Lanka in April 2021 and the inaugural flight from Sri Lanka to Kushinagar airport in October 2021 are significant developments in this regard.
7. India must consider granting Sri Lanka a moratorium on debt repayment and/or the option of restructuring the debt owed to it. This will not only help Colombo better allocate its limited revenues toward meeting the immediate needs of the people such as food, medicine, and fuel but also go a long way in building some much needed goodwill amongst its leadership.
8. India has played a significant role in the IMF as well as in the regional and plurilateral organisations in encouraging other countries to support Sri Lanka in

dealing with the post-COVID normalization of economic activity. Conclusion India's assistance to Sri Lanka is in line with its policy of "neighbourhood first" and vision for "Security and Growth for All (SAGAR)."

These twin principles underline India's emphasis on emerging as a first respondent as well as working in collaboration with other countries to meet the requirements of neighbouring countries in the Region. The Sri Lankan crisis is not just a domestic problem. It has a spill-over effect on India and other countries in the region too. Hence India has adopted a multi-pronged approach to the Sri Lankan crisis not just to provide immediate assistance, but also to help the country in reviving the economy and stability.

Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation? (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

BIMSTEC

- The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a regional multilateral organisation.
- Its members lie in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
- Out of the 7 members,
 - Five are from South Asia –
 - **Bangladesh**
 - **Bhutan**
 - **India**
 - **Nepal**
 - **Sri Lanka**
 - Two are from Southeast Asia –
 - **Myanmar**
 - **Thailand**
 - BIMSTEC not only connects South and Southeast Asia, but also the ecologies of the Great Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal.

- It mainly aims to create an enabling environment for rapid economic development; accelerate social progress; and promote collaboration on matters of common interest in the region.

SAARC

- SAARC- **South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation** has **eight member countries**: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- SAARC was first envisioned in the late 1970s by Gen. Ziaur Rahman, the military dictator of Bangladesh.
- Initially, **India was apprehensive about SAARC** because it perceived the grouping to be an attempt by its smaller neighbours to unite against it.
- It feared that the association might lead to Asia's own Cold War, creating a pro-Soviet---anti-Soviet rift.
- Eventually, India agreed to join SAARC due to the interest expressed by the neighbouring countries. The first SAARC meeting took place in Dhaka in 1985, and there have been 18 summits till date.

SAARC and BIMSTEC are not Parallel. SAARC was a dream to achieve economic integration in south Asia but got negated due to the **obstructionist diplomatic posture of Pakistan**. The **BIMSTEC offers the realization of India's dream to economic power politics** through fusion of organizational pathology with Elements of **Act East Policy**.

- **BIMSTEC brings South Asia and Southeast Asia together**. SAARC had this limitation.
- **SAARC was to foster South Asian regional integration** but failed due to Pakistani insistence on bringing Kashmir during dialogue.
- In **BIMSTEC, bilateral issues are not discussed** because grouping is **modelled on the lines of ASEAN and favours economic deepening**.

Indian foreign policy objectives vis-à-vis this new organization

BIMSTEC is India's new regional diplomacy template.

- **India's Act East Policy syncs with BIMSTEC** and explains why India is investing diplomatic energy in BIMSTEC.
- **Enables India to display latent power in Southeast Asia**, a region with the hard power dominance of China.
- **India's economic growth, a core Indian national interest** lies with BIMSTEC
 - India is **planning to merge the Motor Vehicles Agreement** with neighbours BIMSTEC.

- The strategic challenge of China as BIMSTEC has two economic powers is spreading fear among BIMSTEC members.

The region is abuzz with competitive diplomacy. China is ceding space for India in BIMSTEC while it pursues Lancang- Mekong Cooperation. India is the rising star of the BIMSTEC, and this syncs well with competitive elements.

Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision?. Refer to the case laws.(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

The Representation of People Act, 1951 was passed by the Parliament in accordance with **Article 327 of the Constitution of India.**

- This Act makes provisions for the **conduct of elections in India.**
- It also talks about **corruption and other illegal activities related to elections.**
- The Act makes **provisions for dispute redressal** in matters connected to elections.
- It also talks about the qualification as well as grounds for the **disqualification of MPs and MLAs.**

Procedure to decide Election Disputes under RPA

1. **Presentation of Election Petitions to High Court:**
2. Jurisdiction lies with the High Court – by a Single Judge & Chief Justice & their assigned Judge/s.
3. Election petitions: Election petition by the provisions laid.
4. Presentation of petitions: By candidate/elector to be within 45 days of the date of the election.
5. **Trial of Election Petitions:**
6. **Procedure before the High Court:** Petition shall be tried by the procedure applicable under Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 & Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
7. **The decision of the High Court:** High Court shall make an order for dismissing the election petition/declaring the election any/all of the returned candidates to be void /void /another candidate to have been duly elected.

Grounds for Disqualification

■ Under Section 8:

- The offence of bribery, promoting social crimes such as dowry, sati, etc.
 - **Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955**, which provides for punishment for the preaching and practice of “untouchability”
 - The offence of insulting the Indian National Flag or the Constitution of India and preventing the singing of the National Anthem.
 - A person convicted of an offense punishable under the offense of promoting enmity between different groups on the ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc.
 - Offences relating to rape, cruelty towards a woman by husband or relative of a husband.
 - The person convicted of any offense and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than two years.
- **Under Sections 9 and 9A**, disqualification for Government contracts, dismissal for corruption or disloyalty, etc. (**Basant Soren Case**)
 - **Under Section 10 of the Act**, disqualification for office under Government company.
 - **Under Section 10 A**, disqualification for failure to lodge an account of election expenses. (**Sunny Deol Case**).

Case references

1. **Abhiram Singh v/s E.D. Commachen case**: The promotion of feelings of enmity or hatred between different classes of the citizens of India on grounds of religion, race, caste, and community was considered unconstitutional.
2. **Lily Thomas v/s Union of India**: a three-month window available to legislators to appeal against their conviction to effectively delay their disqualification until such appeals were exhausted and declared unconstitutional.
3. **Jan Chaukidari v Union of India**: all those in lawful police or judicial custody, other than those held in preventive detention, will forfeit their right to stand for election

Remedy

- **Appeals to Supreme Court**: Appeal can be made to the Supreme Court within 30 days of the order of the High Court.
- **Disqualification of any legislator will be decided by the President** (in case of a member of Parliament) or Governor (in case of a member of the state Assembly).

- The **President and Governor will act as per the advice of the Election Commission.**
- The **Election Commission has been given the power of a civil court** in case of any inquiry related to it.
- The Election Commission may also, for reasons to be recorded, remove any disqualification.

Discuss the essential conditions for exercise of the legislative powers by the Governor. Discuss the legality of re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

The Governor is a part of the state executive in India and the constitution of India has given her/him various legislative powers under part VI of the constitution.

There are different essential conditions under which the Governor uses its legislative powers:

- Every new year the first session of the state legislature is addressed by the Governor.
- If the office of the speaker or the deputy speaker (chairman or deputy chairman in case of the legislative council) is vacant to preside the state legislative assembly (SLA), then Governor can appoint any member from the SLA to preside for the meeting.
- Governor can reserve any bill of the state legislature (except the money bill) for reconsideration by the president.
- In the condition of the disqualification of the member of the state legislature, Governor can decide its legality after consultation with the Election Commission.
- The most important legislative power the Governor perform is that he can make ordinances when the state legislature is not in session.

Under Article 213 of the constitution, the Governor can issue ordinances when the state legislature is not in session and he can re-promulgate the ordinance thrice.

Illegality of Re-promulgation	Reasons for Repromulgation

<p><u>D.C. Wadhwa v State of Bihar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mechanical re-promulgation of ordinance without being approved by the legislature resulted in colourable exercise of power by the executive. • ruled re-promulgation of ordinances as unconstitutional. <p><u>Krishna Kumar Singh vs. State of Bihar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-promulgation undermines parliamentary legislative procedures and hence is a violation of Indian Constitution. • Failure to place an ordinance before the legislature constitutes abuse of power and a fraud on the Constitution. • Satisfaction of President/Governor while issuing ordinance is not immune from judicial review. 	<p><u>Exception provided by D.C. Wadhwa for Repromulgation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matter could not be taken up due to existing legislative business • Occurrence of an emergent situation where repromulgation becomes necessary Constitution does not expressly prohibits repromulgation.
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The Governor is a titular head or constitutional head and at the same time, he is the agent of the centre as the union government nominates the Governor in each state. Hence the governor's role as linchpin between centre and state is paramount.

"While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

- Centralisation means concentration of decision making and planning at one unit so as to bring in uniformity in the process. It often means consolidation of power or authority. State autonomy refers to degree of control over resources independent of any central authority. There has been tussle between the national and regional political parties over issues such as development, representation at forums and finances.

- Political parties are recognised as national parties or state parties depending upon their performance in general election of Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha. The conditions for being listed as a national or a state party are specified under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

National Political Parties favour centralisation

- To achieve uniformity in goals and objectives of political parties
- To have better control over party cadre members
- To achieve uniformity in programme of political parties
- To better target the public at large
- To better their chances of winning upcoming elections

However, centralisation is generally associated with annihilation of regional parties and regional issues and gives prime importance to issues concerning national security. It often demands obedience, overlook accountability and transparency. Thus, centralisation should not overlook the regional issues like development of region, employment etc.

Regional parties favour state autonomy

- Regional parties are formed on the lines of identity, statehood, ethnicity, development.,
- They are in close proximity with the local issues, needs and demands
- They are against the bureaucratic bottleneck
- To fasten the decision making at ground level
- To better mobilise resources according to the need of population
- To better their ambition of becoming national parties

Regional parties in India are of opinion that regional issues are different from national issues. However, rise in regional parties has also led to another problem of horse trading of members which has pushed the state's demand for autonomy and development at backseat for certain political gains. This is unhealthy for any democracy. Thus, it is necessary that demand of regional parties are aligned with unity and integrity of India.

Critically examine the procedures through which the Presidents of India and France are elected. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous constitutional body responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India. In the context of free and fair elections, Model Code of Conduct (MCC) plays a crucial role.
- The Model Code of Conduct is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections. MCC is operational from the date on which the election schedule is announced until the date of result announcement.

Evolution of Model Code of Conduct

- The origins of the Model Code of Conduct lie in the Assembly elections of Kerala in 1960, when the State administration prepared a 'Code of Conduct' for political factors.
- In the Lok Sabha elections of 1962, the Election Commission of India circulated the code to all recognized political parties and State Governments, and it was followed.
- In 1991, the Election Commission decided to enforce the Model Code of Conduct more strictly because of repeated flouting of the election norms and continued corruption.

Enforcement of MCC

- As part of its mandate to conduct free and fair elections under Article 324 of the Constitution, the Election Commission ensures that ruling parties at the Centre and in States adhere to the code.
- In case of electoral offences, malpractices, and corrupt practices like inducements to voters, bribery, intimidation or any undue influence, the Election Commission acts against violators.
- The Election Commission has devised several mechanisms for efficient enforcement of MCC such as:
 - Joint task forces of enforcement agencies and flying squads.

- Introduction of the c-VIGIL mobile app through which audio-visual evidence of malpractices can be reported.

Model Code of Conduct does not have any statutory backing, it has come to acquire strength in the past decade because of its strict enforcement by the Election Commission. The various technological advancement has presented new challenges in the path of ensuring fair elections, but initiatives took by the Election Commission regarding the enforcement of model code of conduct seem to have been fruitful.

Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of the society. Discuss.(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

India has leading demographic dividend, **fifth largest** economy by nominal GDP and **third largest** by purchasing power parity. But on another side, the current inflation projection is around 6.7 percent. **CMIE report** says that India's overall **unemployment rate** is 6.8 percent. Despite of large share of **welfare funding** in various scheme like PM AWAS YOJANA, AYUSHMAN BHARAT, MUDRA YOJANA etc, India's considerable population live under poverty.

Limitations

1. Exclusion errors: Exclusion of 'eligible' individuals from welfare schemes may force them to turn towards market to access the particular service/benefits, subjecting them to inflationary pressures.
2. Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the under
3. DBT: Increased prevalence of DBT to beneficiaries, provides them cash instead of services. As a result, individuals are subjected to market vulnerabilities. E.g., LPG subsidies.
4. Wage payments: Wage payments to beneficiaries of welfare schemes are not inflation adjusted. E.g., Poor wages of MGNREGA workers.
5. Capacity building: Welfare schemes lack capacity-building approach with mere focus on supportive care/incentives but are devoid of skill-development needed for sustainable employment.

6. Informal Employment: Due to lack of informal employment, large population of India is outside the purview of social security, which makes them perpetually dependent on welfare schemes.
7. Decreased social-sector spending: To improve fiscal health, government resorts to measures like cutting down the expenditure in welfare schemes, which results in increased out-of-pocket expenditure on essential services.

Looking ahead

RBI should control consumer inflation through effective policy instruments. Wages, DBTs and other welfare payments should be indexed to Inflation. Focus on capacity-building measures like skill development to provide sustainable employment. Increasing formalisation of economy through tax incentives to bring informal employees under the net of social security. Incentivise infant MSMEs instead of dwarf firms to enable them to expand in size and create employment. Including "Informal labour" under priority sector lending category for financial inclusion.

Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer.(UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

Donor agencies are the agencies which provide financial help in the developmental process. It may be a national or international agency, like Japan International Cooperation, World Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation etc. In recent times, development processes have been getting dependent on donor agencies for the obvious reason to have easy access to funds.

However, this increasing dependence devoid of community participation is fraught with risks. In simple terms, community participation means involving the grassroot level stakeholders in the developmental process.

- Given the strong financial backing of donor agencies there is less hindrance in the development process. However, they have less accountability in the whole process because they are very objective in nature rather than participatory.
- In the developmental process, donor agencies can have their own rules related to labour wages and their working conditions. This often reduces

community participation to the extent that it even alienates the same communities for which it is vouched.

- They are more technology-oriented and productivity-focussed. This often causes a decrease in labour force participation. Additionally, donor agencies can also promote favoritism, this means that they help as per their choice not as per need. This can lead to regionally skewed development.

Thus, to ensure effective development process, community participation is a must to illustrate, consider the tribal areas. The best way to ensure its development is to involve the tribals by means of manpower contribution, social audit, allowing them to promote their language & culture, promotion of cooperative culture, etc. If one gets dependent only on donor agencies then it is like a top-down approach to the development process which can often be away from the ground realities.

Thus, Donor agencies are humanitarian but if we get over-dependent on them, then they will ignore domestic or local needs and, in some way, it is like colonialism and this will affect community participation. So, a balanced approach is more suitable in any developmental process between donor agencies and communities.

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse. (UPSC CSE Mains 2022 - General Studies Paper 2)

The Right to Education Act 2009 (RTE Act 2009) was enacted by the Parliament of India on 4th August 2009. It provides for free and compulsory education for children aged between **6-14 years** under **Article 21(A)** of the Constitution of India. **India is one of the 135 countries** to have made education a fundamental right for every child.

Main Features of RTE Act 2009

- **Compulsory and free education** for all up to **class 8**.
- Maintain proper norms and standards relating to
 - Pupil-Teacher-Ratios
 - Classrooms
 - Separate toilets for girls and boys

- Drinking water facility
- **Special provisions** for admission of children out of school. They will be admitted to an age-appropriate class.
- **Zero tolerance** against discrimination and harassment.
- **No child** can be held back or expelled from school till Class 8.
- All private schools to **reserve 25 % of their seats** for children belonging to socially disadvantaged and economically weaker sections.

Incentives provided to encourage parents and children to complete education

- **Free of cost** textbooks, uniforms and stationary items.
- **Mid-Day Meal scheme (PM Poshan):** The scheme covers 11.80 crore children across Classes 1 to 8.
- **Sarva Siksha Abhiyan**
 - To add **additional classrooms, toilets and drinking facilities**.
 - Providing education to the **differently abled or children** with special needs.
 - **To bridge the digital gap** by offering computer education to the children.
- **Strengthening for providing quality Education in Madrassas (SPQEM)**
 - To bring about **qualitative education** and follow National Education System standards in subjects.
 - Providing **Science labs, Computer labs** in the secondary and higher secondary stage madrasas.

Key issues for achieving RTE

- Lack of awareness among **child labourers, migrant children, differently abled children** about free educations, books, uniforms and other incentives.
- Lack of awareness about **25% reservation** for disadvantaged sections of the society.
- Lack of awareness about the **fundamental right Article 21A**.
- **Minorities children** especially the poor class are unaware for special provisions under the **SPQEM scheme**.

Steps Need to Be Taken to Create Awareness

- **Campaign:** The representative of **local bodies and Sarpanch** of Panchayats should organise campaign in their local areas.
- **Awareness** can be done with the help social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube.

- The **Government teachers** should be visit to the backward areas to aware people about the incentives provided by the government like mid-day meal.

It has been twelve years since the implementation of RTE Act, but it still has a long way to go to be called successful in its purpose. All parents want their child to get quality education and food, but due to limited awareness, deserving children are missing out of school. Hence, digital media campaign can change the scenario and India's demographic dividend will turn into asset for the nation.